



Press release
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**The fight against illicit outdoor cannabis cultivation:
Police on the lookout all season long**

Gatineau, June 1, 2023. The Sûreté du Québec would like to reiterate that it will continue its efforts to counter the activities of cannabis growers and sellers who operate outside the legal framework, throughout the season of fighting and eradicating illicit outdoor cannabis cultivation.

Sûreté investigators and patrol officers will be on the lookout for suspicious behaviour and will intervene to locate illegal outdoor production, identify producers, make arrests, eradicate plants and counter illicit supply.

Despite the introduction of legislative measures authorizing certain cannabis-related activities, the production, possession for the purpose of trafficking, sale on the black market, import and export of cannabis remain criminal or penal offences. As a result, any cannabis plantation without certification or license issued by Health Canada is prohibited.

Criminal activities that should not be trivialized

Unauthorized cannabis cultivation and sales have consequences for Quebec society. In addition to fuelling the black market, they generate substantial revenues that can be used to finance criminal activities.

The Sûreté invites citizens to be on the lookout for the following clues. They point to the presence of an illegal crop:

- ☐ Frequent comings and goings of unknown vehicles
- ☐ Presence of unmanned vehicles parked near fields
- ☐ Unusual paths found on the land
- ☐ Concealed gardening tools and products (shovels, fertilizers, bags of soil)
- ☐ Unknown people coming and going around fields or woodlands from May onwards
- ☐ Presence of visual cues such as coloured ribbons hanging from trees.

Anyone witnessing such activity is asked to report it to the police force covering their area, and to avoid venturing near the area. Information such as descriptions of suspicious persons or vehicles can facilitate police work.

Any information on the smuggling or illicit production of cannabis can be communicated confidentially at any time to your local police station or to the [Central Criminal Information Bureau at 1 800 659-4264](#).

Program to combat cannabis smuggling.

Through the [ACCES Cannabis program](#), the Sûreté du Québec works daily to combat cannabis smuggling at every stage of the supply chain, from illegal production to neighbourhood smuggling, throughout Quebec.

Coordinated by the Ministry of Public Security, the ACCES Cannabis program (Actions Concertées pour Contrer les Économies Souterraines) is a government initiative introduced in 2018 whose aim is to promote the integrity of Quebec's tax system, reduce the accessibility of cannabis for young people and steer consumers towards a legal and safe market.

