

THE MOHAWK COUNCIL OF AKWESASNE
RECREATIONAL CANNABIS SURVEY – RESULTS

Prepared for the Cannabis Task Force Subcommittee

By the research team of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social
Services Commission (FNQLHSSC)

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May 18, 2018

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Context

Considering that recreational cannabis,¹ i.e., cannabis used for enjoyment without medical justification, is going to be legalized in July 2018, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) wanted to establish its position on the subject. MCA created the *Cannabis Task Force Subcommittee*, which has the mandate to support the band council in its decision-making.

The subcommittee wanted to develop a tool to better understand the community's opinions on this subject. This information will assist the MCA in determining the position of the community towards cannabis. The subcommittee decided to use the technical support of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC)² research department for help in developing a survey tool using an unbiased approach.

The FNQLHSSC research team was contacted in December 2017 to request the technical support for developing a survey. The subcommittee discussed this matter with the research team by telephone before officially presenting the project. Following those steps, the research team had a few discussions with the subcommittee to have a better understanding of the requirements and the details of the survey. The FNQLHSSC research team had the mandate to create a survey with the collaboration of the subcommittee, to supervise the data collection, to analyze the data, and to produce a report for the subcommittee.

Methodology

The making of the survey

The research team created a survey based on previous surveys on the same subject and added more specific questions to meet the requirements of the *Cannabis Task Force Subcommittee*. The subcommittee reviewed the questionnaire's wording to make sure the population of Akwesasne would understand the words and the concepts used. In total, the subcommittee chose 11 questions [Appendix 2]. Considering that the answers of the participants and their identification needed to stay confidential, the participants were not asked to provide any personal information.

The subcommittee chose to use two methods for the data collection: an electronic version and a paper version of the same survey.

¹ Medical cannabis, i.e., cannabis that is recommended by doctors for their patients to alleviate the symptoms of certain conditions or diseases, has been legal in Canada since 2001.

² See appendix 1 for more information about the FNQLHSSC

Validity of the two methods of data collection

The electronic survey has many advantages: low cost, accessible (for all persons with Internet access), more accurate, rapid analysis and easy to use. That being said, the reality is that some people do not have access to internet or do not want to use online tools. This is why the paper survey was created. The statements, the multiple-choice answers and the order in which they were presented were identical for the two versions (electronic and paper) of the survey.

The data collection

The PDF version of the survey was sent to the subcommittee to be printed and distributed in strategic places in the community. The Survey Monkey account of the FNQLHSSC research team was used to create and share the survey. The two versions of the questionnaires were available from February 16, 2018 to April 6, 2018.

It was decided by the research team and the subcommittee to enter the paper results into the Survey Monkey in order to have one database. One person from the community, Kuyra Chaussi, executive assistant to council, was responsible to perform this task every week and was asked to keep track of how many questionnaires he or she entered and at what time. With that information, the research team was able to distinguish the paper questionnaires from the electronic questionnaires in the database.

A weekly update was sent to the subcommittee with basic information on the participants: the total number of participants and the breakdown by gender, age category and district. This way, only the research team obtained the results of the questions during the data collection.

The subcommittee ensured the promotion of the survey among the population.

Cleaning of the database

Once the Survey Monkey database was exported onto Excel, the research team was able to view the entire results. The electronic and the paper surveys were identified using the information of the person responsible for the entry of the paper questionnaires.

Any databases need to go through the cleaning step before the analysis in order to assure the quality of the data. This step is necessary to delete old, incomplete or duplicated data in the database. In this case, the duplicated data were an issue because they would have affected the overall results and therefore the trends. This step was carefully done by the research team in order to optimize and ensure the most reliable results for the community.

The cleaning of the data was based on specific criteria selected by the research team. The research team sorted the database according to the IP addresses; thus, it would be possible to identify the repetitive entries and patterns. The research team was able to identify respondents who did the survey twice or more because they had the same: IP addresses,

timeline (a few seconds apart) and identical answers. When this situation occurred, only one survey response was kept. In total, 14 completed questionnaires did not meet quality control criteria and were deleted from the database.

Ethical considerations

Survey Monkey and the Patriot Act

Survey Monkey was used because of its simplicity and its low cost. Knowing that the servers of this website are located in the United States of America, there was a limit because of the sensibility of the subject. American citizens could be identified with their information from the questionnaire and IP address under the Patriot Act. It was important for the subcommittee and the research team that the potential respondents of the district of Hogansburg be able to answer truthfully on the topic of cannabis. In order to maintain their anonymity, a strategic decision was made to remove the name of this district from the questionnaire.

OCAP[®] principles and confidentiality agreements

The mandate of the research team of the FNQLHSSC was carried out in respect of the OCAP[®] principles (ownership, control, access and possession) and the *First Nations in Quebec and Labrador's Research Protocol* (AFNQL, 2014). The research team members working on this project signed a specific agreement for the confidentiality of the results [Appendix 3]. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has the ownership of all the documents created during this project, including the database and the results.

Repatriation and destruction of the data at the FNQLHSSC

The entire database and documents produced during the analysis of the results will be sent to the subcommittee. The research team agreed to delete any information (e-mail, document, etc.) once the analyses were completed.

Limitations

Non-participation of certain population segments

Two subgroups did not participate as much as the rest, i.e., youths (under 18) and elders (65 and older). The research team recommends holding focus groups with these smaller populations to obtain their opinions.

Limitation of the paper survey

A few minor problems seemed to come up repetitively in the paper surveys. A few participants did not turn over the questionnaire; thus, they answered only the first page of

the survey and not the back page. This is the reason why a few participants only answered questions 1 through 5 out of 11. The incomplete questionnaires of those participants were kept in the database because they answered question 1 to 5 which included valuable answers for the subcommittee.

Limitations of the electronic survey

The main limitation of the electronic version of the survey is the identification of the participants. The Survey Monkey tool allows the restraint of one questionnaire per IP address. The problem with this option is that it would not allow different participants using the same internet location (e.g. same household, same Wi-Fi in a public space). The subcommittee wanted to obtain, as much as possible, the opinions of all the members of Akwesasne.

Considering that the link to access the survey was available on the Facebook page of the MCA, it was possible that non-members of Akwesasne participated to this survey.

Limitation concerning the possibility of participating more than once

Another limitation with the paper and the electronic survey is that no control could be performed on the number of participation per respondent. It is therefore possible that the same participant has responded more than once to the survey. The cleaning of the database made it possible to lessen this limitation.

Results of the survey

In total, 590 respondents took the survey from February 16, 2018 to April 6, 2018. More specifically, there were 146 participants for the paper version and 444 participants for the electronic version.

After the data cleaning, 14 entries were deleted before doing the analyses (all from the electronic questionnaire). Here are the results of the 576 respondents³ (146 for the paper version and 430 for the electronic version) and their profiles.

³ The number of respondents can vary according to each question because of the limitation of the paper questionnaire (some respondents did not flip the questionnaire). From questions 1 to 5, the total number of respondents is 576 and from questions 6 to 11, the total number of respondents is 548.

Representativeness of the sample

There is a formula used to calculate the minimum size of a sample allowing the reliability of the results obtained. This formula takes into account the size of the population, the level of confidence and the tolerated margin of error.⁴

According to the population statistics provided to the research team by the community, 7541 adults⁵ (18 years old and over) live in the three districts located in Quebec or Ontario. According to the calculation formula, a minimum sample of 366 respondents is required (confidence level at 95% and margin of error of 5%). A total of 431 respondents corresponding to those criteria were obtained. The minimum size for the sample was exceeded for this category of respondents. It was impossible to calculate the minimum sample for respondents living outside these three districts since the total numbers of potential respondents is unknown.

In other words, this means that if this survey were done 20 times with different samples from this population, we would have the same results (+/- 5%) 19 times out of 20 including the true value (the value obtained if all the population participated to the survey). In this case, if 70% of the respondents answered “Yes,” this means that the true value would be between 65% and 75%.

Profiles of the respondents

❖ Gender (Q1)

Among the respondents, 57.8% were female, 40.6% were male, with 1.6% identified as other⁶ (Table 1). There is no significant difference between the distribution of men and women for the electronic and the paper version of the questionnaire.

Table 1: Distribution of gender among respondents

	n	%
Male	234	40.6
Female	333	57.8
Other	9	1.6
Total	576	100.0

⁴ Several websites give access to a calculator of the minimum size of a sample. The research team used the one available on the Survey Monkey website:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/mp/sample-size-calculator/>.

⁵ From the Indian Register Population as of December 31, 2017

⁶ Due to the small number of respondents identifying as “other,” we cannot isolate their opinion for each gender question. Their opinions are included in all the remaining analyses.

❖ Age category (Q2)

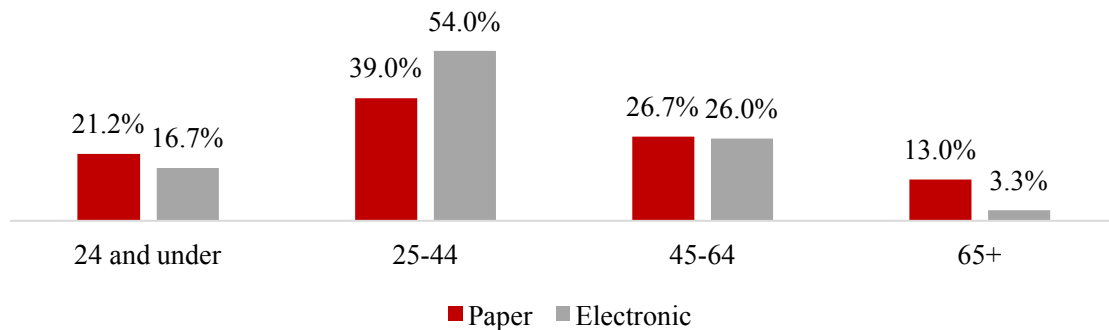
Table 2 illustrates the distribution of the respondents by age category. Half of the respondents in the sample are aged between 25 and 44 years old.

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents by age category

	n	%
Under 18	7	1.2
18-24	96	16.7
25-34	158	27.4
35-44	131	22.7
45-54	66	11.5
55-64	85	14.8
65+	33	5.7
Total	576	100.0

In order to simplify the analysis, wider age categories are used. In the following graph (Figure 1), we see that the proportion of the “24 and under” and the “45-64” are similar in the paper and electronic formats. The “25-44” years old responded more to the electronic version than the paper version. The opposite situation occurred with the “65+” who preferred the paper version to the electronic version.

Figure 1: Distribution of age groups by questionnaire format (n=576)



❖ District (Q3)

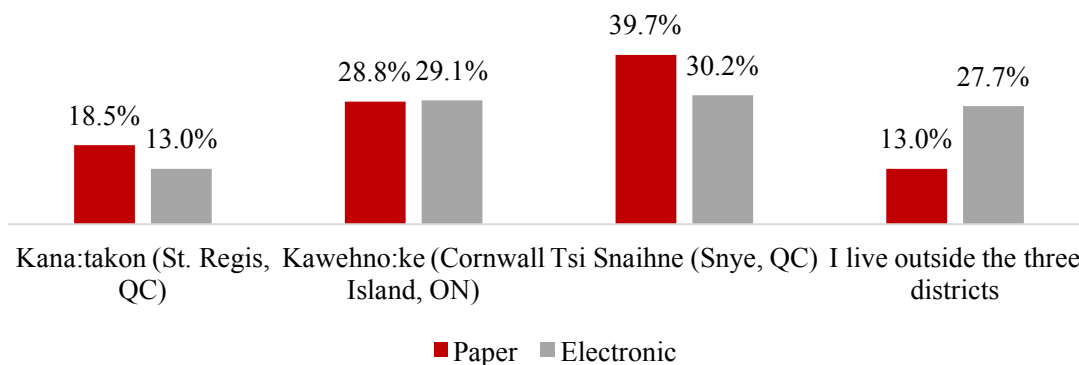
Overall, the district that participated the most was Tsi Snaihne District (Snye, Québec) followed secondly by Kawehno:ke District (Cornwall Island, Ontario), thirdly by the participants living outside the three districts and fourthly Kana:takon Direct (St-Regis, Québec). Furthermore, three-quarter of the respondents lived in one of the three districts, at 76.0% (Table 3).

Table 3: Distribution of the respondents by district

	n	%
Tsi Snaihne (Snye, QC)	188	32.6
Kawehno:ke (Cornwall Island, ON)	167	29.0
I live outside the three districts	138	24.0
Kana:takon (St. Regis, QC)	83	14.4
Total	576	100.0

When comparing the two versions of the questionnaire, the respondents of Tsi Snaihne (Snye, QC) and Kana:takon (St-Regis, QC) used the paper version more than the electronic one. Participants in the district of Kawehno:ke (Cornwall Island, QC) showed no difference in this regard, while the participants living outside the three districts preferred the electronic version (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Distribution of respondents, per district (n=576)



Some differences between the electronic and paper respondents are noticeable, but from now on, that information will be presented only when the results from the “paper group” are different from those of the “electronic group.” As for the categories of gender, age group and district, that information will be presented only when these characteristics seem to influence the opinions of the respondents.⁷

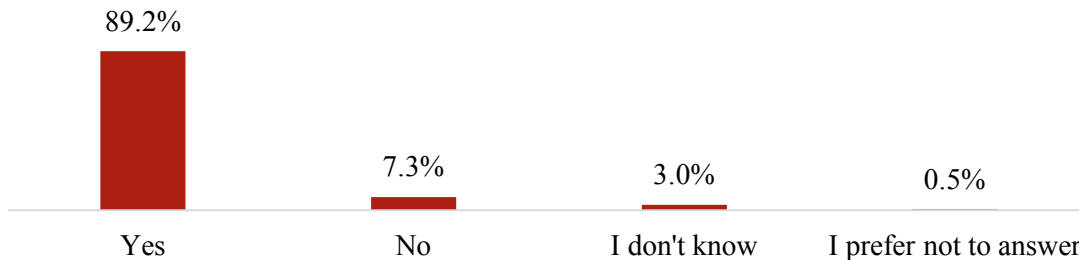
⁷ All the detailed analyses for every question of the survey including age, gender and breakdown according to district, were provided to the subcommittee.

Analysis for every question

- ❖ Are you aware that Canada is legalizing the recreational use of cannabis in July 2018? (Q4)

Almost nine respondents out of ten are aware that Canada is legalizing the recreational use of cannabis in July 2018 (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Are you aware that Canada is legalizing the recreational use of cannabis in July 2018? (n=576)

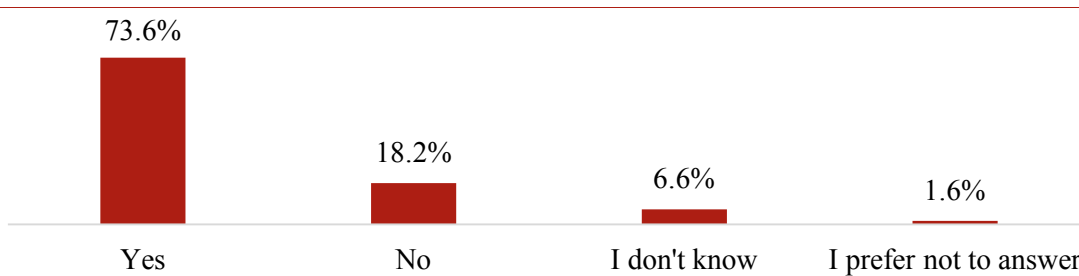


The respondents aged 25 and older (91.1%) are more likely to be aware than those under 24 years of age (80.6%). In addition, people living in one of the three districts (91.3%) are more likely to know that information than the people living outside them (82.6%).

- ❖ In your opinion, should the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne allow the recreational use of cannabis in Akwesasne? (Q5)

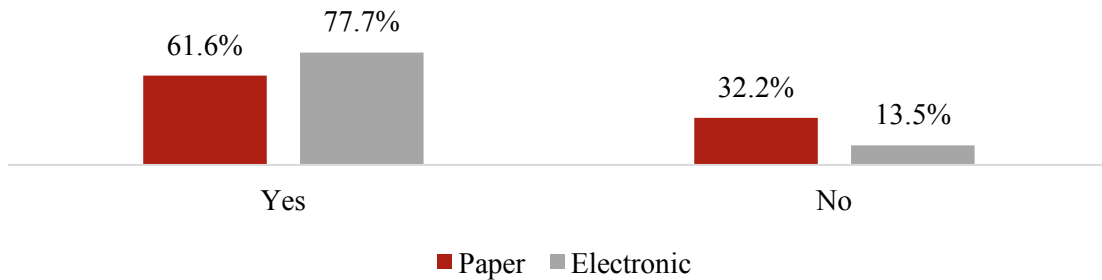
The majority of the respondents (73.6%) agree to allow the recreational use of cannabis in Akwesasne (Figure 4).

Figure 4: In your opinion, should the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne allow the recreational use of cannabis in Akwesasne? (n=576)



The respondents to the electronic version of the survey are more inclined than those of the paper version to allow the recreational use of cannabis in Akwesasne (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Should the MCA allow the recreational use of cannabis in Akwesasne, by questionnaire format (n=576)



Also, there is a difference of opinion according to gender, age group and place of residence. We note that male and youth respondents, as well as respondents from Kana:takon (St-Régis, QC) have a more favorable opinion about the recreational use of cannabis (Figures 6, 7 and 8).

Figure 6: Should the MCA allow the recreational use of cannabis in Akwesasne, by gender (n=576)

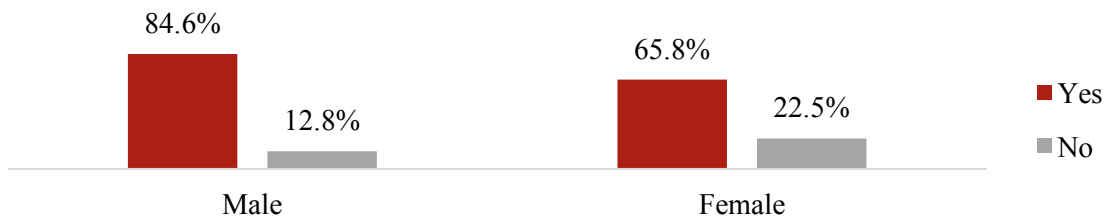


Figure 7: Should the MCA allow the recreational use of cannabis in Akwesasne, by age category (n=576)

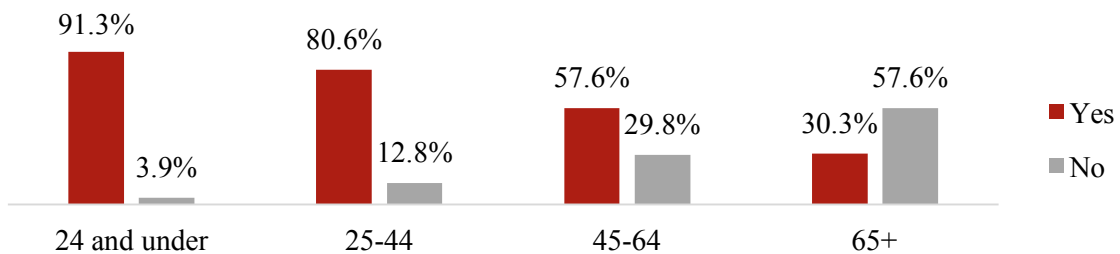
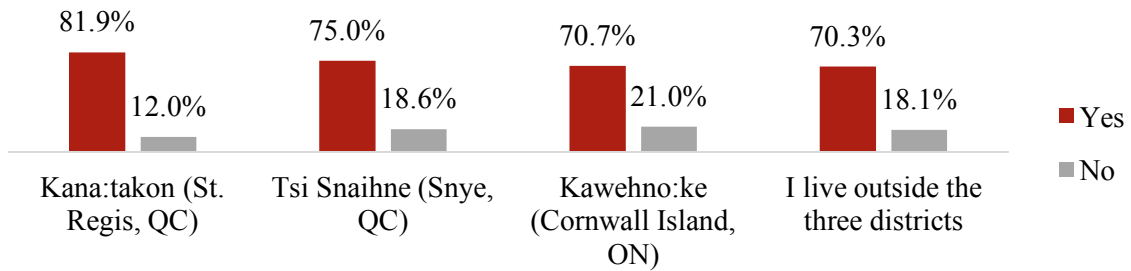


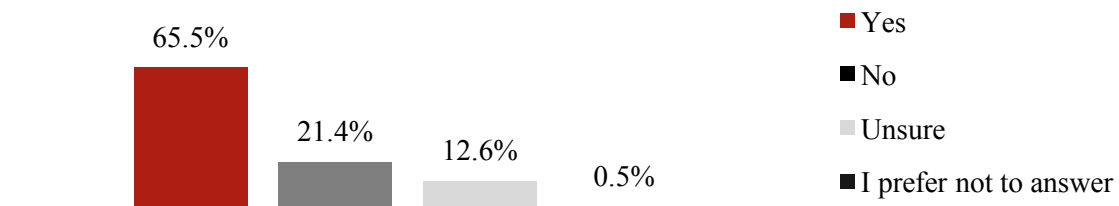
Figure 8: Should the MCA allow the recreational use of cannabis in Akwesasne, by place of residence (n=576)



❖ Do you want the sale of recreational cannabis in Akwesasne? (Q6)

For this question, the answers of the respondents are very similar to the previous question. Thus, 65.5% of respondents agree with the sale of recreational cannabis in Akwesasne (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Do you want the sale of recreational cannabis in Akwesasne? (n=548)



Male respondents, youth respondents and people living in Kana:takon (St-Régis, QC) are more likely to want the sale of recreational cannabis in Akwesasne (Figures 10, 11 and 12).

Figure 10: Do you want the sale of recreational cannabis in Akwesasne, by gender (n=548)

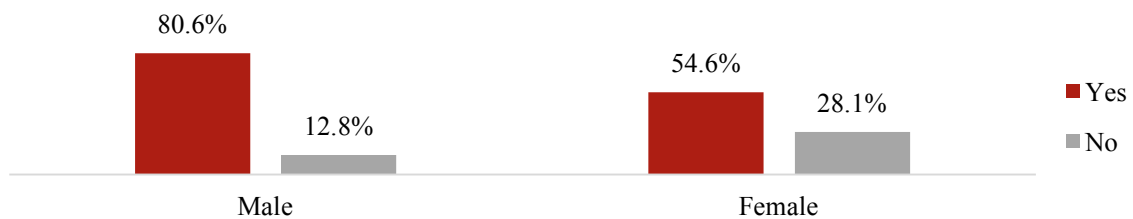


Figure 11: Do you want the sale of recreational cannabis in Akwesasne, by age category (n=548)

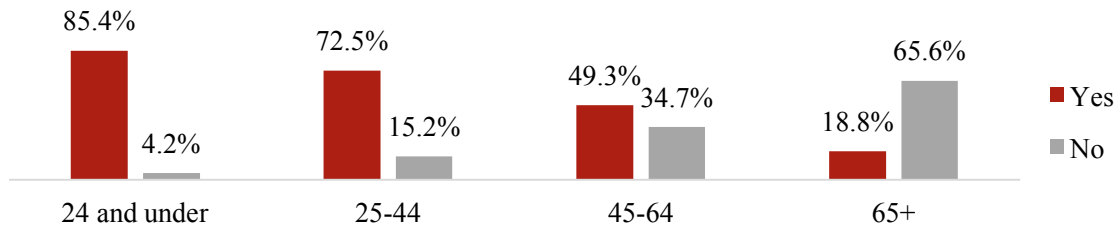
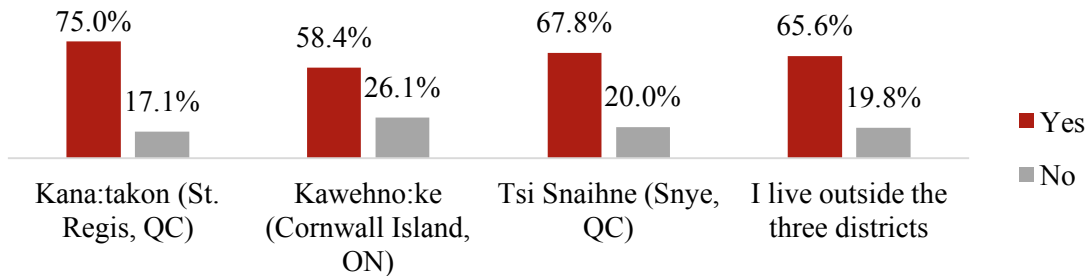


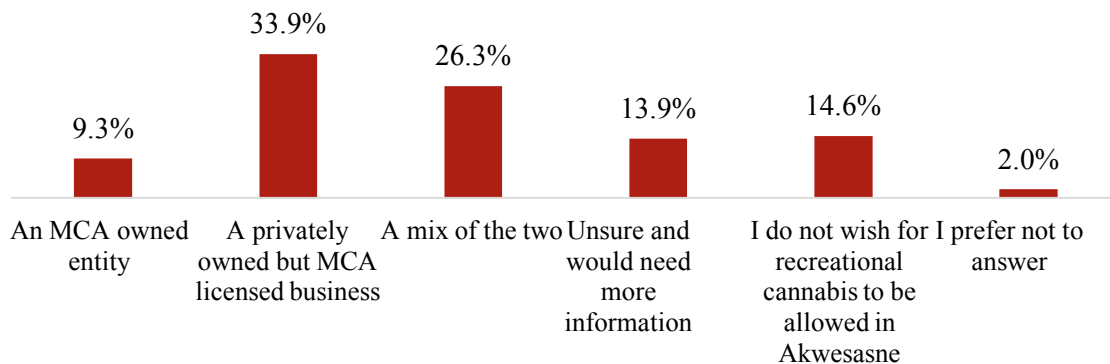
Figure 12: Do you want the sale of recreational cannabis in Akwesasne, by place of residence (n=548)



❖ If recreational cannabis is sold in Akwesasne, should that be through ...? (Q7)

This question had six choices of answers and the participant could select just one. The most popular answer was “A privately owned but MCA licensed business”, followed by “A mix of the two” (referring to an MCA owned entity and a privately owned but MCA licenced entity-- see Figure 13).

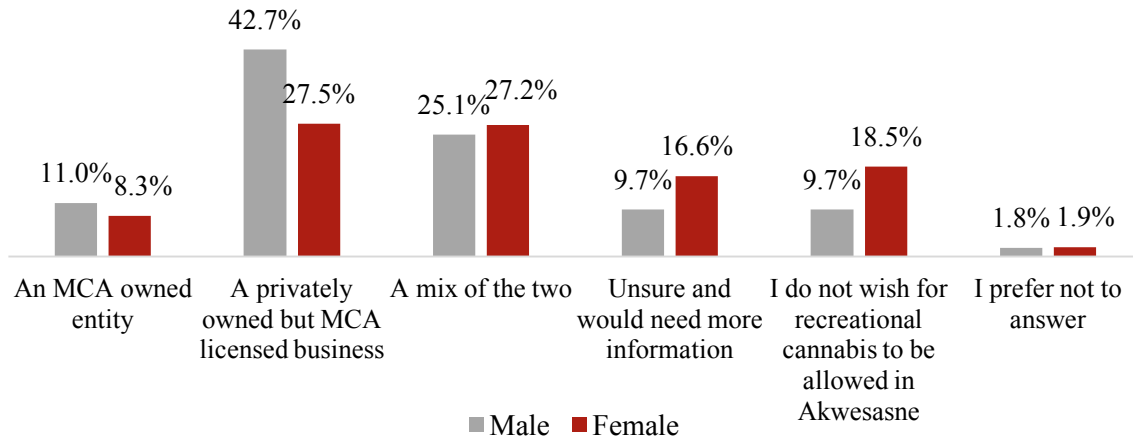
Figure 13: If recreational cannabis is sold in Akwesasne, should that be through ...? (n=548)



The answers to this question differ according to gender. The most popular answer for males is “A privately owned but MCA licensed business” followed by “A mix of the two,” whereas females are divided equally between those two choices. A greater proportion of

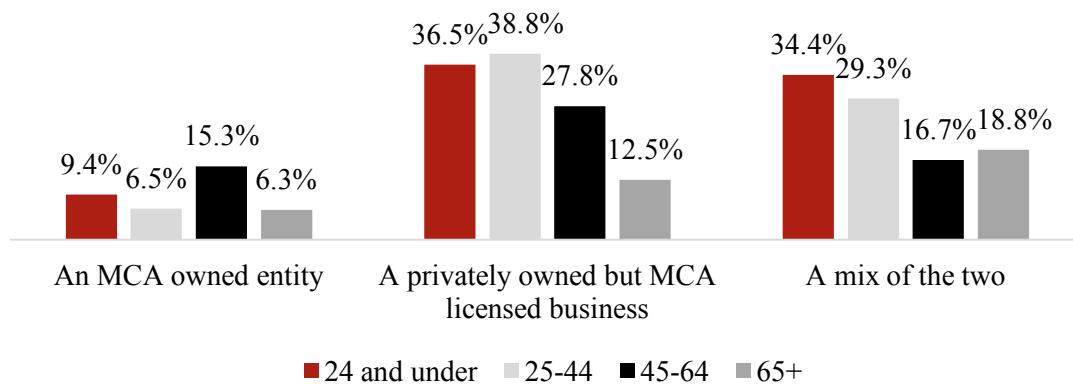
females are “Unsure and would need more information” or “Do not wish for recreational cannabis to be allowed in Akwesasne” (Figure 14).

Figure 14: If recreational cannabis is sold in Akwesasne, should that be through ..., by gender (n=548)



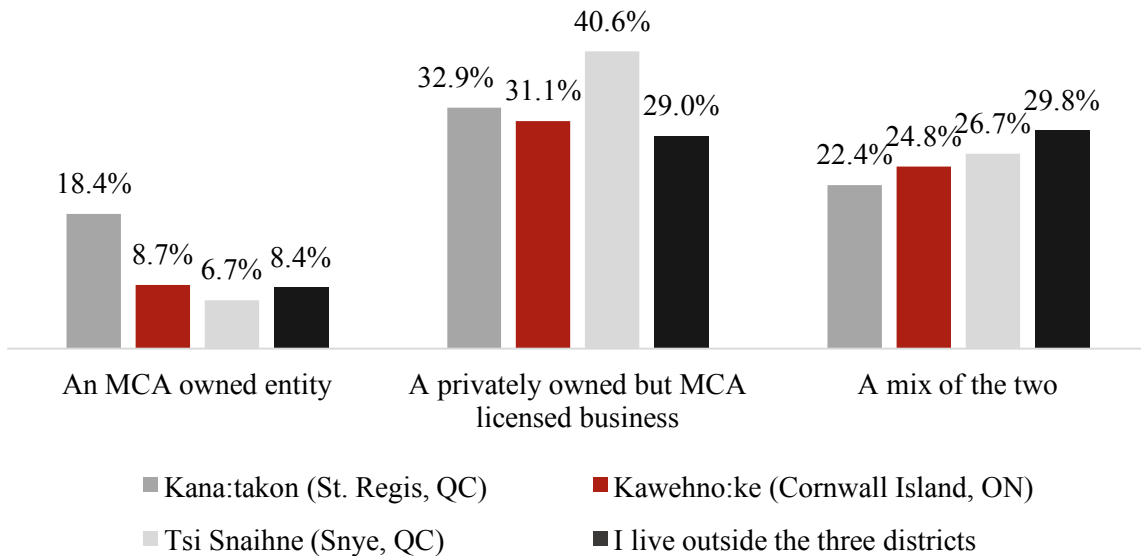
Some differences are observable according to age group. Respondents aged 44 and under prefer “A privately owned but MCA licensed business” compared to respondents aged 45 and over, who prefer “A mix of the two” (Figure 15).

Figure 15: If recreational cannabis is sold in Akwesasne, should that be through ..., by age group (n=548)



The following figure shows the differences according to place of residence. The first option “An MCA owned entity” is more popular for the respondents living in Kana:takon (St-Regis, QC) compared to the other districts. The option “A privately owned but MCA licensed business” is the most popular for all districts, but it is close to the third option “A mix of the two.” Furthermore, the respondents living in Tsi Snaihne (Snye, QC) are more inclined (40.6%) towards the second option than those of the other districts.

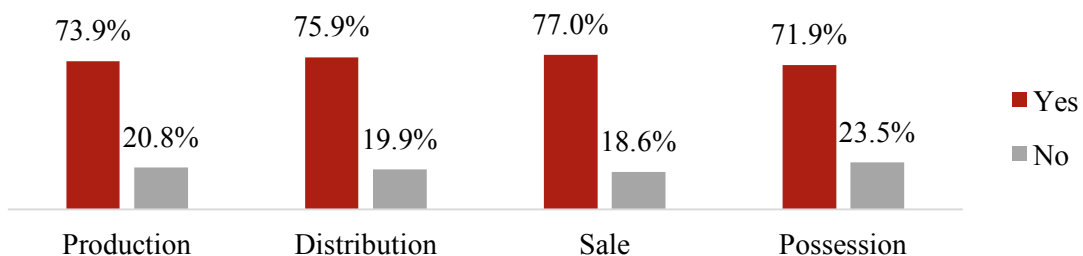
Figure 16: If recreational cannabis is sold in Akwesasne, should that be through ..., by place of residence (n=548)



❖ In your opinion, should Akwesasne adopt its own laws and regulations governing the production, the distribution, the sale and the possession of recreational cannabis in Akwesasne? (Q8 to Q11)

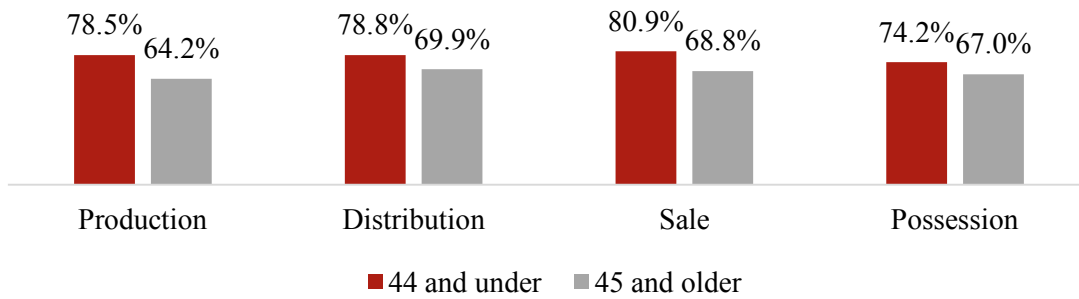
There are four questions with similar wording concerning the production, the distribution, the sale and the possession of cannabis. The respondents have very similar answers to all of those questions. It is safe to say that the majority of the respondents do want Akwesasne to adopt its own laws and regulations for governing all the steps of recreational cannabis (Figure 17).

Figure 17: In your opinion, should Akwesasne adopt its own laws and regulations governing the production, the distribution, the sale and the possession of recreational cannabis in Akwesasne? (n=548)



For all of these questions, younger respondents (under age 44) are more in favor of seeing the community adopt its own laws and regulations (Figure 18).

Figure 18: Respondents in favor of the community's adopting its own laws and regulations for production, distribution, sale and possession by age (n=548)



For questions 8 to 11, no differences in the answers are observable according to the gender or the place of residence of the respondents.

Conclusion

The survey's participation rate is a good indicator of the interest of the population of Akwesasne in the legalization of recreational cannabis. Overall, the opinion of the Akwesasne population is clear concerning recreational cannabis. The analysis consistently shows that the proportion of respondents with a favorable opinion is the same, at about 70%. The population groups with the highest proportions of favorable opinions are younger people and males.

We would recommend that the MCA follow through concerning the missing opinions of the teenagers and the elders. The fact that the teenagers (18 and under) and the elders (65 and older) have not given their opinions could alter the trends as observed. Focus groups could be an easy and cost-effective way for connecting with these groups.

APPENDIX 1 – Presentation of the FNQLHSSC



The First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC) was established in 1994 by resolution of the Chiefs of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL).

The FNQLHSSC is a non-profit organisation that is responsible for supporting the efforts of the First Nations of Quebec in order to, among other things, plan and deliver culturally-appropriate and preventive health and social services programs. The FNQLHSSC aims to improve the health and well-being of First Nations populations in Quebec through sustainable partnerships by supporting the development of culturally appropriate governance models.

The FNQLHSSC receives mandates from its annual general assembly, its Board of Directors and the AFNQL. The FNQLHSSC has approximately 80 employees working in the fields of health, social services, research, early childhood, social development and information resources management in order to develop adapted and adequate services.

Vision

First Nations individuals, families and communities are healthy, have equitable access to quality care and services, and are self-determining and culturally empowered.

Mission

To accompany Quebec First Nations in achieving their health, wellness, culture and self-determination goals.

The services offer of the FNQLHSSC is composed of four main categories:

Accompaniment

Accompaniment aims to promote the acquisition and development of professional skills and the empowerment to take action.

Training

The FNQLHSSC offers a wide range of training courses addressing specific audiences and customized training specifically tailored to the needs of the clientele, with the objective of increasing the skills of interveners and strengthening the local autonomy.

Tools

The FNQLHSSC offers many culturally adapted tools to help its clientele in its professional practice.

Information Management

The FNQLHSSC participates in projects related to the use of information technology to improve accessibility to health and social services for First Nations.

If you wish to receive services, please contact the FNQLHSSC by email at info@cssspnql.com, by phone at 418-842-1540 or consult our website at <http://www.cssspnql.com/en/fnqlhssc>

APPENDIX 2 – Questionnaire



The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Recreational Cannabis Survey

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Recreational Cannabis Survey is being used to learn about and determine the community's views and opinions on recreational cannabis in Akwesasne. This survey is conducted by and for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA). This survey is anonymous, unbiased, and used without prejudice.

If you have any questions, please contact: info@akwesasne.ca

We thank you in advance for your collaboration and assure you that all your answers will remain confidential.

Reminder:

Recreational cannabis, i.e., cannabis used for enjoyment without medical justification, is going to be legalized in July 2018.

Medical cannabis, i.e., cannabis that is recommended by doctors for their patients to alleviate the symptoms of certain conditions or diseases, has been legal in Canada since 2001.

<p>1. What is your gender?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Male</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Female</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Other</p>
<p>2. What is your age category?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Under 18 <input type="radio"/> 45-54</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 18-24 <input type="radio"/> 55-64</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 25-34 <input type="radio"/> 65 +</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 35-44</p>
<p>3. What district do you live in?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Kawehno:ke (Cornwall Island, ON)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Kana:takon (St. Regis, QC)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Tsi Snaihne (Snye, QC)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I live outside the three districts</p>
<p>4. Are you aware that Canada is legalizing the recreational use of cannabis in July 2018?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I don't know</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I prefer not to answer</p>
<p>5. In your opinion, should the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne allow the recreational use of cannabis in Akwesasne?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I don't know</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I prefer not to answer</p>

<p>6. Do you want the sale of recreational cannabis in Akwesasne?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Unsure</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I prefer not to answer</p>
<p>7. If recreational cannabis is sold in Akwesasne, should that be through:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> An MCA-owned entity</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A privately owned but MCA-licensed business</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A mix of the two</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Unsure and would need more information</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I do not wish for recreational cannabis to be allowed in Akwesasne</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I prefer not to answer</p>
<p>8. In your opinion, should Akwesasne adopt its own laws and regulations governing the <u>production</u> (<i>the process of making, creating, harvesting of a good to be sold</i>) of recreational cannabis in Akwesasne?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I prefer not to answer</p>
<p>9. In your opinion, should Akwesasne adopt its own laws and regulations governing the <u>distribution</u> (<i>the process of getting the goods to the consumer</i>) of recreational cannabis in Akwesasne?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I prefer not to answer</p>
<p>10. In your opinion, should Akwesasne adopt its own laws and regulations governing the <u>sale</u> of recreational cannabis in Akwesasne?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I prefer not to answer</p>
<p>11. In your opinion, should Akwesasne adopt its own laws and regulations governing the <u>possession</u> of recreational cannabis in Akwesasne?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> <p><input type="radio"/> I prefer not to answer</p>

We would like to thank you for your participation!

If you have additional questions regarding the recreational cannabis survey, please email:
info@akwesasne.ca

APPENDIX 3 – Confidentiality agreement



CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

I, the undersigned, _____, acknowledge the personal and confidential nature of the information obtained through the project: “The Mohawk Council of the Akwesasne Recreational Cannabis Survey.” As such, I pledge to take the appropriate security measures to ensure that this information is protected, including the following:

1. I shall fully keep secret, as well as not communicate or allow anyone to communicate to anyone, any information or document, whatever the medium, which may be provided to me or of which I am informed while exercising or carrying out my duties, unless duly authorized by the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne;
2. I shall securely destroy the information and data received as soon as the present mandate is completed. I shall provide a certificate regarding the destruction of the personal and confidential information to the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne;
3. I shall limit access to information only to those persons for whom the information is necessary in the course of their work or for the fulfilment of their responsibilities;
4. I shall ensure that unauthorized persons cannot access the information, particularly with regard to access control (server access privileges, access logging, etc.) and storage (physical and technical) of said information;
5. I shall ensure the protection and integrity of the information that is disclosed to me and safeguard it from any accidental or unauthorized collection, use, disclosure, modification or destruction;
6. I shall immediately notify the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne of any breach of security or of any event that could compromise the confidentiality of the information of which I am aware or have been informed.

I have been informed that my failure to comply with all or part of this confidentiality agreement exposes me or exposes my employer to legal remedies, claims, lawsuits or other proceedings for the harm caused to anyone who is involved in the aforementioned project.

I confirm that I have read the terms of this agreement and that I understand its full scope.

I SIGNED IN _____, ON THE _____ DAY OF THE MONTH
OF _____ IN THE YEAR _____.

(Signature of the declarant)

(Signature of the witness)