



OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON CANNABIS

So cannabis is legal

On October 17, 2018, Canada became the second nation in the world (after Uruguay) to allow for the legal purchase and consumption of recreational cannabis. On June 19, 2018 the Canadian Senate passed the “The Cannabis Act,” which regulates the production, distribution and sale of cannabis to Canadians. The Act also implements a new comprehensive public health approach focused on protecting youth from cannabis consumption, while keeping profits out of the pockets of criminals and organized crime.

The Cannabis Act

Objectives

- Prevent young persons from accessing cannabis;
- Protect public health and public safety by establishing strict product safety and product quality requirements;
- Deter criminal activity by imposing serious criminal penalties on those operating outside the legal cannabis framework; and
- Reduce the burden on the criminal justice system in relation to the production, sale and consumption of cannabis.

Protecting Youth

- Establishes criminal prohibitions, such as the unlawful possession, production, importation and exportation, and sale or distribution of cannabis, including prohibiting the sale or distribution of cannabis to young persons under the legal age (Manitoba has set the legal age to 19 for the use, purchase, and possession of non-medical cannabis).
- Prohibits any promotion, packaging and labelling of cannabis that could be appealing to young persons or encourage its consumption, while allowing consumers to have access to information so they can make informed decisions about the consumption of cannabis.
- Creates two new criminal offences with maximum penalties of 14 years in prison for giving/selling cannabis to youth and using youth to commit a cannabis-related offence.

Any violations of the Act by youth would be dealt with under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. Individuals under the age of 18 would not face criminal prosecution for possessing or sharing very small amounts of cannabis (up to 5 grams). However, in Manitoba, youth under the age of 19 found in possession and/or consumption of cannabis could face a significant fine.

What LRSD parents need to know

Cannabis is legal in Canada and Manitoba but NOT PERMITTED in LRSD schools.

Please note that while the legal age to purchase and consume cannabis in Manitoba is 19 years of age, LRSD students 19 years of age or older are not permitted to consume or be under the influence of legalized marijuana when attending school or any school function. Just as we do not permit students 18 years of age or older to attend any school function or activity under the influence of alcohol even though the legal age is 18 for that substance, the same holds true for cannabis.

[The Public Schools Act](#) has been amended to specifically add cannabis to the list of products (including alcohol and illicit drugs) that are prohibited in public schools [under Safe Schools, 47.1(2)]. LRSD students using, possessing or under the influence of marijuana while at school will face disciplinary action. It is critical that parents/guardians work collaboratively with school-based administration teams to respond to any concerning student behaviours in relation to cannabis in a timely and supportive manner (see [LRSD Guidelines: Positive Behaviour Support: JK](#)).

Health risks

Students attending school in LRSD are strongly encouraged to pursue a healthy lifestyle and refrain from using drugs or alcohol regardless of their age. We encourage parents/guardians to have meaningful conversations with their children regarding the effects drugs and alcohol can have on their developing brains and bodies. We also invite parents who may have questions or concerns to reach out to their child's school for additional information or assistance in getting answers or help for their child.

Additional information on cannabis

Cannabis is a complex issue. To learn more about cannabis use and misuse, and the laws pertaining to cannabis in Canada, please browse the resources below.

Parent and Youth

[Talking to Kids About Cannabis \(French version\)](#), Manitoba School Boards, in partnership with the Manitoba Association of Parent Councils

[Parents: Help Your Teen Understand What's Fact and Fiction About Marijuana](#), and [Clearing the Smoke on Cannabis](#), Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction

[Weeding Out the Facts Website](#), Addictions Foundation of Manitoba

[Cannabis Talk Kit](#), Drug Free Kids Canada

10 Questions About Cannabis Use (Parent and Youth), Teen Mental Health

Government Information and Legislation

[Cannabis in Manitoba](#), Province of Manitoba

[Cannabis Legalization and Regulation](#), Federal Department of Justice

Vaping

[Position on Vaping](#), Louis Riel School Division

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