**History of Graffiti**

Graffiti is an art form that has been practiced for centuries. Archeologists and historians have found numerous examples of graffiti on Roman ruins in cities such as Pompeii.

The modern incarnation of graffiti however has emerged from New York and was popularized in the 1960’s by a bike messenger known simply as Taki 183., who used a permanent marker to “tag” various places across the city. His New York Times interview in 1971 led many other young people to follow his example.

http://select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=FB0E17FE355B1A7493C3AB178CD85F458785F9&scp=1&sq=Taki+&st=p

**Graffiti in Edmonton**

While Graffiti is cool, and we totally think you should have fun, be creative and have the freedom to do your thing, just a ***WARNING:*** graffiti is considered vandalism in Edmonton and is illegal.

The City of Edmonton actively prosecutes graffiti artists and is VERY diligent about removing graffiti. They spend 12.6 million dollars on it last year!

But, if you are sneaky, have the stealth abilities of ninja or simply are a *very very* good runner...well then it’s a whole other story. But don’t say we didn’t warn you.

Oh and just a by the way. According to City of Edmonton bylaw 14600, property owners that don’t clean up graffiti in a *timely manner* are fined for it. So just keep that in mind when you select your next canvas.

**Legal Graffiti Zones**

If sneaking around isn’t your thing, then there is one legal graffiti zone in the city. Check out the place where the LRT emerges from the underground between Churchill Station and Stadium.

There are also a few random graffiti walls in various neighbourhood parks such as Henderson Park on the SW of the city, or in the various skate parks across the city.