

Below is a message for parents and guardians about cannabis legalization. It is from the Government of Nova Scotia.



## **Message to Parents/Guardians about Cannabis Legalization**

Cannabis will become legal in Canada on October 17, 2018.

As parents and guardians, you may have questions or want advice about how to talk with your children about cannabis, including any health effects for teenagers and young adults. Your children may also ask you questions.

### Talking to your children about cannabis

You can find reliable information on the province's cannabis website, [www.novascotia.ca/cannabis](http://www.novascotia.ca/cannabis).

Drug Free Kids Canada "Cannabis Talk Kit" was developed to help parents talk to their children about cannabis and can be found on the website. Ads from the provincial government informing Nova Scotians about cannabis are now running.

### Health education curriculum

Age-appropriate lessons on the risks and effects of using substances such as alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and other drugs are taught within the health education curriculum that begins in primary and continues until grade 9. There is a focus on nurturing and fostering skills that lead to not using substances as well as making healthy, informed decisions. Information on the new rules will be sent to teachers and administrators.

### Legal age and other rules once legalized

The legal age to use, buy, grow and possess cannabis in Nova Scotia will be 19 – the same as the legal age for alcohol. Cannabis use by Nova Scotians under 19 will not be allowed.

There will also be restrictions on where cannabis can be used, as part of the Smoke-free Places Act. Cannabis will not be able to be used on or near school grounds or playgrounds. Municipalities can also decide to create stronger rules regarding the public use of cannabis. The advertising of cannabis will be restricted so that using cannabis is not promoted, specifically to children and teens.

Information on cannabis, including the health effects, advice on talking to children and teens, what the rules will be in Nova Scotia, driving while impaired, and other related topics, is available at [www.novascotia.ca/cannabis](http://www.novascotia.ca/cannabis) . This website will continue to be updated with new information.

[novascotia.ca/cannabis](http://novascotia.ca/cannabis)