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LEGALIZATION OF CANNABIS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Kuujuuaq, August 21, 2018 – Effective on October 17, 2018, the consumption and possession of cannabis will be legal in Canada for people aged 18 years and older. The Government of Québec's *Draft Bill 157* is intended to control the possession, use and sale of cannabis throughout the province. Only the *Société québécoise du cannabis* will be authorized to sell cannabis.

The statute is based on the principles of public health. For the purposes of citizen information and awareness, the website <https://encadrementcannabis.gouv.qc.ca/en/>, established by the government (in French and English), presents the legal basis for the statute, the effects of cannabis on individuals who consume it and the health risks of consumption.

Note that possession of cannabis remains completely illegal for minors. For people aged 18 years and older, below are some measures established by the government:

- Possession of 30 grams of dried cannabis (or the equivalent) in a public place and 150 grams in a private residence, regardless of the number of individuals of the age of majority living therein, will be permitted;
- Possession of cannabis in certain locations, notably those frequented by minors (e.g., schools, day-cares, youth centres), will be prohibited;
- Cannabis use will be prohibited in locations where tobacco smoking is already prohibited;
- Cultivation of cannabis for personal use will be completely prohibited;
- Zero tolerance will be the norm in matters of road safety; operating, being responsible for or controlling a motor vehicle with a detectable presence of cannabis or other drug in the saliva will be formally prohibited.

The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services intends to conduct a communications and awareness campaign in the fall 2018. Until then, the Department of Public Health strongly recommends that the population consult [the Web site](#) set up by the Government of Québec for further information.

The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services is a public agency created in 1978 under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. It is responsible for nearly the entire territory located north of the 55th parallel in terms of the provision of health and social services for the inhabitants of the 14 communities.

Source: Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services

For information: Anne Sellès
Communication Officer, NRBHSS
Tel.: 819 964-2222, extension 293

Stéphane Anctil
Prevention and Health-Promotion Officer, Tobacco and Cannabis
Department of Public Health, NRBHSS
Tel.: 819 964-2222, extension 301