

## Cannabis Retail FAQs:

**Cannabis is now legal:** In the biggest public policy shift in generations, cannabis is now legal in Canada.

**People are worried:** Nanos public opinion research shows that 69 per cent of Ontarians are concerned about underage kids getting their hands on cannabis.

**People trust the LCBO more than private cannabis retailers:** Nanos public opinion research also shows that Ontarians are 11 times more likely to say the LCBO would be more effective than private retailers at keeping cannabis out of the hands of kids.

**Cannabis available online now:** People in Ontario are now able to buy cannabis online from the Ontario Cannabis Store.

**Cannabis will be available in stores on April 1, 2019:** Cannabis stores will begin opening on April 1, 2019.

**The current plan for cannabis retail is private stores only:** Shortly after being elected, the Ford government decreed that only private retailers will be allowed to sell cannabis. Previously, the plan was for LCBO-managed stores to sell cannabis.

**Municipalities have no say over number or location of stores:** As currently written, the law governing cannabis retail leaves municipalities with no control over how many private retail stores they must host, or even where those stores can be located. The law specifically strips municipalities of any zoning power over cannabis stores.

**Cannabis stores allowed VERY close to schools:** During the election campaign, Ford vowed to keep stores at least 450 metres from schools. Now, he's allowing them three times closer to schools, as near as just 150 metres.

**Opt-out option:** The Ford government has given municipalities an extremely limited say on cannabis retail in their communities. They can "opt out" of hosting any cannabis stores. The deadline for this "opt out" is Jan. 22, 2019.

**Opt-out can be reversed:** Municipalities that "opt out" of cannabis retail will be allowed to change course and "opt-in" later.

**Opt-in is forever:** Municipalities which "opt-in" to cannabis retail by Jan 22, 2019, WILL NOT be able to change course and "out-out" later.

**"Opt-out" strategy:** For most communities opposed to privatized cannabis retailers, opting out is not a long-term solution. Without any cannabis retailers, the criminal market will continue to thrive. But if used strategically by a number of municipalities, the "opt-out" power can be used to force the Ford government to adopt a responsible plan. Municipalities would "opt-out" until their demand for the ability to choose LCBO retailers is met.