

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 2021, Bridgetown, Barbados – The Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority (BMCLA) is pleased to announce that it has formed a strategic partnership with the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council for the development of two industry standards.

Chief Executive Officer of the BMCLA, Dr Shantal Munro-Knight formalised the strategic partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Mr. Henderson Eastmond, Executive Director, TVET Council on May 25, 2021.

The MOU solidified that TVET developed two standards: Standard 1: Cannabis Cultivation: Medicinal Grade 2 and Standard 2: Cannabis Cultivation: Medicinal Grade 3 which are both completed for the local medicinal cannabis industry.

Programme Administrator of the BMCLA, Shanika Roberts-Odle, who worked assiduously with TVET towards the completion of the MOU said, “Medicinal Cannabis is an entirely new industry, yes, but we also have to take account of the fact that there’s really and truly nothing new under the sun. So, there were experts who we have here who can guide us from an agricultural standpoint, who knew specifically about the plant and who understood about pharmaceuticals and the road we were trying to go on.”

She noted that training and certification as it relates to the medicinal cannabis industry is new and emphasised the importance of being cognisant, careful, and aware.

She added, “I think that our relationship with TVET...where it has already led us, is to being one of the Caribbean countries who have an established training mechanism in place as it relates to cannabis cultivation. TVET is currently working to make our NVQ into a CVQ – making it the Caribbean standard – to kind of establish here is where the industry needs to be at, here is where your workers need to be at in order to make this work. You can’t know if you’re above or below the standard if you don’t know what the standard is.”

The next step of this process will be to work with an educational institution to carry out the training.



Note to Editors:

For more information, please contact:

Tracy Moore | Communications and Public Education Specialist
Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority (BMCLA)
office: (246) 421-4141 Ext . 228 | cell: (246) 832-0980
email: tmoore@bmcla.bb

About the Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority:

The BMCLA, which was established via the *Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act, 2019*, regulates the handling of the medicinal cannabis industry. The BMCLA is responsible for developing policies, procedures, and guidelines to establish the medicinal cannabis industry and to ensure the medicinal cannabis is available to patients in a safe and efficient manner. The BMCLA is responsible for the issuance of licences for cultivation, processing, distribution, sale, transportation, import and export, laboratory as well as the research and development of cannabis for medical, scientific, and therapeutic purposes.

For more information on the BMCLA, visit:

- <https://www.facebook.com/thebmcla>
- <https://www.instagram.com/thebmcla/>
- <https://twitter.com/thebmcla>

Interviews: n/a

Image(s): n/a

Website: www.bmcla.bb