

Jurisdictional Scan: Municipal By-laws Restricting the Display and/or Delivery of Graphic Images

Municipalities Exploring By-law Options to Ban the Display of Graphic Signs

| Jurisdiction | Status |
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| City of Toronto | April 30, 2024 - The Economic and Community Development Committee received report EC12.7 for information. Staff recommended that residents prevent the unsolicited delivery of graphic flyers by using mechanisms already available to them, such as displaying a no flyer sign on mailboxes. Further, the City will amended their signage by-law to generally prohibit temporary signs with advocacy messaging in the public right of way. Signs may be placed on private property, encroaching only as necessary onto public property with limitations (no larger than 1.2 square meters with 2 sign faces, no more than 3 signs, cannot be within 0.60 metres of a sidewalk, distance restrictions regarding intersections and pedestrian crossovers on collector roads, arterial roads and local roads). |
| City of London | March 5, 2024 - Council directed staff to bring forward a by-law to the Community and Protective Services Committee that would ban graphic signs from public display by end of Q2 2024. |
| Town of Oakville | June 19, 2023 - Council directed staff to bring forward recommendations for placing restrictions on graphic flyers and public displays. |
| City of Hamilton | November 8, 2023 - Council directed staff to bring forward a report to the Planning Committee detailing the feasibility of adopting by-laws to regulate the display of graphic images in public spaces as well as the distribution of graphic flyers by the end of Q2 2024. |

Municipalities with By-laws Restricting the Display of Graphic Signs

| Jurisdiction | By-Law | Scope |
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| City of Calgary | Temporary Signs on Highways By-law (29M97) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricts the placement of signs within playgrounds and school zones and restricts advocacy messaging on public property within 150 metres of a school (if larger than 3.5” by 5” in size) between the hours of 7:30am and 9:00pm during school days. • Advocacy messaging is defined as “messaging that publicly expresses an opinion on an issue or cause.” • Violation of the by-law can result in a fine up to \$1,000. |

Municipalities with By-laws Restricting the Delivery of Graphic Images

| Jurisdiction | By-Law | Scope |
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| City of Calgary, AB | Community Standards By-law (32M2023) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flyers delivered to residential homes that contain graphic images must be concealed in an opaque envelope, have a graphic content warning, and include the name and address of the sender. • Graphic images are defined as a visual image showing, or purporting to show, a fetus or any part of a fetus. • Violation of any of the three by-law requirements can carry a fine ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 each. |
| Town of Airdrie, AB | Community Standards By-law (B-09/2012) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same scope as the City of Calgary by-law. |

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| Town of Strathmore, AB | Community Standards By-law (23-27) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same scope as the City of Calgary by-law, except the by-law does not apply to mail delivered by Canada Post or requested by the resident. |
| Town of Okotoks, AB | Community Standards By-law (31-23) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same scope as the City of Calgary by-law; except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graphic images are defined as visual image showing, or purporting to show any subject matter that is not in compliance with the Canadian Code of Advertising Standards and offends the standards of public decency prevailing among a significant segment of the population. ○ Fines for each offence starts at \$500 and increases by \$250 for every subsequent offence conducted in the same calendar year, for a maximum of \$1,000 |
| City of London | Graphic Image Delivery By-law (PW-14) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same scope as the City of Calgary by-law; except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Violation of the By-law can result in a maximum fine of \$5,000. ○ By-law does not apply to mail delivered by Canada Post or requested by the resident. |
| Town of Ingersoll | Graphic Image Delivery By-law (23-5268) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same scope as the City of London By-law. |
| City of Woodstock | Graphic Image Delivery By-law (9576-23) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same scope as the City of London By-law |
| City of St. Catharines | Graphic Image Delivery By-law (2023-150) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same scope as the City of London By-law, except minimum and maximum fees are not specified. |
| City of Burlington | Delivery of Graphic Images By-law (13-2024) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same scope as the City of London By-law, except minimum and maximum fees are not specified. |