

Farming

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RECREATIONAL CANNABIS: THE CANADIAN NEWBORN INDUSTRY

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The evidence of cannabis or marijuana use can be found from 2000 to 1400 B.C. People used cannabis for therapeutic purposes, but it was primarily used for recreational purposes. This is known as recreational cannabis. Many people used cannabis since it was illegal in many parts of the world and could only be obtained through illicit or black markets. Cannabis use, sale, and possession for non-medical purposes became legal in Canada in October 2018. Because cannabis is available in stores for sale to adults, this action by the Canadian government does have an impact on criminals involved in the sale of illegal cannabis. Provinces were given the authority to set the minimum age for use, personal cultivation, and impose further limitations. The framework for cannabis use was created under the “Cannabis Act” to ensure the safe use of cannabis. This cannabis act regulates cannabis from production to final sale to the consumer i.e., methods of cultivation, prohibited chemicals, GPP, cannabis storage, cannabis testing and testing specifications, packaging, labeling, classes of cannabis, etc. There are 828 authorized license holders in Canada as cultivators, processors, and sellers under the Cannabis Act. Health Canada authorized 148 laboratories as analytical testers under the Cannabis Act.

As per the Government of Canada, for the March 2021 reporting period, a total of 11,598,518 packaged units of medical and non-medical cannabis were sold across Canada out of which, 64 per cent (7,377,272 packets) were sold under dried cannabis class, 20 per cent (2,262,471 packets) sold under edible cannabis class and 17 per cent (1,922,053 packets) sold under cannabis extracts. This shows that more than half of the consumers consumed cannabis for smoking in the form of joints and pre-rolls etc. About 20 percent consume cannabis in the form of cannabis-infused foods like gummies, fruit gems, cannabis-infused drinks, cannabis brownies, cookies, etc. Only 17 percent consume cannabis as wax, crystals, vaporize oil etc.

Although legalization had a positive effect on the justice system, many challenges are still there and these must be addressed. The major positive points of cannabis legalization are the billion-dollar industry, tax revenue generations, and job opportunities at production and retail level.



With the legalization of cannabis, recreational cannabis is now very famous among youth and the number of consumers is increasing day by day. Even in some provinces, there is a significant increase in drug-impaired driving charges. The visits of youths to the emergency department were recorded owing to overdose or poisoning of cannabis or marijuana, according to Russell Callaghan, a professor in the UBC Northern Medical Program at the University of North British Columbia.

**Brightfield
Group
expects
Canada's
cannabis
market will
peak
around
2026 to the
tune of
about \$9
billion in
annual
sales**

Along with this legalized industry, an illicit market exists as well, and governments do not receive any revenue from it. This black market has an effect on licensed producers who have invested millions of dollars as licensed cultivators, processors, and sellers of cannabis under the Cannabis Act.



Many cannabis giants have reported losses in recent quarters as a result of high taxation policies, increased competition, and the costs of a wide variety of tests for the selling of cannabis. Because the recreational cannabis industry is still in its early stages and it is too early to draw any conclusions, the government should take steps to reduce regulations and taxes, conduct more data collection surveys, and run awareness campaigns among youths about the safe use of recreational cannabis.