

Cannabis Legalization

Public Health and Social Services Committee

January 8, 2019

Presentation Outline

- Cannabis Legalization
- Data and Health Impacts
- Financial Considerations
- Community Impact
- Areas of Work for NRPH & ES

Legalization

- April 13, 2017 Federal Cannabis Act introduced
- October 17, 2018 cannabis became legal in Canada
- Anyone 19 or older in Ontario can now legally purchase from the on-line OCS
- Edibles are not yet available for legal purchase in Canada

Legalization – Retail Stores

- Public Health is responsible for enforcement of places of use through Smoke Free Ontario Act
- The first retail stores April 1, 2019, licensed and regulated by the AGCO, first round limited to 25 licences, due to availability
- Municipalities declare by January 22, 2019 whether they opt-out of private retail storefront sales

Data and Health Impacts

- 12.2% of individuals reported using marijuana at least once in the last 12 months (CCHS, 2015-16)
- 35% of secondary students in Niagara used cannabis in the last year (2015 data)

These rates are concerning given

- Second-hand smoke harms
- Link to mental health and impact on the developing brain
- Impaired driving risk

Financial Considerations

- Cannabis legalization has created financial pressures
- No additional funding for prevention and protection in 2018
- Unknown whether additional funds will be allocated to NRPH & ES for 2019

Community Concerns

NRPH & ES has heard concerns including

- Second-hand smoke, especially in multi-unit dwellings
- Odours from growing operations

Comprehensive Drug Strategy

Combination of Drug Strategy and Tobacco Pillars

- Prevention
- Harm Reduction
- Treatment
- Protection/Enforcement
- Denormalization

Key NRPH & ES role:

- ✓ Education
- ✓ Surveillance
- ✓ Working with partners
- ✓ Enforcement

Partnerships

- Enforcement agencies including
 - NRPS,
 - Local Area Municipalities (LAMs) by-law departments,
 - Niagara Region prosecutors
- Planners from LAMs
- School boards
- Workplaces
- Other Public Health Units
- Youth Engagement Community of Practice



Be educated.
BE RESPONSIBLE.



Thanks to Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for use of brand materials.



Them saying
"NO"
starts with you
saying something



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Cannabis and alcohol
DON'T MIX
at all.



niagararegion.ca/health

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LOCK IT UP RIGHT.
OUT OF REACH & OUT OF SIGHT.



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Be educated.
BE RESPONSIBLE.

**LEGAL DOES NOT
MEAN SAFE**



Smoking cannabis can hurt your lungs and expose others to harmful second-hand smoke.



Cannabis slows down your reaction time, affects your coordination and increases your risk of a car crash.



The brain is still developing until age 25. Regular cannabis use in youth is linked to an increased risk of psychosis and schizophrenia.



Cannabis use can increase the risk for depression and some forms of anxiety disorder.



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Smoke Free Policy

- Under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, Cannabis is prohibited from use in the same places that tobacco is currently restricted
- Smoking tobacco on all municipal and regional properties is restricted under *Regional By-law 112-2013*.
- By-law covers more outdoor spaces than *SFOA*, by-law only covers tobacco
- NRPH & ES working on next steps to align the by-law with *SFOA*