

**ONTARIO COURT OF JUSTICE
(Northeast Region)**

B E T W E E N:

HIS MAJESTY THE KING

Respondent

- and -

DANE BEBAMASH

Applicant

AFFIDAVIT OF MARIO BAPTISTE

I, Mario Baptiste, of the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, Province of Ontario, MAKE OATH
AND SAY/AFFIRM:

1. I am of Gayogohono descent from the Wolf Clan. Some would describe me as Mohawk. I prefer to be referred to as Indian. I reside in the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory at 364 York Road, Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, Ontario. I am 68 years of age (date of birth August 23, 1957). I have an old criminal record. I am not exactly certain as to all of the details. I have had no convictions since a cannabis cultivation conviction in 2013. I do not see myself as a criminal. There seems to be a split in many Indian communities between those who stand for individual Indians and those who stand with Band Councils. I have at times stood up to Band Councils when they disregard the interests of Indians and some of these old convictions are related to this.
2. I started growing cannabis around age 12. I was taught how to grow cannabis by uncles, aunts and family. I have grown cannabis for most of my life. I see it as part of the Indian culture and tradition.

3. In my experience growing cannabis is not easy. I have found that there are many things that can go wrong and that it requires cannabis growing experience to deal with these issues. It also requires a lot of time and attention. It requires daily attention. I have found that if you are not skilled at cannabis growing and if you are not able to spend a lot of time on the cannabis growing then the quality and yield will be poor.
4. I believe I am a skilled grower now, but I am still learning. It took a few years of growing under the guidance of family members before I would consider myself skilled enough to produce medical cannabis of reasonable quality. It would have taken much longer if I did not have the guidance of family members.
5. I share my knowledge about medical cannabis with my Indian community. There is a responsibility to share knowledge among Indians. Those in our community with other types of knowledge also share their knowledge.
6. I believe growing cannabis should be done outside in the earth as that is how the Creator intended it. It should not be grown hydroponically or with pesticides. I fertilize with fish. I do not use pesticides.
7. I believe there is a spirit in cannabis. It is a gift from the Creator. I believe there is a spirit in everything in the natural world and that it all has a purpose. There is a spirit in the grass, the trees, the animals and the rocks. Everything in the natural world has a spirit and a purpose. It is important to be in harmony with the natural world.
8. I use cannabis medicinally. Over the course of my life I have been in a number of serious car accidents, a serious motorcycle accident and a bad workplace accident in which scaffolding gave out causing me to fall 30 feet. I worked in construction almost all of my life and have endured a lot of injuries in the workplace. I have broken both arms, both legs, both hips, my pelvis, my breast plate, and vertebrae. Some of these breaks occurred on multiple occasions. I have had several concussions. I have metal implants in my left arm, left leg, right hip, and right ankle. I have previously been prescribed various opioids

and pharmaceuticals for the pain including Morphine, Methadone, Demerol and Dilaudid. As a result of my many injuries, I suffer from serious pain in almost every part of my body and also experience terrible headaches. The pain issues can make it difficult to sleep, limit my appetite, make my mood low, interfere with my relationships and hurt my quality of life.

9. The opioids were effective for the pain, but they made me feel numb to life. They made me stop caring about life. They undermined my relationships. They were destroying my life. Also, I had concerns about becoming addicted to opioids. I think I was addicted to them. I have not used opioids for about 10-15 years thanks to medical cannabis, my own will power and the help of my family. If I had no access to medical cannabis there would be a risk that I would go back to opioids to deal with the pain. It is for that reason that it is important that I not have interruptions in my access to medical cannabis. I use medical cannabis daily and if I am without medical cannabis for a couple days then I am at risk of an opioid relapse. I do not even like to think about it.
10. Medical cannabis reduces my pain, reduces my headaches, helps me sleep, improves my appetite, makes me more social, improves my mood and helps me stay away from opioids. It gives me an all round better quality of life.
11. When I consume medical cannabis I think about my culture in a more in-depth way and in different ways. I see an enhanced importance to it and a beauty to it. This brings me healing.
12. When I consume cannabis I see the spirit in the trees and in all of nature. This brings me healing.
13. When I consume cannabis I interact more with my community. This brings me healing.
14. Medical cannabis brings me spiritual healing. It makes me more in touch with nature, more connected to my culture and my community. The person who grows the cannabis

and provides the cannabis should know that cannabis does these things. Many Indians know these things. Many Indian families, like my family, know cannabis very well. It is better if the grower and providers of cannabis are local, Indian and understand the important role of cannabis.

15. By growing medical cannabis and providing medical cannabis to those in need, the grower and the provider also experience healing. It is better for everybody if the community heals itself.
16. Matters concerning healing and medical cannabis should be done in person rather than by phone or by a computer. I do not want to talk about healing and medical cannabis over the phone. These are serious and personal matters. Talking on a phone or through a computer is like talking to a machine which might be fine for some things, but it is not fine for matters concerning healing and medical cannabis. There is more to a conversation than just the words. I see a lot of older people on the reserve using medical cannabis. Many of these people do not have higher education. They are not able to communicate through a computer and they also want to talk in-person.
17. Medical cannabis should be smelled, viewed and touched before one can get a sense of it. The smell, the look, the colour and the feel of it varies. Sometimes you can get a sense of the quality from having first-hand contact with it
18. At times I have been unable to grow my own cannabis. When I cannot grow my own cannabis then I want to obtain medical cannabis grown locally, naturally, in the earth, by Indian people and sold or given to me locally and in-person by Indian people. I feel more connected to that cannabis. That cannabis works better for me. Other Indians have said to me that they also believe cannabis should be local and among Indians.
19. There is trust among Indian people. These are my brothers and sisters. There is trust within our community. Trust is important to me as an Indian and trust is important with medical cannabis. I have heard stories about recalls and mold from the big cannabis

companies. I believe most of them use pesticides and grow indoors. I understand they need to grow a lot to make money, but it does not make me feel trust.

20. Receiving medical cannabis in the mail from a far-away company I know little about or from a person I have never met who may or may not be Indian is the wrong way to obtain medical cannabis.

SWORN BEFORE ME at the)
Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory)
in the Province of Ontario,)
this 9th day of April, 2026.)


Mario Baptiste


Commissioner for taking affidavits

Pamela Sero-Thompson
licensed by the Law Society of Upper
Canada
as a Commissioner for taking O
LSUC#P00142