BRITISH COLUMBIA’S APPROACH TO CANNABIS LEGALIZATION AND REGULATION

2018 UBCM Convention, Whistler B.C.
September 11, 2018
LEGALIZATION TIMELINE OVERVIEW

- September 2017 – Public engagement launched
- October 2017 – Joint working group with local governments and UBCM established
- May 2018 – Provincial legislation passed
- October 17, 2018 – Cannabis legal in Canada
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Cannabis Act (Bill C-45)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Medical cannabis regime
- Minimum federal conditions for distribution and retail sales
- Minimum age for purchase, possession and consumption
- Personal cultivation and personal possession restrictions
- Criminal penalties for those operating illegally
- Product standards, labelling, packaging, promotion, display
- Cannabis producer licensing
- Regulate edibles within 12 months of legalization
FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY

Bill C-46

- Significantly amends *Criminal Code* impaired driving offences
- Creates new offences for specified levels of a drug in the blood within 2 hours of driving
- Provides regulatory authority to approve roadside oral fluid screening devices
PROVINCIAL PRIORITIES

- Prioritize health and safety
- Reduce crime and the illegal market
- Protect children and youth
- Address cannabis-impaired driving
- Support economic development
**PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION**
Cannabis-related legislation passed May 2018

| **Cannabis Control & Licensing Act** | • Minimum age, limits on personal possession and cultivation, places of use, retail licensing regime, enforcement authority, offences, and consequential amendments to various statutes |
| **Cannabis Distribution Act** | • Public wholesale distribution monopoly  
• Government-run retail sales in stores and online |
| **Amendments to Motor Vehicle Act** | • Addresses drug-affected driving |
The Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) is B.C.’s wholesale distributor of non-medical cannabis.

LDB will operate:

- Standalone public retail stores
- Online sales
The Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch is responsible for licensing and regulating private cannabis retail.

Formerly Liquor Control and Licensing Branch, new name reflects additional regulatory role.

Cannabis retail regulatory framework is similar to that in place for liquor.

Priorities are to:
- Eliminate criminal infiltration and organized crime
- Ensure public health and safety
- Work with local and Indigenous governments
Role in Cannabis Regulation

Develop policy, legislation and regulations

Oversee rigorous licensing process:

- Accept applications
- Screen applicants
- Seek recommendations from local and Indigenous governments

Compliance and enforcement for licensees
CANNABIS RETAIL LICENSING ROLES

Liquor & Cannabis Regulation Branch
- Receives and refers application
- Screens applicants
- Inspects licensed premises
- Issues licence

Local & Indigenous governments
- Establishes review process for applications
- Community consultation
- Business licensing/zoning
- Notify LCRB of decision
B.C.’S APPROACH

Places of Use

Cannabis smoking and vaping will generally be allowed in public places where tobacco smoking and vaping are permitted.

Cannabis smoking and vaping will be banned in areas where children gather, including parks and playgrounds.

Local and Indigenous governments may set further restrictions.

Landlords and strata councils may restrict or prohibit cannabis smoking.

Cannabis consumption will be prohibited while riding in or operating a vehicle.
B.C.’S APPROACH

**Personal cultivation**

Adults will be allowed to grow up to 4 cannabis plants per household.

Plants cannot be visible from any public place off the property.

Home cultivation banned in homes used as daycares.

Landlords and strata councils may restrict or prohibit home cultivation at tenanted and strata properties.

Local and Indigenous governments may set further restrictions.
**B.C.’s Approach**

**Drug-impaired driving**

B.C. is strengthening provincial regulations including:

- 90 day Administrative Driving Prohibition for drug-affected driving
- Zero tolerance for presence of THC in Graduated Licensing Program drivers
- Increased Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) and Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) training
Ticketing regime under development

Licensed cannabis retailers will be subject to compliance and enforcement provisions similar to liquor

Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch will be responsible for compliance and enforcement for licensed retailers

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General’s new Community Safety Unit will target illegal sales outside the provincial regulatory framework
The Government of Canada is leading national cannabis public education and awareness efforts.

Canada has already launched public awareness campaigns to inform Canadians about:
- Impaired driving risks associated with cannabis use
- Health and safety risks

The Province will be launching its own public education and awareness campaigns to supplement federal activities.
CONTACTS

Provincial Cannabis Secretariat: cannabis.secretariat@gov.bc.ca
Liquor Distribution Branch: cannabis@bclldb.com
Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch: cannabisregs@gov.bc.ca