



# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Medicinal Cannabis Industry Licenses can be paid in installments**

**December 9, 2020, Bridgetown, Barbados** – All applicants approved for a medicinal cannabis license will have the option to pay the fee in three installments.

Chief Executive Officer Dr. Shantal Munro-Knight made the announcement earlier today, noting that the Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority (BMCLA) is working to have applications for licenses available in early January, 2021.

“One of the things that is important to understand, is that yes, the medicinal cannabis industry itself is expensive, there is no getting away from that. However we are putting things into place to allow for equal participation from every level of person who wants to participate in the industry. If you look at our license fees it covers five (5) years. So a tier 1 cultivator license which is about \$29, 700 is really less than \$6,000 per year and that total is inclusive of costs like compliance inspections and costs for track and trace,” said Dr. Munro-Knight,

Dr. Munro-Knight continued: “What we are doing is looking to have that license fee paid over a period of time. So a person with a cultivator license tier 1 will be able to pay the \$29,700 in three installments. This will help to leverage the playing field because in this industry we consider the average Barbadian being able to participate in relation not only to the licenses (because there is the costs of set-up, security and everything else) but this will be an inclusive and integrative industry as stated in our core values.”

She once again urged that Barbadians think collectively about entering the industry, noting that “if five average Barbadians can come together and pool together their financing to get into the industry and build as entrepreneurs in what ever category of license – absolutely yes its accessible!”

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She pointed out that the upcoming **BMCLA presents BAJCAN Connect to Service Providers Forum** also provides another opportunity for Barbadians to get into the medicinal cannabis industry with support services.

“Those persons who have licenses will need support services. For example if a person comes here to establish processing facilities – they are going to need construction workers, real estate agents, container services, hydroponics, green housing, scientists, alternative energy, technology, security and so on. That level of expertise is going to be needed from Barbadians. So there are multiple ways to participate in the industry,” she advised.

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**Note to Editors:**

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**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/>
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**Interviews:** n/a

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