

Cannabis Legalization and Regulation in Manitoba



Federal legislation

The federal government has introduced the [Cannabis Act](#), which will make non-medical cannabis legal in Canada.

Until October 17, 2018, it remains illegal to buy, possess or use cannabis for anything other than authorized medical or research purposes.



Cannabis in Manitoba





21.4%

*of Manitobans have used
cannabis in the past year*



21.1%

*of Manitobans may or
will try cannabis when
it becomes legal*

Legal Cannabis in Manitoba

Licensed growers: strictly regulated by the federal government.

Provincial government oversight: the provincial government manages how cannabis gets from licensed growers to licensed retailers.

Private retail cannabis stores: licensed retailers sell legal, non-medical cannabis to the public.

Home: you can't grow cannabis at home in Manitoba.

Possession: Manitobans 19+ can possess up to 30 grams of legal cannabis in public.

Advertising: product advertising will only be allowed inside cannabis stores.

Driving: impaired driving is illegal. Roadside licence suspensions will be in effect.

Public consumption: no smoking and vaping cannabis in outdoor public places and enclosed indoor public places.

Cannabis regulatory responsibilities

Activity	Responsibility		
	Federal	Provincial	Municipal
Possession limits	Yes	Yes	No
Trafficking	Yes	No	No
Advertisement and packaging	Yes	No	No
Impaired driving	Yes	Yes	No
Medical cannabis	Yes	No	No
National tracking system	Yes	No	No
Production (cultivation and processing)	Yes	No	No
Age limit (federal minimum)	Yes	Yes	No
Public health	Yes	Yes	No
Education	Yes	Yes	No
Taxation	Yes	Yes	No
Home cultivation (growing plants at home)	Yes	Yes	No
Workplace safety	No	Yes	No
Distribution and wholesaling	No	Yes	No
Retail model	No	Yes	No
Retail locations and rules	No	Yes	Yes
Regulatory compliance	Yes	Yes	No
Public consumption	No	Yes	Yes
Land use and zoning	No	No	Yes

What Manitobans said

What's important to Manitobans:

- restricting the illegal cannabis market;
- keeping cannabis out of the hands of children and youth;
- protecting the public and personal health and safety; and
- promoting safety on roads, in workplaces and in public spaces.



Manitoba's key priorities



Know the Law



Legal age

Following consultations with Manitobans, the Manitoba government set a legal age of 19 for the use, purchase and possession of non-medical cannabis.



Public use

Legislation will prohibit smoking and vaping cannabis in outdoor public places once recreational cannabis is legalized.

Smoking or vaping cannabis is also prohibited in enclosed public places and indoor workplaces.



Cannabis possession limit

Manitobans aged 19 and up can possess up to 30 grams of non-medical cannabis in public.



Cannabis growth at home

Growing cannabis at home is prohibited in Manitoba.



Drug-impaired driving

Many scientific studies show that cannabis use doubles your risk of being in a car accident.

It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle while impaired by a drug, including cannabis. Persons who do so can be charged and face penalties under the Criminal Code and also receive sanctions, such as driver's licence suspensions, under the Highway Traffic Act.



Know the Risks



Cannabis can be addictive.

Many people who try to quit using cannabis experience withdrawal symptoms such as irritability, sleeping difficulties, cravings and anxiety.

Dependency happens in about nine per cent of cannabis users.

If you or someone you know is struggling with a dependency, contact the youth addictions centralized intake service: 1-877-710-3999, or the [Manitoba Addictions Helpline](#) at 1-855-662-6605.



Cannabis can lead to depression and anxiety.

If you start using cannabis in your teens, if you use cannabis more than a few times a week, or if you take very high doses of THC and low doses of CBD, you are at risk of mental illnesses including anxiety and depression, and psychotic disorders including schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, and cannabis dependency.



Cannabis will affect brain development.

Public health experts recommend that young people delay cannabis use as long as possible to avoid harming brain development.



Cannabis will impair the ability to drive.

Many scientific studies show that cannabis use doubles your risk of being in a car accident. If you have consumed cannabis, it is the safest decision not to drive until the next day.

It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle while impaired by a drug, including cannabis.



Cannabis can harm your baby.

Don't use cannabis if you are pregnant or trying to become pregnant.

Heavy cannabis user, particularly those who also use tobacco, have a greater risk of having a premature baby.

Don't use cannabis to treat symptoms of morning sickness.

Don't use cannabis while breastfeeding.



Street cannabis isn't worth the risk.

If you buy cannabis, make sure to get it from a licensed retail store that offers a wide selection of legal products.

Street, or black market cannabis offers you no quality control in terms of strength or purity. It may contain traces of pesticides and even other drugs that could put your life at risk.

When you support the black market, you have no idea whether or not your money will go to fund other illegal activities.



Know the Facts



Cannabis and health

There are some factors that increase the risks of using cannabis, such as starting to use it at a young age, or heavier use, such as daily or several times each day.

Smoking cannabis frequently over a long period of time can damage your lungs, particularly if you hold the smoke in after inhaling.

Becoming dependent on cannabis is also a risk; dependency happens in about nine per cent of cannabis users.

If you or someone you know is struggling with a dependency, contact the youth addictions centralized intake service: 1-877-710-3999, or the [Manitoba Addictions Helpline](#) at 1-855-662-6605.



Medical cannabis

Health Canada's existing medical cannabis program will remain in place following legalization of retail cannabis.



Cannabis taxation and revenue

Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries will apply a wholesale mark-up on non-medical cannabis.

The Manitoba government will also collect a cannabis retailer Social Responsibility Fee (SRF) of 6 per cent on the annual revenues from the sale of non-medical cannabis by all provincially-licensed cannabis retailers effective on January 1, 2019.

Manitoba will not apply the provincial sales tax (PST) on non-medical cannabis sales



Retail structure

Manitoba will use a hybrid public/private model for legal cannabis.

Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries will purchase cannabis from licensed producers and deliver the product to privately-operated retail cannabis stores.

Licensed retailers will then sell the product to Manitobans.



Cannabis pricing

Retail pricing be competitive with the black market.

Manitoba's retailers will set prices based on their business plans, operational costs, supply costs, etc., just like any other private retailer of a legally saleable product would.



Cannabis and First Nations

Six Manitoba First Nations entered into formal partnerships and investment arrangements with companies selected as provincial cannabis retailers.

First Nations participation was a key criterion for choosing retailers in the initial Request for Proposals.

First Nations abide by the same the rules and licensing requirements that non-medical cannabis retailers do.



Cannabis and travel

It's illegal to take cannabis across the Canadian border, whether you're leaving or coming to Canada. This applies to all countries, whether cannabis is legal there or not.

If you use cannabis, purchase and consume it within the province or territory you are in.



For more information,
visit the Manitoba cannabis portal at
Manitoba.ca/cannabis.

