Town of Cochrane Council Report

Meeting:	Regular Council
Meeting Date:	February 10, 2025
Author:	Jay Judin, Director, Community Safety
Presented By:	Jay Judin, Director, Community Safety
Title:	Bylaw 06/2025 ~ Cochrane Community Standards and Public Safety
Agenda Item:	5f

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That Council give First Reading to Bylaw 06/2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The provincial government provided Community Justice Grant funding to establish a Community Standards bylaw. This initiative aimed to create a local framework in Cochrane for addressing minor anti-social behaviors outside of the criminal justice system.

BACKGROUND

The bylaw empowers the RCMP and Community Peace Officers to address specific social disorder offences such as public disturbances, vandalism, graffiti, fighting, aggressive panhandling, and public disorder at the municipal level. Historically, such cases fell to the RCMP, who were limited to dealing with these offences by criminal charges only, leading to high costs, resource strains, and delays due to an overburdened justice system. The new bylaw reduces the over-reliance on the RCMP for minor offences, provides an additional enforcement option to the RCMP and Community Peace Officers and lessens the reliance on an overburdened justice system that delays resolution of low-risk cases.

The bylaw also consolidates and repeals three outdated bylaws while introducing modern, adaptable regulations.

- Bylaw No. 04/2007 – Nuisance and Unsightly Premises Bylaw;
- Bylaw No. 16/2O11 – Noise Control Bylaw;
- Bylaw No. 01/2009 – Snow Removal Bylaw.

It emphasizes cost-effectiveness, enhanced community trust, and improved clarity for residents. Key provisions address nuisances like unsightly properties, littering, and graffiti and noise control in residential and non-residential areas. A clear ticketing and penalty system simplifies enforcement.

The bylaw aligns closely with the community’s long-term vision, addressing priorities identified in the Envision Cochrane 2050 feedback surveys. These include traffic safety, preserving natural areas, maintaining clean and safe public spaces, and supporting the town’s small-town character. Implementation steps include officer training, public awareness campaigns to educate residents about the bylaw, and regular effectiveness reviews.

COMMUNICATION / PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Following adoption of this bylaw by Council, public announcement (social media, newspaper, radio, Cochrane App, and cochrane.ca) will notify the public of the new Community Standards Bylaw.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Municipal Revenue Generation

- **Increased revenue from fines**: Fines can lead to increased municipal revenue.

Indirect Benefits or Costs

- **Improved compliance**: If fines successfully reduce violations, the municipality might experience long-term savings in costs, such as reduced cleanup and in administrative time spent addressing complaints.

LEGISLATION/AUTHORITY

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Financial & Environmental Stewardship:
The bylaw consolidates and modernizes outdated regulations, optimizing resource allocation and reducing costs associated with enforcement and administrative overhead.

Intentional Relationships:
Public awareness campaigns and education initiatives reflect a commitment to fostering trust and collaboration between the municipality and residents.

Built Environment:
The bylaw ensures that urban spaces are well-maintained and safe by addressing nuisances such as unsightly properties, noise, and vandalism.

Organizational Resiliency:
The innovative use of generative AI for drafting the bylaw exemplifies forward-thinking governance and adaptability to emerging technologies.

Identity and Livability:
The bylaw reflects Cochrane’s commitment to preserving its small-town charm and aligning with community values as expressed in the Envision Cochrane 2050 surveys.

Vibrant Economy:
Clean and safe public spaces, along with consistent enforcement of community standards, attract visitors and businesses, contributing to a thriving local economy.

Open Spaces & Natural Areas:

Provisions addressing littering, graffiti, and public disturbances protect natural and recreational spaces, ensuring they remain accessible and enjoyable for all.

Connectivity:
The integration of future-focused tools, such as multilingual accessibility and citizen-facing chatbots, enhances community connectivity and accessibility to municipal services.

OPTIONS / IMPLICATIONS

Option 1 (Recommended):

That Council give First Reading to Bylaw 06/2025.

Option 2:

That Council provide Administration with further direction.

ATTACHMENTS

Bylaw 06/2025 ~ Cochrane Community Standards and Public Safety

TOWN OF COCHRANE
Bylaw 06/2025

A Bylaw of the Town of Cochrane, in the Province of Alberta to authorize and control neighborhood nuisance, safety and livability issues.

Whereas: Pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act* RSA 2000, c.M-26 and regulations as amended, provide that Council may pass bylaws respecting the safety, health and welfare of people and protection of people and property,

and whereas: the *Municipal Government Act* RSA 2000, authorizes a municipality to pass bylaws respecting nuisances, including unsightly property,

and whereas: pursuant to the *Safety Codes Act* a Council may make bylaws respecting the minimum maintenance standards for buildings and structures, and for unsightly or derelict buildings or structures,

and whereas: the *Municipal Government Act* RSA 2000, authorizes a municipality to enact bylaws respecting the control and operation of parks, campgrounds, athletic grounds and exhibition grounds,

and whereas: the *Municipal Government Act* RSA 2000, authorizes a municipality to pass bylaws regarding the remedying of contraventions of bylaws,

and whereas: it is desirable for regulations which affect neighborhood livability to be located, as much as possible, in one bylaw,

NOW THEREFORE THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF COCHRANE, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, DULY ASSEMBLED, HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1.0 TITLE

1.1 That this Bylaw may be referred to as the "Town of Cochrane Community Standards and Public Safety Bylaw No. 06/2025".

2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.1 In this Bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Ambient Sound Level" means the sound level measured by a Tester at the Point of Reception, which excludes the noise generated by an activity with respect to which a complaint about noise has been made.

(b) "Boulevard" means that part of a highway that is not a roadway; and is the part of the sidewalk that is not especially adapted to the use of or ordinarily used by pedestrians.

(c) "Building" includes any part of a building placed in, on, or over land whether or not it is so affixed to become transferred without special mention by a transfer or sale of the land.

(d) "Bylaw Ticket" means a ticket in an approved form issued in respect to a contravention of this Bylaw allowing a minimum payment to be made in lieu of prosecution.

(e) "Chief Administrative Officer" (CAO) means the person appointed to that position and title by Council.

(f) "Composting" means the managed practice of recycling organic material, including food and yard waste, through biological degradation in a container or pile to create a useable soil conditioner.

(g) "Construction Activity" means the temporary process of demolishing or building any structure or repairing or improving any building which already exists. This includes landscaping, home repair, property improvement, or any work with connection to that process; and also means, but is not limited to, subdivision development, grading, paving, and underground utility construction.

Any activity undertaken by the Town of Cochrane is expressly excluded.

(h) "Continuous Sound" means any sound level that occurs

i. for a continuous duration for more than three (3) minutes; or

ii. sporadically for a total of more than three (3) minutes, in any continuous fifteen (15) minute period.

(i) "Council" means the Council of the Town of Cochrane.

(j) "Day Time" means the period beginning at 7:00 a.m. and ending at 10:00 p.m. of the same day on weekdays; or beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 10:00 p.m. of the same day on the weekend and holidays.

(k) "Decibel" means a unit for expressing the relative intensity of sounds on a scale from zero for the average least perceptible sound to approximately 130 for the average pain level.

(l) "Field Calibrator" means an instrument (as established by the American National Standards Institute) to be used for the calibration of the Sound Level Meter. The Field Calibrator must be approved by the manufacturer for the use with the Sound Level Meter being used and must also be certified and calibrated by the manufacturer within the previous twelve (12) months prior to its use.

(m) "Graffiti" means the defacement or disfigurement of any property or object, through the performance of any of the following acts:

i. the application of any substance, including paint, ink, stain, or whitewash to any surface; or

ii. the affixing of any substance, including paper, fabric, or plastic, by any form of adhesion that does not remove cleanly when pulled away from the applied surface; or

iii. the marking, scratching, etching, or other alteration or disfigurement of any surface.

(n) "Highway" means any thoroughfare, street, road, trail, avenue, parkway, driveway, viaduct, lane, alley, square, bridge, causeway, trestle way, or other place or any part of any of them, whether publicly or privately owned, that the public is ordinarily entitled or permitted to use for the passage or parking of vehicles and includes:

i. a sidewalk, including a boulevard adjacent to the sidewalk;

ii. if a ditch lies adjacent to and parallel with the roadway, the ditch; and

iii. if a highway right of way is contained between fences or between a fence and one side of the roadway, all the land between the fences, or all the land between the fence and the edge of the roadway, as the case may be, but does not include a place declared by regulation not to be a highway.

(o) “Holiday" means New Year's Day, Alberta Family Day, Good Friday, Victoria Day, Canada Day, Heritage Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day, Remembrance Day, Truth and Reconciliation Day, and Christmas Day of every year, of which the days may vary, and can be amended or replaced from time to time.

(p) “Leq” means equivalent Continuous Sound Level over periods of time as specified in this Bylaw, at a specified location measured by a Sound Level Meter.

(q) “Motor Vehicle” means a vehicle propelled by any power other than muscular power, or a moped, but does not include a bicycle, a power bicycle, an aircraft, an implement of husbandry, or a motor vehicle that runs only on rails.

(r) “Nighttime” means a period beginning at 10:00 p.m. and ending on the following day at 7:00 a.m., if the following day is a Weekday, or 9:00 a.m. if the following day is a Weekend and/or Holiday.

(s) "Non-Continuous Sound" means any sound level that is not a continuous sound measured with a Sound Level Meter.

(t) "Non-Residential Development" means any land or building that is not used for a residential purpose and includes commercial and/or industrial use development districts.

(u) "Occupy" means residing on or to be in apparent possession or control of property.

(v) "Own" means:

i. in the case of land, to be registered under the Land Titles Act as the owner of the fee simple estate in a parcel of land; or

ii. in the case of personal property, to be in lawful possession or have the right to exercise control over it or to be the registered owner of it.

(w) "Peace Officer" means a person engaged by the Town as a Community Peace Officer, a Bylaw Enforcement Officer, or a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to carry out the provisions of this Bylaw.

(x) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation, trustee, executor, administrator, property manager, or other legal representative and an individual having charge or control of a Premises.

(y) "Point of Reception" means any location at the place of work or residence where noise or Sound Levels are heard by a complainant, as determined by the Tester to be appropriate in any circumstance.

(z) "Premises" includes the external surface of all buildings and whole or part of any parcel of real property, including the land immediately adjacent to any building or buildings.

(aa) "Property" means a parcel of land including any buildings.

(bb) "Public Place" means any place within the Town to which the public may have either express or implied access;

(cc) "Residential Building" means a structure that contains one or more dwelling units, including a house, multi-family dwelling, housing project, apartment building, lodging house, senior citizen complex, or hospital.

(dd) "Sidewalk" means that part of the highway especially adapted to the use of or ordinarily used by pedestrians and includes that part of a highway between the curb line or, where there is no curb line, the edge of the roadway, and the adjacent property line whether it is paved or unpaved.

(ee) "Signaling Device" means any device that produces an audible sound for the purpose of drawing an individual's attention, including a horn, gong, bell, klaxon, or public address system.

(ff) "Sound Level" means a sound pressure measured in Decibels using a weighted network of a Sound Level Meter with fast response

(gg) "Sound Level Meter" means a device used to measure sound pressure that meets one of the following standards:

(i) the American National Standards Institute S 1.4- 1983 (R2006),

(ii) the International Electro-Technical Council Standard No. 123,

(iii) the British Standard No. 3539 Part 1, or

(iv) the U.S.A. Standard S.14-1961.

(hh) "Special Event" means any outdoor concert, festival, sporting event, performance, attraction, revival, or other event for which tickets for entry are sold, or a Permit for the use of the area must be obtained from the Town.

(ii) "Specified Penalty" means a penalty specified in Schedule "A" of this bylaw for committing an offence under this bylaw when such offence is being prosecuted by

way of a Violation Ticket.

(jj) "Structure" includes any item or improvement placed in, on, or over land whether it is affixed to the land or not, some examples of but not limited to which include:

(kk) fence, wall, or barricade;

(ll) concrete pad, slab, or base;

(mm) pole, election sign, sign, or post;

(nn) mailbox, courier, or customer drop box;

(oo) waste bin or storage container; or

(pp) satellite dish, utility box, or appliance.

(qq) "Tester" means an Officer or individual authorized by the Manager, Municipal Enforcement, and trained in the operation of a Sound Level Meter.

(rr) "Town" means the municipal corporation of the Town of Cochrane.

(ss) "Vehicle" other than an Off Highway vehicle as defined in Part 6, of the *Traffic Safety Act*, means a device in, on or by which a person or thing may be transported or drawn on a highway and includes a combination of vehicles but does not include a mobility aid.

(tt) "Violation Ticket" means a violation ticket under part 2 or part 3 of the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c.P-34, as amended or replaced from time to time.

(uu) "Weekday" means Monday through Saturday, inclusive, for the purpose of this Bylaw, unless it falls on a Holiday.

(vv) "Weekend" means Sunday and any other Holiday.

3.0 **NUISANCE AND UNSIGHTLY LAND**

A nuisance property is generally defined as a property that negatively impacts the health, safety, or comfort of the surrounding community. Specific definitions can vary by municipality, but common characteristics include:

3.1 A person shall not cause or permit a nuisance to exist on land they own or occupy.

3.2 A nuisance, in respect of land, means land, or any portion of it, that shows signs of a disregard for general maintenance and upkeep, whether it is detrimental to the surrounding area or not, and includes, but is not limited to:

(a) production of excessive dust, dirt or smoke;

(b) production of any generally offensive odors related to improper composting or waste management practices;

(c) any tree, shrub, other type of vegetation or any structure that interferes or could interfere with any public work or utility of the Town;

(d) any accessible excavation, ditch, drain or standing water that could pose a danger to the public;

(e) any noxious or prohibited noxious weed as defined in the *Alberta Weed Act* on occupied or unoccupied land;

(f) any blight or disease of the trees or shrubs or vegetable or plant life liable to spread to other trees or shrubs or plant life within the Town;

(g) excessive accumulation of materials such as, appliances, damaged vehicles, and overgrown grass. Visual Blight: Properties that are unsightly due to neglect, including overgrown grass, dilapidated buildings, or excessive debris.

3.3 A person shall maintain any boulevard adjacent and abutting to land they own or occupy by keeping any grass or vegetation on the boulevard cut to a reasonable length

4.0 NUISANCE AND UNSIGHTLY BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

4.1 A person shall not cause or permit a nuisance to exist in respect of any building or structure on land they own or occupy which shows signs of a disregard for general maintenance and upkeep, whether it is detrimental to the surrounding area or not.

4.2 A person shall not place, cause or permit to be placed a refrigerator, freezer or other similar appliance on land they own or occupy unless effective measures have been taken to prevent the opening and closing of the appliance.

4.3 To ensure public safety, particularly for children, one or more of the following measures must be taken to render the appliance inoperable:

(a) complete removal of the door;

(b) removal of the door handle mechanism to prevent the door from opening;

(c) locking the appliance securely;

(d) removal of door hinges to disable the door;

(e) wrapping or containing the appliance in a way that prevents access to the interior.

4.4 If an unsecured appliance is found on any property, the Town may issue a removal order, requiring the property owner to take immediate action to remove or secure the appliance.

5.0 COMPOSTING

5.1 No owner or occupier of a land shall place or allow to be placed cat feces, dog feces, animal parts or animal meat on a composting pile.

5.2 No owner or occupier of land shall allow an open composting pile on the land within ten (10) metres of an adjacent dwelling, measured from the nearest part of the open composting pile to the nearest part of the adjacent dwelling.

5.3 Every owner or occupier who allows a composting container or composting pile to remain on land must ensure that it is maintained in such a manner that it does not become a nuisance by:

(a) creating offensive odors; or

(b) creating messy compost heaps; or

(c) attracting pests; or

(d) posing a health hazard or risk to persons or animals.

5.4 Enclosed compost bins are required for urban areas to prevent nuisance issues, and should:

(a) be constructed of durable material; and

(b) have a secure cover to avoid attracting animals and pests.

5.5 Nuisance and Health Risks:

(a) Any composting activity that results in a nuisance condition, such as the attraction of pests or generation of strong odors, shall be deemed a violation of this Bylaw and subject to enforcement action.

(b) The Town may order the modification or removal of any composting pile or container that poses a health risk or creates a nuisance.

6.0 SIDEWALKS – SNOW AND ICE

6.1 A person shall maintain any sidewalk adjacent to land they own or occupy clear of all snow and ice and;

(a) snow must be cleared within 48 hours of last snowfall; and

(b) precautions should be taken to ensure that an icy or dangerous situation is not allowed to exist on the sidewalk.

6.2 A person shall maintain any roof or awning that extends over a sidewalk from a building they own or occupy free of snow and ice.

6.3 A person who removes snow or ice from public or private sidewalks and/or public or private driveways shall not deposit the snow or ice upon any highway, pathway or walkway, and shall not impede storm sewer run off or block access to any storm sewer grate, traffic control device or fire hydrant.

6.4 A person, who fails to comply with Section 6.1, where, following the issuance of and failure to comply with an Order issued under the Municipal Government Act, shall be liable to a penalty as prescribed in Schedule "A" and The Town may charge the cost of the work plus ten percent (10%) administration fee pursuant to the Municipal Government Act and add it to the tax roll of the property.

7.0 LITTERING

Prohibiting littering ensures the cleanliness and livability of natural areas, trails, and gathering spaces valued by the community.

7.1 No person shall place, deposit or throw or cause to be placed, deposited or thrown upon any Town property, including any street, lane, sidewalk, parking lot, park or other public place or water course or privately-owned property:

(a) a cardboard or wooden box, carton, container, or receptacle of any kind; or

(b) a paper, wrapper, envelope, or covering of any kind, whether paper or not, from food or confectionary; or

(c) paper of any kind; or

(d) the discarded ends of cigarettes, cigars, and similar products; or

(e) discarded chewing-gum and the discarded remains of other products designed for chewing; or

(f) any human, animal, vegetable matter, or waste; or

(g) any glass, crockery, nails, tacks, barbed wire or other breakable or sharp objects; or

(h) any scrap metal, scrap lumber, tires, vehicle fluids, dismantled wrecked or dilapidated motor vehicles or parts there from; or

(i) any motor vehicle or any part of any motor vehicle which may, in whole or in part, obstruct any highway, street, lane, alley, bi-way or other public place; or

(j) any household garbage or other waste; or

(k) any filth or rubbish of any kind whether similar or dissimilar to the foregoing.

7.2 No person shall deposit home, organic or yard waste, including pet waste from your yard in town receptacles.

7.3 No person shall, except in a receptacle, dispose of litter on any portion of a street from a vehicle.

7.4 If a vehicle is involved in an offence referred to in section 7.3 the owner of that vehicle is guilty of an offence.

7.5 Section (7.5) does not apply if the owner of the vehicle satisfies the Court that the owner was not in control of the vehicle, and that the person having control of the Vehicle at the time of the offence had control of the vehicle without the owner's express or implied consent.

8.0 POSTING OF MATERIALS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

8.1 A person shall not place, cause or permit to be placed any poster, handbill or other similar item:

(a) on a decorative streetlight pole; or

(b) on a traffic control device; or

(c) on an item of street furniture; or

(d) within a park or open space except such notices that are erected by civic departments dealing with Recreation, Traffic Control,

Public Health or Park Safety.

8.2 No Person or Distributor shall deposit or distribute a Flyer with a Graphic Image at or on a Premises unless:

(a) the Graphic Image is contained in a sealed opaque envelope; and

(b) the exterior of the envelope contains the following legible warning: "Contains a Graphic Image that may be offensive or disturbing"; and

(c) the exterior of the envelope clearly identifies the sender and the sender's address.

8.3 Any poster, handbill or other similar item placed on a highway shall be affixed using only transparent tape or, where it will not damage the surface, tacks or staples.

8.4 For the purpose of this section, any individual or corporation referred to on a poster, handbill or other similar item, whether directly or indirectly, is presumed to have placed the item or caused or permitted the item to be placed.

8.5 In this section "decorative streetlight pole" means an ornamental streetlight pole with a shape, style or colour other than the standard grey circular or octagonal streetlight poles with the light facing downwards.

9.0 CHARITY COLLECTION SITES

9.1 No person shall dump or deposit household garbage or other waste at a Charity Collection Site.

9.2 No Person shall scavenge from or disturb any material, bag or box in or at a Charity Collection Site, whether that material, bag or box is contained in a receptacle or resting on the ground.

10.0 NOISE CONTROL – CRITERIA

10.1 Noise control provisions aim to preserve the enjoyment of public gathering spaces, arts events, and trails as well as livability of private property. When determining if a sound is reasonably likely to disturb the peace of others the following criteria may be considered:

(a) Type, volume, and duration of the sound; or
(b) time of day and day of week; or

(c) nature and use of the surrounding area; or

(d) any other relevant factor.

11.0 NOISE CONTROL – PROHIBITED NOISE

11.1 A person shall not cause or permit any noise that disturbs the peace of another individual.

11.2 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.

11.3 If a motor vehicle is the cause of any sound that contravenes a provision of this bylaw the registered owner of that motor vehicle is liable for the contravention.

11.4 Section 11.3 does not apply if the owner, on a balance of probabilities, satisfies the court that, at the time the motor vehicle was involved in the contravention, the owner was not present in the motor vehicle and no other person was operating the motor vehicle with the owner's express or implied consent.

11.5 This section does not regulate noise from:

- Children playing
- Church bells
- Heavy walking
- People moving furniture
- Slamming doors
- Wind chimes

12.0 NOISE CONTROL – RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

12.1 No person shall operate the following items in a Residential Development during the Nighttime:

(a) a hand lawn mower; or

(b) a motorized Garden Tool; or
(c) a power tool outside of any building or structure; or

(d) a remote control or model aircraft, car, vehicle, or other such device, driven by an internal combustion or electric engine of any kind; or

(e) a snow clearing device powered by an engine of any kind; or

(f) a motorized snow or leaf blowing device; or

(g) a truck over 5450 kg, truck-tractor, tractor-trailer, or concrete mixer idling in excess of 20 mins.

13.0 NOISE CONTROL – CONTINUOUS SOUND IN RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

13.1 No person shall cause or permit to be caused, Continuous Sound that exceeds the greater of the following sound levels:

(a) 65 Decibels (dBA) Leq measured over a one (1) hour period during the Day Time, and at any Point of Reception within a Residential Development; or

(b) 50 Decibels (dBA) Leq measured over a one (1) hour period during the Nighttime, and at any Point of Reception within a Residential Development.

13.2 Notwithstanding Subsection 13.1, where the Ambient Sound Level for an area is at or above the maximum allowable Day Time or Nighttime Sound Levels referred to in subsection (1) measured over one (1) hour period a Sound Level must exceed five (5) Decibels (dBA) Leq over the Ambient Sound Level before it becomes an offence.

14.0 NOISE CONTROL – NONCONTINUOUS SOUND IN RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

14.1 No Person shall cause or permit to be caused, a Non-Continuous Sound that exceeds:

(a) 85 Decibels (dBA) Leq measured over a period of fifteen (15) minutes during the Day Time, and at any Point of Reception within a Residential Development; or

(b) 75 Decibels (dBA) Leq measured over a period of fifteen (15) minutes during the Nighttime, and at any Point of Reception within a Residential Development.

15.0 NOISE CONTROL – SOUND IN NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

15.1 No Person shall cause or permit to be caused a Continuous Sound that exceeds the greater of:

(a) 85 Decibels (dBA) Leq measured over a one (1) hour period during the Day Time or Nighttime, and at any Point of Reception within a Non-Residential Development; or

(b) 5 Decibels (dBA) Leq over the Ambient Sound Level measured over a one (1) hour period during either the Day Time or Nighttime, at any Point of Reception within a Non-Residential Development.

15.2 No Person shall cause or permit to be caused a Non-Continuous Sound which exceeds 85 Decibels (dBA) Leq measured over a period of a one (1) hour period during the Day Time or Nighttime at any Point of Reception within a Non-Residential Development.

16.0 NOISE CONTROL – CONSTRUCTION NOISE

Construction is a necessary—but often noisy—part of a growing and vibrant Cochrane community. Noisy construction activities that disturb others are only permitted during specific hours and days.

16.1 No person shall operate construction equipment on city streets, lanes, and boulevards outside of the hours detailed in this section.

16.2 No person shall cause or permit any construction activity on property they own or occupy outside of the hours detailed in this section.

16.3 A construction noise exception permit is required outside of the hours detailed in this section.

Construction-related noise is permitted during the following hours:

Day	On private property	On city streets, lanes, and boulevards
Monday to Friday	7:00am - 9pm	7am - 9pm
Saturday	7am - 9pm	7am - 9pm
Sunday or holiday (day of)	9am - 8pm	9am - 8pm

17.0 NOISE EXEMPTIONS

17.1 The provisions of this Bylaw do not apply to:

(a) emergency vehicles

(b) municipal equipment of any nature and/or type including but not limited to snow and ice removal, street cleaning and any type of utility or roadway repair; or

(c) construction in a residential development for the times stated in

Section 16 whether or not construction requires any Permits; or

(d) the use of Motorized Garden Tools in a Residential Development where:

i. the Sound Level does not exceed 75 Decibels (dBA) measured over a one (1) hour period; and

ii. the Motorized Garden Tools are used during the Day Time for less than three (3) hours during any given day.

(e) a vehicle for the purpose of garbage pickup and recycling pickup; or

(f) work on a street or the public utility carried out by the owner or operator of the public utility, or its contractors; or

(g) any activity within the sole jurisdiction of the Government of Canada or the Province of Alberta.

17.2 Despite Section 17, the Manager of Municipal Enforcement may apply any other provision of this part to 17.1, 17.3 on a site-specific basis at their discretion.

17.3 Event Noise Exemptions:

(a) A Person may make a written Application to the Manager of Municipal Enforcement for a Temporary/Special Event or a Continual Permit allowing for noise that would otherwise violate this Bylaw.

(b) Any Application made pursuant to 17.3 must be made at least twenty (20) business days prior to the proposed event activity.

(c) The Permit Fee is outlined in Schedule "B" of this Bylaw.

(d) Manager of Municipal Enforcement may revoke any Temporary/Special event permit that has been issued where it is determined that the Applicant has not taken sufficient measures to minimize noise or Sound Levels.

18.0 RELAXATION

18.1 Despite Section 13, A Person may operate a snow clearing device powered by an engine for the purpose of commercial and non-commercial snow removal of snow and ice from the streets, parking lots and sidewalks, 48-hour period following a snowfall, rain or freezing rain and/or icy conditions.

18.2 Despite Section 13, A Person may operate a Motorized Garden Tool or grass cutting device on a golf course between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on any day of the week.

18.3 Municipal equipment of any nature and/or type including but not limited to snow and ice removal, street cleaning and any type of utility or roadway repair.

19.0 TESTERS

19.1 When measuring Sound Levels, the Tester must measure the Sound Level at the Point of Reception with the Sound Level Meter at least one (1) meter above the ground.

19.2 When measuring Sound Levels, the Tester is the person who determines the Point of Reception.

20.0 PUBLIC BEHAVIOUR - FIGHTING

20.1 No person shall engage in fighting, including any confrontation involving violent physical contact between two or more persons, in any public place or on private property that is accessible to the public.

21.0 PUBLIC BEHAVIOUR - PANHANDLING

21.1 No person shall engage in panhandling:

(a) as a group of two or more persons; or

(b) from any person who at the time is an occupant or engaged in operating a motor vehicle; or

(c) from a person who has refused or declined such solicitation; or

(d) to obstruct the passage of, walk next to, ahead of, or follow the person being solicited; or

(e) at or near the entrance to a bank, credit union, trust company, or other financial institution where cash can be withdrawn; or

(f) at or near an automated teller machine or other device from which cash can be electronically accessed; or

(g) in, from, or near any public transportation vehicle.

22.0 PUBLIC BEHAVIOUR – URINATION AND DEFECATION

22.1 No person shall defecate or urinate in or on a Public Place or in public on any private property, except in a facility designated and intended for such use.

22.2 This section does not apply to infants or individuals suffering from medical conditions where immediate access to a restroom facility was not reasonably available.

23.0 PUBLIC BEHAVIOUR – LOITERING

23.1 No person shall loiter in a manner that disrupts the safety of residential, commercial, or public spaces.

23.2 No person shall be a member of an assembly of three or more persons in any public place or any place to which the public is allowed access where a Peace Officer has reasonable grounds to believe the assembly will disturb the peace of the neighborhood, and any such person shall disperse as requested by a Peace Officer.

24.0 PUBLIC BEHAVIOUR – VANDALISM

Enforcement of graffiti and vandalism rules protects the integrity of public spaces, cultural landmarks, artistic installations, and private property.

24.1 No person in a public place shall:

(a) cause anything to become damaged; or

(b) engage in any activity which is inconsistent with the intended use of such public place; or

(c) behave in a manner that reasonably interferes with the comfort, convenience, enjoyment, or quiet use of any other person using such public place.

24.2 No person shall place any graffiti or cause it to be placed on any property, public space, buildings, structures, vehicles, or vegetation.

(a) Every property owner shall ensure that graffiti placed on their premises is removed, painted over, or otherwise permanently blocked from public view within seven (7) days.

(b) A property owner, who breaches the provisions of Section 24.2(a), where, following the issuance of and failure to comply with an Order issued under the Municipal Government Act, shall be liable to payment of a penalty as prescribed in Schedule "A".

(c) In prosecution for an offence under this Section, the consent of the property owner of any premises to place graffiti shall not be a defense under this bylaw.

25.0 ENFORCEMENT – OFFENCE

25.1 Any person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw by doing any act or thing which the person is prohibited from doing, or by failing to do any act or thing the person is required to do, is guilty of an offence pursuant to this Bylaw and subject to the penalties listed in Schedule A.

26.0 ENFORCEMENT – CONTINUING OFFENCE

26.1 In the case of an offence that is of a continuing nature, a contravention constitutes a separate offence in respect of each day, or part of a day, on which it continues and a person guilty of such an offence and subject to the penalties listed in Schedule A.

27.0 ENFORCEMENT – VIOLATION TICKET

27.1 Where an Officer believes that a person has contravened any provision of this Bylaw, the Officer may commence proceedings against the person by issuing a violation ticket in accordance with the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c.P-34 and subject to the penalties listed in Schedule A.

28.0 ENFORCEMENT – BYLAW TICKET

28.1 Where an Officer believes that a person has contravened any provision of this Bylaw, the Officer may issue a Bylaw Ticket in lieu of prosecution and subject to the penalties listed in Schedule A.

29.0 ENFORCEMENT – SPECIFIED PENALTY

29.1 Where there is a specified penalty listed for an offence in Schedule "A" to this Bylaw, that amount is the specified penalty for the offence.

30.0 ENFORCEMENT – MINIMUM PENALTY

30.1 Where there is a minimum penalty listed for an offence in Schedule "A" to this Bylaw, that amount is the minimum penalty for the offence.

30.2 Where any person has been convicted of a contravention of the same provision of this Bylaw twice within one twelve-month period, the

specified penalty payable in respect of the second conviction is double the amount shown in Schedule "A" of this Bylaw in respect of that provision.

30.3 Where any person has been convicted of a contravention of the same provision of this Bylaw three or more times within one twelve-month period, the specified penalty payable in respect of the third or subsequent conviction is triple the amount shown in Schedule "A" of this Bylaw in respect of that provision.

30.4 This section shall not prevent an Officer from issuing a summons requiring a court appearance of the defendant, pursuant to the Provincial Offences Procedures Act or from laying an information instead of issuing a violation ticket.

30.5 A person who is found guilty of an offence under this Bylaw is liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of not more than $10,000.00 or to imprisonment for not more than one year, or to both fine and imprisonment.

31.0 ENFORCEMENT – OBSTRUCTION

31.1 A person shall not obstruct or hinder any officer in the exercise or performance of the officers' powers pursuant to this bylaw.

31.2 Fail to comply with a remedial order.

32.0 ENFORCEMENT – VICARIOUS LIABILITY

32.1 For the purposes of this bylaw, an act or omission by an employee or agent of a Person is deemed also to be an act or omission of the person if the act or omission occurred in the course of the employee's employment with the person, or in the course of the agent's exercising the powers or performing the duties on behalf of the person under their agency relationship.

33.0 GENERAL – POWERS OF THE CHIEF ADMINSTRATION OFFICER (CAO) OR DELEGATE

33.1 Without restricting any other power, duty or function granted by this bylaw the CAO, Peace Officer, or delegate may:

(a) carry out any inspections to determine compliance with this bylaw; or

(b) take any steps or carry out any actions required to enforce this bylaw; or

(c) take any steps or carry out any actions required to remedy a contravention of this bylaw; or

(d) establish investigation and enforcement procedures with respect to residential, commercial, industrial or other types of property and such procedures may differ depending on the type of property in question; or

(e) establish areas where activities restricted by this bylaw are permitted; or

(f) establish forms for the purposes of this bylaw; or

(g) issue permits with such terms and conditions as are deemed appropriate; or

(h) establish the criteria to be met for a permit pursuant to this bylaw; or

(i) delegate any powers, duties or functions under this bylaw to an employee of the Town;

34.0 GENERAL – NUMBER AND GENDER REFERENCES

34.1 All references in this bylaw will be read with such changes in number and gender as may be appropriate according to whether the reference is to a male or female person, or a corporation or partnership.

35.0 GENERAL – SEVERABILITY

35.1 It is the intention of Council that each separate provision of this Bylaw shall be deemed independent of all other provisions herein and it is the further intention of Council that if any provision of this Bylaw is declared invalid, all other provisions hereof shall remain valid and enforceable.

36.0 TRANSITIONAL REPEALS – BYLAWS REPEALED;

(a) Bylaw No. 04/2007 – Nuisance and Unsightly Premises Bylaw;

(b) Bylaw No. 16/2011 – Noise Control Bylaw;

(c) Bylaw No. 01/2009 – Snow Removal Bylaw.

37.0 EFFECTIVE DATE

This Bylaw comes into full force and effect upon third and final reading

Read a first time:

Read a second time:

Read a third time:

_____

Mayor

_____

Director, Legislative &
Administrative Services

COMMUNITY STANDARDS BYLAW 06/2025
SCHEDULE "A"

Minimum and Specified Penalties

OFFENCE			
SECTION	**DESCRIPTION**	**MINIMUM PENALTY**	**SPECIFIED PENALTY**
General	All Bylaw sections not specified in this Schedule	$250	$500
	PART II – NUISANCE AND UNSIGHTLY PROPERTY		
3	Nuisance and unsightly land. Any person that contravenes an offence in section 3 is liable for. **$500** for a first offence and increasing for subsequent offences 2nd $750, 3rd $1000.00.	$300	$500
5.1	Place or allow cat feces, dog feces, animal parts or animal meat on a composting pile	$300	$500
5.2	Open Composting Pile on the Premises within ten (10) meters of an adjacent dwelling	$300	$500
5.3 (a,b,c,d)	Owner or occupier allowing or failing to maintain composting container or pile.	$300	$500
6.1	Failure to clear snow and ice from a sidewalk. $250 for the first offence, $500 for the second offence, and $750 for the third and subsequent offences in a calendar year.	$250	$500
7.1(a,b,c,d,e, f,g,h,I,j,k.)	Improperly disposing of waste materials in public or private spaces, rather than using designated trash receptacles.	$500	$1000
7.5	Owner of vehicle involved in disposing of litter from vehicle	$250	$500
8.1(a,b,c,d.)	Placing a poster, flyer or handbill or other similar item.	$200	$500
	PART III - NOISE CONTROL		
11.1	Cause/permit noise that disturbs	$250	$350

	the peace of another.		
11.2	Cause or permit property to be used to disturb the peace of another	$250	$350
11.3	Registered owner of Motor Vehicle causing the disturbance of another	$250	$350
12.1 (a,b,c,d,e, f,g)	Operate equipment or device during Nighttime	$250	$350
13.1 (a)	Cause/Permit sound above 65 Decibels over 1 hour period during daytime within Residential Development	$250	$350
13.1 (b)	Cause/Permit sound above 50 Decibels over 1 hour period during nighttime within Residential Development	$250	$350
13.2	Cause/Permit sound above max allowable for a 1-hour period, measured at over 5 decibels over ambient sound	$250	$350
14.1 (a)	Cause/Permit sound above 85 Decibels over a 15-minute period during daytime within a Residential Development	$250	$350
14.1 (b)	Cause/Permit sound above 75 Decibels over a 15-minute period during nighttime within a Residential Development	$250	$350
15.1 (a)	Continuous sound exceeds 85 decibels over 1 hour period day or night Non-residential development	$500	$750
15.1 (b)	Continuous sound non-residential development 5 decibels above ambient	$500	$750
15.2	Non-Continuous sound exceeds 85 decibels over 1 hour period day or night Non-residential development	$350	$500
16.1	Cause/permit construction activity before 7 a.m. or after 9 p.m. on any day other than Sunday	$500	$750

	or a holiday		
16.2	Cause/Permit construction activity before 9 a.m. or after 9 p.m. on any Sunday or holiday	$500	$750
16.3	Cause/Permit construction activity at any time, contrary to a written notice issued by the Manager of Municipal Enforcement.	$1000	$1500
	PART lV – PUBLIC BEHAVIOUR		
20.1	Fighting	$100	$350
21.1	Panhandling	$100	$350
22.1	Urinate or Defecate in a public place	$250	$500
24.1 (a,b,c)	Vandalism	$500	$1000
24.2	Graffiti	$250	$500
	PART V - ENFORCEMENT		
31.1	Obstruct or hinder exercise of powers	$500	$750
31.2	Fail to comply with a remedial order	$500	$750

COMMUNITY STANDARDS BYLAW 06/2025
SCHEDULE "B"

Permit Fee Schedule

PERMIT	**FEE**
Noise Exemption Permit	$50
Special Event	$50
Continual	$250

COMMUNITY STANDARDS BYLAW 06/2025
SCHEDULE "C"

Noise Exemption Permit available online at www.cochrane.ca

COMMUNITY STANDARDS BYLAW 06/2025
SCHEDULE "D"

SPECIAL EVENTS PERMIT

Order to Remedy a Property

Community Standards Bylaw Violation Notice

Issued to: [Offender's Name]
Address: [Offender's Address]

Date of Issue: [Date]

Violation Details:
It has been determined that you have violated the Community Standards Bylaw, specifically:

- **Offence:** [Description of the offence, e.g., "Noise disturbance exceeding permissible levels"]
- **Location:** [Location of the offence]
- **Date and Time of Offence:** [Date and time]

Fine Amount:
You are hereby fined **$[Amount]** for the above offence. This fine must be paid by **[Payment Deadline, e.g., "January 31, 2025"]**.

Payment Instructions:
Payment can be made by **[Payment Methods, e.g., "online, by mail, or in person at the municipal office"]**. Please include the violation notice number **[Notice Number]** with your payment.

Consequences of Non-Payment:
Failure to pay the fine by the specified deadline may result in additional penalties, including but not limited to:

- Increased fines
- Legal action
- Collection procedures

Appeal Process:
If you wish to appeal this violation notice, you must file an appeal within **[Number of Days, e.g., "14 days"]** from the date of issue. Appeals can be submitted to **[Appeal Authority, e.g., "the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board"]**.

Contact Information:
For further information or to discuss this notice, please contact **[Municipal Office Contact Information].**

This template provides a structured format for issuing fines for public behavior offences, ensuring clarity and consistency in enforcement.