

The majority of recommendations in this report are drawn from the issues identified during the community visits and summarized in the “What We Heard” documents. For a complete description of the methodology used in the preparation of recommendations, see 6.1 Working Groups: Constructing the Observations & Recommendations.

Parallel to this process, the First Nations Council initiated negotiations with the Government of Manitoba to strike a *Memorandum of Understanding* committing First Nations governments on the east side of Lake Winnipeg and the Government of Manitoba to negotiate *Protocols of Agreement* that would become a central component of the Broad Area Plan. The Government of Manitoba committed to a similar process for the Métis Nation resident on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

## 4.2 Mandate Summary

The *East Side Lake Winnipeg Broad Area Planning Initiative – Phase I Final Report* makes recommendations towards the development of a Broad Area Plan under the following headings: The Planning Area; Advisory Bodies – Roles and Responsibilities; Research Needs; The Planning Process; and Issues and Opportunities. While many of the recommendations contained in the Phase I Report are addressed in this status report, much work remains to finalize the Broad Area Plan, including completion of the public participation process.

The mandate provided by the Minister of Conservation to the East Side Round Table (ESRT) and the First Nations Council (FNC) is as follows:

### Treaty and Aboriginal Rights:

*The east side plan recognize, affirm and be in compliance with treaty obligations and Aboriginal rights and be consistent with the consultation/protocol guideline recommendations of the COSDI Report respecting First Nations and Aboriginal peoples.*

Treaty and Aboriginal Rights are addressed in Chapter 5.2 – Building Positive Relationships with Aboriginal Peoples: *Protocols of Agreement*. While a memorandum of understanding has been completed, the development of the protocol is an ongoing process.

### Aboriginal and Community Development:

*The east side Round Table review the status of community planning in the planning area and provide advice on ways and means to meet the needs for community plans.*

*The east side Round Table provide advice on the relationship that should be established between the Broad Area Plan and local community plans and how*

***“People are in favour of development but we also care about the environment. We live here and do not want to see the environment destroyed.”***

(East Side Resident)



*they may be integrated into the large area plan for the east side of Lake Winnipeg.*

Chapter 6.2 – Aboriginal and Community Development addresses and expands upon this mandate.

### **Traditional Activities:**

*The east side round table include traditional ecological knowledge and address traditional activities within the planning area.*

Traditional activities are addressed throughout the report. Information on traditional ecological knowledge, essential in the development of the BAP, needs to be received from communities and is therefore part of the ongoing process.

### **Protected Areas:**

*Commitments to protected areas should be honoured through the established process.*

Protected areas are addressed in Chapter 5.3 – Initiatives to Protect the Integrity of the Boreal Environment.

### **Consultations on Land and Resource Allocations:**

*The east side round table provide advice on mechanisms for ensuring meaningful First Nation, Aboriginal, local public and community consultations in future land and resource allocations, consistent with the consultation/protocol guideline recommendations of the COSDI Report.*

Consultations on land and resource allocations are addressed in Chapter 5.1 – Solidifying an Ongoing Process: Continuing the Creation of a Broad Area Plan & Possible Options – An Interim Planning Authority.

### **Existing Land Uses and New Development Proposals:**

*Existing land uses including forest tenure and protected areas designation shall continue. Crown land and resource development and allocation requests which have a minor land use or environmental effect would be processed and approved or declined as per normal government administrative procedures. Examples include: cottage lots, lodge outcamps, trapping cabins, and fishing and hunting licenses. Upon approval of the plan, allocations and land uses would then be administered in compliance with the plan.*

This mandate is addressed in various places in the report and specifically in Chapter 5.1.



## Forest Resources:

*The east side round table provide advice on protecting the values of the boreal forest, its sustainability, and sustainable use including, but not limited to:*

- *maintaining biological diversity and ecological functions;*
- *role in carbon storage;*
- *non-timber forest products;*
- *ecotourism; and*
- *sustainable forest harvesting activities.*

*The province not permit any major new timber allocation beyond the annual allowable cut, as determined by Manitoba Conservation within Forest Management License #1 and historical allocation levels in Integrated Wood Supply Area #1, subject to annual public review and pending completion of the Broad Area Plan.*

Chapter 6.3 – Forest Resources Issues addresses this mandate.

## Transportation Issues:

*The east side round table provide advice and input on the options (e.g., north-south versus east-west route alternatives) in the east side transportation network study to be conducted by Manitoba Transportation and Government Services. Manitoba Transportation and Government Services work with the east side planning Secretariat and directly with the east side round table to ensure the effective and efficient co-ordination of planning and communication activities in the planning area.*

*The east side round table provide advice on the proposed transportation assessment work plan of Manitoba Transportation and Government Services which will include the planning, consultation, upgrading and construction of the road to the Bloodvein community.*

Chapter 6.4 – Transportation Issues addresses this mandate.

## Tourism and Recreation:

*The east side round table consider and address the opportunities and acceptability of ecotourism and tourist development in the planning area.*

Chapter 6.5 – Tourism and Recreation Issues addresses this mandate.

## Hydro Issues:

*As part of the planning process, Manitoba Hydro co-ordinate any future transmission line communications and public consultation activities with the east side round table. The east side round table provide regional guidance relative to Manitoba Hydro in regards to future electrical transmission facilities*

*“The term 'Climate Change' refers to long-term change in the Earth's climate and the increased variability of our daily weather patterns. Change can arise from both natural and human factors which none-the-less, influence the balance of energy we receive from the Sun.”*

(Province of Manitoba – Energy, Science and Technology)



*within the planning area. Manitoba Hydro work with the East Side Planning Initiative Secretariat and, directly, with the East Side Round Table to ensure the effective and efficient co-ordination of planning and communication activities in the planning area.*

Chapter 6.6 – Hydro Transmission Corridor Issues addresses this mandate.

### **Mining Issues:**

*The east side round table consider the potential for mineral development and its acceptability within the various land use zones that may be designated in the planning area.*

*Mining exploration and development in the planning area continue as per existing established public consultation requirements, environmental review and licensing requirements and other required reviews and permitting processes and procedures.*

Chapter 6.7 – Mining Issues addresses this mandate.

### **Other Issues:**

*The government should seek the advice of the round table on any significant issue which might arise during the course of the planning process.*

Chapter 6.8 – Additional Significant Issues addresses this mandate.

### **Minimum Plan Components:**

*The components of the east side plan include the following components, at minimum:*

*A vision for the planning area; goals and objectives based on the needs of the area; ecosystem, land use and resource management principles and/or codes of practice; a land use zone map with policies and/or guidelines for each zone; procedures for the regular review and amendment of the approved plan; and a glossary of significant resource allocations, licenses, permits and other allocations and the issuing body.*

With respect to the “planning area”, the recommendation that its boundary be defined by watershed boundaries has been accepted with the exception of the inclusion of Black Island into the final maps. In ongoing deliberations, the boundary may require further modification as a result of formal commitments to First Nations that they will be involved in decisions affecting their traditional territories.

An East Side Round Table, East Side First Nations Council, East Side Advisory Committee, Interdepartmental Working Group and East Side Secretariat were established as recommended in the section: Advisory Bodies – Roles and Responsibilities.

With respect to the section entitled “Research Needs”, a list of information, reports, data bases and maps with existing environmental, biological diversity, social, economic, resource, land use, tenure, government commitments, biophysical, heritage, etc., is being compiled . This information has been made available to the ESRT and FNC as it has been collected for their deliberations and included in the public registry. While most components have been incorporated into the status report, the development of the Broad Area Plan remains a work-in-progress. The land use zone map, and procedures to address the regular review and amendment of the approved plan, will be components of the final plan.

### 4.3 Public Participation Process

In launching the East Side Planning Initiative, the government committed to a public participation process to gather the views of residents of the east side of Lake Winnipeg, stakeholders and all Manitobans. Encapsulating the conceptual approach, then Minister of Conservation, the Honourable Oscar Lathlin, stated that the government’s objective *“has been to establish a process, in collaboration with the public, local communities, industry and First Nations, that ensures comprehensive public involvement in the wide area planning process, ...as we work to develop a consensus among these interests with a common vision for land and resource use now and in the future.”*

A common theme throughout this status report is how the planning area, comprising approximately one-eighth of the land mass of the province, is remarkably rich in cultural and natural resources – resources that have sustained the inhabitants of the area for thousands of years. It is also part of one of the world’s largest remaining boreal forest environments. The future of this important and delicate ecosystem will be determined by the principles of wise stewardship and sustainable resource management that are established within the Broad Area Plan. It is why the government called for comprehensive public engagement in charting a future for this resource-rich and ecologically significant environment.

Building a public participation process with limited resources and a tight time frame has been no easy task. Just as one cannot push a river, neither can we place hurried and artificial deadlines on a process that is both organic and ongoing. Should the time not be available to do it right, it will certainly not be available to do it over. Considering the legal challenges that have been successfully argued before the highest courts in the land, it is incumbent on the Government of Manitoba, and in the best interests of all of its citizens, to ensure that public, transparent, factual and accountable processes of information sharing and consultation be conducted as part of the process of defining a Broad Area Plan for the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

The origins of this approach lie in the fundamental conviction that people have an inherent right to be engaged in decision-making processes that affect

*“That sustainable development processes recognize the importance of the culture, knowledge, traditions, cultural and spiritual values of Aboriginal peoples.”*

(Recommendation: Consultation on Sustainable Development Implementation – 1999)

