
CAPITAL PLANNING REGION REGULATION

The Manitoba government is launching a 60-day consultation on the draft capital planning region regulation. It will establish the governance framework and operating rules for the capital planning region, a new statutory corporation created by the Planning Amendment and City of Winnipeg Charter Amendment Act.

A regional planning board is responsible for managing or supervising the business and affairs of the planning region in accordance with its mandate and includes at least one director from each of 18 municipalities within Manitoba's capital region.

The new board is responsible for overseeing a co-ordinated approach to land-use planning and identifying and promoting opportunities for the regional member municipalities to co-operate in the cost-effective development of infrastructure and the provision of services on a regional basis.

The new board builds on the collaboration established among the 18 municipalities as part of the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region organization and enhances its collective responsibility to promote the region as an internationally recognized area of sustainable development and investment.

Composition of the capital planning region board

The board of directors will be comprised of one director from each of the 18 regional member municipalities (head of the council by default, unless the municipality appoints a different currently elected member of council). Up to four additional directors may be appointed by the minister of municipal relations to provide additional experience or technical expertise required by the board.

Decision-making

Decisions require a vote on a motion by the board of directors in which all directors have a single vote that is equally weighted. For a motion to pass, it must meet two conditions:

- the majority of board directors vote in favour, and
- municipally appointed directors voting in favour must represent at least 50 per cent of the population of the capital region.

This majority decision-making model allows the region to move forward together in a spirit of collaboration and partnership only when the majority of municipalities are in agreement.

Regional plan adoption

Once the board is established, it will have two years to prepare and adopt a regional plan bylaw. The regulation sets out expectations and requirements for public hearings as part of the process for the bylaw to proceed through first, second and third readings.

The draft regional plan (Plan 20-50) has been prepared by the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region in consultation with over 500 engagements with governments, stakeholders and partners. It provides an important foundation for the work of the new board to continue this consultative work.

If the minister approves the plan (with or without conditions or alterations), the board may give third reading to the bylaw. After the third reading, member municipalities and planning districts will have up to three years to ensure local bylaws (e.g., development plans, zoning bylaws) are consistent with the regional plan.

Amendments to an adopted regional plan may be initiated by the minister, board, regional member municipality or planning district in the region following the process outlined in the regulation.

Financial matters

The board must prepare a budget by Feb. 28 of each fiscal year. If the board is unable to reach an agreement on its annual budget, the regulation specifies a process for determining contributions required from each member municipality to fund board operations.