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**City of Edmonton Youth Council**  
*stance on*  
**Public Spaces Bylaw**

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# We're going to talk about the bylaw's:

**01**

Impacts on Unhoused  
Individuals

**03**

Impacts on Substance  
users

**02**

Impacts of this Bylaw  
on Indigenous People

**04**

Obscure parts

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**The City of Edmonton  
Youth Council  
opposes the proposed  
Public Spaces Bylaw**

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# “As a youth, I try to avoid travelling via public transit because I don’t feel safe doing so”

- Let’s not house homeless people in jail as it’s hard for people with criminal records to get ahead
- More security at transit stations and safe consumption sites
- Let’s consider vulnerable youth facing homelessness and drug addiction



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This is a human rights issue.

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There are around **3000**  
unhoused people in Edmonton.  
**58%** of them are **Indigenous**,  
even though they only account  
for **6%** of our population

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- Because unhoused people are unable to access housing, a fundamental human right;
  - Because most of these people are Indigenous, who are already highly marginalized and continue to face the consequences of settler colonialism

Let's be empathetic.

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People who are the **most deserving** of our empathy are instead punished for being in their situation, so privileged people can keep them **out of sight** and **out of mind**. This looks like:

- Encampments are being torn down in temperatures below **-20 degrees Celsius**;
  - Indigenous journalists getting **arrested** for trying to report on their own struggle
  - Younger people finding their friends **dead** in obscure alleyways because no one was there to prevent with the overdose
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These consequences are  
**indefensible**, even if they  
improve **public perceptions** of  
safety.

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“As a university student who uses transit daily, while the intention of this bylaw may be to address public safety concerns, I believe that there are many negative consequences associated with the bylaw.”

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This bylaw could:

- Increase the risk of **Overdose** and **Death**
- Deepen Poverty
- Impact Transit Users

Additionally, this bylaw does not address **root causes**.

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It is crucial for the city to implement a bylaw that combines enforcement with social services, mental health support, and harm reduction initiatives to create a more inclusive and effective strategy for addressing the complex issue of substance use in public spaces.

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## **Crime**

Edmonton's violent crime rate has increased 16.5% from 2021 to 2022

## **Houselessness**

Increased by 150% from 2016

## **Drugs**

Public death by overdose has increased by 1200% since 2018

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It's **cheaper** to build **supportive housing** and **affordable housing** than to house someone in jail, in a hospital, or in a shelter. It's also more **compassionate** and **humane**.

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Studies show that **safe consumption sites** reduce **overdose deaths**, can **save cities money**, and convince people to go to **addiction treatment**.

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There are **455** (and probably more)  
kids under **15** that don't have homes.  
This bylaw will make their lives **harder**.

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- If this bylaw passes there is going to be a 250\$ fine for biking on grass in a city park
  - The fine for riding your bike on a sidewalk has increased to 250\$

“I would say my bike is my primary mode of transportation, so I know that in many places across the city it isn't safe to ride on a street, and there isn't bicycle infrastructure.”

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What kind of panhandler is able to pay a \$250 fine?

Additionally, this bylaw clamps down on protests.

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What kind of city do *we*  
want to be?

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