

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Report on Business

Small Business

Former cannabis executives betting psychedelic drugs could be the next big thing

Saira Peesker | [@Peesker](#)

Special to The Globe and Mail

December 1, 2019



JR Rahn, founder of Toronto-based MindMed, seen here on Nov. 29, 2019, says that 'there's a lot of untapped value in psychedelic substances because they're [illegal].'

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/small-business/article-former-cannabis-executives-betting-psychedelic-drugs-could-be-the-next/>

This article excerpt is published with the permission of the author.

“There’s a lot of untapped value in psychedelic substances because they’re [illegal],” said JR Rahn, founder of Toronto-based MindMed, which counts Canopy founder Bruce Linton and Shark Tank star Kevin O’Leary among its early investors.

After raising \$6.2-million in investment in the summer, MindMed is aiming to go public in Canada early in the new year.

In late November, MindMed announced it had engaged Canaccord Genuity – an investment bank that was heavily involved in financing the Canadian cannabis sector – to raise \$15-million in pre-public financing in exchange for shares and a commission.

“We feel psychedelics are moving into a high-value-creation period that is starting to attract institutional investors and not just retail investors,” said Mr. Rahn, who feels the wealth of psychedelics-related clinical trials is a big part of his business case and a major difference between cannabis and psychedelics. “You can point out the studies to regulators and say ‘this works.’ That’s a defensible business.”

Read more of this story at [theglobeandmail.com](https://www.theglobeandmail.com):

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/small-business/article-former-cannabis-executives-betting-psychedelic-drugs-could-be-the-next/>

