According to Rousseau’s ‘Social Contract,’ society arises from an agreement between the citizens and an elected subgroup of them, the State. In exchange for upholding their liberties by the Rule of Law, the citizens agree to empower the State by paying it taxes. Insufficient law yields anarchy (e.g. American firearms laws). Excessive law yields tyranny (e.g. Iranian religious law). Western jurisdictions have sought the optimum by forbidding acts harmful to others but allowing all those that are not, including any that are harmful only to oneself. First applied officially by von Humboldt in 1810, it is known as the ‘consenting adults in private’ legislation. Prostitution, homosexuality, and even suicide are no longer crimes. The only exception is that prevented by prohibition, the taking of recreational drugs. Part of the State’s responsibilities for the taxes it receives is to protect society from its enemies. In other words, the State needs enemies to raise revenue and has been known to invent enemies for that purpose. That’s why there is a war against drugs.

Trust is not a commodity that can be bought or sold. It has to be earned slowly, carefully, thoughtfully, and judiciously, beginning at a young age. So one grows, learns lessons, and determines whether the State, through its laws, is acting as a help or hindrance to oneself and/or one’s loved ones. One determines responsibly whether or not it is deserving of one’s trust.

In my chosen profession, I never trusted anyone with knowledge they didn’t need. The State, with its continually changing legal whims, can be a friend or a foe. It has no enduring loyalty. So my activities were kept as invisible as possible; not only from the State, but
The function of the State is to guarantee the freedom of the People and protect them from their enemies. The State should not become the enemy of the People.

also from my neighbours. I had to hack my own way through a virgin forest by trial and error. There were no guidebooks, manuals, or role models to follow. I was not afraid to be different. I believed in myself.

Much of the population tends to be instantly swayed, or even brainwashed, by sensationalist media reporting. Real news actually advances very slowly, one step at a time. The war against drugs has been prevalent for most of my life. I have been told my enemies were my peers, my generation, and even myself. I was also told that the successful ones in my chosen profession would never be acknowledged or known, which I imagine applies to any industry operating in a legally grey area of society, where the easiest path for government is to make no decision; otherwise, electoral support might be lost. Pursuit of truth all too easily devolves into pursuit of power. In summary, don’t trust the State, particularly if you grow recreational drugs.

However, times are now changing as a result of the increasing awareness of and belief in the medicinal properties of cannabis. People take drugs for one of two reasons: to increase pleasure or to relieve suffering. The distinction, admittedly, is not precise; the border is blurred. Nevertheless, my advice to a pure medical grower differs from that I would give to a pure recreational grower. Some states have handed out licences for growing medical cannabis, and even though there is a strong argument that licensing itself is merely a mild form of prohibition, if you are in this category, it would be worthwhile to stand up and be counted. The State does differentiate between terminally ill patients and recreational growers. Although occasionally, there’s very little evidence to support this contention, the laws of the

Why not?
State do eventually catch up with the wishes of the people, and one has to be both patient and brave.

The currently interesting discrepancy between reputable medical science supporting the use of various cannabinoids for a wide variety of ailments and self-serving politicians wishing to maintain the prohibition of recreational cannabis is frustrating to say the least. There is no clear well-defined path to a solution for all parties involved. However, there exists some protection for certain sections of the community, and this could be exploited. Presently, it is by no means a clear issue, but medical science is bringing to light revealing facts for people suffering conditions that previously were in the ‘too-difficult’ category to help for mainstream medicine.

Not everyone benefits from the discovery that cannabis is a helpful self-medicating herb. Pharmaceutical corporations cannot patent naturally occurring substances: they would prefer to invent synthetic analogues, which they can patent. Such corporations are powerful and probably control governments far more than governments control them. It’s a bit like banks robbing more people than people rob banks.

If there is to be a solution by way of compromise where growers and users can attain a high quality taxed product that is regulated and meets mutually accepted standards, then all sides have to be able to operate together. Mistrusting each other creates black markets, unreliable and inconsistent products, and health and financial issues. To a large extent, we have wasted the last 40 years fighting each other unnecessarily. In the 1990s I lived in Holland and worked closely with many cannabis workers while American law did its best to destroy that community. If you told anyone in Holland then that in 20 years’ time the USA would have hundreds of medical dispensaries and a high legal tolerance for medical patients using cannabis, you would have been
ridiculed. So even if change on a daily basis seems slow, let’s be patient and bear in mind our duty to the next generation.

Undoubtedly, such a strategy will require us to go through a series of trials and errors to grow and learn. There will be uncomfortable times and stresses of conflict among us. But let’s all make a good, fair, and well educated series of decisions together that fit the majority of people concerned.

As is clear from my earlier remarks, I am not advocating trusting and believing all the State is going to say on these issues, but I am advocating a show of willingness to try to sit down together to work through these issues. I, like many others, would love to trust and believe our elected leaders are thinking about things properly with the majority of us in mind, but I am not easily convinced and remain cynical and sceptical. It is very clear for me as a cannabis seed company owner that I can function with or without an authority and with or without paying tax, but I would much prefer to be like all others who work and run a business. However, in the meantime, I shall continue to operate as inconspicuously as possible. It is easier to not have to explain things to people who simply cannot fathom the idea of cannabis being an industry. I shall continue offer

my botanical knowledge to those who wish to learn online. I shall not open my seed rooms or growing places to anyone even if everything was legalised. Earning the trust is still the most important moral to the story between The State and The People, and this is rarely, if ever, expeditiously achieved.