

# RECREATIONAL CANNABIS LEGALIZATION IN ONTARIO

## SUPPORTING SCHOOLS AND CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCILS

---



# Overview of Cannabis Legalization

---

When cannabis is legalized on [October 17, 2018](#), Ontario's Government will be ready with rules that keep cannabis out of the hands of children and youth, and keep our roads safe

Ontario has passed new laws (following extensive public and stakeholder engagement) about how, where and who can buy, possess and consume cannabis in the province. These rules are similar to those in place for alcohol and tobacco, with some differences.

# Requirements in Ontario

---

- You will need to be **19 and older** to buy, use, possess and grow **recreational** cannabis. This is the same as the minimum age for the sale of tobacco and alcohol in Ontario.
- When it's legal, people 19 and over will be able to **purchase cannabis online** through the [Ontario Cannabis Store](#). Online orders will be delivered safely and securely. Consumers will be required to verify their age to accept delivery and no packages will be left unattended at the door.
- Consuming recreational cannabis **WILL NOT** be allowed in public places, such as workplaces and [schools](#), or within cars.

# Requirements in Ontario cont'd.

---

- Consuming recreational cannabis **WILL NOT** be allowed in public places, such as workplaces and schools, or within cars.
- For youth under the age of 19 in Ontario, it will be **illegal** to grow, possess, buy, sell, or share cannabis.
- There will be penalties for youth and adults who give or sell cannabis to minors including fines and jail time. A zero tolerance policy will also be in place for drug-impaired driving among youth.

# What is cannabis?

---

Cannabis, also called marijuana, weed and pot, is a psychoactive drug that comes from a plant with common strains that include *Cannabis sativa* and *Cannabis indica*. It consists of dried flowers, fruiting tops and leaves that are greenish or brownish.



Cannabis pills



Smokable cannabis



Baked goods

Skin cream

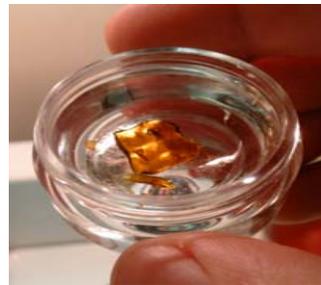


Forms of Medicinal Cannabis

# How is cannabis consumed?

---

- Smoked as a cigarette, called a joint, spliff or a blunt
- Smoked or vaporized (sometimes called vaping) through a pipe, bong or an e-cigarette
- Mixed into a drink or food, such as tea, brownies, gummies and candies, called edibles
- Consumed as a cannabis tincture (alcohol-based extract) on its own or added to food or drinks
- Heated and inhaled (called dabbing) as oil, wax, or in a form called shatter that is made from cannabis resin or hash



# Cannabis Statistics in Ontario



Although most youth in Ontario do not use cannabis, even occasional use has risks.

In Ontario, about 1 in 5 students (19%) in grades 7 to 12 say they have used cannabis at least once in the past year. Among this group, most used a bong, joint or edibles. For youth who use cannabis often and over time, it can be addictive, can affect brain development and may increase the risk for mental health problems.

Youth are especially vulnerable to the effects of cannabis since brain development is not complete until about the age of 25.

Parents/guardians and caregivers play an important role in their child's decision in whether or not to use cannabis.

It is important to remember that 81% of students report that they have **not** used cannabis at all in the past year.

# Cannabis use in Peel Region

---

Approximately 8% of residents (aged 12 years and older) have used cannabis at least once in the past 12 months.

Past-year cannabis use is higher among males (11%) compared to females (5%) and 19 to 29 year-olds (23%) compared to other age groups.

16% of students in grades 7-12 have used cannabis in the past year.

Over one-third of grade 12 students (37%) report using cannabis at least once in the past year.

About 68% of students in grades 7-12 do not intend to use cannabis even if it is legalized .

# What are the unique risks of cannabis use for our students?

---

Trying cannabis is unlikely to cause serious problems, but even occasional use has harms.

For instance, driving after using cannabis may double the risk of having a car accident.

Youth who use cannabis early, and often for months or years, are at risk of long-term health and social problems.

# Some other potential risks include:

---

**Increased risk of harm to the brain** – such as problems with memory, concentration, thinking, learning, handling emotions, and decision-making.

**Increased risk of mental health problems** – such as psychosis or schizophrenia and, possibly, depression, anxiety and suicide, especially if there's personal or family history of mental illness.

**Difficulty with relationships** – at home, school or work.

**Physical health harms** – including lung and respiratory problems from smoking cannabis.

**Addiction** – cannabis can be addictive, especially for youth .

# How will legalization impact our schools ?

---

Cannabis for non-medical use will be treated in the same manner as alcohol.

Safe Schools legislation and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic Code of Conduct (GAP 530.00) address possession of illegal and/or restricted drugs.

## **Suspensions**

“A principal may consider whether to suspend a pupil if he or she believes that the pupil has engaged in any of the following activities while at school, at a school-related activity or in other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the school climate:

Possessing alcohol, illegal and/or restricted drugs

Being under the influence of alcohol, illegal and/or restricted drugs

# Impact on our schools cont'd.

---

Cannabis for non-medical use will be treated in the same manner as alcohol.

Safe Schools legislation and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic Code of Conduct (GAP 530.00) address possession of illegal and/or restricted drugs.

## **Expulsions**

“A principal shall consider recommending an expulsion of a pupil if he or she believes that the pupil has engaged in any of the following activities while at school, at a school-related activity or in other circumstances where engaging in the activity will have an impact on the school climate:

Trafficking in weapons, illegal and/or restricted drugs;

Giving alcohol to a minor

# Impact on schools ... cont'd

---

## **Principals will continue to:**

Use a range of interventions, supports and consequences that are developmentally and socio-emotionally appropriate and include learning opportunities for reinforcing positive behaviour while helping students make better choices (PPM 145).

# Impact on our schools ... cont'd

---

Follow Local Police School Board Protocol (2017)

## **Mandatory Notification to Police**

- trafficking in weapons or in illegal and/or restricted drugs
- possessing an illegal or restricted drug

## **Discretionary Notification to Police**

- giving alcohol to a minor
- being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs

## **Search and Seizure**

- principal has reasonable grounds to do so, may conduct a search of a student or his/her possessions in carrying out his or her duties to maintain order and discipline in the school

# Prescription/ Medicinal Cannabis

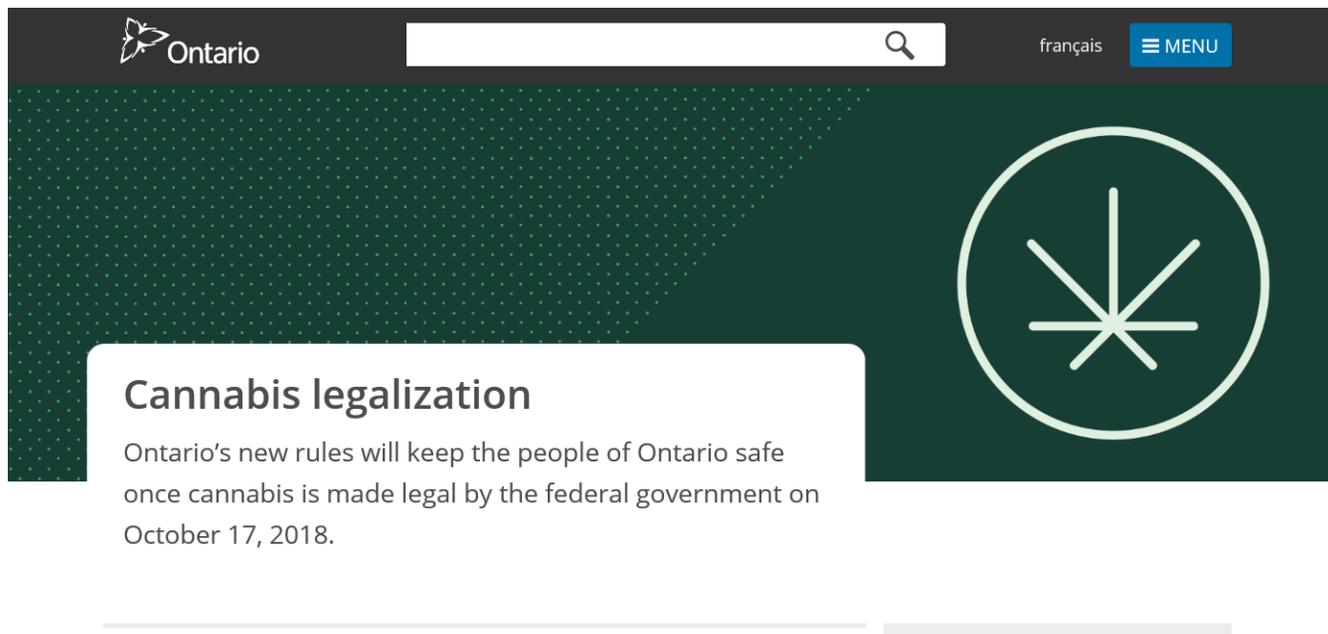
Medical cannabis is subject to different rules than recreational cannabis. The production and sale of medical cannabis is regulated exclusively by the federal government.

Prescription cannabis will follow a different set of requirements and will be dealt with on a case by case basis with the support of a health practitioner.



For more information visit:

[www.Ontario.ca/page/cannabis-legalization](http://www.Ontario.ca/page/cannabis-legalization)



# Other resources

## Ministry of Education – Legalization of Cannabis

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools/parents-resources.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/healthyschools/parents-resources.html)

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Search  GO

HOME | STUDENTS | PARENTS | TEACHERS | ADMINISTRATORS | ABOUT THE MINISTRY | NEWS

**Healthy Schools**

- ▶ [Welcome](#)
- ▶ [Medical Conditions](#)
- ▶ [Concussions](#)
- ▶ [Daily Physical Activity](#)
- ▶ [Foundations for a Healthy School](#)
- ▶ [Healthy Food for Healthy Schools](#)
- ▶ [Community Use of Schools](#)
- ▶ [Links](#)

**Learning in Ontario**

- ▶ [Child Care](#)
- ▶ [Full-Day Kindergarten](#)
- ▶ [Elementary](#)
- ▶ [Secondary](#)
- ▶ [French-Language Education](#)
- ▶ [Postsecondary](#)

**PARENTS**

**Legalization of Recreational Cannabis**

As the government gets ready for the federal legalization of recreational cannabis, parents/guardians and educators may have questions about the steps Ontario is taking to protect children and youth, the impact this may have on schools and what information and supports are available to parents/guardians and students.

**Rules for Minimum Age**

In December 2017, Ontario passed legislation that establishes rules for the lawful use, sale and distribution of recreational cannabis.

The new law sets a minimum age of 19 to use, buy, possess and cultivate cannabis in Ontario. This is the same as the minimum age for tobacco and alcohol sales.

Even though recreational cannabis will be legal for adults, 19 and older, it will still be prohibited in schools.

**Working to protect youth**

# Stay tuned for updates

---

As staff continue the conversations with our community partners, i.e., Peel Regional Police, Peel Public Health, Government of Ontario etc., updates will be communicated.

