

Bulletin #2024-09

MUNICIPAL AND NORTHERN RELATIONS

Important Notice to All Elected Officials and Chief Administrative Officers

Revised Planning Act Handbook Reflecting Legislation Currently in Effect

Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations has released Version 2.0 of The Planning Act Handbook to reflect all remaining legislative amendments passed and proclaimed under The City of Winnipeg Charter Amendment and Planning Amendment Act (S.M. 2022, c.27) as of September 1, 2023.

The Planning Act Handbook provides a general plain language overview and summary of The Planning Act, which establishes the legal framework for planning in Manitoba excluding the City of Winnipeg, whose planning framework is established under Part 6 of The City of Winnipeg Charter.

The purpose of the Handbook is to help communities navigate land use planning processes and guide municipalities and planning districts in completing the minimum requirements for land use planning as required in The Planning Act. The Planning Act Handbook can be downloaded from the department's website here:

https://www.gov.mb.ca/mr/land_use_dev/pubs/the_planning_handbook.pdf

Key changes to The Planning Act now incorporated into Version 2.0 of the Handbook include:

- The enabling of planning regions, including the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region;
- New mandates for planning regions, including authorities granted to planning region boards, and requirements regarding the adoption of regional plans;
- Clarification of timelines for application processing and planning appeals, including the ability to extend with the agreement of the applicant;
- Changes to deadlines to The Municipal Board for appeals concerning subdivisions, aggregate quarries and large-scale livestock operations; and
- Changes to extensions allowed for an approved variance.

In addition, this revised version of the Handbook further enhances clarity to existing sections based off of feedback received from various users since its initial release, as well as from an internal review of the guide.

It is the department's intention to maintain the Handbook as a living document, with regular updates to ensure it reflects up-to-date legislation and addresses pertinent land use planning issues. Municipalities and planning districts are welcome to provide suggestions for improvements to the Community Planning Branch (contact information below).

A French translation is currently in development, and will be posted on the website when complete.

If you have questions regarding The Planning Act or accessing and using The Planning Act Handbook, please contact your Community Planning Branch office:

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