	Vancouver	Victoria	Edmonton	Calgary	Saskatoon	Regina	Winnipeg	Toronto	Ottawa	Halifax
Legal Authority										
Does your municipality allow recreational activities, such as walking, ice skating, skiing, tobogganing or ice fishing, on:							No			
Frozen retention ponds?	No	No	No	No	Select storm water retention ponds are selected for permitted public use in the winter.	No	No	No	No	
Frozen ponds in municipal parks?	No	No	Yes - on an ornamental pond at William Hawrelak Park. Historically two other park ornamental ponds were utilized, but this was discontinued due to unstable water levels and operational challenges.	No	No	No	Yes	Yes, Grenadier Pond in High Park	No	
Frozen rivers or any other frozen waterways (creeks, etc)?	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes, on the Forks skate trail.	No	No	Yes, frozen lakes
If so,										
What is the source of your authority to do so? Have you ever had your authority challenged legally? Have you ever been sued or otherwise legally challenged for			As we only use constructed waterbodies, which are owned by the City, we have not been challenged on our authority to use.					Municipal Code 608 covers parks		
regulating or failing to regulate, or										
authorizing or failing to authorize, or										
improperly regulating activities on or notifying people about dangers associated with activities on frozen ice surfaces?										
Does your municipality have a policy document governing the use of recreational use of frozen water surface?			No		Yes: https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-clerk/civic-policies/C10-024.pdf			Yes, only on Grenadier pond		
Do you have a criteria for determining which bodies of water can be used for winter recreation, and do you monitor ice thickness?			■ The ornamental ponds that the City of Edmonton has historically utilized were constructed with an intent to support skating activities. ■ The City has not sought to expand the use of water bodies for skating, opting instead for increasing the inventory of turf-based surfaces that offer fewer operational challenges and longer skating seasons. ■ Ice thickness is closely monitored at William Hawrelak Park and is the guiding factor for operations and use of the pond.		We do consider factors such as foot traffic and residential development in which ponds are considered for recreational use. We also have ice testing and signage practices to inform the public (as outlined in civic policy above).			Only Grenadier Pond, and ice thickness is tested by an engineering company		Yes, ice testing
For naturalized retention ponds, how do you manage potential damage to vegetation?			N/A		educational signage at ponds only			N/A		
Does your municipality provide any maintenance or amenities (e.g. snow clearing, flooding, lighting, benches, access, rubber mats, etc).?			Yes. Snow clearing, flooding, lighting, indoor change area, outdoor change areas, washrooms, seating, skate-safe walking surface, outdoor fireplace, signage					N/A		
If not:										
What are the main reasons, and under what authority is recreational activities prohibited, in particular on natural waterbodies (ie. creeks, rivers, and lakes)?	The City of Vancouver does not run into this issue very often as it rarely gets cold enough for these activities to actually happen.	Victoria winters are mild – our average daily low in January and February is 3°C – so we don't get frozen water surfaces suitable for recreation in winter	○ Use of stormwater ponds for recreational activities is prohibited by Drainage bylaw 18093. ○ The North Saskatchewan River has not been used for skating in modern times, though some historic photo records show it was used this way in the early 1900's. The primary reasons this is not viewed as a viable option today is due to safety and operational challenges. ■ The river often doesn't freeze completely during the winter ■ Water levels fluctuate during the winter causing ice heaves and very rough surfaces. It would be a significant effort to create a smooth skating surface ○ The majority of Edmonton's creeks have been significantly modified from their natural state through diversion measures, creek modifications, and to convey stormwater. ■ Whitemud Creek is the only intact natural creek in the City, and is a sensitive natural area. This creek was formerly used for skating, but that practice was discontinued more than 20 years ago.	Drainage by-law has prohibition on any activity on drainage; by-law officers attend and ticket, but limited resources.		I took a quick scan of our bylaws and I can't see anything actually prohibiting this from occurring. It could exist but I'm not aware of it and it's something that hasn't come up as an issue in our community yet. We know that people do skate on ponds within our parks but they are not maintained by us and we have signs at the parks indicating that the activity is prohibited.	The City of Winnipeg's Frozen Waterways By-law allows a designated employee to prohibit activities on waterways. A designated employee may prohibit any or specific activities, or may impose conditions on any or specified activities, on all or specified waterways or portions of waterways within the boundaries of the City of Winnipeg and, in doing so, may take into account (a) the risk of harm to individuals; (b) the risk of harm to the environment, including the waterway, riverbanks and other areas adjacent to the waterway; (c) noise or other nuisances likely to be suffered at nearby properties; and (d) other relevant factors. Factors include: safety, lack of resources, and no existing specific civic policy.			
Safety and Liability										
If your municipality allows public recreational activity on frozen water surfaces, what kind of safety and risk measures, if any, do you offer to mitigate risk and liability? Examples could include but are not limited to: signage of dangerous ice, ice depth testing and monitoring, ice safety patrols, etc.	Anyone who chooses to is doing so at their own risk.		Our safety practices are aimed to keep both staff and citizens safe. At the start of each winter season, when ice starts to form, we put up signage to inform the public that the ice is not safe for skating. We also put notices online. At the end of each winter season, once again we put up signage to indicate the ice is unsafe for use. Staff do ice depth measurements at locations around the pond ice once we have achieved 5" of ice around the shore areas. We also share these measurements with the public with an ice depth tool that is online. We do not permit skating until we are able to create a smooth ice surface by removing snow from the surface and flooding with water to fill in cracks. This requires sufficient ice thickness for our equipment to access the ice. We follow the guidelines set in the document: "Best Practice for Building and Working Safely on Ice Covers in Alberta". Our staff do daily spot checks on the ice once it is open to look for ice hazards, such as cracks. During periods when the ice is closed due to safety issues, our staff and Park Rangers do periodic checks to make sure the public is not on the ice. Park Rangers or Police will be called to enforce this if they do not leave the ice on their own.		Through our Fire Department, the City of Saskatoon goes out and checks ice thickness at designated storm ponds to assess when thickness has reached 8". Once this is reached at all test locations on the pond – the educational signage at the pond is marked as permittable for public to use at their own risk. Once the weather warms up and the ice begins to show signs of reduction in depth through testing as per the SFD procedure below, the sites are closed for use and the groups operating the sites are informed of the end of season.		The Forks has an ice thickness monitoring plan. Water & Waste Department monitors outfall discharges and communicates any concerns to the Forks. There's also been permitted use of an SRB in transcona for car racing (ice racing). Proponent is issued a permit and has to provide insurance, etc.	Flag system, ice testing, at-own-risk warning, signage		Ice depth testing
Do your policies and safety measures differentiate between engineered assets (e.g., retention basins, reservoirs, canals) and natural waterbodies (e.g. lakes, rivers, streams and ponds)?			We only utilize engineered ornamental pond assets for skating. ○ Engineered stormwater ponds are managed by EPCOR (our drainage utility provider) and they communicate the guidelines and rationale around use. https://www.epcor.com/products-services/drainage/stormwater/Pages/default.aspx#safe-rinks		Our policy and process for permitting recreational use is only at designated storm ponds within the city limits. No scheduled programs or activities are offered by the City of Saskatoon on these ponds. Saskatoon Fire responds as needed for water emergencies no matter the type or body of water.			Yes--recreation on retention ponds is not allowed		
Which entity within their municipality monitors the activities and or provides patrols of the frozen water surfaces, ie: police (river patrol) or fire or paramedic services (water rescue)?			○ Fire Rescue responds to emergencies ○ Park Rangers (peace officers) provide regular patrols of park spaces and will monitor general use by citizens ○ River Valley Parks and Facilities operations staff monitor and report issues if they occur	By-law officers and operations	Saskatoon Fire monitors depth of ice. Saskatoon Fire responds to all water emergencies (both surface and underwater) Medavie Ambulance (Private medical service) would also respond.	. Our fire and paramedic services would respond to any call about people being on thin ice or any incidents that occur.	In the City of Winnipeg, the Police River Patrol services monitors the river, whereas our Fire Paramedic Services would respond to any emergencies to life or limb.			
Does your municipality track reported incidents of emergency calls or responses relating to frozen water surfaces—for example, people going through the ice? If so, how many responses occurred in 2019 vs 2020?			Yes, Fire Rescue Services responds to emergencies associated with people going through the ice. We do not have 2019 data readily available but we do know that 2021 incidents were more than triple the number in 2020 (For example, between January 1- April 14, 2020, received 24 event calls. For the same time period in 2021, 77 event calls). Note, these calls are not related to skating surfaces, but rather to incidents on other water bodies, including the river.	*For a fee*		Not that I'm aware of.	Yes; 24 incidents where emergency providers made contact with a person in 2019, versus 10 in 2020.			
Does your municipality provide any public-facing safety information on frozen water surfaces? For example, do you have training seminars, public education messaging, or media strategies?	Vancouver does not have any formal documents outlining the use of frozen water surfaces for recreational activities.		Edmontontonians seem to have a good understanding about where they can recreate in the winter, and the city is well provisioned with outdoor skating opportunities. Therefore there has been limited need to develop education and awareness campaigns in this regard. ○ Stormwater management facilities are considered a drainage asset in Edmonton and are managed by EPCOR Utilities. Educational information is available online including information related to use. Signage with usage prohibitions is in place at stormwater facilities. ○ "Thin Ice" signage is in place around other ponds within parks. ○ Ice safety messaging also exists on the City of Edmonton website	https://www.calgary.ca/uep/water/water-and-wastewater-systems/storm-drainage-system/storm-ponds.html#safety			General ice safety messaging.	No, just public signage on flag system		

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Does your municipality have a Safe Work Procedure (SWP) for its staff to work on or monitor frozen waterways? If so, could you please provide the same?	Vancouver does not have any formal documents outlining the use of frozen water surfaces for recreational activities.		Best Practice for Building and Working Safely on Ice Covers in Alberta ■ https://open.alberta.ca/publications/sh010		SFD will test the ice thickness at specified storm water retention ponds during the winter season. Testing will begin once the ice appears thick enough to ensure safety of staff to go on the ice and will continue weekly until it reaches 8 inches of thickness. Testing will resume in the spring once temperatures remain above 0 degrees C for 5 consecutive days. Stations have been supplied with ice augers, auger bits and survival suits to conduct this testing. Ice Testing Procedures -The ice will be tested during freeze up until the ice reaches (8"). The ice testing is to be done regularly so the City and the community associations can be notified when it is safe for skating. -Each pond has a select number of hazardous locations that are either inlet or outflow locations. -Hazardous locations are to be tested and ice thickness at each test site documented. -Ice testing will not be conducted where there is open water. 1. Don PFD or Surface Water protection suit. 2. Using the cordless drill or ice auger supplied, begin test holes from shore at the high-risk zones. 3. Drill a minimum of three test holes at each high-risk zone. •Testing will resume at spring thaw. Once the ice begins to					
Types of Activities										
Does your municipality program recreational activities on frozen outdoor surfaces, for example, outdoor ice-skating lessons, public skating times, or other activities?	No		Yes, we provide a Learn to Skate program at 36 community outdoor rinks. In the past we provided School programs, teaching kids to skate, however, we have not run these for many years.	No	The City supports local volunteer organizations who offer 53 outdoor community rinks that are located in neighbourhood parks. In addition, the City of Saskatoon operates a number of indoor rinks and an outdoor skating oval.	Prior to 2020, our community associations would receive a grant to monitor our outdoor ice surfaces – essentially they would just ensure that the warming shacks were open to the public. However, with COVID, we wanted to create more opportunities for people to recreate outside in the winter so we staffed all of our shacks with a casual rec worker. They ensured the shack was open, that people wore masks and socially distanced etc. It is likely this will continue in 2021/22 pending budget. We don't do any structured programming ourselves on these surfaces but there is an Outdoor Hockey League in Regina who ultilizes a handful of the boarded sites. We generally have a boarded site and then a pleasure skating site next to it. This allows for stick on one surface, and family skating on another.	City of Winnipeg community centres may create their own outdoor rinks and program them. The City of Winnipeg only programs ice skating lessons in indoor rinks.	No		
If so, please provide details on the same, including type of location (frozen rivers, retention ponds, outdoor rinks), levels of service, staffing, approximate cost to offer programs, and approximate revenue.			Locations: 36 outdoor rinks that are managed by the Community Leagues (locations change on an annual basis) Have also previously provided programs at City skating ovals/ponds (but not in recent years) o Service: Free, drop-in program geared towards participants ages 6-12. The program is offered at each location once a week for 6 weeks o Staffing: 2 staff/program o Revenue: $0 - free program / Expense per program: $925.00			Our budget would be in a few different areas and I would need to coordinate with other branches. Our parks team oversees the making of the ice and the maintenance and then my branch (Sport Facilities & Special Events) oversees the grant program and took care of the staffing in 2020. I will try to gather that information for you and send it separately.				
Specifically for retention ponds, does your municipality offer any sort of community stewardship or sponsorship program?			No	No				No		
How to you manage parking, litter control, noise, and other issues at outdoor recreation sites?			Park Rangers (Peace Officers) are responsible for enforcing behavioural concerns at parks where outdoor recreation amenities exist, such as, the protection of parkland, excessive litter or noise, and fire prevention, ensuring patrons are respectful of others enjoying park space. The designated skating areas are within developed parks, therefore access to parking and other amenities is provided with the service.	No		This has not been an issue yet.				
Which City department runs your program?			Programs are run by the Community and Recreation Facilities Branch within the Citizen Services Department. A specific Section of staff develop and execute all of the seasonal outdoor recreation programs/activities.	No		The grant for the Community Associations and the causal rec workers that were used in 2020 are overseen by the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department.				