

Town adopts anti-bullying policy

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The Town of Hanna decided to take a firm stance against bullying during their Nov. 13 meeting, by voting to adopt policy 07-01, effective immediately.

Under the newly adopted policy all Town of Hanna facilities, events and programs will enforce a zero tolerance level for bullying.

At the meeting councillors were told that the intent of the policy is to “respect the safety, health and welfare of people.”

The policy noted that bullying would be construed as conscious, willful, deliberate, hostile and repeated behavior by one or more people to harm others.

“It may include the harassment of others by the real or threatened infliction of physical violence and attacks,” the policy noted, as well as racial, ethnic or gender based put-downs and name calling, both spoken and/or written down.

The policy noted that consequences of breaking the zero tolerance bullying policy will result in severe consequences, which will depend on both the form and extent of the actions.

Additionally the policy stated that the Hanna RCMP would be notified if acts of bullying during an event, program or in a Town facility that broke criminal code laws took place.

Hanna Town council was told that the policy was in preparation of Bullying Awareness Week, which began on Nov. 18 and runs until Nov. 24.

In their brief councillors were told that in North America bullying is the most common form of violence, with between 15 and 30 per cent of students and seven per cent of seniors facing some form of emotional or financial abuse. Council approved the policy as presented.

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