

S Candido Submission for Bylaw 100-2001
November 30, 2021 Public Hearing

From: Sandra Candido

Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2021 1:31 PM

To: Legislative Officer <LegislativeOfficer@strathcona.ca>

Subject: Bylaw 100-2001 -NOT in favor of repealing

I am a resident of Strathcona County—currently residing at
my husband and I also own 40 acres within rural Strathcona county
family farm that my grandfather homesteaded in 1908.

in Sherwood Park and
from the original

I wish to voice that **I am absolutely NOT in favor of repealing the bylaw 100-2001.**

My maiden name is Morrow and I am proud to say that I have lived in this beautiful and family focused county my whole life (my uncle JD Morrow was the Reeve of this county 1976-81) and I am actually shocked and disappointed that Strathcona County is even considering the possibility of allowing casinos and repealing this bylaw.

Thank you.

Sandra Candido

Please be advised that I am very much opposed to any repealing of Bylaw 100-2001, the Casino Bylaw.

The Casino Bylaw contains a "Whereas" reference to the effect that Council is acknowledging receipt of a "valid and sufficient" petition from electors of Strathcona County and as a result (Now Therefore) is passing the Casino Bylaw.

Although this is not strictly a Bylaw voted on by electors as required by section 240 of the Municipal Government ACT it is analogous to that section and clearly the Council of the day acted as if they were required to pass the Bylaw. The Petition was treated as "a vote of the electors" for the purpose of section 240. As such section 240(a) requires a majority vote of the electors be held on the proposed repeal.

This requirement of a vote of the electors is IN ADDITION to the 10 year time limitation in section 240(c). The 3 OR 10 year limitation is likewise IN ADDITION to the requirement for a vote of the electors.

IN THE ALTERNATIVE If section 240 is held not to apply to the repeal of a Bylaw founded upon a vote of the electors as set out in the petition then section 191 of the Municipal Government Act does apply which gives Council the power to repeal a Bylaw PROVIDED THE REPEAL IS MADE IN THE SAME WAY AS THE ORIGINAL BYLAW AND IS SUBJECT TO THE SAME CONSENTS OR CONDITIONS THAT APPLY TO THE PASSING OF THE ORIGINAL BYLAW.

Again the Casino Bylaw clearly states in the Whereas provisions that the Council of the day passed the Casino Bylaw because of their receiving a "valid and sufficient petition from electors of Strathcona County". Accordingly The Casino Bylaw can only be repealed in response to a similar petition from the electors

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There is ample research as to the detrimental impact of a casino particularly in a largely residential and family orientated area like Strathcona County. Of course there are factions of the community who would support a Casino but they are in the considerable minority. Council should give heed to their continuing moral and legal obligations to the majority of the electorate to protect the family in our society and reject any advocacy respecting an appeal of the Casino Bylaw.

L. Hay Submission for Bylaw 100-2001

November 30, 2021 Public Hearing

I believe what is best for children and families is ultimately what is best for society. I would like Council to think of the negative impact on the homes where gambling has taken away the time and resources from defenseless children. Thank you for the hard work all of you are doing. I appreciate it.

Linda Hay

M. Card Submission for Bylaw 100-2001

November 30, 2021 Public Hearing

Please register my opinion that we do not need to repeal the present bylaw banning casinos

They take advantage of vulnerable people who often can least afford to lose money needed for food & housing

They can lead to gambling addictions

There are enough casinos nearby if people in Strathcona County wish to use them as entertainment...

In fact, they have a good chance of funnelling dollars that could be spent current restaurants & drinking establishments that are already stretched to the limit in the current economy

Let's keep Strathcona County a family friendly community!

Yours truly,

Mary Card

H. Meek Submission for Bylaw 100-2001

November 30, 2021 Public Hearing

I have filled out the survey STRONGLY AGAINST the changing of the casino bylaw. We already decided this many years ago. DO NOT change it as it is a huge detriment to our community.

Please be advised that I am very much opposed to any repealing of Bylaw 100-2001, the Casino Bylaw.

The Casino Bylaw contains a "Whereas" reference to the effect that Council is acknowledging receipt of a "valid and sufficient" petition from electors of Strathcona County and as a result (Now Therefore) is passing the Casino Bylaw.

Although this is not strictly a Bylaw voted on by electors as required by section 240 of the Municipal Government ACT it is analogous to that section and clearly the Council of the day acted as if they were required to pass the Bylaw. The Petition was treated as "a vote of the electors" for the purpose of section 240. As such section 240(a) requires a majority vote of the electors be held on the proposed repeal.

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There is ample research as to the detrimental impact of a casino particularly in a largely residential and family orientated area like Strathcona County. Of course there are factions of the community who would support a Casino but they are in the considerable minority. Council should give heed to their continuing moral and legal obligations to the majority of the electorate to protect the family in our society and reject any advocacy respecting an appeal of the Casino Bylaw.

I am opposed to Casinos in our county.

You can be sure that my voice represents hundreds of others that may not have vocalized this.

Casinos pose adverse health risks to those most vulnerable. Let's not take advantage of individuals and families with this uncreative, narrow-sighted solution, that has inconclusive evidence of enhancing local economies. Other areas are trying to untangle themselves from this let's not get tangled up in the first place.

E. Finna Submission for Bylaw 100-2001
November 30, 2021 Public Hearing

To Mayor Frank and Councillors,

I am writing regarding the possible repeal of the bylaw prohibiting casinos from Strathcona County.

As a 2 year resident, I am deeply worried about lifting this bylaw and potentially allowing new casinos to come to Strathcona County.

One of the reasons why I originally moved to this area and love living here today is how quiet, safe, and family-friendly it is. Talking to my family, friends, and neighbours, there is a shared sentiment here that we feel safer than we did in Edmonton, where crime rates are significantly higher. I don't believe that casinos are a service that we are lacking in Strathcona County, and I know that many people living here share those feelings.

For those who want to go to a casino, there are plenty of options just down the road in Edmonton. I would also note that those casinos are mostly in industrial, not residential areas. Here in the County, we can't know where a casino would pop up and what kinds of impacts it could have in the surrounding community and the families living there. We are a growing community, but I would encourage the County to consider adding family friendly things like dog parks before they add a casino.

Furthermore, a casino would greatly reduce traffic and the risk of drunk-driving, as well as addiction in the community.

In summary, I am asking that as my Mayor and Council, you vote to maintain Bylaw 100-2001.

Sincerely,
Emily Finna



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Rod Frank, Strathcona County, Alberta

FROM: Andreae Sennyah, Director of Policy, Cardus

CC: Councillors, Strathcona County
Mr. Darrell Reid, Chief Commissioner, Strathcona County
Mr. Gord Johnston, Associate Commissioner, Community Services Division

DATE: November 26, 2021

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL REPEAL OF THE CASINO BYLAW (BYLAW 100-2001)

WHO WE ARE

Cardus is a non-partisan, faith-based think tank and registered charity dedicated to promoting a flourishing society through independent research, robust public dialogue, and thought-provoking commentary. We are a leading voice on gambling and its impact on society. Our work has also been featured in the [Alberta Gaming Research Institute](#).

ISSUE

Strathcona County is contemplating a repeal of the Casino Bylaw that has been in place since 2001. Bylaw 100-2001 was triggered by a petition from residents who sought to prohibit casinos within the County. The [original bylaw text](#) cites the purpose of a municipality as per the *Municipal Government Act*. Namely, that a municipality's purpose is to, amongst other things, "develop and maintain safe and viable communities."

POSITION

Cardus [research](#) on gambling policy shows that a repeal of the Casino Bylaw would be contrary to this purpose for the following reasons: (1) gambling disproportionately burdens the poor; (2) particular types of electronic gambling are designed to be addictive, thus compounding their effects on the vulnerable; and (3) problem gambling has been linked to loneliness, isolation, and suicide.

WHO IS IMPACTED?

Our [analysis](#) estimates that the poorest households in Alberta spend more than 7% of their income (\$1,700/year) on gambling¹. Various studies from Canada and around the world consistently demonstrate higher levels of gambling amongst lower-income families. As noted in our study, the data clearly show that gambling disproportionately burdens the poor.

Our research also found that an estimated 1.5% to 3% of adults in Alberta suffer from problem gambling and that this minority accounts for roughly [50% of spending](#) on gambling in Alberta. Numerous studies show that

¹ Calculations based on AGLC Annual Reports and Statistics Canada, "Table 11-10-0223-01: Household Spending by Household Income Quintile, Canada, Regions and Provinces." For detailed calculation methodology, see Dijkema and Wolfert, *Pressing Its Luck*.

similar to other forms of addiction, problem gambling afflicts the more vulnerable including those with lower income, less formal education, ethnic minorities, and those suffering from mental illness and other forms of addiction.

The risk of problem gambling is heightened for people who use electronic gambling machines such as those commonly found in casinos. For example, machines may disguise losses as wins by using audio/visual effects to suggest a player has “won” less money than they bet. Notably, electronic gambling machines account for 76% of Alberta’s gambling revenue. By manipulating a player’s emotions and cognitive perceptions, these machines are designed to be addictive and further fuel problem gambling.

Our other [research](#) has found that those who suffer from problem gambling are also more likely to have attempted or contemplated suicide. Additional studies show that gambling can feed a vicious circle of loneliness and social isolation. People who gamble to escape feelings of loneliness have a higher likelihood of becoming problem gamblers, and problem gamblers in turn are more likely to experience loneliness.

RECOMMENDATION

The Strathcona County [2013-2030 Strategic Plan](#) outlines that the County is a place where “families thrive in [a] dynamic, caring and safe community.” Further, the first strategic goal of this plan is to “build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents.” The County’s [Recreation and Culture Strategy](#) seeks cooperation between government, non-profits, and businesses to “contribute to the cohesion, vibrancy and overall well-being of [your] community.” Repealing the prohibition on casinos would be contrary to these goals.

Cardus research, backed by data from Statistics Canada and various empirical studies, shows that gambling as a whole, and certain casino games in particular, have negative impacts on the well-being of the vulnerable in our communities by fueling issues such as addiction, loneliness, and the associated tragedy of suicide.

The County [website](#) notes that “much has changed in [your] community over the last 20 years.” While true, the negative impacts of casinos on communities, and especially the vulnerable within them, has not. Our recommendation is for Strathcona County to continue prioritizing the well-being of your community by maintaining the current prohibition on casinos and continuing to focus its recreational efforts on centers that build, rather than break down, social cohesion in Strathcona County.

Read the Full Reports:

[Royally Flushed: Reforming Gambling to Work for, Not Against, Alberta](#) (Cardus, July 2020)

[Pressing Its Luck: How Ontario lottery and gaming can work for, not against, low income households](#) (Cardus, June 2020)

A. Roth Submission for Bylaw 100-2001
November 30, 2021 Public Hearing

We have lived in the County of Strathcona for 42 years; raised children and grandchildren. We are taxpayers and love this county and Sherwood Park very much. All of us in our family (that is 12 in total) we are **not in favor of having a casino in Sherwood Park or in the County of Strathcona.**

Helga & Adam Roth

/HR

A Soper Submission for Bylaw 100-2001

November 30, 2021 Public Hearing

Attention Mayor Frank and Councillors,

I am writing in response to Council's pending decision whether to repeal Bylaw 100-2001 that prohibits casinos, and the public hearing scheduled to take place on November 30, 2021.

As a resident of Sherwood Park please accept this letter as my written submission against the repeal of this Bylaw. A casino establishment is not a necessity for Strathcona County and our residents have more than enough nearby options to visit a casino. Strathcona County has more pressing priorities at hand, and I hope our elected Councillors feel the same. We should be supporting our local restaurants and hospitality businesses that already exist. It's great to be promised jobs and prosperity from suiting casinos and another thing to stand by their sales pitches for the long term.

Sincerely,
Ashley

G. Tomchuk Submission for Bylaw 100-2001
November 30, 2021 Public Hearing

I am providing this written submission in opposition to repealing Bylaw 100-2001.

The reasons for my opposition are:

1. As a long-time resident of Sherwood Park and local business owner, the negative impact to existing hospitality operators will be significant, with the challenges of the past 18 months, the closures, declines in business, issues with staffing, having another large operator enter the market will further erode a declining industry.
2. The typical casino has large food and beverage offerings and showrooms with live shows that a small operator cannot compete with.
3. There are many options for casinos within 10 to 30 minutes of Sherwood Park, no need to open another one within the County

I thank you for taking the time to consider these points.

Regards,

Gary Tomchuk

Managing Partner

The Sherlock Holmes Hosp. Group

SherlocksHospitality.com



D. and V. Fitzgerald Submission for Bylaw 100-2001
November 30, 2021 Public Hearing

We would like to express our "opposition" to changing the bylaw to allow Casino in Strathcona county. There are already ones close enough if wanted to visit one in Edmonton. Please express our concern to members of council for the November 30/21 meeting. Thank you

Dennis and Valerie Fitzgerald

November 29, 2021

To Mayor Frank and Councilors,

I'm writing regarding the possible repeal of the bylaw that prohibits casinos from operating in Strathcona County.

I am a resident of Strathcona County and do not agree with lifting this bylaw and potentially allowing new casinos to come to our county.

My family and I moved to Sherwood Park because of the reputation and image it holds as a quiet and safe community. The businesses in the area support this environment and the city is so close that it is no inconvenience to drive in if someone wants to play at a casino.

I would suggest that the county focus on further developing family-friendly areas – walking/bike paths, green spaces and dog parks.

In summary, I'm asking that as my Mayor and Council, you vote to maintain Bylaw 100-2001.

Sincerely,

Sandra Legere

K. Davies Submission for Bylaw 100-2001
November 30, 2021 Public Hearing

I would like to submit the following for tomorrow evening's public hearing on the Casino Bylaw. I am not in favour of bringing a casino operation into Strathcona County or making any exceptions to any bylaws to allow either now or in the long term a casino type operation to be established.

I was born and raised in Sherwood Park and spent the first 25 years of my life here. After a few years in the City of Edmonton we returned to Sherwood Park to raise our children in a smaller, safer community, free of the big city challenges that compromise this feeling and sense of security. I strongly feel that a casino would negatively impact this aspect of Strathcona County. Gambling attracts a wide range of demographic but included in this are some very undesirable types and behaviours that we simply do not need in the county. It is no secret that gambling can be a very addictive pursuit and often drives those afflicted to much worse than just losing money. Petty theft, domestic violence, family breakup, fraud, money laundering.....it all just scratches the surface.

This is not just the way I feel - my life as well as the lives of several very close to me has been negatively impacted by the effects of gambling addiction. It is real and even without a casino in Strathcona County it already exists here.

Gambling won't be stopped and I agree that it can be done in a balanced, addiction-free manner and could very well be enjoyable entrainment for many. But you know what? I timed my drive from my home to the nearest Casino in Edmonton and only ten minutes lapsed. That's mighty convenient if you ask me - no need to make access to gambling any closer to Strathcona County.

If my personal reasons were not enough on their own then let me offer this. As a small business owner I have personally experienced the joys of dealing with Planning and Development in Strathcona County, during which time other business owners offered me their condolences about having to deal with the - and I quote "gestapo", "mafia", "prevention of development department" and "office of impassable obstacles". Being the optimist I kept an open mind through my journey with Planning & Development but in the end all of the above condolences turned out to be warranted and my application was denied and I had to completely reimagine how I might pursue my ventures outside of Strathcona County instead. If the simplest of exception would not even be considered for my small, small, home-based venture I wholeheartedly am opposed to the MAJOR exceptions that would be made to allow a casino to be established anywhere in Strathcona County. Period.

Thank you for submitting this to all members of Council for tomorrow evening's hearing.

Kelly Davies

K. Davies Submission for Bylaw 100-2001
November 30, 2021 Public Hearing

Sherwood Park, AB

J. Czajkowski Submission for Bylaw 100-2001
November 30, 2021 Public Hearing

To Mayor Frank and Councillors,

I am writing regarding the possible repeal of the bylaw that prohibits casinos from operating in Strathcona County.

As a 23-year resident, I am worried about lifting this bylaw and potentially allowing new casinos to come to Strathcona County.

One of the reasons I moved to this area is how quiet and family-friendly it is, with a soccer field, park areas, and 3 small lakes in my area. So I wanted to leave behind some of the crime, my previous house being broken into twice, and disorder in Edmonton and put down roots in this community. I do not see why we need to make this change - I don't know any people who think this is a service we are lacking.

For those who want to go to a casino, there are a couple in Edmonton just down the road - one on Fort Road, one on Argyll. I would also note that those casinos are mostly in industrial areas. Here in the County, we can't know where a casino would pop up and what sorts of impacts it might have in the surrounding community. We are a growing community, but I would say we could use a few more county-run soccer fields before casinos.

In summary, I am asking that as my Mayor and Council, you vote to maintain Bylaw 100-2001 and thank you in advance for submitting this to all members of Council for tomorrow night's hearing.

Sincerely,
Jim Czajkowski

To Mayor Frank and Councillors,

I'm writing regarding the possible repeal of the bylaw that prohibits casinos from operating in Strathcona County.

As a concerned resident, I'm worried about lifting this bylaw and potentially allowing new casinos to come to Strathcona County.

One of the reasons I moved to this area is how quiet and family-friendly it is. I wanted to leave behind some of the crime and disorder in Edmonton and put down roots in this community. I don't see why we need to make this change- I don't know any people who think this is a service we're lacking.

For those who want to go to a casino, there are plenty in Edmonton just down the road. I would also note that those casinos are mostly in industrial areas.

Here in the County, we can't know where a casino would pop up and what sorts of impacts it might have in the surrounding community and in turn my family. We're a growing community, that's for sure, but I'd say we could use a few more dog parks before casinos.

I also don't like the idea of increased traffic and potentially more concerning issues like addiction.

In summary, I'm asking that as my Mayor and Council, you vote to maintain Bylaw 100-2001.

Sincerely,

Carson Bourgoin

A. White Submission for Bylaw 100-2001

November 30, 2021 Public Hearing

To Mayor Frank and Strathcona County Councillors

I am writing regarding the possible repeal of a bylaw that prohibits Casinos operating within Strathcona County.

I am a resident of the county and do not agree with any lifting of this bylaw and potentially allowing for a Casino to operate within Strathcona County.

We moved to Sherwood Park because as of it's reputation for being a safe and family focused community.

As there are already numerous Casinos within a short drive I do not see the need to remove a bylaw in order to support.

I am therefore asking the Council to reject and keep bylaw 100-2001 in place

Thank You

Alf White

To Mayor Frank and Councilors,

I'm writing regarding the possible repeal of the bylaw that prohibits casinos from operating in Strathcona County.

As a 27 year Sherwood Park resident, I'm worried about lifting this bylaw and potentially allowing new casinos to come to Strathcona County.

One of the reasons I moved to this area is how quiet and family-friendly it is. I wanted to leave behind some of the crime and disorder in Edmonton and put down roots in this community. I don't see why we need to make this change- I don't know any people who think this is a service we're lacking.

For those who want to go to a casino, there are plenty in Edmonton just down the road. I would also note that those casinos are mostly in industrial areas. Here in the County, we can't know where a casino would pop up and what sorts of impacts it might have in the surrounding community and in turn my family.

I also don't like the idea of increased traffic and potentially more concerning issues such as crime that go with gambling and a Casino.

In summary, I'm asking that as my Mayor and Council, you vote to maintain Bylaw 100-2001.

Sincerely,

Darcy Clarke