



October 17, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you are aware through media coverage, effective today, October 17, 2018, the Federal Cannabis Act will permit Canadians to purchase, grow, and possess cannabis and related products for recreational purposes.

The BC government has enacted the Cannabis Control and Licensing Act (CCLA) as well as the Cannabis Distribution Act, which regulate how cannabis may be sold, distributed, and consumed in British Columbia once it is legalized. **The legislation includes significant restrictions aimed at preventing access to cannabis by minors under the age of 19:**

- **Cannabis cannot be consumed in or on school property or within a prescribed distance.**
- **Cannabis cannot be smoked or vaped in a vehicle or anywhere where tobacco smoking and vaping are prohibited, including a workplace, playground or other park, sports field, skate park, or other places where children commonly gather, near entry/exits, or at a bus stop.**
- **Cannabis cannot be sold, supplied, or allowed to be consumed by minors, in addition to a variety of other measures to prohibit and prevent access of cannabis to minors.**

As a School District, all staff are tasked with fostering a safe and effective learning environment for a vulnerable population. Public school administrators, teachers, and support staff act as role models for K-12 students in their formative years of development.

Currently, Central Okanagan Public Schools' Policies are being amended to include the expectations for students and staff with respect to the changes in legislation on October 17, 2018. If you have questions or require further information on these changes, please contact your school Principal or the Office of the Superintendent.

For further information please see:

Cannabis Act: <http://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/bill/C-45/royal-assent>

Cannabis Control and Licensing Act:

<http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/bills/billscurrent/3rd41st.gov30-1>

Cannabis Distribution Act: <http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/bills/billscurrent/3rd41st.gov31-1>

BC's Approach to Cannabis Legalization:

<http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/bills/billscurrent/3rd41st.gov31-1>

Sincerely,

Kevin Kaardal
Superintendent of Schools/CEO