



Yukon's Proposed Framework for Legalized Cannabis



19+
MINIMUM AGE



Overview

The Government of Yukon has begun developing a new act to regulate cannabis in response to federal legislation planned for July 2018.

Our government is taking a cautious approach to the implementation of legalized cannabis. Our plan is to maximize local benefits while minimizing local harms.

The new act will reflect the values and priorities of Yukoners and Yukon communities. It will provide for legal, controlled access to cannabis that displaces illegal and criminal activity. It will prioritize public health, safety and harm reduction, with a focus on protecting youth from negative health effects.

It will ensure that concerns about public health, safety and enforcement are addressed; it will also allow adults who choose to consume cannabis to have reasonable access to purchase and consume it legally.

The Government of Yukon is proposing direct control of cannabis distribution and consumption upon legalization. This will allow us to carefully manage legalization and enforce the rules surrounding it. The legislation will allow for future changes that reflect Yukon's interests and values.

This document outlines a proposed approach for cannabis legalization in Yukon that aligns with the framework introduced by the Government of Canada.

It's important to recognize that the proposed approach represents a starting point. The system will evolve as we learn more about the best approach for Yukon.

The Government of Yukon welcomes comments from all Yukoners on this proposed approach. Please send any comments or feedback to cannabis@gov.yk.ca by December 20, 2017.

19+

MINIMUM AGE

LEGAL AGE

Yukon proposes setting the minimum age for the legal possession, consumption and cultivation of cannabis at 19.

As in many other jurisdictions where cannabis is legal, Yukon's minimum age would be consistent with the legal age for alcohol.

45% of respondents said that 19 is the most appropriate minimum age for the purchase, possession and personal cultivation of cannabis in Yukon.

22% said the minimum age should be 21 years.

21% said the minimum age should be 18 years.



POSSESSING CANNABIS

In Yukon, adults 19 and older would be allowed to possess up to 30 grams of dried cannabis, or its equivalent, in public. This aligns with the federal government's proposed possession limit for adults.

Young people — those under the legal age of 19 — would not be allowed to purchase or possess any cannabis. Possession of any amount of cannabis by a person under the legal age of possession would be a territorial offence.

71% of respondents said that the personal adult possession amount should be set at 30 grams.



GROWING CANNABIS

Yukon proposes aligning with the federal government's decision and allow adults to grow up to four plants per household for personal use.

Note that the Government of Canada has the sole authority to grant licences to grow cannabis commercially. This is not under the Government of Yukon's jurisdiction.

65% of respondents said that no further restrictions are needed on the number of plants that can be grown for personal use.

CONSUMPTION OF CANNABIS



The new act would limit recreational consumption to privately owned residences and adjoining property, where permitted by the owner, while providing for the potential to allow consumption in other spaces in the future.

This approach puts the initial focus on public health and harm reduction.

77% of respondents agreed people should be allowed to smoke cannabis on private property.

DISTRIBUTION AND RETAIL OF CANNABIS



The federal legislation provides authority for provinces and territories to licence and oversee the distribution and sale of cannabis.

The focus of Yukon's proposed approach is to keep cannabis out of the hands of young people, reduce harm caused by unhealthy cannabis use, and to keep the profits from the sale of cannabis out of the hands of criminals and criminal enterprise.

Distribution

The Government of Yukon would have the sole authority to import, warehouse, transport and otherwise distribute recreational cannabis within Yukon for commercial purposes.

This proposed approach provides government with the opportunity to control the supply chain and the price of cannabis, which will help reduce illicit activity. It also ensures the legitimacy and quality of cannabis for retail sale.

Overseen by Government

28% of respondents thought government-licensed private distributors should oversee and manage cannabis distribution within Yukon.

24% thought retail operators should be required to purchase wholesale from a government supplier.

17% were in favour of government distribution to government-run stores.

Solely Private

24% thought cannabis producers should be allowed to sell directly to retail stores.



Retail

The Government of Yukon will ensure that Yukoners have legal access to cannabis upon federal legalization next year. Our proposed approach acknowledges the need for additional time to develop regulations, including a licensing system for private retail that will reflect Yukon's interests and values.

51% of respondents said they favour allowing sales of cannabis using a mixture of government and private retail stores.

24% of respondents were in favour of a model that includes only private stores.

19% favoured selling cannabis exclusively through government-operated stores.

Co-location

Yukon would not allow cannabis to be sold in retail locations that sell alcohol.

47% of respondents said alcohol and cannabis should be sold at separate locations.

36% said they should be sold at the same locations.

17% did not know or did not express an opinion.

As the Government of Yukon prepares for the legalization of cannabis in July 2018, education about health and safety will continue to be a priority.

For more information, or to provide comments, email cannabis@gov.yk.ca.