Summary of Federal and Provincial Priorities and Principles

Federal Government

The federal government's policy objectives are outlined in the Framework for the Legalization and Regulation of Cannabis document and can be summarized as follows:

- 1. Protect young Canadians by keeping cannabis out of the hands of children and youth.
- 2. Keep profits out of the hands of criminals, particularly organized crime.
- 3. Protect public health and safety by strengthening, where appropriate, laws and enforcement measures that deter and punish more serious cannabis offences, particularly selling and distributing to children and youth, selling outside of the regulatory framework, and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of cannabis.
- 4. Reduce the burdens on police and the justice system associated with simple possession of cannabis offences.
- 5. Establish and enforce a strict system of production, distribution and sales, taking a public health approach, with regulation of quality and safety (e.g., child-proof packaging, warning labels), restriction of access, and application of taxes, with programmatic support for addiction treatment, mental health support and education programs.
- 6. Provide access to quality-controlled cannabis for medical purposes consistent with federal policy and court decisions.
- 7. Enable ongoing data collection, including gathering baseline data, to monitor the impact of the new framework.
- 8. Prevent Canadians from entering the criminal justice system and receiving criminal records for simple cannabis possession offences.
- 9. Ensure Canadians are well-informed through sustained and appropriate public health campaigns and, for youth in particular, ensure that risks are understood.

Provincial Government

The Alberta Cannabis Secretariat developed policy priorities based on the federal objectives. The four policy priorities for cannabis legalization, as summarized in the Alberta Cannabis Framework, are as follows:

- 1. Keeping cannabis out of the hands of children and youth.
- 2. Limiting the illegal market for cannabis.
- 3. Protecting public health.
- 4. Protecting safety on roads, in workplaces and in public spaces.