

# CANNABIS-RELATED MEASURES PROTECTING YOUTH IN NUNAVUT



YMCA  
Youth Cannabis  
Awareness  
Program

Programme de  
sensibilisation des  
jeunes au cannabis  
du YMCA

## THE CANNABIS ACT, AND THE CANNABIS STATUTES AMENDMENTS ACT

In addition to the Federal Cannabis Act, the goals of the Nunavut Cannabis Act, and the Cannabis Statutes Amendments Act are to protect the health and safety of Nunavumit (especially youth), to eliminate the illicit market, to protect public health by providing adults with access to legal cannabis and to increase awareness of the risks associated with cannabis use.



### LEGAL AGE IN NUNAVUT

19 is the minimum legal age to access and use cannabis products. Selling cannabis to minors, or using minors to commit a cannabis-related offence, can result in fines up to \$2,000 and up to 14 years in prison.

### PENALTY FOR UNDERAGE POSSESSION

1 in 8 violations of the Cannabis Act involve underage youth possession of over 5 grams of cannabis (Statistics Canada, 2019). Under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, youth age 12-17 can also face cannabis-related charges (e.g., fines, custody in detention center, probation, youth criminal record etc.)



### LIMITING EXPOSURE OF CANNABIS TO YOUTH



Cannabis use is prohibited on playgrounds, sports fields, and other places where children may gather. Cannabis use is also prohibited on hospital property, near community centres and stores. Smoking cannabis in restricted areas may result in fines ranging from \$200 - \$10,000 (City of Iqaluit, 2018). Youth under 19 may not enter a cannabis retail store, even if accompanied by an adult.

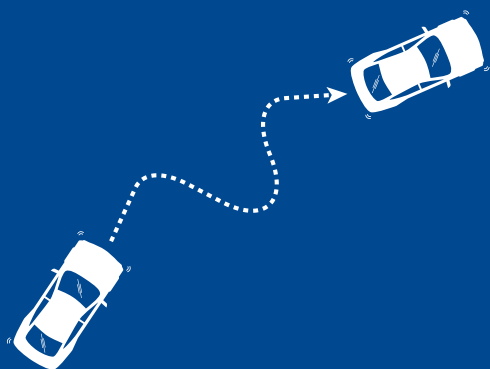
### PREVENTING CANNABIS IMPAIRED DRIVING

22% of Canadians age 16+ have driven within 2 hours of consuming cannabis in the past year (CCS, 2020). 38.3% of people in the three Territories age 16+ report being in a vehicle operated by a cannabis impaired driver (CCS, 2020).



### MEASURES IN PLACE TO ENSURE SAFE ROADS IN NUNAVUT

Zero tolerance for all licensed drivers regarding cannabis use and driving, including use of medical cannabis (City of Iqaluit, 2018). Penalties include a licence suspension up to 90 days if driving impaired. Cannabis cannot be within reach of anyone in a vehicle. It must be stored away from arm's reach (NULC, 2021).



### Reference List

City of Iqaluit, 2018. *Cannabis Legalization: Questions & Answers*.

Health Canada, 2020. *2020 Canadian Cannabis Survey*.

Nunavut Liquor & Cannabis Commission, 2021. *Frequently Asked Questions*.

[youthcannabisawareness.ymcagta.org](http://youthcannabisawareness.ymcagta.org)