

October 2018

The Legalization of cannabis...

Cannabis (marijuana) is legal across Canada as of October 17, 2018. This new law will be governed and enforced by *The Cannabis Act* with a focus on promoting educational and preventive measures. The legal age for consumption in Quebec is currently set at 18.

John Rennie High School, like the Lester B. Pearson School Board, remains committed to its proactive approach to cannabis use, and the use of any illicit substance, articulated within its [Policy On Safe and Caring Schools](#). Despite its legalization, the possession, consumption, and distribution of marijuana is still **prohibited** in all LBPSB schools and centres, and on its properties, including John Rennie High School. **All procedures, protocols and collaborative practices currently agreed to with law enforcement officials remain unchanged.**

John Rennie, has dedicated staff members trained to counsel students who are struggling with substance abuse and to screen students for heightened risk or vulnerability. Established partnerships (see below) allow for outside referrals when deemed appropriate. Professional development in this domain is ongoing and expertise in the LBPSB's Student Services Department is available to all schools.

The LBPSB has established partnerships with community organizations that can be leveraged for education/prevention/intervention when deemed appropriate. These organizations include:

- [CRD Foster](#) - allowing students to access specialized services in their schools and communities.
- [Portage](#) - specialized rehabilitation programs for adolescents
- [La Maison Jean Lapointe](#) - provides free research-based workshops on addiction prevention; specifically designed for the classroom

Parents are encouraged to consult the Quebec MSSS document [Do You Speak Cannabis](#) for additional information and resources.