

Holding signs saying, "Was your airplane properly repaired and inspected today? The FAA does not know!" at Miami International Airport on Thursday, inspectors spoke with

passengers about flight attendants with empty seats check of the box. ... We're the only one of the airlines didn't fly back in the air. ... In Michigan, sheriff's deputies have been guarding the scene of a fatal plane crash last weekend, waiting for FAA investigators to arrive. The FAA said in a statement that it is limiting investigations to "major accidents involving significant casualties and certain other accidents when failure to proceed with the investigation creates a significant risk to transportation safety."

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An FAA news release from Dec. 22 — the first day of the government shutdown — said "there is no impact to safety for FAA travelers" inspected. On Dec. 21, the shuttle Air cargo collided with a tail at National Air

both companies have emailed me what they've done and my job is to validate what they've done is right," Tomye said. "I'm 99.9

Canada legalized pot in October, but its black market is still going strong

By Selena Ross
Special to the Washington Post

MONTREAL — The legal cannabis stores that opened here last fall still look pristine. Curious customers file past the shelves they peruse often bare. Supplies are so short the stores are shuttered for weeks.

Illegal cannabis sales are notoriously hard to measure. In Washington state, for example, experts' best estimate six years after legalization is that there's still "a non-trivial black market," Kleiman said. Still, he noted, "it's clearly less than half the total market."

Canada, however, is taking a different approach than Washington or states such as Colorado, which also legalized pot in 2012 and made progress in reducing illicit sales.

long-term problems. Shutting out many in the black market has already triggered a vicious cycle, said Dan Mallek, an expert in drug and alcohol regulation from Brock University in Ontario. It helped ensure the initial undersupply of legal pot by preventing a huge volume of illicit pot from being in the market, further reinforcing the shortage.

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When the government launched its crackdown on Oct. 10, it was banking on the idea that the black market would quickly begin to fade. It says things seem on track, with "early reports of a 65 percent reduction in the number of people who use the black market."

Many researchers, politicians and investors see the state of the black market as an important gauge of the new policy's success. But if the black market shrinks significantly, it could indicate a change course.

"You've got to get the timing right," said Mark Kleiman, a New York University professor and expert on cannabis legalization.

Canada's government's most recent decision, illegal dealers here said, was to structure the new industry in a way that was first committed to legalization, many of them planned to apply to open private shops.

Cracking down when legal supplies are still low and demand is therefore high for black-market pot hasn't generally been seen as useful, according to Kleiman. "There's no point," he said. Only after the first year or two, when legal supplies match market demand, should officials try "to vigorously drive the illicit guys out."

Walz names Strommen new DNR commissioner

By John Myers
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Strommen is originally from St. Paul and now lives in the western Minneapolis suburb of Plymouth with her husband, son and two dogs. Since 2015 she has served as assistant commissioner for the divisions of Fish and Wildlife and Parks and Trails within DNR.

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