

RA-18-17-23

Marijuana Legalization Implementation

WHEREAS on April 13, 2017, the federal government tabled legislation to end the prohibition on cannabis and regulate it for recreational use.

WHEREAS the legislation allows people to possess up to 30 grams of dried or fresh cannabis and sets the minimum consumption at 18 years of age, although provinces/territories can set a higher legal age. Users can grow up to four plants at home or buy from a licensed retailer.

WHEREAS Communities will be responsible for establishing and enforcing new zoning by-laws, by-laws dictating where people can smoke in public, limits on personal cultivation and possession and public nuisance complaints;

WHEREAS the importance of an integrated approach between federal, territorial and community governments so that they collectively ensure appropriate systems are in place to educate the public, restrict inappropriate usage, address health and safety issue and enable coordinated enforcement through RCMP and appropriate community law enforcement bodies is critical

WHEREAS the NWT has an additional complication of issues surrounding alcohol restricted communities

WHEREAS consultation with NWT communities and the NWTAC is a critical element of the design of the Territorial Marijuana Legislation

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT adequate time and resources are provided for the process of communities participating effectively in the implementation of Marijuana Legalization;

AND FURTHER THAT a share of the tax revenues from Marijuana legalization should be transferred to Territorial and Community governments to deal with education of the public, regulatory and enforcement costs, and social and prevention programs;

AND FURTHER THAT like the authority of communities to make decisions about alcohol restrictions be extended to include Marijuana;

Submitted by the NWTAC Board of Directors – Resolutions Committee

Policy Committee Recommends: REAFFIRMED