

Alberta's System for Legalized Cannabis



Cannabis Milestones

- **April 13, 2017:** Federal government proposes legislation to legalize cannabis by Summer 2018
- **June 2, 2017:** Alberta launches two-month public consultation
- **Oct. 4, 2017:** Release of draft Alberta Cannabis Framework
Second phase of engagement process
- **Nov. 16, 2017:** Introduction of *Bill 26, An Act to Control and Regulate Cannabis, 2017*
- **Nov. 30, 2017:** Bill 26 passes third reading

Federal Legislation

If passed, federal legislation to legalize cannabis will:



allow adults to possess up to 30 grams of legally-produced cannabis



allow adults to grow up to four cannabis plants per household



set the minimum age for possession at 18, with the option for provinces to increase the age limit



enable a regulatory regime for the licensed production of cannabis, which would be overseen by the federal government

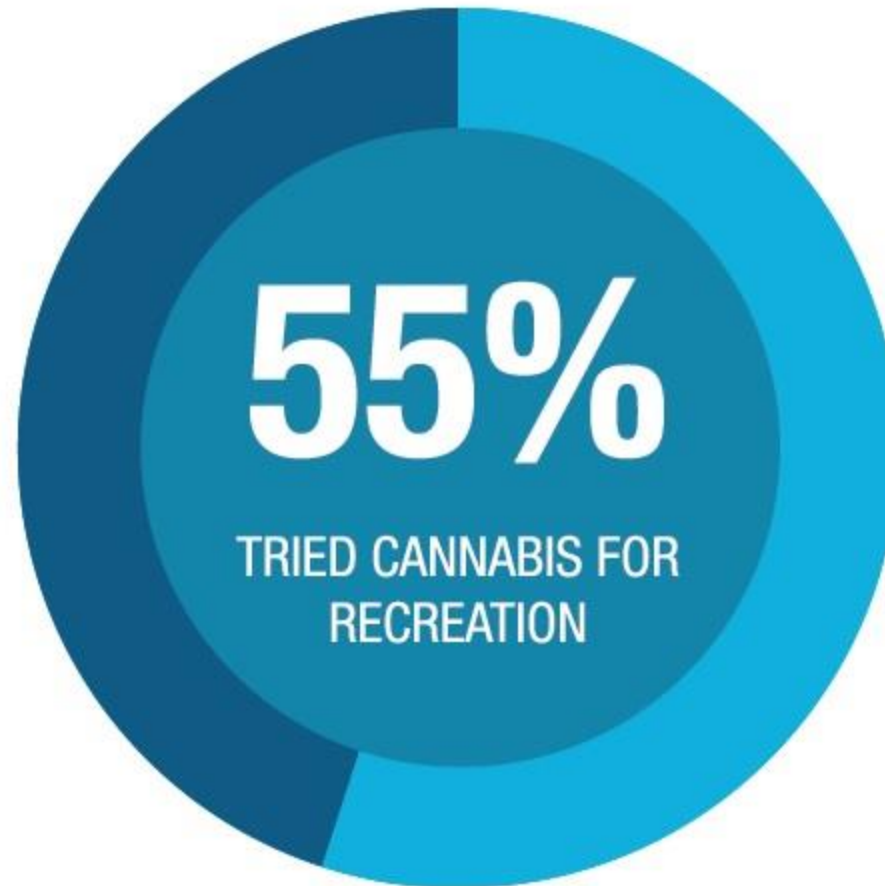


enable a regulatory regime for the distribution and sale of cannabis, which would be overseen by the provincial government



establish new provisions to address drug-impaired driving, as well as make several changes to the overall legal framework to address alcohol impaired driving

Cannabis Use in Alberta



Engagement Process

- June and July: Albertans provided input that guided the draft framework
- October: Albertans provided feedback on the system proposed in the framework
 - Three quarters of those surveyed supported the draft framework
 - More than 60,000 Albertans participated in online surveys
 - More than 100 organizations also shared their feedback & expertise
 - Detailed engagement results are online

Alberta Cannabis Framework:

- Policy Priorities

- Keeping cannabis out of the hands of children and youth
- Protecting public health
- Promoting safety on roads, in workplaces and in public spaces
- Limiting the illegal cannabis market

The Future of Cannabis in Alberta

The rules around cannabis in Alberta once it is legal in summer 2018.



LICENSED GROWERS

Strictly regulated by the federal government.



PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

The Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC) directly manages how cannabis gets from the licensed grower to the retailer.



AGLC-OPERATED ONLINE SALES

Age verification occurs at point of sale and at delivery.



WORKPLACE

Alberta is reviewing all existing regulations and programs to ensure rules continue to address impairment at work.



PRIVATE CANNABIS RETAIL STORES

May only sell cannabis and cannabis accessories. Minors are prohibited from entering cannabis stores, even if accompanied by an adult.



ADVERTISING

Product advertising will only be allowed inside cannabis stores.



DRIVING

Police are able to suspend licences and seize vehicles if people drive impaired, including impairment by cannabis.



POSSESSION

Adults can possess up to 30 grams of legal cannabis in public.

PUBLIC CONSUMPTION

Smoking and vaping cannabis are prohibited in areas frequented by kids and other public places where smoking tobacco is prohibited.



HOME

Each household is allowed to grow up to four plants. Landlord and tenant agreements or condo bylaws can be used to set rules for consumption and growing.



OWNERS AND STAFF

Must undergo extensive background checks. Qualified employees must be 18 and undertake training.



An Act to Control and Regulate Cannabis

- Amendments to regulations define:
 - **Who can open** a private retail store?
 - **Who can work** in a private retail store?
 - **Where** can private retail stores be located?
 - **How** will retail stores operate?

Who Can Open a Private Retail Store?

- All license applicants will undergo stringent, mandatory background checks, including:
 - Criminal record check
 - Business history
 - Tax and financial information
- No licenses will be issued to anyone with links to organized crime, or with a history of drug trafficking
 - Minor cannabis possession conviction will not automatically disqualify an applicant
 - Licenses will need to be renewed annually
 - Mandatory background checks will be required every 1 to 3 years

Who Can Open a Private Retail Store?

- No single person, business or organization can have more than 15% of retail licences across the province
 - Allows for a level playing field for large and small business
 - Government review of system in the future

Who Can Work in a Private Retail Store?

- The AGLC will maintain a database of Qualified Cannabis Employees
- Qualified employees will be:
 - At least 18 years of age,
 - Have taken mandatory training, and
 - Passed criminal background check
- Retailers will only be able to hire Qualified Workers

Where Can Retail Stores be Located?

- Stores cannot be built within 100 meters from schools or hospitals
 - 100 meter buffer is about one city block
 - Will help keep cannabis out of the hands of children and protect public health
 - Municipalities can add additional buffers, including between stores

How Will Retail Stores Operate?

- Stores will only be able to open between 10 a.m. and 2 a.m.
 - Same as hours for liquor stores
 - Municipalities can further limit hours
- Limit of 30 grams per transaction
 - Applies to both retail stores and online
- Mandatory security measures:
 - Alarms, video surveillance and secured product storage
 - Product can only be displayed in a locked display case and accessed by retail workers when store is open
 - No use or consumption onsite
 - Approved smell/viewing containers will be permitted

Next Steps and Implementation

- Implementing system this year
- Begin public education
- Ongoing work with federal government, provinces and territories
 - Details of federal regulations on production licensing, packaging, and other issues are still being finalized
 - Regulations to allow edible products are expected within a year

Questions?