

# Pontiac Council - pilot project on backyard chickens

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Some people in residential areas would like to keep a few laying hens, for egg production. A draft bylaw was adopted at the 27th May special meeting of Pontiac council, to set up a two year pilot project to analyze the impact of this in residential areas. The two-year project can be suspended at any time with 30 days notice.

This is not for commercial egg production which is already allowed in the agricultural zone, subject to quotas. Only residences with a lot size of at least 2000 m<sup>2</sup> (half an acre), would be allowed to keep laying hens. This would rule out most of the village lots in Quyon which are about 828 m<sup>2</sup>, so even double lots are not large enough.

A \$25 permit from the municipality is required. A maximum of 5 hens may be kept (when the bylaw comes into force), with a minimum of three suggested for animal welfare. They cannot run free, they must be kept in a fenced enclosure at all times (not in cages) and in a secure coop from sunset to sunrise. The enclosure and coop must be located at least 30 m from a well, lake, watercourse or wetland, not in a front yard or within 2 m of a lot line, and there must be a principal residence (not a cottage) on the property. No sales of eggs, meat or manure are allowed. No roosters (cockerels) may be kept (crowing can be a nuisance to neighbours). Odours must be minimized.

There are more rules on monitoring the hens, cleaning their areas, sick birds, disposal of dead birds etc, in the full text of the bylaw, which is online at item 7,  
[www.municipalitepontiac.com/files/5015/9103/1299/S200527\\_draft.pdf](http://www.municipalitepontiac.com/files/5015/9103/1299/S200527_draft.pdf)

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[link to French text of draft bylaw at

[http://www.municipalitepontiac.com/files/2015/9103/1287/SP200527\\_ebauche.pdf](http://www.municipalitepontiac.com/files/2015/9103/1287/SP200527_ebauche.pdf) ]