

Recreational Cannabis in Alberta



LICENSED GROWERS

Strictly regulated by the federal government.



PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

The Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission directly oversees how cannabis gets from the producer to the retailer.



GOVERNMENT-OPERATED ONLINE SALES

Age verification occurs at point of sale and at delivery/pick-up.



WORKPLACE

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



PRIVATE CANNABIS RETAIL STORES

Cannabis stores may only sell cannabis, not alcohol, tobacco or pharmaceuticals.



ADVERTISING

Restrictions on advertising.



DRIVING

Police are able to suspend licences and seize vehicles if people drive impaired by cannabis. Cannabis consumption will not be allowed in vehicles.



POSSESSION

Adults can possess up to 30 grams in public.



PUBLIC CONSUMPTION

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



HOME

Each household is allowed to grow up to 4 plants.



Alberta

alberta.ca/cannabis

Alberta Cannabis Framework

Alberta's Cannabis Framework establishes a system where adults may safely access legal cannabis while protecting Alberta's youth and public health, ensuring safety on roads and in workplaces, and limiting the illicit market.



Highlights

- Cannabis products can be purchased online, with government-operated online sales beginning by July 2018. Albertans can also buy cannabis products through privately owned and operated specialized retailers.
- Retail locations will be strictly regulated and must follow rules set by government regarding hours of operation, background checks for owners, store locations, age of staff, and staff training.
- Minimum age for purchase and possession is 18.
- Adults may possess 30 grams at any given time; there will be zero tolerance for youth under the legal age of 18 possessing any cannabis.
- Anyone under 18 caught with five grams or less will face sanctions similar to those for underage possession of alcohol or tobacco. Possession over five grams continues to be subject to criminal charges.
- Adults may smoke or vape cannabis at home and in some public places, but not in vehicles, any cannabis retail outlets, anywhere smoking or vaping tobacco is already restricted, or in areas frequented by children, including school and hospital properties and within five metres of skate parks, spray parks, and playgrounds.
- Adults can grow cannabis at home; up to four plants per household (not per person) for personal consumption.
- The Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC) will provide clear oversight over the distribution of packaged and sealed cannabis products, ensuring only legally produced products come into Alberta. (This is similar to what's in place now for alcohol).
- The AGLC will also ensure cannabis is distributed to specialized retail outlets – which won't be allowed to also sell alcohol, tobacco or pharmaceuticals.
- Licence suspensions and vehicle seizures that apply to alcohol-impaired driving will be extended to cannabis impairment. There will be zero tolerance for those on graduated licences. Cannabis consumption will not be allowed in vehicles.
- Cannabis advertising will be restricted to locations where there are no minors. The federal government has also proposed strict rules about labelling and packaging. The Alberta government will monitor the specifics of the program they are proposing and will work with them to address any issues or gaps in policies should they arise.

Next Steps

- **Introduced this fall:** *An Act to Control and Regulate Cannabis*, which will give the AGLC authority for oversight, compliance and retail licensing, enable online sales, and create restrictions on youth possession and public consumption.
- *An Act to Reduce Cannabis and Alcohol Impaired Driving*, which will support provincial efforts to address drug-impaired driving and establish zero tolerance for those on graduated licences.
- **To be developed in the new year:** supporting regulations about the sale of cannabis, including licensing criteria and other rules for private retailers.
- **To be introduced in spring 2018:** legislation around taxing authority, and further measures to address workplace safety issues (if required).