

January 25, 2017

**Council adopts new garbage and recycling regulations to reduce risk of injury to employees;  
Public Works to roll out a three phased approach to educate residents on new regulations.**

**Nelson** – Based on a list of recommendations from an in-depth internal Occupational Health and Safety review of the City’s garbage and recycling program, Council has amended the Waste Management and Wildlife Attractant Bylaw to mitigate the impact of heavy and repetitive lifting for the garbage collectors, which can cause injury.

The City has changed the requirements for residents on how garbage and recycling is collected:

- The maximum weight per garbage or recycling bag is now 20kgs (44lbs).
- Bags must be removed from bin or container before being placed outside for pick-up.
- Bags must be properly sealed.

“Since 2012, there have been a total of 13 reported injuries of City employees directly linked to garbage collection.” says Colin Innes, Director of Public Works & Utilities. “We found in our review that the weight of the bag, trying to get bags out of the bins and garbage becoming water soaked all lead to additional strain on our employees and the injuries we were seeing.”

As it stands, on average, one staff person moves approximately 4300 kgs on any single collection day. Based on this we also felt it important to spread the collection among more employees. By reducing the number of days per week that an individual works, it will greatly reduce the total amount of waste collected by that person and should reduce the number of on-the-job injuries related to heavy and repetitive lifting. It should be noted, that 20kgs is the standard bag weight in the majority of municipalities in British Columbia.

“We understand that the public will need time to fully understand the changes that are being implemented, and with that in mind, we have developed a comprehensive education plan that will be rolled out over the next 6 weeks to assist residents in understanding the new regulations.” says Mayor Kozak. She adds, “We appreciate your support in helping us keep our employees safe.”

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# ***Three-Step Program – Garbage and Recycling Bylaw Changes***

## **1. Education**

### **Week of January 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Information regarding the new changes to the garbage and recycling regulations will be sent to residents in the Annual City Mailer which explains the two main changes made to the Waste Management and Wildlife Attractant Bylaw (Bylaw) under the City FAQs.

[http://www.nelson.ca/assets/City~Services/Operations/2017\\_Garbage\\_Recycling\\_Updated.pdf](http://www.nelson.ca/assets/City~Services/Operations/2017_Garbage_Recycling_Updated.pdf)

## **2. Phased-In Collection Process**

### **Week of January 30<sup>th</sup> – Notices Given**

The City will remove all garbage during this collection week; however, information notices will be issued where crews identify that a resident has not complied with the Bylaw.

### **Week of February 13<sup>th</sup> – Warnings Given: Stickers placed on bags and garbage left with opportunity for corrective measure.**

A sticker which cites specific reasons why your bag(s) were not picked up will be placed on bags/cans that are found not to comply with the Bylaw. Residents who find their garbage has been tagged are able to make the corrective changes and then phone the City at (250) 352-8238 to have their garbage/recycling picked up.

### **Week of February 27<sup>th</sup> – Full Implementation: Stickers placed on bags and garbage/recycling is left at residence.**

A sticker will be placed on bags/cans that are found not to comply with the Bylaw. At this time an orange sticker indicating why the bag was not picked up will be attached to the bag/can. Residents who find their garbage has been tagged will either have to make corrective changes, so that the garbage can be collected in the next collection week or the owner can take it to the Transfer Station located at 1201 Insight Drive from 8:30am to 5:30pm, Monday through Saturday and dispose of the garbage themselves.