

# City of Mississauga

## Memorandum



**To:** Committee Members of Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Committee

**From:** Deryn Rizzi  
Fire Chief and Director of Emergency Management

**Date:** October 13, 2021

**Subject:** Lunar New Year – Fireworks Bylaw

The City/MFES currently issues social media posts leading up to and on holidays that include reminders around when fireworks are permitted. Recent public feedback has been received around the use of the term Chinese New Year. “Chinese New Year” is currently referenced in the City’s [fireworks by-law](#) that was amended in 2016 to include Diwali and Chinese New Year.

The City’s social media posts on corporate/MFES’ channels refer to “Chinese New Year” as one of the four permitted holidays for fireworks. Our research has shown that Chinese New Year, while part of Lunar New Year, is not always celebrated on the same day as other Lunar New Year celebrations. We’ve looked into the difference between the holidays (at a very high level) and learned that Lunar New Year is celebrated by quite a few other Asian countries in addition to China (such as Vietnam, Korea and Tibet). However, we noticed timing falls on different “new moons,” so the celebration dates may slightly differ.

High-level comparative research was conducted on a few neighbouring municipalities (Toronto, Brampton, Burlington & Oakville) to see how they frame their fireworks by-law. Interestingly, the ones we reviewed don’t mention Chinese or Lunar New Year.

City of Toronto: mentions Victoria Day, Canada Day and Diwali

- [toronto.ca/legdocs/municode/1184\\_466.pdf](https://toronto.ca/legdocs/municode/1184_466.pdf)

City of Brampton: mentions Victoria Day, Canada Day, Diwali and New Year’s Eve

- [brampton.ca/en/residents/by-law-enforcement/pages/fireworks.aspx](https://brampton.ca/en/residents/by-law-enforcement/pages/fireworks.aspx)

City of Burlington: only mentions Victoria Day and Canada Day

- [burlington.ca/en/services-for-you/Fireworks.asp](https://burlington.ca/en/services-for-you/Fireworks.asp)

Town of Oakville: uses the wording “Fireworks are only permitted on holidays like New Years Day, Victoria Day or Canada Day, as well as cultural or religious holidays”

- [oakville.ca/residents/fire-safety-fireworks.html](https://oakville.ca/residents/fire-safety-fireworks.html)
- [assets.oakville.ca/blis/BylawIndexLibrary/2009-056.pdf#search=fireworks&toolbar=1&navpanes=0](https://assets.oakville.ca/blis/BylawIndexLibrary/2009-056.pdf#search=fireworks&toolbar=1&navpanes=0)

We would like to solicit a discussion and recommendations from the Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Committee regarding the potential terminology change from “Chinese New Year” to “Lunar New Year” in the:

- Business Licensing By-law 0001-2006, to provide that the exemption permitting the selling of fireworks for the Chinese New Year, be changed to the Lunar New Year;

- Outside Fireworks Vendors Licensing By-law 0340-2001, which regulates the selling of fireworks, to provide that the exemption permitting the selling of fireworks for the Chinese New Year, be changed to the Lunar New Year;
- Fireworks By-law 0293-2001, which regulates the setting off of fireworks within the limits of the City of Mississauga, to provide that the exemption permitting the setting off of fireworks for the Chinese New Year, be changed to the Lunar New Year.

**“Lunar New Year”** means the first day of the Lunar calendar, and for greater certainty shall include the Chinese New Year. Changing the permission levels could result in increased fireworks displays in the City of Mississauga. Referencing the “Lunar New Year” would be more inclusive of other cultures that have requested to have fireworks displays during this time period.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Rizzi". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Deryn Rizzi  
Fire Chief and Director of Emergency Management