

# PROXIMITY INITIATIVE



Railway Association  
of Canada

Since 2003, the Proximity Initiative has been working to raise awareness of proximity issues that occur when developments are located next to railway operations.

- As Canada's population continues to grow and as cities convert older developments into new residential spaces and teleworking from home increases, the jointly developed Guidelines for New Development in Proximity to Railway Operations (Proximity Guidelines) provide a consistent starting point for municipalities and developers aiming to reduce proximity issues (e.g., noise and vibrations).
- The Proximity Initiative encourages communities to use the jointly developed Proximity Guidelines in their municipal zoning plans to encourage communication between affected parties throughout the planning stages in order to improve safety and the quality of life of residents living near railway operations.
- Good planning, effective land use, and open communication are essential tools for preventing municipal-rail proximity issues today and tomorrow.
- The Proximity Initiative believes that communication is paramount to all relationships. Mitigating proximity issues is no different. We encourage (and can help facilitate) communication between municipalities and railways to ensure that appropriate feedback is provided throughout the planning stages.

Approximately 150 municipalities implement the Proximity Guidelines. Municipalities that make use of the guidelines are finding that:



**SAFETY ISSUES ARE  
ADDRESSED**



**LIVABILITY IS  
IMPROVED FOR  
RESIDENTS**



**DEVELOPMENTS  
BECOME MORE  
COMPATIBLE**

To download the Proximity Guidelines, please visit:  
[www.proximityissues.ca](http://www.proximityissues.ca)

Interested in learning more? Please reach out to:

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**Check out what the following experts have to say about the proximity guidelines:**

### **City of Calgary Testimonial**

“A risk-based land use planning approach is critical to manage development interests next to freight rail corridors. Risks associated with freight rail operations are site and context specific, and each municipality should be aware of the perceived and actual risks and develop their own evidence-based policy. The Proximity Guidelines provide a good starting point that can help each municipality embark on their own journey.”

- Abdul Jaffari, Senior Growth Management Planner, City of Calgary

### **Dillon Consulting Testimonial**

“The Proximity Guidelines provide a solid foundation to start the conversation about rail proximity and how best to balance the needs of community planning with the needs of the rail industry.”

- Dave Poole, Partner, Dillon Consulting

### **City of Camrose Testimonial**

The City of Camrose has been implementing the Proximity Guidelines since 2015. We find the recommendations clear and understandable which make it straightforward to implement at a local level on new subdivision and development projects.”

- Aaron Leckie, Manager, Planning and Development Services, City of Camrose

