

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

‘Decriminalization’ of personal drug possession in BC

From **January 31, 2023 to January 31, 2026**, the Province of BC has decriminalized the personal possession of certain types and amounts of drugs for people in BC.

REMEMBER: you only need to identify yourself to police if you’re being arrested, driving a motor vehicle, or receiving a bylaw ticket. If you believe you have been wrongly charged for personal drug possession, tell your lawyer.

Please review the full exemption for details that may not be included on this card:



Police will distribute ‘health service referral cards’ to people who possess drugs. Police cannot require you to access these services; they can assist you to do so **ONLY** if you ask.

DISCLAIMER: This is public legal information, current to December 2022. It is not legal advice. Please consult a lawyer or advocate for specific advice.
https://www.pivotlegal.org/need_help

VANDU



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

PIVOT
LEGAL SOCIETY

Are you protected by BC's decriminalization policy?

Yes - and
your drugs
won't be
confiscated

You're 18+, in BC (& not crossing a domestic or international border), AND you possess **less than 2.5 grams TOTAL** of any of these drugs: opioids, cocaine, meth, MDMA (ecstasy)

No

You're under 18

You possess **more than 2.5 grams TOTAL** of any illicit drug(s)

You possess any amount of any drug not listed above

You're engaged in another criminal activity besides personal drug possession, (as defined above), including: possession for the purposes of trafficking, trafficking, importation/exportation, etc.

You're selling, sharing, or transporting drugs to another person

You're at a school (K-12), licensed childcare facility, or airport

You're in a car or watercraft operated by someone under 18

You're in a car, watercraft, or on public transit and your drugs are accessible to the driver/operator