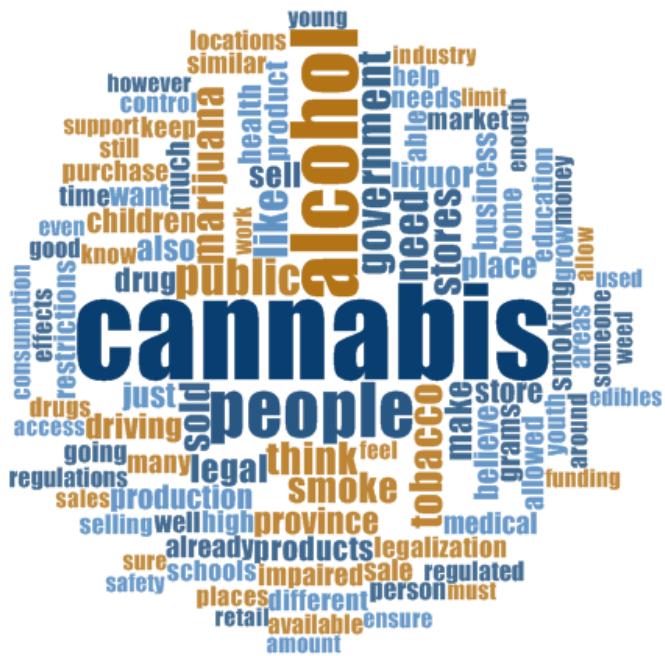


Legalization of Cannabis: Report on Public and Stakeholder Engagement

Public Engagement Division

Communications and Public Engagement Branch



August 2017

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Background

Earlier this year, following the tabling of 80 recommendations by the Federal Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation, the Government of Canada announced its plans to legalize the sale, growth, distribution and possession of cannabis by July 2018. On April 13, the Federal Government introduced legislation to legalize, strictly regulate and restrict access to cannabis (an Act respecting cannabis and to amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, the Criminal Code and other Acts), while enhancing public safety through new legislation addressing drug and alcohol-impaired driving (an Act to amend the Criminal Code (offences relating to conveyances) and consequential amendments to other Acts).

The same day, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced its intention to work collaboratively with the Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments in order to introduce cannabis legislation and regulations specific to this province. The Provincial Government stated that its primary objectives are to keep cannabis out of the hands of children, keep profits out of the pockets of criminals, protect public safety and minimize the harms of use.

Given the public health and safety issues and the economic opportunity that the legalization of cannabis presents, the Provincial Government brought together an interdepartmental working group and undertook a series of public and stakeholder engagements to examine issues and inform decisions such as where cannabis can be sold and who may purchase it.

Methodology and Approach

On June 9, 2017, the Provincial Government released the details of its engagement process, which comprised three key components:

- (1) In-person stakeholder sessions – four sessions were held from June 27-29, 2017 in: St. John's (two); Corner Brook; and Labrador West.
- (2) Questionnaire – housed on government's new online engagement portal, EngageNL. Newfoundlanders and Labradorians had until June 30, 2017 to respond to the questionnaire.
- (3) Written submissions – accepted via email or regular post.

Privacy

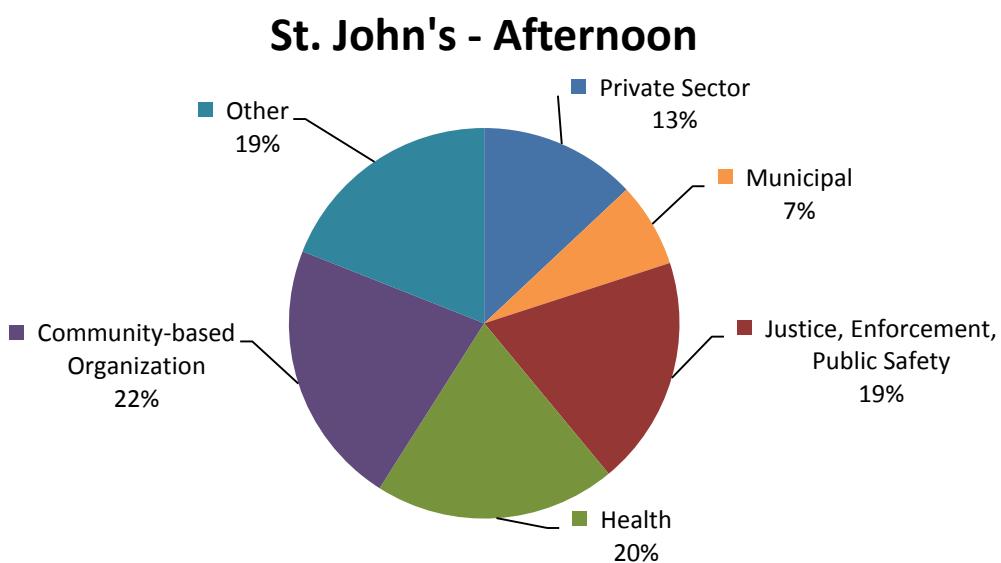
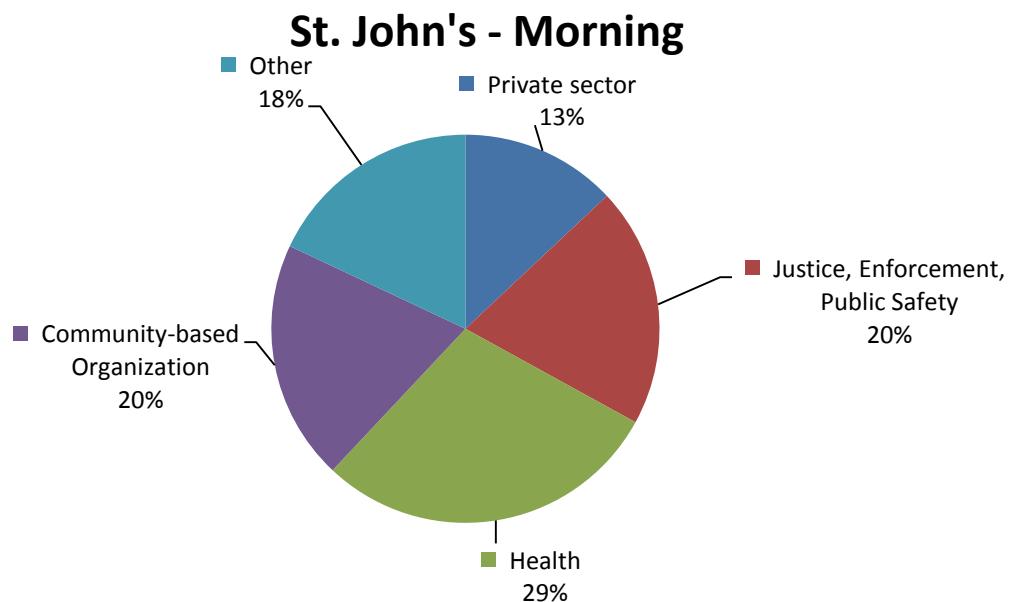
In accordance with the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015, privacy notices concerning the collection and protection of personal information were distributed during the in-person stakeholder sessions and posted on the online engagement portal.

Synopsis of Participants

A. In-Person Stakeholder Sessions

In all, 119 participants representing some 75 stakeholder organizations attended four sessions: two in St. John's on June 27 (one in the morning with 48 participants and another in the afternoon with 52 participants), one session in Corner Brook on June 29 (nine participants), and another in Labrador City also on June 29 (10 participants). In order to obtain balanced input, efforts were made to identify stakeholders from both the broader social and economic sectors.

The following presents an overview of the participants by sector of each in-person session:

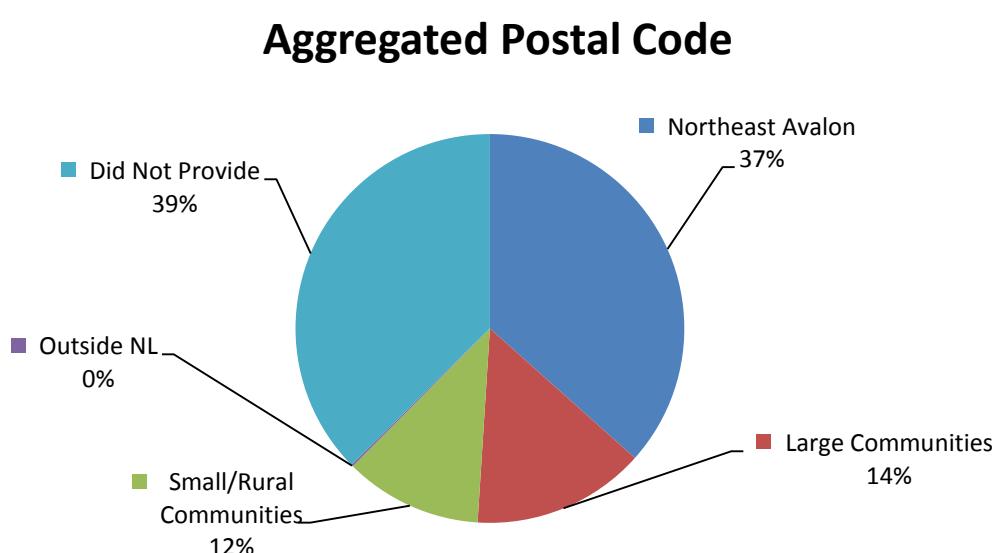
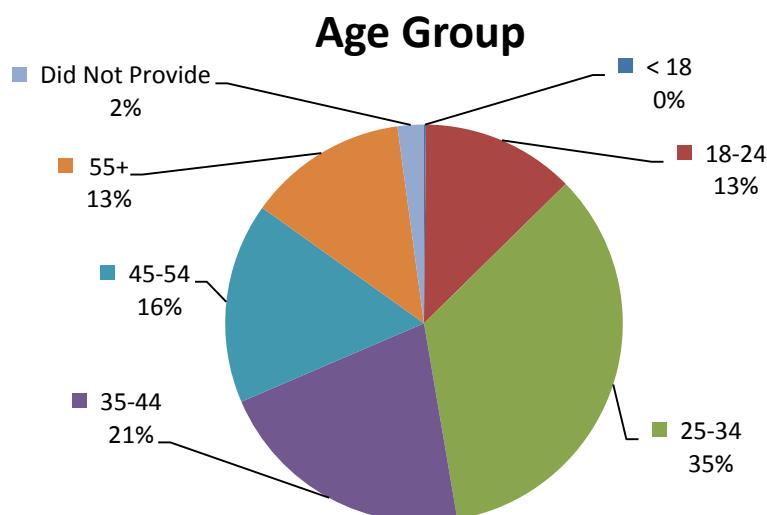


Note: Pie charts have not been provided for the sessions in Labrador West and Corner Brook due to a lower number of participants. A full list of stakeholder groups can be found at Annex A.

Polling conducted during the stakeholder sessions reveals that most stakeholders found the session informative, a good use of their time, engaging and relevant. The vast majority agreed or strongly agreed they felt they were heard during the session, while the majority believed that their input and feedback would be considered by government. Most agreed or strongly agreed they had been provided enough information to participate in the discussions and rated the process as very good or good.

B. Online Questionnaire

In total, 2,575 people took part in the online questionnaire. This figure includes eight mailed in questionnaires. The following charts give an overview of respondents by identified age group and aggregated postal code (note: these fields were optional in the questionnaire):



Note: While zero percentages are given for both the <18 age group and the Outside NL postal code in the pie charts above, there were four respondents for each of these categories.

Given the large number of postal codes, for reporting purposes postal codes have been grouped as Northeast Avalon (i.e. St. John's, Torbay, Paradise, Portugal Cove-St. Philip's, Mount Pearl, Conception Bay South, Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove), large communities outside the Northeast Avalon (i.e. Gander, Carbonear, Grand Falls-Windsor, Corner Brook, Stephenville, Labrador City-Wabush, Clarenville, Deer Lake), and small/rural communities (i.e. all other communities). It should be noted that the largest share of questionnaire respondents – 39% – chose not to identify their postal code.

C. Written Submissions

Seven formal written submissions were submitted from:

- Cannabis Canada Association
- Canadian Medical Cannabis Council
- Choices for Youth
- Insurance Bureau of Canada
- Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association
- Privateer Holdings
- Tilray

There was also one anonymous written submission received via the EngageNL portal.

In addition to the seven written submissions received through the formal consultation process, various departments and agencies also received other correspondence in the form of emails, letters, phone calls, etc.

Results – Overview

A. In-Person Stakeholder Sessions

Participants were asked to discuss and answer five questions in a table discussion format. For the St. John's sessions, participants were grouped by social and economic sector for certain discussions, with facilitators asking economic and social-specific probing questions, as required, in order to move the discussion along. The following is an overview of aggregated responses from all sessions:

1. What impacts, positive or negative, do you see for your organization (business, etc.) as a result of the legalization of cannabis?

Among negative impacts, the most prevalent concern was the impact of cannabis on health, particularly in terms of mental health and addictions, especially among youth. There were also commonly voiced concerns about impaired driving and whether tickets will act as a deterrent to keep youth from driving under the influence of cannabis. There were also comments on use in the workplace, particularly in terms of how to detect use by employees and impacts on workplace safety.

As for positive impacts, the most commonly cited advantage was the potential for business development and revenue generation. There were also several comments related to a reduced burden on the legal system and the potential to use the legalization of cannabis as an opportunity to properly identify and address the issue of impairment at work and behind the wheel.

2. What are your views on the most appropriate distribution/retail sale model that will support the safe distribution and sale of cannabis?

During the table discussions, the most popular option for selling and distributing cannabis was through a Crown corporation, with the majority of comments supporting the use of an existing (as opposed to new) Crown corporation such as the Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation.

3. What safeguards should be put in place to protect society from hazards related to the legalization of cannabis?

The most commonly cited safeguard was education and awareness. It was mentioned repeatedly that the public, especially youth but also parents and employers, must have access to information about the risks of cannabis consumption in order to make informed choices. A sub-component of the comments on education was support for research on cannabis to ensure that information is accurate and up-to-date.

The issue of helping employers to identify and safeguard against workplace consumption from an occupational health and safety perspective was also frequently raised. Other

commonly mentioned safeguards for government to consider included identifying and using accurate impairment testing for both the workplace and roadside, restricting youth access (including proper zoning for consumption and production), and strictly controlled labeling and marketing of cannabis products.

4. What role do you see for your organization to help address the impacts of the legalization of cannabis?

It is clear that stakeholder organizations see themselves as the Provincial Government's partners in the legalization of cannabis, particularly as it relates to the education of youth, parents and communities and the training of teachers, social workers, health care professionals and public safety officials to deal with cannabis-related issues. Some groups see themselves helping to conduct research and generate quality information about cannabis, while others see an advocacy and advisory role for themselves in terms of helping government make prudent decisions and policies during the implementation of cannabis legalization. Still other groups view themselves as leaders in safety, outreach, counseling and crime prevention services and see this role expanding to include cannabis.

5. Do you have any additional comments you would like to make with regards to the legalization of cannabis in NL?

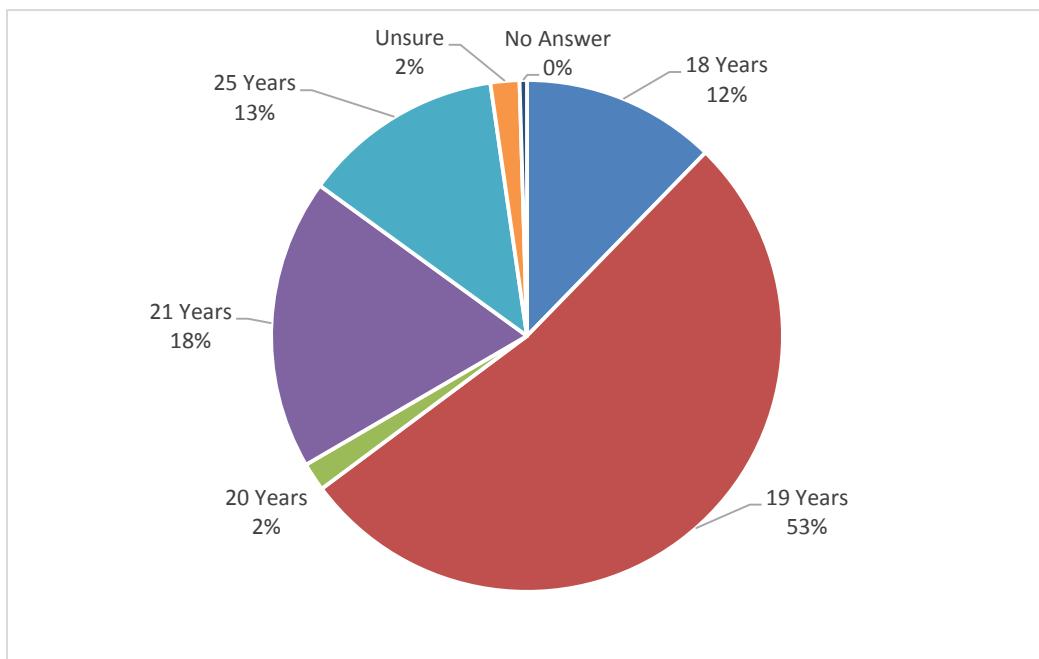
Stakeholders used this question to reiterate thoughts articulated in earlier discussions, primarily comments about the need for: public education and a strong research agenda; the health and social harms of cannabis; the prevention and management of addiction; quality control; differentiation between recreational and medicinal use of cannabis in terms of access and penalties; the importance of appropriate regulations and the ability to enforce them; and the need for dedicated and adequate resources.

A summary of stakeholder session discussions by question or theme has been attached as Annex B.

B. Online Questionnaire¹

In addition to questions about age category and postal code, the 2,575 questionnaire respondents were asked to answer 11 targeted questions, some with an open-ended option for providing additional comments. The following presents an overview of responses.

1. What do you think should be the legal age to purchase cannabis in Newfoundland and Labrador?

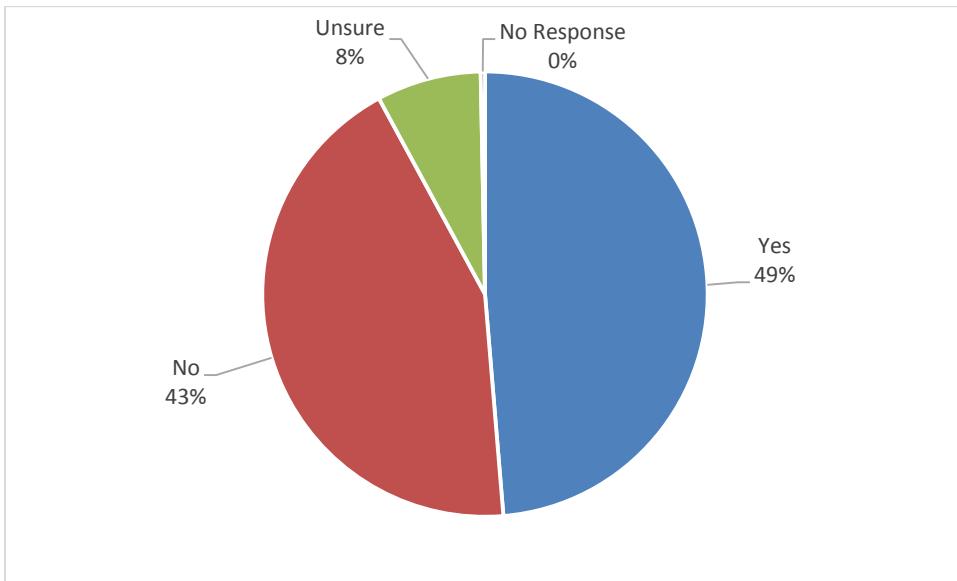


Key Results:

- 53% chose 19 as their preferred age to legally purchase cannabis.
- 19 was the most common response across all age groups and postal codes.
- Support for an older legal age to purchase cannabis increased in responses received from older age groups and in small/rural communities.

¹ The questionnaire is non-scientific and, therefore, non-conclusive in nature (i.e. predictions or generalizations about probability of thought or behaviour across the general population cannot be drawn).

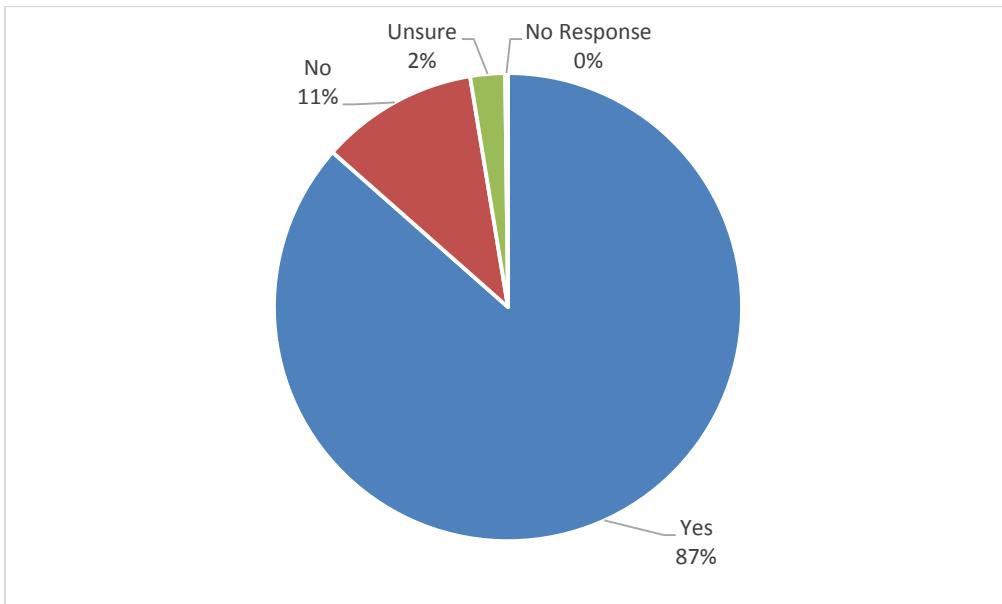
2. Should the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador allow cannabis to be sold in a store that also sells alcohol and/or tobacco?



Key Results:

- 49% responded 'yes', they want cannabis sold in stores that also sell alcohol and/or tobacco products.
- This was the top answer across all 18+ age categories and postal code groupings, with strongest support in large communities outside the Northeast Avalon; the percentage of support does start to decrease in relation to higher age categories.
- Support for 'no' was also strong at 43%.

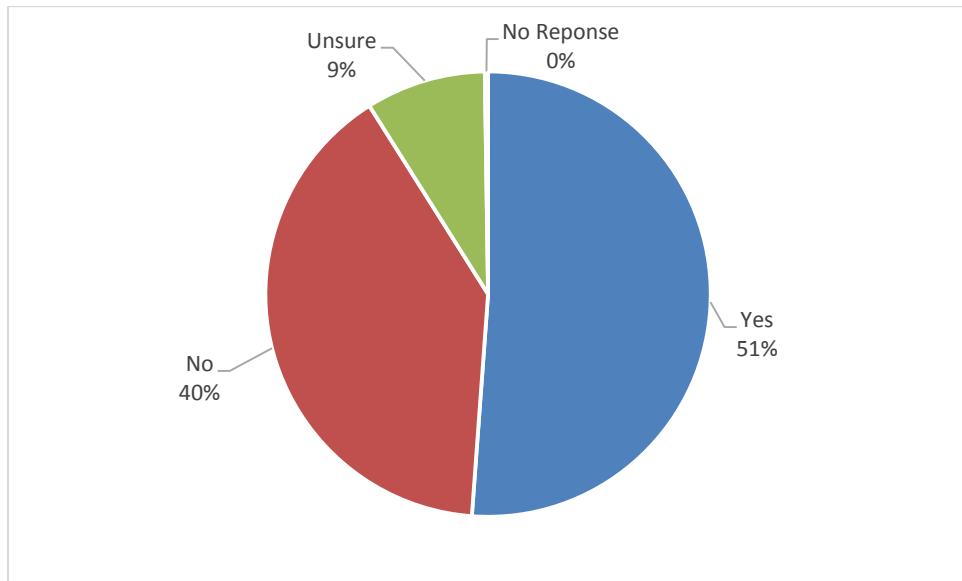
3. Should the locations where cannabis can be smoked or vaped be restricted in the same way as tobacco?



Key Results:

- 87% responded 'yes', they wish to see restrictions on locations where cannabis may be smoked or vaped.
- Support for this was strong across all age categories and postal code groupings.

4. Should the province similarly restrict where edible cannabis products can be consumed?



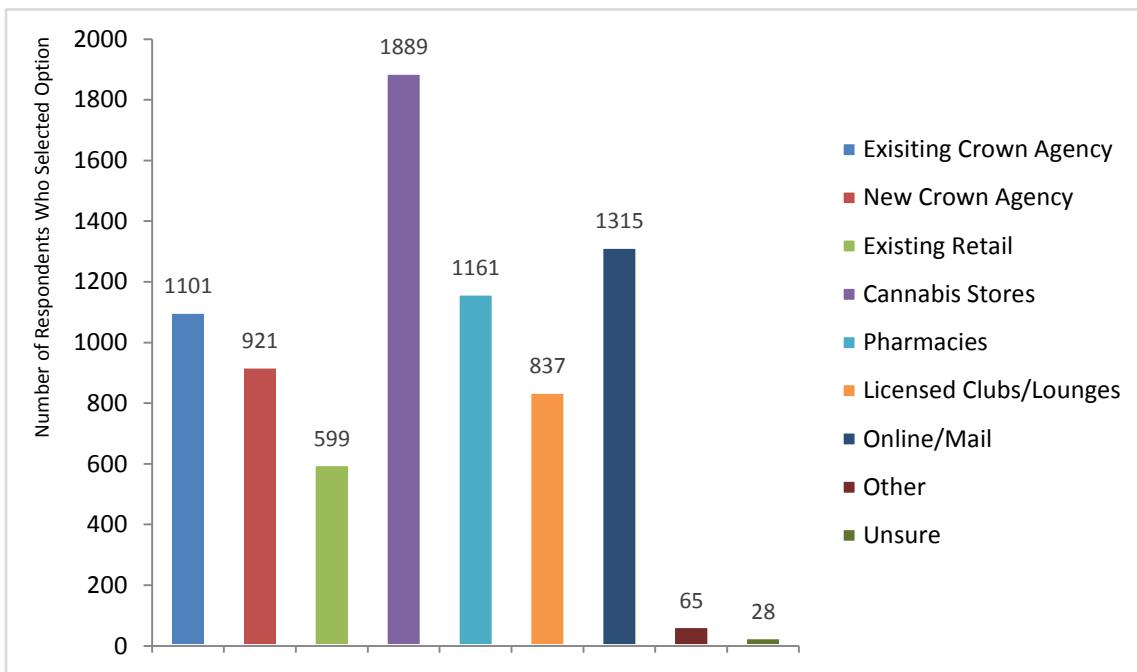
Key Results:

- 51% answered 'yes', they support restrictions on where edible cannabis products can be consumed.
- Support was stronger among 35+ age groups and in small/rural communities.

5. Where do you think cannabis should be sold?

The following 'select all that apply' options were provided:

- An existing Crown agency (e.g. Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation)
- A newly created Crown agency
- Existing retail stores such as convenience stores
- Stores specifically for cannabis products and accessories
- Pharmacies
- Licensed establishments (e.g. clubs, lounges, restaurants, hotels)
- Online/mail order
- Other (specify)
- Unsure



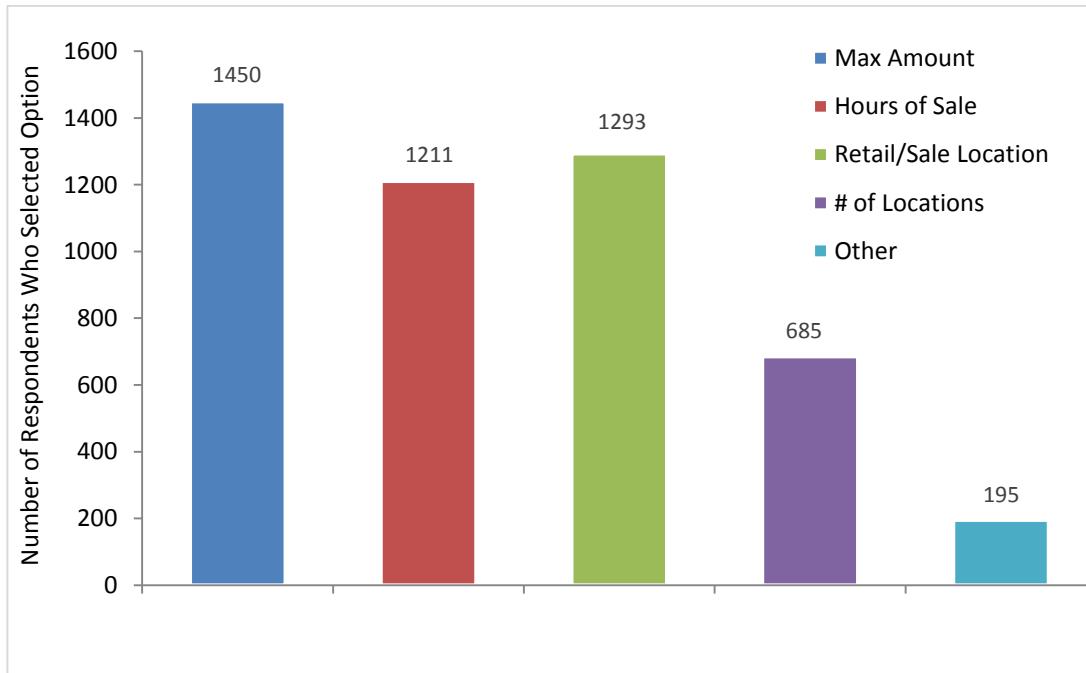
Key Results:

- 73% chose 'stores specifically for cannabis products and accessories'.
- This was the top answer across all age categories and postal code groupings.
- There was also strong support for online/mail order (51%), though this support decreases in relation to higher age categories and in small/rural communities.
- Support for pharmacies was stronger in small/rural communities at 47% (second most common answer in this postal code grouping).

6. What restrictions should apply to the sale of cannabis in the province?

The following 'select all that apply' options were provided:

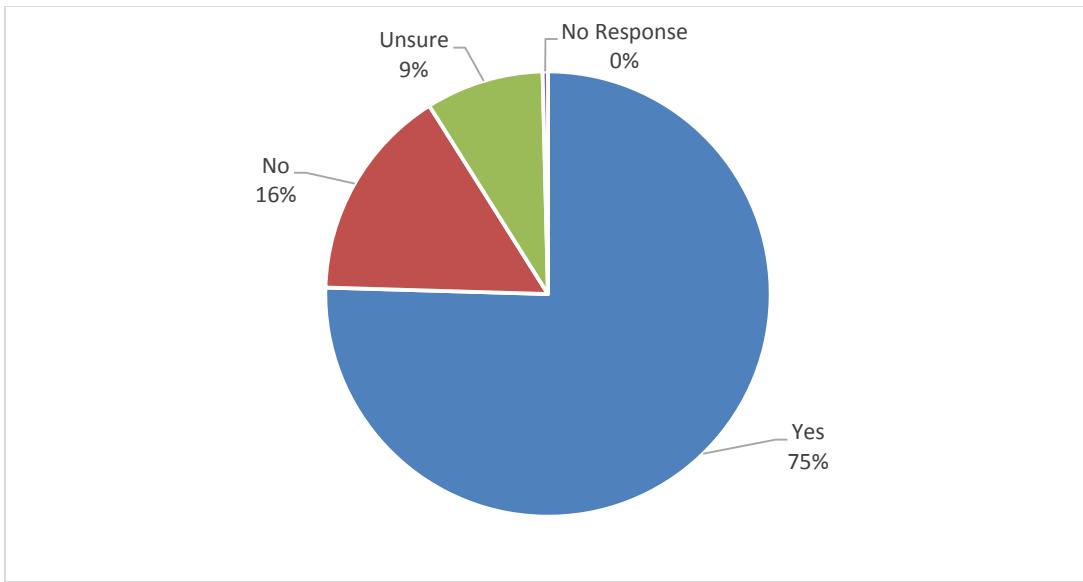
- Maximum amount in a single transaction
- Hours of sale
- Retail/sale location
- Number of retail/sale locations in a given geographic area
- Other (specify)



Key Results:

- 56% felt that restrictions should apply to the maximum sale amount per transaction.
- This was the most popular choice across all 18+ age groups and outside of the Northeast Avalon.
- Support for restrictions on sale location was also strong at 50% and hours of sale at 47% across all age categories and postal code groupings.

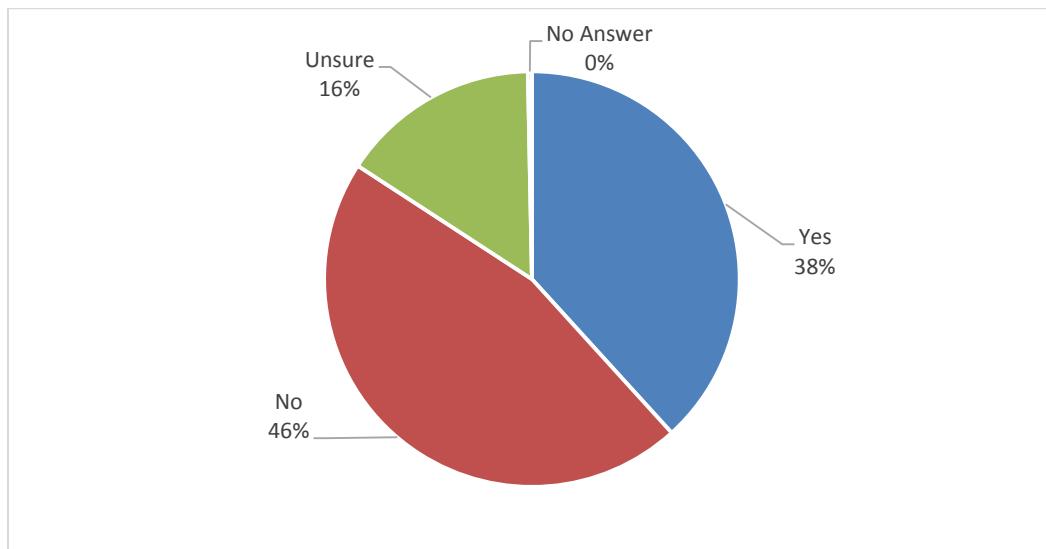
7. Should the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador establish additional provincial consequences for drug-impaired driving similar to those it has for alcohol, including zero tolerance for drivers under 22 years of age?



Key Results:

- 75% answered 'yes', they approve additional provincial consequences for drug-impaired driving.
- This was a majority response across all age categories and postal code groupings, with strongest support in older age groups and in small/rural communities.

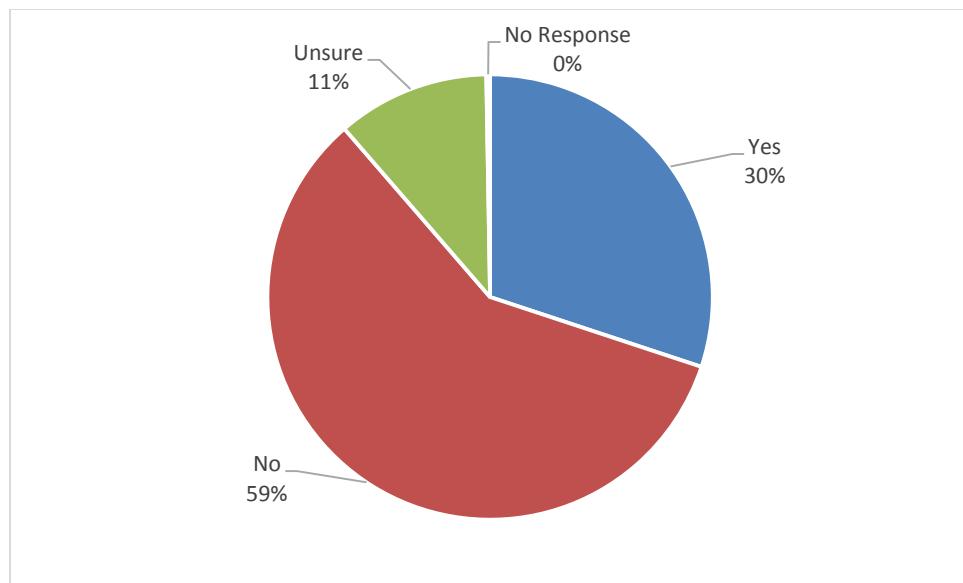
8. Should the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador restrict commercial production within the province, such as where production can take place?



Key Results:

- 46% do not wish to see restrictions on commercial production which, though not a majority, is the top answer.
- This is especially true in younger age groups; there is little variation across postal code groupings.
- Note: see 'Unsure Responses' section below.

9. Should additional restrictions to the home growth of cannabis apply within the Newfoundland and Labrador, such as the types of residences where home growth can take place?



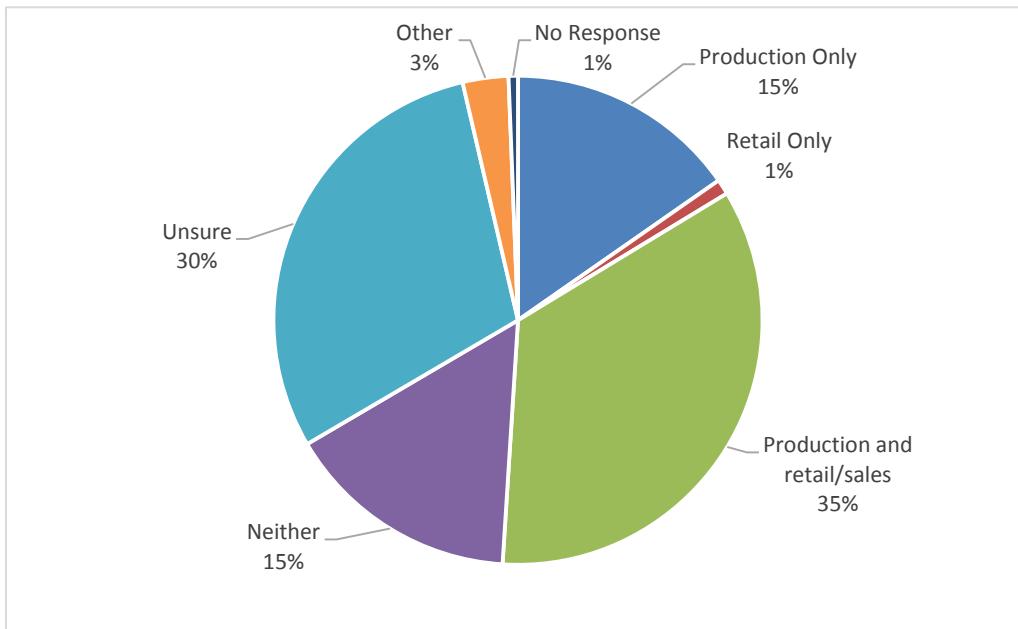
Key Results:

- 59% answered 'no', they do not support such restrictions on home growth.
- Support for placing no restrictions on home growth was strong (at least 50%) across all age categories except 45-54 (at 49%) and postal code groupings.
- Note: see 'Unsure Responses' section below.

10. Should the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador offer funding or other supports to businesses involved in cannabis production or retail/sales in this province?

The following options were provided:

- Production only
- Retail only
- Production and retail/sales
- Neither
- Unsure
- Other (specify)



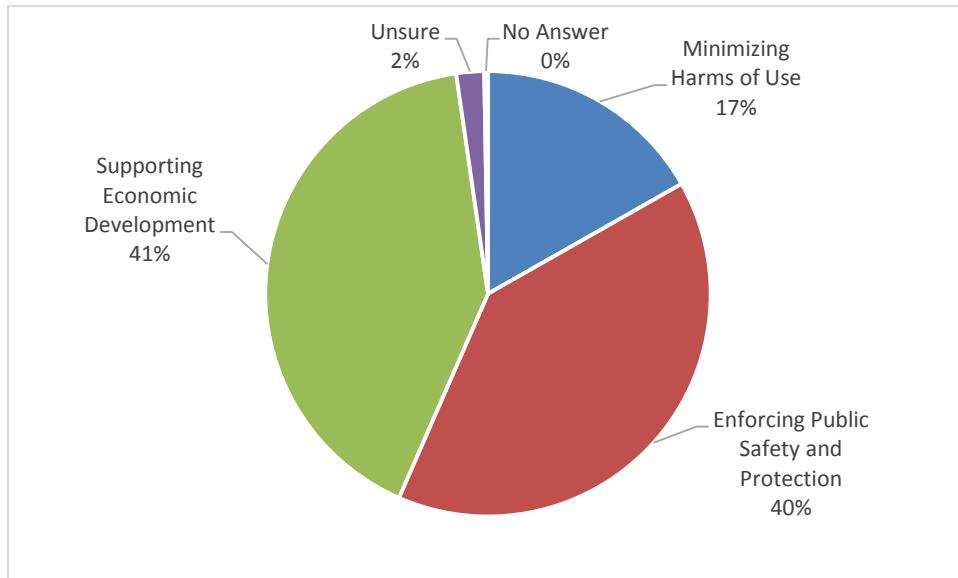
Key Results:

- 35% chose funding or other supports both for production and retail/sales, the most common choice overall.
- There was strong support for 'neither' in the 45-54 age group (46%) and in the 55+ age group (58%).
- There was little variation across postal code groupings.
- Note: see 'Unsure Responses' section below.

11. In general, what should the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's priority be when making decisions about cannabis? Please choose your top priority.

The following options were provided:

- **Minimizing harms of use**
- **Enforcing public safety and protection**
- **Supporting economic development**
- **Unsure**



Key Results:

- 41% selected economic development as the top priority for government in making decisions about cannabis.
- This choice was the strongest among the 18-24 age group (54%) and the 25-34 age group (55%).
- Public safety and protection was the top choice among respondents aged 35+ and outside the Northeast Avalon.

‘Unsure’ Responses

It should be noted that the frequency of ‘unsure’ as a response to the question on whether government should provide funding or other supports to businesses involved in cannabis production or retail/sales (question #10) was fairly high at 30%. This may indicate that this is an area where people do not feel they have enough information to form an opinion or to have an understanding of the issue. The questions on whether there should be restrictions on the home growth of cannabis (question #9) and commercial production (question #8) also had relatively high levels of ‘unsure’ as a response, at 11% and 16% respectively.

Online Questionnaire – Areas of Convergence and Divergence

The following areas of convergence or agreement can be noted from the questionnaire results:

- ✓ Setting 19 as the legal age to purchase cannabis.
- ✓ Establishing restrictions on smoking, vaping and selling cannabis.
- ✓ Selling cannabis at specialized cannabis stores as well as online or via mail order.
- ✓ Placing additional provincial consequences on drug-impaired driving.
- ✓ Placing no additional restrictions on the growth of cannabis at home.

The following areas of divergence or disagreement have been identified from the results of the online questionnaire:

- ✓ Whether to allow co-location of the sale of cannabis with alcohol and/or tobacco.
- ✓ Restrictions on where cannabis may be consumed in edible formats.
- ✓ Restrictions on the commercial production of cannabis.
- ✓ Government funding and other supports for the production or retail/sale of cannabis.
- ✓ Government’s top decision-making priority.

Use of Online Questionnaire for Stakeholder Session Polling

Most of the questions included in the online questionnaire were also used as polling questions during the in-person stakeholder sessions in St. John’s, although for polling purposes yes/no questions were reframed as (strongly) agree/disagree questions. In some cases, differences were observed between the results of the online questionnaire and the in-person stakeholder sessions. It is unclear whether these differences can be attributed to the type of respondent (i.e. members of the general public speaking for themselves vs. stakeholder group representatives speaking for their organization), the question format (i.e. yes/no vs. agree/disagree) or the fact that in-person session participant responses may have been influenced by table facilitation and discussion with other participants.

The following are the most salient examples of divergence between stakeholder polling and online questionnaire results:

Where cannabis should be sold

- While support for selling cannabis at specialized cannabis stores (i.e. the top preference in the online questionnaire) was strong among stakeholders, the top choice overall was

selling it at an existing Crown agency such as the Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation. This polling result is consistent with the analysis of table discussions above.

Sale of cannabis at stores that also sell alcohol and/or tobacco

- Most stakeholders disagreed or strongly disagreed with co-locating the sale of cannabis with alcohol and/or tobacco, whereas half of online questionnaire respondents wanted to see cannabis sold at stores that also sell liquor and/or tobacco.

Restrictions on the sale of cannabis

- While support for restricting the maximum amount of cannabis that can be sold in a single transaction (i.e. the top choice among online questionnaire respondents) was strong among participants of in-person stakeholder sessions, the most popular answer among this group was restricting retail/sale location.

Government funding/support for businesses involved in cannabis production or retail/sales

- The most common response among participants of the in-person stakeholder sessions was that government should fund or support neither cannabis production nor retail/sales. By contrast, the most popular choice among online questionnaire respondents was funding/support for both production and retail/sales.

Restrictions on commercial production, such as where production can take place

- While nearly half of online questionnaire respondents did not wish to see government place restrictions on commercial production, the majority of in-person stakeholder session participants agreed or strongly agreed that government should restrict commercial production.

Restrictions on where edible cannabis products can be consumed

- Both online questionnaire respondents and in-person stakeholder session participants supported placing restrictions on where edible cannabis products may be consumed. However, this support was considerably stronger among in-person stakeholders.

Annex A – Listing of Stakeholders in Attendance

Addictions Medicine

Adult Probation

Alliance for the Control of Tobacco

ALPHA Pharmacy Group (observing)

Association of Fire Services

Association of Psychology in Newfoundland and Labrador

Association of Registered Nurses Newfoundland and Labrador

Atlantic Convenience Stores Association

AVAIL HR Consulting (observing)

Blue Sky Family Care

Canadian Federation of Independent Business

Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters – Newfoundland and Labrador

Central Health

Citizens' Crime Prevention Association of Newfoundland and Labrador

City of Corner Brook

City of Mount Pearl

Coalition Against Violence

College of the North Atlantic

College of Licensed Practical Nurses

College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador

Conseil scolaire francophone provincial de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador

Council of Independent Pharmacy Owners Newfoundland and Labrador

Eastern Health

Federation of School Councils

Gordon Parsons (individual)

Hope Haven

John Howard Society

Labrador West Status of Women Council
Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador
Legal Aid Commission of Newfoundland and Labrador
Marine Institute – Centre for Aquaculture and Seafood Development
Memorial University – Discipline of Psychiatry
Memorial University – Department of Psychology
Memorial University – Office of the Vice-President
Mining Industry Newfoundland and Labrador
Mothers Against Drunk Driving
Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador
Nalcor Energy
Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Career Colleges
Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Social Workers
Newfoundland and Labrador Chiropractic Association
Newfoundland and Labrador English School District
Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation
Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association
Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board
Newfoundland and Labrador Public Health Association
Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association
Office of the Child Youth Advocate
Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women
Public Health Agency of Canada
Public Legal Information Association of Newfoundland and Labrador
Public Libraries Board
Public Prosecutions Canada
Public Prosecutions Newfoundland and Labrador
Registered Nurses' Union of Newfoundland and Labrador
Restaurant Association of Newfoundland and Labrador

Retail Council of Canada
Rodrigues Winery and Distillery / Frozen in Time
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Royal Newfoundland Constabulary
Schizophrenia Society of Newfoundland and Labrador
Sedna Nutra Inc.
Sheriff's Office
Smokers' Helpline
Stella's Circle
Transition House Association of Newfoundland and Labrador
The Therapeutic Collective
Thrive Community Youth Network
Town of Labrador City
Youth Corrections
Youth Diversion Coalition of Newfoundland and Labrador
U Turn Centre
Victim Services
Western Health
Willow House

Annex B – Summary of In-Person Stakeholder Sessions

Note: Given the much higher number of stakeholders in attendance at both St. John's sessions, a theme-based roll-up of answers is presented below. For the sessions in Labrador West and Corner Brook, however, the information below reflects the answers as recorded (with minimal revisions to improve readability and protect privacy).

St. John's – morning session (based on table report-backs)

Initial Thoughts on Legalization of Cannabis

- Education and awareness (especially for youth) – opportunity to provide accurate information, understanding limits for impairment, reduce stigma, training for teachers and health professionals, need for research and information.
- Opportunities for business – sale, distribution, growing, food safety, research and development. All leads to job creation.
- Mental health and addictions concerns – mental health and addictions services already stressed, opportunity to offer better services.
- Regulations need to be standardized – should be same/similar to smoking/vaping (i.e. use in public places).
- Edibles will require regulation (i.e. using in public, potency).
- Will be challenging to identify impairment (i.e. in the workplace, police – road safety).
- Will decrease the number of people charged with minor possession – free up the justice system.
- Marketing and packaging needs to be plain – should not be enticing to youth.
- Retailer concerns – who can sell it, what to do with employees under the influence.

Distribution and Sale of Cannabis – Economic Sector

- Recommendations for legal age for purchase ranged from 19-21.
- Need for regulations around acceptable impairment for employees.
- Opinions on locations differ – some say limit where to sell it, others say sell in any location with proper regulations.
- Need regulations on sale/distribution (i.e. hours of sale, locations).
- New model expensive – already have a model around alcohol.
- Role of government should be enforcement only.
- Prices cannot be more than black market – need to move people from illegal to legal.
- Pharmacies concern around recreational use – may not be reflected in medical history.

Distribution and Sale of Cannabis – Social Sector

- Education on usage and risk of impairment.
- Revenues should go back to education and treatment.
- Need options for mail order, online.
- Risk of youth accessibility – at home, school.
- Need packaging that is not appealing to youth.
- Need equal access in rural.
- No retail locations near schools.
- Should not be sold in convenience stores.

- Should be sold and regulated by a crown corporation similar to the Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation.

Ensuring Safety and Minimizing Harms of Use – Economic Sector

- OHS regulation – very important to know parameters and what they can do about employees under influence.
- Testing kits for employers. As of now, only indicator is smell – need something else.
- Need policy and regulation to ensure business can respond/deal with employees under influence – need OHS regulations updated.
- What accommodations provided for medical and recreational usage at workplace?
- If age limit too high, will just keep illegal sale/distribution up and will be brought in from other provinces.
- Clear labelling for use like you see on tobacco.
- #1 should be to keep from youth.
- Concern around how it reacts with prescriptions individuals may be on, so there is a need for education on impacts.
- Do not set regulations that cannot be enforced.
- Training required for enforcement.
- Should not be in public places or near kids. Should also be restrictions around edibles. Edible and smoking are different but need to be controlled as to how/where it can be used.

Ensuring Safety and Minimizing Harms of Use – Social Sector

- Smoke free zones to reduce second hand smoke.
- Safe driving and concerns about detection methods.
- Concerns around roadside testing (accuracy, method, lag times).
- Education access – PSAs, schools, online.
- Regulated consumption of edibles in public.
- Allow smoking in lounges/ban smoking in lounges.
- OHS policies need to be in place to reduce risk.
- Education and awareness regarding safe use, side effects, stigma for medical use.
- Promotion and labelling – should not target youth or encourage use.
- Regulated consumption around children in cars and home.
- Zero tolerance for certain jobs/sectors (e.g. transport, pilots, doctors).
- Enforcement challenges for police.
- More research into the effects of cannabis use is needed.
- Use in the workplace – how do people know if their employees are under the influence?

St. John's – afternoon session (based on table report-backs)

Initial Thoughts on Legalization of Cannabis

- Education and training required – teachers, messaging for youth important (health risks, impairment, safe use, etc.).
- Economic benefits – business opportunities, new product opportunities, tax revenues for government/municipalities.
- Reduced stress on justice system related to possession charges – however may be increased charges related to impairment.
- Cannabis in the workplace – OHS concerns, detecting impairment, need for policy development.
- May reduce the black market – will need to be price competitive to move people to legal purchase/possession.
- Need method for detecting impairment (i.e. impaired driving).
- Need regulations on how it is managed and sold – product display, quality assurance, who can sell.
- Need clarification on provincial vs. municipal government roles/regulations.
- Concerns with potential negative impacts with regards to mental health and addictions.
- Need to reduce the stigma associated with cannabis use (i.e. awareness of health benefits).

Distribution and Sale of Cannabis – Economic Sector

- Ensure a level playing field where everyone gets an opportunity.
- NLC's current model for alcohol is great – modify it to improve regulation and safety – licensing, distribution, controls, locations.
- Stand-alone corporation would be too expensive, lead to high prices, and no decrease in the black market.
- NLC model limits price and creates a monopoly.
- Harmonization across provinces for distribution and sale models, especially the Atlantic provinces.
- Consistent regulation across the province is key for safety (i.e. location and hours of sale).
- Taxes obtained from cannabis sale should be evenly distributed especially for municipalities.
- Should be licensed and highly regulated and controlled to avoid issues around enforcement similar to alcohol.
- Municipalities – should be able to apply taxes and need clear direction on sale, production, growth.
- Mail order – for people who may still have social stigma. Need provincial mail order regulations.

Distribution and Sale of Cannabis – Social Sector

- Should not be sold with alcohol.
- Restrict sale near schools/youth centres.
- Use similar model as NLC (infrastructure already in place).

- Need to regulate similar to other products such as tobacco.
- Fits with pharmacy model/pharmacies not appropriate.
- Crown corporation regulation is best.
- Needs to be heavily regulated.
- Education is important – harm prevention/risk reduction.
- Do not concentrate the sale of cannabis or shops all in one area.
- Should not be sold in convenience stores.
- Should not be advertised.
- Managing distribution in rural areas.
- Controlled areas (i.e. specific locations such as clubs, not in residential areas).
- Need to understand the difference between medicinal vs. recreational.

Ensuring Safety and Minimizing Harms of Use – Economic Sector

- Need regulations on level of intoxication regardless if it is alcohol or cannabis.
- Use a universal sobriety test based on physicality for intoxication level vs what's in your system – cause people to react differently.
- Need guidelines for employers with regards to testing employees to gauge cannabis intoxication.
- Education is key to make people aware of side effects. Limits and guidelines are very important.
- Elements of Liquor Control Act can apply to cannabis.
- Training required for those selling cannabis.
- Education and awareness particularly for youth on side effects and impacts.
- Need production restrictions on how cannabis is produced with conditions on standards (e.g. organic products vs. conventionally grown).
- OHS has a structure around how to address intoxication around suspicion, just cause or post incident. This should be adaptable for cannabis.
- Government should support small businesses to establish safeguards and regulations.

Ensuring Safety and Minimizing Harms of Use – Social Sector

- Need education and increased research on health, physical effects and impairment.
- Proper labelling is important (e.g. dosage; potency; ingredient list).
- Training and equipment is needed for police to detect impairment.
- Limit advertising, marketing and displays.
- Concerns regarding smoking in public places and second-hand smoke.
- Need to set appropriate age limit.
- Workplace safety concerns (e.g. how to determine impairment).
- Need to determine appropriate price levels (i.e. too high could increase black market activity).
- Need education and resources in schools.
- Edibles need to be regulated and shouldn't be attractive to kids.
- Legalization is happening so quickly, may not be enough time to prepare for it.

Corner Brook

What impacts, positive or negative, do you see for your organization as a result of the legalization of cannabis?

- No real impact from a treatment standpoint. Marijuana is looked at as a gateway drug for a combination of drugs.
- More permission for youth and no consequences have ramped up the no big deal conversation.
- Province can put provisions in.
- High correlation with smoking, alcohol.
- If there are no consequences, this sets up a bad situation.
- Tickets are no big deal because youth are not paying.
- Do parents get charged?
- Need to implement something provincially right now?
- How do we deal with employees under the influence?
- How do we become supportive employers?
- May increase incidence of impairment at work.
- Grounds for employers to deal with this.
- HR policies need to be in place.
- Impacts on mental health.
- Already underserviced and a waitlist for services to deal with drug issues.

What safeguards should be put in place to protect society from hazards related to the legalization of cannabis?

- In multi-unit dwellings, smoke smell drifting from one unit to another is needed to be considered when talking about cannabis.
- Don't need to make it easy.
- Combination of things already discussed include: crown Corp, access, age, etc.
- Social responsibility.
- Age limit should be increased to (21-25) years old.
- Major brain impacts as a possible result.
- Evidence base in decision making include mental health issues.
- Parents are responsible for the consequences for youth under 18.
- Early intervention are more focused on education, support to parents, children.
- Onus on community as well as children.
- Course like respect in sport for hockey to educate and create awareness.
- By allowing so much possession for youth, we are saying its ok.
- Minimum threshold, same as tobacco use.
- There are levels of risk with edible cannabis. Limits may include not being available in restaurants, only for home use.
- Need to wait for what the federal government comes out with. May need to engage again.
- Aggressive public campaign.

What are your views on the most appropriate distribution/retail sale model that will support the safe distribution and sale of cannabis?

- The government should maximize economic benefits but they have a social responsibility due to the need for balance. (protection for the people of the province).
- Less social harms will be through a new crown Corp.
- Don't need a lot of access points.
- Mail order through crown Corp if you are in isolated areas.
- Wouldn't be in school zone, or in proximity to liquor stores or malls, college or university.
- Drive through location instead of walking through.
- Public model more so than private.
- Pharmacy is an option, regulating it. There was some disagreement since the pharmacy's needs are not based on recreational use.
- The economic benefits the government get doesn't come near to what is paid out in supports for alcohol, tobacco use, and cannabis may be the same.
- Make it crown Corp, control outlets.
- Do private companies want the added security, possible break-ins, etc.
- All party committee on mental health and addiction doing wonderful things, and now doing this. Government can't talk out of both side of their mouth.

What role do you see for your organization to help address the impacts that the legalization of cannabis?

- Aggressive public campaign.
- Education and awareness.
- Education and awareness are needed for late elementary school.
- Target key points in school age children.
- Older students delivering to younger kids.
- What is the province looking at for the growth of cannabis? Is it for medical growth/growing operations?
- The province is looking at grow-ops. What is the province doing when we are currently only producing 10% of our food?
- Healthy schools initiatives have to interweave with all party committee on Mental Health & Addictions.
- Should we consider restrictions on cannabis growing?
- There's still fear of the black market because of the potential for organized crime.

Do you have any additional comments you would like to make with regards to the legalization of cannabis in NL?

- Drugs are driving a lot of crimes in the recent past, not sure how this is going to impact it.
- Getting the right information early would help.
- A shift from mandatory treatment to discretionary.
- Prevention is key.

Labrador City

What impacts, positive or negative, do you see for your organization as a result of the legalization of cannabis?

- Legalizing will control what they are getting, change perception of the drug, and double standard (alcohol vs. drug).
- Raise concern about driving impairment. Age limit concern- kids are still going to get their hands on it. Perception that it is legal. Permitting them to have 5 g, nothing major will happen to them in the legal system.
- Raise concern about people operating heavy machinery. IOC example. The cost to support measuring the influence.
- Needs to be a subset standard when people are not going to work under the influence.
- See the potential for economic benefit.
- It has the same barrier as alcohol. Workers, people, organizations shouldn't be doing it.
- Taking it from the criminals helps view it as more of a positive than a negative.
- Regulation and how it will be managed moving forward raise employment issues.
- It needs to take on the same legalization as alcohol. Having it readily available will increase use causing concern as a parent.
- From a mental health and addictions perspective, it will increase youth users. Fear that with legalization there will be even more referrals for youth, so we're going to have more issues and additional burden on an already burdened system. Additional resources are going to have to increase.
- Taking the revenue from the criminals is good, however, that source of revenue will be replaced with something else. We are going to see more distribution of the higher level drugs.
- The impact of mental development of youth.
- Strongly believe in not criminalizing individuals. It is something that needs to be done appropriately. Changing the cultural process around the drug needs to change.
- Communities where finance is not an issue, a ticket will not be a deterrent
- We do not have the tools to stop impaired drivers. This process may increase those tools and research on impaired driving, so that's great.
- Education piece is incredibly important. Harm-reduction model. We know people are using cannabis, but how can we make it safe?
- We can make it safe by having the proper regulations in place for retail operation. Get ahead of it with the right rules and regulations in place. It needs to have the same standards as alcohol.
- Cheap electrical power creates opportunity for producers. How will they be regulated? Is it agriculture?
- Where is the best place to have it? There needs to be a lot of help with the communities to determine how best to regulate it.
- Freedom is a scary thing. The more freedom you have, the more you need education. Drinking and driving is not as prevalent. People are starting to understand the consequences of their actions.
- This is the first step to making the world better. People will have to make judgment choices themselves. We are in the transition period.
- MADD is very vocal in the community and it is the cultural piece. Need to get that to the youth.

- Youth believe that it is safe, natural, not going to hurt them, but it affects brain development.
- Preparation needs to start with education in high schools.
- The high school education piece should be done in the fall.
- Limits are good to start.
- Cannabis is more common place in the schools
- This is a mind altering drug and we haven't done the research. Wise to err on the side of caution once it is regulated- more like alcohol through Government concessions. Regulations will likely change, but start with stricter regulations.
- Price is everything. Proximity to the border and consideration about what Quebec is doing should be looked at.
- If there is a big difference in potency, people are still going to go to the black market.
- Strongly believe in not criminalizing individuals. It is something that needs to be done appropriately. Changing the cultural process around the drug needs to change.
- Stigma note from St. John's slide (need to have balance) don't want to reduce a stigma of recreational use
- Differentiate the positive benefits of medical cannabis vs recreational use.

What safeguards should be put in place to protect society from hazards related to the legalization of cannabis?

- The Government of Canada intends to set the minimum age for the possession of cannabis at 18 years old. Dr. recommends 25 years without affecting brain development.
- Consistency is key. We will hear that cannabis is healthier than alcohol.
- Since there is evidence that shows that it can be harmful to brains under 21, then it should be restricted.
- In time, research and the health effects will show, and then it should be restricted.
- There isn't enough information.
- How can we promote it knowing that it is harmful? There is a double standard.
- Why start lower now?
- If Quebec has a lower age, then people will go across the border.
- We need to educate the public on why a high alcohol age was chosen (if above the alcohol limit)
- Given the perspective from youth (it's natural, it won't hurt me), setting a higher limit tells them that it is dangerous.
- Thrill of an age limit. Once youth get over the initial thrill, they get over it.
- Knowing they are looking for the thrill, versus promoting it.
- If you make it 25, but then a regulated product is capped. Then your youth are getting the more harmful substances on the black market.
- Perception in western Canada is very different than in NL.
- We romanticize alcohol. We encourage drinking and having fun. Are we going to start off with cannabis the same way? Alcohol is a problem, but we don't face it the same way we have tobacco.
- Split room (19 and 21/25)
- New legislation for drug-impaired driving
- Drug stays in the system longer.
- If your blood alcohol level is .8, you are still impaired.
- You could be not impaired, but it still shows up in your blood alcohol level.
- Zero tolerance may not work in this instance. We are going to need better equipment.

What are your views on the most appropriate distribution/retail sale model that will support the safe distribution and sale of cannabis?

Where do you think it should be sold?

- An existing crown agency
- A Newly created Crown Agency
- Existing retail stores such as convenience stores
- Pharmacies
- Licensed establishment
- On-line/mail order
- Other

→ Most felt that it should be sold in a crown agency.

- Depends on the community
- Liquor express concept (supposed to have separate cash)
- Smokers have to go outside at restaurants
- If there is an age limit then you should be that age to enter
- Eventually we will get there
- Is this a socially acceptable drug? Are you going to allow it to be consumed in a public space?
- Alcohol and cannabis should not be in the same locations.
- Consensus to start with a crown corporation and eventually evolve to free market.
- NL has been very liberal in selling alcohol vs. other provinces. Perhaps this is a reason for the higher rates of alcohol use.
- Is the police force going to be on board with this?
- The Federal Govt. task force recommended that cannabis NOT be sold in the same location as alcohol. Thoughts?
- Would it create another issue if the age is different?
- Like the model of the Crown.
- It should be available in a controlled manner, with the possibility of a separate store for cannabis.
- Separate store will pop up anyways.
- What restrictions should apply?
- 30g seems like a lot
- A number should be across the board
- Price point between rec and medical.
- Any talk of diverting some of the revenue to the medical system to support some of the anticipated increase in social and mental health issues?
- Who is going to be responsible for growing operations? This will raise opportunity for Municipalities. Changes to funding ratios may subsidize this funding loss.
- The Gov. NL should restrict commercial production with the Province, such as where production can take place.
- Land, facility, security
- How does it compare to breweries (in Municipal jurisdiction)
- Micro-cannabis possibility (like the micro-breweries)
- From a municipal point of view, they wouldn't want it outside the community unless there is a tax in lieu.
- Provisions in place that costs associated for the municipality are internalized.
- Land, facility, security

- How do you control the product? The quality control (the is Fed)
- How much volume in a particular place may be an issue?
- Should Govt. offer funding or other supports to businesses involved in cannabis production or retail/sales in this province?
- It is business. Why not encourage economic growth?
- If it qualifies under the same merits, than yes
- But government wouldn't support tobacco. So why support cannabis?
- You get into that blurry line. Ex: subsidizing film industry. Do we subsidize R-rated?
- There are supports for the agriculture industry. If it is allowed on farm land, with proper protection and set pricing.
- Govt. will likely promote the sale of this, but it needs to be measuring public perception. Balance between promotion and concerns over public safety.
- If GOV NL is not supporting tobacco because of the health risks, then how can they support another product that is equally or more harmful??
- Biggest difference between alcohol and tobacco is that there is so much documentation to show that any amount of tobacco is harmful. Tobacco will never be accepted.
- On details of the studies, does the potency change the effects on the brain?

Do you have any additional comments you would like to make with regards to the legalization of cannabis in NL?

- Opportunity for smaller businesses to learn from large corporations with existing policies.
- How is edible consumption going to affect impaired driving, considering different digestion process?
- See more research going on about how cannabis affects other uses. Governments should be addressing this.
- Earmarking profits for support for health and education system.
- The justice side is going to have to be heavily involved. If there are no legal implications, then the justice system needs to be firm. Currently, there is no deterrent.
- Youth aren't accountable right now. This system will put the heavy penalties on the adult that provided.