



NEWS

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# Chinatown shops fight transit lane

Loss of some parking spaces will be ‘crushing,’ business owner says

ZAC DELANEY

The Chinatown business improvement area (BIA) and several of its members are honking their horns over concerns about an upcoming transit lane that will wipe out daytime parking for some businesses on 101 Street.

“We’re counting on the city to provide small businesses with support, not literally putting roadblocks in front of success,”

said Richard Liukko, owner of Freecloud Records and a Chinatown BIA member.

“It’s completely crushing.”

In September, construction will start on a new transit lane in Edmonton’s Chinatown area, running southbound on 101 Street between Kingsway and 107A Avenue.

The city said the new lane, which will run for two blocks, is intended to improve transit in the area by

speeding it up and making it more reliable.

However, once built, the lane will eliminate on-street parking for eight businesses during the day along the route, which all say the lack of parking will be bad for business.

An emailed statement from Janis Fong, the supervisor of the transportation planning and design department with the city, said the lane will be a dedicated transit lane from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., when no parking will be allowed along the corridor.

The lack of parking is an issue for the businesses and the board

of the Chinatown BIA, who all signed a petition opposing the new lane.

“When we get people coming in from out of town, people visiting, people who have any kind of handicaps, infirmities, whatever it might be, having storefront access — curbside access — is really, really important,” said Liukko.

The petition underscored the importance of the parking stalls, which it says are used by customers and delivery drivers stopping in briefly throughout the day for lunches or pickups or other business.

SEE CHINATOWN ON **A4**



DAVID BLOOM

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EXPLAINER

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# GETTING READY TO RIDE

Some incoming Edmonton Catholic students get familiar with one of the big yellow buses that’ll be taking them to school starting next month. The group was taking part in the school board’s First Riders program, which teaches youngsters about bus safety.

## Fines for dog attacks could go as high as \$7K under updated bylaw

CINDY NGUYEN

For the first time in two decades, Edmonton has overhauled its animal care and control bylaw, a move city officials say will better protect residents, pets and urban wildlife.

Approved by council this week after two years of public engagement, the updated rules address dog attacks, licensing fees, feral cat populations and more. The bylaw will take effect on May 19, 2026, following a period of public education.

“We’re very excited about this

new bylaw and what it is going to offer Edmontonians in terms of better welfare for our animals and support for other organizations,” said John Wilson, the city’s director of animal care and parkrangers on Wednesday.

“We have worked with the community, organizations and experts to create an approach that prioritizes animal welfare, public safety and responsible pet ownership.”

**WHY THE 20-YEAR-OLD RULES WERE UPDATED**

There are practical reasons for

acting now, Wilson said, noting the city’s animal bylaw was more than 20 years old and no longer reflected the needs of the community.

“It’s important to periodically review our bylaws, and this one was pretty long in the tooth,” he told reporters on Wednesday, noting the review looked at updating fees, fines, and regulations, and included feedback from animal control peace officers, who highlighted gaps in the outdated rules and areas where they hadn’t kept pace with changing trends.

The push for change was also driven by statistics and feedback from residents, citing the rise in pet ownership since 2020 and growing concerns about safety and animal welfare. During consultations, some people expressed a desire for tougher penalties for dog attacks and clearer guidelines for responsible pet ownership.

SEE BYLAW ON **A4**

# SPORTS

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