

# Streamlined Approval Process for Forestry Operations in Manitoba

## Overview

For the first time, Manitoba is using a single, [streamlined approval process](#) to review a Forest Management Plan (FMP). The process provides one clear, transparent, and accountable system that protects the environment, respects Indigenous rights, and supports sustainable forest management. It was formalized through a [ministerial agreement](#) between the Ministers of Environment and Climate Change, and Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures.

## The Forest Management Plan

An FMP is a 20-year strategic plan required for major forestry operations. It guides how Crown forests are managed, including:

- Sustainable timber harvesting
- Protection of wildlife, water, and biodiversity
- Road development and forest renewal
- Monitoring, reporting, and adaptive management

## How the Approval Process Worked Previously

Under the previous approach, forestry operations required an FMP review under [The Forest Act](#), and a separate review for an Environment Act licence under [The Environment Act](#). Although both processes reviewed similar information, they were administered separately resulting in duplication of review and overlapping public notice and comment periods.

## How the Streamlined Process Works

FMPs are now reviewed and approved under The Forest Act through a single, coordinated process that is formally recognized as satisfying requirements of The Environment Act. Approved FMPs have the same legal status as an Environment Act licence, are legally enforceable, and may be appealed under The Environment Act. Environmental protection remains central to the approval process. Plans must address environmental effects, cumulative impacts, sustainability, and climate change considerations. As with the previous approval process, a Crown-Indigenous consultation, public comment, and review by government specialists occur. The proposed FMP, as well as decisions and supporting information continue to be publicly available on the [public registry](#).

## What This Means for Manitobans

- Strong environmental protections remain in place
- Public input continues to matter
- Forestry approvals are clearer, more efficient, and easier to understand

## Modernizing Manitoba's Forest Management Approvals

A clearer, integrated, and more transparent process for all Manitobans

For the first time, Manitoba is using a streamlined review of a Forest Management Plan

 <b>One Coordinated Approval</b> A single process now integrates both planning and environmental review requirements.	 <b>Indigenous Engagement</b> Indigenous involvement is strengthened and built into every planning stage	 <b>Early Public Involvement</b> Key documents are placed on Manitoba's public registry early	 <b>Environmental Safeguards</b> Environmental, climate, and cumulative effects are integrated into FMPs
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**Benefits for Manitobans**

- More Transparent
- More Efficient
- More Environmentally Robust

Note: This document was prepared with the assistance of artificial intelligence (AI) tools. All content has been reviewed and verified for accuracy, relevance, and compliance by a qualified human reviewer. The use of AI does not replace human judgment and oversight.