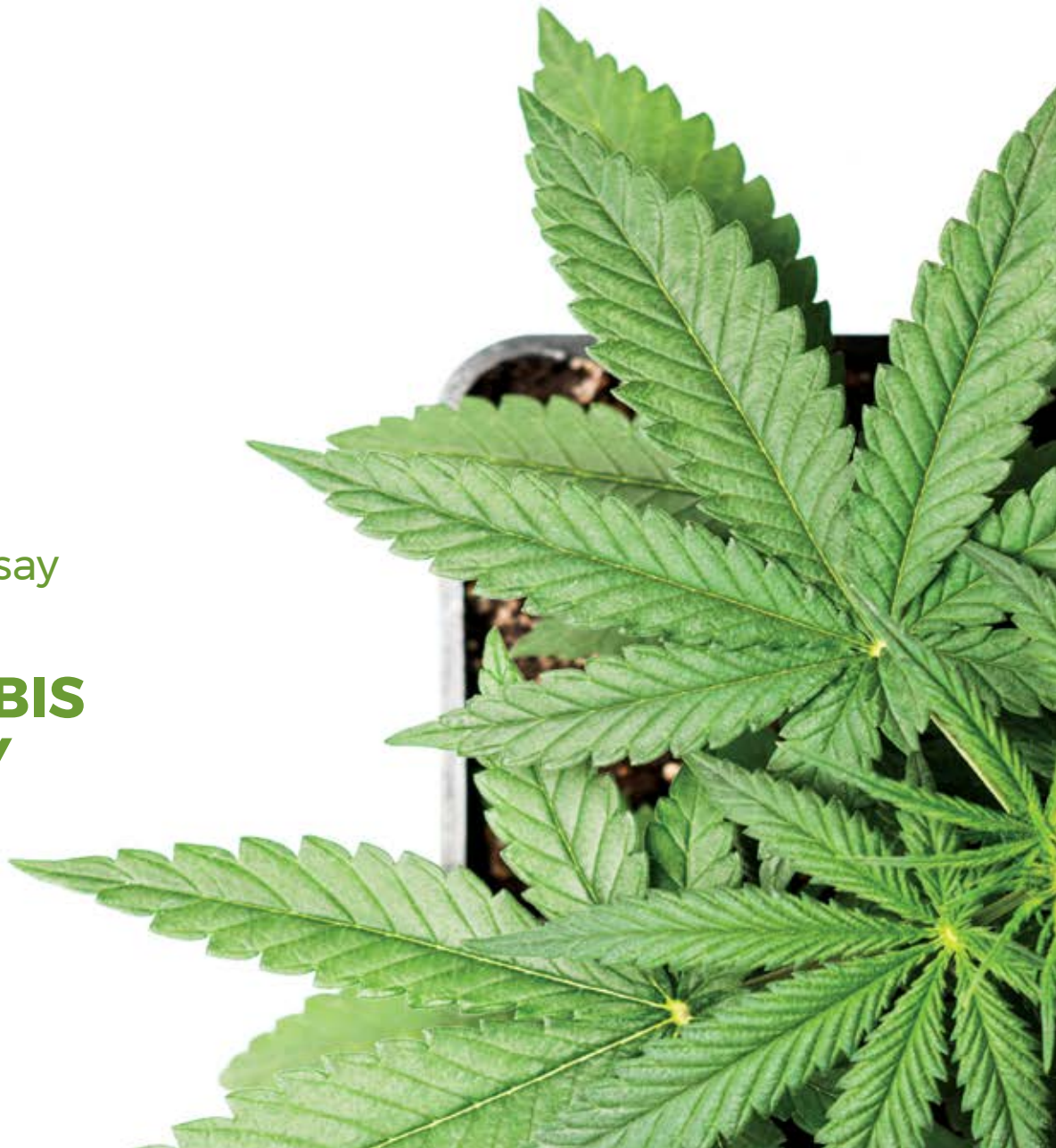


# Yukon's approach to cannabis legalization

Have your say

**DO THE  
CANNABIS  
SURVEY**

**Yukon**  
Government





# Introduction

## **The Government of Canada is legalizing cannabis by July 2018.**

It's now up to territories and provinces to decide on topics such as how and where it will be sold, where it can be consumed and how to address impaired driving and workplace safety.

The Government of Yukon wants to hear your ideas on how Yukon should respond and adapt to the upcoming federal cannabis legislation.

There are seven short surveys in this document. You can choose to do one, some or all of them based on your interest. Be sure not to include any information that can identify you personally.

## **Please mail your completed survey no later than September 30 to:**

Cannabis Survey  
Department of Health & Social Services  
Box 2703 [H-1]  
Whitehorse Y1A 2C6

The personal information in this survey is collected, used and disclosed in accordance with Yukon's *Health Information Privacy and Management Act*, the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and other applicable laws. A written statement of Health and Social Services information practices can be viewed at [www.hss.gov.yk.ca/healthprivacy.php](http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/healthprivacy.php) or by contacting the department's Privacy Officer at [healthprivacy@gov.yk.ca](mailto:healthprivacy@gov.yk.ca).

This survey was adapted from the 2017 Cannabis survey created by the Government of Alberta.

**We first have two questions that will help us analyze the results.**

**1. Are you completing this survey on behalf of... (please specify)**

- Yourself or your family
- A local government
- Yukon association
- A business
- Another organization
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to do so, please specify which government, association or organization you are completing this survey on behalf of. Please do not write any information that can identify you personally: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Are you a resident of Yukon? (Your answer will help us understand how opinions vary in different areas)**

- Yes  
What community do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_

- Prefer not to answer

- No

Where are you a resident?

- A province or territory other than Yukon  
Which province or territory? \_\_\_\_\_
- United States
- A country other than Canada or the United States
- Prefer not to answer

# Glossary

**We want to clarify some of the terms that are used in this survey.**

**Cannabis** – Cannabis is a broad term used to describe the various products derived from the leaves, flowers and resins of the Cannabis *sativa* and Cannabis *indica* plants, or hybrids of the two. These products exist in various forms, including dried flowers (“weed”, “pot”), hashish, hash oil, tinctures and other concentrates (“dabs”, “shatter”).

**Cannabis or marijuana** – The federal government has adopted the term “cannabis” to describe cannabis products in general, as opposed to the commonly used term “marijuana,” which typically means the dried flowers of the cannabis plant.

**Cannabis use** – Cannabis can be used for medical, recreational, industrial or spiritual purposes.

**Medical cannabis** – Cannabis products that have been prescribed by a healthcare practitioner to treat a specific medical condition.

**Recreational cannabis** – Using cannabis products for its “high,” the (usually) pleasurable mental and physical effects that can include changes in perception and a heightened mood.

**THC** – THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) is the chemical compound that is responsible for the psychoactive effects of cannabis (the “high”).

**Cannabis consumption** – Cannabis can be consumed in many ways, some of which result in second-hand smoke or vapour. These include:

- » Smoking – Inhaling smoke from joints (paper-wrapped), blunts (tobacco-wrapped), pipes or bongs.
- » Vaporizing – Inhaling the vapour from heated cannabis using a vaporizer, “vape” pen or e-cigarette.
- » Edibles – Cannabis can be added to a variety of foods, such as brownies, cookies and candies.
- » Drinks – Cannabis extracts can be added to any beverage.
- » Dabbing – Heating cannabis concentrates on a hot surface and inhaling the smoke.
- » Other methods – These include tinctures taken orally and lotions applied directly to the skin.

**Throughout the survey, when the word “smoking” is used it is also intended to include vapourizing, as both smoke and vapour can have harmful second-hand effects.**

SECTION ONE

# General Questions

**3. To what degree do you support or oppose the federal government’s decision to legalize cannabis?**

- Strongly oppose
- Somewhat oppose
- Neither support nor oppose
- Somewhat support
- Strongly support
- Don’t know/not sure/no opinion

**How socially acceptable do you think it is for a person to occasionally use the following?**

	Completely unacceptable	Somewhat unacceptable	Neutral	Somewhat acceptable	Completely acceptable	Don’t know/not sure/no opinion
<b>4. Alcohol</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>5. Smoking cannabis for recreational purposes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>6. Eating cannabis for recreational purposes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>7. Smoking cannabis for medical purposes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>8. Eating cannabis for medical purposes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>9. Tobacco (cigarette/cigar/snuff)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION TWO

# Yukon's Proposed Cannabis Policy Objectives



**The federal government has introduced legislation that will make cannabis legal in Yukon and the rest of Canada by July 2018.**

Before then, all territories and provinces need to establish their own programs, policies and laws about:

- » where and when cannabis can be sold, grown, possessed and consumed; and
- » how communities will be protected from potential negative consequences such as the harms of using cannabis and drug-impaired driving.

As the Government of Yukon considers its options related to legal cannabis, its decisions will be guided by the following main principles:

- » **Provide for legal, controlled access to cannabis that displaces illegal and criminal activity.**
- » **Prioritize public health, safety and harm reduction, with a focus on protecting youth from negative health effects.**

Supporting principles:

- » Adopt a cautious approach to Yukon's implementation of legalized cannabis.
- » Increase public awareness of the implications and consequences of cannabis use.
- » Base decisions on current best evidence.
- » Respond to new evidence and adjust policies accordingly.
- » Consider the unique circumstances of Yukon communities.
- » Respect the federal and territorial division of powers.
- » Offer an opportunity for the public to provide input on the legalization of cannabis in Yukon.
- » Create a Yukon approach that is consistent other jurisdictions, as much is reasonably possible.
- » Engage with all governments in Yukon (First Nations and municipal).
- » Maximize local benefits while minimizing local harms.
- » Consider revenue generation from cannabis sales.

## Guiding Principles

Please rate the degree to which you disagree or agree with these guiding principles.

### **10. Prioritize public health, safety and harm reduction, with a focus on protecting youth from negative health effects.**

The purpose of this principle is to reduce potential harm to Yukoners, to promote health and to prevent disease, disability and death. Protecting people from potential safety issues associated with cannabis use by others (e.g., impaired driving and second-hand smoke) is a priority.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know/not sure/no opinion

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **11. Provide for legal, controlled access to cannabis that displaces illegal and criminal activity.**

For adults who choose to use cannabis for non-medicinal purposes the intent is to protect the consumer by providing access to quality-controlled legal cannabis that is free from other drugs and contaminants.

A further benefit of this principle is the potential reduction of criminal activity, which supports the objective of public safety.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know/not sure/no opinion

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**12. Are there other principles Yukon should consider? If so, what are they?**

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SECTION THREE

# **Sale of Cannabis in Yukon**

The federal government made the decision to make cannabis legal in Canada, but each territorial and provincial government must decide:

- » **How cannabis will be sold.**
- » **How cannabis will be stored and distributed to stores.**
- » **Whether additional restrictions are needed.**

### **How cannabis will be sold**

There are three general options for the sale of cannabis:

#### **A. Government stores**

- » Cannabis retail stores would be owned and operated solely by the Government of Yukon.
- » This option would eliminate the need for some inspections, as the rules would be established and enforced by government staff.
- » This option would also ensure that government-supplied cannabis is available across the territory.

#### **B. Private retail stores**

##### **The Government of Yukon could set rules for things like:**

- » who can sell cannabis (such as requiring a clean criminal record);
- » where it can be sold (e.g., minimum distance from schools);
- » what training is required for staff;
- » when stores can be open (hours of operation); and
- » types of signage on stores (e.g., to make them less appealing to youth).

The Yukon government would:

- » act as the wholesaler;
- » require anyone who wants to open a retail cannabis store to get a licence; and
- » conduct regular inspections to make sure stores were following the rules and not selling cannabis to anyone under age.

#### **C. Mixed model**

- » Similar to Yukon's current alcohol distribution model.
- » The Yukon government would act as wholesaler, and would also operate retail outlets.
- » Some private retailers will also be licensed to sell cannabis.

**13. In your view, who should own and operate retail cannabis outlets in Yukon?**

- Private stores: Government should set the rules, but licensed private retailers should run the stores
- Government stores: Government should own and operate all cannabis stores
- Mixed model: Government and private retail stores
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't know/not sure/no opinion

**14. Whether or not you think there should be private stores, if private stores are considered, what types of outlets should be allowed to sell cannabis?**

- Specialized: Cannabis stores should be specialized, and only sell cannabis products
- Any retailer: Any type of retailer that can meet the licensing requirements should be able to apply for a licence to sell cannabis along with other products
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't know/not sure/no opinion

**15. Regardless of who operates stores, please indicate what requirements or restrictions should be considered in the development of rules and regulations for cannabis retailers.**

**Check all that apply**

- Hours cannabis stores are open
- Other products that can be sold in the same location
- Where cannabis stores can be located
- Number of stores in a given area
- Training requirements for staff who work in cannabis stores
- Whether minors should be allowed on premises
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- None of the above
- Don't know/not sure/no opinion

**16. Should alcohol and cannabis be sold at the same location?**

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

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**17. Are there some matters that should be left to local governments to determine, even if it means the potential for different rules from community to community in Yukon?**

**Check all that apply**

- What hours cannabis stores are open
- Where cannabis stores can be located
- If they can choose to not have a retail store in their community
- If they can choose to restrict possession, personal cultivation and recreational use of cannabis in their community
- None of the above - the same rules should apply across Yukon
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't know/not sure/no opinion

**18. Consider this statement: "Regardless of whether stores are private or publicly operated, services such as online sales and home delivery should be allowed for cannabis."**

**Do you...**

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know/not sure/no opinion

**How cannabis will be stored and distributed to stores.**

**19. Who should oversee and manage cannabis distribution within Yukon?**

- Allow producers to distribute directly to retail stores (similar to grocery stores)
- Government should license private distributors (similar to tobacco or pharmaceuticals)
- Government should oversee and manage all distribution into or within Yukon and retailers would purchase their wholesale products from the government distributor (similar to liquor off-sales)
- Government distribution to government stores (as with current liquor store model)
- Other (specify)
- Don't know/not sure/no opinion

**20. Are there any other restrictions that you think the Yukon government should place on the sale and/or distribution of cannabis?**

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SECTION FOUR

# Using Cannabis in Public Places or Establishments

The legislation recently introduced by the federal government would allow adults to have up to 30 grams of cannabis in their **possession**.

It's up to the territories and provinces to determine where and under what circumstances cannabis can be **consumed** in public and in establishments open to the public, such as restaurants, bars and lounges.

**21. What is your level of agreement with the following statement?**

**Limitations on public consumption should apply to all forms of cannabis (e.g., smoked, eaten, mixed in drinks, etc.)**

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know/not sure/no opinion

**22. Where should smoking of cannabis be allowed?**

- Inside a private residence only
- On private property
- In all outdoor public places
- In licensed cannabis cafes
- Don't know/not sure/no opinion
- All of the above
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**23. Where should the use of cannabis other than smoking (e.g., eating, drinking, lotions, tinctures/drops) be allowed?**

- Inside a private residence only
- On private property
- In all outdoor public places
- In licensed cannabis cafes
- Don't know/not sure/no opinion
- All of the above
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**24. Thinking about rules for cannabis use in buildings that may contain a mixture of private and shared or semi-public spaces, such as multi-unit dwellings (e.g., rental properties, apartments, condos, and seniors' facilities), which of the following best describes your opinion?**

- Definitely need special restrictions for where cannabis can be smoked in multi-unit dwellings
- Probably need special restrictions for where cannabis can be smoked in multi-unit dwellings
- Do not need special restrictions for where cannabis can be smoked in multi-unit dwellings (same restrictions for single-family and multi-family dwellings)
- Don't know/not sure/no opinion

**Second-Hand Smoke**

It is possible for the substances in cannabis responsible for the “high” to be found in the urine and blood of individuals who are exposed to second-hand smoke.

These non-smokers could potentially experience the effects of cannabis when exposed to a high volume of second-hand smoke in enclosed, poorly-ventilated spaces.

The government has strict rules in place to protect Yukoners from secondary smoke from tobacco. These include prohibiting smoking in public places, workplaces and within five metres of a doorway, window, or air intake of a public place or workplace.

These rules could be applied to secondary smoke from cannabis to limit exposure to the negative impacts of cannabis.

**25. Thinking about the restrictions for public smoking of cannabis, which of the following best describes your opinion? Yukon needs...**

- More restrictions on public smoking of cannabis than we have on tobacco
- The same restrictions on public smoking of cannabis as we have on tobacco
- Less restriction on public smoking of cannabis than we have on tobacco
- Don't know/not sure/ no opinion

SECTION FIVE

# Growing Cannabis for Personal Use

The federal legislation:

- » States that up to four cannabis plants can be grown **in a house or on a private property.**
- » Limits the height of plants to 100 centimetres.
- » Does not have specific rules for how cannabis plants can be grown in rental properties or in multi-family homes.

**Note that the commercial production of cannabis is regulated strictly by the Government of Canada – provinces and territories do not have the authority to license growers.**

**26. Should there be further restrictions of the number and size of plants that can be grown for personal use?**

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

**27. Should Yukon consider defining where cannabis can be grown on private property (e.g., in a secured structure versus anywhere on the property, including in the garden or yard)?**

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

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SECTION SIX

# Setting the Legal Age

The federal government has set the minimum age for possession and consumption of cannabis at 18. The new law also states that youth under the age of 18 can possess up to five grams of cannabis without facing a criminal charge.

The federal government also indicates that the territories and provinces can choose to set a higher legal age and lower possession limits.

Research suggests that cannabis use by those under the age of 25 results in:

- » higher risk of addiction; and
- » higher risk of health impact.

In Yukon, youth under 18 report using cannabis more often in the last 30 days compared to youth in the rest of Canada, 22.3 % versus 13% respectively. Girls living in rural areas of Yukon are more likely to report cannabis use and a pattern of frequent use (six or more times) in the last 30 days compared to boys and urban girls.

If the age is set higher than 18, it may reduce some health risks, especially for frequent users, but it would likely limit Yukon's ability to deter illegal black market activity given current ease of access.

**28. From the list below, which option is the most appropriate model for setting the minimum age for purchase, possession and personal cultivation of cannabis in Yukon?**

- 18 - the federal minimum age
- 19 - Yukon's cannabis age should match our drinking age and age of majority
- 21 - as recommended by the Canadian Pediatric Society and the Canadian Medical Association
- 25
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't know/not sure/ no opinion

**29. Should Yukon consider lowering the public possession amount for adults to less than 30 grams? (Approximately 30 to 40 joints.)**

- No
- Yes

**If yes, to what amount?**

- 20 grams
- 10 grams
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**30. Which of the following approaches should be considered to ensure that users have the information they need to make responsible and healthy choices?**

**Check all that apply**

- Awareness/prevention campaigns
- Public education in stores that sell cannabis
- Curriculum in schools
- Cannabis addiction support programs
- Information in medical offices
- Don't know/not sure/no opinion
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- None of the above



SECTION SEVEN

# Promoting Safety on Roads and in Workplaces

## Drug-Impaired Driving

Driving while drug-impaired is a serious crime and a risk to you and to others.

Cannabis impairment can impact your ability to react while driving, similar to the impacts of alcohol.

However, there are limitations with the current tests available for cannabis impairment:

- » With alcohol, the blood level and the impairment level go hand-in-hand (the more you drink, the more you're impaired).
- » Cannabis, however, can stay in the system for days and weeks, potentially even after impairment and the risks of impairment have gone away.
- » Inhaling second-hand smoke could lead to testing positive for cannabis.

The legislation proposed by the federal government establishes a limit for how much THC (the chemical in cannabis that gives you the "high") you can have in your system.

This legislation is similar to how the legal limit is established for alcohol. These new laws also maintain the police's ability to conduct a roadside test if they have reason to believe you are impaired.

As with alcohol, the federal government also allows for the territories and provinces to make additional rules related to drug-impaired driving.

### **31. Keeping in mind the limitations with current tests available for cannabis impairment, should the territory consider additional rules to discourage drug-impaired driving, in addition to what the federal government has proposed?**

#### **Check all that apply**

- If people drive when they are under the influence of cannabis, they should have their driver's licence suspended
- The RCMP should be able to give out tickets and fines for anyone who drives under the influence of cannabis, even if it isn't over the federal legal limit
- Additional education programs should be established, but no additional rules
- No additional rules are required
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't know/not sure/no opinion

**32. What is your level of agreement with the following statements?**

**There should be zero tolerance for any alcohol or drugs for new drivers and drivers under the age of 21.**

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know/not sure/no opinion

**There should be zero tolerance for any alcohol or drugs for drivers operating commercial vehicles.**

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know/not sure/no opinion

## Workplace Safety

Every Yukoner has the right to a safe and healthy workplace.

- » The *Occupational Health and Safety Act* requires that:
  1. Employers establish workplaces that protect the health and safety of workers.
  2. Workers take all necessary precautions to ensure their own health and safety and that of any other person in the workplace.
- » The *Occupational Health and Safety Act* requires that workers not be impaired while at work or in the workplace regardless of the substance or situation that is causing the impairment. Both the employer and worker are liable to be fined or charged if the worker is found to be impaired in the workplace.

### 33. Does the introduction of legal cannabis require more to be done to keep workers and workplaces safe?

- Yes, definitely
- Yes, probably
- No, current protections are adequate
- Don't know/not sure/ no opinion
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SECTION EIGHT

# **Economic and Fiscal Implications and Opportunities**

The legalization of cannabis:

- » may generate new economic activity across the country from both primary production and value-added opportunities; and
- » could create new employment.

At this time, the potential for additional territorial revenue appears to be relatively low.

- » The federal government will likely levy its own taxes on cannabis products.
- » Retail prices must be kept reasonable and similar to other territories and provinces in order to deter the illicit market.

Yukon will face additional costs associated with setting up and regulating a distribution and retail system, carrying out public education, and managing the other effects of legalization, including impacts on our health system.

#### **34. What types of cannabis-related economic opportunities do you support?**

**Check all that apply**

- Locally grown cannabis licensed by the federal government (e.g., farming)
- Manufacture of secondary products (e.g., hemp fibre products)
- Retail opportunities
- Don't know/not sure/no opinion
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- No comment

**35. How important is it for the Government of Yukon to invest in the following:**

	Very unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat important	Very important	Don't know/not sure/no opinion
<b>Public education</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Addiction prevention and treatment</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Impaired driving enforcement</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Incentives to support cannabis sector-related economic growth</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Research into the health impacts of cannabis use</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Mental health supports</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Enforcement to discourage sales to minors</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION NINE

# Demographics Questions



In this last section, we have five to seven more questions that will help us to analyze the results.

**36. What is your age?**

- Under 15
- 15 to 17
- 18
- 19
- 20 to 24
- 25 to 29
- 30 to 34
- 35 to 39
- 40 to 44
- 45 to 49
- 50 to 54
- 55 to 59
- 60 to 64
- 65 to 69
- 70 to 74
- 75 or older
- Prefer not to answer

**37. Do you identify as...?**

- Male
- Female
- Other
- Prefer not to answer

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

- Some high school
- High school diploma
- Some university or college
- Certificate or diploma from a college or trades school
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's, Doctoral, professional degree
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

**39. Are you a parent?**

- Yes
- No

**40. If so, how many dependent children do you have? (Dependent means that they are aged 17 or younger and rely on you for financial or other support.)**

- None
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- Prefer not to answer

**How old is your youngest dependent child?**

- 9 or younger
- 10 to 12
- 13
- 14
- 5 to 17
- Prefer not to answer

**How old is your oldest dependent child?**

- 9 or younger
- 10 to 12
- 13
- 14
- 5 to 17
- Prefer not to answer





» [hss.gov.yk.ca/cannabis](https://hss.gov.yk.ca/cannabis)