

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Ontario Seeking Public Input on Federal Plan to Legalize Cannabis



News Release

Ontario Seeking Public Input on Federal Plan to Legalize Cannabis

July 12, 2017

Province to Prioritize Public Health, Road Safety and Harm Prevention

The province is asking for your thoughts on how Ontario should approach cannabis legalization in a way that protects youth, prevents harm and ensures that Ontario's roads continue to be among the safest in North America.

In April 2017, the federal government introduced the Cannabis Act, which, if passed, will legalize and regulate cannabis across Canada by July 2018. The federal plan calls on the provinces and territories to establish a framework to regulate the distribution, sale and consumption of cannabis, among other matters.

Starting today, people across the province can have their say on important decisions related to the legalization of cannabis by participating in an online survey. Individuals and organizations will also be able to give their input by completing a consultation paper. To participate, visit ontario.ca/cannabis before July 31.

The Ontario Legalization of Cannabis Secretariat will also host a series of expert forums and engagement sessions this summer on the potential impacts of cannabis legalization. The province will hear from a broad range of participants including municipal partners, public health experts, law enforcement, community agencies, youth advocates, Indigenous communities and licenced producers.

QUICK FACTS

- The federal government has also introduced a bill that would, if passed, update the Criminal Code to include tougher penalties for drug-impaired driving, including impairment by cannabis and other drugs.
- Ontario will continue to work with Indigenous communities and organizations to inform the province's response to the federal plan to legalize cannabis.

- Ontario recently made changes to allow police to immediately remove drivers from the road who they believe are impaired by drugs, including cannabis.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Survey: Cannabis Legalization in Ontario](#)
- [More information about cannabis in Canada](#)

QUOTES

"The legalization of cannabis will mark a big change in our country. Here in Ontario, we have some important decisions to make – and with so much at stake, we need to get it right. That's why we need to hear from the people of Ontario as we develop an approach to legalization that keeps our youth, communities and roads safe."

— *Yasir Naqvi, Attorney General*

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