



THE REGULATION OF CANNABIS IN ONTARIO

Views from CAMH

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Rewind to 2014...

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CANNABIS POLICY FRAMEWORK

October 2014

A FAHO / WHO
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Fully affiliated with the
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CANNABIS

CAMH recommends legalization with strict regulation

CAMH offers **10 basic principles** to guide regulation of legal cannabis use.



ESTABLISH A GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY ON SALES

Control boards provide an effective means of controlling consumption.



SET A MINIMUM AGE

Sales or supply of cannabis products to underage individuals should be penalized.



LIMIT AVAILABILITY

Place caps on retail density and limits on hours of sales.



CURB DEMAND THROUGH PRICING

Pricing policy should curb demand while minimizing the continuation of black markets.



CURTAIN HIGHER-RISK PRODUCTS AND FORMULATIONS

This would include higher-potency formulations and products designed to appeal to youth.



INVEST IN EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

Need both general and targeted initiatives for specific groups e.g. adolescents, people with a history of mental illness.



PROHIBIT MARKETING, ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP

Products should be sold in plain packaging with warnings about risks of use.



PRODUCT INFORMATION SHOULD BE CLEARLY DISPLAYED

In particular, products should be tested and labelled for THC and CBD content.



ADDRESS & PREVENT CANNABIS-IMPAIRED DRIVING

Develop a comprehensive framework that includes prevention, education and enforcement.



ENHANCE ACCESS TO TREATMENT AND EXPAND TREATMENT OPTIONS

Include a spectrum of options from brief interventions for at-risk users to more intensive interventions.

Areas of agreement

Provincial plans

- ✓ Minimum age to use, purchase and possess recreational cannabis in Ontario will be 19
- ✓ LCBO to oversee the legal retail of cannabis...
 - ✓ storefront
 - ✓ online
- ✓ Store locations will be chosen with the objective of ensuring that youth are protected (i.e. they won't be close to schools)

Areas of (slight) difference

Provincial plans

- 1) LCBO to oversee the legal retail of cannabis (storefront + online)
- 2) No public smoking / vaping of recreational cannabis
- 3) Allow consumption only in private residences*

CAMH recommendations

- 1) LCBO control of distribution... but allow a small, fixed number of privately owned / operated but government-licensed dispensaries
- 2) No public smoking / vaping of *any* cannabis
- 3) Allow (smokeless?) consumption in licensed establishments

Areas of uncertainty

- Advertising and promotion
 - Plain packaging? Advertising ban?
- Pricing
 - Low enough to draw people away from the black market?
 - Are price mechanisms to incentivize lower-risk (e.g. lower THC) products feasible?
- Other products
 - Edibles, extracts: how long until they're legal?
 - What do we do about ultra-potent products (e.g. shatter)?

Things to watch (post-legalization)

- Legal market uptake
- Use levels (especially among young people)
- Harm indicators (e.g., accidents, dependence)
- Fiscal interests: industry... but also government



Let's not forget...

Rigorously monitor direct and indirect effects...

if problems increase, change course!

Thank you!

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To access CAMH Public Policy resources:

camh.ca >>> About CAMH >>> Influencing Public Policy