

What is Plan20-50?

Plan20-50 is the draft regional plan to guide land use and development across the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region (WMR) over the next 30 years. The Winnipeg Metropolitan Region is made up of 18 municipalities including the City of Winnipeg and 17 adjacent municipalities. (Click [here](#) for the list of municipalities).

Plan20-50 is the first regional plan developed in Manitoba for the Capitol Region and is long overdue. We know that a regional planning approach is the best way to address future infrastructure needs such as water and wastewater servicing, next-generation Internet, transportation corridors, and other projects that don't stop at municipal boundaries. Plan20-50 will support coordinated land use servicing, infrastructure investment, and economic development. A regional planning approach is the best way to ensure efficient investment of tax-payer dollars while reducing competition for resources amongst neighbouring municipalities.

Plan20-50 will ensure that residents, businesses, and investors know the plan for the Winnipeg Metro Region now and for the future.

Why do we need Plan20-50?

We know that each community is unique and will continue to have their own local priorities and plans. A regional plan guides long term land use and development generally over a period of 20-30 years. It includes multiple municipalities that have developed a common vision to coordinate land use, transportation, water and wastewater servicing, and the prioritization of infrastructure. A regional plan helps reduce conflict and competition for resources by reducing duplication and can expedite and streamline the planning process.

A regional plan can strengthen us as a region and increase our capacity to address issues that affect us all. For example, right now we are addressing climate resilience in an ad hoc way, yet rain in January or drought conditions in summer will not recognize municipal boundaries. This requires a planned and coordinated approach. As the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region continues to grow, collaboration is critical to protecting our water, air, and soil even as we welcome new development. As municipalities working together, we can create efficiencies and savings that can be reinvested locally.

How will Plan20-50 support regional economic development?

In order to create the climate for investment, regional growth management and servicing planning will provide a full regional inventory of assets necessary to attract investment, manage growth, and build strong communities. Plan20-50 will be the foundation for economic growth and competitiveness.

Don't we have too many plans already? What makes this different?

While each community has their own local plans, a regional plan builds on this solid planning foundation. Plan20-50 can identify areas where coordination of planning efforts, infrastructure investment, and servicing can be undertaken to support strong communities, boost economic development efforts, and enhance stewardship of our environment.

Plan20-50 isn't starting from scratch. It builds on established best practices in the region and on the successes already demonstrated in other provinces and jurisdictions. There will also be new provincial legislation to support the implementation and management of Plan20-50. Bill 37 repeals the Capital Region Partnership Act and creates the Capital Planning Region, with the same membership as the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region, and with a mandate to adopt a formal regional plan (aka Plan20-50) around a common regional vision in planning for growth on a regional basis. More information on Bill 37 can be found on the Government of Manitoba [website](#).

Is Plan20-50 just another layer of government and will it create more bureaucracy?

No. A regional plan is not another level of government. It will provide consistency, expedite the development planning process, and serve to provide transparency and enhance partnerships between capital region municipalities, levels of government, Indigenous Nations, business, and industry.

Why did the WMR make the plan? Shouldn't this planning be done by planners, engineers, or other experts?

Acknowledging the track record of regional collaboration and breadth of planning knowledge, in 2019 the Province of Manitoba mandated the WMR—which is led by elected officials from each of the 18 municipalities in the region—to coordinate the first draft of Plan20-50. The mandate outlined requirements for the scope of the plan, and the process for its development, and provided the resources necessary to do the work. Knowing that all statutory plans in Manitoba must have a Registered Professional Planner as the lead on the plan and as a final signatory before the plan can be approved, the WMR engaged an extensive team of experts in planning, engineering, and community consultation to lead the development of the draft plan. Click [here](#) for a more detailed profile on the Plan20-50 team.

These experts have gathered and analyzed regional data and researched best practices from across Canada and the globe. The first draft of Plan20-50 puts forward a data-driven best-practice set of policies—providing one set of facts, one set of recommendations, and shared language around which further discussion can take place. This is the first time the municipalities of the WMR will have a common starting point.

Won't this lead to even more sprawl around Winnipeg?

No. The opposite. We can deliver better options and save money when we explore shared approaches to development and service delivery. Plan20-50 will encourage the continued development of communities and areas in the region to support existing investment in infrastructure. This allows additional investments and opportunity to enhance services, giving residents what they need for the future.

A regional approach to planning allows us to find the important economies of scale and consider the best investments that support a high quality of life.

Who has helped inform what the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region should look like in 2050?

Plan20-50 undertook a transparent and collaborative approach to solicit feedback from a broad spectrum including government, Indigenous Nations, the business community, industry sectors, leaders in sustainability, community advocates, experts in climate change, and civil society.

To date, we have engaged with over 500 individuals and organizations accounting for almost 1,000 touchpoints. This feedback, comment, and expertise has informed the draft of Plan20-50.

The Plan20-50 team also engaged outside experts to peer review policy direction to provide insight. The team will continue to solicit feedback and comment on the draft of Plan20-50 which will be compiled into a Review Report that will be provided with the draft plan to the Minister of Municipal Relations as the plan enters the next stage of the process.

Draft Plan 20-50 – FAQs

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Who will formally approve the plan?

As mandated by the Province of Manitoba, the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region will submit the draft plan together with the Review Report to the Minister of Municipal Relations this spring. The next step in the process will be for the newly formed Capital Planning Region to adopt the regional plan, followed by submission to the Minister of Municipal Relations for approval.

Who gets to decide what is in the plan? Can I have a say?

Absolutely. The draft plan is just that—a draft. We are seeking input to ensure that Plan 20-50 reflects a future that we all want to see. Go to 20to50.ca for more information about how you can have your say. Thank you.