

CANNABIS LEGISLATION: A PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVE

DALE TESAROWSKI

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THE DISCLAIMER

- I am here to provide the provincial and territorial perspective on cannabis legalization but in doing so am not speaking on behalf of any government. The views expressed are my own and cannot be attributable to any of “the elected”.
- **Some of what I am going to talk about looks “negative” on paper, but please know that my federal colleagues have been almost absolutely terrific to deal with.**

REGULATORY ISSUES & TRENDS

- **Lack of consultation by the federal government**
- **Policy Replication**
 - Some operational policies went counter to federal ones e.g. Manitoba and Quebec
- **Government of Canada Task force - PT governments viewed as stakeholders, not partners**
- **Federal government's framing of its preferred regulatory options**

REGULATORY ISSUES & TRENDS

- **Tight timeline for legalization**
- **Funding**
 - **The greater resource constraints appear to come from the lack of time and political will, as opposed to funding.**
- **High costs**

LESSONS LEARNED

- **Lower-level policy making**
 - responsibility for the administration of justice
 - shared accountability for public health and public safety.
- **The outcomes of the process are not predictable or easily engineered.**
- **The disproportionate power of small choices**

ROLE IN, ROLL-OUT (a little about me)

- Lawyer
- Policy maker
- Provincial partner with the federal government
- Issues surrounding information sharing across government
 - barriers and perceived barriers
 - that employees and stakeholders share information comfortably and “legally”.

PROVINCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- SK the last among provinces to release its cannabis policy framework.
- Undertook a leadership race from August 2017 to Jan 2018.
 - sitting Premier Brad Wall chose not to advance a cannabis policy framework while his successor was being chosen.

PT IMPLICATIONS

- **Required to establish new laws around the distribution, sale, and consumption of cannabis**
- **PT governments' decisions affected the means by, and extent to which, the directional policy was achieved across Canada**
- **Policy alignment is not desirable ends unto themselves**

Questions?

dale.tesarowski@gov.sk.ca

(306) 787-5469