



School District 70 (Alberni)

4690 Roger Street, Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 3Z4 Ph: (250) 723-3565 Fax (250) 723-0318

October 10, 2018

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you regarding the impending cannabis legalization effective October 17, 2018, and the corresponding impact on schools, student expectations and School District 70 (Alberni) policy and procedures.

The BC government's *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* (CCLA) and *Cannabis Distribution Act* regulate how cannabis may be sold, distributed and consumed in British Columbia, once legalized. Within this legislation are significant restrictions aimed at preventing access to cannabis by minors under the age of 19. As a controlled substance prohibited to minors, then, cannabis falls under various SD70 policy and procedures and is specifically captured in [AP 5013: Pupil Involvement with Illegal Drugs and Alcohol](#). **In short, while cannabis is soon to be 'legalized' within Canada, it remains illegal to minors and student involvement with cannabis will be treated in a similar manner to student involvement with alcohol and other drugs.**

I also want to reinforce with students and parents that legislation includes

- Cannabis cannot be consumed in or on school property or within a prescribed distance
- Cannabis cannot be smoked or vaped anywhere tobacco smoking and vaping are prohibited, including a workplace, vehicle, playground or outdoor 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

I also want to be clear that the above expectations apply to adult learners as well as parents/guardians or others visiting schools, school grounds and other SD70 buildings and property. With respect to adult learners, SD70 considers all learners, regardless of age, to be 'pupils' or 'students' for the purpose of its policy and procedures. For those parents, guardians and other adults for whom cannabis consumption is legal, we ask for your understanding and support as we fulfill our obligations under both the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* and *School Act* to prevent access, use and exposure to cannabis by minors.

In conclusion, while the legal landscape is changing with respect to cannabis, expectations of students and adults at schools, at school events and on school district properties remains unchanged.

If you have any questions about the impact of cannabis legalization on schools, please do not hesitate to contact your school principal.

Greg Smyth
Superintendent of School