Education and Early Childhood Development

October 2018

Policy and Information Release

This notice is intended for regional centres for education, CSAP, and principals. Please convey to all staff for whom this information is relevant.

Use of Cannabis

The use of recreational cannabis will become legal in Canada on October 17, 2018.

This Policy and Information Release is intended to provide additional direction and clarification related to the use and possession of cannabis by students in relation to both the *Provincial School Code of Conduct* and the use and administration of medications to students.

Use and Possession of Cannabis by Students

Recreational Use of Cannabis

Recreational use of cannabis is defined as any use of cannabis that is not for medical purposes.

The use, possession, sale, or distribution of cannabis will continue to be banned for students while on school grounds or during school sanctioned activities, regardless of the age of the student. Cannabis will continue to be categorized as a prohibited product under the *Provincial School Code of Conduct* (**https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/provincialschoolcodeofconduct.pdf**). Administrators will continue to apply strategies used to create and maintain a safe and inclusive environment for students, staff, and the community.

Medical Use of Cannabis

Medical use of cannabis occurs when a physician has authorized the use of cannabis by a student for medical reasons and the cannabis is obtained from a producer licensed by the Government of Canada.

Students may continue to use medication, including cannabis, that has been prescribed by an authorized health care professional or by a physician. Medication may be used during school hours in accordance with existing policies and guidelines for the administration of medication to students.

Additional Resources and Information

Information on the laws related to cannabis, the health effects of cannabis, and responsible use of cannabis is available on the province's website: **https://www.novascotia.ca/cannabis/**