

Plan20-50

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. What is a regional planning by-law?

A: A regional planning by-law (regional plan) guides long-term land use and development generally over a period of 20-30 years in a given region. It includes multiple municipalities who have developed a common vision to coordinate land use, servicing, and prioritization of infrastructure.

A regional plan establishes consistent and coordinated planning policies to help guide how a region grows and responds to change over the long term. It can reduce duplication and expedite and streamline the planning process. This facilitates investment within the region and ensures taxpayers' dollars are used in the best way possible.

The adoption of a regional plan does not take away the need to plan locally but seeks to leverage the strengths of all communities in the region as a whole and for the benefit of all. Outcomes of an effective regional plan include job increases, building business clusters, attracting and retaining talented people and businesses, developing a shared approach to climate change resilience, and increasing data sharing in the region.

Q2. Why do we need a regional plan?

A: Pursuant to the recent amendments to *The Planning Act* and release of *Capital Planning Region Regulation*, by the Province of Manitoba, a regional plan must be adopted no later than the end of December 2024 as a by-law.

Having a regional plan has been identified by top site selectors and economists as a necessary first step for the region if it is to compete with other metropolitan regions across North America who are now organized and able to attract businesses, good jobs, investors, and residents. Regional plans support decision making to ensure we have infrastructure and servicing such as water and wastewater, broadband and transportation corridors to meet the needs of the future.

While governance structures and plans vary, regional plans are in place in metropolitan areas across Canada and the globe, including Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Ottawa, Toronto, Quebec, Montreal and Halifax. The Winnipeg Metropolitan Region is one of the last regions in Canada to be working towards having a regional plan.

Q3. Who will adopt a regional plan?

A: The Capital Planning Region operating as Winnipeg Metropolitan Region (Winnipeg Metropolitan Region, WMR) is required to adopt a regional plan as a by-law by end of December 2024.

Q4. Who is the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region?

A: The Capital Planning Region operating as Winnipeg Metropolitan Region (WMR), is a statutory corporation responsible for implementing a coordinated approach to land use planning and infrastructure development for the capital region through the creation of a regional plan by-law. Membership of the WMR has been defined in the amended Planning Act to include:

- the City of Winnipeg and the City of Selkirk;
- the Town of Niverville and the Town of Stonewall;
- the Village of Dunnottar;
- the Rural Municipalities of Cartier, East St. Paul, Headingley, Macdonald, Ritchot, Rockwood, Rosser, Springfield, St. Andrews, St. Clements, St. Francois Xavier, Taché and West St. Paul.

Q5. How is WMR governed?

A: WMR's governance structure is determined by The *Capital Planning Region Regulation* and includes heads of municipal council from each member municipality siting a director on the WMR Board. Up to four additional directors may be appointed by the Minister. These provincial appointees include the chair and the vice chair. The Board meets regularly to deliberate actions and deliver its mandate.

Q6. Are board meetings public?

A: Regular board meetings are public, while special meetings may be held in private ("in camera.") However, any resolutions must be passed in public meetings.

Q7. How will a regional plan be adopted?

A: The process for adopting a regional plan has been outlined in the *Capital Planning Region Regulation* and includes additional consultation, three readings by the WMR board, public hearings, and ministerial approval process. To access the *Capital Planning Region Regulation* and know more about the process please visit: web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/current/161-2022.php

Q8. Can I provide feedback during public hearings?

A: Submissions from registered members of the public may be made verbally at a public hearing. Written submissions may be made to or during the hearing additionally. Public participation at the hearing must occur under the WMR Board's by-laws regarding the conduct of meetings and hearings. Feedback from the public during regular board meetings is not permitted.

Q9. What would the adoption of a regional plan mean for my local planning by-laws?

A: With the recent amendments to the *Planning Act*, once adopted, a regional plan will be effective immediately. Member municipalities of the WMR must ensure consistency between their planning by-laws and policies including their development plans, secondary plans, zoning by-laws and water and wastewater management plans, and the adopted regional plan within three years after adoption. The WMR will work in collaboration with member municipalities and planning districts to facilitate the implementation process as they work to ensure consistency between local and regional polices.

Q10. Will our local planning process become redundant after adoption of a regional plan?

A: No. The adoption of a regional plan does not replace the need for local planning. A regional plan provides a framework for coordination between municipalities. Municipalities will maintain local autonomy and decision-making, and they will still undertake all areas of the local planning process. Each municipality's local plan will interpret the regional plan and apply it to their communities to reflect the local vision.

Q11. Does the adoption of a regional plan result in more red tape and bureaucracy?

A: No. A regional plan is not another level of government. It is a tool that will provide consistency, expedite the planning and development process, and serve to provide transparency and enhance partnerships between member municipalities, various levels of governments, Indigenous Nations, businesses, and industry. A regional plan is expected to streamline interpretation and provide consistency regionally while supporting local planning. Regional planning is the process of getting on the same page by establishing a regional vision and a common language for goals and actions.

Q12. Does the adoption of a regional plan going to take away planning decisions from local councils?

A: No. The adoption of a regional plan will not take away local autonomy and decision-making. Each municipality will still undertake all areas of the local planning process and interpret the regional plan and apply it to their communities while reflecting the local vision residents have come to love.

Q13. What is the reason for local by-laws to be consistent with the regional plan?

A: The intention of requiring local by-laws to be consistent with the adopted regional plan, is to promote investment by providing great certainty and transparency to property owners and developers regarding the procedures and policies that maybe used to make land use decisions throughout the whole region.

Q14. Can a regional plan be changed after adoption?

A: Yes. The *Capital Planning Region Regulation* outlines the process for making amendments to an adopted regional plan. The amendment process may be initiated by WMR, a member municipality or planning district within the region, or the Minister. Major amendments may require public hearings and multiple readings by the WMR Board. In addition to the amendment process, *Capital Planning Region Regulation* also outline a regional plan review process no less than eight years after adoption with another two years to implement policy amendments pursuant to the review.

Q15. What is Plan20-50?

A: Since 2019, the leaders of the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region have been collaborating, consulting, and deliberating to develop a draft regional plan for the region. The second version of this draft regional plan, *Draft Plan20-50 v2.0 (Plan20-50)* intends to provide a long-term vision to guide land use and development, improve and coordinate service delivery, and support infrastructure investment in the region.

Q16. How was Plan20-50 developed?

A: In 2019 the Province of Manitoba mandated the development of a regional land use and servicing plan and set the direction for regional planning in our region. Guided by this mandate, and to create a regional plan, the leaders of the region along with the WMR staff engaged a team of local and international experts who provided best practice policy to address the region's needs and ensure the key components necessary for a regional plan were reflected.

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Plan20-50 was developed on a solid foundation of data and information gathered from existing policy, programs, strategies, reports, and datasets, as well as the extensive library of regional work the WMR has undertaken over many years, including the Regional Growth Strategy *Securing Our Future*. Additional studies were undertaken to fill information gaps. The process of creating and refining *Plan20-50* included various consultation sessions with stakeholders, experts, representatives from the Provincial Government, business and Industry, and other interest groups.

The first draft of *Plan20-50* was released in June 2021. With continued consultation and refinement, the second draft of *Plan20-50* v2.0 (*Plan20-50*) was released in November 2022.

Q17. Who all contributed to the *Plan20-50* consultation process?

A: A good regional plan forms around many voices. As part of the *Plan20-50* process, over 500 individuals, including elected officials, CAOs, the business community, academia and NGOs, provided detailed feedback via in person and online meetings, interviews, workshops and sessions. Each municipality of the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region has already provided detailed comments and input. All comments and feedback received since 2019 has been compiled in six consultation review reports available on the *Plan20-50* website via the following link: 20to50.ca/about-plan-2050/

Additional consultation is required as a part of the regional plan adoption process outlined in the *Capital Planning Region Regulation*.

Q18. How were Indigenous Nations and organizations engaged with during the development of *Plan20-50*?

A: Throughout various phases of the development of *Plan20-50*, the WMR engaged with First Nations, representatives from First Nations led organizations, and representatives from Indigenous related government departments. This was completed via in person and online sessions including large, facilitated information gathering sessions, roundtable discussions, and one-on-one meetings. Elected leadership and representatives from lands management, land use planning, and resource management were engaged with to solicit information regarding their perspectives relating to *Plan20-50*. First Nations advisor were engaged to support this work.

Our engagement efforts with Indigenous leaders and communities have yielded valuable insights and collaboration. The WMR is committed to open communication and collaboration with all Indigenous governments and remains open to future opportunities for dialogue and partnership.

Q19. What was heard though the consultation process?

A: Through *Plan20-50*'s extensive and ongoing consultation process, the following priorities were identified and addressed in *Plan20-50*:

- Safe and sustainable infrastructure and services for today and tomorrow.
- Housing for all to serve a growing, aging and changing population.
- Protection of agricultural land, resources and water to maintain food security and agricultural strategic advantage.
- Transportation in and around the region - moving people and goods.
- Good jobs for our future - so our kids don't have to move away and so we can attract newcomers.

Additional consultation is required as a part of the regional plan adoption process as per the *Capital Planning Region Regulation*.

Q20. Does *Plan20-50* prohibit municipalities from designating new residential and employment lands?

A: No. *Plan20-50* clearly identifies a process for municipalities to designate new lands as needed to meet their residential and employment demands. Policy will support informed decision-making to support the preservation of high-quality agricultural lands.

As a 30-year plan, there is recognition that municipalities will require a transition period to update their development plans.

Q21. Will the application of *Plan20-50*'s density minimums change our communities by making them identical?

A: No. Regional density minimums are expected to only be applied to new greenfield developments; they do not apply to infill development. Municipalities will define greenfield and infill developments as they relate to their communities in their development plans and regional context statements as a part of the implementation process.

A variety of housing types are supported but not prescribed. This is up to the local governments to determine what fits with their municipality's local character, demographic demands, needs and future vision.

Q22. How has the region's shifting and dynamic demographic context, and future housing and employment needs been considered in *Plan20-50*?

A: The regional population, employment and housing projections developed for *Plan20-50* are based on an age-cohort survival model, which is an industry best practice. This model considers the region's demographic trends, economic growth expectations (based on national, provincial, and regional economic outlooks) and migration patterns. The 2016 Statistics Canada Census data was used as a benchmark year (last official census data available). This is the first time a combined age-cohort and economic model has been used to develop forecasts for the entire region. We continue to refine our understanding of the current and projected population, and housing and employment needs as 2021 census data gets available.

Q23. Do the population, employment, and housing forecasts direct growth to certain municipalities?

A: No. The forecasts have not been used to limit how much a given municipality can grow. The forecasts are not intended to limit and direct growth or define population, employment and housing. They are intended to provide an understanding of potential scenarios as populations change over time. The projections can help municipalities and the region inform planning decisions, infrastructure, and service needs. As a 30-year plan, both growth forecasts and policies will also be updated as part of the *Plan20-50* review process.

Q24. Why does *Plan20-50* include a requirement for so many extra studies?

A: The studies and plans outlined in *Plan20-50* set the direction for regional coordination. *Plan20-50* refers to suggested studies and plans based on sound planning principles - several are currently required by provincial legislation.

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Additional studies and plans will be undertaken at the direction of the Province of Manitoba and the WMR Board.

The WMR acknowledges that resources will be required to undertake this work. As studies and plans are completed, they will provide additional regional direction and inform regional plan updates as well as the local planning process.

Q25. Will *Plan20-50*, when adopted, take away what makes my municipality unique or affect my specific property?

A: No. The adoption of *Plan20-50* as the regional plan doesn't mean taking away local autonomy or what makes the municipality distinct. It doesn't affect your specific property either since the approval of development proposals will continue to be done at a local level. Regional plans simply deal with matters that affect the region more broadly, such as transportation, growth management, and shared servicing.

Q26. How does *Plan20-50* advance reconciliation?

A: *Plan20-50* advances reconciliation by providing transparency and enhancing partnerships and collaboration with Indigenous Nations. Through our work creating, adopting and implementing a regional plan, as outlined in the *Plan20-50* process, we hope to continue to reach out and work with Indigenous leaders and community members and ensure Indigenous worldviews, knowledge, and concerns are being incorporated in regional planning and WMR's work as a whole.

Q27. Is *Plan20-50*, when adopted, going to take away the natural areas, privacy/quietness that my municipality is regarded for?

A: No. The *Plan20-50* only suggests density minimums and targets and advocates for the protection and preservation of the region's natural and agricultural spaces and doesn't seek to tear them down and fill them with only mixed-use buildings in every lot.

Q28. What are the next steps?

A: In the upcoming months, the WMR Board will undertake an adoption process for a regional plan which will include key events such as consultations, public hearings, readings, and a ministerial approval process.

The WMR will continue to work collaboratively with the Province of Manitoba, the Minister, municipal stakeholders, Indigenous leaders, and other appropriate government departments on the adoption and implementation of a regional plan for the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region.

Q29. Where can I find out more about *Plan20-50*?

A: To find out more, read, download a copy of *Plan20-50*, and submit you feedback, please visit the *Plan20-50* website via the link: 20to50.ca