

## The Province

# Gordon Clark: More study needed on the link between pot and psychosis

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Canadians, especially lawmakers, gleefully rushing headlong to legalize marijuana should pause to consider the horrifying, heartbreaking stabbing death of 13-year-old Letisha Reimer, as innocent a crime victim as one can imagine.

Gabriel Brandon Klein, the 21-year-old homeless man from Alberta charged with second-degree murder in the death of the Abbotsford Senior Secondary School student, and aggravated assault in the non-fatal stabbing of a 14-year-old girl in the Nov. 1 attack, was a heavy pot smoker who recently “became manic, paranoid and frightened,” some of his friends told CBC.

Nathaniel Spidell, 23, told a CBC reporter that Klein believed “he’d smoked pot that had been tampered with acid, and began acting very strange, talking about leaving Canada, and trusting no one.”

“Everything went downhill after that. He wasn’t the same person,” Spidell told the reporter, expressing shock that his “best friend,” who he couldn’t imagine being violent, had been charged with murdering a young girl. “He never carried weapons at all. He was just a stoner. He loved his mom.”

“People are labelling him as some monster now and that’s just not the person I knew,” another friend, Jordan Reid, 23, told CBC.

There is an implication in the comments of Spidell, Reid and other people Klein knew who spoke to other media outlets, that the accused was just another happy hempster — “just a stoner” — as if that made the act he is accused of committing even more surprising.

No one seems to be noticing or discussing what to me seems obvious — that Klein’s heavy use of marijuana, well known to induce psychosis, especially in young people, may have led directly to Reimer’s unspeakably tragic death.

Klein’s mental state, according to the last reports, has not yet been examined by a psychiatrist and so we don’t know if his heavy marijuana use is a factor in the crime for which he is accused. But marijuana-linked psychosis is now commonly noted by forensic psychiatrists in reports written for the courts involving accused with mental illness. And every time governments move to liberalize marijuana laws, doctors and other health experts warn about the dangers, especially to the health of young people and their developing brains, of making pot more freely available.

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Entire article here: <https://goo.gl/0j36va>

## Strong cannabis causes one in four cases of psychosis according to scientists at King’s College London

