

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S APPROACH TO CANNABIS LEGALIZATION AND REGULATION

Electoral Area Directors Forum – January 30, 2018

Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General

OVERVIEW

- Federal Context
- Federal Legislation – Highlights
- Provincial Context
- Priority Policy Issues for British Columbia

FEDERAL CONTEXT

Federal Cannabis
Secretariat

FPT Senior Officials
Working Group

FPT Sub-groups

- Public Education & Awareness
- Seed to Sale Tracking System
- Ticketable Offences
- Drug Impaired Driving
- Data Monitoring
- Taxation
- Labour

Federal Timeline

- June 2016 - Federal Discussion Paper
- Federal Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation
 - July - Sept 2016: Public & Stakeholder Consultation
 - November 2016: Task Force Report
- April 2017 – *Cannabis Act* (Bill C-45) and Bill C-46 (impaired driving) introduced
- Nov 2017- Jan 20, 2018: Public & stakeholder consultation on proposed federal regulations
- July 2018 - Bill C-45 in force date
- Bill C-46 in force upon enactment

FEDERAL LEGISLATION – HIGHLIGHTS

Bill C-45

- Adults 18 and over will be able to legally buy, possess, grow, and use cannabis
- Maximum of four plants per household; adult public possession limit of 30 grams; youth possession limit of 5 grams
- Federal government regulates production and product standards; provinces regulate retail and distribution
- Federal government will establish an interim mail order retail system so that adults can access legal cannabis as of July 2018

FEDERAL LEGISLATION – HIGHLIGHTS

Bill C-45 Continued

- It will continue to be a criminal offence to sell cannabis to a young person
- Promotion/advertising of cannabis is prohibited with limited exceptions
- A seed to sale tracking system will support product safety and compliance and enforcement activity

Bill C-46

- Significantly amends Criminal Code impaired driving offences
- Creates new offences for having specified levels of a drug in the blood within two hours of driving (to be set by regulation)
- Provides regulatory authority to approve roadside oral fluid screening devices

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

ADM Public Safety
Issues Committee

Cannabis Legalization &
Regulation Secretariat

Inter-ministry Working
Group

The following **overarching provincial goals** have guided policy work to date:

- I. Prioritize the health and safety of British Columbians
- II. Reduce crime and the illegal market
- III. Protect children and youth
- IV. Address cannabis-impaired driving
- V. Support economic development

PRIORITY POLICY ISSUES

British Columbia's key policy decision areas:

- Minimum Age
- Personal Possession
- Public Consumption
- Drug-Impaired Driving
- Personal Cultivation
- Distribution Model
- Retail Model

SECONDARY DECISIONS

depend on Priority Policy Decisions and include but are not limited to...

- Illegal dispensaries
- Local Government Jurisdiction
- Indigenous Governments
- Agricultural Land Reserve
- Agricultural Economic Development
- Ticketable Offences
- Regulatory Model/Licensing Regime
- Government Responsibility Centre
- Workplace Considerations
- Housing Considerations
- Public awareness and education
- School-based Education
- Data collection
- Taxation and Pricing
- Supply Management
- Allocation of Revenues
- Funding to Local Government
- Training
- Environmental Impact
- Canadian Free Trade Agreement
- Restrictions on Storage/Possession
- Regulatory Capture Prevention
- Hemp Regulation
- Long Term Governance/Oversight
- Impact on Enforcement Resources
- Program Evaluation

B.C. PUBLIC & STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Conducted: September 25 to November 1, 2017

- 48,151 people completed an online feedback form
- 800 participated in a random telephone survey
- 140 written submissions from Indigenous and local governments, and stakeholders including:
 - 6 Indigenous governments and organizations
 - 39 local governments

PUBLIC & STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION Cont'd

Feedback form and telephone survey results

- **Minimum Age:** Majority supported setting B.C.'s minimum age to possess, purchase, and consume cannabis in B.C. to 19
- **Personal Possession:** Slight majority supported the proposed federal possession limits
- **Drug Impaired Driving:** Level of support for B.C. government actions to reduce drug-impaired driving was strongest for:
 - 1) Public education and awareness
 - 2) Zero tolerance for new drivers

PUBLIC & STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION Cont'd

Feedback form and telephone survey results

- **Public consumption:** Majority agreed adults should be allowed to use non-medical cannabis in some spaces outside their homes
- **Personal cultivation:** Mixed feedback on whether B.C. should set additional restrictions on where and how people can grow non-medical cannabis for personal use
- **Retail:** Slight majority supported a mix of government and private stores

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT

Joint Provincial-Local Government Committee on Cannabis Regulation (JCCR)

- Joint committee created in October 2017 with representatives from the B.C. government, UBCM and local governments
- 12 UBCM representatives including elected officials, staff specializing in planning, building inspection, bylaw enforcement or public safety, and senior staff
- Committee jointly chaired by UBCM and the Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat

POLICY DECISIONS TO DATE

December 5, 2017 the B.C. government announced:

- **Minimum age**
 - B.C.'s minimum age to possess, purchase and consume cannabis will be 19
 - Consistent with B.C.'s minimum age for alcohol, tobacco and age of majority
- **Public distribution model for non-medical cannabis**
 - Like other provinces, B.C.'s wholesale distribution model will be government-run
 - The B.C. Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) will be the wholesale distributor in B.C.
- **Public and private retail model for non-medical cannabis**
 - The Province will share details about the retail model in February

NEXT STEPS

- Ongoing engagement with local governments through the Joint Committee on Cannabis Regulation (JCCR)
- Ongoing engagement with Indigenous governments and organizations
- Government to announce retail framework details in February
- Drafting of provincial legislation/regulations in advance of federal legalization in July 2018

QUESTIONS?

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