

IT'S LEGAL!

BC Micro License Association

Media:

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/small-business/growth/article-craft-cannabis-growers-say-better-bud-will-be-key-to-thriving-in-the/>

A few weeks ago, we were contacted by an editor at the G&M and were able to provide some information about the micro-license system and the economics of small scale production. This article was published today. The editor advised us the G & M is planning a series of articles as legalization approaches and that our contributions will be sought again.

Collaborations:

In the run-up to our appearances at the city council meetings in Maple Ridge and Mission, we have reached out to a few other cannabis organizations for permission to advise the councils that we are speaking on behalf of their memberships, too. We feel that representing as large a constituency as possible is important when speaking to municipal decision makers; apparently, size *does* matter. Thankfully, our efforts have been embraced by other cannabis organizations!



We ❤️ Canada!

Well, it's not legal.....*yet*. But it will be on October 17, 2018.

The Cannabis Act's journey through the House of Commons and the Senate was a nail-biter, but on Tuesday, June 19, 2018, the Senate decided not to insist on all of their amendments being accepted by the House of Commons and voted to accept the Act that the House wanted. The Senators engaged in some debate (wherein the Conservative Senators continued to irresponsibly push the "weed-kills-kids" narrative) but decided to defer to the will of the *elected* representatives. Royal Assent has been granted so the Cannabis Act and the Regulations are the law, but they will not take effect until October.

No matter what one thinks of Justin Trudeau in general, we think he deserves credit for getting this done. We also think Senator Munson should get some credit for writing and then *reciting* his poem during the debate (dude's 71 years old!):

The Senators came to debate, and debate they did.

What captured their curiosity was cannabis, and should it be legalized instead of decriminalized.

But what they realized is that this was no ordinary issue, and sides were drawn.

Every day brought a new dawn of ideas.



Recent Inquiries:

We have received lots of e-mails from people with various questions and comments:

- People from outside of BC wondering if the issues we have written about apply to their provinces: Yes, they do. All potential license applicants will have to deal with their local municipalities to obtain business licenses for their cannabis operations. The specifics may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, but the basics are the same - are the zoning bylaws appropriate for the cannabis operation, and if not, can the municipality be persuaded to amend them and welcome new economic activity into the community?
- How can we help the BC Micro License Association: Send money! Lol. The best way to help the craft industry in BC is to be educated on the Cannabis Act and start preparing your potential business for legalization. Determine if your municipalities' bylaws restrict or prohibit cannabis businesses, then consider speaking with your city or town council. Go to their website and find out how to get cannabis on the agenda. We will assist in any way we can.
- What are the steps to apply for a micro-license: We don't know yet, but once the Regulations are released, we will all have the information we need to move forward and we will address the important issues.

Breaking News:

The BCMLA will be part of a cannabis panel addressing the BC Union of Municipalities meeting in Whistler in September, 2018. We are also co-hosting a hospitality suite for all the politicians! Should be fun ;)

Some were for and some were against, and every senator put up a great defence.

Dealing with the black market as opposed to an open market; dealing with public health and education,

Taking a look at the habits of a new generation.

Questions were asked, statements were made, but in the Senate of Canada, no one was afraid, afraid to take a stand

Because each senator knew they had a hand in dealing with a bill which would change the landscape of the land.

At the end of the day, they amended the bill.

Some were accepted; some were rejected.

But in the words of a song that some may understand,

It is time to pass the bill,

Pass the dutchie to the left-hand side.

Senators, if you don't understand the last line, I will explain outside.

Thanks Senator Munson - that was super cute. He *gets* it.

What's Next?

For those who will be seeking micro licenses, the Cannabis Act itself does not offer any information or guidance in terms the application process, the standards that will have to be met or any other aspect of the licenses you may be curious about. All of the information will be contained in the Regulations.

The Cannabis Act Regulations were not pre-published or shown to the House or the Senate prior to the various votes. Apparently, the regulations to any piece of legislation can only be published once the legislation has been passed and has received Royal Assent.

We expect to be able to see the Cannabis Act Regulations in the next week or so. There are some very specific things we will be looking for, including:

- whether more than one license, or type of license, will be allowed for each applicant;
- if multiple license types are allowed, whether each of the the licensed activities can be co-located;
- what sort of steps the application process will entail;
- what the security clearance process will entail;
- whether there will be potency limits;
- and, importantly, what the size restriction / volume limits will be for the cultivators and the processors.

We expect that the federal government will have information on the commencement of the micro-license application process available on its website at some point, but we do not know when that will be. It is *extremely frustrating* not to know these things so close to legalization.

Don't tear your hair out. As soon as the Regulations are released and we've gone through them, we will provide a summary of the points listed above and anything else that is relevant to the micro-license system.