

city of

# Wetaskiwin

## PRESS RELEASE

### **City of Wetaskiwin to resume enforcement of Plastic Bag Ban Bylaw May 5, 2021**

April 15, 2021

(Wetaskiwin, Alberta) - The City of Wetaskiwin will resume enforcement of Plastic Bag Ban Bylaw 1913-18 starting May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This means Wetaskiwin-based retailers will no longer be able to provide single-use plastic checkout bags to customers from May 5<sup>th</sup> onward.

Enforcement of the bylaw was originally suspended by the Director of Emergency Management in March 2020 due to concerns that reusable bags were a potential source of transmission of COVID-19. Now—13 months later—[coronavirus transmission routes](#) are better understood, and reusable bags are no longer considered as playing a role in the spread of COVID-19.

“The decision to suspend enforcement of the plastic bag ban bylaw in March 2020 was made in the interest of protecting the public’s health” said Sue Howard, City Manager. “Now that we know reusable bags are not linked to the transmission of COVID-19, we are resuming enforcement of this bylaw.”

The City recognizes the environmental harm caused by plastic bag pollution and remains committed to its sustainability efforts. City staff are reaching out to the local business community to ensure they are aware of the upcoming resumption of enforcement and to answer any questions.

Residents are encouraged to bring their reusable bags as of May 5<sup>th</sup> when shopping in any retail store in the City of Wetaskiwin. Reusable bags can also be purchased on-site at most retail establishments. The City reminds the public about the importance of regularly washing or disinfecting reusable bags to ensure their cleanliness when transporting food items.

Quick facts:

- The City of Wetaskiwin first suspended enforcement of Plastic Bag Ban Bylaw 1913-18 in March 2020 by order of the City’s Director of Emergency Management.
- The City planned on resuming enforcement of the Plastic Bag Ban Bylaw in November 2020, but [postponed enforcement](#) until more information was available about the coronavirus transmission routes.

#### **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.



“the hills where peace was made”  
[www.wetaskiwin.ca](http://www.wetaskiwin.ca)

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