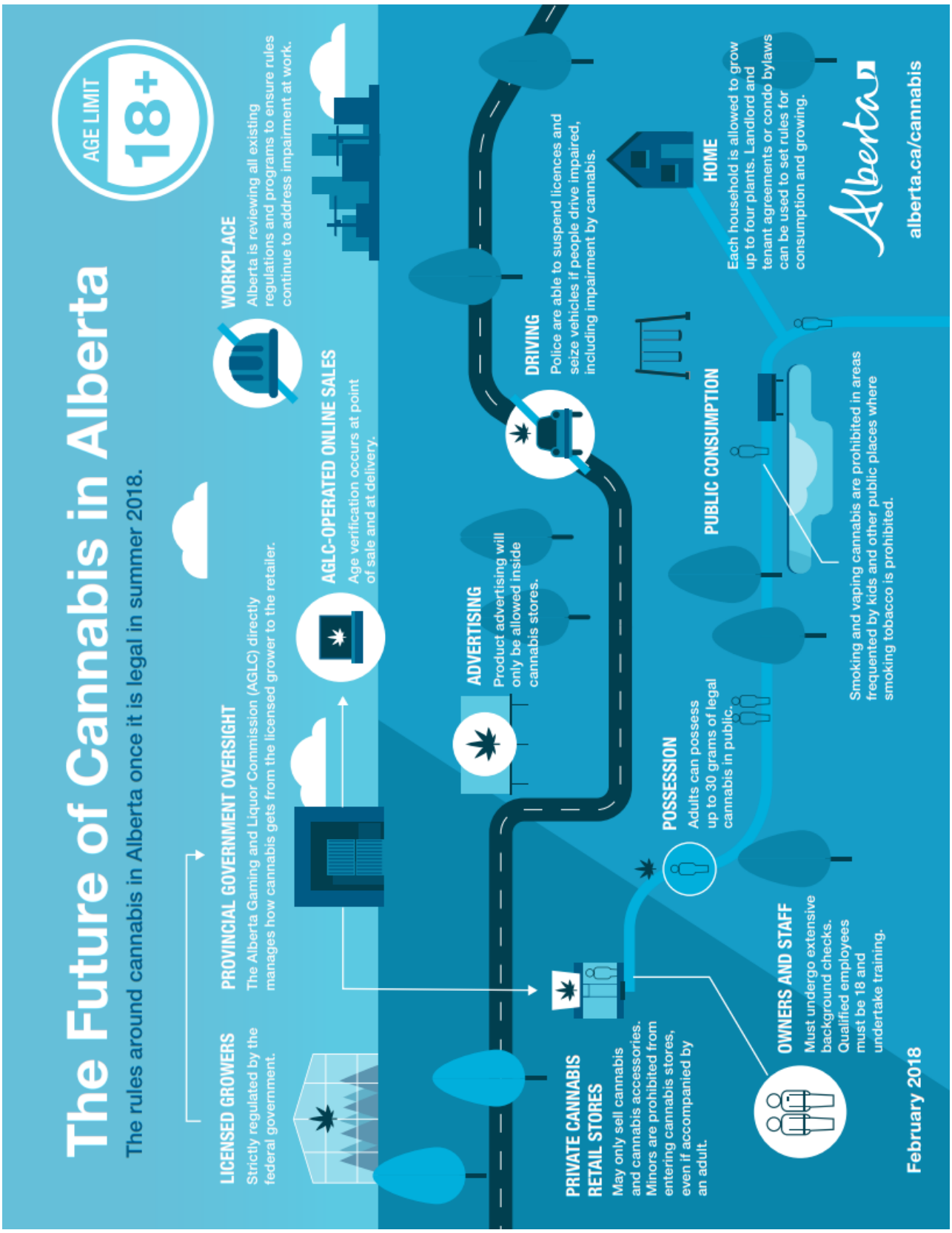
Summary of Provincial and Federal Cannabis Regulations



Alberta's System for Legalized Cannabis

Once legal, Alberta's system for legalized cannabis will provide adults safe access to legal cannabis while protecting Alberta's youth and public health, promoting safety on roads, in workplaces and in public spaces, and limiting the illegal market.

Highlights of legislation and regulations

- Minimum age for purchase and possession is 18.
- Adults may possess 30 grams at any given time; there will be zero tolerance for youth under the legal age of 18 possessing any cannabis.
- Anyone under 18 caught with five grams or less will face sanctions similar to those for underage possession of alcohol or tobacco. Youth found in possession of over five grams continue to be subject to federal criminal charges.
- Adults may smoke or vape cannabis at home and in some public places, but not in vehicles, any cannabis retail outlets, anywhere smoking or vaping tobacco is already prohibited, or in specific areas frequented by children, including school and hospital properties and within five metres of skate parks, spray parks, and playgrounds.
- Adults can grow cannabis at home; up to four plants per household (not per person) for personal consumption.
- Landlord and tenant agreements or condo bylaws can be used to set rules for consumption and growing.
- Licence suspensions and vehicle seizures that apply to alcohol-impaired driving have been extended to cannabis impairment. There will be zero tolerance for those on graduated licences. Cannabis consumption will not be allowed in vehicles.
- The Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC) will provide clear oversight over the distribution of packaged and sealed cannabis products, ensuring only legally produced products come into Alberta. (This is similar to what's in place now for alcohol).
- The AGLC will operate online sales of cannabis products on behalf of government.
- The AGLC will ensure cannabis is distributed to privately owned and operated specialized retailers. Retail locations will be regulated and follow rules set by government, including hours of operation and security requirements.
- Cannabis retailers may be open between 10 a.m. and 2 a.m. and must keep cannabis products in a locked display case accessible only by staff. However, municipalities can further restrict these hours.
- Anyone applying for a licence to open a retail store will have to undergo an extensive mandatory background check.
- Employees must also consent to background checks, be 18 or older and will be required to undergo AGLC SellSafe training.
- Cannabis retail outlets must be 100 meters away from schools and provincial health care facilities. Municipalities will have the discretion to modify or add further buffers from these or other uses.
- Any single sales transaction of cannabis products, in a retail location and online, will be limited to 30 grams.
- Cannabis advertising will be restricted to locations with no minors. The federal government has also proposed strict rules about labeling and packaging. The Alberta government will monitor the specifics of their proposed program and work with them to address any issues or gaps in policies should they arise.



LEGALIZING AND STRICTLY REGULATING CANNABIS: THE FACTS

The proposed Cannabis Act would create a strict legal framework for controlling the production, distribution, sale and possession of cannabis across Canada.

The Act seeks to:

- restrict youth access to cannabis
- protect young people from promotion or enticements to use cannabis
- deter and reduce criminal activity by imposing serious criminal penalties for those breaking the law, especially those who import, export or provide cannabis to youth
- protect public health through strict product safety and quality requirements
- reduce the burden on the criminal justice system
- provide for the legal production of cannabis to reduce illegal activities
- allow adults to possess and access regulated, quality controlled legal cannabis
- enhance public awareness of the health risks associated with cannabis

The current program for accessing cannabis for medical purposes would continue under the new Act.

Cannabis would remain illegal as the bill moves through the legislative process. If it is approved by Parliament, the bill could become law with a target date of no later than July 2018.

RESTRICTED ACCESS

The Cannabis Act proposes many rules that would protect youth from accessing cannabis.

PROTECTING YOUTH

No person could sell or provide cannabis to any young person **under the age of 18**.

In addition, the Act would create 2 new criminal offences, with maximum penalties of 14 years in jail, for:

- giving or selling cannabis to youth, and
- using a youth to commit a cannabis-related offence

In order to prevent youth from using cannabis, the Act would also prohibit:

- products that are appealing to youth
- packaging or labelling cannabis in a way that makes it appealing to youth
- selling cannabis through self-service displays or vending machines
- promoting cannabis, except in narrow circumstances where the promotion could not be seen by a young person

Penalties for violating these prohibitions include a fine up to $5 million or 3 years in jail.

The Government has also committed close to $46 million over the next five years for cannabis public education and awareness activities to inform Canadians, especially youth, of the health and safety risks of cannabis consumption.

CONTROLLED ACCESS

Should the Cannabis Act become law in July 2018, adults who are **18 years or older** would be able to legally:

- **possess** up to 30 grams of legal dried cannabis or equivalent in non-dried form
- **share** up to 30 grams of legal cannabis with other adults
- **purchase** dried or fresh cannabis and cannabis oil from a provincially-licensed retailer
  - In those provinces that have not yet or choose not to put in place a regulated retail framework, individuals would be able to purchase cannabis online from a federally-licensed producer.
- **grow** up to 4 cannabis plants per residence for personal use from licensed seed or seedlings
- **make** cannabis products, such as food and drinks, at home provided that organic solvents are not used

The sale of cannabis edible products and concentrates would be authorized no later than 12 months following the coming into force of the proposed legislation.

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Summary of Provincial and Federal Cannabis Regulations

STRICT REGULATION

The federal, provincial and territorial governments would share responsibility for overseeing the new system.

The federal government's responsibilities would be to:

- set strict requirements for producers who grow and manufacture cannabis
- set industry-wide rules and standards, including:
  - the types of cannabis products that will be allowed for sale
  - packaging and labelling requirements for products
  - standardized serving sizes and potency
  - prohibiting the use of certain ingredients
  - good production practices
  - tracking of cannabis from seed to sale to prevent diversion to the illicit market
  - restrictions on promotional activities

The provinces and territories would license and oversee the distribution and sale of cannabis, subject to federal conditions. They could also:

- increase the minimum age in their province or territory (but not lower it)
- lower the possession limit in their jurisdiction
- create additional rules for growing cannabis at home, such as lowering the number of plants per residence
- restrict where adults can consume cannabis, such as in public or in vehicles

CRIMINAL PENALTIES

The Cannabis Act proposes offences targeting those acting outside the legal framework, such as those involved in organized crime.

Penalties would be set in proportion to the seriousness of the offence. Sanctions would range from warnings and tickets for minor offences to criminal prosecution and imprisonment for more serious offences.

OFFENCE	PENALTIES
Illegal distribution or sale	▸ Tickets for small amounts ▸ Up to 14 years in jail
Possession over the limit	▸ Tickets for small amounts ▸ Up to 5 years in jail
Production of cannabis beyond personal cultivation limits or with combustible solvents	▸ Tickets for small amounts ▸ Up to 14 years in jail
Taking cannabis across Canada's borders	▸ Up to 14 years in jail

Further penalties related to cannabis-impaired driving have been put forward in the proposed drug-impaired driving legislation.

The proposed Cannabis Act is informed by the recommendations of the Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation.