

Backgrounder

Wholesaling and retailing of cannabis will be regulated by the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA) and distributed through private retail outlets.

SLGA will initially issue approximately 60 cannabis retail permits in up to 40 eligible municipalities and First Nation communities (the initial allocation of retail store permits will be in municipalities and First Nations with populations of at least 2,500. Larger communities will be allocated additional permits).

Eligible First Nations and municipalities will have the option to opt out of having a retail cannabis store in their community if they choose. SLGA will begin contacting these First Nations/municipalities this week.

Government will assess the effectiveness of the initial allocation and may allocate additional opportunities approximately 12-18 months after legalization.

Communities eligible for cannabis retail sales:

Assiniboia	Martensville	RM of Corman Park
Battleford	Meadow Lake	RM of Edenwold
Biggar	Melfort	Rosetown
Canora	Melville	Saskatoon (7)
Esterhazy	Moose Jaw (2)	Shellbrook
Estevan (2)	Moosomin	Swift Current (2)
Fort Qu'Appelle	Nipawin	Tisdale
Humboldt	North Battleford (2)	Unity
Kindersley	Onion Lake Cree Nation	Warman (2)
La Loche	Outlook	Weyburn (2)
La Ronge	Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation	White City
Lac La Ronge Indian Band	Pilot Butte	Yorkton (2)
Lloydminster (2)	Prince Albert (2)	
Maple Creek	Regina (6)	

Cannabis retailers must operate a storefront and may also sell product online. Cannabis retail stores must be standalone, selling only cannabis, cannabis accessories and ancillary items. Standalone is defined as an enclosed business with a separate entrance with separate tills for cannabis sales (if located adjacent to another business).

A two-phase selection process will be used to determine the retail operators in each community. The process will involve screening for demonstrated financial capacity and the ability to track and report inventory movement through the supply chain. Phase 2 will be a random selection (lottery) of qualified applicants for each opportunity. Proponents cannot be selected for more than one retail permit in each community. An independent third party will be engaged to provide oversight to this process.

Government continues to work on other details regarding the impending legalization of cannabis. The retail selection process for cannabis retail permits is expected to be announced in the coming weeks, with the application process beginning later this spring.