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Evidence. Engagement. Impact. Données. Engagement. Résultats.

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Cannabis Legalization & Outdoor Festivals

Folk Music Ontario Festival Retreat
Rebecca Jesseman, Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction
April 29, 2018



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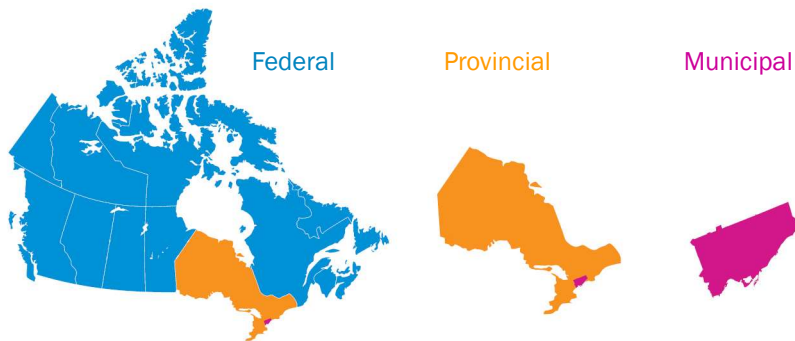
Agenda

1. Legalization 101
 - a. Federal Cannabis Act
 - b. Provincial Regulations
2. What does legalization mean for my festival?
 - a. Legal considerations
 - b. Health and safety considerations
3. Reducing substance-related harms
4. Q&A

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2

Jurisdictions for Implementation



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
 - 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: Bill C-46

- Addresses operation of vehicles while under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Provides for roadside collection of oral fluids




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Proposed Federal Regulations

- Licenses and Permits
 - Cultivation
 - Processing
 - Sale
 - Analytical testing
 - Import/export
 - Research
- Good production, security, and record keeping

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9



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Proposed Federal Regulations (cont'd)

- Products
 - Initially dried and fresh cannabis, cannabis oil, cannabis seeds, and plants
 - Edibles regulations within 12 months
 - Establish per-unit and liquid concentration restrictions
 - Include packaging and labelling requirements and restrictions

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10

Proposed Federal Regulations (cont'd)

- The regulations also address
 - Security clearances
 - Cannabis tracking system
 - Medical cannabis
 - Health products and cosmetics

Provincial/Territorial Regulations


Age of Access	
18	19
• Quebec and Alberta	• Everywhere else


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Provincial/Territorial Regulations

Personal Cultivation	
Prohibited	Permitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Québec and Manitoba 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everywhere else

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13


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Provincial/Territorial Regulations

Retail Model		
Public Sales	Private Sales	Hybrid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prince Edward Island • Nova Scotia • New Brunswick • Québec • Ontario • Northwest Territories • Québec 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan • Nunavut • Manitoba 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newfoundland • Alberta • British Columbia • Yukon

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14


Provincial/Territorial Regulations

Co-location with Alcohol Sales

Yes	No	Sometimes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nova Scotia • Northwest Territories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario • Saskatchewan • Alberta • Yukon • Québec 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Columbia • Newfoundland

Provincial Regulations

- Similar to alcohol and tobacco, regulations for cannabis will vary by province and territory
- They will address:
 - Minimum age
 - Youth possession
 - Sales
 - Places of use
 - Enforcement
 - Workplace
 - Marketing and promotion



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Ontario's Plan to Regulate Cannabis

- Minimum age of 19
 - Administrative sanctions below age 19
- Use in private residences only
 - Exploring designated establishments
 - Smoking & vaping covered in Smoke-Free Ontario Act
- Closing down dispensaries

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Ontario's Plan to Regulate Cannabis

- Retail through LCBO subsidiary (Ontario Cannabis Store)
 - Dedicated stores (40 to start)
 - Counter service only
 - Mandatory staff training
 - Online sales (Shopify)

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Impacts on Festivals



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19


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Key Concerns: Gate Control

- Onsite sale and use of cannabis will likely remain prohibited in 2018
- Is there a need to change existing search and seizure processes?
 - Some forms of cannabis are easier to detect than others
- Will enforcement practice change with the new administrative penalties?

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20



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Key Concerns: Health and Safety

- Use of cannabis with other substances
- Impaired driving
 - Multiplier effect when cannabis is used with alcohol
- Overdose
- Safety-sensitive roles for staff

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21



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Festival Opportunities

- Prevention, Education, Harm Reduction
 - Lower-risk Cannabis Use Guidelines, for example:
 - Start with a small dose
 - Not too much, not too often
 - Don't use if pregnant
 - Delay initiation of use
 - Don't use with other intoxicants
 - Don't use before driving
- Employee substance use policy

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22

Of Note: 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

Questions So Far?



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Preventing Alcohol and Drug Harms



Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse

Preventing drug- and alcohol-related harms at music festivals

New report

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Preventing Harms

- Key challenge
 - Using substances at festivals increases the risk of experiencing a negative health event
 - There are no consistent guidelines to minimize alcohol and other drug-related harms

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26



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Recommendations

- Event organization and design
 - Engage early and often with community stakeholders
 - Ensure adequate hydration and sanitation resources and facilities are available
 - Improve rapid exchange of information about known drug risks

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27



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Recommendations (cont.)

- Promotion of health and reduction of harms
 - Provide safe physical spaces separate from the crowd (safe or chill space)
 - Distribute appropriate messages about substance use at festivals
 - Consider and investigate the impact of drug checking or testing services

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28



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Recommendations (cont.)

- Mass gathering medicine
 - Develop best-practice guidelines
 - Collaborate with health researchers and standardize data collection
 - Integrate on-site medical response internally (police, security, volunteers) and externally (emergency services)

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29



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Recommendations (cont.)

- Enforcement and event security
 - Develop a common approach across events
 - Improve real-time monitoring
 - Share suspected drug incidents or other health concerns with event staff and stakeholders immediately

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30

Summary

- Cannabis use will likely still be prohibited at Ontario festivals in 2018
- Festivals' target the audience most likely to consume cannabis, providing challenges for enforcement but opportunities for education
- There are opportunities to prevent alcohol- and drug-related harms at music festivals that don't reduce participant enjoyment of the event

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