

# Cannabis Legalization at a Glance

-points shared by Brant County Health Unit, October 16, 2018

On October 17th, 2018 it became legal in Canada to possess or use cannabis subject to certain limits. The federal government amended the Criminal Code to enable Canadians to buy, sell and consume cannabis and cannabis products. Under federal legislation, Health Canada administers the licensing regime for recreational cannabis growers. These licensed producers serve as the sole source of legal recreational cannabis in Canada.

## What this means for Public Health in Ontario:

1. Anyone over the age of 19 will now be able to smoke or purchase cannabis
2. The focus for the Public Health and Education sectors will remain on preventing youth from starting to use cannabis, protecting the public from the impacts of second-hand smoke, and on providing supports where use is problematic
3. Public Health will manage cannabis use and distribution through the same framework utilized for Tobacco, under the Smoke Free Ontario Act
4. Laws related to impaired driving are covered under the Highway Traffic Act and are enforced by local police and provincial police detachments

## Where is smoking marijuana allowed? Anywhere tobacco is allowed.

- If you are a homeowner, you can smoke in your house and in your yard - if you rent an apartment with a no-smoking clause in your lease, you must abide by the contract
- Private parks and outdoor spaces, such as golf courses
- Parked vehicles and boats with passengers 16 years of age and older only
- Sidewalks - observing setback rule around hospitals, schools and child care facilities

## Where is smoking marijuana not allowed? Anywhere Tobacco is not allowed.

- Any apartments and condominiums in buildings where the condo board has passed a no-smoking policy
- Common areas in condo and apartment buildings, post-secondary residences, health care facilities, hotels, motels and inns (including lobbies, elevators, stairwells and hallways)
- Municipal property (including city parks, beaches, ball diamonds and sports fields)
- Enclosed workplaces and their common areas (including washrooms, lobbies and parking garages)
- Bars and restaurants (including covered and uncovered outdoor patios)
- At or near schools, both public and private
- On or near children's playgrounds
- Licensed child care facilities (including when children are not present)
- On hospital grounds or near hospital entrances and exits, as well as areas where home health care workers work
- Long-term, psychiatric and veterans' care facilities (unless they have a controlled smoking area)
- Moving vehicles and boats
- Vehicles and boats (parked or moving) with passengers under the age of 16