

Proclamations

Regina

Regina's *Procedure Bylaw*¹ outlines the City's proclamation request procedure and lists circumstances in which the request will be rejected, the determination of whether to issue a proclamation being otherwise left to the sole discretion of the Mayor. The bylaw also provides a standard form for proclamations.

Subsection 37(2) of the bylaw sets out criteria for acceptable proclamation content as follows:

"Subject to The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code the Mayor may, in his sole discretion, approve the proclamation submitted pursuant to Subsection (1), provided the proclamation does not:

- (a) promote any commercial business;
- (b) involve any person or organization which promotes hatred of any person or class of persons or otherwise involves illegal activity; or
- (c) contain any inflammatory, obscene or libelous statement."

Calgary

Calgary's Proclamation Policy² is similar to Regina's proclamation provisions in that Calgary's policy lists circumstances in which the request will be rejected and gives discretion to the Office of the Mayor whether to issue proclamations otherwise acceptable under the policy.

Calgary's policy contains the following criteria for determining whether a proclamation application can be approved:

- "1. A request for a proclamation should meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - a. The sponsoring agency be a charitable organization;
 - b. The cause be one of national significance;
 - c. The cause be one of benefit to the majority of Calgarians;
 - d. The cause be an initiative of The City of Calgary.
- 2. Requests with commercial or political overtones will not be considered.
- 3. Requests for proclamations to support a cause, which is contentious or divisive within the community, will not be considered."

¹ <http://open.regina.ca/dataset/1bb36673-da14-458a-a6bb-9278ce35c537/resource/7f16e9ab-3c56-4630-a003-8b9102d6fe9a/download/9004c15.pdf> see section 37.

² <http://www.calgary.ca/CA/city-clerks/Documents/Council-policy-library/cc015-Proclamation-Policy.pdf>

Edmonton

Edmonton's Civic Protocol Policy³, which includes proclamations in the broader category of "Special Recognitions", does not specify an exact process or procedure on these issues, but addresses the distribution of responsibilities among Council and various departments. The policy states as follows regarding Special Recognitions:

"3.02 Special Recognitions

Corporate Communications will:

(a) review requests for proclamations, congratulatory messages, Mayor's messages, letters of recognition, champions letters, birthday and anniversary greetings received directly or referred from the Mayor or designate.

(b) in the case of recommended approval provide the Office of the Mayor or designate with document for signature.

(c) in the case of recommended refusal, provide the Mayor or designate with reasons why, and recommend alternatives if appropriate."

Winnipeg

Winnipeg does not appear to have a specific bylaw or policy document relating to proclamations.

Toronto

The "Proclamations" page of the City of Toronto's website⁴ lists its criteria for the issuing of proclamations. The criteria are comprehensive, listing both positive qualifiers and disqualifiers. Proclamations are issued at the discretion of the Mayor.

The webpage lists the following criteria for determining whether to approve a proclamation request:

"Eligible Causes

- Public awareness campaigns
- Charitable fundraising campaigns
- Arts and cultural celebrations

[...]

³ https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/documents/PoliciesDirectives/C419A.pdf

⁴ <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/awards-tributes/tributes/proclamations-congratulatory-scrolls-and-letters-of-greeting/proclamations/>

Proclamations will not be issued for:

- matters of political controversy, ideological or religious beliefs or individual conviction
- events or organizations with no direct connection to the City of Toronto
- campaigns or events contrary to City policies or by-laws
- National, Independence or Republic Days (please see flag-raising for appropriate recognition)
- Campaigns intended for profit-making purposes".

Ottawa

Ottawa's "Proclamation Procedures"⁵ lists the relevant criteria and is similarly comprehensive to Toronto's policy. Positive and negative criteria are used. Proclamations are issued at the discretion of the Mayor.

The procedures list the following criteria for determining whether to approve a proclamation request:

"A proclamation may be issued:

- to an individual or organization residing within the boundaries of the City of Ottawa who has achieved national or international distinction, or whose significant contribution to the community deserves recognition;
- to artistic, athletic, historical and cultural celebrations held within the boundaries of the City of Ottawa;
- to charitable and non-profit fundraising events held within the boundaries of the City of Ottawa;
- as a special recognition/honour on the recommendation of the Mayor.

A proclamation will not be issued for:

- matters that are politically or religiously motivated or represent individual conviction;
- campaigns, events or activities that are contrary to the City of Ottawa's policies or bylaws;
- individuals or organizations that espouse discrimination, hatred, violence or racism;
- individuals or organizations that are not directly related to the City of Ottawa;
- events or activities intended for profit-making purposes.

⁵ <https://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/your-city-government/policies-and-administrative-structure/office-protocol/office-protocol-procedures#proclamation-procedures>

London

London's proclamation provision in its Council Policy Manual⁶ is unique in stating that "no proclamations shall be issued on behalf of the City of London, except those required by law to be issued".

Surrey

Surrey does not appear to have a specific bylaw or policy document outlining a proclamations procedure, although its Flag Policy⁷, which is unique in that it does not permit the flying of any flags on civic property other than governmental flags, lists proclamations as one of the alternatives available to those seeking formal City recognition.

Halifax

Halifax does not appear to have any bylaw or policy documents addressing the issue of proclamations procedure.

⁶ <https://www.london.ca/city-hall/council-policies/Documents/Chapter16-final.pdf> see section 16(22).

⁷ https://www.surrey.ca/bylawsandcouncilibrary/CR_2014-R104.pdf (see also: http://www.surrey.ca/bylawsandcouncilibrary/MIN_RCPH_2014_06_23.pdf at p. 14)