

Bulletin #2021-56

INFORMATION BULLETIN

MUNICIPAL RELATIONS

COMMUNITY PLANNING BRANCH

**Important Notice to all Chief Administrative Officers
And Elected Officials**

**Recent Amendments to The Planning Act and City of
Winnipeg Charter Act**

Most changes to the planning system introduced within the Planning Amendment and City of Winnipeg Charter Amendment Act, which received Royal Assent and became law on May 20, 2021 have been proclaimed and are in force as of October 29, 2021.

The legislation creates new rights of appeal for applicants on certain planning applications and extends the right to appeal zoning decisions to include citizens of Winnipeg. The amendments will provide greater transparency and accountability, as planning authorities are now required to provide written reasons for rejecting a planning application. The time to file an appeal has been set at 14 days to further reduce delays to development.

The legislation also sets out service standards for municipalities and planning districts to process planning applications across the province. This will provide greater certainty to all stakeholders how long the planning process will take, regardless of location in the province and will ensure a consistent and timely decision making process is in place. Application forms and notices of decision will need to be updated by municipalities to reflect the newly legislated timelines for decision making and for filing appeals.

The Department of Municipal Relations is committed to continued support in implementing the legislation through clear rules and procedures. Flow charts, fact sheets, Questions and Answers and a Guide to the legislation are found in the quick links section on the Department's website <https://www.gov.mb.ca/mr/index.html>.

Additional training and resource materials are being prepared with the assistance of professional consulting services. A comprehensive Planning Handbook will provide an authoritative reference to The Planning Act. New streamlined procedures for planning appeals at the Municipal Board are being developed. Both projects involve significant municipal and stakeholder involvement and are expected to be completed in Spring 2022. Any suggestions you may have are welcomed.

If you have questions or require further information, please contact your regional Community Planning office, or call the Winnipeg Office at (204) 945-2150. The Department will be sending you an invitation to an information webinar to address your questions regarding proclamation.