

Summary: Safe Streets

Proposed changes to the Safe Streets portion of the Community Standards Bylaw are intended to assist with challenges and public safety issues faced by Peace Officers on a daily basis.

Concealed Weapons

A majority of weapons and firearms issues in High Level involve tools or makeshift weapons.

Proposed changes would make possession of these items a municipal offence rather than a criminal code violation to deal with it — but not to punish legal use or possession of these items for use in a legal nature.

The goal would be to provide a way for Community Peace Officers to deal with habitually violent offenders who carry weapons which are not considered prohibited or restricted but could still be considered criminally concealed weapons.

Local residents from transporting, brandishing, concealing, or discharging:

Compressed air-powered firearms; paintball guns; spring-loaded knives; irritant sprays intended for incapacitation; fireworks and firecrackers; crossbows, longbows, or similar devices; or any item which discharges a projectile by any source of ignition or compressed gas.

Transportation of these items could be permitted in the event they were being taken to a place where they could be legally used either recreationally or where they could be considered a standard tool for employment.

Breaching the Peace

The definition of a breach of the peace would be clarified on what defines a “disturbance” as a municipal offence.

A proposed addition to the bylaw would expand where offences of disturbing the peace could occur beyond public areas; this could include places such as hotels, apartments, and other types of residences.



Potentially Unsafe Property Issues

The wording in the Bylaw pertaining to unsafe property issues could be largely changed to reflect the Municipal Government Act. It is hoped the changes would provide clarity and reduce confusion around those sections.