

Cannabis Legalization in Alberta

**Managing Access and
Protecting Public Health
Roundtable**

Federal Legislation

- April 13, 2017: Federal government introduced legislation to legalize, regulate and restrict access to Cannabis:
 - Bill C-45 Cannabis Act
 - Bill C-46 Act to amend the Criminal Code
- Cannabis will be legalized across Canada by July 2018

Jurisdictional Responsibilities

Activity	Responsibility		
	Federal	Provincial	Municipal
Possession limits **	✓		
Trafficking	✓		
Advertisement & packaging **	✓		
Impaired driving	✓	✓	
Medical cannabis	✓		
Seed-to-sale tracking system	✓		
Production (cultivation and processing)	✓		
Age limit (federal minimum) **	✓		
Public health	✓	✓	
Education	✓	✓	✓
Taxation	✓	✓	✓
Home cultivation (growing plants at home) **	✓		
Workplace safety		✓	
Distribution and wholesaling		✓	
Retail model		✓	
Retail location and rules		✓	✓
Regulatory compliance	✓	✓	
Public consumption		✓	✓
Land use/zoning			✓

** Provinces will have the ability to strengthen legislation for these areas under federal jurisdiction

Role of Provinces and Territories

- Each province will decide on implementation issues:
 - Access to cannabis
 - Public health and safety
 - Distribution, retail and regulatory oversight
 - Economic and fiscal implications

Role of the Alberta Cannabis Secretariat

- Alberta has the policy, programs, legislation and regulations required to strategically implement cannabis legalization
- An Alberta Cannabis Framework is in place to guide policy and program decisions
- Policy options and advice is evidence based and reflects the views of Albertans
- Provincial responses to federal legislation are coordinated and policy advice is aligned across government

Alberta Policy Priorities

- Four main priorities:
 - Keep cannabis out of the hands of children and youth
 - Protect public health
 - Promote safety on roads, in workplaces and in public spaces
 - Limit the illegal cannabis market

Opportunities To Get Involved

- Opportunities to share your input include:
 - Taking part in the online survey
 - Submitting a white paper or position paper
 - Leading or participating in a community conversation
 - Taking part in sector meetings
 - Participating in Roundtable meetings on key topics
- Extensive public opinion research also underway
- Draft Alberta Cannabis Framework will be shared for additional public and stakeholder feedback in the Fall

Stakeholder Meetings

- Series of Roundtable meetings
 - Managing Access and Public Health
 - Regulation and Supply Chain
 - Municipal Alignment
- Several sector and topic specific meetings, such as
 - Workplace safety
 - Drug-impaired driving

Managing Access and Protecting Public Health

- In our scope:
 - Minimum age
 - Potential for stronger provincial limits for possession, home grow and advertising
 - Potential for provincial penalties for youth possession of less than 5 gm of cannabis
 - Options for public consumption, incl. limiting passive exposure
 - Enforcement approaches
 - Public education

Roundtable Discussion Topics

- Potential for increased provincial minimum age
 - How can protecting the health of youth and preventing the creation of a black market be balanced?
 - What might be the role of education and training in protecting the health of younger Albertans?
- Potential for stronger provincial limits for possession, personal cultivation and advertising
 - What would be the benefit(s) of having stronger limits?
 - What evidence is there for setting a different limit for these?
 - Will allowing advertising counteract public health by decreasing the impact of education?

Roundtable Discussion Topics

- Potential for provincial penalties for youth possession of less than 5 g of cannabis
 - Do penalties deter behavior? What types of penalties have been shown to work best in other areas?
 - What is the role of addictions counseling? Other social supports?
- Options for public consumption, including limiting passive exposure
 - Is there rationale for a province-wide strategy or approach to public consumption?
 - What about use of cannabis that does not involve smoking?
 - Would having a dedicated space lessen the risk because it's not public? What about risk to employees working in the space?

Roundtable Discussion Topics

- Enforcement and public education
 - Do you anticipate changing what you do or how you do it
 - Whose role is public education?

Roundtable Discussion

Your thoughts?

Our Process

- Each meeting will cover 2-3 topics
- We will have very specific questions for you, but it is also a chance to raise issues important to you
- All the participants of stakeholder meetings will meet to review the draft Alberta Cannabis Framework this Fall

Next Steps

- Deadline for online survey, written submissions and toolkit submissions is July 31
- Next Roundtable meetings in July
- Draft Alberta Cannabis Framework released this Fall
- Ongoing implementation planning into the new year

Questions?