

What is **REGIONAL PLANNING?**

Common Words Used in Regional Planning

These are words you will see throughout this booklet.

By-law: Laws set by municipal governments.

Infrastructure: Important things communities build to help people live and work. Some examples include roads, bridges, water pipes, wastewater treatment plants, recreation centres, garbage and recycling depots, and sidewalks.

Legislation: Laws made by the provincial and federal governments.

Regulation: Requirements created under legislation.

Policy: A plan or guideline created to guide decisions and actions.

Services: Essential things like fire protection, garbage pickup, libraries, and parks.

Growth: When the number of people, homes, and businesses in an area increases.

Land Use: How land is used, such as for homes, farms, parks, or businesses.

Regional: Involving more than one municipality working together across boundaries to plan for the future.

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What's Regional Planning?

Regional planning is about working together across municipalities to help shape the future. It helps us plan how to grow, where to build, and how to use land, infrastructure, and services in ways that are shaped by local context and priorities. It shows communities how their choices are connected to other communities across a region.

When municipalities work together, it helps avoid doing the same work twice, makes better use of tax dollars, and supports a strong economy. This creates more opportunity, now and for future generations, by keeping families together, creating good jobs, and making our region a place where people want to stay and invest.

A regional plan guides long-term decisions and provides a shared direction, so land, infrastructure, and resources are used wisely. It supports the health and success of the entire region.

Most other major metropolitan areas in Canada already have regional plans in place. This helps them work together, plan faster, and attract jobs, housing, and investment. By moving forward with our own regional plan, we can stay competitive and build a stronger future for everyone.

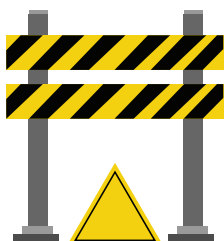
In Manitoba, *The Planning Act* directs that a regional plan must be prepared to look 30 years into the future. It builds on local planning by helping communities make smart, connected choices for roads, water, housing, and services that benefit the whole region, not just today, but for the next generation.



Planning for an increase in population



Creating more jobs



Helping the creation and funding of infrastructure



Supporting safe and healthy communities

Why 30 Years?

Planning 30 years into the future may sound like a long time, but it's important. Big projects like roads, water pipes, and new neighbourhoods, take years to plan and build. They are expensive and need careful consideration.

Long-term planning helps us think about the next generation. It ensures our kids and grandkids have opportunities in a place where they can succeed and thrive. A regional plan gives us a clear path to manage growth in a fair, smart, and balanced way. It connects the dots across communities, so everyone benefits, both today and for years to come.

We have great examples of long-term planning in Manitoba:

Example: When Duff Roblin led the work to build the Red River Floodway (Duff's Ditch), many people found it hard to imagine or understand. But today, we know it protects us from major flooding. That is the kind of long-term thinking regional planning supports.

Example: The CentrePort Canada Initiative, found in the Rural Municipality of Rosser and City of Winnipeg, is a long-term planning success that began in 2009 as a bold idea to create an inland port. Today, it is one of North America's largest tri-modal inland ports, combining rail, air, and road transportation, attracting businesses and boosting the local economy.



What's in a Regional Plan?

A regional plan includes coordinated:

- Vision – a big picture idea of what we want the future to look like.
- Goals – clarity on what we want to achieve.
- Policies - to help guide how we make choices about how land, infrastructure, services, and resources are used.

A regional plan is not about setting rules for municipalities and does not replace local decision-making. Instead, it's about working together on shared priorities to tackle problems we're all facing. It helps communities see how their choices connect to the region as a whole. This helps improve regional coordination on important things like infrastructure, growth, land use, and environmental stewardship.



A VISION



GOALS



POLICIES

Who Makes Regional Plans?

Regional plans are created with input from many people. These include:

- The municipalities that are part of the region
- Indigenous governments and voices
- Local experts such as planners and engineers
- Stakeholder organizations like development associations, environmental advocacy groups, academic institutions, and many others
- Provincially elected leaders and staff of the Manitoba government
- Community members

The regional planning process includes meaningful engagement to gather and consider feedback, ensuring the plan reflects the region's needs. As set out in legislation, once the plan is developed, it is approved by the Province of Manitoba and adopted by the regional planning board.



How Does a Regional Plan Fit with Other Plans?

Here in Manitoba, the Province of Manitoba sets the overall direction for regional planning through legislation and regulations. A regional plan must follow those rules.

Municipalities create their own local plans, which are required to align with the regional plan so the whole region can grow in a coordinated way.

Regional planning does not replace the local decision-making of municipalities. It helps communities see how their choices connect to the region as a whole, avoids overlap, reduces confusion, and makes the best use of resources and the most of what's already in place. The regional plan supports local control while making sure we're all working toward shared goals.

Reconciliation and Planning

In Manitoba, reconciliation is an important part of how we approach regional planning. This means working with Indigenous governments, Peoples, and partners to make sure their voices and knowledge are part of the plan. Respecting rights, histories, and perspectives helps make a stronger and more united region.

Inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in regional planning is part of the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region's (WMR) ongoing commitment to reconciliation and to building respectful relationships that reflect the truth of our shared history.

Why Do We Need Regional Plans?

As our communities grow and change, we face big questions. Where should new homes go? How do we protect farmland and natural spaces? How can we make the most of every public dollar? A regional plan helps us find shared answers and make smart, long-term decisions that benefit the region. It gives communities a clear path forward so growth happens in the right places, at the right time, with the right support.

Regional plans help:

- Make smarter decisions about how and where to grow and support a balanced approach to growth across boundaries
- Reduce duplication in infrastructure and services and make the most of what's already in place
- Make better use of taxpayer dollars
- Plan for the long-term and help ensure a more coordinated response to region-wide challenges like housing pressures, limited transportation choices, natural hazards like floods, drought and fires, and environmental stewardship
- Create new jobs and support a strong economy
- Protect farmland and natural areas that cross municipal boundaries
- Make sure services are available when and where people need them
- Keep our region attractive to investors, businesses, and future residents so they want to move here

Working together also helps municipalities access funding from the provincial and the federal government. When municipalities coordinate their efforts and present shared priorities, it backs up their case for funding by showing our region is coordinated, ready, and planning with purpose.



What If We Don't Plan Regionally?

Each municipality knows its own community best. But without a way to coordinate across the region, important opportunities can be missed. Services may not line up, costs can rise, and growth can become harder to manage. A regional plan helps all communities work together while still making local decisions.

Without regional planning, we risk:

- Overlapping or disconnected infrastructure
- Higher infrastructure and servicing costs due to duplication
- Investments that may not line up with actual local needs
- Missed opportunities for economic growth
- Strain on natural resources and the environment
- Not being able to accommodate future growth due to a lack of infrastructure upgrades and servicing challenges

Regional planning can help solve big challenges that cross municipal boundaries and affect the entire region. It works alongside thoughtful economic development strategies and approaches to keep and grow businesses and jobs. Regional planning creates the foundation for important work across jurisdictions. It gives us a clearer picture of where growth is happening, informs sound infrastructure planning, and guides where investment makes sense and how we can use limited resources wisely. This is our chance to put in place a shared vision that supports growth, smart investment, and strong communities into the future.

What's Happening Now in our Region?

As of June 1, 2025, the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region (WMR) is made up of 18 municipalities, including the City of Winnipeg. The Capital Planning Region, created through provincial legislation, operates as the WMR. The Province of Manitoba requires the WMR to adopt a regional plan by January 1, 2027.

The regional plan will ensure perspectives from across the region are included. In the months ahead, we will share clear, accessible materials to build a stronger understanding of regional planning. This will help everyone see the full picture of our region and understand what this means for their communities.

Stay connected by visiting our website for updates and learn how you can contribute your feedback. Together, we are shaping a future that works for all of us.

