Cannabis Legalization and Regulation in British Columbia

Council Workshop
February 26, 2018
Introduction

Jurisdiction

Federal government
- licensing cannabis producers
- regulating production and product standards

Provinces and territories
- Distribution
- Retail system
- Compliance and enforcement
- Age limits
- Restrictions on possession
- Public consumption
- Personal cultivation
- Safety laws

Local government
- Retail System
  - Zoning regulations
  - Business regulations
- Public Health
  - Smoking regulations
- Municipally owned lands
Timeline

- **2015** – Federal Government to legalize non-medical cannabis
- **2017** – Federal Government Bill C-45 (*Cannabis Act*) and C-46 (*Criminal Code Amendments*)
- **2017** - Provincial discussion paper
- **Oct. 17, 2017** – DNV Workshop
- **Dec. 5, 2017** – Province announces first decisions on framework
- **Feb. 5, 2018** – Province announces remaining framework
- **Feb. 26, 2018** – DNV Workshop
- **July 2018** – Federal Government to make non-medical cannabis use legal
Provincial Framework on Non-Medical Cannabis Legalization
Provincial Framework on Non-Medical Cannabis Legalization

• **Minimum Age of Possession** 19 years old

• **Retail Framework**
  - privately run
  - government operated stores
  - LCLB licensing and monitoring
  - Rules similar to liquor
  - In urban areas – no cannabis and liquor or tobacco sold together

• **Wholesale Distribution** – Provincial Government (LDB)
Provincial Framework on Non-Medical Cannabis Legalization

• **Personal Possession Limits**
  – Allowed where smoking and vaping allowed
  – Banned in areas frequented by children (beaches, parks, playgrounds)
  – Banned for all occupants in vehicles

• **Personal cultivation**
  – up to 4 plants per household
  – Cannot be visible from public space off property
  – Banned in dwellings used as daycares
  – Landlords and strata Councils may restrict or prohibit
Provincial Framework on Non-Medical Cannabis Legalization

• **Drug Impaired Driving**
  – Increased tools and training for law enforcement
  – New 90-day Administrative Driving Prohibition
  – Zero tolerance for drivers in Graduate Licensing Program
DNV Framework on Non-Medical Cannabis Legalization
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DNV Private Retail Framework

Zoning Regulation Options & Issues

- Continue to prohibit
- Review rezoning applications on case-by-case basis
- Permit in certain existing retail uses or zones
- Minimum separation from sensitive uses (schools etc.)
- Minimum separation from other cannabis stores