



Cultivating a safe and equitable **Cannabis Industry**



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✉ cannabiscommission@investstlucia.com

www www.slconline.org

☎ 758 519 4946

Who We are

The Government of Saint Lucia is committed to regulating the laws on cannabis and to create a system with strict controls on the sale and production of cannabis. A commitment is also made to ensure the laws are more effective in dealing with those who sell outside the new regulatory framework. The government is equally committed to enable the country to produce and cultivate medicinal cannabis and to establish a cannabis industry. This development will provide relief for individuals suffering from a range of medical conditions and has the transformative potential to positively impact rural livelihoods and communities. The Minister of Commerce, International Trade, Investment, Enterprise Development and Consumer Affairs has therefore established a Commission to review the laws on cannabis and make recommendations on a new legislative framework and the enabling environment, to guide the cannabis industry.

Objectives/Mandate:

1. Conduct rigorous enquiry into the social, health economic and legal issues surrounding cannabis in St. Lucia.
2. Engage government organizations, youth and experts in relevant fields with expertise in production, distribution and sales and seek their views on issues fundamental to a legislative and regulatory system for restricted access to cannabis.
3. Provide opportunities for all Saint Lucians to offer their views on key questions related to cannabis.
4. Recommended changes to the Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Act and other relevant legislation to create a regulated environment that minimizes harms and maximizes benefits associates with cannabis.

Members of the Committee

The Commission consists of members from the following agencies/departments:

- Mr. Michael Gordon QC, Attorney at Law (Chairman)
 - Attorney General
 - Invest Saint Lucia
 - Ministry of Commerce
 - Ministry of Agriculture
 - Ministry of Health
 - Ministry of Home Affairs
 - Ministry of Equity
 - Cannabis Movement
 - Leader of the Opposition
 - National Youth Council
 - St. Lucia Christian Council
 - Iyanola Council for the Advancement of Rastafari
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Fundamental Areas of Focus

1. Protect Saint Lucians by keeping cannabis out of the hands of children and youth.
2. Keep profits out of the hands of criminals, particularly gang-related.
3. Reduce the burdens on the police and the justice system.
4. Prevent Saint Lucians from entering the criminal justice system and receiving criminal records for simple possession of cannabis offences.
5. Protect public health and safety by strengthening laws and enforcement measures that deter and punish more serious cannabis offences particularly selling and distributing to children and youth, selling outside the regulatory framework and driving under the influence of cannabis.
6. Ensure Saint Lucians are well-informed and provide appropriate public health campaigns for youth in particular to understand the risks involved in cannabis use.
7. Establish a system of strict production, distribution and sales, taking a public health approach, with regulation of quality and safety, restriction of access and application of taxes with support for treatment, mental health and education programs.
8. Provide access to quality-controlled cannabis for medical and scientific purposes.

Our Approach

STEP 1

Establish Commission

STEP 2

Establish Sub-Committees and utilizing their expertise to assist the Commission

STEP 3

Engage in island wide consultation and public health campaign after the word

STEP 4

Prepare draft Policy Framework based on input from Sub-Committees and Consultations

STEP 5

Present draft Policy Framework to Cabinet for approval