

# NON-MEDICAL CANNABIS RETAIL SALES

## Frequently Asked Questions



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In B.C., the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (formerly the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch) will be responsible for licensing and monitoring private non-medical cannabis retail stores. The [Liquor Distribution Branch](#) (LDB) will be the sole distributor of non-medical cannabis in the province. The LDB will also operate government-run retail stores and on-line sales.

This document outlines some frequently asked questions about the retail sale of non-medical cannabis in B.C. For more information about the non-medical **cannabis retail store licence** please consult our online application portal [found on this page](#) or the [Cannabis Retail Store Licence Terms and Conditions Handbook](#).

**I already have a liquor and/or tobacco licence. Am I automatically allowed to sell non-medical cannabis at my liquor store?**

No, you must apply for a non-medical **cannabis retail store licence**. In addition, if you are granted a licence, you must operate the cannabis store in a completely separate business location from any liquor and/or tobacco sales.

**If I operate a Rural Agency Store (RAS), will I automatically be able to sell non-medical cannabis?**

No, if a current RAS operator is interested in retailing non-medical cannabis, they will be required to apply for a licence specifically for non-medical cannabis. As a first step, the province will open opportunities to apply for regular retail licences. Once the regional distribution of non-medical cannabis retail stores is known, the province will consider issuing licences to service rural or remote areas that are not sufficiently served by existing retail cannabis stores.

**I only want to sell medical cannabis; can I apply for a medical cannabis retail licence?**

No, there will be no medical retail licences issued under the provincial system at this time. Medical cannabis will continue to be sold online by federally licensed producers only and any application to produce and sell medical cannabis must be made under the federal medical cannabis system. However, like other Canadians, medical users will be able to buy cannabis from federally regulated retailers of non-medical cannabis. The federal government has committed to conducting a review of the medical cannabis system in five years.

**Will the province be licensing consumption lounges?**

No, not at this time. The province is focused on introducing a safe and responsible retail non-medical cannabis sector; consideration may be given to other types of licences at a later date.

**Will sales of non-medical cannabis be permitted at outdoor festivals and other events?**

Initially, non-medical cannabis sales will only be permitted at the licenced retail store locations. Offsite sales may be considered in the future.