

BC Cannabis Election Platform Analysis – ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN CANNABIS RETAILERS (ACCRES)

The Association of Canadian Cannabis Retailers (ACCRES) has created the following analysis of the election platforms of the BC NDP, the BC Liberals and the BC Green party. ACCRES was pleased to host an election forum in partnership with the BC Craft Farmers' Co-op on October 19, 2020.

[That session can be view by clicking here.](#) References to representative statements are drawn from the October 19, 2020 session.

Overall Platform Score

Party	BC NDP	BC Liberals	BC Greens
Reducing Retail Employee Background Check Requirements	4/5	4/5	4/5
Direct Distribution / Alignment with Liquor Regulations	3/5	3/5	3/5
Promoting Craft / Micro Production	3/5	1.5/5	4/5
Direct Delivery to Customers	3/5	3/5	3/5
Overall Sectoral Support	2.5/5	.5/5	2.5/5
Total Score	15.5/25	12/25	16.5/25

Issue 1. Reducing Background Check Requirements

Current Policy: All retail staff must undergo security clearance. The cost of the clearance is \$150 per employee and the clearance is valid for 5 years.

ACCRES Position: The requirement for staff clearances should be removed. This will bring the standard in line with liquor policies.

Party Positions:

All three parties' representatives stated their support for reducing background check requirements for cannabis retail employees.

None of the parties' official platforms have specific plans on this topic.

4/5

Issue 2. Direct Supply

Currently policy: All purchases of wholesale cannabis must be complete via the BC Liquor and Cannabis Distribution Branch.

ACCRES Position: ACCRES policy recommendation to government is that producers and retailers should be able to establish direct wholesale relationships without a middle broker.

Party Positions:

NDP: Have said pre-election they will implement direct supply between small + indigenous producers and independent retailers, but there is no specific plan to do so yet, and no specific campaign promise.

3/5

BCL: No concrete proposals in party platform, however their representative was supportive of reforms to cannabis distribution aimed at alignment with liquor regulations. **3/5**

Greens: No concrete proposals in party platform, however their representative was supportive of reforms to cannabis distribution aimed at alignment with liquor regulations. **3/5**

Issue 3. Promoting Craft/Micro Production

Current policy: No special considerations are given to craft, indigenous or BC producers.

ACCRES position: Locally produced cannabis should be the top priority for acquisition on the part of the distributor. Further to this, we would like to see a plan articulated by the provincial government to facilitate the onboarding of unregulated craft farmers.

Party Positions:

NDP: No concrete platform proposals relating to craft production in BC, however individual candidates have stated they are strongly in support of BC craft cannabis production being given more support from their caucus. **3/5**

BCL: No concrete platform proposals relating to craft production in BC, however individual candidates have stated they would not support an outright ban on cannabis cultivation in the ALR. **1.5/5**

Greens: Have a campaign promise to support the development of sustainable small-scale cannabis agriculture within the ALR as a farm support measure. **4/5**

Direct Public Delivery

Current policy: No direct to the door deliver is available side from the BC Cannabis Stores mail order service.

ACCRES policy: ACCRES asserts that all commerce modes and tools should be made available to BC private retailers in order to better combat the unregulated market.

Party Positions:

While all three parties' candidates indicated support for direct delivery from retailers to customers, no party has made a specific campaign promise on this front.

3/5

Issue 4. Licensing Density / Distribution of Licenses

Currently policy: Local government has veto power over all cannabis retail applications

ACCRES position: ACCRES would like to see the distribution of licenses more closely tied to population density to ensure the sustainability of the industry.

Party Positions:

NDP: Support continued expansion of retail licenses, provided there is local government support. 2.5/5

BCL: No stated policy on cannabis retail licensing. 0/5

Greens: Support continued expansion of retail licenses, provided there is local government support. 2.5/5

Conclusion

Overall Sectoral Support

BCL: Have excluded cannabis from their proposed PST break, which would negatively impact cannabis retailers, and indicates continued bias within the party against cannabis. 0/5

NDP: Continue to favour public distribution of cannabis, despite the high cost and lack of quantifiable benefit to the public. Did not articulate a cannabis-focused economic policy during the campaign. 1.5/5

Greens: Have avoided the topic of retail licenses and retail density, but do support the growth of the craft cannabis production sector, which would significantly benefit retailers by improving product quality and variety. The most cannabis-friendly policies overall. 3/5