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## Right-to-Title Legislation for the Planning Profession in Manitoba (RPP) FACT SHEET

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*Planning is about the future of our province and  
the livability of our communities.*

### Canadian Profile

*96% of Canadian planners have access to RPP*

- Manitoba is one of the last 3 provinces to have RPP legislation in place (PEI, Newfoundland/Labrador), and the majority of planners working in Canada are already RPP.

### Protect the Public Interest

*Reinforce the public's confidence in planning*

- Ensure that planning services are of the highest quality and following a professional Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.
- Protects the public from planning activity that is not founded in the required education and standard of professional practice.
- Planners have the skills and a proven track record in serving the public interest.

### Economic Growth and Jobs

*Grow the Manitoba economy and retain professionals here*

- Promotes economic competitiveness and allows Manitoba planners to compete on a level playing field.
- Enables the transaction of business and movement of planners across provincial and international boundaries as RPP is a recognized brand.
- Retention - retain recent university graduates and qualified professional planners in MB. They want to stay in Manitoba but do not have access to RPP.
- Mentor new immigrant planners coming to work in Manitoba and give smaller communities access to professional planning services.
- Support and enable Manitoba planners to bid on projects, be eligible for awards and participate as qualified speakers at conferences and events in other provinces and internationally.
- Helps to strongly support the growth and continuation of the University of Manitoba planning school and graduate internships in Manitoba.

### Transparency and Accountability

*Protects the government*

- **Continuous professional learning** – mandatory.
- **Accountability** – accountable to the public as the legislation requires MPPI to enforce the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct through a discipline process.
- **Professional Liability Insurance** – reduces exposure of employers - municipalities, Planning Districts, Province.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**1. Will all planners practicing in Manitoba be required to be RPP?**

No, planners without certification who are not members of MPPI may continue to practice in Manitoba provided they do not refer to themselves as Registered Professional Planners (RPP). Only RPPs certified by the PTIAs and the Professional Standards Board (PSB) would legally be entitled to use the RPP designation when the legislation is passed. MPPI cannot regulate the activities or ethics of non-members. This legislation would not prohibit non-RPPs or non-planners from providing planning services.

**2. Will this mean that a municipality will have to pay more for planning services (consultants)?**

No, we do not expect an increase in the rate planning consultants would charge for their services. There is no additional cost to the planners as a result of this legislation or the ability to call themselves an RPP. The legislation only provides an opportunity for use of the title; there is no stamp or other qualification enabled by the proposed legislation (eg, to sign off on development plans, etc.). We are also not aware of that occurring in other Provinces with RPP.

**3. Is RPP a standard across the country and can Manitoba planners practice in other Provinces?**

Yes, most other Provinces have similar Right-to-Title legislation in place. Not all Provinces use the same term, RPP. Manitoba planners can practice in other Provinces and act as expert witnesses at tribunals, etc. if they register with the respective Provincial Territorial Institute or Association (PTIA) and pay an out-of-province fee; the same if planners from other Provinces would want to practice in Manitoba.

**4. What are other comparable models of professional organizations subject to this type of legislation?**

Design professions – architecture, engineering, interior design, land surveying. Other professions – accountants, agrologists, mid-wives, nurses.

**5. What is the situation in other Provinces/Affiliates?**

Manitoba is one of the last provinces to have similar legislation adopted, and the last one in Western Canada. Only PEI, Newfoundland/Labrador and the territories do not have this legislation in place.

**6. What is the financial impact to employers? Would wages have to be increased?**

Hiring an RPP actually assists in reducing an employer's legal liability (risk of lawsuits) and saves money as planners carry professional liability insurance. Some employers already pay annual professional dues for planners.

**7. Which level of planner position would require an RPP?**

RPP should be a required qualification for planners preparing development plans and for those reviewing the work of other planners and/or consultants on these projects. It is suggested that most senior level planning positions should *require* RPP and junior level positions should be *eligible* to apply to be an RPP.

**8. What about planners who are not currently members and have been practicing for many years – can they become a member/RPP? What is the process for a planner to be certified?**

Yes, they may be able to become a member of MPPI. There are a few routes to membership certification. Planners with a planning degree from an accredited planning school can readily become members. Planners with related degrees can also become members through the Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR) route; but are subject to a more rigorous process and additional levels of work experience and mentorship. In some cases, additional coursework or a written exam may be required. An Ethics course is now mandatory for new members.

**9. Is MPPI equipped/ capable of managing the regulation of the planning profession in Manitoba?**

MPPI is positioned to act as the self-regulator for the planning profession in Manitoba. We have an Executive Director/Registrar in place to handle the member registration process and keep track of our members' status. MPPI has adopted a Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct as well as a new by-law that aligns with the legislation.

**10. What is MPPI's capacity to manage the discipline process?**

Two committees have been set up – Complaint and Inquiry Committees; complete with Terms of Reference for the Committees and policies and procedures for handling complaints and administering the disciplinary process.

**11. Are we expecting a flood of complaints that might require discipline proceedings?**

No. Similar legislation in Ontario did not trigger an avalanche of complaints. For comparison, OPPI has had 4-12 complaints per year over a total of 3200 members and rarely have any been referred to a Disciplinary Hearing. They have only had 3 go that far in the past 15 years.

**12. Can other professions continue to do “planning” work as part of their projects?**

Yes, planning is an integral part of any good project management exercise. Planners are not requesting exclusive rights to the practice of planning – the purpose of this legislation is to reserve the title “RPP” for use by planners qualified by the PSB and the PTIAs. This is not right-to-practice legislation.

**13. What is expected of RPPs?**

RPPs are required to undertake Continuous Professional Learning and to follow MPPI’s Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. A disciplinary process is outlined in the legislation.

**STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT**

Thank you to the following stakeholders who have provided letters of support:

- Association of Manitoba Municipalities
- Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Manitoba
- Brandon and Area Planning District
- Canadian Institute of Planners
- City of Winnipeg
- City of Thompson and Thompson Planning District
- Association of Manitoba Land Surveyors
- Partnership of the Manitoba Capital Region
- Manitoba Association of Architects
- MacDonald-Ritchot Planning District
- Manitoba Association of Landscape Architects
- Professional Interior Designers Institute of Manitoba
- MSTW Planning District
- Portage la Prairie Planning District
- RPGA Planning District
- Red River Planning District
- Winnipeg Association of Public Service Officers (WAPSO)