

What we heard

Yukon's approach to
cannabis legalization



The Government of Yukon recently conducted a public engagement survey on a series of topics related to the legalization of recreational cannabis. The survey was open to public participation between August 10 and September 30, 2017.

The survey consisted of an introductory section with general questions, and seven optional sections about specific topics. There were 3,172 responses to the introductory section, and between 2,416 and 2,817 responses to each of the seven optional sections.

97% of respondents were Yukon residents.

81% of respondents supported the federal government's plan to legalize cannabis.

About **75%** agreed that it is either completely or somewhat acceptable to occasionally smoke or eat cannabis for recreational purposes.

More than **85%** of respondents supported Yukon's priorities of focusing on public health, harm reduction, preventing negative impacts on youth, and displacing illegal activity.

SETTING THE LEGAL AGE

45% of respondents stated that the minimum age for possessing, purchasing, or growing cannabis should be 19 years.

22% said the minimum age should be 21 years.

21% said the minimum age should be 18 years.

POSSESSION

71% said Yukon should set the personal possession amount for recreational cannabis at 30 grams, the same as the limit set by the federal government.

17% responded that the personal possession amount should be 10 grams.

10% said the personal possession amount should be 20 grams.

PERSONAL CULTIVATION

The federal legislation states that up to four cannabis plants can be grown in a house or on private property. We asked Yukoners two questions about growing cannabis for personal use.

65% of respondents agreed that Yukon should allow for four plants per household, the same as the limit set by the federal government.

55% said there should not be any regulations on where cannabis can be grown on private property (e.g., in a secured structure versus the garden or yard).

CONSUMPTION

We asked Yukoners several questions about where, and under what circumstances, cannabis can be consumed in public and in establishments open to the public, such as restaurants and bars.

58% of respondents agreed that there should be limitations on public consumption of all forms of cannabis (e.g., smoked, eaten, mixed in drinks, etc.).

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

57% said that there should be the same restrictions as tobacco for smoking cannabis in public.

73% of respondents agreed that we will likely need special rules governing the consumption of cannabis in multi-unit dwellings and buildings that feature a mixture of public and private spaces.

SALES AND DISTRIBUTION

Distribution

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 Sale

We asked Yukoners several questions about the retail sale of cannabis in the territory. Below is a summary of their responses.

51% of respondents were in favour of 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.

43% percent of respondents agreed that local governments should be able to decide not to allow a cannabis retail store in their community

58% of respondents agreed that online sales and home delivery of cannabis should be allowed.

Co-location

We asked Yukoners whether alcohol and cannabis should be sold in the same location.

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

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

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

SAFETY

As with alcohol, the federal government also allows for the territories and provinces to make additional rules related to drug-impaired driving. We asked Yukoners four questions about drug-impaired driving.

43% of respondents said they support the idea of suspending the driver's licences of people who drive under the influence of cannabis.

36% of respondents agreed that the RCMP should be able to issue tickets and to fine anyone who drives under the influence of cannabis, even if it is not over the federal legal limit.

80% of respondents agreed that there should be zero tolerance for any alcohol or drugs for new drivers and drivers under the age of 21.

87% of respondents agreed that there should be zero tolerance for any alcohol or drugs for drivers operating commercial vehicles.

EDUCATION

We asked Yukoners which approaches government should consider to ensure that cannabis users make responsible and healthy choices when using recreational cannabis.

82% of respondents stated that there should be public education in stores that sell cannabis.

79% said that information about cannabis should be available in medical offices.

72% of respondents agreed that information about cannabis use should be part of the curriculum in Yukon schools.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Note that only the Government of Canada has the authority to grant licenses to grow cannabis commercially. This is not under the Government of Yukon's jurisdiction. We asked Yukoners what types of cannabis-related economic activities they supported.

84% of respondents supported the idea of allowing locally grown cannabis.

83% of respondents supported the idea of manufacture of secondary products like hemp.

72% of respondents supported the idea of cannabis-related retail opportunities.

CONCERNS

14% of respondents opposed the legalization of cannabis.

59% of respondents believed that the introduction of legal cannabis will definitely or probably require more to be done to keep workers and workplaces safe.

82% believed it is important for the Yukon government to invest in enforcement to discourage the sale of cannabis to minors.

76% of respondents agreed that there should be rules or regulations about the level of training that cannabis retail store staff receive.