

RESOLUTION 2021-03

Cannabis for Medical Purposes Legislation

Preamble

The <u>Cannabis Act</u> came into force on October 17, 2018 and created a legal framework for controlling the production, distribution, sale and possession of cannabis across Canada. The Act was aimed at accomplishing three goals:

- 1. keep cannabis out of the hands of youth,
- 2. keep profits out of the pockets of criminals, and
- 3. protect public health and safety by allowing adults access to legal cannabis.

Since that date, <u>new Cannabis Regulations</u> have replaced the Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations (ACMPR).

Patients authorized by their health care provider are still able to access cannabis for medical purposes by:

- buying directly from a federally licensed seller,
- registering with Health Canada to produce a limited amount of cannabis for their own medical purposes, and
- designating someone to produce it for them.

Under the new regulations, patients continue to be able to register with Health Canada to produce their own cannabis or designate someone to produce it for them.

WHEREAS police services have yet to see evidence of reduced cannabis usage among youth or a reduction to the involvement of organized criminal groups in the trade of illegal drugs, and

WHEREAS the majority of the members of the Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation believe that the problems with the activities of some designated producers are serious and that the government should determine an appropriate timeframe for phasing out this provision as the new system for non-medical uses of cannabis is established, and

WHEREAS the Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation provided the following advice: Maintain a separate medical access framework to support patients but evaluate the medical access framework in five years, and

WHEREAS there has been a number of federal medical cannabis frameworks, including the Marihuana Medical Access Regulations, 2001 repealed in 2014; the Marihuana Medical Purpose Regulations, 2013 impacted by the Allard decision;

the Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulation (ACMPR), 2016; and the Cannabis Regulations 2018, and

WHEREAS under the *Cannabis Act* in Ontario, residents are allowed to produce up to four plants per household and allowed to purchase cannabis from storefront or on-line retail outlets and for medical cannabis from ACMPR Part One producers, and

WHEREAS police services have been challenged by an infiltration of criminal activity using loopholes within the ACMPR Part Two licences and now the Cannabis Regulations Part 14 Authorizations due to:

- (a) Regulations allowing a pooling of licenses/authorizations,
- (b) Licensed/authorized individuals flagrantly overgrowing their allowed amount,
- (c) Grandfathering of medical licenses from repealed regulations without review or screening, and
- (d) A lack of inspection or monitoring of license holders or locations; disclosure to law enforcement without a court order; monitoring or regulation of doctor's prescriptions; and verification process of applicant information and background checks, and

WHEREAS the infiltration of criminal activity exploiting the loopholes within the ACMPR Part Two and now the Cannabis Regulations Part 14 has only escalated with the legalization of cannabis, and

WHEREAS police believe that cannabis being produced through exploiting the loopholes within the ACMPR Part Two and now the Cannabis Regulations Part 14 is responsible for a great deal of the illegal cannabis in Ontario.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police calls on the Government of Canada to repeal ACMPR Part Two licenses now the Canada Regulations Part 14 Authorizations.