**MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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**NEW DESIGNATION FOR PROFESSIONAL PLANNERS TO ELEVATE INDUSTRY AND STANDARDS OF PLANNING IN WINNIPEG: DEC. 1**

Winnipeg, MB – Cities and towns and communities working towards revitalization in Manitoba are set to benefit from new provincial designation for professional planners – Registered Professional Planner (RPP). The Manitoba Professional Planners Institute (MPPI) now has the mandate to grant the RPP designation to skilled professionals who aim to improve the quality and liveability of Manitoban communities. Effective December 1, 2016, members of MPPI who have successfully completed the certification process through the national Professional Standards Board (PSB) can use the RPP designation.

“Having a formal professional planning designation in Manitoba will ensure that qualified professionals are practicing planning in the province,” **said Indigenous and Municipal Relations Minister Eileen Clarke.** “Now that this legislation is in effect, planning authorities will have stronger assurance that they are working with well-trained professionals when conducting land-use studies and surveys to support development plans.”

“While members of the public have a good idea of what dentists and physicians do, the role of professional planners is often misunderstood,” **said David Jopling, President of MPPI.** “There is considerable variety in the work of planners. Some focus on land-use planning. Some set the stage for public engagement, while others specialize in urban design, regional planning, and transportation. But at the heart of our work is a collective concern towards vibrant neighbourhoods, inclusive of community wellbeing, social and economic prosperity, housing provision, and access to services and amenities. This new designation puts our profession up front and centre, building trust with members of the public and providing greater clarity about the work we do.”

The good news arrived earlier during World Town Planning Day, which brought together respected industry professionals and students from the University of Manitoba’s City Planning Program. Celebratory events will take place starting December 1st and more are planned for the coming months as a way to further educate about the designation’s value.

MPPI is thankful of the advocacy from many planners and councils over the years, in pushing the legislation forward. The special committee of Valdene Lawson, Dave Palubeski, David Marsh, and Lloyd Talbot and their hard work is truly appreciated.

**About MPPI**

MPPI is one of seven Provincial and Territorial Institutes and Associations regulating professional planning across Canada in association with the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP).  MPPI represents over 150 planning professionals and students across Manitoba. Our members work in the public service and the private sector, in a variety of areas such as land use planning and development, public engagement, environmental resource management, heritage conservation, social and community planning, transportation planning and economic development. Our mission is to promote pride and excellence in professional planning as it applies to the stewardship of the natural and built environments and to the building of healthy communities.

Please see the attached Fact Sheet for more information on this new legislation and its importance to Manitobans and explore the MPPI website at [www.mppi.mb.ca](http://www.mppi.mb.ca/) to find out more about MPPI.

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