Developing Cannabis Regulation in Canada:
Federal Policy to Local Implementation

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About CCSA

• **Vision:** A healthier Canadian society where evidence transforms approaches to substance use
• **Mission:** To address issues of substance use in Canada by providing national leadership and harnessing the power of evidence to generate coordinated action
• National non-profit organization
• Pan-Canadian and international role
Current Context: Legal Status
Current Context: Medical Use

- Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes
  - Licensed producers: 56
  - Registered clients: 167,754
  - Personal cultivation licenses: 4,000+
- Illegal dispensaries
  - Unknown numbers
  - Varying degrees of professionalism
  - Regulated in some municipalities
Current Context: Youth Use

Prevalence of Self-Reported Past-Year Cannabis Use, 2015 (%)

- **15+**: 12.3% (Canada) | 6.5% (Switzerland)
- **15-19**: 20.6% (Canada) | 19.9% (Switzerland)
- **20-14**: 29.7% (Canada) | 22.3% (Switzerland)

Canada (CTADS) | Switzerland (AMIS)
Current Context: Criminal Justice

• Arrests in 2015
  – 49,577 arrests for cannabis possession
  – 9,082 arrests for production, trafficking and distribution

• Impaired driving
  – Limited testing capacity and reporting
  – Surveys indicate that youth are more likely to drive high than drunk
Proposed Legislation: Bill C-45

- **Objectives**
  - Prevent young persons from accessing cannabis
  - Protect public health and safety
  - Deter criminal activity
  - Reduce the burden on the criminal justice system
Bill C-45 (cont.)

• Outlines exemptions to criminal prohibition for:
  – Production
    • Personal production of up to 4 plants 100 cm high
  – Distribution
  – Sale
    • Minimum age of 18
  – Possession
    • Up to 30 g of dried product or its equivalent
Bill C-45 (cont.)

- Identifies criminal penalties
  - Range from fines to 14 years incarceration
- Identifies regulatory and process requirements, including:
  - Promotion and packaging
    - Not accessible or appealing to youth
    - Factual and brand information only
Bill C-45 (cont.)

• Regulatory and process requirements (cont.):
  – Product formats
    • Dried products and oils
    • Note: Regulations for edibles to follow
  • Identifies non-criminal sanctions for regulatory breaches
    – E.g., fines, suspension or removal of licences
Impaired Driving

- Separate Bill (C-46)
- Addresses operation of vehicles while under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Provides for roadside collection of oral fluids
Jurisdictions for Implementation

Federal

Provincial

Municipal
## Jurisdictional Responsibilities (in brief)

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<td>What is legal vs. illegal</td>
<td>Administrative regulations</td>
<td>Enforcement &amp; inspections</td>
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<td>Production</td>
<td>Distribution &amp; sales</td>
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Competing Objectives
Balancing Objectives

Regulations
- Product formats
- Pricing & taxation
- Ease of access

Illicit Market
- Profit margin
- Unmet demand
Key Challenges

- Balancing objectives
- Proactive investment in capacity building
  - Administration
  - Testing
  - Enforcement
  - Prevention, education and treatment
- Consistency
- Surveillance and monitoring
- Research
Thematic Issues

- Diverse stakeholders
  - Levels of government, NGOs
  - Industry (licensed medical producers)
  - Dispensaries (illegal market)
  - Health, justice, economists
  - Canadians
- Local innovation
  - Non-profit sales models
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