

# CANNABIS-RELATED MEASURES PROTECTING YOUTH IN BRITISH COLUMBIA



YMCA  
Youth Cannabis  
Awareness  
Program

Programme de  
sensibilisation des  
jeunes au cannabis  
du YMCA

## THE CANNABIS CONTROL AND LICENSING ACT

In addition to the Federal Cannabis Act, the goals of the B.C. Cannabis Control and Licensing Act are to keep cannabis out of the hands of youth, eliminate the illicit market, protect health and safety by providing adults with access to legal cannabis and keeping roads safe in British Columbia.



### LEGAL AGE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

19 is the minimum legal age to access and use cannabis products. Selling cannabis to minors or using youth to commit a cannabis-related offence carries a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison.

### PENALTY FOR UNDERAGE POSSESSION

Cannabis-related offences, such as possession over 5 grams, distribution, producing false identification to obtain cannabis and engaging in commercial activities are subject to a \$230 fine and potential criminal charges.



### LIMITING EXPOSURE OF CANNABIS TO YOUTH

Cannabis use is prohibited in playgrounds, sports fields, skate parks, and other places where children commonly gather. It is illegal to sell cannabis through vending machines or self-serve displays. Cannabis can only be promoted in places where youth cannot see the product.

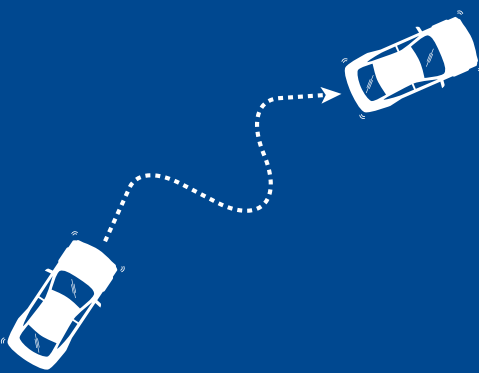
### PREVENTING CANNABIS IMPAIRED DRIVING

In B.C., 22% of cannabis users aged 16-24 have driven within 2 hours of consuming cannabis in the past year (BC Cannabis Use Survey, 2018). 28% of people surveyed in BC report having been a passenger in a vehicle operated by a cannabis-impaired driver (CCS, 2020).



### MEASURES IN PLACE TO ENSURE SAFE ROADS IN B.C.

Zero tolerance for N or L drivers and a licence suspension up to 3 years if driving impaired. Initial penalties for driving impaired include fines, but can escalate to imprisonment for repeat offences. Drivers charged with impaired driving are also subject to increased insurance premiums (ICBC, 2021).



### Reference List

British Columbia Stats, 2018. *Cannabis in British Columbia: Results from the 2018 BC Cannabis Use Survey*.

Health Canada, 2020. *2020 Canadian Cannabis Survey*

Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, 2021. *Cannabis Legalization: What New Laws Mean For Drivers*.

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