

Q&A



What is cannabis?

Cannabis or Marijuana is commonly used to refer to parts of a cannabis plant, such as the leaves or flowers. Cannabis is used in many ways including smoking, vaporizing, eating in food, drinking, dabbing, putting drops under the tongue, or applying it directly to the skin in a lotion.

When will cannabis be legal?

The federal legislation, Cannabis Act that legalizes recreational cannabis comes into effect on October 17, 2018.

What is the legal age to have cannabis in Ontario?

In Ontario, the legal age limit to buy, use, possess and grow recreational cannabis is 19 years or older.

Where can cannabis be used?

Recreational cannabis can only be used:

- in a private residence, including the outdoor space of a home (for example, a porch or back yard)
- within a resident's unit or balcony; however, that depends on building rules and/or lease agreements

Recreational cannabis cannot be used in:

- motor vehicles and boats being driven or under a person's care or control
- workplaces
- in parks or near playgrounds
- university/college residences
- non-designated rooms in hotels, motels or inns
- any place where smoking tobacco is prohibited, including Mississauga Celebration Square, playgrounds and sports facilities

Will cannabis be allowed to be grown in homes?

Yes, the province has proposed that up to four plants can be grown in a private residence. The Cannabis Act will allow adults to grow cannabis plants from seeds purchased from licensed cannabis retailers.

Once cannabis is legal in Canada, Canadians will be permitted to:

- purchase fresh or dried cannabis, cannabis oil, plants and seeds for cultivation from either a provincially regulated retailer, or directly from a federally licenced producer
- possess up to 30 grams of dried legal cannabis or its equivalent in public
- share up to 30 grams (or its equivalent) of legal cannabis and legal cannabis products with other adults
- subject to the passage of Bill 36 by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario each household will be able to cultivate up to four plants at home and prepare various cannabis products at home for personal use

Where can I buy cannabis?

As of October 17, 2018, you can order cannabis products online through the [Ontario Cannabis Store](#) which will be operated by the Government of Ontario. In April 2019, you will also be able to make purchases at provincially-regulated retail locations.

Will cannabis edibles be allowed under the new legalization?

Not right away. The federal government has indicated that cannabis edible products will be phased in at a later date and expects to authorize the sale of edibles no later than 12 months following the introduction of the Cannabis Act. The Province will regulate the sale but specific information regarding this is not yet available.

Where will the retail locations be located?

This is not yet known. The province will approve and licence retail store locations and the number of stores. The Government of Ontario is providing municipalities with the ability to opt-out of having retail locations within their jurisdiction. Mississauga City Council has until January 22, 2019 to make the decision to opt-out or permit retail stores. The province will continue to consult with municipalities including Mississauga, Peel Public Health and Peel Regional Police on the implementation of the private retail model.

What if my neighbour is smoking or growing cannabis and the smell is bothering me, who do I contact about this?

Nuisance odour caused by a neighbour smoking cannabis is not in contravention of any City by-law. Neighbours should be respectful and considerate of one another when consuming cannabis on private property.

Will there be consultations where the public will have the opportunity to weigh-in on the City opting-out or having retail locations?

Yes, Mississauga City Council is looking to make a decision on whether or not to opt out at its December 12, 2018 meeting.

Will retail stores be located near schools?

The province has proposed a licence and regulated private retail model that includes the establishment of distance buffers between schools and retail cannabis locations. This will ensure that cannabis will not be offered for sale at retail locations close to schools. The exact distance is not yet known, but will be set out in regulations.

How does the regulation of medicinal cannabis differ from recreational cannabis?

The regulation of medical cannabis is the responsibility of the federal government and the regulation of recreational cannabis is through the [Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario \(AGCO\)](#), an agency of the Province of Ontario.

How do we protect youth from accessing cannabis?

The province has said publically that there will be measures in place that help prevent youth from accessing cannabis. We're awaiting further details on this.

Is it legal to advertise cannabis?

It is not legal to advertise cannabis in a public place.

The legislation would permit information-type promotion, that is, factual, accurate information about cannabis products (ingredients, THC and CBD levels, etc.). Information that allows consumers to tell the difference between brands would also be permitted. In all cases, these types of promotion would only be allowed where they could not be seen by youth. The legislation includes restrictions on several types of promotional activities, such as:

- Promotion considered appealing to youth
- Promotion that includes false, misleading, or deceptive information
- Promotion through sponsorship, testimonials, or endorsements
- Promotion using the depictions of persons, celebrities, characters, or animals

What is the penalty, if anyone provides cannabis to youth?

No person may sell or provide cannabis to any person under the age of 19 in Ontario. The Act creates two new criminal offences with a maximum of 14 years in jail for:

- Giving or selling cannabis to youth
- Using a youth to commit a cannabis-related offence

How is the City of Mississauga preparing for legal cannabis?

- Consulting with the province through the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) to implement the private retail model
- Coordinating with regional partners such as Peel Public Health and Peel Regional Police
- Aligning municipal by-laws with the provincial legislation
- Consulting with public stakeholders and Business Improvement Areas (BIAs)

Citizen Inquiries and Complaints – Who to Call?

- Complaints about use, sales and distribution of cannabis and drug impairment while driving should be directed to **Peel Regional Police** at 905-453-3311
- Questions related to health impacts (ie., second-hand smoke or impact on children) should be directed to **Peel Public Health** at 905-799-7700
- Complaints about smoking cannabis on City property and facilities and in public spaces such as Mississauga Celebration Square should be directed to **Corporate Security** at 905-896-5040
- General information, please call **311** (905-615-4311 outside city limits)

Where do I get help, if someone I know is struggling with substance abuse?

For inquiries of this nature, call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700. If the individual is doing physical harm to themselves or other, please contact Peel Regional Police.