



Summary of Law Enforcement Roundtable on Marijuana Legalization and Regulation

Overall, participants raised the need for a coordinated approach, among all levels of government, to legalizing and regulating marijuana and that provinces/territories need sufficient time to implement the new regime.

Marijuana Production

- Commercial grow operations are the most viable option as regulations could mirror that of the current medical marijuana regime.
- Removal of home grows– a robust but regulated regime will provide sufficient product for the market.
- There will need to be high penalties to deter those who consider home grows and those who produce sell outside the legal regime.
- The licencing regime for commercial grow operators should begin with strictly growing marijuana and operators could expand their licencing into edibles and distribution after a determined timeline and once the framework is well established.
- Quality and quantity are major factors and require a robust tracking system from seed to sale (bar code and licence number), which should also be accessible to law enforcement to distinguish legitimate product from black/grey market marijuana and marijuana products.

Access and Distribution

- The regime has to produce high quality products that meet the potency and price point of the current illegal market.
- A holistic approach is required and provinces and municipalities need to ensure consumer needs are met (store hours, strain, THC content, etc.) and that the right structure is in place to deal with compliance and infractions, which would remove law enforcement unless it is of a criminal nature.
- The regulatory system for sales e.g. age limit and location should be consistent nationwide.

Organized Crime (OC)

- OC can never be eliminated, but a regulated regime will help to control their activities in the market.
- Specialized law enforcement resources will need to adjust and leverage other unit's resources e.g., national security, in order to deal with any fluctuations that come from the legalized regime.
- Need to ensure there is not a gap in product availability or OC will meet the demand.
- Establishing the right price levels is critical in terms of cutting out the black/grey market.
- Normalize the production, distribution and access model to allow for fewer gaps in demand.



Public Safety Parameters

Youth:

- Messaging and education awareness campaigns for youth need to start now.
- Legal age will affect enforcement - need to establish consequences for youth use in keeping with Federal Government objectives to e.g. criminalize youth for personal use/possession by way of ticketing.
- Underage market could be infiltrated by OC and will require increased enforcement measures.
- Northern issues need to be considered e.g. age of use because youth use is highest in the territories.

Drug-Impaired Driving:

- Roadside oral fluid screening devices need to be utilised and an increase in the number of drug recognition experts - will require training and resources.
- Need more scientific evidence on the effects of marijuana and driving e.g. level of impairment.
- Need public education campaigns/guidance (similar to alcohol) in terms of “safe use levels” for driving or consider zero tolerance.

Public Consumption:

- Enforcement of public consumption (smoking versus edibles) must be consistent nationally.
- Risks of edibles and the potential links with overconsumption.
- Need to ensure private space is established and enforced and it does not have to be by police, e.g. municipal bylaw.