

Trudeau: Canada to legalize marijuana on Oct. 17

TORONTO (AP) — Marijuana will be legal nationwide in Canada starting Oct. 17 in a move that should take market share away from organized crime and protect the country's youth, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Wednesday.

The Senate gave final passage to the bill to legalize cannabis on Tuesday, legislation that will make Canada only the second country in the world to make pot legal across the country.

Trudeau said provincial and territorial governments need the time to prepare for retail sales.

"It is our hope as of October 17 there will be a smooth operation of retail cannabis outlets operated by the provinces with an online mail delivery system operated by the provinces that will ensure that this happens in an orderly fashion," Trudeau said.

The prime minister said at a news conference that the goal is to take a significant part of the market share away from organized crime.

"Over the following months and indeed years we will completely replace or almost completely replace the organized crime market on that," he said.

Canada is following the lead of Uruguay in allowing a nationwide, legal marijuana market, although each

Canadian province is working up its own rules for pot sales. The federal government and the provinces also still need to publish regulations that will govern the cannabis trade.

"The legislation is transformative," said Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould, adding it "marks a wholesale shift in how our country approaches cannabis, leaving behind a failed model of prohibition."

She urged Canadians to follow the existing law until the Cannabis Act comes into force.

"The law still remains the law," Wilson-Raybould said.

Many questions remain unanswered, including how police will test motorists suspected of driving under the influence, what to do about those with prior marijuana convictions and just how the rules governing home cultivation will work.

The Canadian provinces of Quebec and Manitoba have already decided to ban home-grown pot, even though the federal bill specifies that individuals can grow up to four plants per dwelling.

"Provinces can set their own laws. If individuals are challenging that law, they can challenge it," Wilson-Raybould said.

Trudeau said the government won't discuss pardons

of past convictions until legalization is in effect.

"There's no point looking at pardons while the old law is in the books," Trudeau said.

Trudeau said they are going to treat it like wine and tobacco, noting that few people will cultivate it at home, but it's necessary to fight organized crime.

Trudeau promised to legalize it during the 2015 election and had set a goal of July 1 for it. The provinces pleaded for more time.

Canadian marijuana stocks have rallied in anticipation of legalization and jumped again on Wednesday.

In the neighboring U.S., nine states and the District of Columbia have legalized marijuana. California, home to one in eight Americans, launched the United States' biggest legal marijuana marketplace on Jan. 1.

The news was greeted with enthusiasm by marijuana advocates in the U.S.

Morgan Fox, a spokesman for the National Cannabis Industry Alliance in the U.S., said Canada's legalization should also serve as a wake-up call south of the border.

"The most important takeaway is that it's time for advocates in the industry to double down, so as to not be surpassed by the Canadian cannabis industry," he said.



Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada Jody Wilson-Raybould speaks during a press conference as Minister of Health Ginette Petitpas Taylor, right, and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and to the Minister of Health Bill Blair, left, look on during a press conference on Bill C-45, the Cannabis Act, in the Foyer of the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario on Wednesday. The Canadian government said it will soon announce the date of when cannabis will become legal — but warns it will remain illegal until then.

Don Hartleben, who manages Dank of America, a retail cannabis store just south of the border in Blaine, Washington, said Canada's legalization was not only politically exciting, but a potential business boon for him.

Many of his customers are Canadian tourists who are terrified of trying to bring pot across the border, he said. If more use marijuana when they're in Canada, more will use when they're on vacation in the states.

"People ask me all the time, 'Isn't legalization in Canada going to hurt your business?'" he said. "I tell them, 'No! The more it's legal, the more people are going to feel safe to buy my product.'"

CLINIC: Additional services planned in new location

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the new location, Keith said. He said there will be specialists who can consult patients on everything from allergies to hormones.

"It's going to be a destination for wellness, not just sick care," he said.

Armstrong worked from 2000 to 2006 at Gifford Medi-

cal Clinic in Hermiston before coming to Umatilla, where she has provided free sports physicals to teens in the community and walk-in services for patients who have been told they can't get seen for days or weeks at other clinics.

"In April we had 62 (urgent care) walk-ins that got in in under an hour," Keith said.

He and Armstrong said

patients come from all over, not just Umatilla — she even uses telemedicine to see patients as far away as Salem. While Keith said Armstrong has built a loyal following during her time in Umatilla, Armstrong said she wasn't told by the Umatilla Hospital District why they had decided to not continue to pay her to provide services in the district

when her contract is up at the end of October.

She said the upside of the decision is it has provided the opportunity to create an "amazing project" for the community.

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CORBETT: Raise reflects city's satisfaction

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action before the end of a fiscal year, his contract automatically renews for the following year.

In an interview following the meeting, Turner said the raise was reflective of the council's satisfaction with Corbett. Turner said it also made the city manager salary more competitive with cities of similar size. Turner added that Corbett's salary was still smaller than that of Hermiston's city manager, despite not having the help of an assistant city manager.

Corbett was not the only city employee to leave the council meeting with a significant raise.

The council also approved a new contract with the Pendleton chapter of the Service Employees

International Union, which represents all non-public safety employees that aren't managers, temporary or work less than half-time.

Under the three-year agreement, SEIU salaries will rise by 5 percent in 2018, 4 percent in 2019 and 4 percent in 2020.

Other changes include a \$750 cash bonus if an employee receives a second certification or advanced certification, an education incentive that pays for half the cost of college tuition with advance approval from the city manager, and getting one-hour pay for every 12 hours an SEIU employee is on-call.

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FARMERS: Impressed by U.S. infrastructure system

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control your farms."

"You can rule your farm with your cell phone," he said. "It's quite different here."

He said he was also interested to see how integrated farms and suppliers are in the United States.

Marcos Pooter, who grows soybeans, corn, wheat and sorghum, said he admired the "amazing" infrastructure in the country.

"Here, everything works," he said. "In Brazil, you have to work a lot to do a little."

He said he was interested in seeing how the pump stations used here are different than in Brazil, and he wanted to study the system further to see if it could be adapted well in the region where he grows crops.

Before the group set out for a second day of tours on Wednesday, Ziari hosted an informal question-and-an-



Photo contributed by Fred Ziari

Herb Stahl from the Stanfield Hutterian Brethren farm shows the FieldNet Wireless pivot control to a group of farmers visiting from Brazil.

swer session with one of the bilingual group members translating.

One grower asked how much of the world was using the advanced precision irrigation technology that they had seen at Herb Stahl's farm during their tour. Ziari said worldwide, irrigation is at about 30 percent efficiency, but Stahl's farm achieves about 90 percent efficiency.

"I think that it is a global model for efficiency, but we have large areas, many hectares in the United States that

are not that efficient, that need to be brought up. But we are progressing fast," he said.

Other questions were about the growth of agriculture in the United States, and whether the Eastern Oregon region could support more crops. Ziari said growth is limited in the United States not so much by land availability but by political issues. In 1900, 50 percent of Americans were involved in farming, he said, and now it's less than three percent due to the technologi-

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QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
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