

Proposed Amendment

Provincial Engagement Topic	Administration Comments	Recommended City of Calgary Response to Engagement
<p><u>Setting the legal age</u> Bill C-45 proposes to set the minimum age for consumption of cannabis at 18, however the federal bill provides provinces with the authority to set age limits within their jurisdictions. The debate around the age limit has primarily focused on three options: maintaining the minimum age of 18 as mandated under proposed federal legislation, increasing the age to 25 years in order to limit deleterious effects to youth and the developing brain, or increasing the age to 21 which is seen as a middle ground.</p>	<p>Based on its extensive public and stakeholder engagement and research, the federal Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation recommended that the federal government set a national minimum age of purchase of 18, acknowledging the right of provinces and territories to harmonize it with their minimum age of purchase of alcohol. This recommendation was adopted by the Government of Canada in Bill C-45.</p> <p>In Alberta, the legal age for both alcohol and tobacco purchase and consumption is set at 18. Harmonizing the province's legal age with the federal minimum age limit for possession and consumption of cannabis would eliminate the requirement to establish a provincial enforcement framework that imposes additional fines and penalties beyond what is mandated in the federal criminal code. Harmonization would also result in a clear, consistent and simple framework for The City's enforcement officers. However, Administration also acknowledges the variety of health implications associated with young people consuming cannabis.</p> <p>The provincial government has undertaken public opinion polling on the age limit and has agreed to share the results of these findings, with specific data for Calgary. This data will provide The City with an additional understanding of the current wishes of Calgarians.</p>	<p>Administration recommends not advocating for a specific minimum age until such time as the broader consequences of a minimum age, and the views of Calgarians are better understood.</p>

