

Buzz Kill: The Corporatization of Cannabis

Buzz Kill: The Corporatization of Cannabis is the story of one of Canada's least understood drug policy failures that quietly unfolded beneath the cover of two calamitous and loud pandemics: COVID-19 and drug overdose deaths. The cannabis story includes the worst of government conduct - backroom politics, cronyism, deceit of the public, conflicts of interest, and indifference to warnings from international health policy experts. This was all in service of an unspoken, relentless drive to establish a lucrative new drug industry. Many Liberal Party elites were already invested in the medical marijuana industry. They expected huge profits with the transition to a recreational supply. The new legal industry soon became dominated by corporations bloated with unbridled greed and investors' savings, loans, and dreams. The biggest cannabis corporations were shamelessly incompetent in their business acumen, accumulating losses in the \$billions. In the fourth year of legalization, they have yet to turn an annual profit. Stock values plummeted. Some companies would prove more corrupt than the unlicensed suppliers they were supposed to replace. As companies downsized their operations and workforces, and declared insolvency, the executives went unpunished and walked away with millions of dollars. In contrast, thousands of Canadian cannabis users still receive criminal records for petty cannabis offences. The Liberal Party of Canada proclaims its legalization campaign a success. *Buzz Kill* was written to provide the disheartening counterpoint. The book also describes better ways to reform drug laws. There is hope for other nations. Canada remains uncertain.