

Cobourg Police Service

Town of Cobourg
Cannabis Public Meeting
December 17, 2018



Presentation Achievements

- Impact of Cannabis Legislation on Police Services
- Current Legislation and Legal Impacts
- Police Service Preparation
- Police Services Position on Municipal “Opt In” of “Opt Out”

Impact of Legalization of Cannabis

- Impaired Operation
- Access for vulnerable people
- Training of Officers
- Enforcement

Legal Considerations – Possession

- The Cannabis Act (Canada) legalizes the possession of 30g of dried cannabis or equivalent
- There are seven classes of cannabis that each have an equivalency (dried, fresh, solids, non-solids, concentrates and seeds)
- Legal Age in Ontario is 19 years of age.

Legal Considerations – Production

- You are allowed to grow up to a TOTAL of four plants per household.
 - At least one person in the household must be legal age in Ontario

Legal Considerations – Consumption

- Age restriction applies.
- In Ontario, the similar conditions exist as per The Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017.
- Prohibited places
 - Enclosed public place or workplace
 - Public/Private school buildings or grounds
 - Indoor common areas of condos, apartments, university or college residences
 - Child care centres
 - Sports arena or entertainment venues
 - Additional prescribed places as per O. Reg 268/18 sections 6 to 11

Legal Considerations – Consumption (Con't)

- The outdoor grounds of a **hospital** /long-term care home and the area within a nine metre radius surrounding any entrance or exit of such a hospital.
- Restaurant and bar patios
 - Restaurant and bar patios, and public areas within a nine metre radius surrounding any point on the perimeter of such patios,
- Children's playgrounds and all public areas within 20 metres of any point on the perimeter of a children's playground .
- Spectator areas adjacent to sporting areas.
 - Public areas within 20 metres of any point on the perimeter of a sporting area or a spectator area adjacent to a sporting area.
- Community recreational facilities and perimeter of schools. The following are prescribed areas for the purposes of paragraph 10 of subsection 12 (2) of the Act:
 - Public areas within 20 metres of any point on the perimeter of a school described in paragraph 3 of that subsection.
 - Public areas within 20 metres of any point on the perimeter of the grounds of a private school described in paragraph 4 of that subsection.
- The outdoor grounds of a community recreational facility and public areas within 20 metres of any point on the perimeter of the grounds.

Legal Considerations - Transportation

- No person shall drive or have care and control of a vehicle or boat, whether or not it is in motion, while any cannabis is contained within, except
 - In its original packaging and has not been opened
 - Is packaged in baggage that is fastened closed or not readily available to ANYONE in the vehicle or boat.

Legal Considerations – Distribution & Selling

- Still against the law to engage in the distribution and/or selling in several areas (S. 9 Cannabis Act)
 - Distribute to someone under 19 years of age,
 - Distribute cannabis that is known as illicit
 - Organizations that distribute cannabis
 - Distribute one or more plants that are budding or flowering

Police Service Preparation

- Cobourg Police Service has been preparing for this for over 24 months
 - Have a Provincial Expert and Trainer in SFST
 - Two Qualified Drug Recognition Experts
 - Trained ALL front line officers on the SFST screening (International Certification)
 - Met with Town staff and committees continually to assess and respond accordingly

Drug Impaired Driving

- The legalization of cannabis does not make Drug Impaired Driving anything new
- This has brought the issue to the forefront
- Existed previously as drivers were impaired by illegal drugs (cannabis, cocaine, etc) AND prescribed medication (painkillers, other depressants)

Drug Impaired Driving - SFST

- SFST – Standard Field Sobriety Test
 - is much like a roadside screening device test however it is far more revealing for the officer as the test provides clues as to the subject driver's level of impairment. SFSTs consist of three different psychophysical tests: Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) test; Walk and Turn Test; One Leg Stand Test.

Drug Impaired Driving - DRE

- DRE – Drug Recognition Expert
 - A Drug Recognition Expert "DRE" evaluation consists of 12 steps. Each step assists the evaluating officer in gaining information with respect to both the level of impairment of a subject, and the category of drug or drugs that may be causing the impairment. The 12 step evaluation is standardized, systematic and consistent.

Drug Impaired Officer Flow Chart



“Opt In” or “Opt Out”

- The Cobourg Police Service supports Town staff in their decision.
- Impact to date of the legalization of cannabis has been minimal.
- The dynamic collaboration that exists between the Town of Cobourg staff and all members (sworn, civilian and volunteer) of the Cobourg Police Service is well situated to proactively manage any challenges that arise.
- The CPS will continue to enforce the laws around illegal drug sales, production and use.