

AMENDMENTS TO THE CAPITAL PLANNING REGION REGULATION

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – February 2026

Available in alternate formats, on request.

Please call 204-945-2150 or email MRCPD@gov.mb.ca.

1. What is the Capital Planning Region Regulation?

Established under The Planning Act (C.C.S.M. c. P80), the Capital Planning Region Regulation (M.R. 161/2022) sets the governance and procedural requirements of Manitoba's Capital Planning Region, as well as outlines the process to adopt and implement a regional plan by-law. The regulation came into force on January 1, 2023, and was recently amended on October 2, 2025, and February 18, 2026.

2. Why is the Capital Region Regulation being amended/changed?

In November 2025, the Department released Manitoba's Land Use Planning Action Plan, in response to recommendations of the independent statutory review of provincial planning legislation. The Action Plan commits the government to a renewed approach to planning that is grounded in respect for municipal autonomy while supporting shared goals for regional planning and infrastructure.

The independent statutory review engaged over 250 participants from more than 95 municipalities, development and industry stakeholders, professional associations, the public, the City of Winnipeg, the Manitoba Municipal Board, and multiple provincial departments through structured interviews, workshops, surveys, formal submissions.

The Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations (MNR) met with municipal leaders from all local councils in the Winnipeg Metro Region to reaffirm the government's commitment to regional planning and address local concerns. Additional consultation sessions were held by the Department with key stakeholders including Association of Manitoba Municipalities, Manitoba Municipal Administrators, Urban Development Institute, Manitoba Housing Association, and Winnipeg Metro Region.

3. What are the changes and why were they made?

In response to stakeholder concerns, the following key areas of the Capital Planning Region Regulation have been amended: Minister's appointment of directors, Chair and vice-chair, Quorum at meetings, Decisions of the board, Printed regional planning by-laws, and Public hearing.

Minister's appointment of directors: Stakeholders expressed concern about the number of unelected government appointees to capital region planning board. The Braid report recommended that the government reconsider the composition of the regional planning board with an emphasis on role and function of members appointed by government. Accordingly, to strengthen local autonomy and improve governance, the maximum number of provincially appointed members on the Board has been reduced from four to two persons.

Chair and vice-chair: Braid recommended that a process be established to identify and elect a chair from all members. In response, the regional planning board has been given the autonomy to appoint its own chair and vice-chair.

Quorum at meetings: Municipal members of the capital planning region board told the province that the former requirement that the City of Winnipeg Board Director be always present to achieve quorum at meetings, was impractical and disruptive to board functioning. As a result, it has been removed from the regulation. A simple majority of board members attending a regular board meeting now achieves quorum.

Decisions of the board: Braid recommended changing how the capital planning region board makes decisions, emphasising consensus-based decision making. Most decisions will now be made by majority of directors present at a meeting.

For decisions on a regional planning by-law and annual budget to pass it must now appeal to a wider cross section of the board members. To encourage consensus on important decisions the Braid report recommended a *double-majority* system of support, namely approval from two-thirds of Board members present and representing at least two-thirds of the region's population. This effectively balances geographic representation and population representation, where both perspectives count.

Printed regional planning by-laws: The Department received input on practical and logistical concerns with maintaining physical copies of a regional plan for pick up at its administrative offices. The amended regulation requires that the capital planning region make printed copies of all regional plan by-laws available to the public upon request and at a reasonable cost.

Public Hearing: The Braid Report highlighted challenges with the definition and structure of "public hearings" in the regulation, specifically: problems created by the requirement to hold two public hearings on the same issue, potential legal issues with the voting procedures when two hearings apply to one decision, and concerns about accuracy and

confidence of information between hearings, since the first hearing remains “open” until the second one closes. Members of the capital planning region board also sought clarity because board members (elected officials) found the process misaligned with familiar municipal hearing practices.

As a result, the amended regulation requires the capital region planning board to hold one public hearing before adopting a regional plan. The hearing can be held anywhere in the region, including virtually using electronic communication technology. The hearing may be held before or after the Board has given the regional plan first reading, which aligns with the requirements for all other planning district boards and councils under The Planning Act.

In addition the regulation requires that at least 60 days before the regional planning board gives first reading of the proposed regional planning by-law, the board must hold one or more public consultations with interested persons on the proposed regional planning by-law, consult with provincial departments, with each of the regional member municipalities and with any other organization, group or stakeholder that the regional planning board considers appropriate.

4. When do the changes come into effect?

The amended regulation is now law. Changes came into force as of February 18, 2026.

5. Does this regulation change the membership of the Capital Planning Region?

No. *The Capital Planning Region — Regional Member Municipalities Regulation* gives legal effect to removing municipalities from membership on the Board who have submitted a formal resolution to the Minister to opt out of membership.

6. Is the government planning more changes to legislation?

In response to the statutory review of planning legislation and stakeholder feedback, the Manitoba Government is committed to introduce amendments to The Planning Act and The City of Winnipeg Charter to restore local authority and address concerns related to board representation, decision-making processes, and public hearing requirements.