

# CANNABIS-RELATED MEASURES PROTECTING YOUTH IN ONTARIO



YMCA  
Youth Cannabis  
Awareness  
Program

Programme de  
sensibilisation des  
jeunes au cannabis  
du YMCA

## CANNABIS CONTROL ACT

In addition to the Federal Cannabis Act, the goals of the Cannabis Control 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 ONTARIO

19 is the minimum legal age to access and use cannabis products. Giving cannabis to minors, or using youth to commit cannabis-related offences, carries a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison. A retailer caught selling or distributing cannabis to minors could receive a \$500,000 fine, up to a year of imprisonment, or both (AGCO, 2021).



### PENALTY FOR UNDERAGE POSSESSION

Youth under the age of 19 found in possession of cannabis, consuming cannabis, or cultivating cannabis may be subject to a fine of up to \$200. Youth ages 12-18 in conflict with the law regarding cannabis-related offences may also be admitted into the Youth Cannabis Diversion Program, an approved education and prevention program (Government of Ontario, 2021).



### LIMITING EXPOSURE OF CANNABIS TO YOUTH

Smoking or vaping cannabis is prohibited on or within 20 meters of school grounds, playgrounds, child care centres, early years programs, home child care providers (even if no children are present), or anywhere children commonly gather (Government of Ontario, 2021).



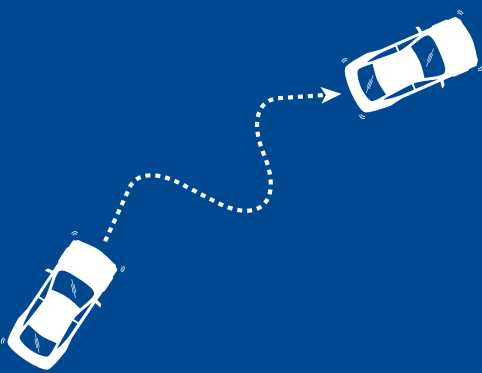
### PREVENTING CANNABIS IMPAIRED DRIVING

In Ontario, 7% of students in grades 10-12 report driving a vehicle within 1 hour of consuming cannabis in the last year (Boak et al., 2020). 10.9% of students in grades 7-12 report being a passenger in a vehicle driven by someone that had consumed cannabis in the past 2 hours (CCSA, 2020).



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

Zero tolerance for all drivers under the age of 21, as well as G1, G2, M1 or M2 licence holders. Penalties for violation include licence suspension and fines, possible criminal record or jail time, with additional measures for repeat offenders (Government of Ontario, 2021).



### Reference List

Alcohol & Gaming Commission of Ontario, 2018. *Schedule of Monetary Penalties: Cannabis Licence Act, 2018 and Regulation 468/18*  
Boak, A., Elton-Marshall, T., Mann, R.E., & Hamilton, H.A., 2020. *Drug use among Ontario students, 1977-2019: Detailed findings from the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS)*  
CCSA, 2020. *Provincial Patterns and Trends in Cannabis Use Among Youth: Ontario*  
Government of Ontario, 2021. *Cannabis Laws*.

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