

November 29, 2018

Dear Partner,

As you may be aware, on October 17, 2018, the Government of Canada legalized recreational cannabis use in Canada. The Cannabis Act regulates the sale, production and distribution of cannabis in Canada. As this legislation is quite new, we recognize you and your students who are or will be studying at Simon Fraser University may have some questions. As such, we wanted to keep you informed:

### **Information about the Law**

Although the Cannabis Act was created at the federal level, each of Canada's provinces and territories are largely responsible for the practical implementation of legalization within their jurisdictions. Efforts have been made to educate students on their responsibility to be aware of the laws in their host community and anywhere they may choose to travel within Canada and internationally.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/health/campaigns/cannabis.html>

### **Cannabis Use at SFU**

The safety and wellbeing of students is always our first priority, and we want to ensure that we are creating the safest conditions possible across our campuses to support your students in their learning. In mid-October, students were informed about the current rules regarding cannabis use on our three campuses. As part of our ongoing commitment to student well-being, students also received educational resources from our Health & Counselling Centre. [www.sfu.ca/students/health/resources/drugs.html](http://www.sfu.ca/students/health/resources/drugs.html)  
[www.sfu.ca/srs/ehs/air-quality/smoking-workplace.html](http://www.sfu.ca/srs/ehs/air-quality/smoking-workplace.html)

### **Home Country Regulations**

If you are aware of any laws in your home country that might be relevant to your students while in Canada or impact them on their return from Canada, please ensure your students are briefed on these laws as part of your pre-departure orientation.

### **Impaired Driving and Marijuana-Related Penalties for Temporary Residents of Canada**

The Government of Canada is also imposing strict new policies on those who drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, including cannabis, or commit cannabis-related crimes. These penalties could affect immigration status for permanent and temporary residents in Canada so we are also taking steps to ensure international students are aware. <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/notices/impaired-driving-cannabis-penalties-affect-immigration-status.html>

If you or your students have any questions, we are happy to assist.



Carolyn Hanna  
Director, International Services for Students