



## FOR CANNABIS RETAIL WORKERS IN ONTARIO, CannSell CERTIFICATION IS NOW MANDATORY

**The training program is reminiscent of Ontario's Smart Serve certification, which trains bartenders and LCBO workers in the safe distribution of alcohol, and how to recognize impairment**

BY EMMA SPEARS

Ontario budtenders will be required to complete four hours of training online before they can get to work.

The province has announced a mandatory course for cannabis retail employees called CannSell, created by MADD Canada and Lift & Co. for the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario. It is currently the only certification program for cannabis store workers in the province.



“Pursuant to the Cannabis License Act and Ontario Regulation 468/18, all Ontario cannabis retail employees, holders of retail store authorizations and holders of cannabis retail manager licences, must be CannSell certified prior to legally working in the Province’s cannabis retail stores,” Lift & Co. explained in a press release earlier this morning.

The course will be available as of February 25, giving workers time to complete the approximately four-hour course before April 1, when Ontario’s first brick-and-mortar dispensaries are expected to open for business. The cost of the course is \$49.99, not including tax, and covers a broad range of topics.

The training program is reminiscent of Ontario’s Smart Serve certification, which trains bartenders and LCBO workers in the safe distribution of alcohol, and how to recognize impairment.

“The overarching objective of the program is to educate cannabis retail employees on the responsible sale of cannabis, as well as their legal and regulatory obligations,” said AGCO Registrar and CEO John Major.

Trainees must achieve a score of 80 percent or more to pass the course and must be taken by dispensary owners and managers per the new legislation.

CannSell’s website went active on February 7 with information about the course.

Similar courses are being offered by Lift & Co. and MADD in PEI and Nova Scotia. It is unclear whether the store or the employee will be on the hook for the cost of the certification.

Harm-reduction advocates hope that the program will have a positive effect on users and crack down on driving stoned.

“Effective training programs for cannabis retail sales staff will help reduce the risk of impaired driving,” said MADD Canada Chief Executive Officer Andrew Murie. “With our extensive expertise in education and awareness around the prevention of impaired driving, MADD Canada is proud to team with Lift & Co to develop and deliver comprehensive training that includes a strong emphasis on the risks of driving under the influence of cannabis, and how to prevent it.”

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