



City of
Peterborough

To: **Members of the General Committee**

From: **Patricia Lester, City Solicitor and Director of Legal Services**

Meeting Date: **January 15, 2018**

Subject: **Report OCS18-001**
A Report to Provide Information on the Legalization of Cannabis

Purpose

A report to provide information to Council on the legalization of cannabis in Canada, and the potential impacts that legalization will have on our community.

Recommendation

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report OCS18-001, dated January 15, 2018, of the City Solicitor and Director of Legal Services as follows:

That Report OCS18-001 be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budget or financial implications arising out of this report, as it is difficult to anticipate what the exact impacts will be and the associated costs not only for the City but for other stakeholder groups that the City may fund.

The Federal Minister of Finance has agreed to a revenue sharing formula, allocating 75% of cannabis tax revenues to the provinces and territories however, it is unknown at this time what the municipal share of these revenues will be as this is a matter for each province to determine. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario is set to meet with the Provincial Minister of Finance to discuss cannabis costs and revenue sharing.

Background

Staff reviewed a number of sources in the preparation of this report, including reviewing the legalization of cannabis in the USA and speaking with relevant stakeholders.

A. Federal Legislation

In 2015, Justin Trudeau told Canadians that if elected Prime Minister, he would legalize cannabis in Canada and design a strict system of sales and distribution that would keep cannabis out of the hands of children, profits out of the hands of criminals, and remove consumption and possession of cannabis, from the Criminal Code.

On April 13, 2017, the process to fulfil his campaign promise began with the introduction of Bill C-45 an Act Respecting Cannabis and to amend the **Controlled Drugs and Substances Act**, the **Criminal Code** and other Acts. The Bill is expected to become law by July 1, 2018, attached as Schedule A, is a table on how a federal bill becomes law in Canada.

On November 28, 2017, Bill C-45 received First Reading in the Senate following amendments that were made since the First Reading in the House in April. It will be up to the provinces to then enact legislation that will further establish rules around the possession, sale and consumption of the drug.

Highlights found in Bill C-45

Bill C-45 seeks to enact the **Cannabis Act** to provide legal access to cannabis and to control and regulate its production, distribution and sale. The objectives of the Act are to prevent young persons from accessing cannabis, to protect public health and public safety by establishing strict product safety and product quality requirements and to deter criminal activity by imposing serious criminal penalties for those operating outside the legal framework.

Following Royal Assent, the **Cannabis Act** will permit adults to legally possess, grow and purchase limited amounts of cannabis. Bill C-45 sets out the following rules regarding cannabis however, until passed into law, the highlights listed below are not final.

The **Cannabis Act**:

1. Permits individuals 18 years of age or older to possess no more than 30 grams of dried cannabis in a public place.
2. Prohibits the possession of illicit cannabis.
3. Permits personal cultivation of up to 4 cannabis plants per household.
4. Permits the alteration of cannabis at home in order to prepare cannabis products (e.g. edibles) for personal use provided that no dangerous solvents are used in the process.

5. Prohibits any promotion, packaging and labelling of cannabis that could be appealing to young persons or encourage its consumption.
6. Authorizes the possession, sale or distribution of cannabis if authorized under a provincial act that contains certain legislative measures.

B. Provincial Legislation

In response to Bill C-45, each province is required to establish rules regarding the sale, possession and consumption of cannabis. Attached as Schedule B, is a table on how a provincial bill becomes law in Ontario.

Jurisdictional Responsibilities for the Legalization of Cannabis

The following table outlines the responsibilities of the federal and provincial governments.

Activity	Federal Responsibility	Provincial Responsibility
Possession limits**	✓	X
Trafficking	✓	X
Advertisement and packaging**	✓	X
Impaired driving	✓	✓
Medical cannabis	✓	X
Seed-to-sale tracking system	✓	X
Production (cultivation and processing)	✓	X
Age limit (federal minimum)**	✓	X
Public health	✓	✓
Education	✓	✓
Taxation	✓	✓
Home cultivation (growing plants at home)**	✓	X
Distribution and wholesaling	X	✓
Retail model	X	✓
Retail locations and rules	X	✓
Regulatory compliance	✓	✓
Public consumption	X	✓
Land use and/or zoning	X	✓

**Provinces will have the ability to strengthen legislation for these areas under federal jurisdiction

Ontario Framework

The Provincial Bill 174 received Royal Assent on December 12, 2017 and enacts the **Cannabis Act, 2017**, the **Ontario Cannabis Retail Corporation Act, 2017** and the **Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017 (“SFOA”)**. It also amends sections of the **Highway Traffic Act (“HTA”)** respecting alcohol, drugs and other matters. The legislation will come into force on a day to be named by Proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor, which we expect will be on or before July 1, 2018.

Cannabis Act, 2017 Highlights

The provincial framework for the legalization of cannabis would permit individuals 19 years of age or older to possess, consume and cultivate cannabis. The sale of cannabis is only permitted through a new crown corporation at a retail outlet or online. The proposed legislation prohibits the consumption of cannabis in a public place, a workplace within the meaning of the **Occupational Health and Safety Act**, a vehicle or boat, or any prescribed place.

Individuals 19 years of age or older may cultivate up to four cannabis plants per household and adults may only possess up to 30 grams of cannabis in a public place.

The legislation also allows the province to enter into agreements with the council of a band with respect to the sale, distribution, purchase, possession, consumption, cultivation, and propagation or harvesting of cannabis on a reserve.

The new legislation prohibits the sale or purchase of cannabis by anyone other than the provincial crown corporation.

The **Cannabis Act, 2017** will not apply to medical cannabis which will be covered under the **SFOA**.

Ontario Cannabis Retail Corporation Act, 2017 Highlights

Schedule 2 of Provincial Bill 174 created the Ontario Cannabis Retail Corporation (“OCRC”) and it is a subsidiary of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (“LCBO”).

The government announced that it plans to open 40 OCRC stores across Ontario by July, 2018, and a total of 150 stores by the end of 2020. Cannabis and alcohol will not be sold together in Ontario, and there will be very limited signage used to identify these stores. Peterborough has been identified as one of the first 40 cities in Ontario to be chosen for a cannabis store to be open by July 1, 2018 along with the online purchase of cannabis.

The sale of cannabis will be restricted to individuals 19 years of age and older, and the government proposes to design their stores in a way that cannabis can not be seen by anyone in the store until they’ve shown identification and are permitted to enter the area where cannabis will be securely displayed.

Ontario has the highest number of cannabis producers in the country who already produce medical cannabis. The Province will utilize these producers for the supply of recreational cannabis.

As the OCRC is a crown corporation, the City cannot legally require that they obtain a business license, similar to the LCBO. In addition, the Planning Department advised that our Zoning By-law will not need to be amended as the OCRC would be permitted to operate in any location zoned “commercial/retail”; however, the final siting of any location is the decision of the OCRC. The Province has indicated, however, that sites will be selected to minimize close proximity and visibility to primary and secondary schools, other locations of sensitive use near existing shelters and vulnerable populations will also be considered.

Updates on where the Ontario government plans to open OCRC stores and other cannabis updates can be found at www.lcbocannabisupdates.com.

Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017 Highlights

The **SFOA** will include prohibitions and exemptions for users of medical cannabis only as the use of cannabis for recreational purposes is not allowed in any public place, and therefore, not covered under the **SFOA**. Cannabis, when used by individuals with a medical prescription, may be smoked in any place that tobacco is allowed. It will not be permitted to be smoked or vaporized in an enclosed public place, enclosed workplace, a school, indoor common area in a condominium, apartment building, university or college residence, in a child care centre, sports arena or entertainment venue or any other place prescribed by regulation.

The City will be permitted to amend Smoking By-law 16-021 to prohibit vaping and medical cannabis in any building or on any land owned by Peterborough Public Health, the Peterborough Regional Health Centre, or within a 9-metre radius of any entrance, exit or air intake of City owned facilities including parks and the zoo.

Highway Traffic Act Amendments Highlights

The **HTA** amendments will provide that it is a condition for novice (G1 or G2) and young drivers (G license but under age 22) that there be no drug in the driver’s body while driving. If a driver contravenes the condition, the driver is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine between \$60 and \$500. In addition, the driver’s licence of a young driver will be suspended for 30 days, and the driver’s licence of a novice driver may be suspended, cancelled or changed by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario in accordance with the regulations.

The amendments also provide for administrative driver’s licence suspensions (at the roadside) for a period between three and 30 days if a novice driver, young driver or driver of a commercial motor vehicle is found to have a drug in his or her body while driving.

Exceptions to these amendments will be made if a police officer is satisfied that the driver is legally authorized to use the drug for medical purposes.

For information purposes Schedule C, attached outlines the provincial cannabis framework by province.

C. Municipal Concerns

Peterborough Police Service

Under the new **Cannabis Act, 2017**, the police will have certain enforcement powers that involve the seizing of cannabis or the proceeds of an offence, and authority to require that individuals vacate the premises of any location that is not a residence if the Act is being contravened. For example, if a local bar is permitting patrons to smoke cannabis inside, the police would have the authority to vacate the premises and bar entry to the establishment until the final disposition of any charges laid.

If an officer finds a person apparently in contravention of the Act, or a prescribed regulation under the Act and the person refuses to give his or her name and address, that person may be arrested without a warrant. An officer may also search a vehicle or boat without a warrant if that officer has reasonable grounds to believe that cannabis is being contained within the vehicle or vessel in contravention of the Act.

Landlords who knowingly permit their premises to be used in relation to an activity prohibited by the Act can be charged. This would include a landlord who permits their building to be used as an illegal dispensary.

Charges under the **Cannabis Act, 2017** would be laid by the police under the **Provincial Offences Act ("POA")** by issuing either a Part 1 Offence Notice, or a Part 3 Summons. A police officer who has reasonable grounds to believe that a person who is under 19 years of age has contravened the Act may refer the person to an approved youth education or prevention program. It is not known at this time who will run these programs, or if such a program will be available in Peterborough.

The Peterborough Police Service ("PPS") has indicated that it is too early to identify any issues that may arise once cannabis is legal in the Province. The main concern among the PPS and the Ontario Provincial Police is with an increase in impaired driving as they are aware of such statistics in the USA.

An article posted in the Denver Post on August 2017 notes that the number of drivers involved in fatal crashes in the state of Colorado who tested positive for cannabis had risen sharply each year since 2013 when cannabis was legalized. However, the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration indicates that the rising number of drivers who test positive for cannabis cannot be definitively linked to driving under the influence. Positive cannabis results reflected in the data do not indicate whether a driver was impaired at the time of the crash since traces of cannabis may be detected from use that occurred weeks earlier. The ability of a device to test the level of cannabis currently in a drivers system, to a degree where there is no uncertainty, has yet to be developed. For instance the device used to detect alcohol content in a driver has been tested and used in the market for approximately 40 years. But the number of drivers testing positive for cannabis cannot be ignored as a cause for crashes.

Police are also concerned that the new home cultivation rules may cause an increase in home invasion type robberies.

The Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police is preparing an accurate report of the expected costs of policing due to the new legislation. The costs for training Drug Recognition Experts and Standard Field Sobriety Testing along with training officers to understand the new federal and provincial legislation is unknown at this time.

Provincial Offences Office

The City's prosecutors will be responsible for the prosecution of offences under the **Cannabis Act, 2017** in the **POA** court. It is unknown at this time how many charges may be laid, or what evidence will be required to prove the offences at trial.

Under the **POA**, anyone over the age of 16 is considered an adult and may be charged and appear in the **POA** court. Individuals under the age of 16 are considered youth under the Act and are prosecuted by the Crown's office after receiving a summons.

Penalties for contravening the Act are quite high and range from \$1,000 for consuming in an illegal place, to \$250,000 and imprisonment for landlords who permit tenants to commit an offence under the Act.

Prosecutors will also have the ability to require a person convicted of an offence to participate in one or more approved youth education or prevention programs as a condition of a probation order.

Peterborough Fire Services ("PFS")

The Province has indicated to fire services that there are pending changes to the **Ontario Fire Code** to regulate cannabis operations. The **Fire Code** additions and changes are designed to address fire and life safety issues that have been identified by a group of fire safety stakeholders.

PFS believes that the primary ongoing issue will be illegal operations where temporary electrical wiring may cause a fire or be located in buildings that pose other fire and life safety issues. PFS works with the Electrical Safety Authority and Certified Licensed Electricians to assess and address electrical issues. The existing **Fire Code** section 2.4.6.1 states "Temporary electrical wiring shall not be used where it presents a fire hazard".

It is too early to speculate on the potential impact of Fire Code Enforcement as a result of the legalization of cannabis.

Peterborough Public Health ("PPH")

PPH notes that cannabis use is associated with harmful effects to health. Cannabinoids, namely Tetrahydrocannabinol ("THC") affect the nervous system and brain development, which is most concerning for use by youth and young adults whose brains have not fully developed until around age 25. These effects may be irreversible. Cannabis use by women who are pregnant or breastfeeding is also a concern as this

exposes the fetus or child to cannabinoids, which interacts with their nervous system development. Also, the use of cannabis may increase the risk of developing mental illness in some people and users may become addicted. The risks of these effects are increased if the individual started using cannabis at a young age, and if they use it frequently. Cannabis is most commonly smoked which exposes users to toxic chemicals and carcinogens, and can lead to respiratory conditions. Finally, the impact of THC on the nervous system affects the way people think, act and respond (impairment), which can contribute to other adverse health and social outcomes (e.g. unsafe behaviours, accidents and injury, particularly relating to impaired driving).

PPH indicated to Staff that, as part of a provincial collaborative of public health agencies, they advocated in 2016 to the Federal government that the minimum age for purchase and use be 21 years, as the brain is still developing up to (and beyond) this age. However, it is recognized that cannabis use in Canada is highest among young adults aged 20-24, followed by youth aged 15-19, and there are also considerable risks if young people continue to access cannabis through the black market. While a lower minimum age was proposed federally and across provinces than was advocated for (19 in Ontario), both the Federal and Ontario governments have made commitments to protecting public health and safety, with particular consideration of young people. These components include, but are not limited to, restricting advertising and promotions, child-proof packaging, significant commitments to public awareness and education campaigns, retailing from a government-run store with trained staff and social responsibility standards, endorsement of the lower-risk use guidelines, and avoiding criminalizing youth. The legalization and strict regulation of this product will protect all consumers by assuring the quality and safety of the product.

PPH has formed an internal cannabis working group, as it was recognized that the proposed law may affect a wide variety of programs offered by PPH. The working group has representation from a variety of programs including community health, tobacco use prevention, environmental health, family and maternal health, and communications. PPH also has staff and management representation on the Ontario Public Health Collaborative on Cannabis where activities include regular email sharing of updates, bi-monthly teleconferences for sharing and discussion and collective advocacy actions as appropriate.

A cannabis-related communications strategy has been initiated and several components are underway as of December 7, 2017. Those components include:

1. Media Relations

PPH has responding to several media requests from CHEX/Corus and the Peterborough Examiner. They are currently developing a "Media Question and Answer" reference document which has invited input from all members of the internal cannabis collaborative. This will help PPH identify and respond to the issues that they have a position on as well as identify issues where more information is required.

2. Community Partnership

PPH presented a Cannabis Update to the Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers meeting in November, 2017 and is currently developing a survey for community partners to assess their resource and information needs. They are also working on adding cannabis-related content to the PPH website and leveraging national or provincial campaigns as they emerge. A surveillance plan will also be developed in 2018 utilizing the available sources of data and assessing local trends as they become available.

PPH will continue to work to keep cannabis out of the hands of youth, and to educate the public about the potential harms associated with the use of cannabis.

Social Services

Social Services points out that the effects of cannabis legalization are speculative at this point; however, for some members of our community, they may not be able to afford the retail price of cannabis and may acquire it from the black market.

Staff indicated that there are concerns with youth who start using cannabis at a young age and the potential life style and mental effects this may have on their future. Social Services hopes that negative trends in this area will decrease as cannabis becomes more difficult for young people to access. Staff also noted the safety benefits to having a provincially controlled system as cannabis tainted with fentanyl and carfentanil has resulted in deaths in our community.

The Social Services Division is a guiding member of the Peterborough Drug Strategy (“PDS”). PDS is a collaborative amongst Peterborough City and County agencies who represent prevention, treatment, enforcement and harm reduction perspectives with the goal of reducing the harms associated with substance use. Advisory members include representatives from the four pillars of addiction (harm reduction, treatment, prevention and enforcement), an evidence-informed approach. Partners include Peterborough AIDS Resource Network (PARN) (harm reduction), FourCAST (treatment), Peterborough Public Health (prevention) and Peterborough Police and the Ontario Provincial Police (enforcement). PDS was created to develop and implement a strategic plan to reduce the harms associated with alcohol and other drug use. The opioid crisis in the community is a major consideration for PDS, however, they also work towards reducing the risks associated with cannabis legalization in our community.

D. General Assistance to Municipalities – FCM and AMO

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (“FCM”)

The FCM released information to assist municipalities prior to legalization. They note that municipalities are likely to be most active in the areas of zoning, business licensing, building code, municipal workplace safety and enforcement of regulations around public consumption and impaired driving. The FCM recommends that municipalities do the following:

1. Assemble a municipal working group on cannabis legalization

Members of relevant municipal divisions including police, fire services, building code, planning, licensing, public health, social services, communications and legal should assemble to discuss municipal considerations and identify issues as they become available.

2. Engage with your province early

Ensure there is an open line of communication with respect to shared jurisdictional responsibility including impaired driving, public education, taxation and public consumption.

3. Assess which by-laws and other municipal programs require adjustment or creation

Cannabis legalization may require amendments to existing municipal by-laws, such as those around public consumption. The new **SFOA** addresses vaping and medical cannabis, and our by-law could be amended to include similar provincial prohibitions.

4. Human Resources policies

Municipalities will need to ensure that workplace drug and alcohol policies for municipal staff will comply with provincial changes with regard to cannabis.

5. Enforcement and policing

Municipal police services will have to make the necessary adjustments to respond to new federal and provincial laws. This could involve developing protocols and parameters around issuing tickets related to cannabis consumption, to the new training and enforcement of new impaired driving rules.

6. Public education

Municipalities developed anti-smoking campaigns for tobacco use as part of local efforts to improve public health. It is recommended that we focus our education efforts on areas of municipal jurisdiction. This would include where people can and can not consume cannabis at public events or in parks and recreation facilities. Coordination with other orders of government on the development of public education campaigns could help streamline efforts, capitalize on external funding or expertise where it exists and ensure consistent messaging.

7. Public health

Local public health officials will want to consider how cannabis legalization will change and impact the public health mandate.

An institutional change of this nature will require internal training in order to properly prepare municipal staff for the new federal, provincial and municipal rules.

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (“AMO”)

AMO notes that one of the key concerns for municipalities has been local influence on where retail outlets are going to be located in communities. Under a provincial Crown Agency, the rollout of storefronts must begin with willing municipalities and a municipal voice on where cannabis is sold to ensure community safety.

Municipal governments will also have major roles and interests related to proper enforcement of new regulations, such as impaired driving, potential impacts on emergency services, public health and awareness and maximizing opportunities for local economic development.

AMO has been working closely with municipalities and the federal and provincial governments on how to implement the safe and legal sale of cannabis. They also note that municipalities will need revenue from cannabis sales to finance new or added responsibilities.

On November 30, 2017, the AMO President attended Queen’s Park to request that the Government of Ontario cover municipal costs related to the legalization of cannabis, and provide municipalities with a share of tax revenues generated by cannabis sales.

Cannabis legalization is expected to increase the costs of policing, by-law enforcement, public health and even fire inspections among other services. The AMO President points out that municipalities are counting on the provincial government to fully fund these new costs so that councils can continue to pay for all the other services that help communities thrive. AMO is asking that a share of the tax revenue from cannabis sales be dedicated to municipal governments so that local economies can benefit, and councils can provide better services to help communities.

AMO is also suggesting that once the legal cannabis market is stabilized over the next two or three years, that the system be reviewed to extend market opportunities to private entrepreneurs and small businesses in Ontario. This would require the City of Peterborough to review zoning and licensing by-laws.

AMO recently reported that the Federal Minister of Finance agreed to a revenue sharing formula allocating 75% of cannabis tax revenues to the provinces and territories. It did not include a municipal share of these revenues, and points out that this will be a matter for each province to determine. AMO will be meeting with the Minister of Finance to discuss cannabis costs and revenue sharing and gather additional information on the work and effort of those communities in the first phase of the retail store location plan.

Summary

Legalization of cannabis is expected by July 1, 2018. In response to the federal legislation, each province must pass their own legislation outlining rules for the retail sale, possession and use of cannabis. The exact impact that the legalization of cannabis will have on our municipality is not known at this time.

Since municipalities are “creatures of the Province” the siting of retail stores and licensing of the OCRC are not within the legal authority of the City to determine; however, with the enactment of the new **SFOA**, the City may begin the process of amending our Smoking By-law, to prohibit individuals from vaping and smoking medical cannabis in the same places tobacco is currently prohibited in the City.

The FCM recommendation to create a working group of relevant municipal stakeholders is one way for the City to not only prepare for the legalization of cannabis, but report back to Council on an as-need basis, on the impact of legalization in our community, including the exercise of municipal powers under the **Municipal Act, 2001**.

Submitted by,

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Attachments:

Schedule A – How A Federal Bill Becomes Law in Canada
Schedule B – How a Provincial Bill Becomes Law in Ontario
Schedule C – Provincial Cannabis Framework by Province

Schedule A**How a Federal Bill Becomes Law in Canada**

How a bill becomes law The legislative process
First Reading The bill is considered read for the first time and is printed
Second Reading Members debate the bill's principle
Committee Stage Committee members study the bill clause by clause
Report Stage Members can make other amendments
Third Reading Members debate and vote on the bill
Senate The bill follows a similar process
Royal Assent The bill receives Royal Assent after being passed by both Houses

Schedule B**How a Provincial Bill Becomes Law in Ontario**

How a bill becomes law Idea: All laws start out as ideas
First Reading Purpose of the bill is explained
Second Reading Bill is debated in principle
Review by Committee Public hearings may be held and amendments considered
Report to House Committee reports bill with any amendments
Third Reading Bill is voted on for final approval
Royal Assent Lieutenant Governor signs bill and it becomes law

Schedule C

Provincial Cannabis Framework by Province

British Columbia

BC's Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Mike Farnworth, announced on September 25th that extensive public consultations would begin on legal cannabis, and hinted that the distribution model could look different across the province. Legislation will be tabled in the spring.

Alberta

Proposed legislation was put forward in November that would set the minimum legal age to buy and consume at 18 years of age. Storefronts overseen by the Alberta Alcohol and Gaming Commission and private stores will be allowed to sell cannabis but not in the same place where alcohol is sold. Cannabis will be confined to private homes and select public places. Cannabis lounges and cafes will be banned at first; however, the province will review that at a later date. Unlike Ontario, Alberta will not allow legal cannabis to be sold online, but that too will be reviewed later.

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan has not publicly released their legalization framework. The Attorney General, Don Morgan, has responded to Ontario's legislation by saying his province would likely take a different approach.

Manitoba

Manitoba's government has plans for a hybrid model that will see the Manitoba Liquor and Gaming Authority given an expanded mandate to regulate the purchase, storage, distribution and retail of cannabis. The Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Corporation will secure and track supply of cannabis sold in Manitoba and the private sector will operate all retail locations.

Quebec

Quebec is establishing a subsidiary of the Society des alcools du Quebec (SAQ) known as the Societe Quebecoise du Cannabis (SQC). This organization will act as the sole retail distributor of cannabis in the province. The SQC would be permitted to purchase cannabis from producers licensed under the Cannabis Act, operate retail locations, sell cannabis over the internet and authorize a person to act on the SQC's behalf to transport, deliver and store cannabis. The minimum age for the purchase, possession and use of cannabis in Quebec would be 18. Individuals may possess up to 150 grams of dried cannabis and it may not be stored in a place that would make it accessible to minors.

New Brunswick

New Brunswick has created a new Crown corporation to oversee the sale of cannabis and has signed deals with two suppliers. While Ontario was the first province to release its provincial framework for the use, possession and consumption of cannabis, New Brunswick is the first province to publicly announce that it has secured a supplier. Recommendations include sales restricted to individuals 19 or older with 150 dedicated stores run by the province's liquor control board or via the internet.

Prince Edward Island

Prince Edward Island intends to draft and present legislative changes around the spring of 2018.

Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia has set a legal age of 19 for cannabis use, purchase and possession. Distribution and sale of cannabis will be available through the Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation (NSLC) both online and in existing NSLC stores.

Newfoundland and Labrador

The legal age to purchase and possess cannabis will be 19 years old. Consumption of cannabis will be restricted to private residences and private retailers will be used to distribute. With approval of amendments to the **Liquor Corporation Act**, a Request for Proposals will be issued to identify private retailers interested in selling cannabis.

Nunavut

Nunavut faces unique challenges in responding to the federal government's legalization of cannabis. Many of the territory's communities are remote with a high percentage of young people and no place to purchase alcohol. The territory has put together an interdepartmental working group made up of members from the departments of Justice, Health, Family Services, Finance and Economic Development and Transportation to implement the framework Nunavut will follow by July, 2018.

Yukon

The proposed minimum age for consumption, possession and cultivation is 19. Adults will be allowed to possess up to 30 grams of dried cannabis, or its equivalent in public and cultivate up to four plants per household for personal use. The Government of Yukon will own and operate at least one retail store and provide an online option. The framework will allow for private retail through a controlled licensing regime.

Northwest Territories

The Northwest Territories (NWT) proposes to limit the minimum age for possession and consumption to 19 years. Public consumption will be prohibited and the NWT Liquor Commission will be responsible for the importation and sale of cannabis. Initially, NWT residents will only be able to purchase cannabis through liquor stores or by a mail order service run by the NWT Liquor Commission. NWT communities will be able to vote on whether or not to prohibit cannabis, similar to the options currently available to restrict alcohol.