



# Canadian National Fireworks Association

*Promoting fair access and safety in  
the sale and use of fireworks*

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## **CNFA opposes regulation to ban fireworks in the City of Grande Prairie: Poll finds residents opposed to a ban**

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, the Community Safety Committee of the City of Grande Prairie voted to ban the sale and use of family fireworks, subject to City Council approval on August 25<sup>th</sup>. During this meeting, Dominique Allen, Executive Director of the Canadian National Fireworks Association, also known as the CNFA, a national association that represents fireworks manufacturers, distributors and retailers, made a presentation to the committee. Ms. Allen's presentation focused on the fact that the proposed ban is counter-intuitive to the stated goals of the Fire Department and the City and may in fact increase risk to public safety and property damage. "This regulation of banning legal fireworks will only lead to increased confusion with the public and potential misuse of illegal dangerous products." said Dominique Allen of the CNFA.

The CNFA will be making another Presentation to oppose the ban in Grande Prairie at the August 25<sup>th</sup> Council meeting at 6:30pm at City Hall (10205 98 Street). They will be presenting a petition of local residents opposed to the ban of fireworks at the meeting and are expecting a number of residents and retailers to attend the meeting as well to voice their opposition to the ban.

The following is an excerpt of Ms. Allen's presentation that was made to Committee today:

*"The goals expressed by the Grande Prairie Fire Department of increasing public safety is echoed by the CNFA. In our experience, banning does not create a safer environment...informing and educating retailers and the public regarding the safe sale and use of legal fireworks does. As such, the CNFA is requesting that Grande Prairie Council:*

- a) ***refuse the recommendation to ban family fireworks***
- b) ***continue to permit the use of family fireworks; and***
- c) ***provide the CNFA with an opportunity to work with the City of Grande Prairie Fire Department to implement measures to increase public awareness and education regarding the safe use of fireworks.***

*Contrary to the details found in the staff report before you, fireworks do not pose a significant risk to public safety and property. In fact, statistics show that the public is 100 times more likely to be injured or incur property damage as a result of candles compared to fireworks. Legal family fireworks in Canada are rigorously tested by the federal government and are deemed safe when used according to guidelines.*

*On June 19<sup>th</sup> the City held a Public Open House to inform the public on the proposed by-law, including the proposal to ban fireworks, however unfortunately no one attended. As a result, the CNFA felt compelled to initiate a poll in Grande Prairie through a professional polling company to determine the public's position with respect to fireworks in their community. The phone poll that was conducted in July clearly indicates that the majority of Grande Prairie residents (63% of decided voters) are opposed to the proposed ban on fireworks, and believe that legal fireworks are generally safe products (78% of decided voters). The majority of Grande Prairie residents (77% of decided voters) have enjoyed family fireworks in their community and (71% of decided voters) also believe that they should have the right to choose whether they use legal fireworks in Grande Prairie.*

*Based on our previous discussions in Grande Prairie, fireworks is not a significant issue that requires the need to ban the product. Regulations and by-laws must be considered, in part by the ability to enforce the regulations and the likelihood of compliance by the public. The proposed fireworks ban in the Grande Prairie Fire Services by-law will be impractical and difficult to enforce. Banning the sale and use of a product that is federally regulated and permitted throughout the country is challenging to implement and enforce. If the ban is adopted in Grande Prairie, neighbouring municipalities to the City that permit fireworks sales, will still provide Grande Prairie residents access to family fireworks. Also, online sales of federally regulated legal fireworks are becoming more popular, which provides Grande Prairie residents another option to purchase fireworks. By banning family fireworks, you're eliminating the opportunity to educate the public on the safe use of legal fireworks and the difference between legal and contraband explosive products disguised as fireworks.*

*By allowing the residents of Grande Prairie to continue to use family fireworks (a legal product that is already federally regulated), Grande Prairie and the CNFA can work together to promote fireworks education and safety, thereby reducing the use and misuse of illegal products."*

## **ABOUT THE CNFA**

The Canadian National Fireworks Association (CNFA) is a national association that represents fireworks manufacturers, distributors and retailers. The CNFA's mission is to promote fair access and safety in the sale and use of all fireworks through public education, advocacy with regulators, and member compliance.

[www.nationalfireworks.ca](http://www.nationalfireworks.ca)

The CNFA is committed to working with federal, provincial and local municipalities to provide education and outreach to consumers, vendors and regulators regarding the safe sale and use of family fireworks, along with fair and reasonable regulation.

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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