

# Why testing matters for your program



**Prepared for**  
Akwesasne Mohawk Territory  
Growers, Processors & Dispensaries  
**Tribal Cannabis Program**

*Your tribal program represents meaningful sovereignty over your community's cannabis market. Analytical testing is how you protect that investment — ensuring every product that reaches a community member is safe, accurately labeled, and something you can stand behind.*

## WHAT WE TEST

### Six panels. One complete picture.

1

#### Potency (Cannabinoids)

Quantifies THC, CBD, and related compounds so labels reflect actual content. Supports informed purchasing and prevents overconsumption by new or medical users.

2

#### Pesticide Residues

Cannabis is inhaled, not cooked — pesticides that might break down in food preparation go directly into the lungs. Screening protects consumers from toxic residues in flower and concentrates.

3

#### Heavy Metals

Cannabis bioaccumulates metals from soil — lead, arsenic, cadmium, mercury. Testing is especially relevant given regional environmental history and the risks of repeated, long-term exposure.

4

#### Microbiology

Screens for mold, yeast, E. coli, and Salmonella. Product can carry harmful organisms even when it looks clean. The most critical safety screen, especially for immunocompromised patients.

5

#### Residual Solvents

For concentrates and extracts — confirms that butane, ethanol, and other processing solvents have been fully purged to safe levels before products reach consumers.

6

#### Terpenes

A quality and differentiation tool. Knowing the terpene profile enables accurate product descriptions, helps dispensaries merchandise effectively, and helps patients find what works for them.

## WITHOUT TESTING

### The risks are real and preventable

- Health exposure:** A single contaminated batch — microbial flower or a concentrate above safe solvent limits — can cause real harm before anyone knows there's a problem.
- No documentation:** If a consumer reports a health issue and the product was untested, there's no Certificate of Analysis to demonstrate safety. Testing is your paper trail.
- Competitive perception:** The regulated OCM market tests everything. Consumers increasingly expect a COA. Testing lets you compete on verified quality, not price alone.

## THE BIGGER PICTURE

### Testing strengthens sovereignty

Testing is not a regulatory imposition — it is an expression of the same values that guide land stewardship: **know what you have before you share it.**

A tribally-run testing standard, developed on your terms, demonstrates to your community and to the broader market that the Akwesasne Mohawk Territory program holds itself to the highest standard of care.

Getting ahead of the Cannabis Control Commission's anticipated requirements lets growers and processors adapt deliberately — rather than reactively.

*"We're here as a resource, not a regulator.*

*Our goal is to help you build a program you're proud of."*

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