

CANNABIS-RELATED MEASURES PROTECTING YOUTH



YMCA
Youth Cannabis
Awareness
Program

Programme de
sensibilisation des
jeunes au cannabis
du YMCA

THE CANNABIS ACT

The goals of the Cannabis Act are to keep cannabis out of the hands of youth, eliminate the illicit market and protect Canadian health & safety by providing adults with access to legal cannabis.



LEGAL AGE IN CANADA

Each province has set its own legal age requirement for the purchase and possession of cannabis.

Alberta 18+

Quebec 21+

All other provinces & territories 19+

UNDERAGE POSSESSION OF OVER 5 GRAMS = CRIMINAL CHARGES

1 in 8 violations of the Cannabis Act involve underage youth possession of over 5 grams of cannabis (Statistics Canada, 2020).

Under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, youth ages 12-17 can also face cannabis-related charges (e.g. fines, custody in detention center, probation, youth criminal record, etc.)



GIVING CANNABIS TO A MINOR IS PUNISHABLE UNDER THE CANNABIS ACT

Adults found giving cannabis to a minor, or using a minor to commit cannabis-related offenses, can be punished with up to 14 years in prison.

PREVENTING CANNABIS IMPAIRED DRIVING

1 in 3 teens killed in car crashes tested positive for cannabis impairment (TIRF, 2019). Police have the tools and the authority to request roadside tests from drivers suspected of cannabis impairment. Penalties may include fines, license suspension or imprisonment.



RESTRICTING PROMOTION OF CANNABIS TO YOUTH

Cannabis can not be advertised, packaged or labelled in an appealing manner to youth. It is illegal to sell cannabis through vending machines or self-serve displays. Penalties for promoting cannabis to youth include up to \$5 million in fines and 3 years in prison.

Reference List

Statistics Canada, 2020 . *Cannabis Legalization: What Has Changed?*
www.statcan.gc.ca

Traffic Injury Research Foundation, 2019. *Marijuana Use Among Drivers In Canada, 2000-2016.* www.tirf.ca

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