



550 Poirier Street, Coquitlam, BC Canada V3J 6A7 • Phone: 604-939-9201 • Fax: 604-939-7828

Learning for a Lifetime

October 17, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians and Employees,

School District 43 is committed to the well-being of our students and employees. In support of that, we are communicating the following information regarding the legalization of cannabis and its use/consumption in or on school property.

As of October 17, 2018, Cannabis (marijuana) is legal in Canada through the Cannabis Act.

School District 43 has prepared for this and in short, SD43 prohibits, and will continue to prohibit, the possession, consumption, production, supply, sale, purchase or attempt to purchase cannabis by anyone in or on school property.

The [Cannabis Act](#) creates a legal and regulatory framework for controlling the production, distribution, sale and possession of cannabis in Canada.

Implementation of the new law pertaining to cannabis will be a shared responsibility between the federal, provincial and territorial governments. In BC, only adults 19 years of age and older will be able to purchase, process, consume, grow, share or make products with cannabis within strict legal parameters and regulations.

With specific reference to minors and schools, the Federal Act:

- Restricts youth access to cannabis;
- Prohibits promotions that are designed to encourage youth to use cannabis;
- Imposes serious criminal penalties on people who break the law, especially those who import or export cannabis illegally, or provide cannabis to youth.

To further protect youth, the Cannabis Act prohibits anyone from selling or providing cannabis to any person under the age of 18 years, but in BC, Provincial Regulation raises that limit to 19 years of age. The Cannabis Act also creates two new criminal offences, with maximum penalties of 14 years in jail for:

- Giving or selling cannabis to youth; and
- Using a youth to commit a cannabis-related offence.

The BC governments' [Cannabis Control and Licensing Act](#) further dictates that any person **must not consume cannabis in or on school property (Section 61).**



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Specifically related to minors, the Provincial Act also stipulates the following:

(Section 69)

- A person must not sell or supply cannabis or a cannabis accessory to a minor.
- A person must not allow a minor to consume or possess cannabis in a place under a person's control.

(Section 71) (2)

- A minor must not market, advertise or promote cannabis.

(Section 73)

- A minor must not possess, consume, produce, supply, sell, purchase or attempt to purchase cannabis.
- A minor must not possess, make, supply, sell, purchase or attempt to purchase a cannabis accessory.

Any violations of the Act by youth would be dealt with under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. BC prohibits the possession of any amount of cannabis by youth.

SD43 will continue to prohibit all cannabis related instances as supported by Federal and Provincial Act and Regulations, and violations will be dealt with as permitted by the School Act, District and School Codes of Conduct, and/or involvement with the police.

In addition to the regulations outlined above, the school district will continue to educate students on healthy lifestyle choices, the impacts of substances on the mind and body, and appropriate decision-making.

Thank you for your attention to this important update.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Gartland".

Patricia Gartland
Superintendent of Schools