On October 17, 2018, the Federal Cannabis Regulation (SOR/2018-144) came into force. Cannabis became legal for both medical and recreational purposes. The cottage industry supplying the medical cannabis market has exploded, with resulting growth in the number and scale of cultivation and production facilities.

Federal cannabis laws are heavily weighted toward licensing, production, cultivation, quality and testing requirements, with minimal environmental guidance.

This presentation will review:

- the regulatory landscape for the major cannabis production hubs in Canada and the potential environmental impacts of growing, processing and destroying cannabis
- the interaction of federal and provincial regulations, where the lack of prescriptive environmental requirements in the federal regulations may cause confusion around which level of government (federal, provincial or municipal) has jurisdiction over environmental impacts from the cannabis industry, and
- how the cannabis industry can minimize environmental risk.

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Matthew Gardner is a Senior Associate at Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP. Matt practices environmental law and environmental litigation. He provides advice and solutions about environmental due diligence and compliance to a wide range of clients including industrial corporations, the construction and land development sectors and municipalities. Matthew also provides advice and solutions about contaminated land issues, environmental risk management, environmental transactional due diligence and regulatory compliance. Matthew regularly appears before the Courts and administrative tribunals. He represents plaintiffs and defendants involved in environmental civil disputes and negotiates settlements before and in the early stages of civil litigation, where possible. He also assists clients under inspection or investigation by federal, provincial and municipal environmental regulators, and defends clients against environmental regulatory prosecutions. Matthew is called to the Bar in Ontario and Alberta.