

Letter of Intent between:

The Minister of Conservation and Climate and

The Minister of Agriculture and Resource Development

Introduction

In Manitoba, Forest Management Plans are required by The Forest Act and are also subject to review and approval under The Environment Act. Both Acts have their own separate and distinct review and approval processes.

To advance work related to the Minister of Conservation and Climate's mandate to eliminate duplication in the review and approval of Forest Management Plans, the Minister requested that the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission (CEC) complete a jurisdictional scan and provide recommendations to the Minister for consideration. In May 2020, the CEC submitted a report to the Minister in support of the development of an integrated single track review and approval process for Forest Management Plans. Public feedback was sought on the recommendations, using the Engage MB platform, and the response received was supportive of creating a single approval process.

The Ministers have directed the Departments of Conservation and Climate (CC) and Agriculture and Resource Development (ARD) to work towards the development of a single review and approval process for Forest Management Plans in Manitoba.

Desired Outcome

The development of a Forest Management Plan approval process that includes all required equivalencies under section 11(2) of The Environment Act to allow for a single approval under The Forest Act. Once a process is established that meets the requirements under The Environment Act, a ministerial agreement pursuant to section 11(2) of the Environment Act will be created for Forest Management Plans requiring an Environment Act Licence in Manitoba.

Key Elements to be completed by June 30, 2021:

- Revise 'Manitoba's Submission Guidelines for Twenty Year Forest Management Plans' (2007) to meet the requirements of The Environment Act.
- Ensure the CEC's report recommendations relating to the Forest Management Plans approval process have been addressed, including greater engagement of the public and Indigenous communities.
- Ensure feedback received via the Engage MB platform is addressed and incorporated as applicable.

Summary

CC and ARD will continue to work together and exchange information relevant to the implementation of the elements identified above with the objective of developing a streamlined approval process for stakeholders that integrates the forest management plan and environmental review processes into a single-track approval process free of duplication.

Signatories

“Original Signed by”

“Original Signed by”

Minister of Conservation and Climate
charged with the administration of The
Environment Act

Minister of Agriculture and Resource
Development
charged with the administration of The Forest Act

Witnesses

Witnesses

Date: January 15, 2021