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**DETERMINING
INADMISSIBILITY**

[January 2019]

Are you inadmissible because of past criminal activity?

In general, temporary residents and applicants applying for permanent residence are considered to be criminally inadmissible if the person:

- was convicted of an offence in Canada;
- was convicted of an offence outside of Canada that is considered a crime in Canada; or
- committed an act outside of Canada that is considered a crime under the laws of the country where it occurred and would be punishable under Canadian law.

See [here](#).

I was convicted of driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs. Can I enter Canada?

If you've been convicted of driving while impaired, you may be inadmissible to Canada for serious criminality. This means that you generally can't enter Canada. If that's the case, there are options for you to enter Canada temporarily, or to become admissible again.

See [here](#)

New impaired driving and marijuana-related penalties could affect immigration status for permanent and temporary residents

Ottawa, October 22, 2018— Canada has made marijuana (cannabis) legally available to adults under strict new laws. We're also imposing tough new penalties on those who:

- drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, including cannabis, or
- commit cannabis-related crimes

The new cannabis-related penalties took effect on October 17, 2018. Cannabis-related crimes include:

- illegally producing, distributing or selling cannabis
- illegally importing or exporting cannabis or cannabis-related products across Canada's international borders

Most **cannabis-related crimes** will have a maximum penalty of 14 years.

On **December 18, 2018**, the impaired driving penalties will take effect. Most impaired driving offences will then be considered serious crimes in Canada. The maximum penalty for most **impaired driving offences** will increase from 5 to 10 years.

The impact of these new penalties on permanent and temporary residents could be significant.

See [here](#).