

CANADA'S APPROACH TO CANNABIS: SAFE AND SENSIBLE

For public health and safety reasons, Canada changed its laws to legalize and strictly regulate recreational cannabis for adults, **effective October 17, 2018**. In advance of enactment, we are working with provinces, territories and law enforcement to rigorously control the production, distribution, and possession of cannabis. Simultaneously, we are putting in place strong penalties to deter criminal activity and restrict youth access. Laws against impairment remain unchanged; **it is, and will continue to be, against the law to transport cannabis to or from Canada**. The border will remain as secure as ever.

THE CANNABIS ACT EXPLAINED

In order to keep cannabis out of the hands of youth while keeping profits out of the hands of criminals and organized crime, we are creating a new regulatory framework similar to tobacco or alcohol. What does this mean?

- As with alcohol, provinces will have the authority to regulate how cannabis is sold and distributed to adults over the age of 18 or 19, depending on the province.
- As with tobacco, cannabis will be packaged plainly to minimize the extent that it can be directly marketed to children.
- We are strictly controlling THC levels, pesticide use, and other factors to ensure the product sold is safe for consumers.
- We have learned from U.S. state and local governments and have put regulatory mechanisms in place to deter organized crime.

We are committed to achieving a better public health outcome for Canadians. We understand this may take time to fully implement; ongoing study and vigilance is required.



THE BORDER REMAINS SECURE

The Government of Canada is educating Canadians and other travellers on a simple fact: **taking cannabis into or out of Canada is, and will continue to be, illegal**. Travellers attempting to take cannabis into or out of Canada, including from states that have legalized cannabis, will be subject to severe criminal penalties — up to 14 years in prison. We are also taking regulatory and security actions, including the creation of a national Cannabis Tracking System, to prevent the diversion of illicit marijuana into, and out of, lawful markets. Collectively, these actions will deter illegal drugs from entering the U.S. Our respective border agencies continue to work together to address any issues related to cannabis legalization. We remain committed partners in the fight against illicit narcotics.

SAFETY IS A PRIORITY

Driving while impaired remains a serious crime. In fact, Canada is enacting even stiffer penalties and giving law enforcement additional resources to keep our roads safe. Truck drivers, pilots and other transportation operators can lose their certifications and face criminal prosecution if they are found to be impaired by cannabis. Our industries have not changed their zero-tolerance approach toward cannabis consumption on the job.