

# Possible Changes to Long-term Care Home Regulations Regarding Cannabis

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With the passing of Bill 36, the smoking of cannabis will be permitted in places where smoking tobacco and using e-cigarettes is permitted, including in certain controlled areas of long-term care homes and hospices.

With the passing of Bill 36, it is anticipated that certain amendments will also be made to Regulation 79/10(Regulation) under the **Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007**, in relation to the use of cannabis in long-term care homes. While such amendments have not yet been tabled in the Legislature, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care sought comments over several weeks between September and October on a number of proposals, including:

1. adding definitions of "cannabis", "medical cannabis" and "recreational cannabis" to the Regulation
2. exempting medical cannabis from certain requirements in the Regulation related to purchasing and handling of drugs, packaging of drugs, safe storage of drugs, security of drug supply, administration of drugs, and drug destruction and disposal
3. requiring long-term care homes to have written policies and procedures to govern the cultivation, acquisition, use, administration, possession, storage and disposal of medical cannabis that comply with all applicable laws, including but not limited to, the **Cannabis Act (Canada)**
4. exempting recreational cannabis from the drug rules found in sections 114 to 137 of the Regulation
5. requiring long-term care homes to have written policies and procedures to govern the cultivation, acquisition, use, administration, possession, storage, and disposal of recreational cannabis
6. **providing a 60-day transition period after the amendments come into force to allow long-term care homes time to develop the written policies and procedures respecting recreational and medical cannabis referred to above**
7. amending the section relating to criminal reference checks that requires long-term care homes to have staff members or volunteers disclose certain offences and orders under any applicable federal law related to cannabis to reflect the title of the federal legislation "**the Cannabis Act (Canada)**"

Long-term care homes would be wise to anticipate such forthcoming legislative change and consider preparations for bringing its operations and policies into compliance with cannabis legalization.

For more information on Bill 36's expected impact on the general workplace, please see the recent article authored by our colleagues in [BLG's Labour and Employment Group](#), [Kate Dearden](#) and [Brad Hallowell](#).

By

[Henry Ngan](#)

Expertise

[Labour & Employment](#), [Health Care & Life Sciences](#)

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### Calgary

Centennial Place, East Tower  
520 3rd Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, AB, Canada  
T2P 0R3

T 403.232.9500  
F 403.266.1395

### Ottawa

World Exchange Plaza  
100 Queen Street  
Ottawa, ON, Canada  
K1P 1J9

T 613.237.5160  
F 613.230.8842

### Vancouver

1200 Waterfront Centre  
200 Burrard Street  
Vancouver, BC, Canada  
V7X 1T2

T 604.687.5744  
F 604.687.1415

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1000 De La Gauchetière Street West  
Suite 900  
Montréal, QC, Canada  
H3B 5H4

T 514.954.2555  
F 514.879.9015

### Toronto

Bay Adelaide Centre, East Tower  
22 Adelaide Street West  
Toronto, ON, Canada  
M5H 4E3

T 416.367.6000  
F 416.367.6749

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