



# Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Minor bylaw dispute process moves from court system**

Starting February 1, the City of Vernon will join with eight other local municipalities to move the process of resolving bylaw ticket disputes related to minor infractions out of the Provincial court system and into an independent adjudication process.

The partnership includes the Cities of Kelowna, Vernon and Penticton, the Districts of West Kelowna, Lake Country, Peachland, and Summerland, the Town of Oliver, and the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen.

“The new Bylaw Dispute Adjudication System is a positive approach whereby Okanagan Municipalities can enforce bylaws through Bylaw Notices instead of MTI ticketing. Resolving disputes will not be as complicated and there is less emphasis on the court system. The system is much fairer to Vernon citizens and we look forward to this new approach,” said Leon Gous, CAO for the City of Vernon.

The new system will streamline the local government process for resolving minor bylaw violation disputes by providing residents with flexible options to pay and a new process to dispute these Bylaw Offence Notices. As a result, service delivery to residents will be enhanced and costs to municipalities will be minimized by enabling the parties involved to deal with these minor bylaw disputes at the local level. This will also free up available Provincial Court time for more serious or complex bylaw matters.

“Previously, anyone wishing to dispute a bylaw notice such as a parking ticket, was required to appear in BC Provincial Court which is an expensive and time-consuming process for the disputant, the province and the local municipality,” stated Clint Kanester, Manager, Bylaw Services. This new bylaw adjudication process can reduce the dispute process time from the current six months, often down to one month, resulting in cost savings to the Municipality and more efficient use of bylaw officer time.

Currently there are more than 40 local governments in B.C. that have worked with the province to set up an adjudication process.

Visit [vernon.ca/bylaws](http://vernon.ca/bylaws) for more information on the new process.

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