

city of

Wetaskiwin

PRESS RELEASE

City Suspends Enforcement of the Plastic Bag Ban Bylaw until May 2021

November 6, 2020

(Wetaskiwin, Alberta) – The City of Wetaskiwin’s Director of Emergency Management has approved the extension of the suspended enforcement of Plastic Bag Ban Bylaw 1913-18 until May 2021 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

This suspension of enforcement allows local retailers to continue to give away or sell single-use plastic checkout bags to customers until May 2021. The enforcement of Bylaw 1913-18 was first suspended in March 2020 by the City’s Director of Emergency Management, Robert Osmond, due to the increased infection risk reusable bags posed to the public. It was announced in June 2020 that the Plastic Bag Ban Bylaw would be reinstated November 2020, however, with the recent rise in local active COVID-19 cases, the decision was made to extend the enforcement suspension for several more months.

“COVID-19 cases are on the rise across the province and in Wetaskiwin. Doing what we can to prevent or slow the spread of the virus is paramount,” said Director of Emergency Management Robert Osmond. “The City takes the health and safety of citizens very seriously and extending the suspension of the Plastic Checkout Bag Ban Bylaw makes sense given the current state of the pandemic and our local case numbers.”

Affected businesses in the City will be contacted by City staff in the coming weeks to ensure they are aware of this decision and to address any questions they may have about impacts to their business. Residents should contact individual stores to determine if they will allow reusable bags at their location during this time.

Additional information and all COVID-19 information related to the City of Wetaskiwin can be found on the City’s dedicated portal at wetaskiwin.ca/COVID19.

About the City of Wetaskiwin

Wetaskiwin is a secure, connected, and inclusive community home to a diverse population of 12,655 people. Located only 30 minutes south of the Edmonton International Airport, the City of Wetaskiwin provides a high quality of life through ample recreation opportunities, diverse cultural activities, and a modernized, business-friendly downtown.

–30–

For more information please contact:

Robert Osmond

Director of Emergency Management

780.361.4434

robert.osmond@wetaskiwin.ca



“the hills where peace was made”
www.wetaskiwin.ca