



October 18, 2018

Dear Families:

Earlier this month in preparation for the legalization of cannabis – which took place yesterday on October 17 – the Burnaby School District began sharing information with staff and students. You may have questions about what legalization means in our District; as such, we wanted to share that information with you, as well.

In schools, legalization changes very little. Marijuana is still illegal for anyone under 19 and remains a controlled substance, like alcohol. The same rules apply. We don't allow cannabis in our schools. Our existing policies and [Code of Conduct](#) are clear. Intoxication, impairment, as well as the smoking of any substance, vaping, or drinking on school property is already prohibited.

Legalization is an opportunity for more conversations and education about the effects of using cannabis in any form. The District has dedicated staff who talk to students about prevention, health, addiction, and the impact of substance abuse. Our staff will continue to provide that education. Additionally, we are also working with the District Parent Advisory Council on an information session for parents that will take place in early January. Details will be communicated to families through your school's PAC.

A list of frequently asked questions is available [on our website](#), and attached for ease of reference. It includes links to resources for people who may wish to talk with their child about potential health impacts. On our website and attached is a flyer, "Marijuana Legalization: 5 Things You Need to Know" that many of our schools have posted.

If you have questions or concerns, we encourage you to connect with your student's Principal or school counsellor, either of whom would be pleased to talk with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gina Niccoli-Moen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gina Niccoli-Moen, Superintendent of Schools