

# Cannabis Licensing

[alberta.ca/cannabis](https://alberta.ca/cannabis)

[aglc.ca/cannabis](https://aglc.ca/cannabis)



# Cannabis in Alberta

This illustration depicts key elements of how legalized cannabis will work in Alberta. The following pages outline Alberta's approach.



The minimum age for cannabis will be aligned with Alberta's legal drinking and smoking age.

## WORKPLACE



Alberta is reviewing all existing regulations and programs to ensure rules continue to address impairment risk.

## LICENSED GROWERS



Growers, producers and processors will be licensed and strictly regulated by the federal government.

## PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT



The provincial government will directly manage wholesale and distribution.

## ADVERTISING



Restrictions will be placed on advertising and promotion of cannabis, particularly to minors.

## DRIVING



Police officers will have the tools they need – including new tools – to address drug-impaired driving. Cannabis consumption will not be allowed in vehicles.

## MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING

Landlord and tenant agreements and condo bylaws can be used to address consumption and growing at home.

## CANNABIS RETAIL STORES

Cannabis stores (regardless of government or private operation) will only sell cannabis, not alcohol, tobacco or pharmaceuticals, and will be required to meet strict zoning requirements.

## ONLINE SALES\*



## CANNABIS CAFES & LOUNGES\*

## POSSESSION

Adults will be allowed to possess up to 30 grams of legally produced cannabis in public. Those under the age of 18 will not be allowed to possess, purchase or use cannabis.

## PUBLIC CONSUMPTION

Smoking and vaping will be restricted in areas frequented by kids, and in other public places where smoking is prohibited.

## HOME

Public education programs will reinforce the need to be conscious of pregnant women, children and others in the home when using cannabis.

\* Online sales and licensed establishments may not be part of the system on day one, but will be considered as part of next steps.

# An Act to Control and Regulate Cannabis

- Authorize the AGLC to carry out oversight and compliance functions and manage the distribution of cannabis
- Establish the authority for AGLC to:
  - Carry out public online sales, and
  - License privately owned and operated cannabis stores, with strong oversight and province wide rules
- Establish provincial offences related to:
  - Youth possession,
  - Public consumption, and
  - Consumption of cannabis in vehicles
- MGA amendments requiring LUBs, development approvals and appeals to comply with location provisions in regulation

# Amendments to Regulations

- **Who can open** a private retail store?
- **Who can work** in a private retail store?
- **Where** can private retail stores be located?
- **How** will retail stores operate?



# Who Can Open a Private Retail Store?

- All license applicants will undergo stringent, mandatory background checks, including:
  - Criminal record check
  - Business history
  - Tax and financial information
- No licenses will be issued to anyone with links to organized crime, or with a history of drug trafficking
  - Minor cannabis possession conviction will not automatically disqualify an applicant
  - Licenses will need to be renewed annually
  - Mandatory background checks will be required every 1 to 3 years

# Who Can Open a Private Retail Store?

- No single person, business or organization can have more than 15% of retail licenses across the province
  - Allows for a level playing field for large and small business
  - Government review of system in five years

# Who Can Work in a Private Retail Store?

- The AGLC will maintain a database of Qualified Cannabis Employees
- Qualified employees will be:
  - At least 18 years of age,
  - Have taken mandatory training, and
  - Passed criminal background check
- Retailers will only be able to hire Qualified Workers

# Where Can Retail Stores be Located?

- Stores cannot be built within 100 meters from schools or hospitals
  - 100 meter buffer is about one city block
  - Will help keep cannabis out of the hands of children and protect public health
  - Municipalities can provide for greater setback distances, and/or additional uses (such as liquor stores or other cannabis stores)
- Regulatory provisions allow local flexibility and discretion
  - Land use bylaw amendments to operate in lieu of provincial setbacks
  - Exemption from AGLC in specific circumstances or where new development approval not required



# How Will Retail Stores Operate?

- Stores will only be able to open between 10 a.m. and 2 a.m.
  - Same as hours for liquor stores
  - Explicit provision stating that municipalities can further limit hours
- Limit of 30 grams per transaction
  - Applies to both retail stores and online
- Mandatory security measures:
  - Alarms, video surveillance and secured product storage
  - Product can only be displayed in a locked display case and accessed by retail workers when store is open
  - No use or consumption onsite
  - Approved smell/viewing containers will be permitted

# AGLC Licensing Process

- Application forms for cannabis retail licenses will be posted today for viewing on [aglc.ca/cannabis](https://aglc.ca/cannabis)
- Retailers can submit their applications starting March 6; the AGLC will begin work on background checks
- Completed applications must include a \$400 application fee and \$700 first year licensing fee
- Applicants must submit criminal background check consent, detailed financial information and \$3,000 deposit (cost recovery for due diligence process)
- Before a license will be issued, applicants will require municipal approval

# AGLC Qualified Cannabis Workers

- Qualified worker applications available online at [aglc.ca/cannabis](http://aglc.ca/cannabis)
- All applicants must:
  - Complete mandatory online training (4-6 hours)
  - Submit criminal record check
  - Be at least 18 years of age
- *SellSafe Cannabis Staff Training* will be launched May 1



# Implementation Timelines and Considerations

- Federal legislative process, transition provisions, and coming into force of provincial legislation and regulation
- Municipal plans for bylaw amendments and consideration of cannabis-related approvals
- Discussions related to financial implications for municipalities
- Public education

# Roundtable discussion

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