



## Getting Ready for Mock Council

Mock Council is an exciting activity where students hold their own council meeting. Before you arrive, please ensure you have prepared your class by:

1. [Selecting the issue to discuss](#)
2. [Selecting student roles](#)
3. [Researching your issue](#)
4. [Reviewing the Mock Council Script \(optional\)](#)

Use this document to learn more about each step of the process. We also have resources and information for an [Adapted Version of Mock Council](#) and a [French Mock Council](#). If you teach division 1 or feel the original script may not meet your students' needs, please take a look at our adapted version of the script and resources.



## Step 1: Select the Issue to Discuss

Before you come to City Hall, select **one** issue to discuss during your Mock Council meeting. We have suggested a range of topics so that you can find one that connects to your curriculum, students' interests and/or particular community. You are also welcome to come up with your own topic. However, we strongly encourage you to choose a topic that a municipal government would discuss and phrase it as a question starting with "should".

**Should the City add/change/remove \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ community?**

→ Consider issues specific to your community (e.g. adding a pedestrian light, extending the LRT line, adding a shelter at a bus stop, rezoning a parking lot to make a new park).

**Should riding e-scooters on sidewalks be allowed in Edmonton?**

→ Currently, riding an [e-scooter](#) is not permitted on sidewalks.

**Should all ages be allowed to ride bicycles on sidewalks in Edmonton?**

→ Currently, only children 16 and younger can ride a [bicycle](#) on sidewalks.

**Should Edmonton reduce the amount of pesticides used to control the mosquito population, and increase the use of biological controls (e.g. bats, dragonflies)?**

→ Currently, the City uses a combination of [strategies](#) to control the mosquito population.

**Should the City provide green bins and collect food scraps from schools in Edmonton?**

→ Currently, the City of Edmonton collects [food scraps](#) from all Edmonton homes. All apartment and condo buildings will start receiving food scraps collection by 2027.

**Should pet \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. rabbits, birds, lizards) require a licence in Edmonton?**

→ Currently, people only pay a [pet licence fee](#) for cats, dogs and pigeons. This money goes toward services to help pets in the city, including assisting lost pets.



## Step 2: Select Student Roles

Your students should know their role before coming to City Hall. You will need:

### **1 Mayor**

The Mayor will chair (or run) the meeting. They have the largest speaking role.

### **12 Councillors**

Note: The Councillors in Edmonton take turns acting as Deputy Mayor. A Deputy Mayor performs the Mayor's duties if they are absent. The Deputy Mayor also chairs (or runs) the meeting at certain points so that the Mayor can share their opinions. One of your Councillors should be ready to act as Deputy Mayor during your Mock Council meeting.

### **1 City Clerk**

The City Clerk does not share their opinion during the meeting. This can be a great role for nonspeaking students and English language learners. If all of your students want a speaking role, one of your adult volunteers can be the Clerk on the day of your program.

### **4-8 Interested Citizens**

In Edmonton, residents can request to speak on a specific issue at a meeting. Having students act as an interested citizen can help the class think of new perspectives and enrich the discussion. You could even assign your citizens a specific title (e.g. member of a community league, business owner, school staff, member of an environmental group).

### **2-4 Members of the Media**

Members of the media do not share their opinion during the meeting. Their job is to take notes and report on what is happening. They will also have the opportunity to ask the Mayor and Councillors questions at the end of the meeting. If you would like to give your students a camera or tablet from the school to take photos during the meeting, that is absolutely allowed!



### Step 3: Research Your Issue

Have students fill in the [Mock Council Preparation Handout](#). It is designed to help them organize their research and plan for their specific role. Students are encouraged to bring these sheets with them to reference during their Mock Council activity.

### Step 4: Review the Mock Council Script

Reviewing the [script](#) ahead of time may help you as the teacher prepare your class. However, we find Mock Council works best when students have **not** practiced using the script to the point where the activity runs like a play rather than a natural debate.

Instead, you might want to provide a general overview of how the activity will work:

Part 1 - The Mayor opens the meeting by stating the issue that will be discussed.

Part 2 - The Councillors share their opening statements.

Part 3 - The Mayor shares their opening statement.

Part 4 - The interested citizens share their statements.

Part 5 - Special guests are welcomed to the meeting.

Part 6 - The Councillors and Mayor debate the issue being discussed.

Part 7 - The Councillors and Mayor take a vote on the issue.

Part 8 - The Mayor announces the results of the vote.

Part 9 - The Mayor ends the meeting.

Part 10 - The media can ask the Councillors and Mayor questions about the meeting.

If you wish to practice using the script ahead of time, we suggest focusing on Parts 1-4. You might also choose to have students practice sharing their opening statements and arguments for the debate in small groups. Remember, a City Hall tour guide will be there to walk you through the entire process and assist as needed! You are not expected to arrive knowing exactly how the meeting will run.



## Adapted Version of Mock Council

Younger grades who want to try Mock Council generally prefer to use our adapted script. Older grades are also welcome to use this version, as it is a great way to differentiate the activity and better meet the needs of some classes. To prepare:

1. Select the issue to discuss:

Depending on your students, you may find a topic suggested [here](#) that would work well. Younger grades have also had success with the following topics:

**Should everyone be required to wear a helmet while riding their bike in Edmonton?**

**Should Edmontonians be allowed to keep honey bees in their back yards?**

**Should Edmontonians be allowed to keep chickens in their back yards?**

2. Select student roles:

You will need 1 Mayor, 12 Councillors and 1 City Clerk. The rest of your students will be citizens. There is no media in the adapted version of Mock Council. For a description of each role, see the information listed [here](#).

3. Research your issue:

The [Adapted Mock Council Preparation Handout](#) is designed to help your students organize their research and plan their statement. Students are encouraged to bring these sheets with them to reference during their Mock Council activity.

4. Review the Adapted Mock Council Script:

Reviewing the [script](#) ahead of time may help you as the teacher prepare your class. You can practice using the script with your students before coming to City Hall, but it is not necessary. Remember, a City Hall tour guide will be there to walk you through the entire process and assist your class as needed!



## **French Mock Council**

City Hall tour guides do not speak French. However, we have resources available so that you can lead your class through their Mock Council in French. During your program, a City Hall tour guide will set out the French scripts and be there to answer your questions as needed.

Please follow all of the steps in this document in order to prepare for your Mock Council. The French resources are linked below.

### **Mock Council**

[French Preparation Handout](#)

[French Script](#)

### **Adapted Version of Mock Council**

[French Preparation Handout](#)

[French Script](#)