

St. Albert will ban all public recreational consumption of cannabis when it is legalized in October in a move that continues the fractured approach to bylaws and enforcement of Canada's new green economy.

CALGARY

The city recently launched a public engagement period to gather input about several public areas where people could smoke and vape cannabis. That's because under the city's cannabis consumption bylaw, consuming cannabis in public is forbidden, even after legalization.

CAMROSE

After lengthy discussion Camrose County council asked administration to draft an amendment to the parks control bylaw banning cannabis at public parks. The proposal will go back to council on Sept. 11 for consideration.

FORT SASKATCHEWAN

The consumption of cannabis in Fort Saskatchewan will be regulated through a smoking bylaw.

JASPER

Jasper councillors are expected to discuss the public consumption aspect of cannabis, but council

voted last week to allow — pending approval by Parks Canada — pot retailers to operate until midnight and not to limit the number of stores or how close they are to each other in town.

LEDUC COUNTY/CITY OF LEDUC

No draft bylaw has been tabled for public consumption of cannabis by Leduc County. On Aug. 28 the county is expected to continue its discussion on a proposed land use bylaw that will look at everything from cannabis retail space to cannabis production facilities and storage and distribution.

The city, on the other hand, is aligning the public use of cannabis with alcohol, meaning smoking and vaping cannabis will be “prohibited in public places, which are defined in the bylaw as any property, publicly or privately owned, that the public may have access to.” Cannabis consumption will be permitted in private residences.

RED DEER

Red Deer city council recently held the first reading of its smoke-free bylaw that will “prohibit smoking or any form of consumption of cannabis in any public location”.

Administration is also considering banning smoking or vaping cannabis inside multi-unit residences and the public consumption of medical marijuana as well. The city's bylaw "is in addition to the Alberta Cannabis Act that limits smoking and vaping in locations such as playgrounds, sports fields, hospitals and schools, to name a few.

SPRUCE GROVE

The city has yet to decide on any public consumption bylaws. However, director of planning and development Debra Irving said the city has come some distance since adopting its land use bylaw June 11. Since then, it has approved seven retail outlets in the city, she said. "Our pre-application process worked really well."

STRATHCONA COUNTY

Strathcona County councillors had first reading of a proposed bylaw May 8 that effectively bans smoking and vaping of any substance (tobacco included) from many places that include patios, theatres, events and markets, hotel rooms and swimming pools/spray parks.

Golf courses, existing hotel rooms designated as smoking rooms and off-leash dog parks are exempt. Councillors are expected to vote on second and third reading and it will be

implemented in the fall after the provincial regulations are adopted

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO

Spokesman Adam Hardiman said following extensive public consultation, the municipality that includes Fort McMurray voted in July to implement a total ban on public consumption. The consumption of edibles has not been written into the bylaw because they are still illegal, but there is room to revisit the policy after the first wave of legalization, he said.

“It’s better to start from a position of prudence and see how that goes over the course of a year or 18 months, and you can always adjust later.”