



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE AGENDA

Monday, May 26, 2025 at 12:05 p.m.

Chair: Mayor B. Hendriksen,
Councillor S. Arden-Smith,
Councillor G. Cochrane,
Councillor R. Fequet,
Councillor C. McGurk,
Councillor T. McLennan,
Councillor S. Payne, and
Councillor R. Warburton.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.	Opening Statement: The City of Yellowknife acknowledges that we are located in Chief Drygeese territory. From time immemorial, it has been the traditional land of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. We respect the histories, languages, and cultures of all other Indigenous Peoples including the North Slave Métis, and all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.
2.	Approval of the agenda.
3.	Disclosure of conflict of interest and the general nature thereof.
ANNEX A	
4.	A memorandum regarding whether to approve recommended Strategic Priorities for the Municipal Enforcement Division for 2025/26.
5.	A presentation regarding Mill Rate Policy.



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

MEMORANDUM TO COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE: Governance and Priorities

DATE: May 26, 2025

DEPARTMENT: Public Safety

ISSUE: Whether to approve recommended Strategic Priorities for the Municipal Enforcement Division for 2025/26.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the following strategic priorities for the Municipal Enforcement Division (MED) for 2025/26:

- Focusing on pedestrian and intersection safety issues through the strategic enforcement of the Highway Traffic By-law as well as preparing for the addition of bike lanes to the City;
- Engaging in strategic enforcement and prevention activities concerning unauthorized parking, specifically focusing on access for emergency vehicles;
- Prioritizing Municipal Enforcement engagement and visibility in the community, particularly in the downtown core focusing on litter, unsightly lands, and ensuring a safe environment for all; and
- Developing strategic relationships with other local law enforcement agencies to facilitate cooperation and achieve greater public safety effects in the community.

BACKGROUND:

In 2014, an operational review of MED recommended that the City set high-level strategic priorities for municipal enforcement on an annual basis. On March 25, 2019, Council adopted a By-law Enforcement Policy intended to uphold effective municipal by-law enforcement and provide transparency to the enforcement process for the public. It requires that the City prioritize proactive enforcement on matters related to public safety. All other by-law enforcement action is undertaken in response to complaints. In addition, the Policy calls for Council to set strategic priorities for municipal enforcement annually. In May 2024, no consultation with Council was done due to change in leadership at the City Manager position.

In May, 2023, Council approved the following strategic priorities for 2023/24:

- Focusing on pedestrian and intersection safety issues through the strategic enforcement of the Highway Traffic By-law;

- Engaging in strategic enforcement and prevention activities concerning unauthorized parking, specifically focusing on access for emergency vehicles;
- Prioritizing Municipal Enforcement engagement and visibility in the community, particularly in the downtown core; and
- Continued emphasis on incorporating reconciliation with Indigenous peoples into Municipal Enforcement activities, to build on the work that has already taken place.

Since then, MED has made progress on the 2022/23 Strategic Priorities, as outlined in the attached Strategic Priorities Update for 2024/25. MED is in the process of undergoing an operations framework review for modernization of established procedures, training methods, and policies.

COUNCIL POLICY / RESOLUTION OR GOAL:

Council Motion #0083-19 That Council adopt the By-law Enforcement Policy (March 2019)

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION, BY-LAWS, STUDIES, PLANS:

1. *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, S.N.W.T. 2003, c.22;
2. *Motor Vehicles Act*, RSNWT, 1988, c.M-16 and *regulations*;
3. Highway Traffic By-law No. 5055;
4. Public Parks and Recreation Facilities By-law No. 4564, as amended;
5. Unsightly Lands By-law No. 3979, as amended;
6. Solid Waste Management By-law No. 4376, as amended;
7. By-law enforcement Policy, Council Motion #0083-19, 26 March 2019; and
8. Yellowknife Old Town Emergency Circulation Review and Parking Study, 5 August 2019

CONSIDERATIONS:

Legislative

The City's enforcement activities are guided by the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act (CTV Act)* of the Northwest Territories which grants legislative powers to municipal governments, including enforcement of by-laws. This mandates MED to enforce the *Motor Vehicles Act and regulations*, *All Terrain Vehicles Act* as well as City by-laws with an enforcement component.

Financial Considerations

Actions guided by Council's adoption of strategic priorities for Municipal Enforcement in 2025/26 are achieved through budget allocations and existing resources.

Consistency

Council direction on annual strategic priorities for enforcement ensures Municipal Enforcement aligns with broad Council goals and community needs. The identification of priorities confirms a consistent approach with respect to Municipal Enforcement and ensures resources are directed toward enforcement areas of greatest concern.

The City of Yellowknife's By-law Enforcement Policy commits that any matter related to public or officer safety is always a priority for MED in addition to the priorities set by Council. Furthermore, the By-law Enforcement Policy clarifies that enforcement may be achieved through a range of activities such as: educating the public about regulatory rules, conducting inspections to ensure that rules are being followed, mediating between members of the public, and formal consequences (issuing tickets) for by-law contraventions where compliance is not forthcoming or harm has been done to the community. Whatever approach is taken, safety of the public and officers is always the primary consideration.

ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt other strategic priorities to support MED in setting enforcement goals for 2025/26.

RATIONALE:

Council's annual direction on the By-law Enforcement Policy strategic priorities for enforcement ensures transparency to the public. Guidance on strategic priorities will assist MED Officers by providing better information and context to guide decision-making and priority setting in carrying out their enforcement duties.

1. Focusing on pedestrian and intersection safety issues through the strategic enforcement of the Highway Traffic By-law.

Traffic By-law enforcement was a major MED activity in 2024/2025 as it is a priority stated in the By-law Enforcement Policy, and is assessed to be a major public concern into the future. Strategic, proactive enforcement of the Traffic By-law—particularly in high-risk areas like intersections and school zones—helps prevent collisions and promotes safer driver behavior. School zones warrant special focus, as children are more at risk during busy times of day. Visible enforcement in these areas not only deters unsafe driving but also reassures families that their safety is a priority. Targeting these areas with a thoughtful and pre-planned enforcement schedule supports the City of Yellowknife's broader public safety strategic goals.

2. Engaging in strategic enforcement and prevention activities concerning unauthorized parking, specifically focusing on access for emergency vehicles.

Strategic enforcement and prevention of unauthorized parking—especially where it blocks access for emergency vehicles—should be a key priority due to the significant public safety risks. Throughout 2024/25, ensuring that these important access lanes remained open is a daily priority for MED. Proactive enforcement ensures emergency services can operate effectively when every second counts, while also promoting public awareness of the consequences of illegal parking. This focus supports the City of Yellowknife's commitment to safety and helps keep essential infrastructure clear and accessible at all times.

3. Prioritizing Municipal Enforcement engagement and visibility in the community, particularly in the downtown core focusing on litter, unsightly lands, and ensuring a safe environment for all.

Prioritizing Municipal Enforcement engagement and visibility—particularly in the downtown core—is essential to enhancing public safety, addressing nuisance issues, and supporting community well-being. A visible presence helps deter by-law infractions such as illegal parking, public disturbances, and littering, while also making people feel safer and more comfortable in public spaces. Residents and visitors are more likely to feel secure when they see uniformed officers regularly patrolling the area. Increased engagement also supports efforts to address unsightly lands and garbage, contributing to a cleaner, more inviting downtown environment. These proactive measures not only promote compliance but also strengthen community trust and reinforce the City of Yellowknife’s commitment to maintaining a safe, accessible, and vibrant urban core.

4. Developing strategic relationships with other local law enforcement agencies to facilitate cooperation and achieve greater public safety effects in the community.

Developing strategic relationships with other local law enforcement agencies should be a priority to enhance coordination, improve information sharing, and achieve greater public safety outcomes across the community. Municipal Enforcement plays a vital role in maintaining order and compliance with by-laws, but many issues—such as traffic safety, public disturbances, and vulnerable person outreach—benefit from a collaborative, multi-agency approach. Strengthening partnerships with the RCMP, Fire Division, and other relevant agencies allows for more efficient use of resources, consistent enforcement, and a unified response to emerging challenges. This cooperation also builds public confidence by demonstrating that enforcement agencies are working together to keep Yellowknife safe, responsive, and well-served.

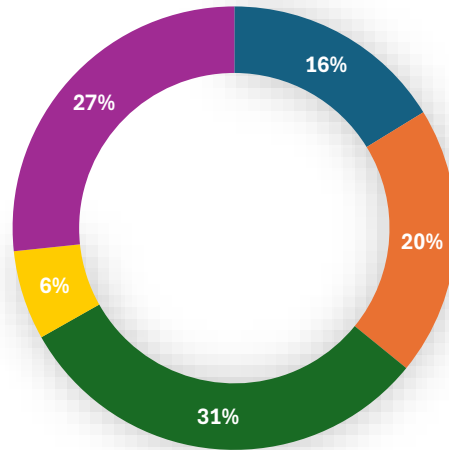
ATTACHMENTS:

2024/25 Strategic Priorities Update.

Prepared: April 13, 2025; CM

Amended: May 13, 2025; BO

MUNICIPAL ENFORCEMENT REPORTABLE OCCURRENCES BREAKDOWN 2024-2025*



■ DOG BYLAW ENFORCEMENT

■ TRAFFIC BYLAW ENFORCEMENT

■ PARKING BYLAW ENFORCEMENT**

■ RECONCILIATION, VISIBILITY, & ENGAGEMENTS***

■ ALL OTHER DUTIES

*Analysis of data is based on current priorities from Council set in 2023/24, not proposed priorities for 2025/26

*** Does not include parking meter violations.

***Not all data collected accurately reflects these categories as these categories may be more qualitative than

- ***Continued emphasis on incorporating reconciliation with Indigenous peoples into public safety and enforcement activities, to build on the work that has already taken place.***

MED, like other elements of the Municipal Government, have taken to heart, the continuing work that must be done towards reconciliation. It is policy that all MED employees participate in the GNWT's Living Well Together program. MED consistently looks for opportunities to support, listen, and learn from the Indigenous Peoples of Yellowknife.

Specifically, we have undertaken work that is not included in the Municipal Enforcement Reportable Occurrences Breakdown, shown above, as these areas are more qualitative than quantitative:

- Participating in the Red Dress March that was organized by the Native Women's Association of the NWT, Yellowknife Women's Society, Status of Women Council of the NWT and the YWCA NWT;
- Respectful engagement with Indigenous community members by various means, including on patrol in the community;

- Including wording that specifically supports reconciliation in updates to MED procedures and policies;
 - Participating in Orange Shirt Day (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation);
 - Participating in the Moosehide Campaign; and
 - Incorporating Crisis Intervention and De-escalation training as well as the GNWT's Living Well Together program and the City's Truth and Reconciliation program into the onboarding training for new MED Officers.
- ***Continued emphasis on Municipal Enforcement visibility and public engagement in the community.***

Without a doubt this is the priority which has come through the loudest and clearest from the community. There is a significant desire for MED to have a visible presence, particularly in the downtown core. MED has not conducted as many of these patrols in 2024/25 as was conducted in 2023/24. This could be a result of having a reduced number of MED Officers for several months during the last year. MED will endeavor to improve this in 2025/26. MED Officers will achieve this through conducting more frequent high visibility patrols in the downtown core and throughout the community on bike or on foot. In addition, MED will partner with the RCMP to do joint patrols to further advertise our presence in the community. Next year, particular focus will be paid to litter, garbage, and unsightly lands as part of these patrols.

In 2024/25, MED did the following to enhance community visibility and engagement:

- National Police Week Barbeque;
 - City facility patrols;
 - Routine foot patrols;
 - Daily four-lanes patrols;
 - Bike safety presentations to youth and giving out bike helmets; and
 - Various parades, processions and marches.
- ***Strategic proactive enforcement and prevention activities to enforce the Highway Traffic By-law, particularly the speeding provisions.***

MED officers increased proactive traffic enforcement operations compared to last year. There was a reduction in driving complaints this year as well. It is assessed that MED's efforts have been effective towards ensuring pedestrian safety particularly within school zones.

- ***Proactive enforcement of unauthorized parking, to ensure unobstructed access for emergency vehicles.***

MED Officers have been making proactive patrols of the various fire lanes throughout the City as a way to ensure emergency vehicle access is not obstructed. Officers have also been educating the public on the importance of keeping fire lanes/fire hydrants clear at all times. Parking complaints and infractions have remained stable when compared to last year.