

ONLY CURRENT LEGAL PURCHASE IS THROUGH ONLINE ONTARIO CANNABIS

Continued from page 1

cannabis, dried or equivalent, in public

- Share up to 30 grams of legal cannabis with other adults

- Grow up to four cannabis plants per residence, for personal use

- Make cannabis products, such as food and drinks, at home, as long as organic solvents are not used to create concentrated products

In Ontario, someone must also be 19 or older to legally use cannabis.

"When we talk about legal dried cannabis, we mean cannabis that is purchased from a business or a company that is federally allowed to do that," said Smith.

"It doesn't mean you can be in possession of cannabis that you bought off the dealer on the street corner. That is still illegal. One of the benefits of this is that by having regulated cannabis, we know what's in it."



Metroland graphic

Smith said the only way to currently purchase cannabis legally in Ontario is through the online Ontario Cannabis Store.

That will change on April 1, 2019. In the meantime, Smith said, any store that sells cannabis in Ontario is currently doing so illegally.

Smith also noted that individuals are prohibited from selling cannabis, even if they purchased it legally.

Illegal distribution or sale of cannabis can still result in tickets for small amounts and up to 14 years

in jail for larger amounts.

The Ontario Cannabis Store will sell only 30 grams at a time.

When asked what is stopping someone from ordering 30 grams of cannabis one day and then placing subsequent orders until the individual has a massive supply, Smith said nothing is stopping them.

He noted the 30-gram possession limit refers to how much a person can have in public.

Smith noted currently a person who is 19 or older can possess as much legal cannabis as they want at their private residence.

When it comes to having more in public than is permitted and how police would enforce the new law - Smith compared that situation to the speed limit.

Police can't be everywhere, he noted, and someone can drive above the speed limit if they want to, but if they do it long enough, they will probably be caught, at which point there will be consequences.

According to the Cannabis Act, possession over the limit is punishable by tickets for small amounts and up to five years in prison for larger amounts.

When asked what is stopping someone who is 19 or older from purchasing cannabis and giving or selling it to underage youths, Smith noted there are stiff penalties for doing that, which include a maximum of 14 years in jail.

He also noted the Cannabis Act decriminalizes youth possession of up to five grams of cannabis.

How will police tell the difference between legal and illegal cannabis?

Smith noted that legal cannabis packaging will feature a special stamp.

He recommended those travelling around with cannabis should keep it in this packaging or have some other proof of purchase.

That said, Smith acknowledged there is nothing to stop someone from putting illegal cannabis in used packaging that features this special stamp, and he said police are examining other ways of spotting illegal marijuana.

Smith also addressed questions about where people can smoke cannabis, noting the rules largely mirror those currently in place with regard to tobacco.

RESIDENTS CAN SMOKE IN:

- Private residences
- Many outdoor public places
- Designated guest rooms in hotels, motels and inns
- Residential vehicles and boats that meet certain criteria (e.g. have permanent sleeping accommodations and cooking facilities, and are parked or anchored)
- Scientific research and

testing facilities, when cannabis research is underway

- Controlled areas in long-term care homes, certain retirement homes, residential hospices, provincially funded supportive housing, and designated psychiatric facilities or veterans facilities.

THE LIST OF PLACES WHERE PEOPLE CANNOT SMOKE CANNABIS INCLUDE:

- Indoor common areas in condos, apartment buildings and university/college residences
- Enclosed public places and enclosed workplaces
- At schools, on school grounds, and all public areas within 20 metres of these grounds
- On children's playgrounds and public areas within 20 metres of playgrounds
- In child-care centres or where an early-years program is provided
- In places where home

See POLICE, page 11

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