



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

BY-LAW NO. 5156

BG 89

A BY-LAW of the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the City of Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories, to manage and regulate access to, use of, and activity on land owned by the City of Yellowknife.

PURSUANT TO Section 70(1)(a) of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, S.N.W.T. 2003, c.22, which provides that the Council of a municipality may make by-laws for municipal purposes respecting the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property;

AND PURSUANT TO Section 70(1)(b) of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, S.N.W.T. 2003, c.22, which provides that the Council of a municipality may make by-laws for municipal purposes respecting people, activities and things in, on or near a public place or a place that is open to the public;

AND PURSUANT TO Section 70(1)(e) of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, S.N.W.T. 2003, c.22, which provides that the Council of a municipality may make by-laws for municipal purposes respecting the management, use and protection of lands;

AND PURSUANT TO Section 70(1)(h) of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, S.N.W.T. 2003, c.22, which provides that the Council of a municipality may make by-laws for municipal purposes respecting programs, services, infrastructure and facilities provided or operated by or on behalf of the municipal corporation;

AND PURSUANT TO Section 70(1)(k) of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, S.N.W.T. 2003, c.22, which provides that the Council of a municipality may make by-laws for municipal purposes respecting the enforcement of by-laws;

AND PURSUANT TO Section 11 of the *Summary Convictions Procedures Act* RSNWT 1988, c. S-15 which provides that Council of a municipality may provide for, in respect of a summons, offences for which a specified penalty may be paid out of court to the municipality in place of appearing in answer to the summons;

WHEREAS the Municipal Corporation of the City of Yellowknife owns land and Public Park and Recreation Facilities frequently used by the public;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the City of Yellowknife wishes to manage municipal land and public spaces administered by the City of Yellowknife in a manner that furthers the

safety and well-being of the community, protects property and the environment, and promotes responsible stewardship of City assets and resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE, in regular sessions duly assembled, enacts as follows:

SHORT TITLE

1. This by-law may be cited as the “**Access and Use of Municipal Land By-law**”.

INTERPRETATION

2. In this by-law:

“Act”	means the <i>Cities, Towns and Villages Act</i> , S.N.W.T. 2003, c.22;
“camp” or “camping”	means placing, erecting, or using a tent, lean-to, or another form of shelter for sleeping or human habitation, or sleeping overnight in open air;
“City”	means the Municipal Corporation of the City of Yellowknife, in the Northwest Territories;
“Council”	means the council of the City;
“land”	means land as defined in section 1 of the <i>Land Titles Act</i> RSNWT 1988, c. 8 (Supp);
“Municipal Land”	means land within the City of Yellowknife owned, leased, occupied, or under the City’s management and control and includes public buildings, service building, or other structures on lands within the City of Yellowknife;
“Officer”	means a person who is appointed in accordance with the Act as a by-law officer to enforce the by-laws of the City of Yellowknife and any peace officer who is entitled by law to enforce the by-laws of the City of Yellowknife;
“Public Space”	means Municipal Land which people have access to as of right or by express or implied invitation, whether for payment of a fee or not and whether or not the custody, care, management or control of such areas or facilities has been delegated to another body or agency;
“violation ticket”	means a ticket issued under the <i>Summary Conviction Procedures Act</i> , RSNWT 1988, c.S-15.

3. Reference to any statute, regulation, or by-law in this By-law means that statute, regulation, or by-law as amended or replaced from time to time.
4. Headings in this by-law are for reference purposes only.

TRESPASS

5. No person without proper authorization will enter onto, pass through, or remain on Municipal Land that is not a Public Space.
6. No person will enter onto, pass through, or remain in a Public Space, or portion of a Public Space that is closed.
7. For the purpose of Section 6, a Public Space is deemed closed if:
 - (1) signage indicates, or notice is given that, the area is closed;
 - (2) physical barriers such as locked doors, fences or gates are present; or
 - (3) if payment of a fee is required prior to entry or use of the Public Space and the person entering the Public Space has not paid the amount owing for entry or use then that Public Space is deemed closed to that person.
8. No person will move, remove or alter signage or physical barriers referred to in Section 7.

CAMPING REGULATIONS

9. No person will camp in a Public Space.
10. Despite Section 9, where Council considers it appropriate, Council may by resolution authorize a person to camp in a Public Space.
11. In authorizing camping in a Public Space Council may consider, in addition to any other factors Council deems relevant, whether the proposed camping location is:
 - (1) an environmentally sensitive area,
 - (2) a highway, trail, or other area commonly used for the passage of people or vehicles,
 - (3) a playground or school, or within 100 meters from a playground or school,
 - (4) a recreation facility including tennis courts, sports fields, and bleachers,
 - (5) flowers or shrub beds, horticultural display areas, or gardens, or
 - (6) a public washroom, picnic shelter, or gazebo.

12. An Officer may seize and impound abandoned property on Municipal Land that was used or related to camping or a campsite. An Officer who removes and stores abandoned property pursuant to this section shall not be responsible for any damage that may occur to the property during removal and storage.
13. The City may dispose of any unclaimed property seized and impounded in accordance with Section 11(6) after holding it for 30 days.

ENFORCEMENT

14. Officers may enforce this by-law.
15. A person must not obstruct or hinder an Officer in the exercise of any of their powers, duties or functions under this by-law, including its enforcement.
16. In addition to any other penalty that may be imposed, an Officer may direct any person contravening this by-law to stop the activity and to leave the Municipal Land and if that Municipal Land is a Public Space the area shall be deemed to be closed to the person receiving direction for the period set out in Section 17.
17. Any person directed to leave Municipal Land under Section 16 shall do so promptly and not return to that location within the time period specified in the direction.
18. Nothing in this By-law shall limit any rights or remedies of the City.

OFFENCE

19. A person who contravenes this by-law is guilty of an offence.
20. 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 is liable to a fine under this by-law for each such day.

FINES AND PENALTIES

21. A person who is guilty of an offence under this by-law is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding:
 - (1) \$2,000 for an individual, or to imprisonment for a term of not more than six months in default of payment of the fine, or
 - (2) \$10,000 for a corporation.
22. An Officer may issue a violation ticket to any person who violates any provision of this by-law.
23. Without restricting the generality of section 21, if a violation ticket is issued for an offence under this by-law, the violation ticket may:

- (1) specify the voluntary fine amount established by this by-law for the offence in Schedule A; or
 - (2) require a person to appear in Court without the alternative of making a voluntary payment.
24. If a violation ticket specifies a fine amount for the offence as set out in Section 23(1), the person named in that violation ticket may, if they wish to plead guilty, pay the specified fine amount in place of appearing in Court.

CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

25. By-law No. 4564 is hereby amended by deleting section 5 and replacing it with the following:

“5. While in a Public Park or Recreation Facility no person shall

- (a) climb on any building, structure or equipment unless it is designed specifically for the purpose of climbing; or
- (b) build a structure, whether permanent or temporary;

except in an area where such activity is specifically allowed by the Director.”

SEVERABILITY

26. Should any provision of this by-law be found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalid provision shall be severed and the remaining provisions of the by-law shall be maintained.

EFFECT

27. That this by-law shall come into effect upon receiving Third Reading and otherwise meets the requirements of Section 75 of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*.

Read a First time this 16 day of September, A.D. 2026.

<Original Signed by the Mayor>

Mayor

<Original Signed by the City Manager>

City Manager

Read a Second Time this 16 day of September, A.D. 2026.

<Original Signed by the Mayor>

Mayor

<Original Signed by the City Manager>

City Manager

Read a Third Time and Finally Passed this 23 day of September, A.D. 2026.

<Original Signed by the Mayor>

Mayor

<Original Signed by the City Manager>

City Manager

I hereby certify that this by-law has been made in accordance with the requirements of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* and the by-laws of the Municipal Corporation of the City of Yellowknife.

<Original Signed by the City Manager>

City Manager

**CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE
BY-LAW NO. 5156
Schedule A**

**SCHEDULE A
PENALTIES**

Section	Offence	Fine
5	Trespass on Municipal Land	\$100
6	Trespass on closed Public Space	\$100
8	Removing or altering signage or barriers closing Public Space	\$100
9	Camping in a Public Space	\$100
15	Obstruction	\$100
17	Failing to comply with direction of Officer	\$100