

PHASE 1: SERVICING STRATEGY FOR THE CAPITAL REGION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of a regional servicing strategy?

The regional planning authority operating as the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region (WMR) is mandated to improve and coordinate sustainable land use and development in the region that consists of the territory within the boundaries that encompass Winnipeg and the surrounding 17 municipalities. WMR is mandated to also identify and promote opportunities for cooperation in the cost-effective development of infrastructure and services on a regional basis.

2. What is the scope of phase 1?

The creation of a comprehensive servicing strategy is a multi-phase, multi year iterative process that requires extensive data collection and stakeholder engagement. Phase 1 involves documenting the current state of municipal sewer and water infrastructure in the capital region. It also involves inviting interested participants to contribute to a set of broad, non-binding criteria and principles that may be used for planning and evaluating regional water and wastewater solutions.

3. Why is the Province of Manitoba investing in a regional servicing strategy?

As a partner in sustainable growth, the Province has a provincial interest in infrastructure - Provincial Land Use Policies identify maximizing existing and proposed infrastructure investment as a provincial priority.

4. How have municipalities, planning districts and other stakeholders participated in phase 1?

The consultant's work on phase 1 of the servicing strategy is informed through active engagement with a broad range of stakeholders and informants such as municipalities, planning districts, provincial departments and the private sector.

Municipalities played the important role of providing key information necessary for the consultant's work to be conducted such as:

- existing asset management plans;
- current state of a range of local and provincial infrastructure (e.g. existing capacity, condition, constraints);
- immediate, short-term and long-term infrastructure investment needs; and
- existing or proposed service sharing agreements.

5. How have Indigenous peoples been engaged in phase 1?

The Province acknowledges the importance and value of engaging Indigenous peoples in the creation of a Servicing Strategy for the Capital Region. In the spirit of reconciliation, consultants for phase 1 reached out to First Nations in the capital region and Manitoba Metis Federation to introduce the project and invite sharing wisdom and insights on principles that could guide future collaboration on shared water and wastewater infrastructure investments.

6. How could the servicing strategy impact municipal decision-making on local infrastructure?

Municipalities in the capital region maintain their local autonomy for making decisions on local matters. At the same time, phase 1 will provide member municipalities with broad criteria and principles that may be used for planning and evaluating regional water and wastewater solutions.

As the strategy evolves over time, it could provide more detailed regional recommendations that can be used to better assess the most cost-efficient and reliable services to meet current and expected population change and capitalize on regional solution opportunities.

7. How will the regional servicing strategy affect existing or proposed servicing agreements (e.g., municipality to municipality, municipality to First Nations)?

The servicing strategy as it evolves should support the expansion or continuation of existing service sharing agreements and the establishment of new ones, where appropriate. That being said, any potential partnership identified by the Servicing Strategy will be subject to the review and approval of all involved parties.

8. What is the relationship between the regional servicing strategy and land use planning by-laws?

The servicing strategy is expected to align with the long-term vision for growth in existing planning by-laws and the regional plan once adopted by the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region. Additionally, the regional servicing strategy is informed by the latest information available regarding population, development patterns, infrastructure investment and regional priorities. The content of all phases of the Servicing Strategy, including findings and recommendations, will be corroborated with municipal representatives and key stakeholders to ensure a sufficient supply of appropriately serviced land is readily available where it is regionally needed.

9. How does the creation of a servicing strategy compare with regions in other jurisdictions?

Every jurisdiction is unique. That being said, a cross-jurisdictional review of how other jurisdictions approach regional infrastructure investment indicates that all reviewed regions have a regional servicing strategy, or an equivalent document, intended to ensure coordination among member communities on infrastructure investment and the provision of services. The review also indicated essential infrastructure (e.g. sewer and water) is often a key component of most regional servicing strategies.