

TO: Mayors/Wardens, Councillors, All Units

CC: Chief Administrative Officers/Clerk-Treasurers, All Units

FR: Lyle Goldberg, Manager, Member Relations

RE: CANNABIS CONSULTATIONS PRESENTATION

We've been asked by the Department of Municipal Affairs to forward the attached presentation which was used as the basis for the recent municipal cannabis consultations that took place across the province from October 16-19.



Phone: (902) 423-8331

Fax: (902) 425-5592

www.unsm.ca

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Welcome

Gathering Input/Feedback

- Online survey
 - NovaScotia.ca/cannabis
- Written submissions
 - Submitted on behalf of your organization - Official positions of Council
- Stakeholder meetings
 - Five sessions (Halifax, Dartmouth, Truro, Sydney, Bridgetown)
 - Meetings with municipalities
- What We Heard report will capture input

Today's Agenda

- Presentation & Round table discussions on key areas (90 mins - 2hours)
 - Legal age to purchase and use
 - Where it can be purchased
 - Where it can be used
 - Penalties for drug impaired driving
 - In addition to Criminal Code
- Discussion on Additional Areas raised by municipalities (90 min - 2 hours)
- Wrap up (5 mins)

Background

- The Government of Canada is set to legalize the purchase and use of recreational cannabis by July 2018.
- The forms of cannabis to be covered under legislation include cannabis products in general, including dried cannabis (“weed”, “pot”, “marijuana”), fresh cannabis, cannabis oil, seeds and plants.
- The sale of edible cannabis will be legalized by July 2019.

Federal Legislation

- Proposed Bill C-45:
 - legalizes cannabis and regulates its recreational use, possession, sale and cultivation.
 - Federal Government has identified some restrictions.
- Proposed Bill C-46:
 - addresses impaired driving, reforming the entire impaired driving laws in the Criminal Code to include driving while impaired by drugs, including cannabis.

Background

- Federal restrictions would include:
 - Minimum legal age to purchase or possess (18 years old)
 - Provinces and Territories can set higher legal age
 - Limit personal possession to 30 grams of dried cannabis or equivalent
 - Provinces and Territories can set lower limits
 - There is a maximum of four (4) plants per household
 - Provinces and Territories can lower the number of plants

Background

- Provinces will be responsible for the sale and distribution of cannabis for recreational use in their respective provinces.
- Federal Government is responsible for production and supply. It will continue to license producers of medical and recreational cannabis in Canada.
- Federal Government will also continue to be responsible for the sale and distribution of medical cannabis in Canada.

Nova Scotia's Key Principles

- Protection of public health and safety; promote responsible social use and minimize harm
- Protection of children and youth
- Creating a well-regulated legal market and minimize illegal activities
- Seeking national or regional consistency

Informing Nova Scotia's Approach

- Consultation with stakeholders for input and views on
 - Setting the legal age to purchase, possession and use of cannabis at 19 years of age
 - Using an existing Crown Corporation, such as the NSLC, to sell recreational cannabis
 - Establishing penalties for drug-impaired driving
 - Limits on public use of cannabis

Legal Age

- The Government of Nova Scotia is considering setting the legal age limit to purchase, possess and use at 19.
 - This would be consistent with the legal drinking age and legal smoking age in Nova Scotia.
- Some provinces have proposed 19 as the legal age, others have proposed 18 to be consistent with the legal age for drinking alcohol in those provinces.

Legal Age - Questions

- What are the most important considerations when setting the legal age limit?
- What concerns, if any does, your organization have regarding a legal age limit of 19?

Distribution Model

- A priority for Nova Scotia is protecting the health and safety of Nova Scotians. It's also to create a well-regulated legal market that minimizes illegal activity.
- It will take several years for a legal market to be fully established, and pricing will be an important aspect.
- A crown corporation offers greater control and the ability to quickly adjust to issues in the early days.
- There are number of ways that a crown corporation can sell cannabis, including on-line and in stores.

Distribution Model - Questions

- What are the most important considerations when determining the best way to sell recreational cannabis in Nova Scotia?
- What impacts do you see for your organization with a model that has a provincial crown corporation responsible for the sale of recreational cannabis in Nova Scotia?
- What restrictions, if any, are needed on the sale of recreational cannabis?
- What, if any, are the issues or concerns of your organization around online/home delivery of recreational cannabis?

Public Consumption

- Nova Scotia's Smoke-free Places Act and Liquor Control Act set rules around where tobacco and alcohol can be used in public.
- Some of those rules already apply to cannabis. For example, smoked cannabis would be treated like smoked tobacco. A person cannot smoke or vape any substance in indoor public places and workplaces, school grounds and some outdoor spaces such as restaurant patios and near doorways.
- Edible cannabis should also be considered but the Federal Government isn't setting rules around edible products until after other forms of cannabis are legal.

Public Consumption - Questions

- What are the most important considerations when determining rules/restrictions around public consumption?
- What impacts, positive or negative, do you see for your organization around consumption of recreational cannabis outside of the home?
- If consumption is permitted outside the home, where should it be allowed?
- What other concerns, if any, does your organization have around the potential public consumption of cannabis?

Impaired Driving

- The Federal Government has proposed changes to the Criminal Code to strengthen alcohol and drug impaired driving offences and penalties.
- The Federal Government also has responsibility for an approach to road-side detection and screening.
- Provinces and Territories can set additional penalties related to drug-impaired driving, similar to what's been done for alcohol-impaired driving
 - For example, fines and license suspension up to one year.

Impaired Driving

- Penalties for alcohol-impaired driving in Nova Scotia:
 - Blood alcohol content between 0.05 and 0.08:
 - Drivers license suspended:
 - 7 days for first suspension
 - 15 days for second suspension
 - 30 days for third suspension
 - Blood alcohol content over 0.08:
 - Minimum fine of \$1,000
 - License revoked for a minimum of a year

Impaired Driving - Questions

- What are the most important considerations when determining appropriate penalties for impaired driving?
- Should the penalties for impaired driving by drug, including cannabis, be the same as they are now for impaired driving by alcohol?
- Does your organization have any other recommendations about drug impaired driving offences and penalties?



Thank You