

**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**Bill 4 - The Planning Amendment Act**  
**(Capital Planning Region Bill Enabling Voluntary Municipal Membership)**

Available in alternate formats, on request. Please call 204-290-9706 or email [allison.bednarz@gov.mb.ca](mailto:allison.bednarz@gov.mb.ca).

**1. Why was legislation introduced to make municipal membership in the Capital Planning Region voluntary?**

The legislation recognizes the importance of providing local partners the flexibility to join or withdraw from Manitoba's Capital Planning Region.

Member municipalities that remain in the Capital Planning Region will have the opportunity to reset their original effort to develop a first regional plan by-law. This plan will be guided by a common vision that promotes collaborative actions and regional investments in key areas like infrastructure, housing, and water protection, to grow the economy and deliver a high-quality of life for Manitobans.

**2. How can a municipality in the Capital Planning Region withdraw from the Capital Planning Region?**

The enabling legislation is currently under review by the Legislative Assembly and must be fully debated and passed before it becomes law.

Once the proposed legislation is enacted, a current member municipality wishing to withdraw may do so by passing a council resolution and submitting it to the Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations. This resolution must be submitted to the Minister before the next municipal general election in October 2026. Upon receipt, the Minister will enact a regulation to formalize the withdrawal.

**3. How much time do current member municipalities have to decide if they wish to remain part of the Capital Planning Region?**

Member municipalities will have from the date the proposed legislation comes into effect until the day before the next municipal general election is held in October 2026 as specified under The Municipal Act, to decide whether to withdraw from the Capital Planning Region.

**4. What does a current member municipality have to do to stay in the Capital Planning Region?**

Since the legislation maintains the Capital Planning Region, the 18 current member municipalities do not need to take any action (e.g., adopt a resolution) to remain a member.

**5. How can municipalities join or rejoin the Capital Planning Region in the future?**

Municipalities can request to join at any time by holding a public hearing (including giving notice) and passing a council resolution requesting membership in the planning region. The resolution must then be sent to the Minister. Upon receiving a resolution to join or withdraw, the Minister has the discretion to adjust membership of the planning region by regulation.

**6. Can a current member municipality pass and send a resolution to the Minister before the proposed legislation is given royal assent?**

No, the process for a member municipality to withdraw from the Capital Region will only come into effect once the proposed legislation receives royal assent. Current member municipalities are advised to wait until the proposed legislation is enacted before passing and sending any council resolution to the Minister requesting withdrawal.

This interim period provides an opportunity for municipalities to engage in discussions about a renewed vision for the region while the proposed legislation is under review.

**7. Will municipalities have future opportunities to withdraw from the Capital Planning Region?**

Yes. The proposed legislation establishes a process for member municipalities to withdraw during the regular 10-year cycle for reviewing a regional plan. The bill explains that upon receipt of the written notice from the Capital Planning Region that it is initiating a review of the adopted regional plan by-law, member municipalities will have 180 days to hold a public hearing (including public notice) and pass and send their council resolution to the Minister with their request to withdraw.

**8. Is a current member municipality that is planning to withdraw from the Capital Planning Region required to pay its annual contribution?**

Yes. Until a municipality is formally withdrawn from the Capital Planning Region by the Minister through regulation, all current member municipalities are required to fulfill their financial obligations to the region in accordance with provincial legislation.

**9. Who are the current members of the capital planning region and what appointments are identified in the legislation?**

The current members of the Capital Planning Region include its member municipalities. Provincial appointments to the Board include Chair of the Board, Vice Chair of the Board, a representative of Treaty One First Nations, and a representative of Manitoba Metis Federation.

Municipal Members include:

City of Winnipeg	RM of East St. Paul	RM of Springfield
City of Selkirk	RM of Headingley	RM of St. Andrews
Town of Stonewall	RM of Macdonald	RM of St. Clements
Town of Niverville	RM of Ritchot	RM of St. François Xavier
Village of Dunnottar	RM of Rockwood	RM of Taché
RM of Cartier	RM of Rosser	RM of West St. Paul

**10. Can planning regions only consist of municipalities that are contiguous to each other?**

To support coordinated planning for growth, services, transportation, and other provincial priorities, all planning regions when first established are required to have member municipalities which are located next to each other. However, the boundaries or membership of a planning region, such as the Capital Planning Region, may change over time potentially affecting the contiguity of the planning region's member municipalities.

**11. Do the Provincial Land Use Policies apply to any municipalities that withdraw from a planning region?**

Yes, all municipalities, including the City of Winnipeg, must ensure that their development plan by-law is generally consistent with the Provincial Land Use Policies (Manitoba Regulation 81/2011), regardless of whether they are part of a planning region. The Provincial Land Use Policies set out the province's interests in land, resources and sustainable development.

**12. Is the Capital Planning Region Board required to adopt a regional plan by-law?**

Yes, the legislation retains the requirement that the Capital Planning Region must adopt a regional plan by-law. Under the proposed legislation, the Capital Planning Region Board must prepare and adopt its first regional plan by-law by January 1, 2027, or by a later date if prescribed by the Minister by regulation. This regional plan will become a key point of reference to the members of the region as well as the province in making broad decisions such as those related to shared and regional investments in community infrastructure.

**13. What will happen to the regional plan by-law that the current Capital Planning Region Board was in the process of adopting (Plan20-50)?**

The Capital Planning Region (which operates under the name of the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region) is initiating discussions with current member municipalities to reset and develop a new regional plan by-law. This reset will aim to reflect a shared vision built around working together in key areas of common interest and priorities such as land use planning, infrastructure, housing and water management.

**14. Does the Province foresee any further changes being made to the regional planning sections of The Planning Act?**

Potential refinements or revisions to the legislation may be identified through the statutory review of The Planning Act and City of Winnipeg Charter (former Bills 37 and 34). Feedback from the recently concluded public consultations and engagements regarding these bills will be considered prior to a report being tabled in the legislature by October 2025.

Last update: December 10, 2024