

Community Standards Bylaw up for discussion with the public.

On June 6, 2012 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers, Lacombe County is inviting input on another bylaw aimed at the prohibition of public disturbances. Called the Community Standards Bylaw, this piece of legislation will attempt to control noise and bullying within Lacombe County.

Community Standards Bylaws are used to identify acceptable standards within a Community. They can regulate everything from noise, to unsightly premises, managing construction waste, fighting, and even spitting in public.

The proposed bylaw was given first reading on April 26, 2012 at the regular Council meeting. The prohibitions included in this bylaw are:

- No one is allowed to bully in a public place.
- No one is allowed to allow any unreasonably loud or raucous noise to emanate from their property.
- No person shall make, continue, or cause an unreasonable noise which annoys or disturbs their neighbours.
- No use of retarder brakes is allowed in residential areas of the County.
- No idling of vehicles within or in 500 meter proximity of any residential area is allowed.
- With respect to the Traffic Safety Act, loud signaling devices, vehicles not complying with the regulations regarding mufflers, or allowing any loud noise to emanate from a vehicle is unlawful.
- Operation of a vehicle between 11:00 PM and 7:00 AM in a manner that disturbs the residents of an area is unlawful.
- Without a permit, quiet hours (11:00 PM to 7:00 AM) must be observed when carrying out construction.
- These same quiet hours must be observed when operating any construction equipment, power tools, power lawn mowers, or snow clearing device in a residential area.

In industrial applications, operations will be allowed to operate within their permitted or discretionary uses, but they shall make no more noise than is necessary in performing that activity.

Exemptions to this bylaw include:

- Work of an emergency nature.
- Maintenance work carried out by Lacombe County.
- Emergency repairs being carried out by contractors of a private utility.
- Emergency Vehicles
- Peace Officers engaged in regular duties.
- Any activities within the sole jurisdiction of the Government of Canada or the Province of Alberta.
- Agricultural and Industrial operations.

The penalties for summary conviction are \$ 250.00 for a first offence and \$ 500.00 for the second offence. A person found guilty of an offence under this bylaw may be subject to a fine not to exceed \$ 10,000.00 or 6 months imprisonment for nonpayment of a fine.

The complete bylaw is available on our website at <http://www.lacombecounty.com>

Please send comments to thager@lacombecounty.com.