

# REMEMBER: JUST BECAUSE CANNABIS IS A PLANT DOESN'T MEAN IT'S HARMLESS.

**Every resident of the NWT needs to understand the rules around cannabis and how their governments intend to enforce those rules.**

- The GNWT has developed rules that set out to protect the health and safety of residents.
- Cannabis is legalized, but, like alcohol and tobacco, it comes with restrictions. Individuals are expected to follow the laws.
- The legal minimum age for cannabis use is 19, similar to the legal drinking age in the NWT.
- There are laws in place that regulate the purchasing, possession, growth and consumption of cannabis.
- The RCMP is the main contact for impaired driving, while the GNWT holds authority over enforcement in most situations.
- To report a violation, visit the GNWT's website for the appropriate phone numbers.

All residents have a role to play in knowing and following the laws and rules that have been established.

Visit [www.gov.nt.ca/cannabis](http://www.gov.nt.ca/cannabis) to learn more about the laws around cannabis in the NWT.

## HEALTH EFFECTS

**Be aware of the health effects of cannabis and the risks that come with it.**

### Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

Cannabis can affect the healthy development of your baby's brain. THC, the chemical in cannabis that gets you "high" is passed to your baby through the placenta. When you use cannabis, so does your baby.

### Youth

The brain is developing until about age 25. Research shows that heavy and frequent cannabis use during this time can affect your attention span, memory and ability to learn.

### Mental Health

If you have a personal or family history of mental health issues, the use of cannabis can trigger or worsen potential or current mental health problems.

### Driving

Cannabis clouds your judgment and slows your reaction time. You can put yourself and your fellow community members in danger when driving impaired. It is a criminal offence in Canada to drive while impaired by alcohol or drugs—including cannabis.

If you or someone you know wants to discuss the risks of cannabis use, contact the 24/7, free and anonymous NWT Helpline at **1-800-661-0844**



# CANNABIS IN THE NWT

HOW TO STAY  
SAFE AND WITHIN  
THE LAW

# ENFORCEMENT

## Health and Social Services Environmental Health

Under the *Tobacco Control Act* and the *Cannabis Control Act*, Environmental Health Officers conduct inspections of cannabis retailers for compliance with the legislation. They also enforce many of the rules where cannabis cannot be smoked, such as in playgrounds, recreational areas and public spaces. These rules and inspections protect the health of NWT citizens and helps retailers stay within the law.

For questions about using cannabis in public spaces or health signage requirements, contact the Environmental Health Unit by emailing [environmental\\_health@gov.nt.ca](mailto:environmental_health@gov.nt.ca) or calling **867-767-9066 ext. 49262**. Collect calls are accepted.

## RCMP

Remember, you must be 19 or older to purchase or consume cannabis, the same as alcohol. Selling or giving cannabis to minors is illegal. To contact the RCMP call (867) followed by your local community prefix followed by 1111.

## Community Enforcement

Municipal and community governments may create laws that further restrict cannabis in public areas. Know where you can use cannabis in your community. Contact your local municipal bylaw or community government office.



# ENFORCEMENT

## NWT Parks

For questions about smoking cannabis in NWT parks, call an NWT Parks officer in your region or visit [www.nwtparks.ca](http://www.nwtparks.ca).

**Beaufort Delta:** 867-777-7353  
**Dehcho Region:** 867-695-7515  
**South Slave Region:** 867-875-5565  
**Sahtu Region:** 867-587-7165  
**North Slave Region:** 867-445-5931

## Workplace

For questions about using cannabis or impairment at work, talk to your employer or call the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission at **1-800-661-0792**.

## Renters

For questions about using, growing and storing cannabis in your rented apartment or home, talk to your landlord.

Visit [www.gov.nt.ca/cannabis](http://www.gov.nt.ca/cannabis) for more information on enforcement, legislation and regulation of cannabis in the NWT.

# WHERE YOU CAN AND CANNOT SMOKE CANNABIS

**You can use cannabis on private property and in some public spaces.**

**Smoking cannabis is prohibited within 30 metres from the boundaries of the following outdoor places:**

- Playgrounds
- Fields, courts or rinks used for sports or other athletic activities
- Skateboard or bicycle parks
- Public parks during the duration of a public event taking place in that park

It is important to follow these rules to ensure public health and safety.

