University of

adian Insti te for
Substance Use Research

Adults may not:

- give, sell or promote cannabis or accessories to anyone under age 19
- allow a minor to consume in a place under their control or ask a minor to purchase cannabis for them
- smoke or vape cannabis in the workplace or use it on or beside school property
- use cannabis in any place where tobacco use is prohibited
- use cannabis in vehicles or operate one while impaired by cannabis
- take cannabis across international borders
- use a dangerous solvent (e.g., butane) to process cannabis
- operate a vehicle (whether or not it is in motion) with cannabis in it, unless the cannabis is from a federal producer and is still in unopened original packaging or is not readily accessible by the occupants

Cannabis and life

Cannabis and other psychoactive substances have been used by humans for thousands of years. Today, as a result of legalization, adults who use cannabis are o ered a safe, reliable supply produced and sold under strict regulation. People use cannabis for di erent purposes. This has signi cant implications. Now communities can openly discuss why people use cannabis and how they manage their use.

Cannabis legalization o ers communities an opportunity to engage all stakeholders in meaningosLlders i1.C /Span <</Lang (en-US)/MCID 170 >>BDC Bgupan <<. B

Dialogue

Dialogue is a conversation in which two or more people seek to understand each other. While talking is a part of the conversation, listening and asking good questions are the more important skills. The goal is not to come away having convinced someone about something, but to have gained understanding of another's perspective.

Dialogue is a vital tool, especially as we enter the era of legalized cannabis. People have di erent perspectives on cannabis. We do not need to think and believe alike. However, we do need to live together. This requires that we understand each other and that we respect the needs, opinions and rights of others.

Open dialogue with all community stakeholders – leaders, business people, employed and underemployed people, parents, youth, Indigenous groups, police, health care and service providers – will help create a broader understanding of the views within our community. This understanding

conditions where riskier patterns of drug use can emerge. For example, people who feel shunned may isolate themselves and use drugs alone. Or they may use with people or in places that are no safe. Exclusion can lead to a cycle where people use drugs in increasingly riskier ways, leading to more exclusion and increased risk of harm.

Inviting all community members to discuss cannabis is one way to explore issues, learn about each other, and work together to build a community that is safe and supportive for all. Community leaders and citizens can support inclusive communities in various ways.

Promote participatory democracy

Engaged citizens are healthier citizens. People w are engaged in their community develop broader social networks. This provides them with greater access to assets needed for resilience. They feel more positive about the community because they see it as their community. In turn, the community bene ts from their broader involvement and assets (ideas, perspectives, knowledge, skills and resources). Engaged communities are healthier communities.

Cannabis legalization o ers citizens an opportunit to build shared meaning around a controversial issue. Drug use and drug policy can be tough topics for communities. A variety of evidence,

Think about ways to:

Meet basic human needs. When people have access to education, income, housing and social support, they are better able to participate in their community and contribute in meaningful ways.

Questions to consider:

opinions and strong feelings may emerge that can be challenging to manage. The process can become overwhelming and confusing. People can begin to feel hopeless, detached or desperate for political leaders to "do something." The fact is we make better decisions for our community when we listen to each other and work together. It is in our best interest to push through discomfort and ensure all citizens – cannabis users and non-users alike – have a say in matters that a ect them.

Review and update policies

Cannabis legalization provides an opportunity for communities to ensure they focus on ways to improve physical and social environments. It also encourages communities to expand access to local resources that enable people to support each other in achieving their full potential.[2] These improvements might involve reviewing a broad range of policy areas.

Broad policy initiatives that make no direct reference to cannabis at all may have a positive impact on factors related to cannabis use. These include policy initiatives that: provide more a ordable housing, increase possibilities for viable employment, facilitate easier and broader access to community services, encourage greater involvement in educational settings and promote meaningful participation in community cultural and recreational activities.

In addressing these issues, community leaders and organizations will want to keep a focus on strengthening connectedness and promoting equity. This helps establish a climate that makes it more likely for people to stay connected, maintain mental wellness and use cannabis in less risky ways.

Some things to think about:

- A community is healthiest when everyone is engaged in sharing ideas, pers pectives, knowledge and skills. What processes and mechanisms encourage citizen engagement an l sharing? How can these be improved and extended?
- In healthy communities, citizens are engaged in the processes that lead to vali decision-making. What does real citizen engagement in decision-making lo k improve the sense of community ownership among citizens?
- Community dialogue invites citizens to understand di erent perspectives an d How might we promote a range of opportunities for meaningful dialogue an o we develop processes that encourage win-win rather than win-lose outcom es

Questions to consider:

- How will the policy promote pos ive relationships and interactions a ong citizens? How will it encourage a sense belonging in the community?
- How will the policy reduce dispa ities or increase opportunities for pe ple to thrive and ourish?

2 Healthy Settings, World Health Organization, 2018.

Land use management and business regulation policies are common concerns for communities and local governments. Under prohibition, cannabis production and processing was illegal and largely hidden. Now a new industry is developing openly. Cannabis retail facilities, both governm run and privately-operated, will be commonplace in many communities. Adults are allowed to cultivate up to four cannabis plants per household in and around their private dwellings, provided the plants are not visible from a public space and the home does not function as a licensed daycar facility. Even so, local governments, landlords and strata councils can imp restrictions or ban production altogether. Some of the concerns they are li to consider include location, scale of operations, capacity of utility system impacts and safety.

Cannabis legalization provides an opportunity for communities to approac land use and business practice issues in much the same way they do other industries. Cannabis producers, processors and retailers need to be incorporated as socially responsible contributors to the community. Yet, cannabis is no ordinary commodity. As a psychoactive substance, it need to be treated with care, respect and caution. How might local governments strata councils, community organizations and citizens nd balance while developing policies to regulate cannabis?

Regulating cannabis consumption in public and shared spaces is likely one of the most challenging areas of concern for local communities and community groups. The challenge is not really about cannabis so much as a collective responsibility to respect and accommodate each other.

In BC, smoking or vaping cannabis in public places is prohibited wherever tobacco smoking or vaping is already banned. It is permitted in most spaces in which tobacco smoking is allowed. This means smoking or vaping cannabis is not allowed in virtually any public indoor space or outdoors in provincial, regional or municipal parks (except at designated campsites), at recreational facilities, on or near school property, on patios or transportation connecting areas. Adults have the right to use cannabis at home with some exceptions. Smoking or vaping is not permitted in common areas within shared housing complexes. Property owners have the right to ban smoking or vaping in tenancy agreements. Strata councils can restrict or ban cannabis smoking, vaping and growing. Strata corporations should seek legal advice around any restrictions they wish to impose.

Questions to consider:

- What concerns emerge when considering land for ca nabis p or processing? How are these similar/di erent from ot ıer agri products? Why?
- How are cannabis retail outlets similar/di erent than otl er store can we learn from the ways we regulate the sale of alc ohol an
- What speci c aspects of cannabis use are relevant to propert considerations or interpersonal interactions? How sh uld the managed in the community? On what basis would re triction justi ed?
- How might cannabis production, processing, and dist ibution contribute to the health and well-being of the commu ity? Ho they compromise the health and well-being of the co ımunity can we optimize bene ts and mitigate any potential ha rms?

Finding a balance that respects everyone's rights and promotes a spirit of neighbourliness sometimes means putting up with other people and their "stu ." We need to be pati and compassionate with those who are likely not purposely frustrati ers, but simply trying to live their lives as they see t. Sometimes t tion to con icts with neighbours over cannabis use, or anything imply to be more neighbourly – to reach out and get to know each r. But when those around us do things we cannot live with, we k up respectfully to share our concerns and reach some ag e agreements get embedded i ales and regula all citizens.

Questions to consider:

- How can we nurture mutual respect for rights and needs, di ering sensibilities and sensitivities? How can we best cultivate a climate of civility, courtesy and caring?

Under

Some people would like to hold a single narrative about cannabis. Some say it's a nightmare. Others insist it's a miracle drug. We need to recognize the broader picture. In real life, the bene ts and harms of any drug use are not opposites along a single continuum . Their relationship is complex, as

or caregiving is not the only way to promote safety. We also need to address the structures in our society that generate or promote excessive risk-taking in the rst place. Our traditional risk orientation fails to address structures in our society, such as poverty, which may contribute to greater risk taking.

It’s safer to ...

- Avoid mixing substances. Adding tobacco to a joint means adding cancer-causing toxins. Drinking alcohol while using cannabis intensifies the effects and makes them last longer than expected.
- Skip cannabis or seek medical advice if:

Notes: