

Bylaw

With the limited ability for municipal governments to address complex social issues, the City of Prince George uses the tools they do have.

Parks and open spaces

In May 2023 the City amended to the Parks and Open Space Bylaw. City Council approved an amendment to the bylaw to bring it into compliance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms which recognizes the protected right to “life, liberty and security of the person” to include the right to overnight sheltering. As such the Lower Patricia Blvd was designated in the bylaw as the city’s only encampment site. This bylaw amendment allows the City to remove people who are sheltering on other public properties in the city. Lower Patricia was the chosen site because of the 2021 Supreme Court of British Columbia decision which stated that in the absence of “other suitable housing” and “daytime facilities” occupants of the encampment “must be permitted to stay”.

Smoke and vape free places bylaw

A Bylaw for the protection, promotion, and preservation of the health of inhabitants of the City of Prince George to regulate and prohibit smoking (of any substance) in the city.

Prohibited areas include but not limited too:

- **Transit:** In or within six meters of shelters where people wait for public transit.
- **Building Entrances:** Within six meters of any building openings like doors, windows, or air intakes.
- **Customer Service Areas:** In or within six meters of customer service areas.
- **Sports Facilities and Playgrounds:** On or within 25 meters of outdoor sport facilities or playgrounds.
- **Public Assemblies:** In places of public assembly.

- **An Open Space Area**
- **Any City Facility**
- **A Hospital or Health Clinic**

Clean air bylaw

The clean air bylaw is used to control burning within the City of Prince George. It regulates what can be burned and prohibits any open burning other than recreational fires in an outdoor fireplace, barbeque or firepit.

Patrols

Bylaw patrols are conducted throughout the downtown area and the Lower Patricia encampment daily. They are 6-8 times per day or every two hours a day.

A new taskforce for downtown patrols overnight is also starting that will see one bylaw officer attend with one RCMP officer and one Fire Rescue staff member. The mandate of this taskforce is to gather data and explore ways to curb fires and vandalism overnight.

Outreach

The Bylaw department also has Outreach coordinators in the team. Their role is to act as liaisons for vulnerable residents to help connect them with services related to health care, housing, and other social supports that are provided by a range of established community agencies.

