

Key things to know about Canada’s marijuana legalization

The Associated Press

Canada is legalizing adult use of marijuana on Oct. 17 and will be the second and largest country to do so. The federal government established the broad outline of the legalization law but left it up to provinces and territories to fill in some of the details — such as whether to allow home grows, to establish a legal purchase age of 18 or 19, and whether to sell through government-run pot shops or private outlets.

Here’s a look at how the industry will look, as well as some key differences between Canada’s approach and that of the nine U.S. states that have legalized so-called recreational marijuana:

What’s allowed

Canada’s Cannabis Act allows people 18 and older to buy marijuana online or in retail stores. Most provinces have raised the minimum age to 19, however, to align with the drinking age. In the U.S., states with recreational

legalization have an age limit of 21, which matches the drinking age.

Canadian law sets a 30-gram limit on how much people can buy at once or possess in public. That’s just over an ounce, which is the possession limit in all but one of the U.S. states with legal pot — Maine’s limit is 2.5 ounces (71 grams). However, there’s no limit on how much Canadians can possess in their homes.

The Canadian law also allows for residents to grow up to four plants at home, though two provinces — Quebec and Manitoba — opted to forbid home-growing. U.S. states including California, Nevada, Alaska and Colorado allow home-growing of up to six plants.

What’s available

Unlike in the U.S., where many types of products are available, Canada is for now allowing sales of only dried cannabis flower, tinctures, capsules and seeds. Marijuana-infused foods and

concentrates are expected to be available in about a year.

Residents across Canada will be able to buy marijuana online, through websites run by each province — a handy resource for cannabis users in any cities that might decide to ban pot shops. Most provinces will have at least some stores open next Wednesday, ranging from 20 in New Brunswick to a single store in British Columbia. Hundreds more are expected to open nationwide over the next year.

Federal taxes will total \$1 per gram or 10 percent, whichever is more. The feds will keep one-quarter of that and return the rest to the provinces, which can add their own markups. Consumers also will pay local sales taxes.

Government involvement

A key difference between the Canadian and American models is government involvement. The main federal

effort in the U.S. is to enforce drug laws that still treat marijuana as a controlled substance.

In Canada, the federal government regulates producers. Canada so far has licensed some 120 growers.

The provinces are tasked with overseeing distribution. Some will buy wholesale marijuana and deliver it to retail stores and, through the federal postal service, to online customers. The government involvement in distribution could help control prices, keeping them at a level that is competitive with the black market without allowing overproduction to threaten the viability of licensed producers, experts say.

In some U.S. states, especially Oregon, an oversupply of legal pot has raised concerns about product being diverted to other states.

The regulation spectrum

The only other country to legalize marijuana is South

America’s Uruguay, which has taken an extremely deliberate and strict approach. There, pharmacies sell to adults over 18, who can buy up to 40 grams per month — an amount tracked with fingerprint recognition. Only two types of cannabis are available.

At the other end of the regulation spectrum are U.S. states, where legalization has prompted a sort of green rush, with companies trying to get rich selling products from vape cartridges to pre-rolled joints to pot-infused sodas.

Canada is somewhere in the middle. Some licensed producers are huge companies, but there are also strict regulations on packaging to avoid appealing to youth and a ban on many types of marijuana advertising, including any that could be seen by youth or that uses depictions of celebrities.

Impaired driving and border crossings

Some U.S. states, includ-

ing Washington and Colorado, test a driver’s blood for marijuana impairment. In Canada, officers will for now rely on traditional observations in enforcing driving laws, but provinces say they could adopt saliva tests if one is approved by the federal government.

While authorities have placed signs on the Canadian side of the border alerting travelers that it remains illegal to bring marijuana into the U.S., some may not realize they can be barred from crossing for admitting to marijuana use. The same goes for those who tell U.S. authorities they work in the legal Canadian industry.

“We’re going to see a big problem at the Canada-U.S. border,” said Peter MacKay, a former Conservative Party justice, defense and foreign minister. “It’s going to be thousands if not hundreds of thousands of Canadians who are suddenly going to find themselves inadmissible to the United States.”

OREGON IN BRIEF

From wire reports

Woman sues to stop debt collectors from coming to her door

PORTLAND — A Portland woman who says debt collectors keep showing up at her door looking for someone she swears she doesn’t know has filed a \$400,000 lawsuit to make them stop.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports Caitlin Kelly is suing a Portland furniture store called Aaron’s, saying a demand letter and slips of paper left at her home indicate the store is trying to collect on a debt owed by Steven.

The lawsuit says men from the store have banged on her door nearly a dozen times this year sometimes in the early morning hours, waking her young children.

Kelly says she has called store management to resolve the issue but she says they don’t believe that he doesn’t live there.

Kelly is suing only the local franchise, NW Freedom Corp and not the national chain to which it has ties. A representative for the franchise declined to comment.

Clackamas County deputies help save newborn

PORTLAND — Three Oregon deputies visited the 2-week-old girl who her parents say they helped save after she stopped breathing.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports newborn Audrey Harmon became pale and unresponsive at a photography studio outside Portland on Sept. 30.

Her father Kaylob Harmon tried to start infant CPR

as her mother Jessie Siefer called 911.

Clackamas County deputies Jonathan Zacharkiw, Dan Olson and Jonah Russell responded and initiated lifesaving measures until paramedics arrived.

The parents say the deputies’ quick action saved their baby’s life.

The deputies visited Audrey at the hospital Sunday. Kaylob Harmon had invited the deputies to the hospital to take a group photo, so his daughter will someday be able to see the men who saved her life.

The sheriff’s office says Audrey is steadily improving.

Crews search for missing injured hiker on Mount Hood

MOUNT HOOD, Ore. — Authorities are searching on Mt. Hood for a 30-year-old injured hiker from Phoenix, Arizona, who was last seen on Monday.

The Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office said Tuesday that David Yaghmourian was hiking the Timberline Trail with a companion when he injured his leg.

The sheriff’s office says on the last day of their hike on Monday Yaghmourian stopped to rest while his friend continued to Timberline Lodge.

The sheriff’s office says the friend waited but Yaghmourian never arrived.

Yaghmourian was last seen wearing a black jacket and tan pants at the eastern junction of the Timberline Trail at the Pacific Crest Trail. He also had a large

backpack with what appears to be a yellow towel attached to it.

People who may have seen him are asked to call authorities.

One person, two dogs die in home fire north of Klamath Falls

CHILOQUIN — Authorities say one person and two dogs died in a home fire north of Klamath Falls in Chiloquin.

The Herald and News reports firefighters were called to the blaze at about 7 a.m. Tuesday.

Chiloquin Fire and Rescue Chief Mike Cook says the home was fully engulfed when firefighters arrived but that firefighters were able to get it under control quickly.

Cook says the cause and place of origin of the fire are under investigation as well as the identity of the person who died.

He says firefighters were able to save two dogs.

No further information immediately was available.

Lawsuit: Fred Meyer camera pointed at dressing room

PORTLAND — A Fred Meyer customer in Clackamas who says she was caught on store video while half-naked in a dressing room has filed a \$300,000 lawsuit.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports Carlee Gish filed the lawsuit against the shopping chain Monday in

Clackamas County Circuit Court.

Gish claims in the lawsuit that she entered a dressing room May 10 to try on clothes and was wearing only underpants when she noticed the reflection of a camera pointed at the mirror.

The suit claims Gish then located the camera up in the rafters.

She says she complained to customer service and was told the camera would be removed but the lawsuit says when she returned to the store in July she found the camera still pointed at the dressing room mirror.

Fred Meyer spokesperson Jeffery Temple said Tuesday he couldn’t comment “on matters under investigation and/or litigation.”

Mom sues for teen’s alleged burns from hot water

PORTLAND — A woman has filed a \$1.56 million lawsuit against a central Oregon McDonald’s restaurant, claiming her teen was badly burned after being served a cup of water that was too hot.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports the suit filed last week by Shirelle Thomas in Multnomah County Circuit Court seeks \$10,000 in medical bills and related expenses, \$50,000 in future expenses and \$1.5 million for pain and suffering.

The lawsuit doesn’t list the water temperature or explain if the 14-year-old girl

spilled the water on herself or someone spilled it onto her at the Madras McDonald’s in July 2017.

The suit claims the teen suffered “partial thickness burns” to her abdomen, groin and inner thighs.

It lists the McDonald’s corporation and the individual franchise, Taylor Enterprises, as defendants.

Neither returned messages seeking comment.

Supreme Court rejects appeal from suspended judge

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is refusing to hear an appeal from an Oregon judge who was suspended after allegations

that he had refused to marry gay couples and had broken gun laws.

The justices on Tuesday left in place the three-year suspension against Judge Day, who had argued that he was singled out for his opposition to same-sex marriage.

The Oregon Supreme Court imposed the suspension in March after determining that Day had lied to ethics investigators.

Day also is accused of allowing a felon to handle a gun and is facing criminal charges. The trial is scheduled to begin on Oct. 22.

Day is a judge in Marion County, which includes the state capital, Salem.

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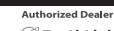
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