

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910811408503321
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Titolo	Not this time : Canadians, public policy, and the marijuana question, 1961-1975 // Marcel Martel
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto, [Ontario] ; ; Buffalo, [New York] ; ; London, [England] : , : University of Toronto Press, , 2006 ©2006
ISBN	1-4426-5885-1 1-4426-2794-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (288 p.)
Collana	Heritage
Disciplina	362.29/5/097109046
Soggetti	Marijuana - Government policy - Canada - History - 20th century Marijuana - Canada - Public opinion Public opinion - Canada Canada Social policy Canada Politics and government
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. 'A Growing Problem': Reporting and Measuring the Use of Illegal Drugs -- 2. 'We Can't Afford to Take a Neutral Position': Interest Groups and Marijuana Use -- 3. The Scientific Experts and Provincial Governments: Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, and Prince Edward Island -- 4. Debating Marijuana Use: The Le Dain Commission, 1969-1973 -- 5. A Small Step beyond the Status Quo: The Federal Government and Recreational Drug Use -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Drugs are part of every society, consumed for ritual or religious purposes, for pleasure, to enhance athletic performance, or as a means to relieve pain. Throughout the twentieth century, however, an arbitrary and shifting distinction was made between legal drugs that were prescribed and administered by the medical profession, and illegal drugs that were subject to state control and suppression. Illegal in Canada since 1923, marijuana is the most controversial of illegal drugs. Because it lacks the same addictive and harmful qualities of other

illegal substances, such as heroin and cocaine, marijuana's negative social impact is questionable. In the 1960s interest groups - including university student associations, certain physicians, and others - began demanding changes to the Narcotics Control Act, which governed the legal status of drugs, to decriminalize or legalize the possession of marijuana. In *Not This Time*, Marcel Martel explores recreational use of marijuana in the 1960s and its emergence as a topic of social debate. He demonstrates how the media, interest groups, state institutions, bureaucrats and politicians influenced the development and implementation of public policy on drugs. Martel illustrates how two loose coalitions both made up of interest groups, addiction research organizations and bureaucrats - one supporting the existing drug legislation, and the other favoring liberalization of the Narcotics Control Act - dominated the debate over the legalization of marijuana, and how those favoring liberalized drug laws, while influential, had difficulty presenting a unified front and problems justifying their cause while the health benefits of marijuana use were still in question. Exploring both sides of the debate, Martel presents the invigorating history of a question that continues to reverberate in the minds of Canadians. Disclaimer: Images removed at the request of the rights holder.
