

BILL 33: THE PLANNING AMENDMENT AND CITY OF WINNIPEG CHARTER AMENDMENT ACT

Municipal and Northern Relations

April 2026

Manitoba.ca



About Bill 33

- Amends The Planning Act and City of Winnipeg Charter (Part 6) to:
 - Respond to Braid Report (Statutory Review of Planning Legislation)
 - Implement Manitoba's Land Use Planning Action Plan
- Second phase of planned legislative amendments (after Bill 3 and Bill 4)
- Proceeding as a Specified Bill (completion must be done by the time of the House rising in June)

Four Categories of Amendments

1. Clarify and Refine the Role of The Municipal Board as an Appeal Body
2. Address Priority Concerns with the Regional Planning Board Model
3. Streamlining Housing Approvals (outside of Winnipeg)
4. Extend Livestock Operation Rights to Supply Managed Industries

1 - Municipal Board (Planning Act and Charter)

- The Board will no longer be permitted to hold hearings or receive new evidence on public objection referrals for zoning by-laws or secondary plans.
- If sufficient public objections are received by council, the planning records must be referred to The Board (i.e. application, minutes of the local hearing, supporting materials, objections, written decision of board or council).
 - Notice to groups (e.g. petitions) may be issued to only one group representative.
- The Board must review records and provide its recommendation to the planning board or council within 120 days. The Board must provide a copy to the minister and publish report on its website within 7 days.
- The Board's report and recommendations are no longer binding.
 - Councils have final say but must consider The Board's recommendations when deciding whether to proceed to adopt or amend the secondary plan or zoning by-law.

1 - Municipal Board (cont.)

- Timelines for The Board's hearings and reports/orders are clarified and made consistent across The Planning Act and City of Winnipeg Charter.
- The former provisions that provided for costs in circumstances of unreasonable delay when a matter is before The Municipal Board are repealed.
- Compensation is no longer payable for delays in issuing development permits.
 - The Board retains general cost authority under The Municipal Board Act.
- The treatment of objections by a public authority (provincial, municipal, federal government or agency) to secondary plan or zoning by-laws is made consistent across The Planning Act and Charter.
 - If a government authority or a planning authority objects, The Board is still required to hold a hearing, and the Order made by The Board after the hearing is binding on the local planning board or council.

2 - Regional Planning Board (Planning Act)

- A planning region is no longer able to acquire real property by expropriation.
- The former provisions that enabled a planning region to prevent member municipalities from adopting a by-law or approving a subdivision that conflicted with the regional plan by obtaining a court injunction is repealed.
- The regional plan is no longer effective immediately.
 - Adoption of, or an amendment to a regional planning by-law for the Capital Planning Region no longer affects pending applications.
 - Municipalities continue to have three years after the regional plan by-law has come into force to review their local plans for consistency.

3 - Streamlining Housing Approvals (Planning Act)

- Changes expand minor subdivision process to include certain multi-unit developments.
- Subdivisions that split property where at least one boundary of at least two adjacent parcels is or will be subject to a party wall agreement can proceed through the faster minor subdivision process.
- Speeds up local approval of developments like duplexes, triplexes, and row homes.
- Development must still comply with all local by-laws including zoning.
- Councils retain their right to approve/reject and apply conditions.
- *Note: this does not apply to Winnipeg as the City already has their own process*

4 - Extend Livestock Operation Rights to Supply Managed Industries (Planning Act)

- Changes enable livestock operations subject to supply management to accept minor quota increases.
- Specifically, livestock operations subject to supply management quotas (dairy, chicken, turkey, and egg producers) are allowed a 15% increase in animal units without a new conditional use approval.
- Changes to animal types are not allowed in this process.
- For a change to be authorized, the operator must apply for and obtain a zoning memorandum from council or the planning district that states that the livestock operation appears to conform with the zoning by-law and is permitted or recognized as a conforming use.

4 - Extend Livestock Operation Rights to Supply Managed Industries (cont.)

- For existing large-scale livestock operations, changes to conditional use orders that do not change the number of animals or the animal category no longer require provincial Technical Review Committee review.
- Operators can now request municipal council approve changes to their conditional approval to respond to changing requirements or new opportunities. Councils can now add or vary changes in the development agreement for water servicing of the livestock operation.
- For example, an old barn on the property must be removed as a condition of approval. Council could amend the condition to allow the barn to be kept for quarantine use without requiring a provincial technical review.
- Note: All other provincial legislation and regulations continue to apply to large-scale livestock operations.

Next Steps

- Bill 33 was given First Reading March 5, 2026, and Second Reading March 17, 2026.
- The next step is being referred to Standing Committee for review.
- Stakeholders will be able to comment on the bill at Standing Committee.
- It is a specified bill.
 - As a specified bill a bill must have First Reading moved within 20 sitting days after presentation of the Throne Speech, with Second Reading to be moved within an additional 14 sitting days after the First Reading deadline.
 - The bill can proceed as specified, provided it is not designated by the Official Opposition before April 20, 2026.

For more information

- A Guide to Bill 33 with frequently asked questions is available on the department's website.
- Questions about Bill 33 can be addressed to:
 - provincialplanning@gov.mb.ca
 - (204) 945-2150