

MEMORANDUM OF COLLABORATION respecting the
Brandon Regeneration Strategy, dated December 7, 2011

BETWEEN:

THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA

- and -

THE CITY OF BRANDON

MEMORANDUM OF COLLABORATION respecting the Brandon Regeneration Strategy, dated December 7, 2011

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THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA

("Manitoba"),

- and -

THE CITY OF BRANDON

("Brandon")

WHEREAS:

- A. Manitoba and Brandon wish to build on their tradition of cooperation to make a continued difference to the vitality of Brandon and in the lives of Brandonites.
- B. Brandon has many strengths to build on, as well as challenges that require focused responses within the community and by the two levels of government.
- C. Manitoba and Brandon recognize that renewing the urban social, economic and physical infrastructure of Brandon requires the collective efforts of both partners as well as the federal government, community organizations and the private sector.
- D. Manitoba and Brandon recognize the need to develop a coordinated approach to physical renewal, economic development and social inclusion, particularly within the Downtown area.
- E. The Parties support the vision for the Downtown HUB to flourish and grow into a vibrant and dynamic place, the preferred destination in the region, by offering a wide range of unique and diverse experiences and stimulating economic opportunities
- F. The Parties each endorse a community-based approach that supports the development of long-term plans to establish priorities and guide decision making. These plans will build on the momentum generated and supported by stakeholders such as Renaissance Brandon and the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation and reflect planning frameworks such as the Secondary Plan for the Downtown HUB.

THEREFORE, Manitoba and Brandon agree to collaborate, as follows, on the development and implementation of a Brandon Regeneration Strategy (BRS), as the framework for supporting the regeneration of Brandon's older areas with a focus on the downtown area:

Section 1 – A Strategic Approach

- 1.01 Manitoba and Brandon agree that the BRS should build on their existing policies and programs and reflect the following basic principles:
 - Enhanced collaboration and co-operation between the Parties;
 - Respect for the mandate, scope of responsibilities, unique role and contribution of each of the Parties;
 - Alignment of activities, existing resources and efforts between the Parties to achieve the best possible outcomes for residents of Brandon;

- Focus on innovation in development and implementation, and strategic versus proposal-driven planning;
- Support for processes that will develop sustainable solutions;
- Building on approaches that have been successful to date; and,
- Engaging the private sector, community organizations and the federal government in mutual areas of interest.

Section 2 – Brandon Regeneration Strategy Development

2.01 The BRS will focus primarily on Downtown revitalization efforts, with a particular emphasis on:

- **Physical Renewal:** to encourage downtown living through the development of mixed use and affordable housing projects supported through tax increment financing programs; stimulate new commercial, cultural and recreational developments through new construction and adaptive reuse of vacant/heritage properties that promote green building principles; and identify and support key capital infrastructure projects and heritage preservation initiatives.
- **Economic Development:** to stimulate strategic community economic development and business development opportunities to strengthen and diversify the economic base of the Downtown HUB.
- **Social Inclusion:** to enhance the social and economic well-being of an increasingly diverse residential population, including Aboriginal and new immigrant populations, by addressing issues of affordable housing, recreation, safety, and training and education, in the Downtown and within the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation's geographic boundaries.

2.02 Manitoba and Brandon agree that the detailed content of the BRS will be further developed and refined in consultation with community stakeholders.

Section 3 – Administration

- 3.01 The Parties agree that the BRS will facilitate interdepartmental and intergovernmental collaboration, coordinated planning and design, and joint liaison with the local community.
- 3.02 Overall strategic direction will be the responsibility of a Policy Committee consisting of the Manitoba Minister of Local Government and the Mayor of Brandon, supported by a Management Committee composed of senior officials (two each) from Manitoba and Brandon.
- 3.03 Each Party will dedicate staff to assist with the development and implementation of the BRS.
- 3.04 The Management Committee may direct that working groups be established and provide direction and terms of reference to the working groups. The working groups may be comprised of officials from each of the Parties with specific responsibility or expertise in subject areas addressed by this Memorandum and may include other people as appropriate to complete the work of the working group.
- 3.05 The Parties may execute further agreements with each other and possibly other parties, to support specific joint regeneration initiatives developed under this Memorandum.

- 3.06 The Parties will provide periodic reports on activities undertaken and progress toward meeting the desired outcomes of this Memorandum.
- 3.07 The Parties will be responsible for reviewing the effectiveness of the BRS and this Memorandum, including undertaking an evaluation.

Section 4 – Resources

- 4.01 This Memorandum does not obligate either Party to incremental financial expenditures related to initiatives contemplated under the BRS.
- 4.02 The Parties agree to identify joint initiatives that build on existing programs and policies, largely within available existing resources.
- 4.03 Each Party agrees to assess the resources needed to implement the BRS and to explore opportunities for new resources.

Section 5 – Duration and Legal Effect of Memorandum

- 5.01 This Memorandum will take effect on the day that it is signed by both parties and expires March 31, 2017.
- 5.02 Either Party may terminate this Memorandum by providing three months notice in writing to the other Party.
- 5.03 The Parties may at any time amend this Memorandum by consensus. No amendment is valid unless it is in writing and signed by both Parties.
- 5.04 This Memorandum does not affect the ability of either Party to enter into other arrangements or agreements with each other or with any other party.
- 5.05 This Memorandum is an expression of mutual intentions of the Parties and is not legally binding on them or enforceable against them.

Section 6 – Public Information

- 6.01 The parties agree that any and all public information and communication activities related to the development and implementation of the BRS will be jointly undertaken.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF this Memorandum has been executed on behalf of the Government of Manitoba by the Minister of Local Government on behalf of the City of Brandon by Her Worship Mayor Shari Decter Hirst.

IN THE PRESENCE OF:


WITNESS

THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA


Minister of Local Government

IN THE PRESENCE OF:


WITNESS

THE CITY OF BRANDON


Her Worship Mayor Shari Decter Hirst