

Issue: Cannabis Industry in the Tri-Cities

Position

The Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce supports the responsible development of a recreational and medicinal cannabis industry in the Tri-Cities. The Chamber will also endeavor to educate our members and the local community about the rules and regulations for cannabis in retail.

Background

The federal government's *Cannabis Act* (Bill C-45) came into force on October 17, 2018. This legislation legalized the consumption and sale of non-medical cannabis across Canada and provides a comprehensive framework around its use, subject to additional provincial and municipal regulations. Licensing, distribution, and wholesale falls under the jurisdiction of the provincial government. The retail model in BC will consist of a mix between private and public (government-run) stand-alone storefronts.

Who is affected?

All Canadians, with emphasis on individuals aged 19 or older.

Local economies, subject to their municipal regulations surrounding cannabis.

Potential cannabis retailers and producers.

Chamber Actions

05/08/2018 – Cannabis legalization was a central theme at the Chamber's 2018 Economic Summit. The Summit hosted a panel discussion on the burgeoning industry and its implications for the local, provincial, and national economy. Event details can be found [here](#). For coverage by the Tri-City News, click [here](#).

More Information

For more information on provincial cannabis regulations, visit the provincial government website [here](#).

Contact Info

Alex King
Public Policy Advisor
604-634-0105
policy@tricitiechamber.com

Outcome

Port Coquitlam – Retail sales allowed. Now accepting rezoning applications.

Port Moody – Cannabis retail sales allowed, but city still finalizing zoning, licensing, and bylaw regulation. More details in June, 2019.

Coquitlam – Retail sales not allowed. City currently developing framework for retail as of February 2019.