

## Jurisdictional Scan

Below is a summary of Canadian municipal bylaws that address vehicle noise. To provide context, existing City of Calgary bylaws are listed first, followed by existing Government of Alberta legislation. The jurisdictional scan of Canadian municipalities begins on page 3.

### Existing City of Calgary Bylaws

Bylaw	Applicable Definitions	Section	Penalty
<a href="#">Bylaw: 26M96 Calgary Traffic Bylaw</a>	<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"> <li>(i) the squeal of a tire made by a motor vehicle which is accelerating or changing direction,</li> <li>(ii) a roaring or explosive sound,</li> <li>(iii) the sound of a radio, stereo, television, or other device or amplification equipment,</li> <li>(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</li> <li>(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</li> <li>(vi) the sound of a motor vehicle security system which is made,               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) for a period exceeding one minute, or</li> <li>(b) more than three times in one 24-hour period, except for the motor vehicle security system’s activation status signal,</li> </ul> </li> <li>(vii) noise measured at 96 decibels (dBA) or more as measured by a sound pressure level meter at any point of reception</li> </ul>	<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>
<a href="#">Community Standards Bylaw</a>	<p>This Part does not purport to regulate the cumulative effect of noise created by vehicular traffic on roads, or</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>\$250</p>

Bylaw	Applicable Definitions	Section	Penalty
	aeronautical related activities of aircraft or The Calgary Airport Authority.	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.	

**Existing Alberta Provincial Legislation and Regulation**

Legislation	Applicable Definitions	Section	Penalty
<b>Regulations made under the Alberta Traffic Safety Act</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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.</p>	<p><a href="#">Traffic Safety Act – Vehicle Equipment Regulation</a></p> <p>Section: 61 (Mufflers)</p>	<p>Specified Penalty: \$135</p>
<b>Regulation made under the Alberta Traffic Safety Act</b>	<p>82 A person shall not create or cause the emission of any loud and unnecessary noise</p> <p>(a) from a vehicle or any part of it, or</p> <p>(b) from anything or substance that the vehicle or a part of the vehicle comes into contact with.</p>	<p><a href="#">Traffic Safety Act – Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation</a></p> <p>Section: 82 (Noise)</p>	<p>Specified Penalty: \$115</p>

Legislation	Applicable Definitions	Section	Penalty
Regulation made under the 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.	<a href="#">Traffic Safety Act – Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation</a> 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.	<a href="#">Traffic Safety Act</a> Section: 115 (2)(f) Prohibited operation of vehicles, etc.	Specified Penalty: \$567

### Jurisdictional Scan of Canadian Municipalities

Municipality	Bylaw	Applicable Definitions	Section	Penalty
Edmonton, AB	<a href="#">Bylaw: 14600 - Community Standards Bylaw</a>  Section 14 Prohibited Noise          Section 18 Engine Retarder Breaks	Measured:  (e) “sound level meter” means a Quest Technologies/ <a href="#">3M 2100 Sound Level Meter</a> , 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	<a href="#">Bylaw 5590 - Traffic Bylaw (edmonton.ca)</a>  Section 90.1 (1)  [Amended February 2023]	Measured:  (e) “sound level meter” means a Quest Technologies/ <a href="#">3M 2100 Sound Level Meter</a> , or any other device used to measure sound pressure which meets the National Standards Institute S 1.4-1983 (R2006), or	(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	Specified Penalty: \$1000

Municipality	Bylaw	Applicable Definitions	Section	Penalty
		the International Electro-Technical Council Standard No. 123 or the British Standard	any part of it, or (b) from anything or substance that the vehicle or part of the vehicle comes into contact with.	
Red Deer, Alberta	<a href="#">Bylaw 3669/2021 - Community Standards</a> <b>[Amended May 2022]</b>	<b>3.</b> "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	<b>5.1</b> 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	<a href="#">Bylaw 2202-16 Community Standards</a> Part 1 Regulation of Noise - Section 8	<b>10.</b> 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.	<b>8.</b> 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	<a href="#">Motor Vehicle Noise and Emission Abatement By-law NO. 9344</a> 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	Bylaw	Applicable Definitions	Section	Penalty
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	<a href="#">Bylaw No. 8244 The Noise Bylaw</a>	<p>“dB(A)” means the sound pressure measured in decibels using the ‘A’ weighted scale of a sound level meter;</p> <p>“sound level meter” means a device used to measure sound pressure, which meets the applicable American National Standards Institute, 1.4-1983(R2006), the International Electro-Technical Council Standard No. 123, or the British Standard No. 3539 Part 1, or the U.S.A. Standard S1.4-1961;</p>	<p>5.1 (a) no person shall operate a motor vehicle in such a manner that it makes, continues, causes to be made or continues or suffers or permits to be made or continued any unreasonably loud or excessive noise;</p> <p>(b) in determining whether the noise from a motor vehicle is unreasonably loud or excessive, a justice may consider any of the factors mentioned in subsection 5(2); and</p> <p>(c) no person shall operate a motorcycle within the City of Saskatoon that is capable of emitting any sound exceeding 92 dB(A), as measured by a sound level meter at 50 centimeters from the exhaust outlet while the engine is at idle; or emitting any sound exceeding 96 dB(A), as measured by a sound level meter at 50 centimeters from the exhaust outlet while the engine is at any speed greater than idle.</p>	Specified Penalty: \$100 for a first offence; not less than \$200 for a second offence; and not less than \$400 for a third or subsequent offence.
Regina, Saskatchewan	<a href="#">Bylaw No. 6980 The Noise Abatement Bylaw</a>	<p>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</p>	<p>4. (A) Motor Vehicle Noises</p> <p>(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</p>	Specified Penalty: \$250
Winnipeg, Manitoba	<a href="#">Neighbourhood Liveability Bylaw 1/2008</a>	<p>“A’ weighted sound level” means the sound pressure level in decibels, designated as dBA, measured on a precision sound level meter</p>	<p>69(1) A person must not do any of the following before 7:00 a.m. and after 9:00 p.m. on weekdays or before 9:00 a.m. and after 9:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays:</p>	Unknown

Municipality	Bylaw	Applicable Definitions	Section	Penalty
		<p>using the "A" weighting network and "slow" meter response;</p> <p>"ambient sound level" means the 'A' weighted sound level at a point of reception, excluding the noise or sound which is the subject of an investigation for a potential contravention of this Part;</p> <p>"Decibel (dB)" means a unit for measuring the amplitude of sound, equal to 20 times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio of pressure of the sound measured to the reference pressure, which is 20 micropascals;</p> <p>"point of reception" means any point on any property where sound, originating from other property, is heard by a person who is engaged in normal activities;</p> <p>"precision sound level meter" means an instrument used to measure sound levels and specified as Type I or Type II Precision Sound Level Meter in CSA specification, Z107, 1-1973, or the American National Standards Institute specification, ANSI SI.4-1971 (R1976), as amended from time to time.</p>	<p>(c) repair, rebuild, modify or test out of doors any motor vehicle, motorcycle, motor boat, outboard motor or recreational vehicle within 150 m of a residential property.</p> <p>69(2) A person must not:</p> <p>(a) operate or permit the operation of any engine or motor in or on any motor vehicle or attached auxiliary equipment for a continuous period exceeding 10 minutes, while such vehicle is stationary within 150 meters of a residential property before 7:00 a.m. and after 10:00 p.m. on any day;</p> <p>(b) operate or permit the operation of a powered model vehicle before 9:00 a.m. and after 9:00 p.m. on any day.</p>	
Hamilton, Ontario	<a href="#">Bylaw-360-79 Noise Control Bylaw</a>	<p>"vehicle" includes but is not limited to a motor vehicle and any attachment to a vehicle such as a trailer.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>(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:</p>	Specified Penalty: \$100

Municipality	Bylaw	Applicable Definitions	Section	Penalty
			<p>(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;</p> <p>(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;</p>	
Mississauga, Ontario	<a href="#">Bylaw-360-79 Noise Control Bylaw</a>	<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
Toronto, Ontario	<a href="#">Noise Bylaw-Chapter 591 (2023-01-23)</a>	<p>Ambient Sound Level - The sound level that is present in the environment, produced by sound sources other than the source under assessment.</p> <p>Amplified Sound - Sound made by any electronic device or a group of connected electronic devices incorporating one or more loudspeakers or other electro mechanical transducers, and intended for the production, reproduction or amplification of sound.</p> <p>dB(A) - The sound level in decibels obtained when using a sound level meter with the A-weighting.</p>	<p>591-2.5. Motor vehicles.</p> <p>A. No person shall emit or cause or permit the emission of sound resulting from unnecessary motor vehicle noise, such as the sounding of a horn, revving of an engine, squealing of tires, banging, clanking or any like sound that is clearly audible at a point of reception.</p> <p>B. No person shall emit or cause or permit the emission of sound resulting from the repairing, rebuilding, modifying or testing of a vehicle if the sound is clearly audible at a point of reception from 9 p.m. until 7 a.m. the next day, except until 9 a.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays.</p> <p>C. No person shall emit or cause or permit the emission of sound from a motorcycle, if the motorcycle emits any sound exceeding</p>	Specified Penalty: No more than \$100,000

Municipality	Bylaw	Applicable Definitions	Section	Penalty
		<p>dB(C) - The sound level in decibels obtained when using a sound level meter with the C-weighting.</p> <p>Noise - A sound that a person finds disturbing to their peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience.</p> <p>Noise Mitigation Plan - A plan as required and approved by the Executive Director that addresses the mitigation of sound not in compliance with the requirements of this chapter from planned events or activities.</p> <p>Persistent Noise - Any noise that is continuously heard for a period of ten minutes or more or intermittently over a period of one hour or more.</p> <p>Sound Level Meter - An instrument that measures levels of sound as approved for use by the Executive Director.</p> <p>Unreasonable Noise - Any noise that would disturb the peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of a reasonable person in the circumstances. Unreasonable noise does not include commonplace household or workplace sounds such as sound from furniture being moved, children playing or people engaging in conversation.</p>	<p>92 dB(A) from the exhaust outlet as measured at 50 cm, while the motorcycle engine is at idle.</p>	
Ottawa, Ontario	<a href="#">Noise Bylaw No. 2017-255</a>	<p>“dB(A)” means the sound level in decibels obtained when using a sound level meter with the A-weighting;</p> <p>“effective muffler” means a muffler in good working order and in constant operation to</p>	<p>Section 15 – Unnecessary motor vehicle noise: No person shall cause or permit unnecessary motor vehicle noise such as the sounding of the horn, revving of engine and the squealing of tires of any motor vehicle on any property other than a highway.</p>	<p>Specified Penalty: minimum of \$500 and maximum of \$10,000</p>



Municipality	Bylaw	Applicable Definitions	Section	Penalty
		<p>prevent excessive or unusual noise and excessive smoke, but it does not include a cut-out muffler, straight exhaust, gutted muffler, Hollywood muffler, by-pass or similar device.</p> <p>“equivalent sound level”, sometimes denoted as Leq, means the value of the constant sound level which would result in exposure to the same total A-weighted energy as would the specified time-varying sound, if the constant sound level persisted over an equal time interval and is measured in dB(A);</p> <p>“noise level in dB(A) units” means the reading of any precision sound level meter which meets the International Electrotechnical Commission Publication 651 or the American National Standards Institute S1.4-1983 or any successor thereto;</p>	<p>Section 16 – Idling motor vehicles:</p> <p>(1) No person shall operate or permit 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 (5) minutes while such vehicle is stationary, unless,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the vehicles are operated by OC Transpo, Société de transport de l'Outaouais (STO), and Para Transpo in the course of providing transit service;</li> <li>(b) the vehicles are operated by a private bus transportation company in the course of providing transportation services, and the vehicles are carrying passengers;</li> <li>(c) operation of such engine or motor is essential to the basic function of the vehicle or equipment, including but not limited to, operation of ready-mixed concrete trucks, lift platforms and refuse compactors; or</li> <li>(d) weather conditions justify the use of heating or refrigerating systems powered by the motor or engine for the safety and welfare of the operator, passengers or animals, or the preservation of perishable cargo, and the vehicle is stationary for purposes of actively loading or unloading.</li> </ul> <p>(2) Subsection (1) shall not apply to occupied motor vehicles when the temperature outside the motor vehicle is greater than twenty-seven degrees Celsius (27°C) including the humidex calculation or less than five degrees Celsius (5°C) including the wind chill value as determined by the Environment Canada temperature readings.</p> <p>Section 17 – Mufflers:</p> <p>No person shall discharge into the open air, on any property other than a highway, the exhaust of any motor vehicle except through a muffler or other device which effectively prevents loud or explosive noises.</p>	

Municipality	Bylaw	Applicable Definitions	Section	Penalty
Halifax, Nova Scotia	<a href="#">Bylaw Number N-200 (Respecting Noise)</a>	<p>"Motor vehicle" includes an automobile, motorcycle and any other vehicle propelled or driven otherwise than by muscular, gravitational or wind power; but does not include a motorized wheelchair or a car, locomotive or other motor vehicle running only upon rails; a motorized snow vehicle; traction engine; farm tractor; self-propelled implement of husbandry; or road-building machine within the meaning of the Motor Vehicle Act.</p> <p>"Point of reception" means any point on the premises of a person where sound, originating from other than those premises, is received.</p>	<p><u>Part 1</u> Activities that unreasonably disturb the peace and tranquility of a neighbourhood throughout the whole Municipality, and at all times, where the sound resulting therefrom is audible at a point of reception.</p> <p>2. The operation of a vehicle or a vehicle with a trailer resulting in banging, clanking, squealing or other like sounds due to an improperly secured load or equipment or inadequate maintenance;</p> <p>3. The operation of a motor vehicle horn or other warning device except where required or authorized by law or in accordance with good safety practices.</p> <p><u>Part 3</u> Activities originating from within a residential area that unreasonably disturb the peace and tranquility of a resident, at the specified times, where the sound resulting therefrom is audible at a point of reception.</p> <p>1. 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 unless:</p> <p>(a) the original equipment manufacturer specifically recommends a longer idling period for normal and efficient operation of the motor vehicle in which case such recommended period shall not be exceeded;</p> <p>(b) operation of such engine or motor is essential to a basic function of the vehicle or equipment, including but not limited to, operation of ready-mixed concrete trucks, lift platforms and refuse compactors;</p> <p>(c) weather conditions justify the use of heating or refrigerating systems powered by the motor or engine for the safety and welfare of the operator, passengers or animals, or the</p>	Unknown

Municipality	Bylaw	Applicable Definitions	Section	Penalty
			<p>preservation of perishable cargo, and where the vehicle is stationary for purposes of delivery or loading;</p> <p>(d) prevailing low temperatures make longer idling periods necessary immediately after starting the motor or engine;</p> <p>(e) the idling is for the purpose of cleaning and flushing the radiator and associated circulation system for seasonal change of antifreeze, cleaning of the fuel system, carburetor or the like, when such work is performed other than for profit.</p>	