



Cannabis and Tobacco

The federal government legalized non-medical cannabis on October 17, 2018.

- **See the Cannabis Act, <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-24.5/>**

With public health and safety top of mind, the Province passed legislation to provide for legal and controlled access to non-medical cannabis in British Columbia. The *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* established a number of provincial rules including:

- Requirement that a person be 19 years old as the provincial minimum age to purchase, sell or consume non-medical cannabis; and
- Allowing adults (19 years and older) to possess up to 30 grams of dried, non-medical cannabis or its equivalent in a public place.
- **See BC Laws, www.bclaws.ca/ search Cannabis Control and Licensing Act**

Section 48 of the Assisted Living Regulation defines vapour products and cannabis and sets out operator responsibilities related to cannabis in an assisted living residence.

Do the rules for cannabis, medical cannabis and tobacco differ for operators of different classes of assisted living?

Federal and provincial legislation apply universally. All operators hold an overall responsibility to ensure tobacco and cannabis laws are followed.

What are my responsibilities as an operator related to cannabis and tobacco?

Further to the *Cannabis Act* and the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*, the Assisted Living Regulation describes an operator's responsibilities in assisted living:

- Create a policy about the growth, storage, possession, consumption and disposal of non-medical cannabis, and the consumption of e-cigarettes or tobacco, by residents that:
 - › Includes any restrictions on these activities on the premises. For example, a restriction might be that if tobacco products are prohibited in any areas of the residence or on the premises, the same rules are applied to cannabis;
 - › Is consistent with the prohibitions and restrictions set out in the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* or the *Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act*, as applicable.
- Describe the types of medications, if any, that are not permitted on the premises in the Residency Agreement, in the supportive recovery class (Schedule C-6).
- Ensure only residents may use tobacco, vapour products and non-medical cannabis while on the premises and are supervised if necessary, for their safety.

What are the rules for medical cannabis?

The federal government publishes information about the safe consumption and regulations related to medical cannabis and people who have the authorization of their healthcare provider to access medical cannabis. Some websites you can access related to medical cannabis include:

- ***Controlled Drugs and Substances Act***
- ***Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations***
- ***Medical Use of Cannabis***
- ***Understanding the New Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations***