



# Make A Better City

An Integrated Project  
for Teaching About  
Citizenship,  
Responsibility and  
Communities for  
Alberta Grade 6  
Social Studies,  
Health & Life Skills,  
Language Arts  
and Mathematics

THE CITY OF  
**Edmonton**

2nd Edition

## 2. Set the Standards

**Explore and research:** *Set the Standards* asks students to deal with the balance between individual and community rights and responsibilities. They consider the rights and responsibilities involved in living within an urban environment, and the necessity for respecting public places and “getting along” with others.

Students use five *Make a Better City* research themes to consider relationships and connections that are part of living in a city. They build understandings of the roles of local government and how government takes responsibility to protect public safety and quality of life through community standards and bylaws. Students are encouraged to consider how rights and responsibilities begin at home and in neighbourhoods, but expand to affect shared and public places and spaces in the city.



### Focus on Social Studies

Local governments influence quality of life through the policies and laws that they enact and enforce. Encourage students to make connections back to what they have learned, or are learning, about local government and decision-making.



### Focus on Health & Life Skills

*Set the Standards* focuses on concepts relating to community health, safety and quality of life. Continue to encourage students to think about what makes a community safe and healthy. Revisit concepts associated with quality of life.



### Focus on Language Arts

In *Set the Standards*, students apply collaborative research skills and use a variety of media sources to gather, organize and share ideas and information. Students should discuss, practise and reinforce group processes and skills as they complete their research.



### Focus on Mathematics

*Set the Standards* provides students with opportunities to collect and organize data, analyze patterns and apply numerical thinking skills. Provide students with opportunities to make connections between mathematics skills and real-world problem solving.



### Time

Learning activities in **explore and research: Set the Standards** will require between 8 and 12 50-minute class periods.



## Field-Based Research

Consider whether the opportunities provided by the City Hall School program can be integrated into this section.

The *City Hall School* program provides students with the opportunity to interact with City of Edmonton staff, councillors and the Mayor's office. Through this week-long experience, students learn about municipal government and build understandings of the workings of a city. Information about the program and the application process, as well as links to teacher and student resources, can be found on [www.edmonton.ca/attractions\\_recreation/attractions/city\\_hall/school.aspx](http://www.edmonton.ca/attractions_recreation/attractions/city_hall/school.aspx).



## Use Technology

Preview research materials available on the City of Edmonton website. Specific webpages can be used directly with students to provide information related to bylaws and community standards.

- Information about bylaws and licences for city residents, including sidebar links to *Latest News*, can be accessed at [www.edmonton.ca/bylaws-licences.aspx](http://www.edmonton.ca/bylaws-licences.aspx).
- Information on responsible pet ownership and pet licences can be found in *Pets* at [www.edmonton.ca/for\\_residents/pets.aspx](http://www.edmonton.ca/for_residents/pets.aspx).
- *Capital City Clean Up* provides a range of information on litter management, graffiti management and snow angels at [www.edmonton.ca/environmental/capital-city-clean-up.aspx](http://www.edmonton.ca/environmental/capital-city-clean-up.aspx).

## ❖ prepare

1. Make copies of the student handouts and graphic organizers for this section:
  - Set the Standards (pp. 71-76)
  - Quad T-Chart (pp. 184)
  - Balancing Rights & Responsibilities (pp. 77-78)
    - Homes in the City (pp. 79-90)
    - Seasons in the City (pp. 91-100)
    - Pets in the City (pp. 101-112)
    - Green Spaces in the City (pp. 113-126)
    - Views in the City (pp. 127-141)
  - Jot Note Bubbles (pp. 180)
  - Balance Scale (pp. 178)
  - Bylaws & Enforcement (pp. 142-146)
  - Finding Common Ground (pp. 147-148)
  - Placemat (p. 182)
  - T-Chart (p. 186)
  - Mind Map (p. 181)
  - Triple Venn (p. 187)
  - Wheel Chart (p. 189)
  - Pros & Cons Chart (p. 183)
2. Prepare for assessment:
  - Check In #2 (p. 149)
  - Assess Your Understandings (p. 150)
3. Allocate class periods:
  - Opening discussion & concept web (1-2 classes)
  - Balancing rights & responsibilities (4-5 classes)
  - Balancing the individual & common good (1-2 classes)
  - Enforcing bylaws (1 class)
  - Finding common ground (1-2 classes)
4. Use the teacher background information that follows to support students' learning of the conceptual focus of activities in **explore and research: Set the Standards**.

## ❖ *teacher background*

### *Community standards & bylaws*

Community standards are rules of conduct shaped by the City of Edmonton and approved by City Council. These rules are created to help ensure the health and safety of citizens, to keep the city clean, to protect the environment and to set standards for acceptable and non-acceptable behaviour and activities of citizens, residents and visitors.

The *Municipal Government Act* authorizes the City of Edmonton to pass bylaws and enforce regulations. In Canada, local governments are responsible for managing safety, health and welfare and for protecting people and property.

Often, changes in legislation are initiated by social issues brought forward by individual citizens and groups. Some recent examples of this include adding regulations for panhandling, idling and graffiti and removing restrictions on owning certain dog breeds. To bring forward recommendations, citizens are invited to speak at City Council.

The City researches social concerns, invites citizens to express their opinions and then recommends bylaws for approval by City Council. In some cases, the City Council may decide not to pass proposed legislation.

### *Bylaws & law enforcement*

Edmonton has several essential bylaws. The ***Community Standards Bylaw*** is an example of a fundamental bylaw that sets basic minimum standards for property ownership. When someone does not maintain their property, others have reason to ask the City to take action. “Nuisances” are resolved first through education. If action is not taken, the property owner is issued a warning or fine. After that, the City will clean up the site and add the cleanup costs to the owner’s property tax bill.

**Law enforcement** is part of the responsibilities of local government. It broadly refers to the ways that governments ensure obedience to laws. This is done first by promoting compliance through education and then through forms of punishment, such as fines. The City of Edmonton maintains safety and order by enacting fundamental bylaws, providing public education, and by applying fair, objective and consistent law enforcement.



#### Source-Based Research

The City of Edmonton provides information and resources, many related to bylaws and community standards, at [www.edmonton.ca/bylaws](http://www.edmonton.ca/bylaws).



### *How does the City of Edmonton regulate activities on private property?*

The **Community Standards Bylaw** is a minimum set of standards for private property and the bordering areas. This “good neighbour” bylaw persuades people to keep their property clean and safe. Yards, buildings, fences, boulevards, back alleys and sidewalks must all be maintained to a “reasonable standard.” For example, property owners must follow standards such as keeping grass cut to a maximum of 10 cm long, shoveling city sidewalks within 48 hours of a snowfall, repairing broken eaves, trimming unruly trees and keeping noise within certain levels and times. These standards are enforced by plain-clothed **Municipal Enforcement Officers**. Some problems, such as messy yards, can become long-term enforcement situations that must be dealt with on an ongoing basis.

### *How does the City regulate activities in public places?*

To encourage people to behave safely in public spaces, the **Public Places Bylaw** regulates actions like cigarette smoking, littering, fighting, panhandling, urination and defecation, bullying and the use of weapons on sidewalks, squares, courtyards, alleys and all spaces that allow public access.

When someone openly disregards the safety of others in a public place, uniformed **Community Standards Peace Officers** take action. Most often, the Community Standards Peace Officer or an **Edmonton Police Services** member will investigate offences that are more difficult to sort out and require a face-to-face interaction with a person found committing an act. Community Standards Peace Officers are trained to deal with potentially disruptive situations, such as asking someone who has just dropped cigarette litter onto a public sidewalk to place it in a safe receptacle.

### *How does the City regulate pet ownership?*

The **Animal Licensing and Control Bylaw** establishes standards for responsible pet ownership, including licensing requirements for cats and dogs. Pet owners must responsibly maintain care and control of their animal and respect the peace and enjoyment of others. For example, dog owners must hold their dog on a leash in public places, pick up after it, control biting and excessive barking, prevent roaming and license it yearly. Many of the same standards apply to cats. Responsible cat owners must also prevent roaming and license their cats yearly.

Uniformed **Animal Care & Control Officers** patrol the city to resolve animal concerns. They are primarily responsible for helping keep the community safe from animals. They are trained to handle frightened or vicious animals that may bite as a consequence.

### *How does the City regulate activities on green spaces?*

The **Parkland Bylaw** regulates the conduct and activities of people on parkland, which includes everything from maintained city parks, school grounds and the River Valley. Uniformed **Park Rangers** promote the safe, enjoyable and reasonable use of parks and protect and preserve natural ecosystems. They are concerned with public safety, dogs, wildlife, shared-use trails and safe recreational usage.

Edmonton has more than 7 400 hectares of parkland along a 48-kilometre stretch of the North Saskatchewan River Valley. This area is known as the “Ribbon of Green” and is the largest expanse of urban parkland in North America. The city also has hundreds of parks, school grounds, playgrounds, boulevards and green spaces in residential areas.

### *How does the City regulate roadway, sidewalk and building safety?*

The **Traffic Bylaw** helps keep streets clean and safe by establishing rules that limit or regulate such things as vehicle sizes and weights, parking on snow routes and load-size to prevent litter and tracking of dirt and debris onto roadways. Regulations designate where people can ride bicycles and use inline skates, scooters or skateboards. For example, people are not allowed to inline skate or skateboard on any roadway or on any sidewalk in downtown Edmonton or Old Strathcona unless the sidewalk has been designated as a bicycle path.

The **Zoning Bylaw** contains the rules and regulations for the development of land in Edmonton. The *Zoning Bylaw* includes a zoning map and information about special requirements for mature neighbourhoods. Zoning of a property is important because it tells the property owner what kinds of structures can be built on his or her property.

### *Who enforces community standards in Edmonton?*

The City of Edmonton’s Community Standards Branch supports City Council’s responsibility to enact bylaws and employs professional personnel to conduct municipal enforcement. Officers must educate people and remedy difficult situations or extreme conditions in a consistent, objective and timely way. The City of Edmonton focuses on working proactively toward a clean, healthy and safe community.

**Municipal Enforcement Officers** are plain-clothed bylaw officers sworn by the City of Edmonton to resolve nuisance-property complaints. They issue warnings, notices or Court Orders to get messy properties tidied up. They are not “peace officers” because they do not act on problems in face-to-face encounters. Rather, they resolve concerns over a longer period of time.

## Community Standards Peace Officers, Animal Care & Control

**Officers** and **Park Rangers** have been sworn in by Alberta's Solicitor General and the Province of Alberta, which gives them legal "peace officer" status. They are highly visible, uniformed persons who follow clear cut rules as they enforce bylaws and provincial statutes in face-to-face settings with people who commit offences. They may request to see a person's ID, stop vehicles and seize pets – all immediate actions to ensure public safety. However, they are **not** police officers.

**Edmonton Police Service** members or **Police Officers** are concerned with stopping, resolving or preventing crime. Most bylaw offences are not nearly as serious as criminal offences, such as theft, assault, vandalism or drinking and driving. Sometimes, police officers use bylaw regulations instead of the *Criminal Code* to remedy offences like fighting on the street, urinating or defecation in public places or bullying. Community Standards Peace Officers, Municipal Enforcement Officers and Police Officers often work together to solve complex community concerns.

### *What are the fines?*

The fines for disregarding most bylaws are usually \$250 per offence per day. The City of Edmonton provides education and awareness, warnings, tickets and Court Orders to remedy offences. The City believes it is important to promote compliance before engaging in enforcement. Almost 90 percent of people will comply when they receive a warning.

## *Dealing with the issue of euthanasia*

### *A compassionate option*

**Euthanasia** of companion animals is a necessary and humane means to end the lives of animals that are in severe physical distress or have severe behavioural problems that pose a threat to humans or other animals. The City of Edmonton's Animal Care & Control Centre, along with its adoption partners, does everything possible not to euthanize healthy, adoptable pets.

Promoting responsible pet ownership and adoption are the most effective ways of addressing pet overpopulation and reducing the burden on humane societies and municipal animal services. However, when shelters become overcrowded, animals suffer from mental stress, weakened immune systems and increased risk of disease transmission. In such cases, euthanasia decisions are made in the best interests of the overall population as well as the individual animals.

Humane societies, rescue groups and the municipality all play important roles in providing a safe haven for animals to be reunited with their owners or to find new homes. These groups promote adoption and responsible pet ownership, which includes spaying and neutering, permanent identification and licensing, lifetime veterinary care, appropriate nutrition, grooming, shelter and adequate human/animal socialization.

The Animal Care & Control Centre activity, on the ***Pets in the City* interactive whiteboard app**, makes reference to humane euthanasia as an option to be considered if an animal is very sick or dangerous. This background information may help you approach and discuss the sensitive issue of euthanasia with your students. Teaching tips are also provided on **page 66**. Additional information on animal welfare and the issue of euthanasia can be found on the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies website at [http://cfhs.ca/info/euthanasia\\_of\\_shelter\\_companion\\_animals/](http://cfhs.ca/info/euthanasia_of_shelter_companion_animals/).

### *How animals are euthanized*

The City of Edmonton uses only one humane method of euthanasia, which is carried out by a licensed veterinarian at the Animal Care & Control Centre to ensure the animal experiences minimal discomfort. Consistent with humane organizations and veterinary associations across North America, the City of Edmonton considers euthanasia by injection to be the preferred method.

Observers describe the method as leading to a quick and peaceful death. A two-stage process is involved: an initial injection with a tranquilizer renders the animal unconscious and a second injection causes death. The chemical enters the animal's blood stream, causing instant loss of consciousness and pain sensation and stopping the beating of the animal's heart, thereby causing death while the animal is deeply asleep. This is where the term "put to sleep" comes from. The animal undergoes anesthesia and then death without experiencing any pain.

The two-stage injection process allows Animal Care & Control Centre staff to provide personal comfort to each animal. Animals who end their lives in a shelter deserve to have their last moments as free of pain and discomfort as can be provided by the practice of humane euthanasia.

### *Procedure for humane euthanasia*

Euthanasia is a process in which an animal is deliberately killed to humanely relieve its suffering or to bring an end to dangerous behaviour.

- a. The animal is sedated before euthanasia is performed.
- b. A lethal solution is administered by intravenous injection by hypodermic needle.
- c. Euthanasia is performed by a licensed veterinarian, or a licensed or registered veterinary technician under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.
- d. At least two people must be present for administration of an injection, one to hold the animal and one to perform the procedure.
- e. An animal may not be left unattended between the time euthanasia procedures are commenced and the time death occurs, nor may its body be disposed of until death is confirmed by a qualified person.





## teaching & learning process

### Opening discussion & concept web

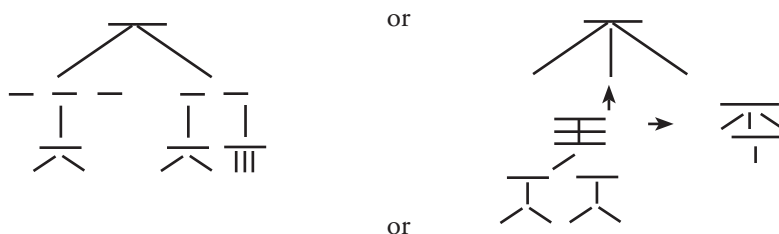
Revisit the concepts of community standards and bylaws with students. (*Community standards are guidelines, rules and policies that establish standards of behaviour, actions and conduct that people follow so that everyone can live together peacefully in a community. Bylaws are legislated rules passed by local governments to establish acceptable behaviours and used to enforce many of these community standards.*) Provide students with the opportunity to share knowledge, ideas or experiences related to the concepts of standards and bylaws.

Provide students with **Set the Standards (pp. 71-76)** and discuss the story and questions on the first page together. Invite students to consider the following question:

- How did this individual's rights clash with his responsibility to the community and its rules?

Have students work individually or with a partner to complete the **retrieval chart** on the student resource. Use the discussion question and retrieval chart to revisit and reinforce concepts of rights, responsibilities and common good.

Ask students to cut out and use the cards in the student resource to create a **concept web**. Encourage students to arrange the cards in a manner that makes the most sense to them. Previous webbing tasks may be revisited or patterns that represent relationships can be shared, including simple charts to more complex webs like the following:






### Differentiate

Use a **think-pair-share** strategy to encourage students to revisit what they already know about community standards and bylaws.

The concept web activity can also provide a review of concepts that students may have already learned or reinforcement of concepts with which they may have difficulty. The activity encourages meaningful interaction among students and provides a structure to consider the importance of rules and standards in a community.



### Share

After the students have completed the concept web activity, ask or select groups to explain to other groups or to the class how and why they organized the cards as they did. This will give students further experience in understanding the relationships between concepts related to community standards and bylaws in the City of Edmonton. It will also assist students in clarifying their ideas as they explain their webbing strategy to other students.



### Use Technology

The City of Edmonton's website links to *Bylaws and Licences*, at [www.edmonton.ca/bylaws-licences.aspx](http://www.edmonton.ca/bylaws-licences.aspx), and *City Government*, at [www.edmonton.ca/city-government.aspx](http://www.edmonton.ca/city-government.aspx), provides information on current issues in the *Latest News* sidebar.





## Extend

Ask students to create a plan for a pet purchase, using the Neighbours Pet Centre as a starting point, as well as additional sources of information such as websites and pet store flyers. Have students calculate expenses and time and present their information in a poster or pamphlet. Encourage students to describe how they would be responsible pet owners.

Ask students to make connections between responsible pet ownership and terms and ideas they used in their concept webs, including pet licensing, use of off leash parks for exercise and responsible training. Ask students to consider how a pet can be a “good neighbour.”



## How to use the interactive whiteboard app with this activity

The *Pets in the City* interactive whiteboard app, launched at [www.edmonton.ca/makeabettercity](http://www.edmonton.ca/makeabettercity), includes whole class activities that can reinforce the concepts of individual responsibility and informed decision-making, using the process of pet adoption as an example. Neighbours Pet Centre provides students with the opportunity to weigh options, costs and responsibilities involved in adopting a rescue pet or buying a pet. Students select from four different animals and consider initial pet fees and expenses, the cost of pet supplies and the time investment that a pet requires.

Work through the process of adopting or buying a pet with students. Keep track of the different types of costs involved, using a graphic organizer such as a **Quad T-Chart (p. 184)**. Ask students to discuss what they have learned from Neighbours Pet Centre, using questions such as the following:

- What were the differences in the cost of the four animals in the pet centre? Why do you think these differences exist?
- What are the advantages of adopting a pet compared to buying one from a responsible breeder or pet centre?
- What did you learn about making responsible choices when deciding to adopt or buy a pet?
- How do you think the choices you make about pet ownership could affect others in your neighbourhood or the city?



## Focus on Mathematics

Work with students to track and compare their pet adoption or purchase decisions on a graph or table:

- Discuss and establish the format for a graph or table that will help them compare two, three or four of the pet choices in Neighbours Pet Centre.
- As pet expenses are found for each animal, have students record each expense in columns and tabulate totals. Compare these totals to those provided in the final feedback message.
- Use the graph or table to make detailed comparisons between two, three or all four pets.
- Focus on one of the four expense and time categories in the Neighbours Pet Centre activity and compare it across each different animal.
- Provide time for students to calculate responses to the problems posed in the final feedback message for each pet. Compare responses for the four different animals.

## Balancing rights & responsibilities

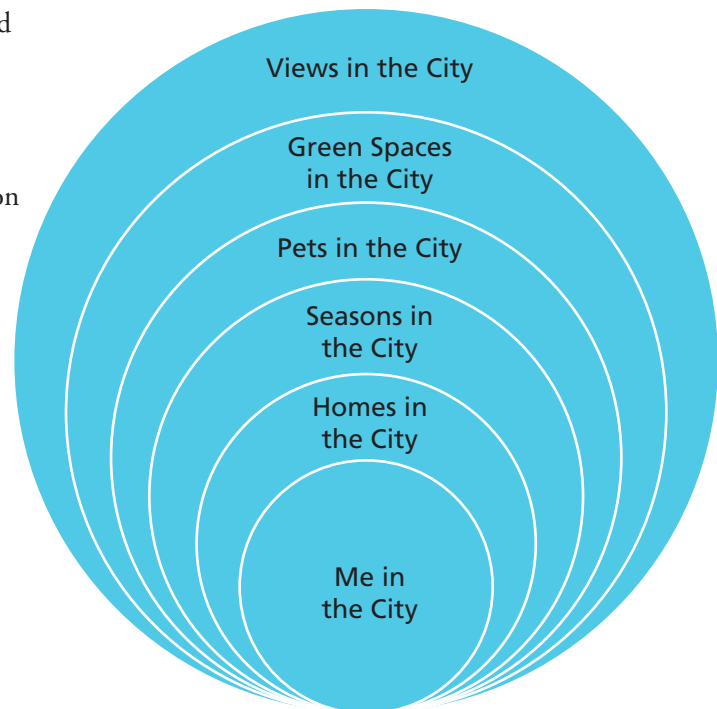
Ask students to think about the need to balance rights and responsibilities when it comes to dealing with issues and challenges a neighbourhood and community may face.

Use discussion questions such as the following to revisit and review the concepts of rights, responsibilities, common good and local government:

- What could happen if everyone only had rights, but no responsibilities?
- What could happen if citizens only had responsibilities, but no rights?
- How do you think individual responsibilities contribute to the common good – the health and well being of everyone in a community?
- When do you think individual rights could conflict with the overall well being of a neighbourhood or community? *(Remind students that community can refer to neighbourhoods, but can also mean groups of people who share common interests.)*
- How do you think a local government's bylaws and community standards – or rules and guidelines – should consider individual's rights and responsibilities? *(Encourage students to make connections to the concept web they completed in the previous activity.)*

Introduce the five *Make a Better City* research themes to students, asking them to predict what they think each is about. Encourage students to compare these themes with the spheres of influence they completed in **set the context: The City Scene**. Challenge students to predict how each of the five themes could include both individual and community rights and responsibilities.

Provide students with **Balancing Rights & Responsibilities** (pp. 77-78) and ask them to brainstorm ideas and predictions on the *Themes in the City* spheres of influence provided. Review the research process as a class.



### Themes in the City

The *Make a Better City* research themes provide a structure that encourages students to consider the relationships and impact they have with, and on, other citizens and residents, the urban environment, and the services, facilities and places provided and supported by local government.

These five themes help students move from individual contexts to those that are part of the “bigger picture” of the city. Whereas *Homes* and *Seasons* focus more on individual actions and behaviours and *Pets* on the interrelationships between individuals, community and local government, *Green Spaces* and *Views* reflect the broader urban environment that everyone “sees” and shares.



## Differentiate

Select from different grouping options to have students work on the *Make a Better City* research themes:

- Ask students to complete the introductory page of their theme individually, recording responses in their notebooks, learning logs or journals. Alternatively, if the class needs additional time and support to build understandings of each theme, select and use some of the introductory page questions as a class discussion or interactive whiteboard class activity.
- Choose one of the themes to model the research process with students. Select a theme to complete as a class. Assign two or three of the sources to each group of students. Walk them through a discussion of rights and responsibilities that are reflected in these sources.
- As another alternative, select one or two of the themes as a class research project. Divide the sources in the theme among groups of students and use them to complete the balance scale. Then, combine each group's research into a poster-size balance scale.
- Students may benefit from guided practice with one of the stories in the student resource. Select an example with which to model the discussion and research process with the class or with groups of students who may need additional support.

*I love the concept of talking about the balance between rights and responsibilities, and then evaluating whether there is a balance and whether there should be a balance.*

~Melissa G., Edmonton Public Schools

Organize students into research groups and provide them with one of the themes:

- Homes in the City (pp. 79-90)
- Seasons in the City (pp. 91-100)
- Pets in the City (pp. 101-112)
- Green Spaces in the City (pp. 113-126)
- Views in the City (pp. 127-141)

Remind students to review the research process and then complete the “Think Ahead to Make It Real” and “Think Aloud” questions on the introductory page of their theme. Sources are introduced with focus questions and space provided in “jot note bubbles” for a response. If students need additional room to respond to the questions, provide them with the **Jot Note Bubbles** graphic organizer (p. 180). **Students should not be expected to complete all of the research themes.**

Provide each research group with one or two **Balance Scale** graphic organizers (p. 178). Ensure that you discuss this graphic organizer with students before they start their research. Students are asked to use the **balance scale** to:

- Find examples from the articles and stories that involve rights. Students record a jot note to summarize it in the rights column of the balance scale.
- Find examples from the articles and stories that involve responsibilities. Students record a jot note to summarize it in the responsibilities column of the balance scale.
- Consider the following questions. Is there a balance between rights and responsibilities? Why or why not? *Should* there be a balance? Why or why not? Students record a response to these questions in the box at the bottom of the scale.

Rights	Responsibilities
Is there a balance between rights and responsibilities? Why or why not?	Should there be a balance? Why or why not?

## The *Make a Better City* research themes

Each *Make a Better City* research theme provides support for the development or reinforcement of concepts and skills, as well as a range of sources that can be used to meeting differing learning needs. Topics cross over many of the themes so that students can see connections between the different “spheres of influence” that each theme represents.



**Homes in the City** focuses on responsibilities involved with personal or private property. It includes a look at the problems that occur when residents do not take responsibility for their residence or property, including derelict or nuisance properties and waste management as well as potential issues involved in keeping backyard animals and looking after pets “at home.” Although this theme includes more abstract concepts, such as the “broken windows theory,” it also includes many short articles that may be more accessible to students who need additional support with reading.



**Seasons in the City** looks at the changing needs of the city through the four seasons and explores some examples of citizen involvement and volunteerism. The issue of snow removal is paired with sources that discuss the Snow Angels program. The issue of litter is connected to spring cleanup and Adopt a Block programs. This theme may be suitable for those students who respond to more concrete concepts and shorter articles.



**Pets in the City** introduces students to the use of campaigns and advertising in the context of initiatives and programs of a local government. Sources address issues such as pet licensing, spaying or neutering, off leash dog parks, abandoned or lost pets, roaming cats and pet adoption. This theme includes both concrete and abstract concepts and ideas and could be suitable for heterogeneous groupings of students.

This theme can also provide a strong focus for a class discussion or debate about the extent to which local government should have the right to **compel**, or require, people’s choices and behaviours. *(Pose questions to spark students’ thinking and encourage them to share their own questions and experiences. If people have the right to own a pet, what should they be responsible for? Who should decide what responsible pet ownership involves? Why should a local government be concerned about pets? Should certain responsibilities be mandatory? Which ones? Why?)*



**Green Spaces in the City** focuses on common or public spaces in a city. Sources explore issues and benefits associated with a range of green spaces, including parks, boulevards, schoolyards and sports fields, as well as actions that both local government and citizens can take, including planting trees, using shared use trails responsibly and cleaning up the river valley.

*The themes ... are relevant, meaningful, and concrete enough for students to be successful with the activity. This provides a focus for the activity and will give each group a chance to get an in-depth look at an issue.*

*-Melissa B., Edmonton Catholic Schools*



### Field-Based Research

Ask students to find and add examples of current issues in their own neighbourhoods to their themes. Encourage them to revisit issues they identified from the quality of life survey completed in **set the context: The City Scene**. How are these survey issues reflected in their themes?



### *Pets in the City* app

The ***Pets in the City* interactive whiteboard app**, launched at [www.edmonton.ca/makeabettercity](http://www.edmonton.ca/makeabettercity), can be used to reinforce key messages as well as students’ research. Text boxes with additional information about standards and bylaws that relate to responsible pet ownership can be accessed by touching various visuals of pets and pet owners on the landscape. Students working on the *Pets in the City* theme can be provided with the opportunity to revisit any of the three activities – Neighbours Pet Centre, Situations in the City and the Animal Care & Control Centre.



## Share

Use a **jigsaw** sharing structure. Have one group member from each research group form a new group. Have students in these new groups take turns sharing their findings with the others. Encourage students to identify and discuss connections between the five *Make a Better City* themes.



## Assess

Student research and group work can provide a number of assessment opportunities:

- Observe and record students' contributions to group work.
- Ask groups to record a summary of their work using the **Placemat (p. 182)** organizer and look for evidence of individual work.
- Ask individual students to complete and hand in a summary of their learning for evaluation. Look for evidence of clear statements and supporting examples.



**Views in the City** centres on issues that affect the city landscape as a whole, and the overall feeling of safety and cleanliness in the city. It includes a discussion of the concept of “Crime Prevention through Environmental Design,” planning buildings and landscapes that make it more difficult for crimes to occur. Sources focus on issues caused by graffiti and litter, and actions that local government and citizens take to deal with these issues, including graffiti reporting and cleanups, the use of community murals and Capital City Clean Up events and programs. Some students may find the abstract concepts in this theme to be challenging and may require additional support with vocabulary.

The focus questions embedded throughout the themes can be used as “starters” for class debate topics and extension activities that cross over into other subject areas. These questions can also provide a starting point for the development of persuasive writing, news articles or art projects, including examples such as the following:

- Creating their own messages, using banners or posters modeled on the Pets in the City banners
- Illustrating a favourite Edmonton green space
- Persuading a pet owner to license and spay or neuter their new pet
- Preparing an argumentative paragraph about the benefits or problems involved in creating a “legal” space for graffiti
- Developing a persuasive poster campaign, using examples in some of the themes, that will be posted throughout the school
- Planning a park on a vacant lot in their neighbourhood
- Designing a “My Walkable Neighbourhood” illustrated route map to share with their community league.



## Focus on Language Arts

Students can be asked to select an issue from any of the research themes and write a persuasive paragraph, using examples that support their opinion. Encourage students to use their opinion and examples to persuade others that their “stance” is right.

Ask students to identify facts and opinions in the stories and news articles. Use the stories and news articles to discuss how bias can influence the way a story is reported in the news as well as how different perspectives can be emphasized or ignored.

This activity provides an opportunity to reinforce inquiry and research skills. Ask students to use a graphic organizer, such as a **Wheel Chart (p. 189)**, to describe how they use the inquiry



process to research and explore an issue. Discuss why steps can be recorded in differing sequences depending on the nature of the issue and how individual students may approach the inquiry process – this process is not always linear.



### Focus on Health & Life Skills

Focus on the connection between laws and community standards and the health and safety of the community as a whole. Ask students to find two examples of issues that relate to community safety and two examples that relate to community health.

## Balancing the individual & common good

Ensure that students have had an opportunity to share what they have learned about rights and responsibilities. Revisit these concepts with discussion questions such as the following:

- Which responsibilities do you think are most important? Why do you think this?
- Whose responsibility do you think it is to ensure that people's rights are protected? *(Students may be prompted to consider how local government protects people's rights to build and maintain a good quality of life by establishing "minimum" standards and responsibilities. Students may also be asked to think about how individuals are also responsible for ensuring that their behaviours and actions do not interfere with other's quality of life.)*
- Why do you think values like cooperation and respect are important in a city? What do these values have to do with bylaws and community standards?

Create a "class-size" **balance scale** on a bulletin board, chart paper or interactive whiteboard. Label one side of the balance scale with "individual" and the other with "common good." Work with students to brainstorm and record rights and responsibilities that they think protect an individual's quality of life and those that protect the common good, or the rights of the community as whole. Encourage students to pull examples from their *Themes in the City* research. Challenge them to compare and discuss the balance of these rights and responsibilities with questions such as:

- How would you describe the "balance" between individual rights and responsibilities and the common good?
- Do individuals have more responsibilities than rights, or more rights than responsibilities? Why?
- Why do you think it is important to ensure and protect the "common good?"
- What does this balance scale tell you about "good" citizenship?



## Field-Based Research

**Invite a Peace Officer into your classroom** to work with your students. Request a visit from a City Park Ranger, Animal Care & Control Officer or Community Standards Officer by emailing [bylawcommunityrelations@edmonton.ca](mailto:bylawcommunityrelations@edmonton.ca). Have students brainstorm questions they can ask the officer. Officers are available to share:

- Their role in the community
- The importance of bylaws and community standards
- How they help people to "get along"
- A dynamic citizenship conversation with students.

*[My students] loved the bylaw officers and...they were so impressed by all the questions my students asked them about bylaws and [the] responsibilities of being a citizen. They actually did not just focus on the items that the officers carry but what their [day] looks like and asked questions [about] different scenarios.*

*-Melissa G., Edmonton Catholic Schools*





## Share

Provide students with opportunities to share their opinion statements with a partner, a small group, their research groups or the class.



## Differentiate

Challenge students to create a list of **examples and non-examples** to reinforce and apply the concepts of rights and responsibilities. Provide students with a **T-Chart (p. 186)** or have students work in groups and complete the charts on poster paper. Create one T-Chart for “rights” and another for “responsibilities.” Brainstorm examples of rights and responsibilities using the following stems:

- Rights (or responsibilities) are...
- Rights (or responsibilities) are not...

## Enforcing bylaws

Tell students that local government first tries to focus on encouraging citizens and residents to follow bylaws. However, bylaw enforcement is also necessary to protect and maintain public safety, the livability of the city and community standards. Provide students with **Bylaws & Enforcement (pp. 142-146)** and ask them to work with their research groups to read and discuss the information. Then, have students individually select one of the scenarios provided and construct an **opinion statement** in response to the questions.



## Focus on Social Studies

This activity provides the opportunity to connect the concepts of rights and responsibilities with concepts in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Use a graphic organizer, such as a **T-Chart (p. 186)** or a **Mind Map (p. 181)**, to brainstorm word associations with the concepts or create a **word splash** of the specific rights and freedoms in the *Charter*. Compare *Charter* rights with the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a city. (For example, students can be encouraged to discuss how democratic rights ensure that elected representatives, like a *City Council*, have the ability to protect the common good of a community.)



## How to use the interactive whiteboard app with this activity



The ***Pets in the City* interactive whiteboard app**, launched at [www.edmonton.ca/makeabettercity](http://www.edmonton.ca/makeabettercity), includes a whole class activity that can reinforce reasons that local governments establish and enforce bylaws and community standards. The Animal Care & Control Centre activity encourages students to consider what happens when people do not follow bylaw requirements or take responsibility for their pets.

When students first touch the Animal Care & Control Centre, 14 animals appear on the city landscape. Ten of these animals need to be found and sent to the Centre. Once all of these animals are sent to the Animal Care & Control Centre, have students work together to select the option they think is best for each animal.

Debrief the activity, using the two discussion questions that appear after options have been selected for all ten animals. These discussion questions include concepts that range from concrete to more abstract, depending on the number of correct decisions students make.

The following two questions are presented if students select between one and three of the “best” options.

- Why are animals with no licence and ID at risk?
- Why are pet owners fined if they do not have a licence for their pet?

The following two questions are presented if students select between four and seven of the “best” options.

- Why is it important for animals to be spayed or neutered?
- Do you think fines are the best consequence when pet owners do not follow community standards? Why or why not?

The following two questions are presented if students select between eight and ten of the “best” options.

- Why is it important for pet owners to take responsibility for the animals in their care?
- How do you think a community can best deal with lost or abandoned pets?



### Differentiate

Consider strategies such as the following to challenge students to consider the importance of bylaws and community standards while they are participating in this activity:

- Ask students to work in small groups or with a partner and take turns coming up to the interactive whiteboard to find one animal.
- Find the animals as a class, discussing why or why not each animal should be sent to the Animal Care & Control Centre.
- When choosing what to do with each animal, have groups consult with each other and then vote as a group for the option they think is best. Alternatively, have students individually vote on the option they think is best. If available, use interactive response clickers.



### Extend

Provide students with the opportunity to examine the *Animal Licensing and Control Bylaw* and discuss the mandatory guidelines that the bylaw establishes. Ask students to consider whether they think the bylaw provides too many, or too few, guidelines and standards. The bylaw can be accessed on the City of Edmonton's website at [www.edmonton.ca/bylaws\\_licences/C13145.pdf](http://www.edmonton.ca/bylaws_licences/C13145.pdf).



### ***Pets in the City app***

In some of the options for four of the animals in the Animal Care & Control Centre activity – Max, Bubble Gum, Rex and Sadie – students will find references to humane euthanasia.

### ***Dealing with the issue of euthanasia in the Animal Care & Control Centre activity***

It is important to deal openly and honestly with the sensitive issue of euthanasia. Animals may be humanely euthanized at the Animal Care & Control Centre, but usually only because they are very ill and suffering or because they are a public safety concern. It is important for you to know how the process works, so you can talk about it appropriately and sensitively with students. Be as honest as you can be. Additional information about humane euthanasia is also provided in the teacher background notes on **pages 54 to 55**.

Explain to students that sometimes when pets are in very poor health or pose a threat to people or other animals, their lives can be ended in a humane and gentle way. That is why this process is called “humane euthanasia.” It involves a simple injection, and is very peaceful and painless. Caring for an animal sometimes means a veterinarian or pet owner has to make this kind of compassionate decision.

- Use appropriate words and don’t get too technical about what euthanasia may involve.
- Avoid euphemisms such as death is like “going to sleep.”
- Let children know that it is okay to be sad. Show them the logic of humanely relieving an animal’s pain or why it is important to ensure public safety. Expect them to react emotionally.
- Be prepared to continue the discussion. This is a sensitive and emotional topic.
- Reassure them that humane societies and municipalities care very much for animals. First and foremost, they are concerned with reuniting pets with their owners or to help them find new homes.



## Finding common ground

Ask students to consider what they think can happen when there are disagreements over the balance between individual rights and responsibilities and the common good, such as in the examples they responded to in their opinion statements from the previous activity. Pose general discussion questions to the class, such as:

- Is enforcement always the answer? Why or why not? What are some other options?
- What do you think individuals can do to solve differences peacefully? What can communities do?
- What should, or can, local government do to help people solve differences peacefully?
- Have you ever heard the expression, “finding common ground?” What do you think it means? How could it apply to the rights and responsibilities of “good” citizenship?

Provide students with **Finding Common Ground (pp. 147-148)** and tell them that they will have the opportunity to explore some options for action. Review the **problem solving process** described on the first page and ask students to individually write ideas in the “looks like, sounds like, feels like” box.

The options for action include:

- Work with neighbours to find a compromise that improves the problem.
- Organize a neighbourhood event or participate in a City program to help improve the problem.
- Decide to do something about the problem yourself.
- Ask for enforcement action from the City because this problem causes an immediate public safety concern.
- Make a citizen’s request for help from the Mayor or a City Councillor as this is a big issue that needs a community strategy to solve.

Ask students to work with a partner or in a small group to discuss, compare and apply the information and five options for action and indicate when, where and how each potential action could be most appropriate. Encourage students to use examples from their *Themes in the City* research. Provide prompting questions such as:

- What options for action could be most appropriate for some of the challenges and problems you’ve learned about?
- What problems do you think are best solved by individual people?
- What types of problems do you think need the whole community to work together?
- When does it help to involve local government?



## Differentiate

Use the ***Make a Better City* web app** to introduce options for action and problem solving before assigning Finding Common Ground to students. Suggestions for using Challenge Activity Two are provided on **page 68**.

As an alternative to individual or group work, complete Finding Common Ground as a whole class activity. This provides opportunities to discuss and expand on the concepts of peaceful “problem solving” strategies, the elements of “good” citizenship and can reinforce processes of conflict resolution.



## Share

As a class, share ideas and discuss how different types of problems can require different solutions. *(Encourage students to consider that one person’s idea of what is most appropriate might be different from another person’s. It is possible to have more than one solution that works equally well. However, in some cases one type of action can be more appropriate. For example, when neighbours have trouble keeping sidewalks clear of snow, it can be much more effective if other people in the neighbourhood offer to help instead of making a complaint with bylaw enforcement. In other cases, if a problem continues despite neighbours’ best efforts to help, making a complaint may be the best option.)*





## Field-Based Research

Apply for a week at *City Hall School* or use some of the teaching and learning resources on the *City Hall School* website to reinforce the connections between municipal government and what students are learning about community standards, bylaws and living together in an urban environment. Learning resources focus on levels of government and how Edmonton's City Hall works. Access these resources on [www.edmonton.ca/attractions\\_recreation/attractions/downtown/cityhall-school.aspx](http://www.edmonton.ca/attractions_recreation/attractions/downtown/cityhall-school.aspx).



## Differentiate

Have students work in groups, with each group focusing on one of the suggested options for action from the web app. Ask groups to use a graphic organizer, such as a **Pros & Cons Chart (p. 183)**, to consider the benefits and potential challenges of the action when it is applied to different types of situations.

Students can also be asked to discuss how different perspectives can influence any problem solving process. How can people's backgrounds and experiences affect the way they resolve conflicts? (*Consider how and why the perspectives of seniors, youth, newcomers, people with disabilities, homeowners or renters might differ.*)

## How to use the web app with this activity



The ***Make a Better City* web app**, at [www.edmonton.ca/makeabettercity](http://www.edmonton.ca/makeabettercity), reinforces and extends the idea of "finding common ground." Students apply five potential options to City problems and challenges.

Students complete Challenge Activity Two by identifying all 16 problems that exist in the City landscape and reviewing the bylaw information that relates to each problem. They select what they think is the best option for action and accumulate points in their WhyPods. These five options for action are the same as those presented in Finding Common Ground. The options encourage students to consider how compromise, participation, individual action and the support of local government are all part of active and involved citizenship.

**Ensure that students understand that the options presented in the *Make a Better City* web app are not the only options available to citizens and residents of a city.**

Encourage them to think about other types of action that can also be effective and appropriate.

Ask students whether simply identifying a need for change or a community issue can solve it. One of the first steps in addressing an issue involves understanding its cause and how it affects the community. Use the web app problems to revisit the concepts of "cause" and "effect" with the class.

## assessment

Select from the following summative assessment tasks and activities.

- Ask students to reflect on different actions that are available to them personally, as youth in their community. Have them identify one to four citizenship actions or involvements that they think would make a positive contribution to their communities. Use **Assess Your Understandings (p. 150)** to describe benefits and challenges associated with each citizenship commitment they identify.
- Have students use a graphic organizer, such as a **Mind Map (p. 181)**, to describe the relationships they have in their communities. Encourage students to include the following types of relationships:
  - Family
  - Friends and peers
  - Neighbours or community members, including younger children and seniors
  - Residents and citizens in the city.

Ask students to map the qualities of the relationship, interests or values shared with each type of relationship in one layer of the mind map. Map what they say and do to maintain healthy relationships in another layer of the mind map. Assess the mind map using a checklist such as the one provided below.

- Provide students with **Check In #2 (p. 149)** and have them self-assess their research skills.

### Mind Map Checklist

	Yes	Somewhat	Not yet
Mind map identifies a range of relationships			
Connections between relationships and shared interests or values are clear			
Actions for maintaining healthy relationships are appropriate			



#### Focus on Health & Life Skills

Students can be asked to synthesize their learning and apply it to what they have learned about healthy relationships.





# Set the Standards

What does this news article tell you about different points of view that individuals and a city government can have? Read the article and respond to the questions that follow. Discuss your responses with your classmates.



## Pirate Ship Sunk!

July

**VANCOUVER** — A Vancouver pirate ship was recently sunk, ending a two-year bylaw battle with the City of Vancouver. The pirate ship was not anchored in the ocean, but rather a tree house that was perched in a tall cedar tree in the front yard of a Kerrisdale neighbourhood home. The battle began when a neighbour thought the tree house was too close to her property line and called the bylaw office to make a complaint. City bylaw inspectors visited the property and agreed that the tree house was so large that it needed a building permit.

The Dewberry family who built the pirate ship tree house for their two sons, Jack, aged 9, and Sam, aged 7, refused to take the tree house down, arguing that it was on their property, was built for their sons' enjoyment and did not interfere with anyone's rights. The dispute ended up going to provincial court, where Judge Conni Bagnall ruled against the family. Although the judge admired the workmanship of the tree house and the family's determination to provide their children with a wonderful play house, she said that it did not take away from the fact that the tree house did not comply with city bylaws. She ordered the family to take the pirate ship down.

Mr. Dewberry and his wife, Ms. Seagrave, were each fined \$250 for breaking city bylaws and were given 90 days to remove the pirate ship from their property. The family decided that the tree house would be auctioned at the Boys and Girls Club of Vancouver so that kids would still benefit from the joys of play!



Discuss or write your responses to these questions:

1. What is the conflict in this news article?
2. How do you think other people in the neighbourhood would have been affected by the treehouse?
3. What are the different points of view of the people involved – the parents, children, neighbours, Boys and Girls Clubs? Which points of view do you agree with the most? Why?
4. Do you know of any similar problems or conflicts in your neighbourhood? What are they?

## ❖ Living Together Peacefully

Edmonton is a city of about one million people. As the city grows, how do you think its challenges grow with it? What do you think it takes to ensure that everyone has opportunities to live together peacefully?

**Community standards** and **bylaws** are guidelines and rules that help people live together peacefully in diverse neighbourhoods of a city. Bylaws are not meant to restrict behaviours, freedoms and choices. They are meant to help neighbours respect each other's property and share **public places** that everyone uses and are part of every urban neighbourhood.

Each municipality can pass **legislation**, or laws, that allow it to regulate how people should behave and what their responsibilities are. This legislation takes the form of bylaws and licensing requirements. Sometimes, bylaws result from legislation that the province has passed. Cities, like all other municipalities, must ensure that people follow the rules that are passed for the common good. For example, the *Alberta Weed Control Act* requires all municipalities in Alberta to control harmful weeds that can spread and damage crops in rural areas.

Bylaws often reflect the **values**, or ideas and behaviours that are considered important for good relationships, and the ways of life of the people who live in the city. Bylaws provide minimum standards that everyone must follow. They also identify the responsibilities of people who live in neighbourhoods or business owners who provide services or facilities.

In the City of Edmonton, the *Community Standards Bylaw* provides rules that property owners must follow to maintain the areas that surround their properties – such as yards, buildings, fences, public boulevards and sidewalks. These rules describe what all people can and cannot do so that both private and public places are respected and maintained.





The *Community Standards Bylaw* lays out the responsibilities of property owners. Why do you think each of the responsibilities listed in the chart is a bylaw? Write your reason in the second column of the chart.

Responsibilities	Reason
Keep property well maintained, clean and tidy	
Make sure that unoccupied buildings are secured for safety	
Get rid of garbage and waste responsibly	
Be considerate, safe and responsible with outdoor fires	
Care for boulevards and alleys by private property	
Clear snow from sidewalks by private property	
Manage graffiti vandalism by keeping property clear of it	
Be considerate of neighbours when using loud machinery or doing something that results in loud noise	

Why do you think the *Community Standards Bylaw* is sometimes called the “good neighbour” bylaw?

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The *Public Places Bylaw* regulates how shared spaces such as roadways, sidewalks, squares, courtyards and alleys are kept safe for everyone's use. It is important for citizens to behave safely and appropriately, so the bylaw discourages harmful activities like cigarette smoking, littering, fighting, and panhandling in all the places that allow public access.

What are some public places that citizens share in an urban community?

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Why do you think the City of Edmonton has a bylaw that addresses behaviours and actions in public places?

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What caption could you write for this photograph?



The *Animal Licensing and Control Bylaw* sets guidelines for responsible pet ownership. This bylaw requires all pet owners to have licences for their cats and dogs and to ensure that their pets do not endanger other people. It also requires that owners pick up after their pets, keep them on leash in public areas and prevent them from roaming around neighbourhoods.

Why do you think many municipalities have bylaws that require pets to be licensed?

[illegible]

What other types of pets do people have? Why do you think these other pets do not require licences in Edmonton while cats and dogs do?

[illegible]

What captions could you write for these photographs?







## Community Standards Concept Cards

These **concept cards** identify many behaviours and conditions that are connected to City of Edmonton bylaws. Cut out the cards and organize them into a concept web. Use any patterns and groupings that make sense to you. Add any additional ideas you might have to your concept web.

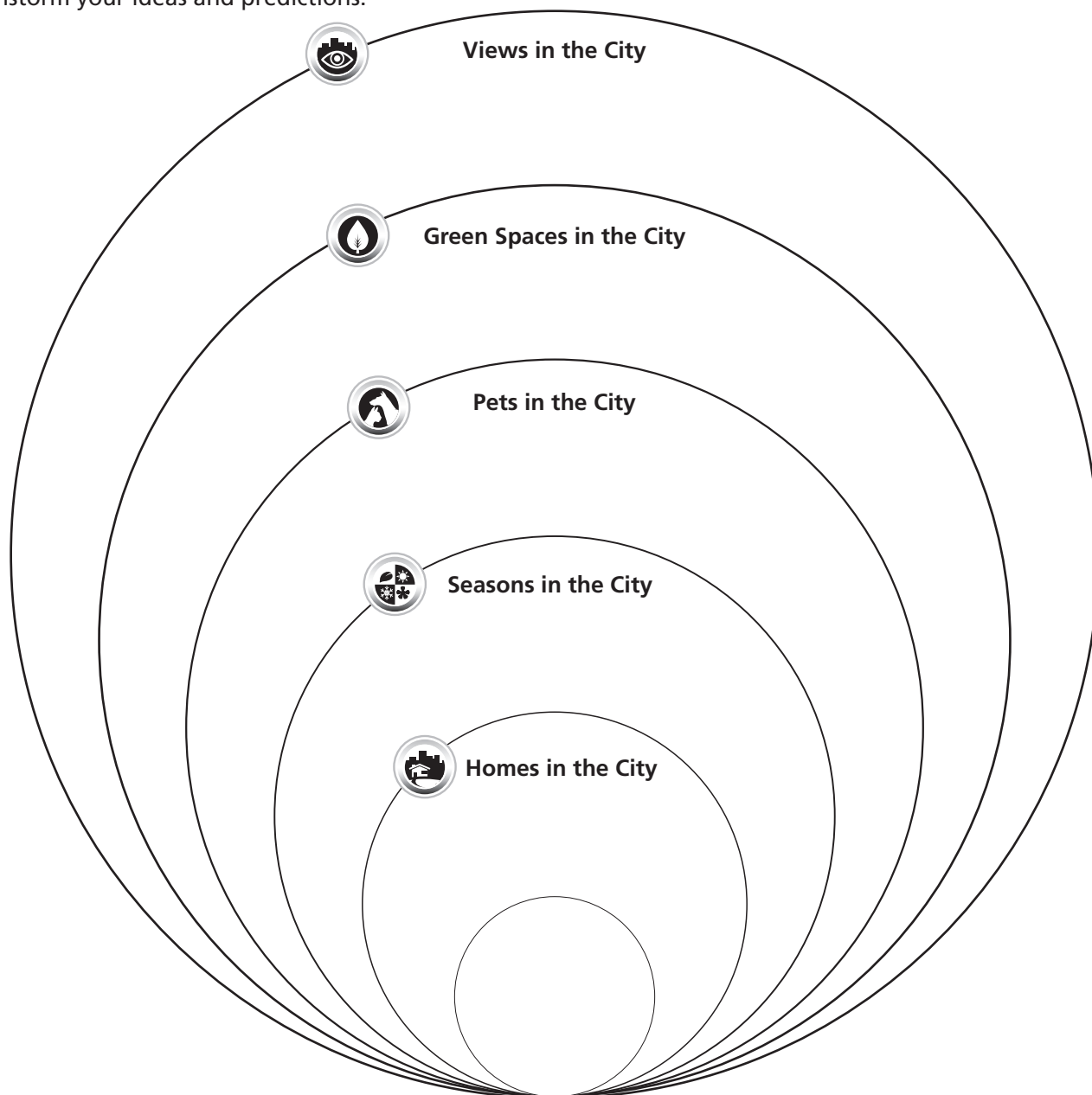
Bylaws	Private property	Offence Fine \$250
Barking and biting	Standards	Smoking
Graffiti vandalism	Abandoned buildings	Abandoned dogs
Litter	Dangerous actions	Wild cats
Weapons	Handbills	Messy property
Garbage	Graffiti cleanup	Boulevard care
Building maintenance	Parks and playgrounds	Boulevards and streets
Noise	Unlicensed pets	Weed and pest control
Snow removal	Public property	Individual
Litter Offence Fine \$100	Snow Removal Offence Fine \$100	Community
Urination and defecation	Safety	Off leash parks

# Balancing Rights & Responsibilities



Every local, or municipal, government in Alberta and Canada uses bylaws to identify rights and responsibilities of citizens and residents. The *Municipal Government Act* gives all municipal governments in Alberta the power to make these rules and laws. Edmonton's City Council passes bylaws because one of its roles and duties is to protect people who live in the city. Bylaws and community standards also protect the common good by making sure that people meet their responsibilities.

You will explore a variety of different stories and articles in at least one of the five *Make a Better City* research themes. What do you think each theme will be about? Use the *Themes in the City* organizer below to brainstorm your ideas and predictions.

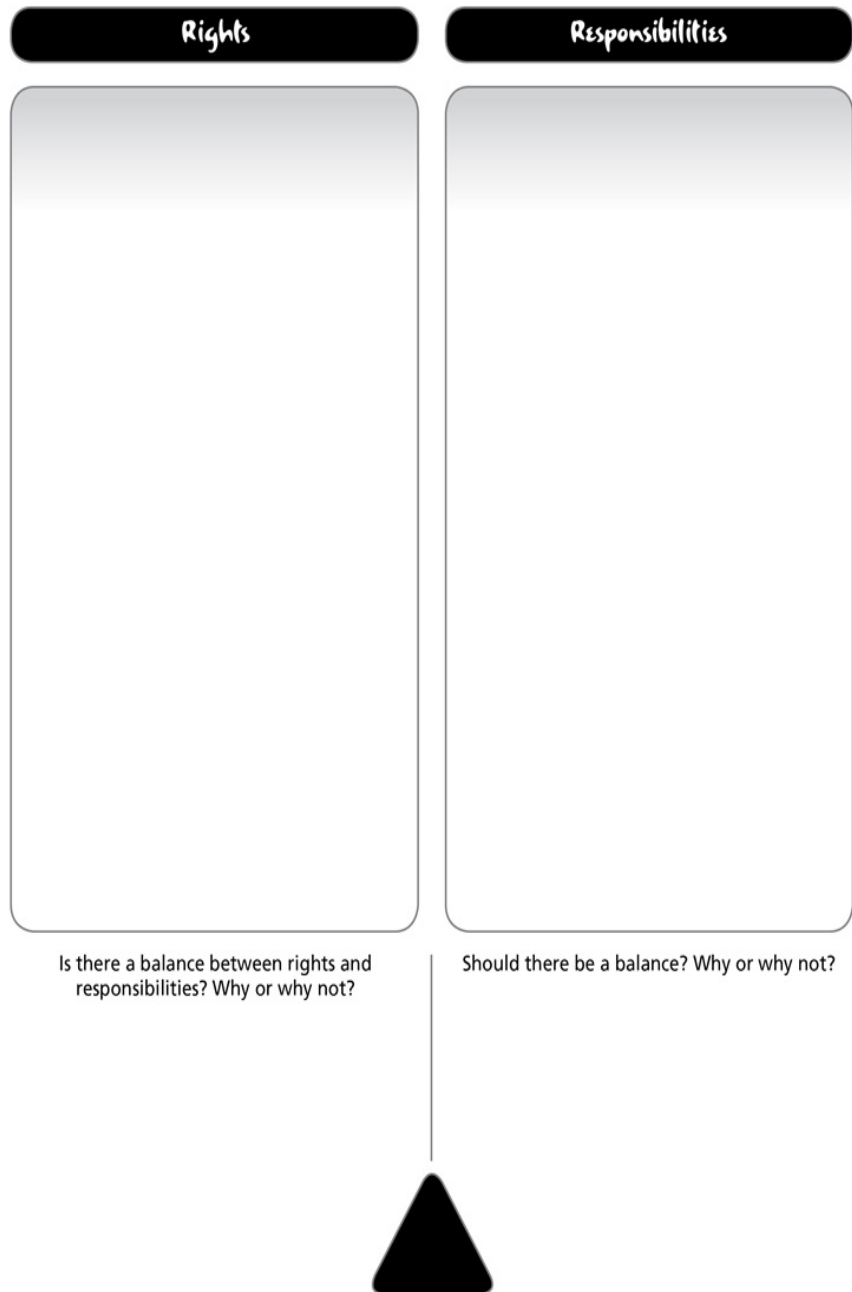


The stories and articles in each *Make a Better City* theme focus on individual and community rights and responsibilities as well as how local government protects and ensures public safety and the health and livability of the city. The stories and articles will help you understand issues and challenges faced by citizens and local government and some of the contributions made by both.

You will use a balance scale graphic organizer to compare the balance between rights and responsibilities.

- Use the introductory page to focus on the theme. Complete the **Think Ahead to Make It Real** and the **Think Aloud** questions with your research group.
- Respond to the focus questions in the jot note “bubbles” provided. Use a jot note bubbles graphic organizer if you need more room!
- Does the article or story involve a right? Write a jot note about it on the “rights” side of the balance scale.
- Does it involve a responsibility? Write a jot note about it on the “responsibilities” side of the balance scale.
- Does the article or story involve both rights and responsibilities? Write a jot note in both sides of the balance scale.
- Is there a balance between rights and responsibilities? Why or why not? **Should** there be a balance? Why or why not? Write a response to each of these questions in the box at the bottom of the scale.

Rights	Responsibilities
Is there a balance between rights and responsibilities? Why or why not?	Should there be a balance? Why or why not?





## Homes in the City

What does it mean to live in a great neighbourhood? Community standards in Edmonton encourage people to contribute to making sure they live in safe, clean and friendly neighbourhoods.

What makes a neighbourhood great for one resident may be different than for another. However, many people agree that great neighbourhoods have the following qualities:

- A well-maintained **infrastructure**, which includes features such as roads, lights, boulevards and sidewalks
- Safe, clean and pleasant places and services that make the neighbourhood a better place to live or work
- Residents who support each other and work with government to make their neighbourhood the place they want it to be.

Many people also believe that making a better neighbourhood starts first with individuals in their own homes. This means that people should take responsibility for looking after the property in which they live or own.

A well looked after property can involve more than you may think. Cleaning up garbage, removing graffiti and looking after lawns and sidewalks is part of it. However, ensuring that daily activities do not interfere with others is also important. This can mean considering if music is being played too loud or that the dog isn't barking early in the morning or late at night.

### Think Ahead to Make It Real

Is there such a thing as being a citizen in your own home? What rights and responsibilities would you have?

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**People who own and live in properties have responsibilities. What responsibilities do you think people should take for their homes? Discuss these "think alouds" with your group:**

A home is where I can....

I think that people should take responsibility for their homes by....

I think that **landlords**, or people who rent property to others, should take responsibility for....



## Homes in the City

Most people want to live in attractive, healthy and safe neighbourhoods where everyone takes responsibility for maintaining their homes and respects the homes of their neighbours. Rules and community standards discourage nuisance conditions, including junk-filled yards or snow-covered sidewalks.

The **broken windows theory** helps local governments, including the City of Edmonton, make decisions about bylaws and programs related to the appearance, cleanliness and safety of property. This theory says that if a broken window is not fixed, it sends a signal to other people that no one cares. If no one cares, individuals are more likely to be careless with the property they own or live in. If no one cares, individuals may think that it's ok that they don't care either.

Not caring about how homes and neighbourhoods look or how people behave can result in more litter, graffiti, neglect and crime.

### What do City of Edmonton bylaws say about private property?

The *Community Standards Bylaw* establishes rules and standards for the care and maintenance of private property. This means that private yards, buildings, fences, city boulevards and sidewalks must be maintained to a reasonable and common standard.

What do the two articles on pages 81 and 82 help you understand about the broken windows theory? Find two examples to support the ideas in the broken windows theory.

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## Homes in the City

### Broken windows theory boosted by new study

Regina Leader Post November 21, 2008

People are much more inclined to litter, steal and trespass when it seems other people have been breaking the rules, according to a new study, published online Thursday by the journal Science.

If you saw \$10 in an envelope sticking out of a mailbox, would you steal the money, or pop the envelope in the mail?

If there is graffiti all over the mailbox or lots of litter on the ground, you'd be twice as likely to take the cash, according to a [study done in the Netherlands]. It also [supports the] "broken windows" theory behind crime and anti-graffiti prevention programs from Vancouver to Rome.

The study, published online Thursday by the journal Science, found people are much more inclined to litter, steal and trespass when it seems other people have been breaking the rules. "The mere presence of graffiti more than doubled the number of people littering and stealing," it says.

Excerpted with the express permission of the *Regina Leader Post*, a division of Postmedia Network Inc.

### Bylaw calls indicate city 'well engaged'

By **Tony Seskus**, *Calgary Herald*  
November 3, 2011

Highland Park was once every bit the classic Calgary suburb... But all neighbourhoods change.... "As the [people living in the area] changed and people weren't as interested in the community, the physical environment started to go downhill," says Kevin Bentley, president of the community association. "Grass didn't get cut, snow didn't get cleared, house maintenance didn't happen," Bentley said. "And, you know, it's the broken-window theory. Once it started, we started to see some of the other problems."

**Derelict** [or neglected] properties [and crimes] wormed their way into pockets of the... community. So when Bentley hears how many complaints Highland Park residents made last year to the city about untidy yards and tall grass – at rates exceeding most other communities – he doesn't see trouble. He sees

proud neighbours pushing back.

"It's an indication that community residents are looking at the physical environment of the neighbourhood and saying it's unacceptable," Bentley says. "It's community residents stepping up to the plate."

It's something that's happening in other communities, too. In new data provided by the city for Project Calgary, the public made about 65 000 phone calls to the city in 2010 with bylaw complaints, including things like noise, graffiti and unshovelled sidewalks...

The "broken window" theory of crime prevention considers the condition of a neighbourhood's physical environment an important factor. If one broken window goes unrepaired, then the next one might not and so on – until ultimately the community has bigger problems.



## Homes in the City

“Crime thrives in areas where people appear to not care,” Bruce says. “If people don’t care about the community, then they’re not going to care about what you’re doing.”

“We actually want people . . . to complain about a bylaw infraction early, not wait until their rage builds up and they get angry because their neighbour is doing this, this and this,” says Diane Danielson, chairwoman of the organization. “We would like to see an increase in bylaw calls, we would like to see an increase in calls to the police.”

The role of active citizens shouldn’t be lost, however. If people are engaged in their community, maintain their property and take an active interest in their neighbourhood, they may prevent the “broken windows” people dread.

People want to live in neighbourhoods with a good reputation and that comes from its people. “When people care and have pride – and will hold their neighbour accountable

for the junk or the broken window or whatever – the quality of life and pride in community remains high,” Evans explains... It’s important neighbours express themselves and get involved in their community, Bentley advises.

“At the end of the day, you’ve got to believe that each individual voice counts and to be silent is the wrong approach,” he says. “You need to voice your opinion. You need to voice it whether it’s to 311 or through other authorities – the alderman, police, fire.

“Whatever means you choose, it’s important to speak up because without speaking up no one is going to know you have a concern.”

Excerpted with the express permission of the *Calgary Herald*, a division of Postmedia Network Inc.





## Homes in the City

The two community newsletter stories on this page come from the Avenue Initiative, a community project that started in the spring of 2007. This project involved businesses, the City of Edmonton and Alberta Avenue residents in cleaning up and **revitalizing**, or bringing new life to, their neighbourhood.

How do you think the choices that individual residents or property owners make can affect a whole neighbourhood? How do the individuals in this community take responsibility for their neighbourhood? How does the local government take responsibility?

### WALKABOUTS CONTINUE TO CLEAN UP AREA

*Dawn Freeman*

For the second year, members of the Safe Streets working group spent a couple of hours every fortnight strolling along the back alleys of the two blocks north and south of the Ave, looking for trouble spots. Abandoned appliances or other large household items, overgrown weeds, falling down structures and derelict vehicles all went on the list that was passed onto the city's bylaw enforcement team.

The Safe Streets Committee believes that cleanliness and order go hand-in-hand with safety. When we keep our properties and our alleyways clean and clear it says that we care about our neighbourhood!

Excerpted with permission from the *Avenue Initiative*:  
[www.avenuinitiative.ca](http://www.avenuinitiative.ca).

### Pickin' Up the Neighbourhood!

Bylaw gets proactive on the Ave!

*Mari Sasano*

This summer City of Edmonton Municipal Enforcement Officers took a little extra time investigating bylaw concerns in Alberta Avenue's communities. Pitching in to help pick up litter and tidy up gave officers a chance to talk to folks about what is really going on in the community. The extra effort paid off as officers have received positive feedback from citizens who say that "things have really improved."...

#### So what can you do to help out?

Most of the improvements to messy properties on the Avenue can be attributed to active citizens who have taken ownership of their community. The City is asking community members to continue working with the Community Standards bylaw officers to address bylaw infractions. When you notice a messy property, a weedy yard or a junky business area, call us.

If you do not see any improvement, take further action by calling the City and asking for an update on your complaint. Sometimes resolving a problem takes time because a variety of agencies such as the Edmonton City Police, Derelict Housing and even health inspectors take part in sorting out the concern. We all have a role to play in improving community standards.



## Homes in the City

The web article and blog note on this page and page 85 describe some problems that can develop on private properties.

Do you think everyone should have the right to buy and own property? Why or why not?

How can the problems on private property affect everybody in a neighbourhood?

Who do you think should have to take responsibility to solve these problems – the individual property owner, the local government or both? Why do you think this?



### When is a private property a nuisance?

Any property that is untidy, unsightly, offensive, dangerous, or interferes with the use or enjoyment of neighbouring properties is a nuisance.

Nuisances on properties may include:

- Uncut grass and weeds
- Graffiti vandalism
- Wrecked, dismantled, abandoned, unregistered or uninsured vehicles
- Standing pools of water
- Smelly compost heaps
- Dense dust or smoke from fire pits
- Untidy garbage storage
- Accumulation of construction materials, tires, auto parts or litter







## Homes in the City

### Some final thoughts on Edmonton's derelict housing issue

Make no mistake. Edmonton's derelict homes – especially those in mature, inner city neighbourhoods – do more than hurt the city's image.

These ramshackle eyesores **impair** [reduce] neighbourhood property values, they attract squatters and vandals, they discourage **infill development** [building on vacant, existing lots in older areas] that would...make the city more vibrant....

While the city demolishes some 50 to 60 derelict homes per year – i.e., those deemed to be a public health or safety issue, or those that are structurally unsound – city officials insist their hands are otherwise tied. Unless the province expands the city's authority to bulldoze derelict homes, they say, they're at a stalemate.

That offers little solace to many Edmonton residents. If you're unlucky enough to live near one of these disasters, you're already paying for it, whether you realize it or not.

Consider this. One of our elderly neighbours, who is now in her 90s and living in a retirement home, was recently forced to sell her well-maintained bungalow. Unfortunately for her, it sits next to a shoddy wreck that hasn't been occupied in at least a decade.

Its owner ignored all her attempts to get him to clean it up or sell it. The result? She had to accept an offer for her home that was – according to her realtor's estimate – \$30 000 to \$50 000 below fair-market value.

**Gary Lamphier**  
Edmonton Journal

Excerpted with the express permission of the *Edmonton Journal*, a division of Postmedia Network Inc.







## Homes in the City

The news article on this page talks about garbage, something produced in every home! Individuals must ensure that garbage does not collect or accumulate on their property.

How do you think individual citizens should share in the responsibility and cost of managing garbage for the entire city? Why do you think this?

## City talks trash, could cost you more cash

By Gordon Kent  
EDMONTONJOURNAL.COM  
February 23, 2012

EDMONTON - The public could have its say this spring on whether homeowners should be charged for the amount of garbage they throw out, says a report released Thursday.

The five options include cutting fees for single-family homes that don't produce more than one container each of trash and recyclables each collection period, allowing them to buy tags for extra junk, or letting them put out extra waste free, twice a year.

The other suggestions are keeping the current \$33.20 monthly flat fee, or introducing a base fee that covers one container each of trash and recyclables at every collection and charging for additional material.

The last choice is similar to tag-a-bag schemes the city has studied four times in the past 20 years, which supporters felt would reward people who cut down on their garbage.

But there were complaints the proposal penalized large, low-income families and people who dispose of material related to medical conditions.

There were also concerns about extra administration costs and illegal dumping by people trying to save money.

The latest public consultation plan would give people a chance in April to complete an online survey, phone in comments or attend one of four open houses.

Excerpted with the express permission of the *Edmonton Journal*, a division of Postmedia Network Inc.

### What do City of Edmonton bylaws say about garbage?

The *Waste Management Bylaw* helps to maintain a clean, safe and efficient system for the collection, removal and disposal of waste from residential and commercial property throughout the municipality.

Improperly stored waste can become a nuisance when there is too much garbage that has broken open and not been cleaned up.



## Homes in the City

Animals usually thought as belonging on farms – such as chickens and bees – have started to come to some cities. Read the blog note and two news articles on this page and page 88.

Why do you think people want to keep farm animals on city properties? Do you think they should have the right to keep any type of animal on their own private property? Why or why not?

What responsibilities should these animal owners have to the community? Why should they have these responsibilities?

“ I have some questions about chickens in the backyard. What will happen to all the chicken manure? It smells. What about the pests that chickens and their food might attract? Do people really need to have chickens in their backyards? I think these are issues that need to be taken very seriously.

Maybe if you want to raise chickens, you should buy an acreage in the country, where you can also grow your own vegetables and even have a goat if you want!

Joanne

Find more information, perspectives and opinions about backyard chickens by searching for “river city chickens Edmonton” or going directly to [www.rivercitychickens.org](http://www.rivercitychickens.org).

### City squawks at urban chickens; Woman says she'll keep poultry despite risk of \$500 fine; Chicken coop draws bylaw warning

**Liane Faulder**  
EDMONTON JOURNAL  
March 29, 2012

Edmonton homeowner Crystal Sherris wants to keep her backyard chickens but the city's bylaw enforcement branch is crying fowl.

Sherris has had eight laying hens and a coop behind her home near Bonnie Doon shopping centre for the past year. But the flock is in jeopardy after she received a warning from the city last week. It instructed her to remove Jeanie, Snookie, Rosa and their feathered friends or face a \$500 fine. In an interview Wednesday, Sherris said she doesn't plan to comply.

"I was aware I might get bylaw knocking at my door," said Sherris, who spent much of her childhood on her grandparents' farm and appreciates fresh food. "I told the city I wouldn't remove the birds."

She is one of an unknown number of Edmontonians who keep hens in defiance of the animal licensing control bylaw.

Some raise chickens for the eggs, and because they make pleasant pets. Others appreciate their gardening value: chickens eat weeds, bugs and slugs, and also deposit rich manure, known to be among the best animal fertilizers available.

A few Canadian cities, such as Victoria, Vancouver and Guelph, Ont., allow backyard chickens, so long as guidelines are followed.

Calgary doesn't allow chickens, but an urban chicken farmer there recently filed a court challenge after being fined \$200. Paul Hughes maintains several provisions of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms support his position...

Excerpted with the express permission of the *Edmonton Journal*, a division of Postmedia Network Inc.

Edmonton clearly forbids the practice of keeping chickens and puts poultry in the same category as poisonous reptiles, although the city manager's office has the power to grant exemptions to the bylaw.

In 2010, members of the River City Chickens Collective pitched the city on a pilot project that would examine the impact of backyard chickens, but were turned down.

Ryan Pleckaitis, acting director of compliance and investigations with the City of Edmonton, said he wasn't aware that a fine for keeping chickens has ever been levied [given out] in Edmonton, though complaints have arisen in the past, with warnings sent out. He [said that] noise is a concern when it comes to chickens, as well as "potential health impacts."



## What's that buzz? Urban hives on the rise

EDMONTON JOURNAL

July 7, 2010

There's a buzz around the world that Edmonton should pick up on. No, it's not **vuvuzelas** [plastic horns that make a loud noise] -- we could do without them, thank you very much. It's honeybees....

Bees, let us not forget, are our friends. They pollinate one-third of our food crops and are essential for the production of many plants we treasure....

There are some 10 000 registered **apiarists** [beekeepers] in Canada at the moment, of which 80 percent are hobbyists.... Of course, most of those hives are located outside cities. That's the case at least to some degree because city and suburban [bylaws] in many locales, including Edmonton, either forbid backyard beekeeping or make it functionally impossible due to lot size restrictions.

[Urban bee hives can be found in] opera house roofs in Toronto, London and Paris, the Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Michelle Obama's White House garden and Vancouver's City Hall, to name but a few. In fact, urban municipalities have been beelike of late, busily scrapping or amending existing statutes prohibiting or discouraging backyard apiaries.

Excerpted with the express permission of the *Edmonton Journal*, a division of Postmedia Network Inc.



## Homes in the City

Dogs and cats are an accepted, and important, part of many families and homes in the city. Pets are an individual responsibility of their owners. However, the ways that individuals look after their pets can affect everyone in the city.

Consider the following questions as you read the blog post and City of Edmonton web article on this page and on page 90.

- What rights do you think pets and their owners should have?
- How can pet owners make sure that their pets are “good neighbours?”
- Do you think that the rules for having pets like dogs and cats should be the same or different than the rules for backyard farm animals like chickens or bees? Why?

### People who don't pick up after their dogs

Posted on 16 November

“ Hi! I've just moved to the city and I'm excited to meet some other pet owners! I love to see all the sweet puppies and dogs in my new neighbourhood, but I'm wondering if anyone else has had a problem with neighbours who let their dogs poop on other people's lawns or even sidewalks? We have an alley behind our apartment building and for some reason there are a couple of dogs that keep pooping there. RIGHT IN FRONT OF OUR GATE!

This has happened to a few other neighbours too who share the alley. We have talked about it and two of them say it's actually just one woman who takes her two dogs out after dark. She just lets them poop anywhere and doesn't pick up after them! Some of the neighbours have talked to the woman and asked her to clean up after her dogs. But she just tells them to mind their own business.

What can we do? Should our city have a poop-and-scoop bylaw? I've even stepped in the “offerings” many times especially when I come home after it gets dark. It's disgusting.”



Barking is natural for dogs when they are bored, lonely, or want to alert their owners of something, but excessive barking can disturb your neighbours.

Excessive barking can be addressed through dog training, socializing, exercising, and family interaction.







## Homes in the City



### Cats at Home

Cat owners are required to make sure their pet does not wander on to other people's property without permission. The fine for an at-large cat is \$100, but if a cat is licensed it is eligible for one free ride home from the City without a fine every 12 months.

### Dealing with an Unwanted Cat on Your Property

If you have an unwanted cat on your property, politely ask your neighbour to keep their cat on their own property. If you do not know who the owner is or if speaking with your neighbour did not solve the problem, you may want to make your property less inviting to the animal. Another option is to humanely trap the cat and turn it over to the City.

### Making Your Property Less Inviting

Cats can be trained not to enter your yard simply by making your property unpleasant.

- Place mesh netting (angled outwards) or PVC pipe at the top of your fence prevent cats from climbing over.
- Bury chicken wire just below the surface of your flowerbeds to discourage digging and cover the bed with bark chips or gravel so it is rough.
- Spray the cat with water whenever it enters your yard.
- Spread repellents around your property, like vinegar or orange peels.







## Seasons in the City

Some people describe Edmonton as an “all-season” city. Do you agree? What do you think are the advantages of living in a city that experiences four different seasons?

Edmonton can have great summers, with warm temperatures and long sunny days. However, some residents don't look forward to mosquitoes and smoke from backyard fire pits.

Edmonton is also called a winter city, with months of cold temperatures and snow-covered sidewalks and streets. The City of Edmonton has a plan called the *WinterCity Strategy*, which encourages people to embrace this season and participate in a variety of activities! Part of this strategy includes ideas that help make the city safer and easier to live in during winter.

How do you think changing seasons affect a city's livability? **Livability** can mean a variety of things to different people. However, it often refers to the extent to which a place feels accessible, comfortable, enjoyable and safe.

When Edmonton's winter months turn into spring, the litter and garbage that accumulates over winter can affect the city's livability. Spring and fall cleanups involves everyone in managing litter and cleaning up.



### Think Ahead to Make It Real

How do you think one person can contribute time to help a neighbour in the city? Sometimes, being a volunteer can mean spending a short amount of time doing something that helps one other person.

What are some examples of short, simple actions one person can take to help another?

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**How do you think individual responsibilities can change in different seasons? Discuss these “think alouds” with your group:**

The most important action citizens can take during summer is....

Winter can cause challenges for some people when....

Spring and fall cleanups make a difference if....



## Seasons in the City

Winter in Edmonton can be cold, but is not necessarily a time when everyone stays inside. Clean and safe sidewalks and public places encourage people to participate in winter events and activities.

The posters and news articles from the the City of Edmonton, *Edmonton Sun* and *Edmonton Journal* below and on pages 93 and 94 describe ways that people can contribute to making the city safe and clean.

How do you think people's responsibilities change in the winter months?



### Oil Kings turn into Snow Angels

**Michelle Thompson**

*Edmonton Sun* January 24, 2012

The Edmonton Oil Kings are taking ice time to a whole new level. As part of the city's Snow Angels program, the players are giving needy homeowners an assist this winter by shovelling snowy sidewalks.

"We're just looking for ways to give back to the community," said Oil Kings captain Mark Pysyk. "It's simple for us to come out and shovel sidewalks. It's really nothing for us and it makes a big difference for the people we're shovelling for."

The Snow Angels program encourages Edmontonians to help seniors, or the disabled, clear snow from their sidewalks...

The team's vice president, Darryl Porter, said the players are happy to help. "We have a commitment to give back to the community at all times, we look for the right opportunities, and this was an opportunity that made an awful lot of sense," Porter said.

He said he hopes players stepping in to help clear sidewalks will inspire other young people to do the same... "A lot of us have neighbours that could utilize a little bit of help."

The Snow Angel's senior program manager Elvie De Benedetto said she was happy to bring the Oil Kings on board...

"I think it's very important that we come together as a community, and that we help each other out with snow removal. It helps to make a community safe, accessible, and it keeps it mobile."

Excerpted with permission from QMI Agency.



## Seasons in the City

# Edmonton snow angel gets his wings

**Clearing neighbours' walks keeps 92-year-old Good Samaritan active**

By Chris Zdeb November 12, 2012

EDMONTON - Andrew Nykilchuk is a bona fide Snow Angel. After every snowfall he goes out and clears his neighbours' sidewalks, including the ones leading to their front doors. He received his "angel's wings" — a lapel pin of a snowman with a halo and wings holding a shovel — six years ago when several of the neighbours nominated him for recognition by the City of Edmonton's Snow Angel program.

The program encourages people to voluntarily shovel snow for seniors and persons with disabilities in their neighbourhoods. Earlier this year he received a framed certificate from the city recognizing him for "Being A Good Neighbour."

What makes Nykilchuk different from other snow angels is that he is 92 years old. The people whose walks he shovels are all younger than he is. "I keep telling him he makes us look bad because he's a senior and we're the ones that are supposed to be doing this for him," says a laughing Jessica Houle, one of the neighbours who nominated him.

"He tries to get out there first thing in the morning before we have a chance to get to it, or, if he knows that we run out the door in the morning and we don't necessarily have time to do it right away, he'll get it done during the day before we get back from work."

Sitting in his warm and cosy living room in a chair that faces the Duggan keyhole crescent where he lives, Nykilchuk explains he does it for

## What do City of Edmonton bylaws say about snow removal?

Snow and ice on sidewalks are dangerous for everyone, especially seniors and people with disabilities. The *Community Standards Bylaw* requires property and business owners to clear every public walk around their property, including sanding the icy spots. When everyone does this, sidewalks are clear and safe.

the satisfaction of aiding others.... Or it could be because he's "greedy," he says, explaining that trying to keep the sidewalks cleared down to the pavement gets him outdoors in the fresh air and keeps him active during winter....

The day after last week's snowstorm, Nykilchuk was out as usual, clearing the walks for all 17 neighbours who live on the crescent...His posture is straight, his mind clear, and his health good, although he calls himself "bionic" because of two hip replacements he had 10 years ago.



Andrew Nykilchuk, 92-years-old, has won good neighbor awards for keeping the sidewalks on his street clear of snow.

Photograph by Larry Wong, *Edmonton Journal*

Excerpted with the express permission of the *Edmonton Journal*, a division of Postmedia Network Inc.



## Seasons in the City



Edmonton community leagues have their own winter sandboxes! Free sand is available at some community leagues throughout the City to use on icy sidewalks and walkways.

# BE AN Urban Hero



## Clear your walks within 48 hours after a snowfall.

The safety of your neighbourhood is in your hands this winter. Keeping sidewalks clear of snow and ice allows for you, your neighbours, service providers and emergency responders to walk safely.

[Edmonton.ca/bylaw](http://Edmonton.ca/bylaw)



Find out more about Snow Angels in Edmonton by watching the video on the City of Edmonton website at [www.edmonton.ca/for\\_residents/awards\\_certificates/snow-angels.aspx](http://www.edmonton.ca/for_residents/awards_certificates/snow-angels.aspx).





## Seasons in the City

People can have varying opinions about what is most important to make their city the best it can be in the spring, summer, fall and winter months. These opinions are influenced by what they value and believe to be most important to their own lives.

What opinions are expressed in the following blog posts from citizens?

Use the blog posts and article on this page to describe two examples of a right or responsibility that these citizens think individuals, communities or local government should have.

### Summer Festivals

“ The greatest parts of Edmonton in the summer are the festivals. Why not attract tourists by creating a major music festival.... Something that people can really associate with Edmonton and let people see how beautiful our city can be in the winter. ”



**I agree**



**I disagree**

“ There should be more controls on parking and noise at summer festivals. I am unfortunate to reside in the immediate area of the folk festival, and I can honestly say that I and my neighbours dread the folk festival. ”

The area swarms with tourists who create heavy, occasionally dangerous, traffic congestion, especially in the residential streets. They leave their trash on my boulevard and under the front hedge, park anywhere and wake me from a sound sleep with their noise. ”



**I agree**



**I disagree**

### Folk Fest mosquito treatments start Friday

CBC News August 9, 2012

Fans heading out to the Edmonton Folk Festival Thursday night may want to pack bug spray. The city isn't starting mosquito spot treatments in Gallagher Park until Friday morning.

Crews will be treating vegetation and standing water around the festival grounds. But the city says there is no way to completely clear the site of mosquitoes.

Excerpted with permission from the Canadian Broadcasting Company.

### What do City of Edmonton bylaws say about noise?

The *Community Standards Bylaw* regulates noise in the community. Noise is sound that disturbs your peace, comfort, or rest, or affects the safety or health of citizens.





## Seasons in the City

Community groups and city organizations have to follow the same rules that individuals do. This includes the rules that are established through city bylaws. The Capital Ex webpage below describes how their organization views their responsibilities as a "neighbour."

What do these FAQs, or frequently asked questions, tell you about the responsibilities of organizations or businesses?

What does this information also tell you about the rights of individuals and the responsibilities of local government?

## Northlands Neighbours

**Our goal is to create a summer fun celebration to be enjoyed by all.**

Northlands will work with the City of Edmonton to ensure Northlands follows all City bylaws to manage noise, parking, litter and security issues. The following questions and answers provide information on a variety of neighbourhood issues including parking restrictions, garbage collection, security and more.

**Q: Who do I call if I see unauthorized parking in my neighbourhood?**

Although Northlands is working with Parking Enforcement bylaw officers to make sure parking laws are followed in surrounding communities, if you see any unauthorized parking in your neighbourhood, please contact the City of Edmonton.

**Q: Will Northlands be sending out crews to pick up litter and recyclables in surrounding neighbourhoods?**

Northlands sends out cleaning crews to surrounding communities to deal with garbage and recyclables left behind by our guests.

**Q. Where do all the recyclables go during Capital EX?**

The EnCanna Green Team, a dedicated crew from St. Matthew Lutheran Schools are engaged as a fundraising initiative to clean and collect onsite litter and recyclables.

**Q. I have a question about the noise coming from the Capital EX grounds. Who do I contact?**

Northlands monitors sound during Capital EX and works with the City of Edmonton should any issues arise.

Used with permission from Edmonton Northlands.



## Seasons in the City

Spring and fall bring more than just the change of season to the city. Sand, dirt, litter and garbage can build up on city streets, sidewalks, boulevards and parks during the winter months. Leaves and litter collect over the summer months and need to be cleaned up in the fall. The news release, logo and notes below and on page 98 are from the City of Edmonton's website.

What do you think is meant by the idea of "shared responsibilities?" What are the advantages of sharing responsibilities for spring or fall cleanups?



## NEWS RELEASE

### Students Show that a Clean City is Cool

April 26, 2011

Nearly 250 students at Strathcona High School broke out into a massive flash mob for the official kick-off of Capital City Clean Up's "15 to Clean Challenge."

The students sang and danced to show that the City's spring cleanup initiatives can be fun for all ages.

"It is a shared responsibility among all Edmontonians to keep our city clean and safe," said Councillor Iveson, who was at the school representing the City of Edmonton at the launch. "By promoting anti-litter and graffiti causes and participating in events like this, everyone can show that they're doing their part to make Edmonton a cleaner and more livable city."

During the week of April 24 to May 1, citizens are encouraged to challenge themselves, their neighbours, friends and family to take 15 minutes out of their day to pick up litter or report graffiti by calling 311.

Students and teachers at the school also accepted the challenge and spent 15 minutes picking up litter around the school during their lunch hour.

"We were more than happy to participate and help promote the challenge," said Strathcona High Principal, Hans Van Ginhoven. "By making it a fun, group exercise, students and teachers were eager to get involved and help clean up the area where we live, work and play."

The Spring Clean Up involves different city departments, including street cleaning by Transportation, River Valley Clean Up, as well as boulevards by Parks Branch, and sidewalk cleaning by Waste Management Branch. Some are ongoing efforts, such as the City's graffiti removal van and monitoring and compliance efforts by Community Standards Branch.





## Seasons in the City

The City of Edmonton does its own spring cleanup after winter.

Parks crews sweep sand, dirt, and debris from city boulevards, tucking the debris into the curb areas for street sweepers to clear.

Parks cleanup on major arteries and freeways is supported by the Edmonton Police Service and Traffic Safety with barricades and street closures where necessary.

Communities also get involved!



What is a logo? What messages does this 15 to Clean Challenge **logo** communicate to individuals and communities?

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### What do City of Edmonton bylaws say about litter?

Edmonton's City Council has made litter reduction a priority. The *Community Standards Bylaw* says that it is illegal to allow litter or other waste material to accumulate on private property. The *Public Places Bylaw* sets a \$100 fine for littering on the street.

Capital City Clean Up is an initiative of local government that provides people and businesses with opportunities to pitch in and help clean up, year round!

We all see it every fall. An assortment of items destined for the landfill as well as leaves, grass and yes – litter. We need to try and get a jump on this in the fall so that spring cleanup is easier and we have more time to enjoy the warm weather.

Watch the City of Edmonton's fall cleanup video at [www.edmonton.ca/bylaws\\_licences/bylaws/fall-cleaning-video.aspx?doAutoPlay=true](http://www.edmonton.ca/bylaws_licences/bylaws/fall-cleaning-video.aspx?doAutoPlay=true).



## Seasons in the City

Local governments often depend on volunteers to contribute to programs and events that make the city a better place to live. The volunteer newsletter article below describes the Adopt a Block program, which encourages residents, businesses and community groups to adopt a block in their community or business area and keep it litter-free during the summer.

How do individuals benefit from participating in community cleanups? How do their neighbourhoods and the city benefit?

In what ways do the City's cleanup programs provide opportunities for short, simple actions that one person can take?



## Capital City Clean Up Reunites Old Friends

If you're Marilyn Kirby and Jan Stemo, a passion for the environment and a litter-free neighbourhood brings you back together.

"I'd volunteered to stuff Adopt-a-Block kits and when I walked into the boardroom, lo and behold, there was Marilyn," says Stemo, who has been picking up litter around her home for Capital City Clean Up's Adopt-a-Block program since 2007.

Kirby – who also patrols her own neighbourhood halfway across the city – hadn't seen her old friend in years.... It was the City of Edmonton's program to reduce litter and graffiti vandalism that reunited them.

Not only do they prepare the kits for the thousands of Adopt-a-Block volunteers, but also independently signed up to help at the city's graffiti vandalism conference last fall.

"Now I coordinate with Jan to get together on the same days when we're doing our volunteering, or we'll arrange to meet [for lunch] before we go in," says Kirby.

Volunteering at something like Capital City is all about connecting, adds Stemo. "It's important for all round good health for yourself and your community. You're getting to know your neighbours, and some of them are really appreciate and will tell you. It's really about connections."

National Volunteer Week Newsletter April 15-21, 2012



## Seasons in the City

What does the article and poster below tell you about the ways that local government can encourage students to get involved with litter reduction and prevention?

What could you do as an individual to “put litter in its place?” What could your classroom or school do?

**EDMONTON April 22, 2010 - Students from McArthur elementary school did their part for Earth Day on Wednesday by getting rid of the garbage littering their school yard.**

The north-end school is one of more than 124 local schools putting trash in its place by participating in the annual Capital City Clean Up’s Schoolyard Clean Up event.

“It makes a lot of sense (for Earth Day) because it focuses on caring for and protecting the environment, green spaces and local wildlife,” said Elvie De Benedetto, senior program planner with Capital City Clean Up.

The schoolyard program started in 1998, encouraging local schools and their communities to pick up garbage on an ongoing basis after the spring melt. Last year, 29 schools signed on for the event, with numbers rising each year, De Benedetto said.

“There are multiple benefits to this program. It encourages children and youth to be responsible for their surrounding environment and to make their schoolyards safe and enjoyable for the entire community,” she said, adding these efforts may inspire other citizens to do their part.

“This is an opportunity to walk the talk, to teach students that small acts like this, at school or at home, add up and have a larger global effect,” said Farah Kaba, a teacher at the school. “The students take great pride in having a tidy schoolyard.”

Excerpted with permission from *QMI Agency*.







## Pets in the City

The City of Edmonton's "Pets in the City" campaign was developed to remind pet owners about their responsibilities. A **campaign** is a project or program that works to meet a goal. Why do you think a local government might develop and advertise a campaign like this?

The goal of the Pets in the City campaign is to encourage people to be responsible pet owners. A responsible pet owner involves much more than making sure a pet has enough food and water or providing them with care and a home. Pet owners are also responsible for the actions of their pets. The City of Edmonton considers licensing one of the most important parts of responsible pet ownership.

Responsible pet owners not only look after their pet's health and wellness, they also make sure their pet is a positive addition to the community. This means controlling, training and cleaning up after pets so the city stays safe, clean and healthy for people and animals.

Many responsibilities related to pet ownership are also the law. The City of Edmonton regulates pet ownership under the *Animal Licensing and Control Bylaw*.

### Think Ahead to Make It Real

What type of campaign could you launch in your school or your neighbourhood to support Pets in the City? Think of some important messages that a campaign could promote. Keep these ideas and "make it real" when you have finished your research!

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### What do you think is most important for all pet owners to know and do? Discuss these "think alouds" with your group:

A responsible pet owner makes sure that....

Every pet should....

Pets need licences because....





## Pets in the City

The City of Edmonton's website provides information on pet ownership in Edmonton. This information includes details about the "Pets in the City" campaign. The four banners below are advertisements that the City displays on public buses. The City also provides information about responsible pet ownership on their website and through advertisements on television, newspapers and magazines.

What messages do these four banners give to pet owners?

How does the City of Edmonton website information on page 103 support these messages?

**PETS IN THE CITY**  
YOUR PET. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

**LICENSED CATS**



**COME BACK**

[www.edmonton.ca/pets](http://www.edmonton.ca/pets)



**PETS IN THE CITY**  
YOUR PET. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

**THEY POOP**




**YOU SCOOP**

[www.edmonton.ca/pets](http://www.edmonton.ca/pets)




**PETS IN THE CITY**  
YOUR PET. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

**OFF-LEASH**



**NOT OFF THE HOOK**

[www.edmonton.ca/pets](http://www.edmonton.ca/pets)



**PETS IN THE CITY**  
YOUR PET. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

**FIXING THEM**



**TAKES THE HEAT OFF**

[www.edmonton.ca/pets](http://www.edmonton.ca/pets)





## Pets in the City



### Owning a Pet in Edmonton

Responsible pet owners not only look after their pet's health and wellness, they also make sure their pet is a positive addition to the community. There are a few obligations you have as a pet owner to be considerate of your neighbours and protect your pet.

#### Get a Licence

All dogs and cats six months or older must have a valid pet licence and tags, so we can contact you if your pet gets lost. This even applies to indoor pets because they can slip out open windows or doors from time to time.

Getting a microchip or tattoo for your pet are also great ways to make sure we can contact you, but they are not a substitute for a licence. Licences are affordable and available online, by mail, by fax, or in person.

#### Keep Them Controlled

Dogs are not allowed to be loose, unless they are on your property or in a designated off leash area. Dogs must always be on a leash when on public property and should be contained in a secure yard or building when on your property. Dogs are not allowed on school grounds, sports fields, playgrounds, and golf courses.

Cats must be kept indoors or in a secure yard on your property. Allowing your cat to freely roam is dangerous for them and can lead to conflict with your neighbours.



### Prevent Excessive Barking

Barking is natural for dogs when they are bored, lonely, or want to alert their owners of something, but excessive barking can disturb your neighbours.

Excessive barking can be addressed through dog training, socializing, exercising, and family interaction.



### Scoop the Poop

Pet waste can be smelly, unattractive, and can even be a health issue for you and your pet. Carry a bag with you to pick-up your pet's poop whenever you are off your property. Poop can be collected in a plastic bag and thrown in the garbage.

You do not need to clean up waste immediately on your private property, but you still need to clean it up regularly. Allowing excessive waste to build up affects your neighbours and pet negatively.

### Spay or Neuter

While spaying or neutering is not required by law in Edmonton, it is highly recommended. "Fixing" your pet prevents the birth of unwanted animals, improves overall health, and reduces aggression in dogs. Spayed and neutered pets are also much cheaper to license.



## Pets in the City

What “responsible pet ownership” messages are provided in the City of Edmonton website note and magazine advertisement below?

How do these messages compare to the issues described in the newspaper article on page 105?

When and why do you think a local government might use magazine, newspaper or television advertisements?

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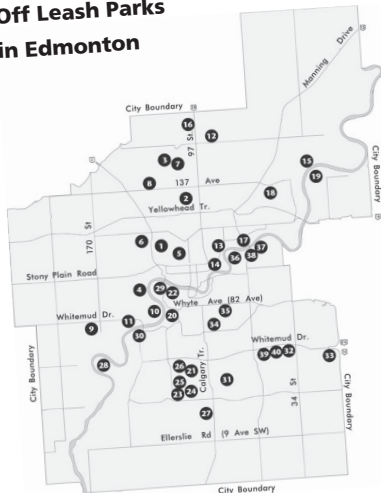
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### Off Leash Parks in Edmonton



Edmonton has over 40 sites where dogs can run and play without having you on the other end of the leash. You too, can get physical and emotional benefits from exercise and by socializing with other dog owners.

Some off leash areas are in river valley parks, some are on undeveloped land, still others are in neighbourhood parks. All sites have boundaries but are not fenced.



## Use Off Leash Parks



# Responsibly

Edmonton has more than 40 sites where your dog can run and play without being tied to you by a leash.

Before you take your dog to an off leash site, license and vaccinate your dog, make sure your dog obeys your voice commands immediately, and bring a bag or be ready to use your pooper scooper.

When you are at an off leash site, look out for other users. The City has a shared use policy, so expect to share sites with people without dogs. Keep your dog in sight and always have your leash ready to control your dog.

Off leash areas may be in river valley parks, on undeveloped land, or in neighbourhood parks. Area maps with the unfenced boundaries are posted at each site.



[www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca) or call 311





## Pets in the City

# Edmonton man warns of dog attacks, wants city to step up patrol

Linda Hoang

CTV Edmonton August 11, 2012

An Edmonton man has a warning for park and trail users in the city, after he was bitten by a dog. Greg Doucette believes dog attacks are happening more frequently and in areas where dogs shouldn't be off leash. He wants the city to step up patrols. Doucette spends a lot of time on city trails, training for marathons and mountain bike competitions. He says he's been bitten four times in the last several years, but says the latest dog bite on July 19 was the final straw.

"I started yelling," Doucette said. "I wasn't very happy about being bitten. It was quite painful and the dog proceeded to attack me again."

Doucette put his bicycle between him and the dog to try and keep it away. He says the owner kept calling it before finally getting the pet on a leash. Doucette says he's concerned because it happened where dogs are required to be on a leash and that's a bylaw he believes is being ignored far too frequently.

The city says it steps up enforcement in areas where there are increased reports of dog bites, attacks or chases. "If we do see trending issues where there are a few reports coming from a certain area, we will try to reallocate resources in order to put signage out there and step up patrols in the area," said animal control co-ordinator Keith Scott....



Dog owner Gigi Needham says she walks her dog several times a day. She admits she's noticed an increase in dog owners breaking leash rules too.

"I have seen more. Most of them have been pretty good and stayed with owners but they don't all stay, unfortunately," Needham. "You have to be careful there are so many bikes and so many runners I can see where you would have a lot of accidents of dogs aren't on a leash."

Needham says off leash areas are vital in a large city, especially for her dog Summer. "I walk her three times a day but that's not really enough for a puppy," Needham said. "She needs more exercise than that."

The city is currently reviewing its dog parks but Scott says most reported incidents happen away from off leash areas.

"People need to know that they need to have their animals under control at all times whether they're in an off leash area and especially when they're in [an on leash] area. Especially in [on leash] areas, people are under the assumption that they don't have to watch out for dogs that [can be] around a corner or a sidewalk and not have to have a dog that comes out and startles them," Scott said.

Excerpted with permission from CTV Edmonton.





## Pets in the City

Pet owners are responsible for their pet's actions. However, not all pet owners understand, agree with or follow the rules that the City makes about pets. Not everyone makes sure that they license, spay and neuter their pets. One of the most important goals of the City of Edmonton's animal and pet programs is to encourage pet owners to do this, as described in the two newspaper articles on this page and page 107.

Pet licensing is **mandatory**, or required. However, spaying and neutering is optional. Do you think it should be?

What are some different points of views about the need for pet licensing? What do you think?

## Pet fees aren't purr-fect

BY ALLISON SALZ, EDMONTON SUN

December 4, 2011

Some cat owners have their backs up over Edmonton city licensing fees that have doubled since being introduced in 2000. A proposed increase for 2012 could bring the cost to license a spayed or neutered cat up to \$20, a 100% increase from \$10 back in 2000.

..."We live on the top floor of a three-storey walk-up. So our cats are never outside. The fact that they don't go outside gives us less reason and desire to register them. If they roamed outside, they would absolutely be registered, but they don't," cat owner Steve said....



In 2010, the city handed out 700 tickets for unlicensed dogs and 200 for unlicensed cats.

David Aitken, with city bylaw services, stresses that Edmonton pet licence fee increases in part make up for a portion of licensing fees donated to the Edmonton Humane Society.

The city donates \$2.50 of every cat licence fee and \$5 of every dog fee to the [Edmonton Humane Society]. Dog licence fees for those spayed or neutered have jumped from \$20 in 2000 to \$34 in 2012.

Aitken adds that no one plans for their animals to get out of the house and on the loose, but thousands of pets end up at the [Animal Care & Control Centre] every year. The [City] houses more than 8 000 stray animals annually, many of which have owners but no identification or licence.

That makes it difficult to reunite animals with owners, said Shawna Randolph with the Edmonton Humane Society. "For us, the whole idea of licensing is an excellent way for owners to get their pets home if they get lost," said Randolph.

Excerpted with permission from QMI Agency.



## Pets in the City



### What do the City of Edmonton bylaws say about pet ownership?

Edmonton's *Animal Licensing and Control Bylaw* requires pet owners to license cats and dogs that are older than 6 months.

Every year, the Animal Care & Control Centre works with more than 8 000 lost pets. One of the only ways they are returned home is through their pet licence. Permanent ID, like microchips, is not regulated by law, but is extremely helpful in returning pets to their owners.

### City putting free pet licence offer out to pasture

**Jodie Sinnema** *Edmonton Journal*  
November 14, 2011

#### Program only 'marginally successful': report

New Edmonton pet owners will no longer receive free first-year licences for spayed or neutered dogs and cats after officials decided to cancel the program in 2012.

"The First Year Free program appears to have been only marginally, or slightly, successful at generating new licences," says a report heading to the city's community services committee Monday. Once the free year ended, only half the pet owners renewed their licences on time in 2010.

...Instead, in an effort to keep down the number of strays and cut euthanasia rates, the city will be the first in North America to try a new program to enhance services to pet owners.

The program will [increase] medical treatment for unclaimed pets so they become more adoptable, and is searching for a partner to put identification into a national database so lost animals can be returned more quickly.

The city is also considering whether Edmonton's animal control bylaw should be changed to make permanent identification – micro-chip implants – mandatory for restricted dogs which have attacked and injured people or other animals.

As well, it's launching a two-year project in January to trap, neuter and release homeless cats.... The city will fund the Little Cats Lost Society to sterilize, vaccinate and micro-chip some of Edmonton's estimated 44 000 to 77 000 **feral** [wild] cats in hopes their numbers will slowly diminish. If it's fully implemented, the program would cost \$30 000 a year.

The city will also consider starting mobile clinics in low-income communities so pet owners can more easily and cheaply sterilize their furry companions.

"Anything that we can do to educate people that owning a pet is a responsibility and licensing pets is a responsibility, and whatever we can do to make it easier and more convenient and affordable for people, (should be considered)," Sohi [a city councillor] said.

Excerpted with the express permission of the *Edmonton Journal*, a division of Postmedia Network Inc.



## Pets in the City

The Peterborough, Ontario article below is an **editorial**, an article that presents opinions on an issue. Why does the writer think that bylaws should be changed?

Should the same rules that dog owners have to follow apply to cat owners? Should cat owners have different rights? Why or why not?

The City of Edmonton has a cat bylaw. Licensed cats are free to walk on public property such as a City sidewalk and also in a cat-friendly neighbour's yard.

However, when a neighbour objects to a cat on his or her private property, a "roaming" offence occurs. The City allows trapping so that citizens can restrain cats that roam onto their property. Trapped animals are brought to the Animal Care & Control Centre.

## Do cats really need to roam?

**Peterborough This Week** June 24, 2011  
**JOEL WIEBE**

(PETERBOROUGH) Cats by their nature love to run, dig, climb and explore. It's easy to see why owners would want to let their feline friends do as they please since, really, cats only do what they please. Dogs like to do the same things. Well, except for the climbing part. But unlike cats, dogs are bound by leashes, fences and bylaws.

The issue of cats – be it the neighbourhood, stray or feral variety – is once again back at City Hall as the Peterborough Humane Society seeks bylaws restricting cats from roaming....

There's a number of reasons why I don't let [my cat] roam. There's a busy highway out front and a woods in the back with skunks, raccoons, feral cats and the odd coyote....

Not wanting him flattened or beaten up aren't my only reservations to letting him roam: I don't want to be "that neighbour." If left to wander, he'll end up in the neighbour's yard within about 20 minutes. It's not that they don't like him, but I have a great relationship with my neighbours and I wouldn't want my cat to be the "annoying" one in town. After all, being a good neighbour is essential to building good neighbourhoods.

It's too bad that feral and stray cats have become such a problem. [This issue is] really bigger than just City Hall and the humane society. The problems also highlight the need for pet owners to take responsibility and spay and neuter their pets....

It's time to bring in some bylaws and hold all pet owners responsible for their companions. Who knows, you might even find your neighbours are a bit friendlier. Now if only we could get that high volume spay and neuter clinic...

Excerpted with permission from Joel Wiebe, *Peterborough This Week* and MyKawartha.com.



## Pets in the City

The article on this page appeared on the City of Edmonton website a year after its new Animal Care & Control Centre opened. The City's Animal Care & Control Centre is a safe-keeping facility that provides temporary care and housing for stray or lost pets.

Every animal at the Centre is examined by a veterinarian or veterinarian's technician, and provided with medical care, food and clean and safe kennels.

If the pet's owner cannot be located, then the staff at the Centre must make decisions about what happens to it. Owners who license their pets are very easy to find. Owners who do not take responsibility for making sure their pet has a licence and identification give up their right to make decisions about what happens to their pet.

Pets without owners are assessed to determine if they are adoptable. Safe, social pets are sent to the Edmonton Humane Society and other animal rescue groups for adoption. If an animal is not safe for the community, then there may be no other choice but to **euthanize**, or painlessly and humanely put down, the animal.

What other information does this City of Edmonton web article provide about local government's role in caring for pets in the city?



### Hooray for strays: City's new Animal Care & Control Centre wins Summit award

December 14, 2011

The City's new Animal Care & Control Centre has received recognition from across the world for its animal housing and care.

One international organization presented an award for "Animal Sheltering" to City of Edmonton staff on October 21st, 2011 in Montebello, Quebec. This award recognizes the new Animal Care & Control Centre as a leader in housing animals among shelters, pounds, retail stores, kennels, grooming shops, veterinary clinics, animal hospitals and other animal facilities across Canada.

Award winners must offer physical care as well as human contact, outdoor play and exercise, and quiet,

comfortable accommodation that does not cause stress to animals during their stay.

#### Animal Care & Control Centre

The City of Edmonton's Animal Care & Control Centre staff reunites lost pets with owners, promotes responsible pet ownership through public education, and resolves nearly 16 000 animal bylaw complaints each year.

They work closely with other organizations and consult with the community to improve policies, bylaws and animal services provided by the City of Edmonton.







## Pets in the City

What do the *Edmonton Sun* and *Edmonton Journal* newspaper articles on this page and on page 111 illustrate about rights and responsibilities of pet owners?

Do you think all pet owners should have the same rights? Should they have rights without responsibilities? Why or why not?

What do you think the role of local government should be in these examples?

### Edmonton rabbit hoarders anger neighbours

Michelle Thompson, EDMONTON SUN  
MARCH 31, 2010

There's no city bylaw stopping hare-crazy Edmontonians from hoarding hundreds of rabbits. And some people are hopping mad about it.

"We need to make sure there's tougher laws in place," said Lori Herlidan, who runs Edmonton-based New Beginnings Rabbit Rescue. "We need to have a heavier hand with that."

Until being snapped up by animal control workers last month, 500 rabbits had been living rent free in [an Edmonton] home. Some living in air vents and cupboards, the cuddly beasts had been hopping around the 2 297-square-foot home at their own speed, chewing apart floorboards and electrical wires.

The rabbits were seized from the house – layered with feces and fur – following a provincial environmental health order March 15, demanding the property be vacated until it was improved to a "safe and habitable condition."

But neighbours are convinced a massive rabbit population will return... unless a bylaw is created to stop the bunny-fanatics from restoring their collection. "If they (the homeowners) are allowed to move back in, there's going to be problems," said one neighbour, requesting anonymity.

Under city bylaws, homeowners are allowed to have up to three dogs and six cats. But there's no limit to the amount of birds or bunnies living in Edmonton abodes.

Unless animals are in danger, the city's paws are tied when it comes to enforcing rabbit overloads, said Edmonton's animal control coordinator. "From a bylaw perspective, there's nothing we can do," Keith Scott said. "There are other agencies that deal with those things."

Some city councillors said they were willing to review the bylaws, but added they didn't suspect it would be necessary to put a rabbit limit on households. "I don't really know whether we require changes to the bylaw," said Coun. Amarjeet Sohi. "I think people should use common sense."

Excerpted with permission from *QMI Agency*.





## Pets in the City

# Truck owner charged after puppy found shivering in freezing vehicle

Jana G. Pruden *Edmonton Journal*  
November 28, 2012

A 10-week-old puppy named Charles is cuddly, playful and doing fine after being found in a freezing truck late on Monday night. Police were told the dog may have been in the vehicle for up to three days.

Edmonton police spokeswoman Patricia Thenu said the puppy was found after someone called police about an “abandoned dog” inside a truck parked in the lot of an apartment building.... Officers arrived to find the terrier puppy uninjured but obviously in distress, crying, howling and shivering inside the vehicle. There was no food or water in the vehicle, and the puppy was covered in feces.



Police initially tried to contact the vehicle’s owner, but when they couldn’t reach him, they called a tow truck so they could get the puppy out of the locked vehicle. The temperature in Edmonton around that time was about -10°C, slightly colder with the wind chill.

Thenu said the owner of the vehicle came out as police were freeing the dog. The 26-year-old was charged under the *Animal Protection Act*. The dog is currently in the custody of the City of Edmonton’s Animal Care & Control Centre while police continue their investigation.

Animal Care & Control Centre co-ordinator Keith Scott said the puppy has been found to be well-nourished and appeared to be otherwise in good shape. “He was relatively OK ... but obviously cold and full of feces and stuff all over,” he said.

Police officers cleaned up the puppy and named it Charles, before dropping it off with animal control officers. If Edmonton police decide the dog should not go back to its owner, then it will likely be put up for adoption, Scott said.

By Tuesday afternoon, Charles was cuddling animal control officers, playing with toys, and mugging for the cameras at a news conference.

Scott said animal control officers often get calls about animals being left outside in the heat or cold unsafely.

“It’s definitely something we don’t want to see,” he said. “The biggest thing is, it doesn’t matter if it’s hot out or cold out, people need to take care of these animals and provide the necessities. This is a short-haired young pup, and he’s really vulnerable, right? We just want people to be responsible.”

Excerpted with the express permission of the *Edmonton Journal*, a division of Postmedia Network Inc.



## Pets in the City

Many people think very carefully and do a lot of research before they decide how, when and where they will buy or adopt their pets. However, some people may not think carefully enough about what is involved in making a lifelong commitment to a pet.

What pet adoption issues are identified in the *Edmonton Journal* news article below?

What problems could be caused if people do not adopt pets responsibly?

How do you think these problems affect the services that local government must provide?

## Three kittens purring, two puppies playing...

**Santa Paws program puts pets under Christmas trees**

**By Sarolta Saskiw**  
EDMONTONJOURNAL.COM  
DECEMBER 20, 2011

The Edmonton Humane Society will now allow pets to be adopted as gifts during the holidays, and this year will deliver some animals on Christmas Day.

After research and discussion about why some pets are returned after adoption, the society found that pets adopted as gifts are rarely taken back to the shelter, said spokeswoman Shawna Randolph. “In most cases, there is just such a strong sentimental value and emotional bond to pets given as gifts.”

She said the society receives many requests each year – especially during the holidays – from people wanting to adopt animals as gifts. The

society found banning the practice led to missed opportunities and left many animals sitting in the shelter when they could have found good homes.

“Occasionally we have had family members try to adopt a pet for their frail grandparent who could not make the trip to our shelter. With our previous policy, we would not approve the adoption.”

Randolph said with the change of policy, the society has also decided to deliver up to 20 animals as gifts on Christmas Day, as part of its Santa Paws Adopted Animal Delivery Program....

People adopting pets as gifts still have to go through the standard process and accept responsibility for the animal. The society also encourages people to do research beforehand to make sure the animal is a good fit for the recipient’s lifestyle and personality, and that the person can afford to care for the pet after adoption.

Excerpted with the express permission of the *Edmonton Journal*, a division of Postmedia Network Inc.



## Green Spaces in the City

Green spaces, especially neighbourhood parks, are important to many people in the city. Green spaces include these groomed parks, but also trails, schoolyards, skating rinks, playgrounds, boulevards and skate parks!

Green spaces provide people with places to get together, play and relax. They are natural habitats for many different plant and animal species. And you may not know that green spaces not only provide oxygen, but can actually help cool the air through transpiration and evaporation on hot summer days. Green spaces protect the land by preventing soil erosion and reduce or soften noise levels in the city.

Green spaces can also encourage people to get involved with their neighbours and other city residents! Studies have found that people who live near **common**, or public, green spaces have more contact with their neighbours. Because of this increased contact, people are more interested in, and concerned about, supporting each other. They also pay more attention to how these places look and to problems like litter.

The City of Edmonton's parks are **public** green spaces. This means that everyone in the city can use them. These public green spaces are shared by community leagues, schools and school districts, sports organizations and even entertainment groups.

Many individual citizens also take responsibility for these spaces that everyone uses. They volunteer to pick up litter, make sure they share trails with others and pick up after their pets.



### Think Ahead to Make It Real

How green is your school?  
What about your neighbourhood?

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**What do you think are the most important benefits of green spaces in the city? Discuss these "think alouds" with your group:**

Green spaces benefit the most people when....

If there were no green spaces in the city....

If I could create a new green space,  
I would....



## Green Spaces in the City

Edmonton's green spaces include both public and private places. Edmonton is famous for its river valley and many parks. The city's green spaces also include trails, schoolyards, sports fields, skating rinks and playgrounds. People who live in Edmonton also take pride in their personal green spaces, including yards and gardens.

How many different types of green spaces can be found in the city?

Why do you think all of these different types of green spaces are important?

What responsibilities do you think a local government should have to provide and maintain these spaces?

Edmonton has over 460 parks, more than any other city in Canada. The 48-kilometre long stretch of the North Saskatchewan River Valley has 22 major parks. No wonder it's become known as the "Ribbon of Green." It is also the largest expanse of urban parkland in North America.

City  
of Edmonton  
Parks are listed at  
[www.edmonton.ca/  
attractions\\_recreation/parks\\_  
rivervalley/alphabetical-park-  
listing.aspx](http://www.edmonton.ca/attractions_recreation/parks_rivervalley/alphabetical-park-listing.aspx).

Find your neighbourhood parks by using the Neighbourhood Maps web tool on the City of Edmonton website at [www.edmonton.ca/for\\_residents/  
neighbourhoods/neighbourhood-maps.  
aspx](http://www.edmonton.ca/for_residents/neighbourhoods/neighbourhood-maps.aspx). You can mark your current location or home address with a red pin and search for parks or other City amenities within a 0.5 km to 10 km range.

### What do the City of Edmonton bylaws say about parks in the city?

The *Parkland Bylaw* sets guidelines for the conduct and activities of park users. It encourages safe use of park property and promotes an enjoyable atmosphere for everyone wishing to use Edmonton's parks system.

"Parkland" means any property, whether developed or not, that is owned, controlled or maintained by the City of Edmonton for recreational use. This includes groomed parks or natural areas, trails, school grounds, skating rinks, playgrounds, sports fields and facilities like swimming pools and arenas, and attractions like the Valley Zoo.





## Green Spaces in the City

What does “shared use” mean to you?

What does the information on shared use trails on this page and page 116 tell you about the responsibilities of individuals?

How do the letters to the editor on page 117 support this information?

Edmonton has more than 160 kilometres of shared use trails. These trails include paths and tracks that are used by pedestrians or vehicles other than cars or trucks. They also include public **rights of way** – strips of land that may be on or between private property but can be used by anyone to get from one area to another.

The City of Edmonton’s *Parkland Bylaw* defines two types of trails:

- **Improved trails** have a width of at least 1.5 meters and an improved surface such as pavement, granular material or mulch, or a maintained grass surface.
- **Unimproved trails** have a surface width of at least 0.5 meters (the width of a typical mountain bike’s handlebars) and have a natural surface.

City of Edmonton staff or Park Rangers sometimes have to close certain trails or natural areas to all activities when there is a safety concern, or a need to repair or protect damaged areas.







## Green Spaces in the City



### Share Our Trails

Most of the trails within the River Valley are shared use – you can expect cyclists, runners, dog walkers and other recreational users. If we all follow the law and show common courtesy, the trails will be a happier place for everyone. Some universal points of trail etiquette include:

1. **Respect other trail users** - Treat all trail users with courtesy and respect regardless of their activity, speed or skill level.
2. **Be aware** - Look behind and in front before changing trail positions. Warn those in front that you are approaching. If you want to move left or pass someone, check what's going on behind you. If you travel with ear buds, turn the volume down or wear only one so you can hear what's going on around you.
3. **Keep trails open** - If you're in a group on the trail, ensure you leave room on the trail for others to pass you. Stay right and pass on the left. Always look before changing your position on the trail.
4. **Slow down for safety** - Downhill traffic yields to uphill traffic. Travel at a safe and controlled speed. Be especially careful when visibility is limited. All users yield to horseback riders.
5. **Obey rules and laws** - The City's Parkland bylaw applies to trails. It has many rules to protect trail users, such as rules about when dogs must be on a leash. It also restricts the hours you are allowed on trails.
6. **Use open trails only** - If the trail is closed, please stay off it. Respect all posted signs and barriers.
7. **Leave no trace** - Practise low impact trail use. Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable to damage. When the trail is soft, Please consider other options. Carry out all litter, including your pet's waste.
8. **Dogs** - Dogs are a potential fright for a lot of people. Dogs must be kept on a leash (unless in a sanctioned off leash area) and under control at all times.
9. **Plan ahead** - Know your equipment, your ability and the area you are traveling in, and plan accordingly. Be self-sufficient at all times. This advice will keep you safe.

Did you know that there are a number of animal paths and tracks in the city's green spaces?

Paths or tracks that have a width of less than 0.5 meters are not trails. These narrow "animal paths" that criss-cross Edmonton's River Valley are not considered trails, but are deemed to be part of natural areas.

Individuals may travel in natural areas only when they remain on improved or unimproved trails with a width of 0.5 meters or more. This rule will ensure that animal tracks/trails are not affected by human interaction.



## Green Spaces in the City

### *Responsibility on shared use trails*

*Letter to the editor August 16 2012*

*I am a cyclist and I use my bike to commute to my job. I'm also a trail runner. I have used Edmonton's shared use trails on a daily basis for the last 12 years. In all the years I've used these trails, I've been involved in two accidents on them. In one accident, another cyclist and I clipped each other because neither of us were watching carefully enough. In the other accident, an off-leash dog suddenly cut me off. I almost hit another cyclist*

*I've also had close calls with walkers who do not pay attention and wander all over the trail.*

*Although I'd love it if Edmonton had dedicated roads and trails for cyclists, the fact is that our parks and green spaces are filled with shared use trails. As cyclists, runners and walkers, we all have a responsibility to follow the rules and show respect to each other on these trails. Common sense rules should be followed by everyone.*

*The first rule to remember is to stay on the right, unless passing. This rule works on the roads, and it should work on shared use trails too. The second rule is to warn others when coming from behind and passing. The third rule is to keep dogs on-leash so they don't endanger themselves or people on the trails.*

*Karen, Edmonton*

### *Near misses on shared use trails*

*Letter to the editor September 4, 2012*

*I live near the river valley and take advantage of its gorgeous trails every chance I can. On my weekend walks, I come across many cyclists who think they should have the right of way. A shared use trail means just that. Cyclists need to understand that they have to share these public trails with everyone, whether walkers or riders. This means slowing down to avoid a terrible accident.*

*I intend to walk on the left side of these trails, so I can at least see cyclists coming.*

*Chris, Edmonton*





## Green Spaces in the City

Do you consider playgrounds and schoolyards to be part of Edmonton's green spaces? The City of Edmonton shares responsibility for these spaces with the Edmonton Public and Catholic School Boards. The following photos and newspaper articles share information about ways that people can look after and improve these green spaces.

Why do you think places like schoolyards, playgrounds, skating rinks and sports fields are considered parkland? Who do you think should be responsible for these places in the city? Why?

How did the students described in the newspaper articles in the bubble below and on page 119 take responsibility for shared spaces?

### Hillview kids 'STOMP' out schoolyard litter

*Chris Gardner April 19, 2012*

The kids from Hillview School in Mill Woods gave up their recess time to launch a clean sweep of the local environment. Around 60 students also took part in a rousing performance of "STOMP" in celebration of the Capital City Clean Up program.... "Our planet always needs someone to take care of it and if nobody is there who will be?" said [a grade 6 student.] "So, we want to be there."

Excerpted with permission from  
CTV Edmonton.



TreeCanada has a program called Greening Canada's School Grounds. Find out about it on the [www.treecanada.ca](http://www.treecanada.ca) website. Read the brochure on the program.

What is one idea you can get from this program to make your schoolyard a better place?



## Green Spaces in the City

# Students receive award for campaign to ban smoking in city parks

By Caley Ramsay

Global News January 26, 2012

Students at the Afton School of the Arts are receiving awards for their campaign to ban smoking in city parks and playgrounds. The Edmonton Tobacco Reduction Network presented former grade five and six students with Blue Ribbon Awards Thursday morning.

Last spring, students developed a campaign to lobby city officials for smoke free parks and playgrounds. They put together a presentation and proposed it to city hall. In September, City Council voted in favour of drafting a bylaw to ban smoking in child-friendly areas....

Jeffrey Swanson was in grade six when they put together their proposal. He says it was a presentation on the dangers of smoking and second hand smoke that inspired them to put together their presentation.

"We did a lot of planning, we wrote letters, we went door to door to [get] postcards signed and then we made our powerpoint, we went to city hall and we spoke about why we were fighting for this." He says speaking in front of City Council was nerve racking, but is proud of the work they have done. "Normally you wouldn't think that kids have power, but this was pretty empowering," adds Swanson.

The students' teacher, Ms. Lakusta, led them in their campaign and says it fit into their health curriculum and was a good way for students to learn about getting involved in their community. "(Kids) can make a difference." [She added,] "They are doing things that most adults have not done so they are not only a role model for kids, but they are a role model for adults on what they can do when they get involved."

Excerpted with permission from Global News Edmonton, a division of Shaw Media Inc.



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## Green Spaces in the City

Edmonton's river valley, ravines and parks are home to porcupines, deer, rabbits and coyotes. Ponds and the river provide nesting places for ducks, geese and other birds.

How does the urban wildlife described in the City of Edmonton web article below and in the newspaper article on page 121 affect residents of the city?

Should the city's environment and wildlife just be the responsibility of local government or individuals? Why do you think this?



### Small Animals

You may legally trap pest animals such as skunks, porcupines, squirrels, ground squirrels, magpies and crows on your own property.

Humane traps for porcupines, skunks and squirrels are available from the City to the public, from the Animal Care & Control Centre. Animal Care & Control Officers will pick up any trapped animal.

### Large Animals

Large animals such as moose, deer, coyotes, and even the occasional bear or cougar in the city are the responsibility of Alberta Fish and Wildlife Officers.

### Geese

#### Help Keep Wildlife Wild – Don't Feed the Geese!

Edmontonians take great pride in their parks and natural areas, many of which provide opportunities for encounters with wild animals and birds. To help preserve the health of our wildlife and prevent the overpopulation of certain species in our parks, the City is reminding residents to refrain from feeding wild animals and birds, particularly geese.



The geese population has mushroomed recently, except in Hawrelak and Hermitage parks. Community Services aims to stabilize the number of nesting pairs through its goose management plan. The geese can be aggressive, especially towards small children. Keep your distance.





## Green Spaces in the City

# Coyotes thriving in Edmonton parks

By Catherine Griwkowsky

EDMONTON SUN

February 25, 2012

Coyote sightings are on the rise in Edmonton and warmer weather coupled with **urban sprawl** [the growth of city areas] are to blame. Dog lovers, who take their pooches to an off leash park, may have noticed signs in parks throughout the city asking owners to put their pet on a leash.

With a lack of snow, coyotes have plenty to feast on and their babies fair better. "There's more opportunities for coyotes to eat their prey – bunnies, rabbits," said Edmonton Park Ranger Ramsey Cox. He said the signs are rotated in city parks based on where the complaints come in....

Maureen Murray, PhD student at the University of Alberta, said the rise in urban coyote sightings is due to a variety of factors. Murray said more coyotes could be spotted because the population may be growing. Coyotes could also be becoming more **habituated** [or used to living] in the city. Murray also said more people in cities could mean more food for coyotes in the form of garbage, pets, bird seed and even compost.

[Wild or feral cats] make up approximately 10% of an Edmonton coyote's diet, the bulk being rodents at 40 percent and rabbits in 30 percent of sample. Garbage makes up about 10 percent of their food intake, based on approximately 375 samples.



Due to urban sprawl, coyotes have an easier time getting around in residential neighbourhoods, Murray explained... She said it's rare for a coyote not to be wary of people.

Excerpted with permission from *QMI Agency*.

The City of Edmonton's Park Rangers make sure that the river valley is safe and enjoyable. They work to maintain a healthy co-existence between the valley's plants and wildlife and the people who visit it.

The urban park rangers are knowledgeable in the areas of resource management, wildlife, forestry, outdoor recreation and law enforcement.



## Green Spaces in the City

When you imagine living in the city, what do you picture in your mind? Tall buildings or streets, neighbourhoods, houses and apartment buildings? You may not think about forests when you think about cities, but urban forests are part of Edmonton.

The City of Edmonton maintains about 309 000 ornamental street trees. The City of Edmonton also has acres of natural tree stands. These trees stabilize the riverbanks, help manage storm water runoff and filter carbon dioxide from the air. Natural tree stands provide habitat and food for a range of wildlife that lives in Edmonton.

The City does not groom natural tree stands. They are left to behave as nature intended as much as possible. Dead or dying trees provide perches for birds and, once they fall, provide nutrients for the soil. The City will top or remove dead trees that are a potential hazard to people or property.

Why do you think the City takes responsibility for ornamental trees?

Why do you think it does not groom natural tree stands?

How are all these trees part of Edmonton's urban forest?

### Canada's Urban Forests

While Canada may indeed be a "Forest Nation," it is difficult to describe Canadians as a "Forest People." About 80 percent of Canada's population now lives in cities and towns. Therefore, Canadians could be better described as an "Urban Forest People."

Urban forests, now recognized as the "lungs of cities," go far beyond making our communities places of beauty and adding value to our homes and downtowns. They are crucial to our physical and mental health.

Urban forests:

- Reduce the "heat island effect" of hard surfaces in the city
- Help fight air pollution
- Reduce energy demand in buildings and houses by 15 to 25 percent
- Regulate the **hydrology** (the movement, location and quality of water) of our cities and minimize floods and droughts
- Provide areas to enjoy.

Canada's urban forests are of tremendous importance to the health and stability of families and communities.

Adapted from *Urban Forests*: TreeCanada website: [www.treecanada.ca/en/resources/urban-forests/](http://www.treecanada.ca/en/resources/urban-forests/).



## Green Spaces in the City

The news article below and the web article and community newsletter on page 124 describe some ways the City supports its green spaces.

What environmental features do you think local government should take responsibility for? What do you think individual citizens should be responsible for?

# Aging Whyte Avenue trees can't be saved

**MATT DYKSTRA**  
EDMONTON SUN  
*November 19, 2012*

More than two dozen of Whyte Avenue's historic elm trees will be cut down this week as the city prepares to replace the dying deciduous trees. Thirty-one aging elms planted on the meridian of Whyte Avenue from 96 Street to 99 Street are ... fighting a losing battle against traffic pollution and tree pests.

"The trees are dying and in order to protect the rest of the urban forest, we've decided to remove these trees," said Jeanette Wheeler, principal of forestry for the City of Edmonton.

Aside from the perceived danger of the dying trees' limbs snapping off and falling into traffic, the city also has to worry about the health of the [trees], said Wheeler. Their main concern is some trees have been infested by elm bark beetles and red elm weevils, which are tree pests [that can carry] Dutch elm disease from tree to tree.

With the aid of specialized urban foresters, the city's two-person Tree Health Assessment Team has been trying to save the trees for years by giving them extra fertilizer, water and a special kind of compost,

said Wheeler. "They were monitoring their rate of growth and it was very in-depth," she explained. "We came to the sad conclusion that we would have to remove 31 of these trees and there may be more."

The trees were originally planted in the 1940s and most of them have been a staple in the area for over 70 years, beautifying the corridor between Bonnie Doon and Old Strathcona.



Excerpted with permission from QMI Agency.





## Green Spaces in the City



Edmonton is a leading example of community gardens. There are over 30 community garden groups in Edmonton; and over 60 different garden sites.



Oliver currently has one community garden named Peace Garden Park located at 10259-120 Street. It provides an opportunity for residents to enjoy the health, social, economic and environmental benefits of local, organic gardening. No chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, etc. are used at the community garden.

The name Peace Garden Park was chosen because 103 Avenue was formerly known as Peace Avenue. 'Garden Park' reflects the dual purpose of this space as both a community garden (maintained by the garden members on behalf of Oliver Community League) and public park space (maintained by the City of Edmonton Parks department).

Physical change takes place within the community landscape. Unsightly abandoned lots are turned into safe and vibrant community gathering places. Monotonous lawns are filled with edible and decorative plant species which increase biodiversity. Neighbourhoods are greener, and have better weed and litter control.

Courtesy of Oliver Community League.

Yes, you can plant on City property! However, approval is necessary to ensure that trees planted on City property are a suitable species, placed in proper locations, and sufficiently spaced apart to minimize future maintenance. Approval is also required to ensure the planting location is free of underground and overhead utilities and is not in an area designated for future municipal development.

The City would like to express our gratitude to residents who water and preserve Edmonton's trees. City residents are encouraged to contribute to the health, vitality and survival of boulevard trees by supplementing the City's watering program. Details on how to water effectively are available on the City's website or you can call 311 for information.





## Green Spaces in the City

The river valley and North Saskatchewan River are a central part of the city. The local government works with individuals as well as businesses to keep the river valley clean and safe. The web article below and article on page 126 from the City of Edmonton describe how Capital City Clean Up programs work to remove litter and debris from the shoreline and river. Waste in the river has a damaging effect on wildlife, drinking water and recreation.

What rights do you think residents of the city have when using the natural resources that are part of the river valley? Why do you think this?

Do you think litter cleanup should be part of the responsibilities citizens have for green spaces in the city? Why or why not?

### *About River Valley Clean Up*

For the past 24 years, thousands of city residents have volunteered their time each spring to clean up our river valley park system. After all, a clean and safe Edmonton is a shared responsibility.

In 2011, 122 groups, consisting of 3 006 volunteers, scoured the parks system as well as the shoreline of the North Saskatchewan River, picking up litter.

### *North Saskatchewan River Clean Up*

Litter in the North Saskatchewan isn't just an eyesore; it threatens our drinking water, harms wildlife and interferes with river recreation.

To address this problem, Capital City Clean Up operates the North Saskatchewan River Clean Up program. The program began as a pilot in 2007 to collect materials. Patrol crews follow federal guidelines to ensure fish and habitats are protected.

The North Saskatchewan River Clean Up became an annual program in 2008. Using shoreline collection and a jet boat, trained City of Edmonton crews safely remove floating debris in the river, around bridges and close to shore....

Capital City Clean Up also works with various recreational groups that frequent the river under the "Eyes of the River" initiative. These groups assist the City by reporting any debris or material found floating in the river.







## Green Spaces in the City

Find out more about the river valley on the Edmonton River Valley website at [www.edmontonrivervalley.com](http://www.edmontonrivervalley.com).



### 'You name it, we find it'

Garbage in and along the river is ugly and could pose environmental problems for Edmonton and communities downstream that tap the North Saskatchewan for drinking water, Moore says.

He's one of the two men clinging to the slope, slinging debris to the shore below. It's no easy job; the bank is steep and footholds are tough to find on the soft sand and tangled brush.

"It's going to take a while," Moore yells down.... The other man on the bank is city worker Darrell Reid. "You name it, we find it," he says.... There's a pink flamingo, the plastic shells and electronic innards of two or three TVs, a toaster oven, an 18-speed mountain bike, dozens of golf balls and the range buckets that once carried them, and perhaps a club that once smacked them, now snapped.

A plastic Santa Claus lawn ornament tumbles down too. Somebody has hurled a stress-relieving yellow happy-face squeeze ball halfway down the bank. They find enough to fill six garbage bags.

This is where the boat proves its worth. "You could get to it from the top but it's easier to haul stuff down than haul it up," Stevens says.... The water gives up its own treasures. Papp is the boat's spotter and her sharp eyes find a blue child's bicycle submerged under the boat.

Nearby, the three men strain to fish out a Safeway shopping cart bound to the bottom by weeds.

"There's another four hours of work up there," Moore says. But there's not much more room in the boat and the crew shoves off. "Well, it looks better for us having been up there," Moore adds.



## Views in the City

A city has its own **landscape** – the visible features of an area of land. The streets and freeways are like the rivers of a natural environment. The skyline is made up of homes and neighbourhoods, towers, buildings and bridges.

The views of the city that are all around you are shared by everyone who lives in or visits the city.

How important do you think it is to protect places and views in the city and its neighbourhoods? Some cities have proven that clean neighbourhoods – those without trash, litter and graffiti – make citizens feel safer and better about where they live and work.

One of the goals of Edmonton's local government is to make the city a safe, clean and attractive place in which to live. People who live in Edmonton may have different ideas about what makes the city attractive, but most agree that its parks, river valley, boulevards and clean neighbourhoods are important for everyone.

Clean neighbourhoods help people have a sense of ownership and pride, encourage businesses to bring in new jobs and keep the cost of running the city down. Crime is less likely to occur in a neighbourhood that is clean and well lit.

### Think Ahead to Make It Real

What's the view from your neighbourhood? Are there any places that you think would benefit from a "Capital City Clean Up?" What type of cleanup could help your neighbourhood?

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### What do you think most affects your "views" of your neighbourhood and the city? Discuss these "think alouds" with your group:

People have different "views" about what makes the city a good place to live because...

When I see graffiti vandalism, I feel....

If I see litter, I want to....



## Views in the City

If you close your eyes and imagine Edmonton, what do you see? Some people may see the river valley and parks. Others may see the downtown skyscrapers and buildings. Some may see green, leafy boulevards in the summer months or white, snow-covered yards surrounding houses and apartment buildings. What people see when they look around them can affect their sense of pride and belonging to their city.

What do you see in these views of Edmonton streetscapes? Are these public or private spaces in the city?

What responsibilities do you think citizens have in each of these types of spaces? How important do you think it is to protect the appearance of these types of places in the city?





## Views in the City

Do you think the location of fences, parks, street lights, signs, parking lots and even doors and windows on buildings can make a difference to citizen's safety and quality of life? A program called "**Crime Prevention through Environmental Design**" helps people plan where and how buildings, fences, lighting and green areas are built.

Many cities use this program to plan how city areas will look and make it more difficult for crime to occur.

- Neighbourhoods, individual homes and shared spaces like parks and public buildings are designed so that people can use them safely.
- Entrances to places like public buildings and parking are kept well lit.
- Dark or shadowed spaces are avoided. Buildings, sidewalks and streets are kept clean and graffiti-free.
- Trees and shrubs are used to set boundaries so people know what is public and what is private.
- People are encouraged to use and enjoy community or shared spaces.

Who do you think is most responsible for safety in city neighbourhoods? On private property? Why?

Why do you think the strategies described in the web article and news article on page 130 would help to discourage crimes like graffiti?

If you could draw or sketch one of these strategies, what would it look like? Draw or sketch your ideas in the bubble.





## Views in the City



### Designing the City Environment

Environmental design is an idea that is used to help plan the way neighbourhoods are built and maintained. Environmental design considers how natural features like the land, weather and trees can all be used together to make homes and businesses safer and more efficient.

Edmonton's Crime Prevention through Environmental Design uses three main strategies to evaluate the safety of neighbourhoods:

1. **Designation.** This strategy looks at how the space is intended to be used. Is it meant as a private space that only certain people can use? Or is it a public space that everyone has access to?
2. **Definition.** This strategy looks at the borders and boundaries between private and public spaces. Fences are used to mark borders. Shrubs, rocks or isolated corners are avoided so that they do not become hiding areas. Trees are selected so that people can see around them. Lighting is used to increase visibility. Signs are used to direct people and traffic to safe and visible places.
3. **Design.** This strategy asks if the design and "look" of the place is appropriate for its use, or function. If it is a public space, it is planned to encourage lots of activity and open spaces. Streets are planned to be "pedestrian friendly." Lighting, murals and plants are used to discourage graffiti vandalism. If it is a private place, it is planned so that entrances and exits are clearly marked and easy to use. It is clear that the place is privately owned and not for everyone's use.

## City unveils new Whyte Avenue washrooms

*CBC News June 28, 2012*

A new public washroom opens Friday morning in Edmonton's Old Strathcona area. The [washroom], which will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, is on the northeast corner of Whyte Avenue and Gateway Boulevard....

The building has glass walls, a choice that was made to enhance safety. "The glass walls are designed to allow you to be able to see into the building prior to moving into it," architect Anneliese Fris said.

"So that you understand before you open the doors that you have a vision of what's in there, the people that are in there and it makes a person feel more comfortable about entering a building."

...The city says the facility was designed using "crime prevention through environmental design principles." It was deliberately located adjacent to a high-vehicle and pedestrian-traffic area with full glass walls.

Excerpted with permission from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.





## Views in the City

Graffiti is an important issue for many cities around the world, and affects citizens, organizations and businesses in those cities. **Graffiti vandalism** includes any words, notes, symbols, slogans or drawings placed on a wall or other public or private surface that does not follow the “community standards” set by the City.

Graffiti is considered vandalism if it is placed on public or private property without the owner’s permission. However, even if graffiti is placed on a property with permission, it can still be considered graffiti vandalism. For example, if the graffiti is hateful or vulgar, it does not meet community standards and must be removed.

Graffiti-style art can also be considered vandalism. However, some cities provide public places where graffiti-style art can be used to create murals and legal street art. Graffiti-style art has visual appeal and can include full colour images or words and slogans that might communicate ideas or values important to a community.

Look at the six photographs on page 132. Which would you identify as vandalism? Which would you identify as art? Why? Use the chart below to explain how you would identify each one.

Edmonton currently has one designated “open source street art wall” or legal graffiti site. Think about the different “messages” that a legal graffiti site can send to people in the city. Do you think cities should, or should not, allow legal graffiti sites?

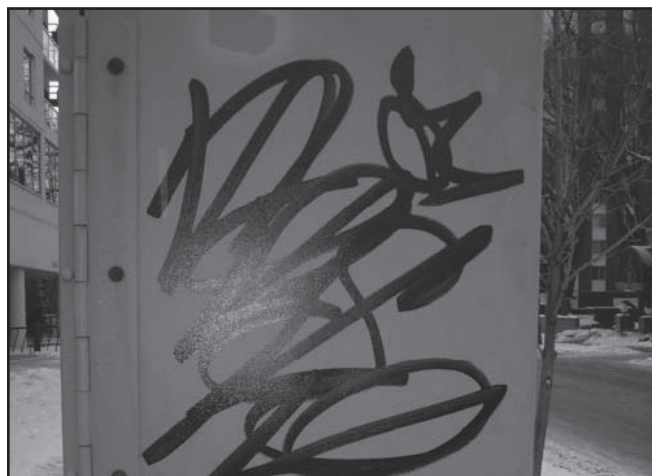


Vandalism

Art



## Views in the City







## Views in the City

What is the effect of graffiti vandalism on people and businesses in city neighbourhoods? What about on individuals?

Do people have the right to share their art anywhere they want? Why or why not?

What differing points of view do people have about graffiti vandalism and art in the two newspaper articles on this page and on page 134?

Why do you think people disagree on the difference between graffiti vandalism and art? What do you think?

## Graffiti charges spark debate over what constitutes art

### A clear definition of urban art is needed, gallery owner says

BY GEMMA KARSTENS-SMITH *Edmonton Journal* August 18, 2012

Charges against an Edmonton man in connection with graffiti on Whyte Avenue have sparked a debate over the definition of art....Police executed a search warrant at Naess Gallery in the Paint Spot art supply store in June and used materials seized there to lay 35 charges of mischief against the man showcasing his work.

The examples obtained from the [store] match that of which is painted illegally on personal, private and business property," Const. Ryan Katchur, who specializes in graffiti investigations, said on Thursday. Complaints about the spray painted images created with cardboard stencils were made between June 2009 and July 2012....

Kim Fjordbotten, owner of the Paint Spot, called the police response harsh and disproportionate. "We are maintaining that his work is urban, found art, and not graffiti. I don't believe this gentleman should be facing charges." There needs to be an understanding between law enforcement, the public and the artistic community on the definition of art, Fjordbotten said. "Everybody agrees that tagging is bad, but there's no [strategy] to protect the good stuff."

A 2011 Capital City Cleanup audit showed that 91 percent of graffiti around the city is simple, textual tags, while less than five percent is artistic in nature. Police are tough on graffiti because it's such a visual crime, Katchur said. "Crime begets more crime. Chaos begets more chaos. So when graffiti is prevalent and people can observe it, that shows this area may be safe to commit more crime."

Charging people who create graffiti with mischief is "just one more step in making sure our city is clean and beautiful for everyone to enjoy," said Sharon Chapman, graffiti project manager with Capital City Cleanup. "Our focus is not on getting rid of art in the community. Our focus is on getting rid of vandalism in the community."





## Views in the City

# City winning graffiti battle

By Journal Staff Writer,  
edmontonjournal.com March 20, 2012

EDMONTON - Capital City Clean Up's second graffiti vandalism audit shows a large decrease in the amount of graffiti in the city. The results were displayed Tuesday at the City Arts Centre.

The 2011 audit recorded 1 133 incidents in the top 20 neighbourhoods affected by graffiti vandalism. The audit also shows that 18 out of the 20 neighbourhoods surveyed show a decrease in the amount of graffiti. The communities of Belvedere and CPR West, which did not show a decrease, only had minimal gains.

"That is art, graffiti is not," said Coun. Amarjeet Sohi, while pointing at the art work displayed at the back of the room at the centre.

And while there is graffiti around, most was "less than two square feet in size and consisted of only text-only graffiti," said Sharon Chapman, the graffiti project manager.

The neighbourhood that saw the largest decrease in the amount of graffiti since the end of the first audit was Garneau, which saw a drop of 77 percent. Downtown and Strathcona, the most vandalized neighbourhoods in 2010, saw a decrease [of] 37 percent, and 48 percent, respectively.

"As a long-time business owner, I know all about the long struggle with graffiti vandalism," said Corrine Lillo, the Garneau representative of the Old Strathcona Area Community Council.

"The commitment of residents and business owners in this neighbourhood to combat the problem has resulted in a noticeable difference, I have seen a huge change."

Excerpted with the express permission of the *Edmonton Journal*, a division of Postmedia Network Inc.



This mural was created to show some of the many contributions that Edmonton volunteers make everyday. Learn how murals can help prevent graffiti vandalism in this video on the City of Edmonton's website at [www.edmonton.ca/environmental/capital\\_city\\_cleanup/murals-as-deterrent-to-graffiti.aspx](http://www.edmonton.ca/environmental/capital_city_cleanup/murals-as-deterrent-to-graffiti.aspx). Other murals can be viewed at [http://www.edmonton.ca/environmental/capital\\_city\\_cleanup/giants-of-edmonton.aspx](http://www.edmonton.ca/environmental/capital_city_cleanup/giants-of-edmonton.aspx).



## Views in the City

The news articles and web article below and on page 136 describe how two municipalities deal with graffiti vandalism.

Do you agree with the City of Edmonton's policy that property owners are responsible for cleaning up graffiti? Why or why not?

## Community helps police tag graffiti artists

EDMONTON JOURNAL November 6, 2008

**EDMONTON - It was after midnight when Graham Yeske spotted a graffiti tagger applying his name to the brick wall of the Old Strathcona Farmer's Market in blue spray paint.**

Yeske, a Community Police Radio Network volunteer, radioed police and other CPRN volunteers, who kept an eye on the tagger as he moved down the street. By the time Constable Steve Young located the suspect half a block away, he had applied four more of his trademark tags.

Despite his protests of innocence, the tagger was unable to explain away the evidence on his hands or the paint spray cans in his bag, which matched the fresh paint of the tags. The 20-year-old was charged with multiple counts of mischief under \$5 000.

**“The difference between art and a criminal act is really the location. If it is not authorized, you could put the Mona Lisa on the wall and it is still a criminal act.”**

...Civilian volunteers helped police retrieve the evidence they need to charge taggers and other petty criminals. Edmonton's Community Standards Bylaw, which forces people to clean their

property if it has been tagged, has also helped reduce the amount of graffiti defacing properties around Old Strathcona and other areas of the city. The tag on the farmers market was cleaned off within 48 hours.

Cleaning up the graffiti as quickly as possible reduces the reward taggers get from their work, and they are less likely to return for a repeat performance, Constable Young said.

Sharon Chapman, graffiti program manager with Capital City Clean Up, said having the CPRN working with police along with property owners who willingly comply with the bylaw is a great example of community efforts to combat graffiti.

“We really need the citizens of Edmonton to understand that graffiti removal is a shared responsibility. We can't clean the graffiti and we can't catch the taggers unless we know what is going on in the community, so we need all citizens to follow our program mantra, which is record, report, remove,” she said.

Excerpted with the express permission of the *Edmonton Journal*, a division of Postmedia Network Inc.



## Views in the City

### What do City of Edmonton bylaws say about graffiti vandalism?

Graffiti vandalism is regulated by the *Community Standards Bylaw*. Graffiti vandalism includes any words, notes, symbols, slogans or drawings placed on a wall or other public or private surface that does not follow the “community standards” set by the City.

Many municipal governments believe that the idea of rapid removal, or the cleanup of graffiti vandalism quickly – usually within 24 to 48 hours – is the most effective way to discourage graffiti. It also keeps neighbourhoods clean!

If graffiti vandalism is not removed, it can lead to more acts of graffiti vandalism and create an environment in which crime can thrive. It also sends the wrong message that it’s okay to put graffiti vandalism on your property.

Graffiti vandalism is a criminal offence when placed on public or private property without the owner’s consent.

Private property owners are required to remove graffiti vandalism from their property within a reasonable amount of time.

### Langford sues over ‘graffiti wave’

*Times Colonist (Victoria) September 7, 2008*

A Langford man and his parents are being sued by the city over a spree of graffiti, in what may be the first time in Canada a municipality has sued to recover graffiti damages.

The City of Langford, along with Cedric Steele Realty Ltd. and Pacific Coast Flooring Inc., are suing the man, his mother and father over what the suit calls a “graffiti wave.”

The statement of claim, filed last week in Victoria in the B.C. Supreme Court, claims the man drew graffiti throughout the municipality from Sept. 1, 2006, to March 1, 2008, with damage costs to the plaintiffs exceeding \$25 000.

But the mother of the Langford man said in a telephone interview her son was convicted of nine counts of vandalism over his graffiti in April. She said he was fined \$350, which he paid with money earned washing dishes, and ordered to perform 40 hours of community service work, which he completed.

Excerpted with permission from the *Times Colonist*, Victoria B.C.





## Views in the City

The City of Edmonton's Graffiti Management Programs are part of Capital City Clean Up. This local government program builds partnerships with property owners, businesses, community organizations and individuals to work to reduce graffiti vandalism.

Should it be everyone's responsibility to deal with graffiti? What ideas does this news article give you about the ways that individuals and groups of people can take responsibility for their communities?

### McCauley teens wipe out graffiti

By Joelle Tomek, EXAMINER STAFF  
June 10, 2009

A piece of Edmonton's inner city has a new look thanks to 14 buckets of paint and two McCauley junior high classes.

On Tuesday, students painted over graffiti at about 10 sites in Little Italy and Chinatown.

"The best part was knowing that I was helping out my community," says Grade 9 student Ty Friesen.

Classmate Moe Mohammad says graffiti removal shows the rest of the city "the McCauley community is better than this."

Mayor Stephen Mandel spoke to the Grades 8 and 9 students the day before the graffiti removal project, suggesting the city create a space for legal graffiti art in the inner city, while working with the community to curb vandalism. Grade 9 student Jamie Moore likes the idea.

"People (could) actually show off their artwork instead of getting it painted over."

The graffiti removal project is part of a school program led by the Hope Foundation of Alberta, a University of Alberta research centre committed to the study and enhancement of hope. The foundation works with students on hope-related projects throughout Edmonton's inner city.



Excerpted with permission from QMI Agency.





## Views in the City

The Capital City Clean Up program is based on the idea that government and individuals share responsibility for keeping the city clean, safe and free of litter and graffiti. The City supports actions that citizens take to reduce litter and graffiti vandalism, such as the provision of grants for community murals and free graffiti vandalism cleanup kits.

Do you think that there are better alternatives to graffiti vandalism? Consider the following questions:

- Are there places in your neighbourhood or in the city that you think could be used, with permission, by graffiti artists?
- What types of rules would the graffiti artists have to follow?
- Would their art still be considered graffiti?

What alternatives for action can you identify from the news article below and the web article and City of Edmonton mural on page 139?

### Canada Post mailbox aims to curb graffiti

Lea Storry CALGARY HERALD August 11, 2010

Canada Post mailboxes have gotten a makeover and the new look may be coming to a Calgary street near you.

The national mail carrier is replacing all of the red letter drops with boxes patterned with Canadian postal codes. The change has already been made in Vancouver and Toronto — and it's not all about curb appeal.



"The design is busier and this helps to discourage graffiti," said Teresa Williams, Canada Post spokeswoman. "Most graffiti artists like a plain and featureless surface to do their work."

Constable Dave Ladic of the Calgary Police Service graffiti vandalism unit said he's heard the colourful boxes have worked in reducing street art in Saanich, B.C. He added the new letter drops will hopefully make an impact in Calgary.

"Graffiti culture is all about getting up — they are going to tag (their names) as much as they can in public. It's all about ego and this takes away their clean slate."

Ladic said graffiti causes damage to someone else's property and is therefore vandalism. Plus, there's a social cost to it. "The perceptions when people see graffiti in a community is that place is unsafe and gangs are moving in and the community is not cared for," he said.

Along with the updated pattern, a special type of coating is helping with graffiti removal. The Crown corporation spokeswoman said it's a Teflon-like finish and makes washing paint off easier.

Excerpted with permission from QMI Agency.



## Views in the City

### Reach for the Stars

#### *The Work*

Kelowna's largest mural is approximately 50m wide and 8m high, covering the entire back wall of a building facing the schoolyard at Springvalley Middle School.

The mural is based on ideas from Springvalley students and brought to life by urban artist Scott Tobin with assistance from the students in the school's CHOICES program. The mural is a unique combination of hip-hop style lettering, bold colours, beautifully detailed flowers and a purple roadster full of blissful blue bunnies.



#### *The Project*

The Springvalley schoolyard project was one of the first two projects completed in the City's Community Public Art Program, launched in fall 2006.

Students had spent many hours cleaning up graffiti on this wall, and with encouragement and support of school staff, they decided to try the idea of an aerosol art mural as a way to deter graffiti and vandalism.

Information and photograph used with permission from the City of Kelowna: *Reach for the Stars*.





## Views in the City

How do you think litter affects the “views” in neighbourhoods and cities? Most Canadian cities are concerned with the increasing amount of litter on roadways, and in parks and public places. Edmonton is no different. In fact, citizens are very concerned about litter, with the City of Edmonton receiving many complaints each year on litter-related issues.

The Capital City Clean Up program encourages citizens, community groups and businesses to get involved with litter prevention and reduction. Capital City Clean Up events include the 15 to Clean Challenge, Adopt a Block and the River Valley Clean Up. These events work to create cleaner, safer neighbourhoods in the city. They also encourage people to volunteer, learn to contribute and work with others and make a commitment to making their city a better place to live.

What information does the City of Edmonton webpage below and the news article on page 141 give you about the causes and effects of litter?

How do you think litter affects your “views” of the city?



Not only is litter ugly to look at, it also poses environmental, health and safety concerns. Items like broken glass and other sharp objects can injure children and pets, while litter tossed from a vehicle can be dangerous to other motorists and pedestrians.

Rotting apple cores and fruit peelings attract insects and do not decompose as quickly as people might think. Food scraps, packaging and plastic bags can harm or poison birds and other wildlife while pet droppings can spread disease, putting both people and animals at risk.

So who litters? Studies have shown that people of all ages litter with many saying they have littered at least once in a 12-month period. Sometimes it's accidental, but in most cases it's intentional and preventable.

Reasons for littering vary:

- Not enough garbage cans in public places.
- Weather conditions.
- Lack of awareness of environmental, health, and safety hazards.
- More fast food packaging and busier lifestyles.
- Businesses not emptying their bins enough.
- Not realizing that cigarettes butts, gum and food scraps are in fact litter.

Others believe that litter attracts litter and if streets, neighbourhoods and public places were clean, they would think twice about littering.





## Views in the City

# Less litter in the city

By **JASMINE FRANKLIN**, *EDMONTON SUN*

October 26, 2011

The numbers are in and Edmontonians are being praised for doing their part [to] keep litter off city streets. The 2011 Litter Audit, conducted by the City of Edmonton's Capital City Clean Up, shows that city streets are cleaner than last year.

The report showed a 10 percent reduction in large litter items from 2010 and overall, a 31 percent reduction in large litter since 2007.

"I cannot tell you the number of times people come to this city from around the world and say [that Edmonton is] the cleanest city [they have] ever been to," said Mayor Stephen Mandel on Wednesday. "I don't think we could have said that five years ago."

..."We don't have that many calls anymore about litter," said Mandel. "It's about safety as well – you allow the city to get dirty, and litter and graffiti, it just tends to create more opportunities for crime."

...Don Belanger, Capital City Clean Up program manager said the positive results are a combination of government and citizen efforts. "We believe very strongly we cannot do it as a municipality by ourselves, and the community can't do it on their own so there has to be a partnership," said Belanger.

"If you have garbage in your hand, carry it to the next available waste receptacle. If you see something on the ground and you think you can do it, by all means pick it up and be that Good Samaritan. If everybody did that with one or two pieces of litter, for even a week, it would make a huge difference in Edmonton."

...Capital City Clean Up is a year-round program that helps keep litter and graffiti off Edmonton streets.

Excerpted with permission from *QMI Agency*.





# Bylaws & Enforcement



Local governments use bylaws to ensure that everyone follows the same rules to look after their private property and businesses, their pets and the shared spaces in the city. These bylaws are based on **community standards**, which are behaviours and conduct that everyone is expected to follow. Bylaws are used to help keep neighbourhoods and communities safe and clean.

Bylaws also help to avoid or limit harmful situations. They identify the responsibilities that all residents of the city have. Bylaws also set rules to ensure that people's behaviours and actions do not negatively affect other people or their right to a good quality of life.

It is important that all bylaws, no matter what their purpose, are **enforceable** – in other words, people must be able to follow them. This means that bylaws should be based on rules that most people believe in, agree with and are willing to take responsibility for by obeying them. If the majority of residents do not believe in a bylaw, they can voice their opinion to their communities and local government to try to change the bylaw.

When residents choose not to follow the rules in bylaws, the local government must enforce the rules. This can include the use of penalties or fines to encourage residents to **comply** with, or obey, the bylaw.

Why do you think all bylaws need to be enforceable?

*How do these ideas apply to the City of Edmonton's bylaws?*

The City of Edmonton is responsible for providing bylaw enforcement services for the community. The Community Standards department develops new bylaws and enforces existing ones. Professional enforcement officers protect the health, safety and welfare of citizens. They are trained to enforce bylaws in a fair and objective way while respecting people's rights.

What caption could you write for this photograph?




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*What types of enforcement officers does the City of Edmonton use?*

**Municipal Enforcement Officers** are bylaw officers. They are “sworn in” by Edmonton’s local government to work with citizens and business communities to make sure property standards are maintained. They do not wear a uniform!

When someone complains about a “nuisance” in their neighbourhood, a bylaw officer visits the neighbourhood to investigate and document the concern. People are warned and given time to clean up derelict properties, weeds, untidy yards or snowy sidewalks. They can also be warned to stop excessive noise or move a vehicle that is improperly parked.

If the person ignores the request for action, officers have the authority to give a penalty, which can include a warning or a fine. These bylaw officers deal with more than 60 000 nuisance property complaints a year in Edmonton.

**Community Standards Peace Officers, Animal Care & Control Officers** and **Park Rangers** have **authority**, or power. They are “sworn in” by the provincial government. They have the authority to directly put a stop to public safety concerns as they happen.

These peace officers have more legislative authority than bylaw officers because they work directly with the people they find committing offences. They can order people to immediately stop what they are doing, like hauling a dangerous load, setting off fireworks in a park, or letting a dog run loose in a school yard. It can be a serious offence to ignore the request of Community Standards Peace Officer, Park Ranger, or an Animal Care & Control Officer.

These peace officers do wear a uniform and patrol in marked vehicles on public roads, and in neighbourhoods and green spaces. However, they are **not** police officers.

**Edmonton Police Service** police officers enforce Canada’s *Criminal Code*. **Police officers** investigate and prevent serious criminal offences like vandalism, assault or drinking and driving. They have the highest level of authority and responsibility to protect people’s rights when dealing with criminal acts. Police officers occasionally use bylaw fines to discourage unsafe behaviour like someone urinating in the street.

Police officers often work with bylaw officers and peace officers to solve community problems or concerns that may be too complicated to resolve quickly.

What is the difference between bylaw officers and peace officers?

Why do you think bylaw officers and peace officers have different levels of authority?

## Opinion Statements

An **opinion statement** should present your beliefs, feelings and perspectives about an issue. The opinion that is presented can be supported with reasons that are based on facts. The opinion can also be supported by another person's opinions as long as the person is a reliable source.

Your opinion statement should describe the causes and effects of the issue. It should be based on your opinion and supported with facts and reliable opinions.



Sam is a resident of Edmonton and knows that he has to obey all laws, including bylaws, provincial laws and criminal laws. Recently, someone spray-painted graffiti vandalism on the side of his garage. The *Community Standards Bylaw* makes property owners responsible for the removal of graffiti from their property. Municipal Enforcement Officers warn owners to remove graffiti or be fined \$250. The City of Edmonton provides assistance with removal. Edmonton Police Services found and charged the graffiti vandal with criminal mischief. However, Sam, not the vandal, must take responsibility for removing the graffiti vandalism because the police need time and evidence to convict the vandal.

Should the City have the right to pass bylaws that make a home or business owner responsible for something that someone else has done? Why or why not?



The City's sidewalk snow removal bylaw ensures that citizens share responsibility to help keep the city moving after snow storms. Maria likes living in a winter community, but she doesn't always like the snow. A few years ago, Maria decided that she did not want to remove the snow down to the pavement, as this snow removal bylaw requires. A bylaw officer warned her, and when she still didn't remove the snow, fined her. Maria did not pay the fine. After more warnings and fines that she ignored, she went to jail for a day for disobeying the bylaw.

How much power should the City have to make laws that require residents to act and behave in a certain way on their own private property? Why?



Twenty years ago, many Canadian cities experienced incidents with dogs biting people. A lot of media attention was placed on “Pit Bulls” because some of these dogs were involved in the incidents. People became afraid of this type of dog and asked municipal governments to restrict them from living in cities. Carla knows that recent evidence shows that a dog’s breed does not determine whether it will bite or act vicious. She gives her big dog a lot of love, attention and training to ensure it is well behaved. In 2012, the City of Edmonton repealed breed legislation because people like Carla and the broader community supported this change. The bylaw now restricts dogs based only on their behaviour and not on their breed. The bylaw holds owners responsible for their dog’s bad behaviour.

Are there bylaws that you do not agree with? Should citizens have the right to change bylaws they don’t agree with or that have become outdated? Why or why not?



Aaron and his friends like to use the city parks and trails. The City of Edmonton applies bylaws to shared places like parkland to protect both people and the environment. When Aaron and his friends got together at Hawrelak Park for a summer campfire, they didn’t realize that the City had placed a ban on fire pits, including those on private property and any public places. When a Park Ranger instructed them to put out their fire, they ignored her. The Park Ranger used a back pack of water to put it out.

How much authority should peace officers have to make sure that people have a safe, clean and healthy place to live? Should they have the authority to protect the environment? To what extent?





Many of the rules set by City bylaws affect young people directly. Eva gets upset when she sees people drop garbage on the street, but she doesn't feel comfortable saying anything to them. She doesn't know that she can call bylaw enforcement to make a complaint. However, even though Eva is not old enough to vote and does not own property or a business, she volunteers every year with her community's litter and graffiti vandalism cleanup events.

How much responsibility do you think young people have to get involved with local government even though they are not old enough to vote? Why?



# Finding Common Ground



When people work and live together, they can have different perspectives that affect their behaviours and actions. These differences can also affect the quality of life of everyone in the city. However, when people make an effort to follow rules and standards that they have agreed upon and practise good citizenship, the residents and local government of a city can solve most problems, concerns and issues together.

What do you think it means to practise good citizenship?

Problem solving is one of the strategies that both individuals and local government can use to solve problems and deal with concerns. A problem solving strategy, such as the one below, can help you work effectively with others and respect their points of view.

## Solving Problems

1. Identify the problem. Share what you think the problem is. Work together to solve it. For example, make a list of three things each of you would be willing to do to improve or solve the problem.
2. Talk through the problem. Use "I" instead of "you." Name calling usually begins with the word "you." Use "I" statements that talk about what you want, need or feel. "I want to say what I think," works better than "You don't let me say anything." Say what you mean. What needs changing? How will you change it? Be clear in your choice of words.
3. Try to understand other people's point of view. The best way to do this is to ask questions about what other people want, need or feel. Don't speak for other people. Listen to what they have to say. Repeat or write down the other point of view before you express your own opinion.
4. Put it on paper. When you write things down, you can make your ideas clear. This helps you focus on the problem. Use your imagination. There are many different ways that a problem can be solved. Brainstorm solutions with other people.

Use the **storyboard** to show what one of these problem solving steps looks like, sounds like and feels like.

**Looks Like...**

**Sounds Like...**

**Feels Like...**

## Considering Options

Every citizen of the city has the right to **participate in its governance**. This means that people can voice their opinion about bylaws or community standards to the representatives of their local government. They can ask for changes or express their support of a bylaw.

Everyone also has the right to make a complaint if they think the safety, health and enjoyment of their community is at risk because a bylaw is being ignored. This bylaw protects the common good of the whole community.

However, contacting an elected representative or making complaints are not the only options. Many citizens choose to get involved with their neighbours and with community programs or events to make a difference and improve the quality of life for everyone in the city.

The chart below provides five options for action that can be effective in dealing with problems, concerns and issues in the city. Are there other options you can think of?

Review each action. Then, use the second column to describe when you think each action would be most effective. Explain why.

Action	When I think this action works best
Work with neighbours to find a compromise that improves the problem.	
Organize a community event or participate in a City program to help improve the problem.	
Decide to do something about the problem yourself.	
Ask for enforcement action from the City because this problem causes an immediate public safety concern.	
Make a citizen's request for help from the Mayor or a City Councillor as this is a big issue that needs a community strategy to solve.	



# Check In #2

Check your communication skills. Score yourself on each statement using the scale below.

	<b>almost never</b>	<b>sometimes</b>	<b>almost always</b>
I pay attention to detail when I am looking for information.			
I make sure that I use accurate and reliable sources of information to check facts.			
I organize information that I collect using notes and graphic organizers.			
I list the source that the information comes from.			
I look for point of view and bias in sources that I use for my research.			
I only make conclusions once I have organized, compared and analyzed my research.			
Think about one more thing that is important when you research. Write it down below and score yourself on it.			
_____			
_____			
_____			

What goals did you set in the previous check in? How are you doing?

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If you are having trouble meeting your goals, what might be getting in your way?

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# Assess Your Understandings

<div data-bbox="152 401 791 584">Citizenship Commitment</div> <div data-bbox="152 616 455 1004">Benefits</div> <div data-bbox="480 616 791 1004">Challenges</div>	<div data-bbox="845 401 1483 584">Citizenship Commitment</div> <div data-bbox="845 616 1147 1004">Benefits</div> <div data-bbox="1172 616 1483 1004">Challenges</div>
<div data-bbox="152 1131 791 1315">Citizenship Commitment</div> <div data-bbox="152 1347 455 1735">Benefits</div> <div data-bbox="480 1347 791 1735">Challenges</div>	<div data-bbox="845 1131 1483 1315">Citizenship Commitment</div> <div data-bbox="845 1347 1147 1735">Benefits</div> <div data-bbox="1172 1347 1483 1735">Challenges</div>