

Repealing the Casino Bylaw – Non-Statutory Public Hearing**Report Purpose**

To introduce the non-statutory public hearing on the possible repeal of Bylaw 100-2001, A Bylaw to Prohibit Casinos in Strathcona County.

Recommendation

N/A

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 7 - Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication

Report

In September 2021, Council approved an advertised, non-statutory public hearing to solicit public feedback on possible repeal of the Casino Bylaw. The non-statutory public hearing will be held on November 30, 2021 at 7 p.m.

A question on the possible repeal of the bylaw was included as part of a SCOOP survey and an additional open anonymous survey, both of which ran until November 17, 2021. On an overall basis, 55.1% (2,640 people) felt that casinos did not belong anywhere in the County, while 42.4% (2,035 people) thought that some locations in the County could be considered for casinos. The remaining 2.5% (120 people) were not sure. There were 4795 responses to the surveys (1143 from SCOOP and 3652 from the anonymous survey). A report on the survey results is included as Enclosure 1.

Should Council decide to repeal the existing Casino Bylaw, three readings of Bylaw 58-2021, Casino Bylaw Repealing Bylaw (Enclosure 2) would be required. Although this would remove the prohibition, it does not permit the development of casinos in the County. Any proposed casino development would have to adhere to all zoning, business and all other development requirements before it could be built.

Council and Committee History

September 14/15, 2021	Council approval: THAT option 1, as set out in the September 14, 2021 Legislative and Legal Services report, be approved.
July 13, 2021	The Priorities Committee passed a referral motion: THAT the July 13, 2021 report Stagewest Hospitality be referred to Administration for further work and report on options for repealing the Casino Bylaw, including opportunities for public engagement on the repeal of the bylaw; and that the report be provided to Council by end of Q4 2021.
December 11, 2001	Bylaw 100-2001, the Casino Bylaw was given three readings.

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Legislative/Legal: Section 191 of the Municipal Government Act allows Council to repeal a bylaw by way of bylaw with the same requirements as for passing the bylaw to be repealed.

Interdepartmental: n/a

Master Plan/Framework: n/a

Communication Plan

The non-statutory public hearing was advertised in the newspaper, on roadways signs and on the Strathcona County website and social media channels.

Enclosure(s)

- 1 2021 Casino Bylaw Survey Results
- 2 Bylaw 58-2021 Casino Bylaw Repealing Bylaw
- 3 PowerPoint Presentation