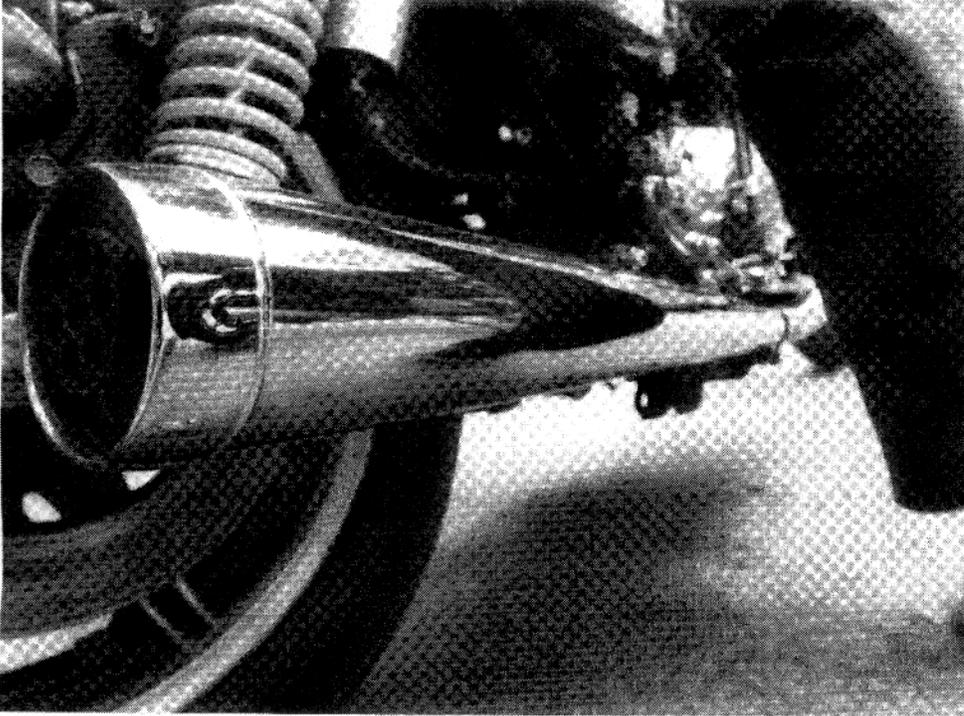


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# Edmonton bylaw aims to reduce motorcycle



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Aaron Lynch/National Post

Mary Yallich, National Post Thursday, Jun. 10, 2010

An Edmonton bylaw has captured the interest of municipalities and people across the country who loathe the persistent rumbles and thunderclap starts of motorcycles on their roads.

Edmonton's city council is believed to be the first in North America to pass a bylaw requiring the muffling of motorcycle noise. Riders will be fined \$250 if their motorcycles exceed 92 decibels while idling or 96 decibels while engaged. One hundred decibels is roughly equivalent to the sound made by a snowmobile or chainsaw.

"I've been fighting for this for a while," said city councillor Ben Henderson. "[Downtown Edmonton] has a number of places that are very attractive to late-night drag racing. It can be really disruptive to have someone tearing up and down the avenue at two or three in the morning, and it's a very severe problem for people who choose to live in an urban environment."

Winnipeg and Regina are among the cities across Canada investigating whether to enact similar measures, as are municipalities from British Columbia to the Maritimes, said Jo-Anne Farquhar, a spokeswoman for Canada's Motorcycle and Moped Industry Council (MMIC).

"We believe this is something, as an industry, that is important to us as well," Ms. Farquhar said on Thursday. "We don't want to learn that people are purchasing after-market products that allow the decibel level of their bikes to be a severe annoyance to others. We don't agree with that any more than somebody wants to see their neighbour making noises that are unbearable to them."

The MMIC wants to help municipalities put new rules in place and has drafted a model law for excessive motorcycle exhaust noise. Police in Edmonton will use new sound level meters to check the noise output of individual motorcycles.

