

CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE KOOTENAY REGION IN RESPONSE TO NEW CANNABIS POLICY

Why New Cannabis Policy Might Impact this Area:

A significant portion of our local economy has been built from and relies on income generated from cannabis production. If these producers, under new cannabis policy are no longer able to grow, how will our community be impacted and how will change be measured?



Variations in policy amongst regional districts:

Each regional district is responsible for the implementation of cannabis policy. Each district has differing bylaws surrounding recreational production, sale, and use.

Perspective of stakeholders in the Health Care sector:

One to one interviews were conducted with professionals within the healthcare sector regarding recreational cannabis legalization and how this might impact public health and our community.

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How cannabis policy is being measured?

Areas where cannabis is already legal have been using a public health model to measure change. This model relies on the use of indicators such as hospital visits, drugged driving occurrence, and rate of youth use and age of initiation.

What challenges can the Kootenay region expect to encounter:

Centralized production eliminates local craft producers, price of legal cannabis will determine engagement with and strength of illicit market, and finding a balance between generating tax revenue and protecting public health.



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