

# Edmonton Combative Sports Commission

## Introduction

The Edmonton Combative Sports Commission (ECSC) has been in place since 1920. The Commission is responsible for the regulation of professional combative sports in the City of Edmonton. In a typical year, the ECSC regulates approximately twenty (20) professional mixed martial arts events, five (5) professional boxing events and thirty (30) professional wrestling events, all staged by promoters.

The ECSC has been in transition for the past five years. The final piece of the transition is the formal separation of the governance of the ECSC from the event and event licensing activities. Over the past year the ECSC has rewritten their Bylaw (#14308) dividing it into a separate “governance” Bylaw (#15638) and “operations” Bylaw (#15594).

Administration provides support services to the ECSC and ensures application of the Bylaw, and compliance to the rules, regulations and operating procedures for professional combative sports in Edmonton.



**ECSC**

**EDMONTON COMBATIVE SPORTS  
COMMISSION**

## Quick Facts

- 10 promoters
- 55 combative sports event licenses
- 800 competitor licenses
- 50 officials' licenses

## MAJOR SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

### Governance

- Council advisory services
- Develop rules and regulations
- Policy development, governance
- Industry stakeholder engagement
- Collaboration with sanctioning bodies

### Operations

- Implement and enforce licensing procedures
- Enforce the rules and regulations
- Service licensed events by providing officials
- Create operational synergies with industry
- Training and management of officials, undertakes research

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## Opportunities and Challenges

**1) Challenges - ECSC requires bridge financing in 2012 to continue industry oversight and stewardship and put in place City Auditor financial recommendations.**

**Linkage to Department Outcomes:** The Way Ahead — Improve Edmonton's Livability. Safety.

**Action and Timeframe:** Being the most active combative sports commission in Canada; bylaws, rules, regulations and operating procedure revisions are still required. One time funding support in 2012 is needed to complete this work. Also, the Office of the City Auditor recommended in its report to Council that the ECSC have a separation of financial duties. This requires bridge financing of \$150 for 2012 as the ECSC investigates a cost recovery model for 2013.

**2) Opportunity - To attract more international events to Edmonton.**

**Linkage to Department Outcomes:** Enhancing the reputation of Edmonton as a world class destination for sports events is difficult without industry-leading standards in professionalism, safety and compliance. The running of high quality well organized events with well trained promoters will support greater national and international interest.

**Action and Timeframe:** Continued industry support so Edmonton promoters can compete against other municipalities in Alberta, in Canada and in North America.

**3) Opportunity - To conduct research to improve contestant safety.**

**Linkage to Department Outcomes:** A safe city is one in which combative sports events are regulated in as safe a manner as possible.

**Action and Timeframe:** Capturing fighter statistics for research purposes will contribute to Edmonton's reputation as an industry leader. Such groundbreaking work will help develop better fighter safety standards and awareness of athlete pre and post fight condition.

**4) Opportunity - To recommend changes to the Criminal Code (85-3).**

**Linkage to Department Outcomes:** A safe city is one where professional combative sports events are held in accordance with the Criminal Code.

**Action and Timeframe:** The Code needs clarification on combative sports (it is out of date). We can recommend wording based on ECSC legal minds to the Justice Committee of the federal government as soon as possible.



"ECSC referee informs combatants of the rules."

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## Benchmark Comparison of Canada's Most Active Commissions

	Edmonton	Ontario	Quebec	Manitoba	Calgary	River Cree
No. of event licenses*	55	20	35	8	8	6
No. of individual licenses**	800	390	550	125	125	95
No. of staff	1 1/2	4	4	2 1/2	1	2

\*event license figures are estimates that depend on promoters.

\*\*license figures are estimates that vary with the number of bouts.

## Performance Measures

- Increase in the number of certified officials with the ECSC from 2011.
- Increase in the number and quality of combative sports events in Edmonton from 2011.
- Reduce the number of complaints from industry promoters from 2011.



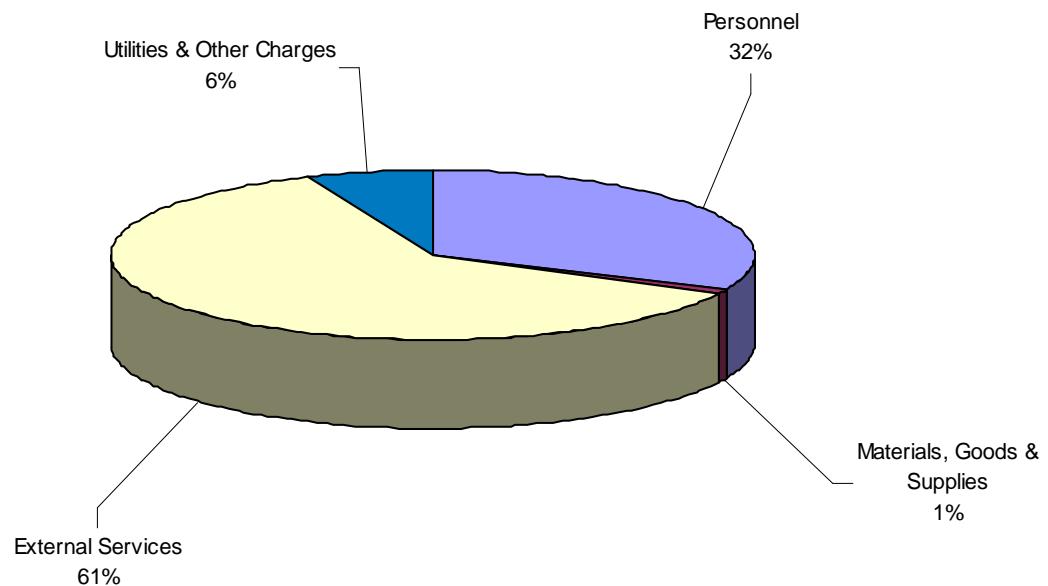
"ECSC timer signals the end of the round"

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## Approved 2012 Budget Summary (\$000)

	2010 Actual	2011 Budget	\$ Change '11-'12	2012 Budget	% Change '11-'12
<b>Revenue &amp; Transfers</b>					
User Fees, Fines, Permits, etc.	\$ 713	\$ 469	\$ 11	\$ 480	2.3
<b>Total Revenue &amp; Transfers</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>Expenditure &amp; Transfers</b>					
Personnel	1	114	86	200	75.4
Materials, Goods & Supplies	9	1	3	4	300.0
External Services	663	309	77	386	24.9
Intra-municipal Services	-	3	(3)	-	(100.0)
Utilities & Other Charges	9	42	(2)	40	(4.8)
<b>Total Expenditure &amp; Transfers</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>34.3</b>
<b>Net Operating Requirement</b>	<b>\$ (31)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 150</b>	<b>\$ 150</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Full-time Equivalents</b>		1.0	1.4	2.4	140.0

### Where the Budget will be spent



# Edmonton Combative Sports Commission

## Service Package - Combative Sports

Funded

### Description

The Edmonton Combative Sports Commission (ECSC) is responsible for the regulation of professional combative sports in the City of Edmonton. The ECSC regulates mixed martial arts, professional boxing and wrestling events. Administration provides support services to the Commission and carries out the actual staging of professional combative sports events in Edmonton. This includes selecting and managing the event working officials as well as acting as the conduit of payment of fighter's bout purses from the promoter to the individual fighter as agreed in their contract.

With over forty events anticipated in 2011, Edmonton's Commission is viewed as one of the most active in Canada. In addition to the existing Executive Director position, one (1) Full-Time FTE is required for event staging, combatant processing, licensing and promoter management. A further 0.4 FTE is necessary to implement and sustain the auditor identified internal accounting controls.

### Justification

A one time funding requirement in 2012 of \$150,000 is required. If approved, it will ensure ongoing and consistent internal accounting control with good industry stewardship and event support.

The addition of these resources will also support the new implementation of any new ECSC governance and operation legislation. The continued need and future success of a well governed and regulated combative sports industry is contingent upon sufficient oversight and regulation. After 2012, the expectation is that the industry will self fund all administrative support and d/of oversight.

### Links to Strategic Goals, Departmental Outcomes & Performance Measures

#### Strategic Goal:

- Improve Edmonton's livability

#### Corporate Outcomes:

- Citizens are connected to their diverse communities and have pride in their city.
- Citizens use city infrastructure and participate in services and programs that provide enjoyment and personal health benefits.

#### Departmental Outcomes:

- Citizens are socially connected and active in their communities.
- Partnerships are strong and positive.
- Citizens and their property are safe.
  - A safe city is one in which combative sports events are regulated in as safe a manner as possible.

#### Program Outcomes:

- Work with industry promoters to facilitate first class events in Edmonton.
- Enhance public and combatant safety at all events.
- Provide official and inspector training and certification to ensure the highest level of officiating competency.
- Provide consistent monitoring, inspection and licensing services for industry stewardship.
- Financial controls are clear, followed and provide accountability.

#### Performance Measure:

- Per capita the number of attendances at City of Edmonton sponsored programs and events.

### Impact on Other Departments

No impact on other departments

incremental (\$000)	2012				2013				2014			
	Exp	Rev	Net	FTEs	Exp	Rev	Net	FTEs	Exp	Rev	Net	FTEs
New Budget Annualization	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ 150	1.4	\$ (150)	\$ -	\$ (150)	-			\$ -	-
			-	-			-	-			-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 150</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 150</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>\$ (150)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (150)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>-</b>