

Cannabis: Know your Role



Outline

This webinar will include an overview of:

1. Federal Government Framework for the Legalization and Regulation of Cannabis in Canada
2. Current state of cannabis regulation
3. NLPB's position statement on cannabis
4. FAQ's





Framework for the Legalization and Regulation of Cannabis in Canada

**A FRAMEWORK FOR THE
LEGALIZATION AND REGULATION
OF CANNABIS IN CANADA**

THE FINAL REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON
CANNABIS LEGALIZATION AND REGULATION



Canada

Canada

- Published Nov 2016
- Provided advice to federal government ministers
- Recommended that the federal government maintain a separate framework to support medical access
- Recommendations included a call for ongoing research and surveillance

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR
PHARMACY BOARD

Goals of Legalization

- Restrict youth access
- Mitigate the illicit market through serious criminal penalties
- Protect public health and safety



Current Context

The *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* prohibits cannabis production, distribution and possession

The *Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations (ACMPR)* regulate the production, distribution and possession of cannabis for authorized medical purposes

Cannabis production, distribution and possession is prohibited at the international level by the *Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs*



Current Context

Bill C-45, the *Cannabis Act*, will legalize and regulate access to cannabis in Canada. The intent of the legislation and regulation is to provide a public health framework that should reduce the likelihood of negative health outcomes and the potential effects resulting from criminalization

Bill C-46 proposes changes to the impaired driving law with the purpose of more severely punishing those who drive while under the influence of drugs, including cannabis.



Federal Responsibility for Legalization

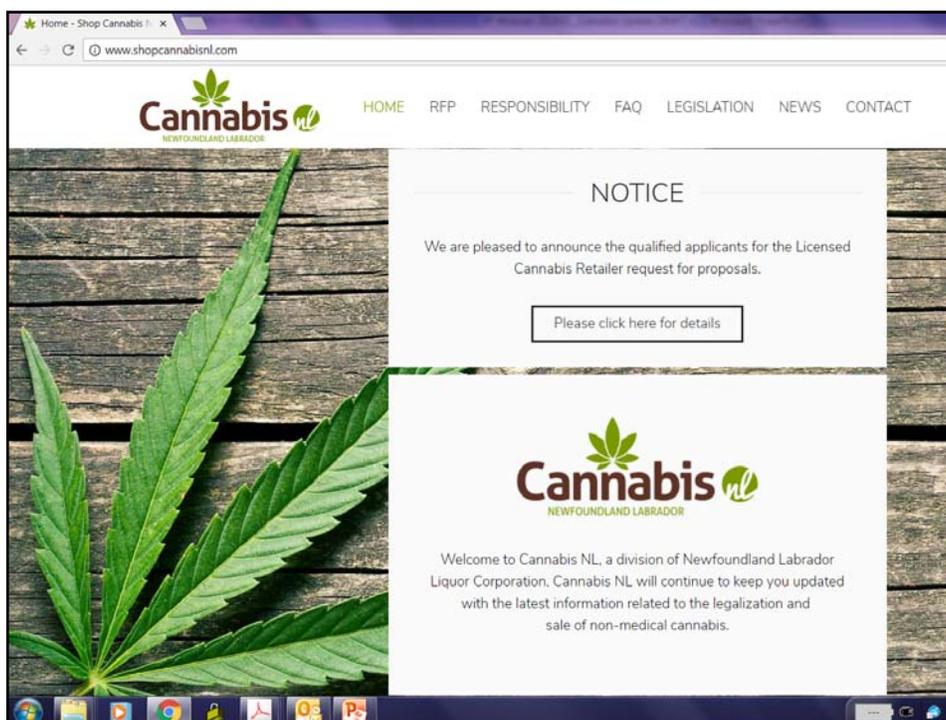
- *Cannabis Act*
 - Possession limits
 - Trafficking
 - Impaired driving
 - Advertisement and packaging
 - Production
 - Minimum age limit
 - Taxation
 - Home cultivation

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/policing/justice/legalization-regulation-marijuana.html>



Provincial Responsibility for Legislation

- *Liquor Corporation Act*
 - Buy, import and sell cannabis;
 - Control the possession, sale and delivery of cannabis;
 - Establish, maintain and operate cannabis stores;
 - Issue licences for the possession, sale and delivery of cannabis;
 - Determine the forms, manner and fee associated with licences for cannabis; and
 - Set prices of cannabis.



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the website for Cannabis NL. The browser's address bar shows the URL "www.shopcannabisnl.com". The website's header includes the Cannabis NL logo and a navigation menu with links for HOME, RFP, RESPONSIBILITY, FAQ, LEGISLATION, NEWS, and CONTACT. The main content area features a large image of a cannabis leaf on the left and a white notice box on the right. The notice box contains the following text:

NOTICE

We are pleased to announce the qualified applicants for the Licensed Cannabis Retailer request for proposals.

[Please click here for details](#)

Below the notice box, there is a white box with the Cannabis NL logo and the following text:

Welcome to Cannabis NL, a division of Newfoundland Labrador Liquor Corporation. Cannabis NL will continue to keep you updated with the latest information related to the legalization and sale of non-medical cannabis.

Municipal Responsibilities for Legislation

- Education
- Taxation
- Retail location and rules
- Public consumption
- Land use/zoning



Cannabis facts

Cannabis...some interesting Canadian Statistics

- In 2013, 11% of Canadians 15 and older reported using cannabis at least once in the past year
- In 2013, 28% of those who used cannabis in the past three months reported using it every day or almost every day
- In 2013, past use was three times higher for youth
 - Youth aged 15-24 – 24.4%
 - Adults (25+) -8%
- Canada ranks #1 in youth marijuana use



Cannabis...some interesting NL statistics

- 42.5% of adults report cannabis consumption in their lifetime
- 11.1% of adults (15+) report consumption in the past year
- 4% of adults (15+) report cannabis abuse or dependence at any point in their lives

Canadian Public Health Association



The Effects of Cannabis

- “Conclusive Evidence regarding the short and long term impacts of cannabis use remains elusive”

Health Effects of Cannabis and Cannabinoids The Current State of Evidence and Recommendations for Research (2017)

- “Despite decades of research and thousands of years of use, there are many unanswered questions related to the consequences of cannabis use”

George, T., & Vaccarino, F. (Eds.). (2015). Substance abuse in Canada: The Effects of Cannabis Use during Adolescence. Ottawa, ON: Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse



Medical Access

“now that the government is obviously intending to legalize this, once this is a substance that’s available to all Canadians, there's really no need for physicians to serve in the gatekeeper role.”

Dr. Jeff Blackmer, Canadian Medical Association

“The worry I see with losing a medical program is it really completely takes the need for a clinician oversight out of the equation.”

Dr. Mark Ware, McGill University

CBC Radio, April 30, 2018: Doctor’s group wants to scrap Canada’s medical cannabis program



What we do know....

- Cannabis is not harmless
- It can be addictive
- Early and frequent use can alter the structure of the developing brain
- Link between cannabis and mental illness
 - Development of schizophrenia or other psychoses is a higher risk among frequent users
- Worse respiratory symptoms and more frequent chronic bronchitis episodes with long term cannabis smoking

What we do know....

There is evidence that cannabis or cannabinoids are effective:

- For the treatment for chronic pain in adults
- Antiemetics in the treatment of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting
- For improving patient-reported multiple sclerosis spasticity symptoms



NAPRA & NLPB's position

- <http://www.nlpb.ca/cannabis-for-medical-and-non-medical-purposes/>



Pharmacy Practice Guidance – Medical Cannabis

- Educate yourself about cannabis, its use and risks through objective, evidence informed sources
- Any advise given to patients should be guided by accepted practice guidelines such as “*Simplified Guidelines for Prescribing Medical Cannabinoids for Primary Care*” published by the Canadian College of Family Physicians
- <http://www.cfp.ca/content/cfp/64/2/111.full.pdf>
- Ensure information provided to patients is lawful, accurate, objective.



FREQUENTLY
ASKED
QUESTIONS



- My patients has asked me prepare a compounded formulation using their own supply of medical cannabis. Can I compound such a product?



Pharmacy Practice Guidance

- My patients has asked me prepare a compounded formulation using their own supply of medical cannabis. Can I compound such a product?
- NO....until such time that federal legislation, policies, and procedures are amended to recognize and accommodate cannabis products as licensed drug products (i.e.: assigned a DIN), they must not be ordered, stored, compounded, dispensed, administered, or sold from a licensed pharmacy.

Pharmacy Practice Guidance

- My friend has received a license to sell cannabis. Can I prescribe cannabis for her cannabis dispensary?



Pharmacy Practice Guidance

- My friend has received a license to sell cannabis. Can I prescribe cannabis for her cannabis dispensary?
- NO –
 - NLC license is for non medical cannabis
 - Under ACMPR, pharmacies and pharmacy professionals are currently not part of the distribution framework for cannabis for medical cannabis
 - NAPRA position statement – pharmacy practitioners must not be involved in the distribution of cannabis for non medical purposes
 - Dispensary is protected terminology

- I have a patient taking medical cannabis and they have asked me to enter it on their profile. Can I put this information on the Pharmacy Network profile?



- I have a patient taking medical cannabis and they have asked me to enter it on their profile. Can I put this information on the Pharmacy Network profile?
- Yes – while medical cannabis does not have a DIN and does not exist in Health Canada drug product database, it can be entered on the Pharmacy Network using a PIN and a DUR will occur.



Final Thoughts



Questions?

