

Jurisdictional Scan

A jurisdictional scan was conducted to review bylaws from municipalities across Canada that address vehicle noise. To provide context, existing City of Calgary legislation is listed first, followed by existing Government of Alberta legislation. The jurisdictional scan of Canadian municipalities begins on page three.

Existing Calgary Legislation

Legislation	Applicable Definitions	Section	Penalty
Bylaw: 26M96 Calgary Traffic Bylaw	<p>“Objectionable noise” means any sound caused by or emanating from a motor vehicle that annoys or disturbs humans or endangers the health and safety of humans and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the squeal of a tire made by a motor vehicle which is accelerating or changing direction, (ii) a roaring or explosive sound, (iii) the sound of a radio, stereo, television, or other device or amplification equipment, (iv) the sound from vehicle-mounted amplification equipment, a bullhorn or other device used to amplify voices, which is continuously made for more than two minutes at the same location (v) the sound of a diesel engine bus which has been idling or otherwise running continuously for more than three minutes at the same location except where the diesel engine bus is located within a garage or depot intended for its long-term parking, and (vi) the sound of a motor vehicle security system which is made, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) for a period exceeding one minute, or (b) more than three times in one 24-hour period, except for the motor vehicle security system’s activation status signal, (vii) noise measured at 96 decibels (dBA) or more as measured by a sound pressure level meter at any point of reception 	<p>51.1 (1) A person must not make, continue, or allow to be made or continued any objectionable noise.</p> <p>(2) If objectionable noise is caused by or emanates from a motor vehicle parked on a highway, that motor vehicle is illegally parked.</p> <p>(3) An owner of a motor vehicle may be liable for any contravention of this Section.</p>	<p>\$270</p>

Legislation	Applicable Definitions	Section	Penalty
Community Standards Bylaw	This Part does not purport to regulate the cumulative effect of noise created by vehicular traffic on roads, or aeronautical related activities of aircraft or The Calgary Airport Authority.	27. (1) Except as authorized pursuant to this Bylaw, no Person shall make or cause or allow to be made or continued any noise which would disturb or annoy a reasonable person. (2) Except as authorized pursuant to this Bylaw, no owner or occupier of a Premises shall make or cause or allow to be made or continued any noise which emanates from the Premises, and which would disturb or annoy a reasonable person. (3) No person shall permit a vehicle located on a Premises to emit noise which emanates from that Premises, and which would disturb or annoy a reasonable person, including noise from excessive engine revving and stereo and amplification equipment in the vehicle. (4) No owner or occupier of a Premises shall permit a vehicle located on the Premises to emit noise which emanates from that Premises, and which would disturb or annoy a reasonable person, including noise from excessive engine revving and stereo and amplification equipment in the vehicle.	\$250

Existing Provincial Legislation

Legislation	Applicable Definitions	Section	Penalty
Alberta Traffic Safety Act	61(1) A motor vehicle propelled by an internal combustion engine must have an exhaust muffler that cools and expels the exhaust gases from the engine without excessive noise and without producing flames or sparks. (2) A person shall not drive or operate a motor vehicle propelled by an internal combustion engine if the exhaust outlet of the muffler has been widened. (3) A person shall not drive or operate a motor vehicle propelled by an internal combustion engine if a device is attached to the exhaust system or the muffler that increases the noise made by the expulsion of gases from the engine or allows a flame to be ignited from the exhaust system.	Traffic Safety Act – Vehicle Equipment Regulation Section: 61 (Mufflers)	Specified Penalty: \$162
Alberta Traffic Safety Act	82 A person shall not create or cause the emission of any loud and unnecessary noise (a) from a vehicle or any part of it, or (b) from anything or substance that the vehicle or a part of the vehicle comes into contact with.	Traffic Safety Act – Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation Section: 82 (Noise)	Specified Penalty: \$115

Legislation	Applicable Definitions	Section	Penalty
Alberta Traffic Safety Act	87 A person driving a vehicle shall not, during the period of time commencing at 10 p.m. and terminating at the following 7 a.m., drive the vehicle on a highway in a residential area in a manner that unduly disturbs the residents of the residential area.	Traffic Safety Act – Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation Section: 87(Disturbance of residential area)	Specified Penalty: \$115
Alberta Traffic Safety Act	2 A person shall not do any of the following: (f) drive a vehicle so as to perform or engage in any stunt or other activity on a highway that is likely to distract, startle or interfere with other users of the highway.	Traffic Safety Act Section: 115 (2)(f) Prohibited operation of vehicles, etc.	Specified Penalty: \$567

Jurisdictional Scan of Canadian Municipalities

Municipality	Legislation	Applicable Definitions	Section	Penalty
Edmonton, AB	Bylaw: 14600 - Community Standards Bylaw Section 14 Prohibited Noise Section 18 Engine Retarder Breaks	Measured: (e) “sound level meter” means a Quest Technologies/ 3M 2100 Sound Level Meter , or any other device used to measure sound pressure which meets the National Standards Institute S 1.4-1983 (R2006), or the International Electro-Technical Council Standard No. 123 or the British Standard	14 (1) A person shall not cause or permit any noise that disturbs the peace of another individual. (2) A person shall not cause or permit property they own or occupy to be used so that noise from the property disturbs the peace of any other individual. (3) A person may be found guilty of a contravention of this section whether or not the decibel level: (a) is measured; or (b) if measured, exceeds any limit prescribed by this bylaw. A person shall not use engine retarder brakes to slow or stop a motor vehicle at any time.	Specified Penalty: \$250
Edmonton, AB	Bylaw 5590 - Traffic Bylaw (edmonton.ca) Section 90.1 (1) [Amended February 2023]	Measured: (e) “sound level meter” means a Quest Technologies/ 3M 2100 Sound Level Meter , or any other device used to measure sound pressure which meets the National Standards Institute S 1.4-1983 (R2006), or the International Electro-Technical Council Standard No. 123 or the British Standard	(2) A person shall not operate a motorcycle that is capable of: (a) emitting any sound exceeding 92 db(A), as measured at 50 centimetres from the exhaust outlet, while the engine is at idle; or (b) emitting any sound exceeding 96 db(a), as measured at 50 centimetres from the exhaust outlet, while the engine is at any speed greater than idle. (3) A person shall not create or cause the emission of any loud and unnecessary noise (a) from a vehicle or any part of it, or (b) from anything or	Specified Penalty: \$1000

Municipality	Legislation	Applicable Definitions	Section	Penalty
			substance that the vehicle or part of the vehicle comes into contact with.	
Red Deer, Alberta	Bylaw 3669/2021 - Community Standards [Amended May 2022]	3. "Sound Level Meter" means a device used to measure sound pressure which meets the National Standards Institute S 1.4-1983 (R2006), or the International ElectroTechnical Council Standard No. 123 or the British Standards No. 3539 Part 1, or the U.S.A. Standard S. 14-1961	5.1 No person shall operate a motor vehicle capable of emitting noise, as measured at 50 centimetres or further from the exhaust outlet using a Sound Level Meter, exceeding: (a) 92 dB(A)s at idle; or (b) 96 dB(A)s at any engine speed greater than idle.	Specified Penalty: \$250 - first offence, \$500 - second offence, \$1000 - third and subsequent offences
Canmore, Alberta	Bylaw 2202-16 Community Standards Part 1 Regulation of Noise - Section 8	10. In determining if a noise is likely to disturb the peace, enjoyment, comfort, or convenience of another individual, the following criteria may be considered: a) the type, volume, and duration of the noise, b) the time of day and day of week, c) the nature and use of the surrounding area, d) the Sound Level in decibels, if measured, and e) any other relevant factor.	8. No Owner or Occupier of a Premises shall permit a vehicle located on the Premises to emit noise which emanates from that Premises, including noise from excessive engine revving and music or amplification equipment in the vehicle, is likely to disturb the peace, enjoyment, comfort, or convenience of another individual.	Specified Penalty: \$250 - first offence, \$500 - second offence, \$1000 - third and subsequent offences
Vancouver, British Columbia	Motor Vehicle Noise and Emission Abatement By-law NO. 9344 Section 2 Disturbing Noises	2.1 The following noises are, in the opinion of Council, objectionable or liable to disturb the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort, or convenience of individuals or the public: (a) the squeal of a tire, made by a motor vehicle that is accelerating or changing direction; (b) a loud, roaring, or explosive sound emitted by a motor vehicle	2.2 A person must not make or cause to be made any objectionable noise set out in section 2.1 of this By-law. A person must not operate a motor vehicle so as to cause a nuisance by noise from the motor vehicle. A person must not use or operate a horn or other warning device on a motor vehicle for any purpose other than as an audible warning incidental to the safe operation of the motor vehicle.	Specified Penalty: \$250

Municipality	Legislation	Applicable Definitions	Section	Penalty
Regina, Saskatchewan	Bylaw No. 6980 The Noise Abatement Bylaw	No person shall make, continue, cause or permit to be made or continued, any unreasonably loud or excessive noise likely to disturb any reasonable person within the City of Regina. (ii) Factors for determining whether a sound is an unreasonably loud or excessive noise likely to disturb any reasonable person include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) land use and zoning of the surrounding area, including proximity of the sound to any residential use or other use containing sleeping quarters; (b) time of day and day of week; (c) duration; (d) volume; (e) type or nature of the sound; (f) the frequency of occurrence; (g) the nature of the activity from which the sound emanates; 3 and any other relevant factor	4. (A) Motor Vehicle Noises (a) No person shall create loud unusual or unnecessary noise in the operation of a motor vehicle upon a public street, lane or thoroughfare within the City of Regina whether the noise is caused by the mechanical condition of the motor vehicle or the manner which the motor vehicle is operated and whether or not the vehicle is stationary or moving at the time the noise is created. (b) No person shall emit or cause the emission of any loud, unusual or unnecessary noise, or noises which annoy, disturb, injure, endanger, or detracts from the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of others within the City of Regina	Specified Penalty: \$250
Hamilton, Ontario	Bylaw-360-79 Noise Control Bylaw	"vehicle" includes but is not limited to a motor vehicle and any attachment to a vehicle such as a trailer.	3(1). No person shall make or permit to be made: (a) an unreasonable noise; or (b) a noise that is likely to disturb the inhabitants of the City. (2) Without limiting the generality of section 3, noise from the sources listed in paragraphs 3(2)(a) to 3(2)(h) is deemed to be an unreasonable noise or a noise that is likely to disturb the inhabitants of the city: (b) a condition of disrepair or maladjustment, including but not limited to the maladjustment of any load, of any vehicle or a part or accessory of any vehicle; (e) a discharge of the exhaust of any steam engine, internal combustion engine or pneumatic device except with an exhaust or intake muffling device in good working order and in constant operation that prevents unreasonable noise;	Specified Penalty: \$100

Municipality	Legislation	Applicable Definitions	Section	Penalty
Mississauga, Ontario	Bylaw-360-79 Noise Control Bylaw	<p>“motor vehicle” includes an automobile, motorcycle, motor assisted bicycle unless otherwise indicated in The Highway Traffic Act, and any other vehicle propelled or driven otherwise than by muscular power, but does not include the cars of electric or steam railways, or other motor vehicles running only upon rails, or a motorized snow vehicle, traction engine, farm tractor, self-propelled implement of husbandry or road-building machine within the meaning of The Highway Traffic Act.</p> <p>“noise” means unwanted sound.</p>	<p>2. The operation of a motor vehicle at a speed and in a manner which causes its tires to squeal.</p> <p>3. The operation of any combustion engine or pneumatic device without an effective exhaust or intake muffling device in good working order and in constant operation.</p> <p>5. The operation of an engine or motor in, or on, any motor vehicle or item of attached auxiliary equipment for a continuous period exceeding five minutes, while such vehicle is stationary in a Residential Area or a Quiet Zone</p>	Specified Penalty: \$110