

## **Statement from Saskatchewan School Boards Concerning the Legalization of Cannabis**

We, the 28 locally elected school boards in Saskatchewan, representing public, Catholic and francophone school divisions, are united in ensuring that we provide students with the opportunity to grow in a healthy environment enabling them to achieve educational success.

As partners in education, school boards believe that every child in Saskatchewan, regardless of where they live or their personal circumstances, must have the resources and supports they need to achieve and succeed.

We believe that preventing cannabis use among youth and promoting healthy decision-making and student safety is an integral part of education. The legalization of cannabis will provide further challenges for us in education as we know that, despite all efforts, drug use remains of great concern for young people as it impacts the lives of students in and out of the school environment.

To ensure the full developmental potential of all students, school boards are committed to promoting and supporting safe and healthy lifestyles in Saskatchewan schools.

With the plan for federal legalization of cannabis by July 2018, we believe that it is essential that:

- The Saskatchewan Government controls and regulates the distribution of recreational cannabis with a minimum age of at least 22, and restricts the illegal cannabis market, all with the aim to keep cannabis out of the hands of children and youth.
- Any resources or financial gain from sales should be targeted to education and prevention by promoting healthy lifestyles, providing reliable and accessible information, as well as supporting ongoing monitoring and research.
- Any advertising of cannabis is prohibited.
- Any use of cannabis is prohibited in public areas.
- Cannabis outlets/vendors are prohibited to operate near schools.
- There is no use on school board property and at events where children and youth will be attending.

School Boards are also committed to working with the Government of Saskatchewan and our partners at the local, provincial and national levels to ensure the health and safety of students.

School boards are elected to govern K-12 education in their school divisions and are essential members of local government. They ensure that the wishes of the community are reflected in the division's schools and make decisions that shape the education of Saskatchewan's children. The Saskatchewan School Boards Association supports boards in this very important work.