

Daniel Bear, PhD

Policy Researcher, Expert Advisor & Consultant | Drug Policy · Criminal Justice · Public Health
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PROFILE

Dr. Daniel Bear is a policy researcher and consultant with more than 20 years of experience advising governments, health organizations, NGOs, and regulated industry clients on drug policy, harm reduction, and criminal justice reform. He holds a PhD in Social Policy from the London School of Economics and has conducted research and policy advisory work in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Colombia, Botswana, and Mozambique. Dr. Bear is qualified as an expert witness before the Ontario Superior Court of Justice and has secured over \$1.1 million in external research funding.

Responsum Consulting engagements range from multi-country research programs and program evaluations to policy advisory work, training development, and knowledge translation. All engagements are led by Dr. Bear, with specialist teams assembled from a network of researchers, practitioners, and subject matter experts as projects require.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Cannabis regulation, consumer education, and harm reduction
- Drug policy reform and criminal justice policy
- Expert witness services — Ontario Superior Court of Justice (qualified)
- Program evaluation and applied policy research
- Knowledge translation and public education campaign development
- Training and curriculum development for health and justice professionals
- Qualitative and mixed-methods research design
- Stakeholder engagement and strategic advisory services

SELECTED CLIENT ENGAGEMENTS

Cannabis Policy Development Advisory

Eastern and Southern Africa Commission on Drugs — Botswana and Mozambique

Invited by the ESACD to advise government delegations from ten countries on evidence-based approaches to cannabis regulation and drug policy reform. Delivered sessions in Gaborone (2025) and Maputo (2024).

National Cannabis Researcher Convening 2023

Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA)

Facilitated a national convening of cannabis researchers from across Canada on behalf of CCSA, held in Vancouver. The event brought together researchers to advance the Canadian cannabis research agenda.

Cannabis Education for Healthcare Providers

Canadian Public Health Association

Redeveloped the CPHA's cannabis education toolkit for frontline medical professionals, reorienting content toward harm reduction and practical clinical guidance. Published outcome: *Cannabasics: A Primer for Health and Social Service Providers* (CPHA, 2023).

Knowledge Translation — Mental Health Research

Mental Health Commission of Canada

Rewrote accessible summaries of 32 MHCC-funded research projects to improve public understanding and uptake of findings across Canada.

Police In-Service Training Evaluation

Toronto Police Service

Led evaluation of in-service training effectiveness for Canada's largest municipal police service. Designed methodology, led fieldwork team, and provided findings and recommendations to senior police leadership (2024–2027).

Harm Reduction Training — Cannabis Retail

Canopy Growth Corporation

Developed a suite of harm reduction training videos for cannabis retail staff, grounding product guidance in evidence-based harm reduction principles.

Police Training Assessment

Ideas for Peace Foundation — Colombia

Led comparative assessment of UK and Canadian police training and recruitment for this Colombian NGO, supporting the Colombian National Police's transition from military to civilian control. Conducted gap analysis and produced recommendations for senior stakeholders.

Stop and Search Policy Evaluation

Release (Drugs, The Law & Human Rights) — London, UK | LSE Enterprise

Led quantitative analysis of stop and search, ethnicity, and arrest data from 43 police agencies. Co-authored the final report. Delivered under budget and three weeks ahead of schedule.

Prison Violence Reduction Evaluation

UK Ministry of Justice | LSE Enterprise

Designed a multi-site, mixed-methods evaluation of Structured Communication techniques across adult and youth correctional facilities, examining causes of officer-prisoner violence and measuring program effectiveness.

PROFESSIONAL & ACADEMIC ROLES

Director, Centre for Social Innovation 2023–present

Humber Polytechnic — Faculty of Social and Community Services, Toronto

Led applied community research and social innovation programming connecting faculty, students, and community organizations. Developed a modular social impact assessment framework adopted across the institution. Grew the Centre's budget by 50% and increased community engagements by over 700% in the first six months.

Professor 2015–present

Humber Polytechnic — Faculty of Social and Community Services, Toronto

Teaches courses in criminology, drug policy, victimology, and social policy. Supervises undergraduate thesis research and has secured over \$1.1 million in external NSERC research funding.

Professor 2013–2015

Sheridan College — School of Public Safety, Brampton

Led development of a new applied degree program in Community Safety, and updated curriculum across the Community and Justice Services Faculty.

Part-Time Member 2017–2019

Ontario Parole Board — Ministry of the Attorney General

Conducted parole application hearings and contributed to development of board training materials on bias, community policing, and systemic discrimination.

Advocacy Assistant 2005–2008

Drug Law Reform Project, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) — Santa Cruz, California

Researched and drafted policy briefs on state and federal drug, penal, and health policy for the nation's largest civil liberties organization. Analyzed proposed legislation and communicated findings to senior staff and external partners.

SELECTED FUNDED RESEARCH

Pharmacists as Cannabis Educators (PACE) 2023–2026

NSERC | \$120,000/year

Led a six-member interdisciplinary team developing continuing education resources connecting pharmacists and cannabis consumers. Partners included CPHA, CCSA, and the Canadian Pharmacists Association.

Weed Out Misinformation 2019–2024

NSERC | ~\$360,000

Led a harm reduction-focused public education campaign developed through human-centred design with cannabis consumers as knowledge partners. Campaign materials distributed nationally through retail and producer partnerships.

Global Cannabis Cultivation Research Consortium 2019–present

International multi-university consortium (Canadian Lead)

Canadian research lead for a 20+ university international study of cannabis cultivation practices. Responsibilities include survey development, Francophone team liaison, and Publications Committee membership.

Illicit Drug Policies and Social Outcomes (IDPSO/ERANID) 2020

European Research Area Network on Illicit Drugs | Seven-country comparative study

Led Canadian data collection and analysis for this comparative study of how legal changes to drug law affect social outcomes for people who use drugs.

CREDENTIALS & EDUCATION

PhD in Social Policy 2009–2014

The London School of Economics and Political Science

Thesis: Year-long ethnography examining the impact of simultaneous changes to drug policy and performance management on the street-level enforcement practices of police officers in a London borough.

MSc in Social Policy (Research) 2008–2009

The London School of Economics and Political Science | Merit

BA in Sociology with Honours 2003–2005

University of California, Santa Cruz

Expert Witness

Ontario Superior Court of Justice — Qualified

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) — Expert Network Member
- Canadian Consortium for the Investigation of Cannabinoids — Full Member
- International Society for the Study of Drug Policy — Member (Scientific Committee, ISSDP 2025 & 2026)
- Global Cannabis Cultivation Research Consortium — Canadian Lead
- The Canadian Collaborative for Childhood Cannabinoid Therapeutics (C4T) — Member
- Drug Policy Alliance, Federal Cannabis Regulations Working Group — Member (2021–2022)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Bear, D., Hosker-Field, A., Westall, K., D'Alessio, H., & Cresswell, M. (2024). Harm reduction isn't enough: Introducing the concept of Mindful Consumption and Benefit Maximization (MCBM). *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 104514.

Werse, B., Kamphausen, G., Søggaard, T. F., Bear, D., et al. (2024). Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on cannabis cultivation and use in 18 countries. *International Journal of Drug Policy*.

Bear, D. (2023). *Cannabasics: A Primer for Health and Social Service Providers*. Canadian Public Health Association. substanceuse.ca

Capler, R., & Bear, D. (2022). Canadian Compassion Clubs and Their Role in Legalization. In M. Pardal (Ed.), *Cannabis Social Clubs*. Routledge.

Bear, D. (2017). From Toques to Tokes: Two challenges facing nationwide legalization of cannabis in Canada. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 42, 97–101.

Shiner, M., Bear, D., Cote-Lussier, C., & Jackson, J. (2014). Are You Talking To Me?: An Evaluation of Structured Communication in Prison. London School of Economics.

Eastwood, N., Shiner, M., & Bear, D. (2013). *The Numbers in Black and White: Ethnic Disparities in the Policing and Prosecution of Drug Offences in England and Wales*. Release.

MEDIA

Dr. Bear contributes regularly to broadcast and print media on cannabis policy, harm reduction, and criminal justice. Television appearances include CBC, BBC News, BBC World News, ZDF, Global News, CHCH, and City TV. Print coverage includes *The Globe and Mail*, *The Guardian*, *The Toronto Star*, *Maclean's*, *Policy Options*, and *The Canadian Press*.