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One Quarter (24%) of Ontarians have Seen or Know of Homes in their Neighbourhood that Have Been Used as a Grow-Op

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One Quarter (24%) of Ontarians have Seen or Know of Homes in their Neighbourhood that Have Been Used as a Grow-Op

Toronto, ON – Most (88%) Ontarians 'support' the 'creation of a province-wide registry of homes used as former marijuana grow-operations' – with a full majority (57%) being 'very supportive' – while only one in ten (12%) are 'not supportive' (5% not at all/7% not very) of such a policy move, according to a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of the Ontario Real Estate Association. Support for a grow-op registry rises to 93% among homeowners.

Homes and other properties that were once used to manufacture illegal substances (e.g. marijuana and methamphetamine) can pose a number of health and safety risks (e.g. mould, structural damage, unsafe wiring). At present, there is no province-wide registry or other mechanism in place to allow realtors, lawyers, and other professionals to inform potential homebuyers if a property has been designated by a law enforcement authority as a marijuana grow operation (MGO) or clandestine laboratory.

That support for a registry is so high is likely a function of the fact that one quarter (24%) of Ontarians say they have 'seen or know of homes in their neighbourhood that have been used as a marijuana grow-operation'. Nearly one in ten (7%) claim to 'know someone who has purchased a home that was formerly used as a marijuana grow-operation', and 1% of homeowners 'think that they have purchased a home that was formerly used as a marijuana grow-operation'.

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Interestingly, one-third (33%) of Ontarians who are likely to purchase a new home in the next two years have seen or known of homes in their neighbourhood that have been used as a marijuana grow-operation, compared to only one in five (21%) who aren't looking to move within the next two years. Adding to this, one in five (16%) who have purchased a house in the last two years know someone who has purchased a home that was used as a grow operation, compared to only one in ten (6%) of those who haven't purchased a new house within the same time frame.

Overall, almost all (93%) Ontarians 'agree' (73% strongly/20% somewhat) that 'it's important to know ahead of time when purchasing a home if it was formerly used as a marijuana grow-operations', while few 'disagree' (2% strongly/5% somewhat) that this knowledge is important.

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These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted between October 1st to 8th, 2012 on behalf of the Ontario Real Estate Association. For the survey, a sample of 1,508 Ontarians from Ipsos' Canadian online panel was interviewed online. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of +/- 2.9 percentage points. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error. For more information on credibility intervals, please visit the Ipsos website at http://ipsos-na.com/dl/pdf/research/public-affairs/IpsosPA_CredibilityIntervals.pdf

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