

Taking Stock of Progress: Cannabis Legalization and Regulation in Canada

With the coming into force of the *Cannabis Act* on October 17, 2018, the Government of Canada put in place a new modern cannabis control framework to strictly regulate and restrict access to cannabis. The *Cannabis Act* (section 151.1) requires that the Minister of Health cause a review of the Act and its administration and operation three years after coming into force, and that a report on the review, including any findings or recommendations resulting from the review, be tabled in both Houses of Parliament within 18 months. This review is required to address the Act's administration and operations, including the impact of the Act on public health and, in particular, on the health and consumption habits of young persons in respect of cannabis use, the impact of cannabis on Indigenous persons and communities, and the impact of the cultivation of cannabis plants in a dwelling-house.

The perspectives of the public, other orders of government, Indigenous partners, and stakeholders are critical to inform the assessment of the *Cannabis Act*. The feedback will be used to inform the legislative review of the *Cannabis Act*.

As an initial step in the public engagement process, a Stakeholder Engagement Paper, *Taking Stock of Progress: Cannabis Legalization and Regulation in Canada* has been released, which presents an overview of key features of the legislative framework, outlines national trends and offers evidence related to the implementation of the framework.

Comments on this document will be accepted from September 22, 2022 to November 21, 2022.

Instructions for Completing the Questionnaire

Each question is optional. For open-ended questions, there is a 5,000 character limit, including spaces. If you do not feel like answering a question, you may skip to the following question. If you would like to go back to a previous question, you may do so by clicking on the back arrow. If you do not complete the questionnaire in one session, you may return to continue where you left off by accessing the questionnaire using the same computer or device. Your responses should be saved up to the last page you clicked on the forward arrow. To prevent accidental loss of your work, it is still advised to save your responses at regular intervals as you complete the questionnaire.

There are six parts to the questionnaire. Each section has questions at the end to record your feedback. All the information required for you to provide meaningful feedback is available in the Stakeholder Engagement Paper, *Taking Stock of Progress: Cannabis Legalization and Regulation in Canada*.

To support the ability to report on feedback received, we kindly ask that you provide demographic information. Respondents' privacy will be maintained.

1. Minimizing Harms to Protect Canadians

1.1 What is your view of the current legislative and regulatory restrictions in place to safeguard public health?

With respect to siting of retail stores, sensitive use definition is narrow and distance buffers possibly insufficient.

1.2 What controls, if any, would you like to see changed and why?

Regulation prohibits stores within 150 meters of a public school or most private schools as defined in the Education Act. It does not include buffers to properties that serve youth including arenas/community centres, public libraries, child care centres, youth centres, group homes, treatment centres. These should be considered.

1.3 Are the current safeguards adequately restricting access and helping to protect the health of youth?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know
- Prefer not to say

1.4 Under the current framework, what presents the greatest risk to youth in accessing and consuming cannabis?

The proximity of stores to properties where youth congregate

2. Education and Awareness to Support Informed Choices

2.1 To what extent have public education efforts delivered the appropriate messages and reached the appropriate audiences, including youth and young adults?

2.2 What additional measures or areas of focus could be considered to continue to close the gap between perception of risks and harms and scientific evidence?

3. Progress Toward Establishing a Safe and Responsible Supply Chain

3.1 Do adult Canadians have sufficient access to a quality-controlled supply of legal cannabis?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know
- Prefer not to say

3.2 What alternative measures, if any, could the government consider to further strengthen and diversify the legal market?

3.3 What alternative measures, if any, could the government consider to better meet the needs of racialized, under-represented, or Indigenous communities within the cannabis licensing program?

3.4 To what extent have the current restrictions on home cultivation of four plants or less supported the safe and responsible production of cannabis?

4. Protecting Public Safety

4.1 What are your general impressions of legal retailers' progress-to-date in capturing the legal market? Please explain.

4.2 What additional steps or measures should the government consider to combat the illegal cannabis market?

5. Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes

5.1 What are your views on the current medical access program for cannabis?

5.2 Is a distinct medical access program necessary to provide individuals with reasonable access to cannabis for medical purposes, or can access needs be met through the non-medical framework? Please explain.

5.3 Are there specific reforms that you would recommend?

6. General Comments

6.1 What are your views on the impacts of legalization of cannabis on the environment, small businesses and social and economic impacts on diverse groups of Canadians, in accordance with the Government of Canada's commitment to implementing Sex- and Gender-Based Analysis Plus (SBGA+)?

6.2 Please provide additional comments you would like to share on the administration and operation of the *Cannabis Act* and its Regulations that were not addressed in the previous sections. In particular, we are interested in hearing from you on additional impact the *Cannabis Act* has had since its implementation, including trends that you have observed and evidence sources that substantiate such trends. Please include additional sources of information or data that should be considered to support the legislative review. Please limit your response to 5,000 characters, including spaces.

[Consider ongoing revenue sharing with municipalities that allow cannabis retail stores and allow funding to be utilized for community and youth services.](#)