

Jurisdictional Scan – Municipal (Weapons Provisions)

Below is a summary of Canadian municipal bylaws that address public behaviour related to weapons. Existing City of Calgary bylaws are listed in Table 1, followed by a scan of other Canadian municipalities in Table 2.

Table 1: Existing City of Calgary Bylaws

Jurisdiction	Legislation	Section	Content Summary	Penalty	Clarifications/Notes
Calgary	<u>Public Behaviour Bylaw 54M2006</u>	Section 7	"Knife" means a blade that is visible and capable of causing injury.	\$50	No person shall carry a visible knife in any public place.
	<u>Transit Bylaw 4M81</u>	Section 14(7.1), 14.4	"Weapon" includes visible knife, axe, hatchet, machete, baton, imitation firearm, bat, or saw; also includes capsaicin or capsaicinoid spray.	\$500 (weapon), \$250 (spray)	No visible weapon or capsaicin spray on transit property.

Table 2: Jurisdictional Scan of Canadian Municipalities

Jurisdiction	Legislation	Section	Content Summary	Penalty	Clarifications/Notes
Vancouver	<u>Regulate the Possession of Knives on Streets By-Law No. 4773</u>	Section 1-4	Prohibits possession of knives or similar objects on streets unless for lawful personal use. Excludes jack-knives and pen-knives with blades two inches or less.	\$50 and \$500 fines or up to 2 months imprisonment for non-payment.	Exemptions apply to small pocket knives.
	<u>Licence By-Law No. 4450</u>	Section 27.2	Prohibits retail stores, pawnbrokers, and transient traders from displaying throwing knives, combat knives, stiletto-bladed knives, or any knife primarily designed as a weapon. These knives must not be displayed: on the street, in any window facing a street, or anywhere visible from outside the premises. Also prohibits displaying such knives alongside other weapons.	\$250–\$10,000 per offence; continuing offences may be fined daily. Higher minimums apply for specific sections.	Aims to prevent public visibility of weapon-like knives.
	<u>By-Law No. 13654</u> (amends License By-law No. 4450 to regulate the bear spray)	Section 23.4	Regulates sale of bear spray: must be kept locked, buyers ID'd (19+), and transactions logged for 12 months.	Not specified.	Linked to reduced bear spray incidents (Vancouver police report to Vancouver Police Board).

Canmore	<u>Community Standards Bylaw 2022-16</u>	—	No weapon-specific bylaw; covers noise, wildlife attractants, and general community standards.	Not specified	No direct weapon provisions.
Red Deer	<u>Firearms Bylaw 3409/2008</u>	Section 3	Prohibits discharging any firearm and transporting loaded firearms within city limits. "Firearm" includes air guns, air rifles, air pistols, B.B. guns, sling shots, archery equipment, and gas-powered guns. Exemptions apply to peace officers, use at the River Bend Biathlon Range, certain agricultural practices, written authorization by the Municipal Policing Services Manager, and indoor training at accredited institutions.	\$250–\$2,500 (based on bylaw enforcement discretion)	Focuses on discharge, not visible possession.
Edmonton	<u>Public Spaces Bylaw 20700</u> (effective 2025 May 12)	Section 30(1)	Prohibits visible possession, display, discharge, or use of weapons in public spaces; includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firearms (e.g., pellet, BB, or air guns) • Bow and arrows • Hunting or utility knives • Machetes • Oleoresin capsicum or capsaicin spray (e.g., pepper spray) • Brass knuckles • Devices capable of discharging an electrical charge (e.g., tasers) • Prohibited weapons as defined in the Criminal Code (Canada) • Any loaded object capable of firing a projectile Prohibitions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visibility (it is prohibited to visibly possess, display, discharge, or use a weapon in a public space). • Absence of safety features through tampering, removal, or disabling, or if the label has been tampered with, removed, defaced, or obstructed. 	\$500	Weapon and OC spray explicitly listed.

Manitoba (Provincial)	<u>The Long-Bladed Weapon Control Act – Bill 39</u>	—	Regulates sale of machetes, swords, and long-bladed weapons; bans sale to minors, mandates ID checks and secure storage.	Up to \$5,000 (1st), \$10,000 (2nd); Corporations: up to \$100,000	Primarily retail regulation; does not address possession.
	<u>Pesticides and Fertilizers Control Act</u>	Section 5.1, 6(1) to 6(3)	Regulates sale of capsaicin-based sprays; requires retailer licensing, ID verification, and sales record-keeping.	Not specified	Controls access to OC spray.
Winnipeg	<u>Firearms By-Law No. 2890/81</u>	Sections 1-4	Prohibits discharging any gun or firearm within city limits without permission from the Chief of Police.	Not specified	City-wide application; appeals permitted. Appeals may be made to the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services.
Saskatche- wan (Provincial)	<u>Safe Public Spaces (Street Weapons) Act</u>	Section 1-2, 2-1 to 2-2	Prohibits possession of 'street weapons'—including knives >30cm, machetes, and bear spray in any public urban space.	Up to \$5,000- or one-year imprisonment, or both.	Defines 'street weapons' and threshold criteria.
Regina	<u>The Discharge of Firearms and Projectiles Bylaw, 2011</u>	Sections 1-11	Prohibits the discharge of firearms and similar devices within city limits without proper authorization.	Up to \$2,000 (individual), \$5,000 (corporation)	Includes exceptions for law enforcement, military personnel, and certain recreational activities under controlled conditions.
Ottawa	<u>Discharge of Firearms By-law No. 2002-344</u>	Section 3(1)	Prohibits firearm discharge in restricted areas within city limits. “Firearm” means any class or type of gun or other firearm including a shotgun, rifle, airgun, spring-gun, longbow or crossbow.	Fines under the Provincial Offences Act	Regulates discharge only, not possession. Exemptions apply for peace officers and authorized personnel.
	<u>Transit (By-law No. 2007-268)</u>	Section 6(r), (s)	Prohibits bringing any firearm, handgun, or similar weapon or imitation onto transit property; also prohibits swords, crossbows, switchblades, or similar/imitation weapons.	Fines under the Provincial Offences Act.	Transit service may be refused for violations.
Toronto	<u>Municipal Code Chapter 608, Parks</u>	Section 608-4, Zoo By- law Section 11	Prohibits possession or use of firearms, air guns, crossbows, bows and arrows, axes, paint guns, or offensive weapons in parks unless authorized by permit. Bows and arrows may be used in designated areas. Separately, the Toronto Zoo By-law no. 24-88 prohibits bringing weapons—including firearms,	Parks: Not specified (administrative penalty) Zoo: \$30– \$2,000 fine upon conviction	Parks bylaw applies to real and imitation weapons; enforced by City staff. Zoo bylaw includes authority to remove individuals or deny re-entry.

			knives, slingshots, and similar items—into the Toronto Zoo without permission.		
Federal – Criminal Code	<u>Criminal Code</u>	—	Governs all weapons and noxious substances nationwide.	Varies	Federal law governing weapons; enforcement and interpretation depend on context.