

What We Heard

**A Report on
Nova Scotians' Contributions**

During the Engagement Process

**To Inform Nova Scotia's Approach to the
Legalization of Recreational Cannabis**

Final Report – December 6, 2017

Presented to:

The Government of Nova Scotia

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Executive Summary

Earlier this year, the Government of Canada announced its plans to legalize the purchase and use of recreational cannabis by July 2018. Under this legislation provinces and territories are responsible for making decisions and rules regarding the legalization of recreational cannabis in their respective jurisdictions in a number of areas. The identified key principles of a Nova Scotia-based approach are:

- Protection of public health and safety
- Encourage responsible social use and minimize harm;
- Protection of children and youth;
- Creation of a well-regulated legal market and minimize involvement of organized crime;
- Seek national or regional consistency

In June, the Government of Nova Scotia indicated the province would consult with Nova Scotians to inform the provincial legislative and regulatory framework. The objectives of the public and stakeholder consultation were: educate Nova Scotians and stakeholders of the coming legislation, increase transparency of government decision making, engage Nova Scotians and stakeholders to inform the development of the provincial regulatory framework, and identify key areas of concern of Nova Scotians and stakeholders regarding the legalization of cannabis.

Throughout the period of October 6 to 31, 2017, Nova Scotians were invited to complete an online survey and a cross-section of stakeholders representing professional associations and governing bodies, universities, youth and student organizations, health organizations, not-for-profits, industry, business associations, community organizations, municipalities, law enforcement agencies and unions were invited to sessions held throughout the province to provide their views. The sessions were organized around four main themes: legal age limit, public consumption, distribution and impaired driving with an opportunity for additional comments.

A total of **31,031** surveys were completed and a total of **194** individuals, representing **49 organizations** and **41 municipalities**, participated in ten stakeholder sessions, with **24 organizations** providing **written submissions**. It should be noted that on-going dialogue is occurring with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs. Given the on-going nature of these discussions, results are not captured in this report.

What We Heard From Survey Respondents

A comparison of those who completed the survey to the general population of Nova Scotians indicates that those under 35 years old with more formal education and no children living at home are over-represented in the survey, with renters being slightly over-represented. Thus, the findings from the survey cannot be extrapolated generally to the overall population; but rather are indicative of those who engaged in the process. Key findings are noted below by topic with relevant differences noted. It is worth noting that there were significant differences in opinion based on age, being a parent or a health professional and the type of home ownership (renter vs. home owner). Generally, younger respondents and those renting differed from parents and health care professionals.

Support for Legalized Recreational Cannabis

- Those who completed the survey were generally and consistently supportive of the federal government's decision to legalize recreational cannabis, with **78%** of responses indicating *somewhat/strong support* for the decision to legalize recreational cannabis.
- Even higher levels of support were noted among 18-34 year olds (89%) and males (83%).
- Health care professionals and parents showed significantly less support, with 61% and 66% respectively indicating some/strong support for the decision.
- Renters (88%) showed significantly more support for the decision.

Legal Age

- The majority (**75%**) of those who completed the survey indicated their support for the legal age limit of 19.
- Support was much higher among supporters of legalization compared to those opposed (83% vs. 43%) to the decision.
- Support, while still high, was relatively lowest amongst those 55+ (69%) and health care professionals (60%).
- The level of support did not vary across regions, gender and/or education level.

Crown Corporation Distribution Model

- Response was mixed on the use of a crown corporation, such as the NSLC, as the distribution model with one-half (**49%**) indicating that they either *somewhat agree* or *completely agree* with this approach.
- Female respondents (55%) and those older than 34 years of age (53% and 56%) reported the greatest level of agreement with a crown corporation model.
- Agreement did not vary across regions or education levels.

Alternative Methods of Distribution

- a) New stand-alone stores operated by a Crown Corporation
 - Slightly more than one-half (**56%**) *agreed/strongly agreed* that recreational cannabis should be available in new stand-alone stores operated by a crown corporation.
 - Younger respondents under 35 showed stronger agreement with stand-alone stores.
 - More females agreed with stand-alone stores compared to males (62% vs. 51%).
 - Renters (65%) and those who supported legalization (60%) were relatively more supportive of this option compared to those who owned their own homes (54%) or were opposed to legalization (45%).
- b) Online ordering/home delivery
 - Overall, one-half of respondents (**50%**) *agreed/strongly agreed* that cannabis should be available through online ordering with home or store delivery, operated by a crown corporation.
 - There were substantial differences in agreement based on the level of support for legalization, as 58% of those in favour of legalization agreed with online ordering compared to only 16% of those opposed to legalization.
 - Agreement also varied considerably by age, with younger respondents much more in favour than older respondents – more than half (60%) of those 18-34 agreed with this method of distribution compared to only 38% of those 55+.
 - Renters were also relatively more supportive of online ordering (58% vs. 46% of those owning their own home).
 - Parents and health care professionals were least supportive of online ordering (42% and 37% respectively).
- c) Selling recreational cannabis in the same stores as alcohol
 - Similarly, one-half (**49%**) also *agreed/strongly agreed* that recreational cannabis ought to be sold in the same stores that sell alcohol.
 - There was slightly more agreement among those supporting legalization (51%) compared to those opposing the decision (42%).

Public Consumption

- a) Some outdoor public use
 - The vast majority (**73%**) of respondents agreed with some outdoor public use of recreational cannabis, with restrictions.
 - Support for some restricted outdoor use dropped significantly for those who opposed legalization (21%) and dropped slightly, although still a majority, for parents (60%) and health care professionals (60%).

- Males (78%) and those between the ages of 18-34 (83%) indicated even greater support than the overall level of support for this option.
- b) No outdoor public use
- The majority did not support a ban on outdoor public use as just over one-third (**35%**) supported completely prohibiting outdoor public use of smoked or vaped recreational cannabis.
 - Although the majority of responses were not in favour, males (29%) compared to females (42%) were less supportive as were those between the ages of 18-34 (23%) compared to those 55+ (47%) indicating their support for a complete ban on public consumption.

Impaired Driving

- Support was high for additional consequences for drug impaired driving as **71%** of those who completed the survey indicated their support (somewhat/strongly support) for such action.
- While there were some slight noted differences, the majority within all groups supported additional consequences.

Types of Public Education

- The top most desired topic of public education indicated by those who completed the survey were:
 - drug-impaired driving laws and penalties (75%);
 - health risks of recreational cannabis for children and youth under 25 years (61%);
 - the purpose of legalizing cannabis (55%); and
 - the health risks of recreational cannabis use (53%).
- Only 6% of respondents provided other topics of interest which generally related to:
 - regulatory information such as where cannabis can be grown, who can grow it, where it can be purchased and used;
 - information around enforcement - methods, reliability and costs; and
 - safe use – how to use responsibly and safely, information on dosage and different consumption methods, product quality.
- 38% of respondents provided “other comments” at the end of the survey. The majority of additional responses related to the distribution model (46% of all additional comments made), followed by comments on public consumption (18%).
 - The comments on distribution were generally citing that the model should be a private model

- The additional comments related to public consumption focused on the need to regulate cannabis like alcohol and the need to limit public smoking/vaping or complaints about the smell.

What We Heard from Stakeholders

Stakeholder Sessions

While some discussions focused slightly more on a particular topic than others, overall, similar comments and concerns were discussed across the sessions. The key themes are summarized below.

Legal Age

Most health-related organizations identified a need to have a higher legal age limit with many citing 21 or 25. These stakeholders raised concerns over the protection and health of youth, particularly the effects of cannabis on the developing brain of youth under the age of 25. Most other stakeholders recognized the health considerations, but noted that while the legal age of 19 is not necessarily ideal it is likely the most realistic – based on consistency for enforcement purposes (with the legal drinking age and other jurisdictions); a higher age limit was felt likely to drive youth to the black market.

Crown Corporation Distribution Model

Most stakeholders supported a crown corporation model, citing the ease of implementation through existing NSLC infrastructure, greater product control, ability to respond quickly to new developments and implement regulations more readily, as well as the ability to put profits back into education as well as health and social programs. Some concerns were raised related to co-location with alcohol, with a preference for stand-alone outlets; the need for restricted or no marketing compared to what is currently done by NSLC for alcohol products and controls needed similar to those imposed on tobacco.

There were a group of stakeholders who made counterpoints to a public model, citing that the public model would be expensive, driving up costs and doing little to keep people out of the black market, concerns regarding conflicts between retailing and regulation and whether it was an appropriate role for government to be involved in the sale of cannabis.

In terms of online ordering and home delivery, there was limited support for an online ordering/delivery model with most not aware that an online model for medicinal marijuana currently exists. Many stakeholders were concerned over the enforcement of controls put in place for delivery; however several stakeholders did speak to sales direct from producers offering better quality product which would protect the consumer.

A few stakeholders brought up the need for some type of direction on regulations around edible forms of recreational cannabis, citing a need to restrict the sale of edibles in forms appealing to children. Another topic mentioned by several stakeholders was concern over the supply of cannabis and its potential impact on medical users.

Public Consumption

Many stakeholders expressed that there is a need to protect the public and rights of non-users who might be affected by second-hand smoke should smoking or vaping be permitted in public. A number of stakeholders were concerned about potential discrimination should there be a ban on public consumption, as some individuals, notably renters, may find themselves not able to consume recreational cannabis despite it being legal.

There were many concerns expressed related to enforcement challenges around smoking/vaping in public. Most expressed that regulations should be similar to those used for tobacco and alcohol. A number of stakeholders discussed the possibility of having dedicated places for smoking/vaping cannabis.

Also expressed by many stakeholders were concerns over public or workplace intoxication and how this would be identified and enforced.

Municipalities and law enforcement stakeholders also raised concern over the likely increased volume of investigations, complaints and the impact this will have on training needs and staffing levels in addition to proper testing tools.

A number of stakeholders also called for public consumption regulations to be set provincially to ensure consistency.

Penalties for Impaired Driving by Cannabis

Most stakeholders had more questions than answers during the discussion around impaired driving, but all felt that public safety had to be the top concern, with many indicating that penalties for impaired driving from cannabis should be the same or similar to those currently in place for alcohol in Nova Scotia. Several stakeholders did feel that penalties should be stricter for cannabis compared to alcohol impairment.

Many stakeholders questioned the existence of reliable testing methods and the ability to define impairment by cannabis. Several noted difficulties that could be faced by current medical users.

Concern was also expressed over the additional enforcement burden and the increased costs related to enforcement.

Other Findings

Public education was deemed extremely important and many called for it to start now.

Those stakeholders representing organizations that rent accommodations were concerned about their ability to set their own policies around the growth of plants and/or smoking within their properties.

There was a call by some stakeholders for ensuring that decisions made when developing the framework were evidence-based.

A number of stakeholders indicated that the entire process was too rushed – the legalization timeline as well as the timeline for engaging stakeholders.

Anticipated enforcement challenges are of great concern – cross-border shopping within Canada will remain difficult with online ordering; enforcing the number of plants grown in a household will be difficult; ability to determine impairment from cannabis while in the workplace will be difficult.

Several stakeholders also mentioned the need to put in place a system and/or database to track outcomes among the population in order to assess the health, social and financial costs.

Written Submissions

A total of 24 written submissions were received from Nova Scotian and national organizations. Most were from health-related organizations with others representing youth advocacy organizations, the business community and not-for-profit organizations. A number of submissions were received from organizations not attending the sessions.

For the most part, the submissions reinforced the comments made by stakeholders at the sessions and served to clearly articulate their position and recommendations. The overall tone of the submissions was cautionary, with many expressing a desire for regulations that are based on health and safety, particularly among potentially vulnerable populations (e.g., economically or socially vulnerable groups, youth, etc.).

1.0 Detailed Findings: Introduction

Earlier this year, the Government of Canada announced its plans to legalize the purchase and use of recreational cannabis by July 2018. Under this legislation provinces and territories are responsible for making decisions and rules regarding the legalization of recreational cannabis in their respective jurisdictions in a number of areas. The identified key principles of a Nova Scotia-based approach are:

- Protection of public health and safety; encourage responsible social use and minimize harm;
- Protection of children and youth;
- Creation of a well-regulated legal market and minimize involvement of organized crime;
- Seek national or regional consistency

In June, Government indicated the province would consult with Nova Scotians to inform the provincial legislative and regulatory framework. The objectives of the public and stakeholder consultation were: Educate Nova Scotians and stakeholders of the coming legislation, increase transparency of government decision making, engage Nova Scotians and stakeholders to inform the development of the provincial regulatory framework, and identify key areas of concern of Nova Scotians and stakeholders regarding the legalization of cannabis.

How Nova Scotians Gave Their Views

During October 6 to 31, 2017 Nova Scotians were invited to complete a survey and a cross-section of stakeholders representing professional associations and governing bodies, health organizations, not-for-profits, industry, community organizations, youth organizations, municipalities, law enforcement agencies and unions were invited to sessions held throughout the province to provide their views on how Nova Scotia should approach legalization of cannabis in the province.

Public Survey

The survey was made available in both English and French and could be completed online or through hardcopy from Access Nova Scotia Centers throughout the Province for those without access to a computer. This survey approach was intended to provide the most access to the most Nova Scotians who wanted to provide their input. It was not intended to be a survey of a random selection of Nova Scotians. The findings from the survey cannot be extrapolated generally to the overall population; but rather are indicative of those who engaged in the process. Response to the survey was quick and generated a lot of interest. In total, **31,031** surveys were completed (including 37 mailed-back and 122 surveys completed in French). Forty percent of the online surveys were completed in the first 24 hours.

The survey included questions on four key topics to be dealt with under the provincial legislation, including:

- Legal age to purchase recreational cannabis;
- Distribution methods – how and where recreational cannabis will be sold;
- Public consumption – whether restrictions are needed on using recreational cannabis in public; and
- Impaired driving – whether additional restrictions are needed for driving using recreational cannabis.

In addition, questions related to public education and attitudes toward legalization were asked and at the end of the survey, an opportunity was provided for people to include any additional comments.

A copy of the questionnaire is presented in Appendix A of this report. This report presents what was heard from Nova Scotians during the process. The question by question findings from the survey are presented in the “Survey Findings” Section of this report. Key themes and comments emerging from the stakeholder sessions are presented in the “Stakeholder Input” Section of this report.

In-person Stakeholder Sessions and Submissions

A series of ten sessions were held with stakeholders throughout Nova Scotia: six sessions were held with a range of stakeholders, including health and mental health professionals, youth advocacy groups, education professionals, industry, law enforcement agencies and community organizations. These sessions were held in Bridgetown, Dartmouth, Halifax, Sydney and Truro. In addition, the Department of Municipal Affairs held four sessions, with 90 people participating from 41 municipalities, representing 82% of all municipalities in the province. These sessions were held in Port Hawkesbury, Truro, Kings County and Queen’s County. It should be noted that on-going dialogue is occurring with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi’kmaq Chiefs. Given the on-going nature of these discussions, results are not captured in this report. A list of organizations represented at the sessions is provided in Appendix B and those providing submissions are identified in Appendix C.

Overall, we heard from **194** individuals, representing **49 organizations** and **41 municipalities**, with **24 organizations** providing **written submissions**.

At each session a short presentation was made laying out the objectives of the meeting and providing some context and background information for stakeholders on the four key discussion topics:

- setting the minimum legal age;
- how recreational cannabis should be sold and distributed;
- how cannabis should be used in public; and
- penalties for drug-impaired driving.

The presentation included information on regulations that have already been set federally around cannabis use, current provincial laws relevant to cannabis use and the decisions areas where the province is seeking stakeholder input. Following the presentation, stakeholders were presented with a number of questions and table discussions occurred.

Following the table discussions, stakeholders presented their views through a facilitated discussion and were given an opportunity to provide other comments. A note-taker recorded the discussion and stakeholders were encouraged to leave their comment sheets behind. All of the feedback submitted during each session was combined with the notes from the discussions to form part of the session summaries. The table discussion questions are presented in Appendix D.

2.0 Detailed Findings: What We Heard From Survey Respondents

Who Responded to the Survey?

Many people across the province participated in the survey:

- 51% males; 49% females
- 56% resided within HRM
- 68% had obtained a college/university diploma/degree
- 40% aged 18-34

Compared to the overall demographic makeup of Nova Scotia, a lot of young, urban, people with more formal education completed the survey. A graphical comparison between survey respondents and the 2016 Census is provided in Appendix E. The findings from the survey presented in this report represent the results of those who responded to the survey and cannot be generalized to the overall population of Nova Scotia. The results represent the views of those who took the survey.

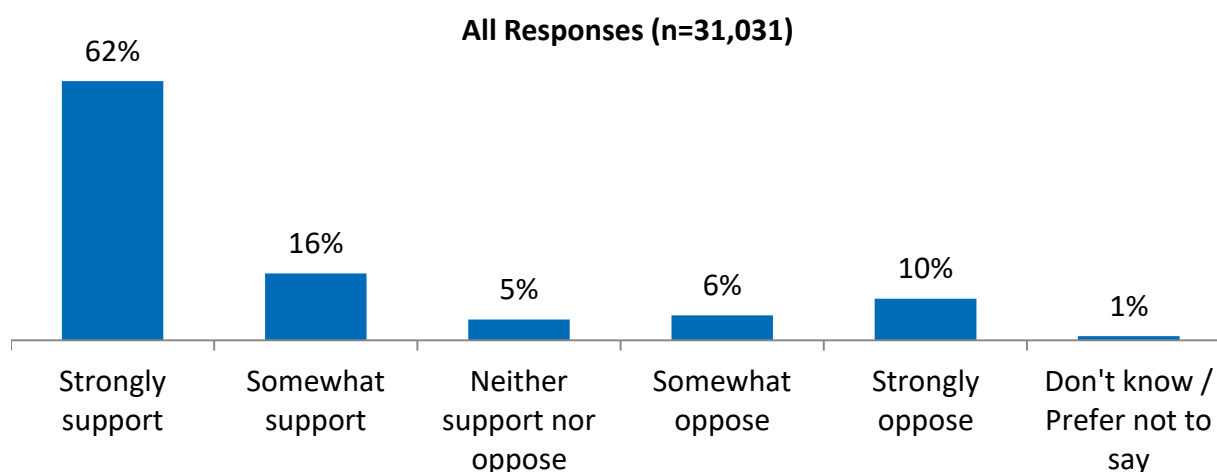
Detailed Survey Findings

The overall findings and any demographic differences for each survey question are presented for each of the four major topics on the survey. The key themes and comments from the “other comments” section at the end of the survey are also summarized.

Level of Support for Legalized Recreational Cannabis

1. To what degree do you support or oppose the Federal Government’s decision to legalize recreational cannabis?

Figure 1: Support for Federal Government’s Decision to Legalize Recreational Cannabis



Key Findings

- Most (over three-quarters) of those who completed the survey were generally and consistently supportive of the federal government’s decision to legalize recreational cannabis.
- Young people (18-34 years) supported legalization of recreational cannabis the most.
- Males supported legalization slightly more than females.
- Those living in rural areas supported legalization of recreational cannabis the same amount as those living in urban areas.

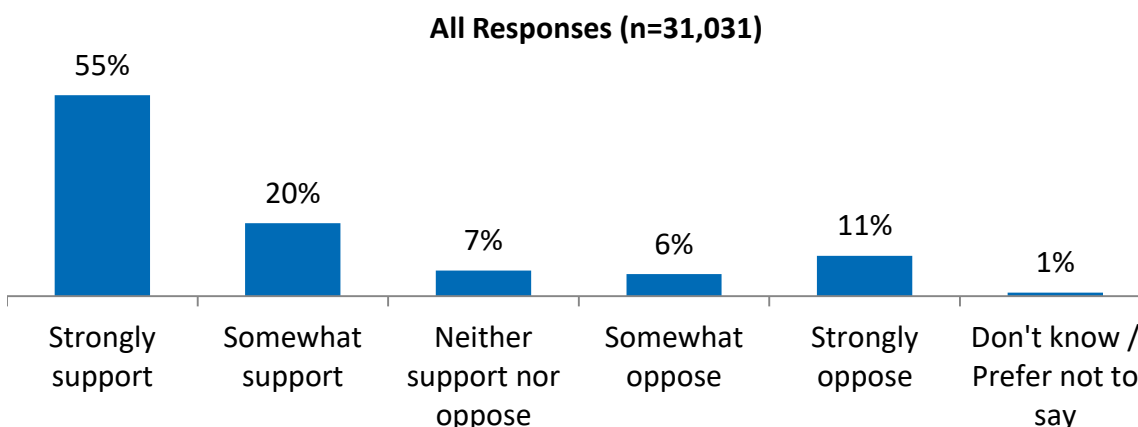
- Support for legalization was consistent across educational levels.
- Health care professionals and parents showed significantly less support, with 61% and 66% respectively indicating some/strong support for the decision to legalize recreational cannabis.
- Renters (88%) showed significantly more support for the decision.

Setting a Minimum Legal Age Limit

The Government of Canada has proposed a minimum legal age of 18 years old to have, buy and use recreational cannabis. Provinces and territories are able to set a higher legal age. The Government of Nova Scotia is considering setting the legal age at 19 years and thus asked for Nova Scotian's opinion on this.

1. To what extent do you support or oppose the province setting the legal age limit at 19?

Figure 2: Support for Legal Age Limit of 19



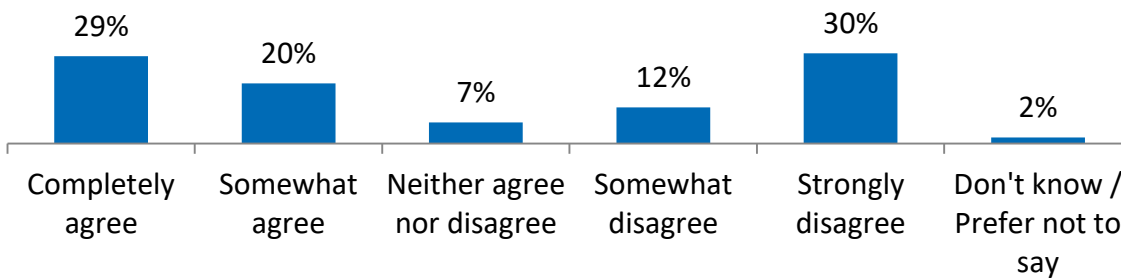
Key Findings

- Overall, most people (75%) responding to the survey supported setting the legal age limit at 19.
- Young people (those under 35) were the most supportive for setting the legal age limit of 19 and support, while still high was relatively lowest amongst those 55+ (69%)
- Support for setting the legal age limit at 19 did not vary across gender, regions or education levels.
- Support was much higher among supporters of legalization compared to those opposed (83% vs. 43%) to the decision.
- Support, while still high, was relatively lowest amongst those 55+ (69%) and health care professionals (60%).

Selling and Distributing Recreational Cannabis

2. The provincial government is considering using an existing Crown corporation (such as the NSLC) to sell recreational cannabis. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this approach?

Figure 3: Agreement with Using Existing Crown Corporations to Sell Recreational Cannabis
All Responses (n=31,031)



Key Findings

- Support among survey respondents for a Crown-controlled sale of recreational cannabis was split, with slightly more people agreeing with a Crown-controlled sales model (49%) versus 43% who disagreed with a Crown corporation model.
- Females (55%) and those 35 years of age or older (ranging from 53% to 56%) reported the greatest level of agreement with selling and distributing recreational cannabis through a Crown Corporation.
- Agreement did not vary across regions or education levels.

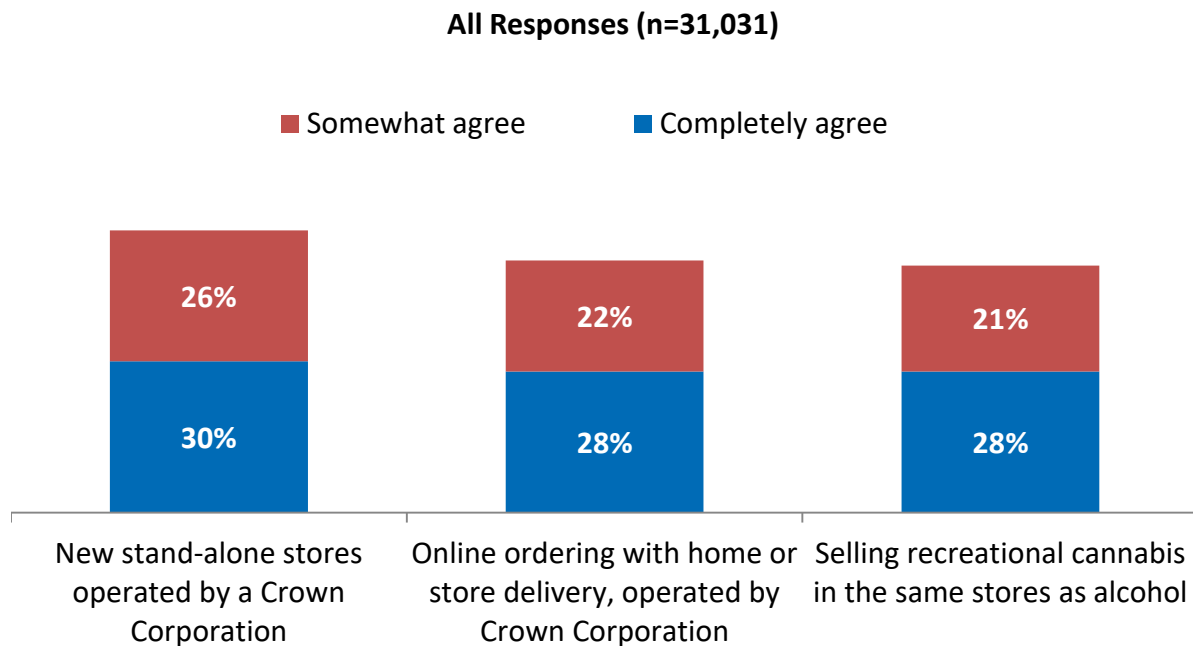
Ways to Sell Cannabis

Survey respondents were asked to provide their level of agreement with a number of ways that recreational cannabis could be sold.

3. There are different ways recreational cannabis can be sold. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following options:

- a) Online ordering with home or store delivery, operated by a Crown corporation
- b) New stand-alone stores operated by a Crown corporation
- c) Selling recreational cannabis in the same stores as alcohol

Figure 4: Agreement with Alternate Approaches for Selling Recreational Cannabis



Key Findings

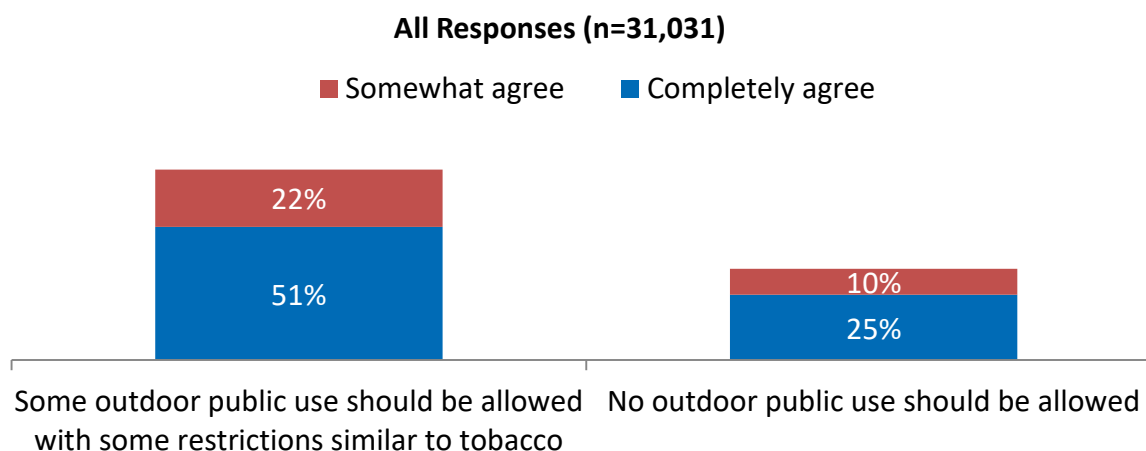
- Again, as with the type of model to be used, views on alternative ways of selling recreational cannabis were divided, with a slight majority (56%) agreeing with having new stand-alone stores operated by a crown corporation.
- As many survey respondents agreed as disagreed with online ordering and co-location of recreational cannabis with alcohol in the same stores.
- Differences were noted among various groups as follows:
 - a) New stand-alone stores operated by a Crown Corporation

- Younger respondents under 35 showed stronger agreement (60%) with stand-alone stores.
 - More females agreed with stand-alone stores compared to males (62% vs. 51%).
- b) Online ordering/home delivery
- Agreement also varied considerably by age, with younger respondents much more in favour of online ordering/home delivery than older respondents – more than half (60%) of those 18-34 agreed with this method of distribution compared to only 38% of those 55+.
 - There were substantial differences in agreement based on the level of support for legalization, as 58% of those in favour of legalization agreed with online ordering compared to only 16% of those opposed to legalization.
 - Renters were also relatively more supportive of online ordering (58% vs. 46% of those owning their own home).
 - Parents and health care professionals were least supportive of online ordering (42% and 37% respectively agreed with this method of selling).
- c) Selling recreational cannabis in the same stores as alcohol
- There were no noted differences in agreement levels based on age, gender, education or region.
 - Although opinions remain divided, there was slightly more agreement with co-locating recreational cannabis and alcohol in the same store among those supporting legalization (51%) compared to those opposing the decision (42%).

Where Cannabis Can be Used (Smoked or Vaped) in Public

4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:
- 1) No outdoor public use of smoked or vaped recreational cannabis should be allowed; and
 - 2) Some outdoor public use of recreational cannabis should be allowed with some restrictions, similar to those now in place related to tobacco

Figure 5: Attitudes Towards the Outdoor Public Use of Recreational Cannabis



Key Findings

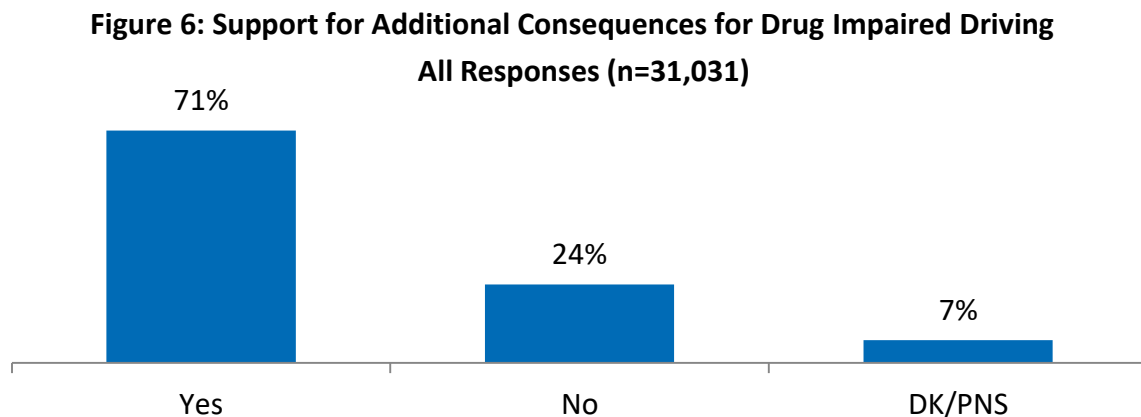
- Overall, a strong majority (73%) of those completing the survey agreed with some restricted outdoor public use of recreational cannabis in Nova Scotia, similar to what is in place for tobacco.
 - Males (78%) and those between 18-34 years old (83%) were the most supportive of allowing some restricted public use of recreational cannabis.
 - Support for some restricted outdoor use dropped significantly for those who opposed legalization (21%) and dropped slightly, although still at a majority, for parents (60%) and health care professionals (60%).
- Just over one in three respondents agreed with a complete ban on outdoor public use of smoked or vaped recreational cannabis.
 - Although the majority of people disagreed with a complete ban on outdoor public use of recreational cannabis, support for a ban was relatively higher for females (42% agreeing with a ban) and those aged 55 years and older (47% agreeing).

Penalties for Impaired Driving by Cannabis

Those who answered the survey were asked whether the Government of Nova Scotia should make additional rules related to drug impaired driving, as it has done for alcohol impaired driving. The current provincial penalties for alcohol impaired driving were presented. These are:

- A driver that has a blood alcohol content between 50 mg/100 mL and 80 mg/100 mL of blood can receive an immediate 7-day license suspension for the first incident, 15-days for the second incident, and 30-days for a subsequent incident.
- If a driver's blood alcohol content is over 80 mg/100 mL of blood, the person will receive a 90-day suspension. Upon conviction, a driver will have his/her license revoked for at least one year.

5. Should the government establish additional provincial consequences for drug-impaired driving similar to those it has for alcohol impaired driving?



Key Findings

- Most people (71%) who completed the survey supported having additional consequences for cannabis-related impaired driving similar to those in place for alcohol.
- Females, those aged 34 and older, and those who completed university or college were the most supportive of Nova Scotia having additional consequences for drug-impaired driving.

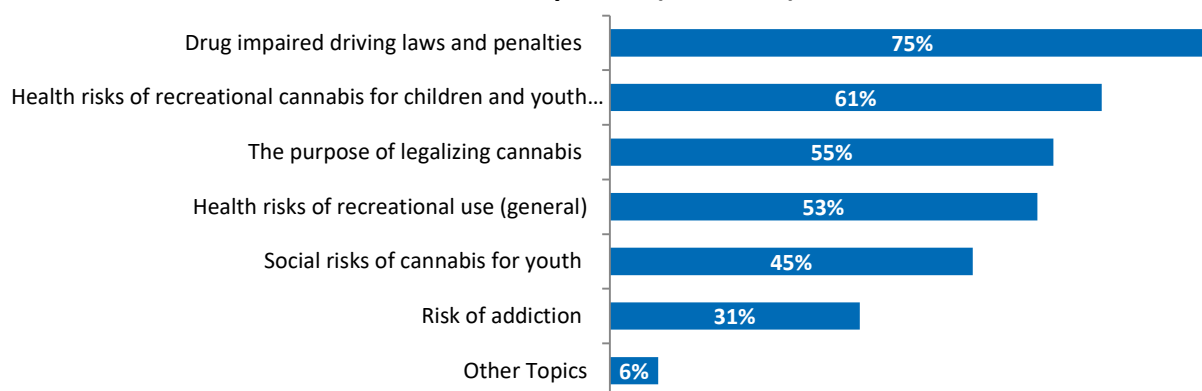
Important Topics for Public Education

To understand what public education information Nova Scotians felt to be important, the survey presented a list of possible topics and provided space for those answering the survey to volunteer other types of information that were important to them.

Q4. When it comes to the safe use of recreational cannabis, what public education information is important to you?

Figure 7: Desired Topics of Public Education

All Responses (n=31,031)



Key Findings

- According to those who answered the survey, the two most important topics for public education from the options provided were information on:
 - Drug impaired driving laws and penalties (75%); and
 - Health risks of recreational cannabis for children and youth under 25 years (61%).
- A majority of people, also felt it important to educate on:
 - The purpose of legalizing cannabis (e.g., protecting youth, getting rid of illegal market, reducing revenues from illicit market) (55%).
 - The Health risks of recreational use (e.g., mental illness, drug poisoning, respiratory illnesses, or risk of use during pregnancy) (53%).
- A large number of people also wanted education on:
 - Social risks of cannabis for youth (e.g., suspension or expulsion from school, not graduating, etc) (45%); and
 - Risk of addiction (31%).

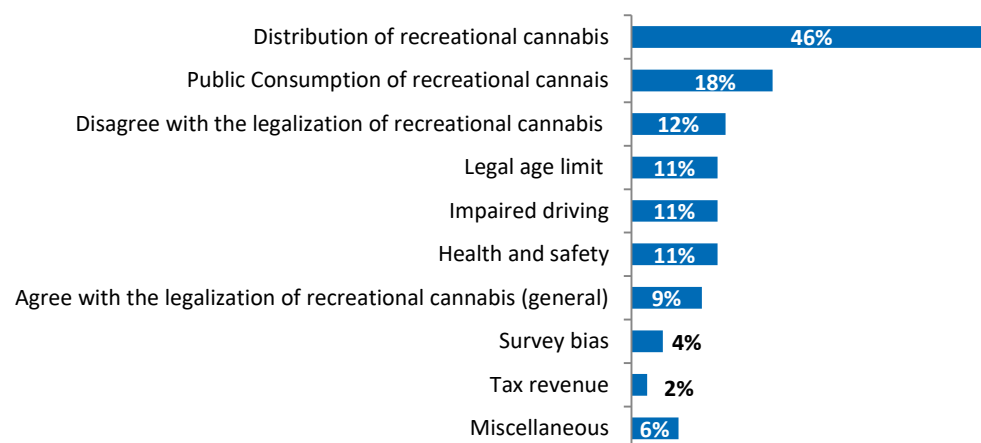
- Only 6% of people volunteered other topics. These included:
 - regulatory information, related to
 - the legal age to smoke and buy cannabis;
 - the amount allowed for possession and growing;
 - where cannabis can be grown, who can grow it, where it can be purchased and where it can be used;
 - enforcement topics, from the methods that will be used, the reliability of drug testing to the associated costs;
 - use on the job;
 - rights of non-smokers; and
 - second hand smoke.
 - information on the safe use of cannabis, including:
 - how to use cannabis responsibly and safely;
 - information on dosage and different consumption methods (e.g. smoking, edibles, vaporizing) and how different forms and dosages affect the body;
 - the difference between medical use and recreational use;
 - the types and quality of cannabis products;
 - possible negative effects of cannabis, including the effects of using cannabis in addition to other drugs; and
 - information on issues like the impact of cannabis use during pregnancy and breast feeding and concerns such as lacing and pesticides.
 - more information about cannabis in general, including:
 - more research to better understand health impacts and the potential social impacts of legalization;
 - a desire to understand and educate around the impact legalization would have on those already in jail/convicted for cannabis offences;
 - sharing the potential impact on the current illegal market;
 - the origin and history of cannabis use;
 - education aimed at reducing the stigma associated with cannabis use;
 - education on potential tax revenue; and
 - general information on the medical uses and benefits and positive aspects of cannabis use.

Other Thoughts/Comments

At the end of the survey, those who took part were given an opportunity to provide additional thought. A wide variety of comments were made with many mentioning multiple topics. Almost four in ten people completing the survey (38%) noted other thoughts at the end of the survey.

Final Comments Question: Do you have any additional thoughts to share?"

Figure 8: Common topics in additional feedback – % of Total Mentions
Subset: Those Providing Other Comments (n=11,707)



Key Findings

Distribution-related Comments:

Almost half of the comments made at the end of the survey related to how recreational cannabis should be sold (i.e. distributed).

The most frequently mentioned comment (by 34% of those making comments; 13% of all respondents) related to using private industry to distribute recreational cannabis calling for sales through private, independent retailers, or not using the same infrastructure as a crown corporation model, or NSLC, in particular. There were also a few mentions of selling through pharmacies, tobacco retailers, and permitting recreational cannabis to be sold in a similar way to that of beer, through craft breweries.

Furthermore, one in ten of those making comments (4% of all respondents), did comment that recreational cannabis should be sold using a public model, using the same infrastructure, system or framework as a crown corporation or the NSLC.

Other comments made related to distribution were noted by only 1% of all respondents. These respondents called for competitive pricing in order to compete with the current illegal market; the need for employees to be trained in cannabis, i.e. to be knowledgeable about the product; and the need to learn from other provinces/countries (both positive and negative learnings).

Public Consumption-related Comments:

A distant second major theme within the comments provided at the end of the survey related to public consumption. These comments represented 18% of all comments made, 7% of all those who did the survey.

The most frequently mentioned comments were about having partial regulation on public consumption of recreational cannabis. Many more comments were in favour of partial restrictions (such as those currently used for alcohol and/or tobacco) rather than a complete ban on public use of recreational cannabis.

Other Comments:

After the two topics noted above, the next most frequently mentioned comments related to the legal age, health and safety and impaired driving, each representing 11% of all the extra comments made and 4% of all survey respondents.

a) Legal Age

Overall, most responses provided in the additional feedback were recommendations on the legal age for purchasing recreational cannabis. The majority of comments specifically recommended a legal age of 20 years or older, with equal numbers recommending an age of 21-24, or 25+ years of age.

b) Health and Safety

Specific comments related to:

- the health risks for youth;
- the negative health impact in general; and
- the positive health impacts of recreational cannabis.

c) Impaired Driving

The majority of responses regarding impaired driving were specifically concerned with developing methods to efficiently and effectively monitor and enforce laws against impaired drivers. The most common comments were:

- the need to be able to properly test for cannabis-related impairment; and
- the need to update impaired driving laws.

d) General disagreement or positive comments about legalization

In addition to specific topics, approximately one in ten of the additional comments (from about 4%-5% of survey respondents) were about people's disagreement with the legalization of recreational cannabis or making general, positive comments about the legalization. Overall, general disagreement comments were about specific concerns on the negative social impacts; not wanting to have recreational cannabis around children; and/or believing that instead of legalization, cannabis should be fully decriminalized.

A small percentage of the people who provided additional feedback commented positively on the legalization of recreational cannabis in general and expressed concerns about over-regulation/restrictions.

e) Survey Bias and Tax Revenue

A small percentage of the additional thoughts provided at the end of the survey (4% of comments and 2% of individuals) related to perceived survey bias toward crown corporations and general comments on the survey content, such as conveying that the government has already made its decisions.

Most comments related to tax revenues from the sale of cannabis tended to recommend putting the revenue back into the system for healthcare, mental health and addictions programs or public education, with some mention of keeping the profits in the province and local communities.

f) Miscellaneous Comments

Comments were considered "miscellaneous" if there were not enough similar comments to make a group or topic. Six percent of all comments fell into this category. A few examples are provided below:

"Will they open the facility in Stellerton that was already going to be a marijuana facility?"

"What about past marijuana convictions for people who need a job?"

"There has to be some certain conditions involved."

"Just do it right and safe for everyone!"

3.0 Detailed Findings: What We Heard From Stakeholders

3.1 In-person Sessions

While some discussions focused slightly more on a particular topic than others, overall, similar comments and concerns were discussed across the sessions. The key themes are summarized below.

Setting the Minimum Legal Age

Most organizations suggested raising the age limit above 19 due to youth health concerns, with many people suggesting an increased age limit to 21 or 25 in order to avoid negative developmental, social and/or physiological impacts on youth. Comments were also made in support of raising the legal age limit to avoid exposing high school students too early and to avoid possible associations between cannabis and alcohol.

However, some organizations supported setting the legal age at 19, because this is the same legal age for alcohol and tobacco consumption. Some organizations also pointed out that if youth are trusted to vote in elections and to make decisions about smoking tobacco and/or drinking alcohol, then they should also be trusted to make decisions about recreational cannabis use. This was seen to ensure regulatory consistency across substances and with other provinces in the region. Regulatory consistency was felt to be important to many stakeholders with this view as it would streamline enforcement and make it easier for the public to understand. There were also concerns that setting the legal age too high might drive youth to the black market where the product is unregulated and may be unsafe. A few organizations acknowledged that although health concerns make 21 or 25 ideal legal age limits, practical considerations make 19 a realistic age limit.

In summary, the discussion around legal age was focused primarily on the negative health impacts of cannabis use on the developing brain of youth under age 25 and regulatory consistency. For many, while it was felt that research and medical evidence supported a higher age restriction, but that setting the legal age at 19 was much more realistic for enforcement and may keep youth from risks associated with unregulated black market cannabis use.

Selling and Distributing Recreational Cannabis

There was much discussion on the potential model for selling and distributing recreational cannabis with two differing viewpoints. Most stakeholders at the sessions were supportive of a crown corporation model with mixed views expressed regarding using the NSLC specifically; while other stakeholders supported using a private system.

Those who supported using a crown corporation commented that such an approach would more readily protect public health and reduce harm to the public, especially youth. Most of these stakeholders spoke of the greater control that could be placed on the sale of recreational cannabis and to a lesser degree cost-efficiencies were mentioned. Factors noted included the consistency and practicality of using the NSLC to distribute regulated products like alcohol through existing structures; efficient product quality control; the ability to regulate the location of stores, hours of operation and the amount that could be sold in any one transaction; as well as greater professionalism.

However, some stakeholders liked the idea of publicly-owned organizations selling and distributing recreational cannabis, but were not supportive of using the NSLC because of linking cannabis and alcohol. Some stakeholders noted that it would allow easy access and could promote use of both together. These stakeholders called for stand-alone stores from current NSLC locations.

Municipal leaders want to have a say in where possible recreation cannabis retail stores could be located in their communities.

Those who supported an independent or private sales model focused on the extra cost of using a public model (e.g. “middle men” producers, construction of new buildings), and argued that these costs would increase the price of recreational cannabis making products not competitive with the black market. There were also questions raised about the role of government generally in selling recreational cannabis and the conflict between retailing and regulating.

Many stakeholders also had concerns about where and how cannabis could be sold including how online sales would be regulated, the location of stores (e.g., beyond school zones), marketing and advertising, pricing and whether or not edible recreational cannabis would also be legalized. Several people expressed concern over the supply of cannabis and worried that medical users of cannabis could be negatively affected.

Where Cannabis Can be Used (Smoked or Vaped) in Public

For the most part, stakeholders supported some restrictions on where they felt the consumption of recreational cannabis ought to be allowed (e.g. instead of a complete public ban or zero restrictions). The discussion on restricting where cannabis could be used in public focused on health concerns such as the effects of second hand smoke. Many felt that the regulations currently in place for the use of tobacco and alcohol in public should be similar for

cannabis. Challenges in enforcement were noted by some stakeholders including the ability for property owners and landlords to be able to set their own regulations; the increased costs of enforcement (money and people); as well as the need for provincially set regulations to ensure consistency.

Penalties for Impaired Driving by Cannabis

Public safety was a shared concern among stakeholders, who also raised questions about the enforceability of laws and the penalties associated with breaking these laws. For example, many stakeholders asked questions about user tolerance, the legal limit of consumption before driving, and whether or not impairment could actually be measured. Some stakeholders also raised concerns about the cost of enforcing laws and distributing penalties for communities, municipalities and law enforcement officers. However, overall, stakeholders generally agreed that fines and sanctions should be the same or similar to those already in place for alcohol-related impaired driving.

Need for Public Education

Nearly everyone who took part in the stakeholder sessions agreed that public education, particularly for youth, was very important. Many reasons supporting public education focused on telling young people about the risks and impacts of cannabis use. Other comments related to the messaging and advertising of “recreational cannabis”, with a few stakeholders believing that the term “recreational” suggested “fun” and “healthy” and instead, suggested using “non-medical” to describe this type of cannabis.

Other Topics

Most of the comments provided by stakeholders when asked if they had thoughts on other topics besides what had already been mentioned focused on:

- distribution (e.g., growing cannabis at home, licensing, edible products);
- revenue from recreational cannabis (e.g., where revenues should be allocated)
- general comments about the consultation process (e.g., questionnaire bias, too rushed)
- challenges related to enforcement (e.g., across provinces, online sales)
- a need to monitor and track outcomes for policy setting - health statistics (e.g., increase in certain diseases or number of car accidents); social implications (e.g. incarcerations for offences by age; increase addiction); and financial costs .

3.2 Written Submissions

A total of 24 written submissions were received from Nova Scotian and national organizations. Most were from health-related organizations with others representing youth advocacy organizations, the business community and not-for-profit organizations. A number of submissions were received from organizations not attending the sessions. These included:

1. The Arthritis Society and Canadians for Fair Access to Medical Marijuana (Joint Submission)
2. Retail Council of Canada
3. Cannabis Canada Association
4. Insurance Bureau of Canada
5. Nova Scotia Directors of Planning Association
6. Nova Scotia Regional Medical Officers of Health
7. Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union
8. Association of Psychologists of Nova Scotia

For the most part, the submissions reinforced the comments made by stakeholders at the sessions and served to clearly articulate their position and recommendations. The overall tone of the submissions was cautionary, with many expressing a desire for regulations that are based on health and safety, particularly among potentially vulnerable populations (e.g., economically or socially vulnerable groups, youth, etc.). A brief summary follows.

Setting the Minimum Legal Age

Stakeholders shared similar concerns about setting the legal age limit at 19, with many organizations suggesting that the age limit should be increased in general and/or to 20+ years specifically. Most of the reasons for a higher age limit were about health and concerns of possible developmental damage, cannabis dependency, and/or reduced cognitive functioning in youth.

Selling and Distributing Recreational Cannabis

Like the responses to the survey questions, many of the written submissions showed a mixed response of where and how recreational cannabis ought to be sold. Most submissions supported Government-controlled organizations, believing that health would be a big component (e.g., regulate potency, strains). It was also suggested that stand-alone, Government-operated businesses would prevent linking of cannabis to other substances such as alcohol and tobacco; prevent monopolization of the cannabis market by a few, multinational companies (e.g., “Big Cannabis”), and would also be able to make regulatory changes quickly.

However, some submissions supported privatized sale of recreational cannabis in order to take advantage of economic potential (e.g., entrepreneurial opportunities, undercut black market, new cannabis industry; improve geographical access of recreational cannabis for all Nova Scotians; limit/prevent added taxes; build on existing network, and limit high costs of establishing new facilities, management structures, and regulatory compliance systems). At least two stakeholders also noted that the retail distribution of medical cannabis should be separate from recreational cannabis and that Nova Scotians should have access to advice on the use and types of cannabis for medical uses (e.g., pharmacies should have exclusive authority to retail medical cannabis, medical cannabis should not be taxed, etc.).

However, regardless of whether or not distribution is publically or privately governed, many written submissions included concerns about the availability of cannabis to youth (e.g., limiting where stores selling cannabis should be allowed; offering targeted-education to youth on the side effects of cannabis, limiting the forms of cannabis such as a candies, selling cannabis in child-proof containers, etc). Several stakeholders also emphasized the importance of targeted pricing in order to undermine the illegal cannabis market. Suggestions included: minimizing taxes placed on cannabis, link pricing to THC content and strength, and/or link pricing to dosage and content.

Many organizations also requested strict marketing restrictions similar to tobacco products and/or alcohol (e.g., prohibit sales or discounts, no advertising, advertising should include warning labels, list of product contents such as amount of concentration of THC). It was also mentioned by at least one stakeholder that advertising should not be so restricted as to impact the ability for average Canadians to discern legal cannabis from illegal product.

Where Cannabis Can be Used (Smoked or Vaped) in Public

An overall sense of the feedback showed general concern regarding unregulated smoking/vaping of cannabis in public (e.g., parks, beaches, sidewalks, etc). Many submissions contained suggestions that would restrict where cannabis could be consumed in public (e.g., like tobacco).

At least one stakeholder also mentioned limiting renters' ability to grow cannabis on rental properties. Another recommended having specific exemptions to vaporized use for medical users in certain public places such as health care facilities, emergency situations and workplaces at the employers' discretion.

Penalties for Impaired Driving by Cannabis

Many organizations expressed a concern regarding cannabis-related impaired driving. Recommendations from stakeholders include: the need for additional policing and adequate law enforcement measures including the ability to detect cannabis-related impairment, as well as to prohibit the transportation of cannabis; targeted marketing and public education regarding the effects of cannabis on drivers.

Other Mentions

Other considerations suggested by stakeholders include: decriminalize cannabis for all age groups; mandatory education for those who sell recreational cannabis; revenue from cannabis-related taxes should be used for education, health care services, prevention and/or research and development. Some stakeholders also emphasized that in order to reduce red tape, the provincial government should harmonize regulations of recreational cannabis across the Atlantic Canadian provinces.

Appendix A: Public Survey

Nova Scotia's Approach to Cannabis: Public Survey

INTRODUCTION

The Government of Canada is set to legalize the purchase and use of recreational cannabis by July 2018. The forms of cannabis to be covered under this legislation include recreational smoked or vaped cannabis, but not edible forms.

Provinces and territories are responsible for making decisions and rules in a number of areas such as the legal age to purchase and use recreational cannabis, where it can be purchased, and where it can be used.

The Government of Nova Scotia wants to hear from Nova Scotians to determine how to respond and adapt to the upcoming federal legislation. More information is available at www.novascotia.ca/cannabis

Before we start, we'd like to define some terms used in this survey:

Cannabis – When we say cannabis, we mean cannabis products in general, including dried cannabis (“weed”, “pot”, “marijuana”), fresh cannabis, cannabis oil, seeds and plants. This is the same term that the Government of Canada uses.

Recreational cannabis – This means cannabis that is not prescribed for medical use, but rather is for personal, social, spiritual and other non-medical uses.

Cannabis can be used in many ways including:

- *Smoked*
- *Vapourized or vaped*
- *Consumed as food or beverage*
- *Other (tinctures taken orally and lotions applied to the skin)*

For this survey, unless otherwise stated, recreational cannabis use refers to smoking and vaping.

The federal legislation is due to be in effect by July 2018.

Surveys must be returned by October 27, 2017.

Completed Surveys can be mailed to:

***Nova Scotia Cannabis Survey
c/o MQO Research
PO Box 10 Halifax Central
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2L7***

Completed surveys can also be left at Access Nova Scotia locations.

INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS

Please read all questions carefully and answer by using the space provided or by checking the appropriate response.

S1. To begin, into which of the following categories does your age fall? Please note you must be 18 or older to participate.

- 18 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 65
- 65 or older
- Prefer not to answer

Q1a. Are you completing this survey on behalf of:

If more than one category applies to you, please select the one that best describes how you will be answering the questions.

- Yourself
- As a parent (of a child/children under 18)
- As a representative of a Nova Scotia association
- As a representative of a Nova Scotia branch/chapter of a national association
- As a representative of a business
- As a health care professional
- Other (specify): _____

Q1b. **Please answer this question if you are completing the survey on behalf of an association or other organization:** If you wish to do so, please specify which association or organization you are completing this survey on behalf of. Please do not write any information that can identify you personally:

Prefer not to answer

Q2a. Are you a resident of Nova Scotia?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

Note to all non-residents: *Thank you for your interest. This is a survey to gather the opinions of Nova Scotians to inform Nova Scotia's approach to recreational cannabis and therefore you are ineligible to complete this survey.*

Q2b. Please enter the first 3-digits of your postal code. Your answer will help us understand if opinions vary in different areas of the province.

Postal Code

Q2c. In what **county** of the province do you live?

- Annapolis
- Antigonish
- Cape Breton
- Colchester
- Cumberland
- Digby
- Guysborough
- Halifax Regional Municipality
- Hants
- Inverness
- Kings
- Lunenburg
- Pictou
- Region of Queens Municipality
- Richmond
- Shelburne
- Victoria
- Yarmouth
- Prefer not to answer

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Q3. To what degree do you support or oppose the federal government's decision to legalize recreational cannabis? Do you...

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Prefer not to answer
- Don't know/not sure/no opinion

Q4. When it comes to the safe use of recreational cannabis, what public education information is important to you?

Select all that apply.

- Drug-impaired driving laws and penalties
- Health risks of recreational cannabis use (e.g. mental illness, drug poisoning, respiratory illness, or risks during pregnancy)
- Health risks of recreational cannabis for children and youth under 25
- Social risks of cannabis for youth (e.g. suspension or expulsion from school, not graduating)
- Risk of addiction
- The purpose of legalizing cannabis (e.g. protecting youth, getting rid of the illegal market, reducing revenues from illegal activities)
- Other (Please specify)

LEGAL AGE

The Government of Canada intends to set the minimum age for the possession and consumption of recreational cannabis at 18 years old. Provinces and territories can set a higher legal age. The Government of Nova Scotia is considering setting the legal age limit to purchase, possess and use at 19 years. This would be consistent with the legal drinking age and legal smoking age in Nova Scotia, and it would align with the legal age expected to be set by other provinces.

Q5. To what extent do you support or oppose the province setting the legal age limit at 19. Do you...

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Prefer not to answer
- Don't know/not sure/no opinion

DISTRIBUTION MODEL

A priority for Nova Scotia is to create a well-regulated legal market for recreational cannabis that minimizes illegal activity. A Nova Scotia crown corporation, such as the Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation (NSLC), would have extensive experience in selling a controlled substance. We would like to understand where Nova Scotians feel recreational cannabis should be sold.

Q6. The provincial government is considering using an existing Crown corporation (such as the NSLC) to sell recreational cannabis.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this approach?

- Completely agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Completely disagree
- Prefer not to answer
- Don't know/not sure/no opinion

Q7. There are different ways recreational cannabis can be sold. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following options:

	Completely Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	Prefer not to answer	Don't know / Not sure / No opinion
Online ordering with home or store delivery, operated by a Crown corporation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
New stand-alone stores operated by a Crown corporation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Selling recreational cannabis in the same stores as alcohol	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

PUBLIC CONSUMPTION

It's up to the provinces and territories to decide where and under what circumstances recreational cannabis can be used in public. According to the Nova Scotia Smoke-free Places Act, a person cannot smoke or vape any substance in indoor public places and workplaces, school grounds and some outdoor spaces such as restaurant patios and near doorways. This would include smoking or vaping cannabis. We would like to understand what Nova Scotians feel about other locations where use of recreational cannabis should be allowed or not allowed.

Q8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Completely Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	Prefer not to answer	Don't know / Not sure / No opinion
No outdoor public use of smoked or vaped recreational cannabis should be allowed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Some outdoor public use of recreational cannabis should be allowed with some restrictions, similar to those now in place related to tobacco.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

IMPAIRED DRIVING

The federal government has proposed changes to the Criminal Code to enable police to better detect drug-impaired drivers and introduced new drug-impaired driving offences and penalties. The federal government also allows provinces to make additional rules related to drug-impaired driving.

In general, the current provincial penalties for alcohol impaired driving are:

- ***A driver that has a blood alcohol content between 50 mg/100 mL and 80mg/100mL of blood can receive an immediate 7-day license suspension for the first incident, 15-days for the second incident, and 30-days for a subsequent incident.***
- ***If a driver's blood alcohol content is over 80 mg/100 mL of blood, the person will receive a 90-day suspension. Upon conviction, a driver will have his/her license revoked for at least one year.***

Q9. Should the government establish additional provincial consequences for drug-impaired driving similar to those it has for alcohol impaired driving?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / not sure / no opinion

Now we have just a few final questions to help with analyzing the views of Nova Scotians.

D1. Are you:

- Male
- Female
- Other
- Prefer not to answer

D2. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Less than high school
- Completed high school
- Some college or university
- Completed college or university
- Prefer not to answer

D3. Do you currently have any dependent children under the age of 18 living with you?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

D4. Do you currently own or rent your home?

- Own
- Rent
- Prefer not to answer

In closing, do you have any additional thoughts to share? Please provide your comments on the following page. **Please do not include any information that can identify you personally.**

Completed Surveys can be mailed to:

***Nova Scotia Cannabis Survey
c/o MQO Research
PO Box 10 Halifax Central
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2L7***

Completed surveys can also be left at Access Nova Scotia locations.

Other comments/thoughts:



Thank you for contributing to the feedback. This information will be used to inform Nova Scotia's approach to recreational cannabis legislation.

Appendix B: List of Stakeholders (Session Attendance)

Stakeholders Attending Sessions	
Amherst Police Department	IWK Mental Health & Addictions Program - child/adolescent psychiatry
Acadia University	IWK Regional Poison Centre
Annapolis and Kingston/Greenwood Community Health Board	Kentville Police
Annapolis Community Health Board	Labour and Advanced Education
Annapolis Royal Police Department	MADD Canada (Mothers Against Drunk Driving)
Aqualitas	Maritimers Unite for Medical Marijuana Society
Association of Atlantic Universities	Mental Health and Addictions-Nova Scotia Health Authority
Atlantic Collaborative on Injury Prevention	Mount Saint Vincent University
Atlantic School of Theology	Nova Scotia College of Art and Design
Boys and Girls Club of Truro and Colchester	Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists
Breathing Green Solutions Inc	Nova Scotia Early Psychosis Program (NSEPP); Early Psychosis Intervention Nova Scotia (EPINS)
Canadian Cancer Society	Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
Canadian Federation of independent Business	Nova Scotia Health Authority
Canadian Federation of Students	Public Health
Canadian Mental Health Association Nova Scotia Division	RCMP
Cape Breton Regional Police	Saint Mary's University

Stakeholders Attending Sessions (Continued)	
Cape Breton University	Smoke-Free Nova Scotia
Community Health Boards - Colchester County	Stellarton Police Commission
Community Health Boards – Queens	Students Nova Scotia
Division of Palliative Medicine Department of Medicine Dalhousie University	Truro Herbal Company
Halifax Regional Police	Truro Police Service
Halifax Regional School Board	Université Ste. Anne
Heart and Stroke	University of Kings College
Injury Free Nova Scotia	Westville & Stellarton Police Service
Investment Property Owners Association of Nova Scotia	
Municipalities Attending Sessions	
CBRM	Lunenburg (town)
Amherst	Mahone Bay
Annapolis	Middleton
Annapolis Royal	New Glasgow
Antigonish (county)	Oxford
Antigonish (town)	Pictou (county)
Argyle	Pictou (town)
Barrington	Port Hawkesbury
Bridgewater	Queens
Chester	Richmond
Clare	Shelburne (district)
Clarks Harbour	Shelburne (town)
Colchester	Stewiacke
Cumberland	Truro
Digby (district)	Victoria
Guysborough	West Hants
HRM	Westville
Inverness	Wolfville
Kings	Yarmouth (district)
Lockport	Yarmouth (town)
Lunenburg (district)	

Appendix C: List of Stakeholders (Written Submissions)

List of Stakeholders Providing Written Submissions
Association of Psychologists of Nova Scotia
Canadian Cancer Society
Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses
Canadian Federation of Students
Cannabis Canada Association
Community Health Boards Council of Chairs – Eastern Zone
Injury Free Nova Scotia
Insurance Bureau of Canada
Investment Property Owners Association of Nova Scotia
IWK Health Centre
MADD Canada
Municipality of the County of Antigonish
Municipality of the District of St. Mary's
Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada
Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists
Nova Scotia Directors of Planning Association
Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union
Nova Scotia Health Authority
Nova Scotia Regional Medical Officers of Health
Provincial Municipal Cannabis Committee
Public Health Association of Nova Scotia
Retail Council of Canada
Smoke-Free Nova Scotia
The Arthritis Society and Canadians for Fair Access to Medical Marijuana (Joint Submission)

Appendix D: Stakeholder Sessions – Discussion Questions

#1 Legal Age

- A What are the most important considerations when setting the legal age limit?
- B What concerns, if any, does your organization have regarding a legal age limit of 19?

#2 Distribution Model

- A What impacts, positive or negative, do you see for your organization with a model that has a provincial crown corporation (new or existing) responsible for the sale of recreational cannabis in Nova Scotia?
- B What restrictions, if any, are needed on the sale of recreational cannabis?
- C What, if any, are the issues or concerns of your organization around online/home delivery of recreational cannabis?

#3 Public Consumption

- A What impacts, positive or negative, do you see for your organization around consumption of recreational cannabis outside of the home?
- B If consumption is permitted outside the home, where should it be allowed?
- C What other concerns, if any, does your organization have around the potential public consumption of cannabis?

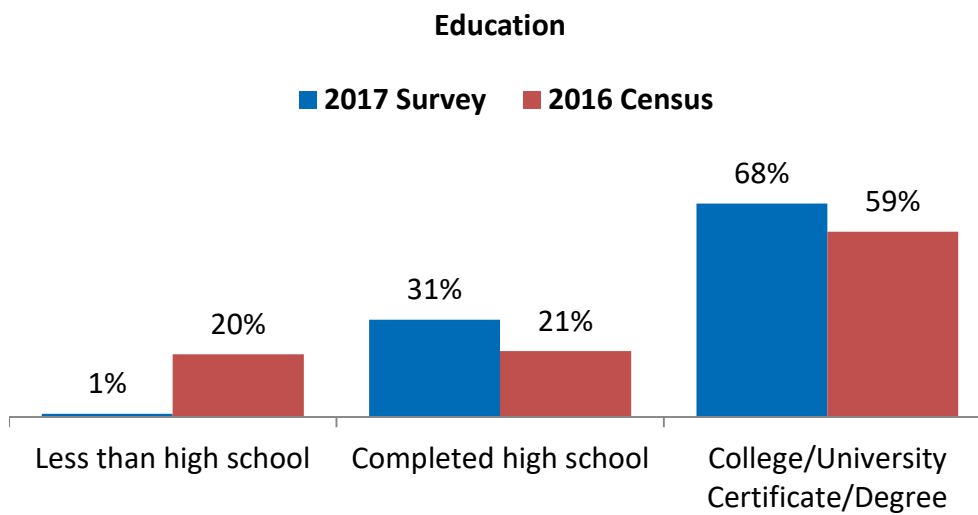
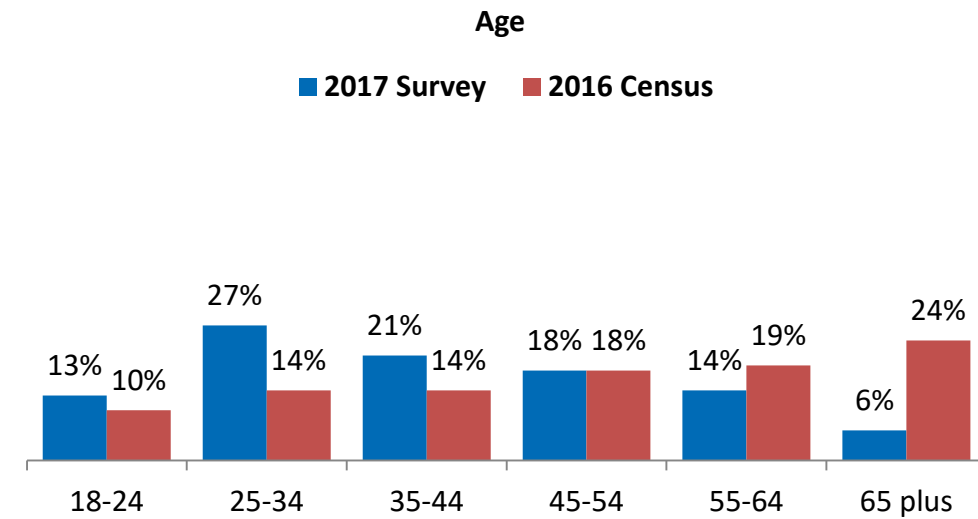
#4 Impaired Driving

- A Should the penalties for impaired driving by drug, including cannabis, be the same as they are now for impaired driving by alcohol?
- B Does your organization have any other recommendations about drug impaired driving offences and penalties?

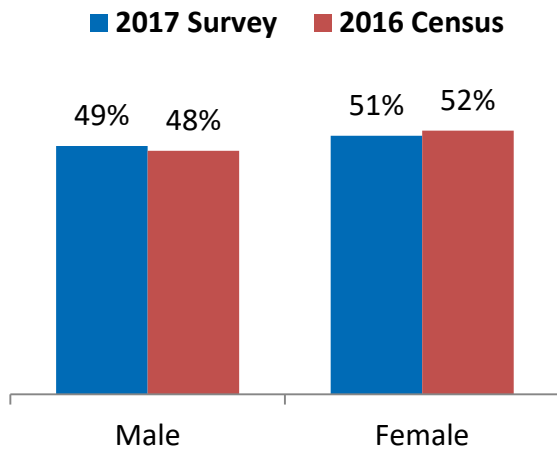
#5 Other Questions/Concerns/Comments

Appendix E: Comparison of Survey Responses with the 2016 Census (Nova Scotia)

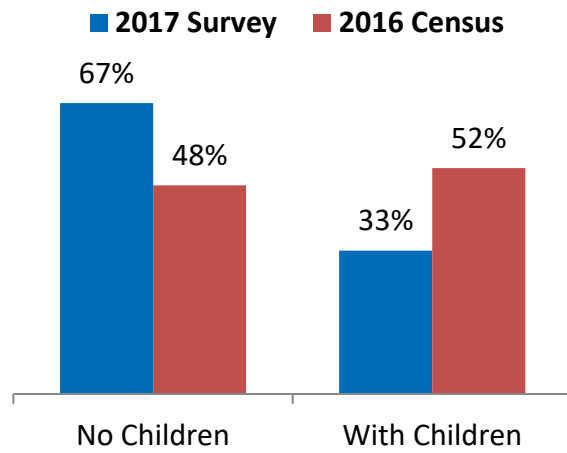
Figure: Comparison of Key Demographics to 2016 Census



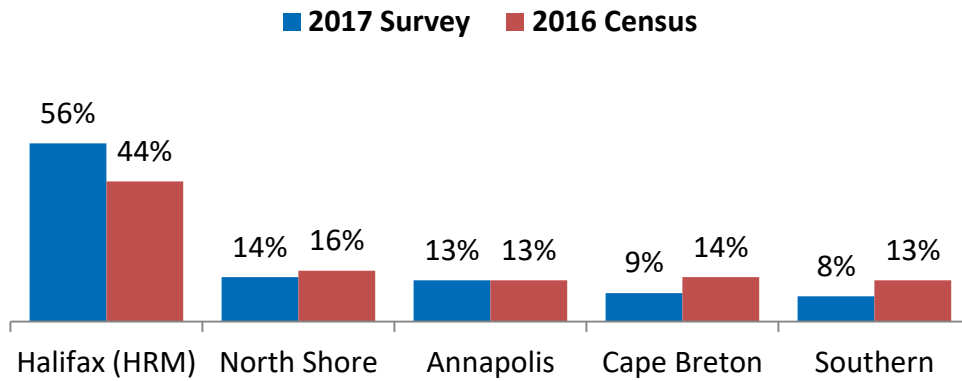
Gender



Children in the Household



Region



Home Ownership

