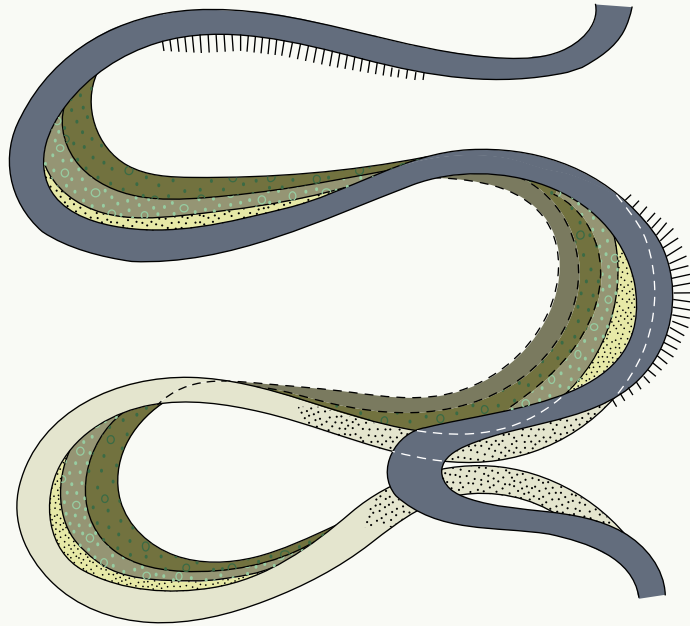




Momentum in Muddy Waters: Planning through Turbulent Times

2026 Manitoba Planning Conference

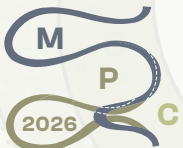
CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

May 6-8, 2026
Winnipeg, MB

Momentum in Muddy Waters: Planning through Turbulent Times.

This year's theme reflects the importance of maintaining Momentum in planning through times of uncertainty and disruption. Momentum pushes us forward by leveraging our past efforts and adapting to present challenges. Our Momentum depends on shared vision, collective action, and partnerships across governments, communities, and stakeholders.

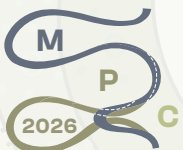
By focussing on people, places, and prosperity, we emphasize the core purposes of planning: supporting healthy and inclusive communities; designing resilient and sustainable environments; and preserving social and economic well-being. By recognizing that we operate in turbulent times, we can situate this work of planners within the context of our current realities: climate change, a national housing crisis, reconciliation, demographic shifts, and global instability. In this context, Momentum is not only about advancing plans and policies, but also about finding the strength to foster resilience, adaptability, and hope for our shared future in muddy waters

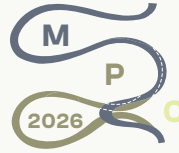


The 2026 Manitoba Planning Conference is a forum where planners, activists, community officials, developers, decision makers and professionals from across Manitoba can gather and share stories that reflect on challenges, successes, and lessons learned.

The Conference Program Committee is currently seeking presentations that speak to our theme
Momentum in Muddy Waters: Planning through Turbulent Times.

“Winnipeg” comes from the Cree name for the lake 65 kilometers to the north (Lake Winnipeg), meaning “win” for muddy and “nippee” for water. It is sometimes translated to “murky water”.





Our theme can be separated into three exciting and overarching categories:
Planning for People, Places, and Prosperity.

1. People

- Indigenous Knowledge sharing and integration
- Supporting an ageing population
- Promoting social justice
- Increasing connectivity, mobility, and accessibility
- Planning for safety and crime prevention
- Improving public health
- Understanding Treaty Rights
- Community evacuation preparedness
- Combatting misinformation / disinformation in public engagement

2. Places

- Regional collaboration
- Proactive asset management of ageing infrastructure
- Building equitable and sustainable communities
- Managing intensification and infill
- Planning for natural disasters and climate change related risks
- Managing water quality and quantity
- How to deal with derelict buildings
- Placemaking in public spaces

3. Prosperity

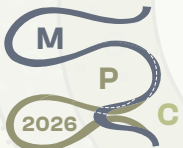
- Natural resource utilization
- Building stakeholder partnerships
- Preservation of agriculture and farming industries
- Successful integration of urban reserves
- Effective absorption of affordable housing in established neighbourhoods
- Impacts of international tariffs

Do you have a presentation idea that highlights ways in which communities are planning for people, places, and prosperity through turbulent times?

This is an excellent opportunity to engage and share information with those involved in local planning initiatives (i.e. elected officials, planning professionals, Indigenous organizations, developers, academics, and the public).

Recommend a Speaker.

Have you have seen or know someone who you think would be a perfect fit for this conference? Please let us know. With your help, we can all benefit from their shared knowledge and experience



How to Submit Your Proposal

Presentation submissions must include the following:

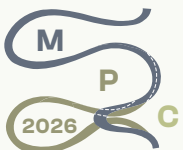
1. **Presentation title**, which clearly indicates the topic;
2. Name(s) of **presenter(s)**, job title, academic background, institutional or corporate affiliation and contact information including e-mail address and telephone number;
3. Previous presentation speaking **experience**, including relevant speaking engagements;
4. Proposed presentation **format (group/individual, Powerpoint presentation, workshop, etc.)**;
5. Short (50 word) summary of the presentation for inclusion in the program;
6. Clear and concise description or **abstract** of the session (300 words) for the selection process; and,
7. Specialized **equipment** requirement (if required).

All proposals must be submitted to Vanessa Akerstream by email at vanessa.akerstream@gov.mb.ca.

The submission deadline is **Friday, December 12, 2025**.

You will be notified by **Friday, January 30, 2026** as to whether or not your presentation has been accepted.

If you have any questions, please contact Vanessa Akerstream by email at vanessa.akerstream@gov.mb.ca or by phone at (431) 844-3600.



Conference Format and Presentation Types

The conference will include three concurrent sessions throughout each day, mobile tours, panel discussions, keynote speeches, training sessions, and banquet event.

Concurrent Sessions

One hour sessions with one to three speakers / presenters, including 5-10 minutes for questions and discussion.

Panel Discussions

One hour discussions with three to five speakers, including 5-10 minutes for questions and discussion.

Training Sessions

One hour sessions with one to three trainers, including 5-10 minutes for questions and discussion.

Mobile Tours

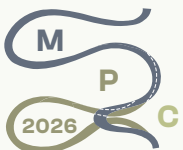
Two to three hours in length with one to two leaders, including walking tours and/or site visits. Outdoor tours are encouraged.

Keynote Speakers

One hour sessions running concurrently during meal times (breakfast and lunch).

Banquet Event

Join us the evening of May 7th for our Farewell Banquet event.



Please join us May 6 to 8th in the heart of downtown Winnipeg at the Delta Hotel.

Selection Criteria & Review Process

The Conference Program Committee reserves the right to select those proposals that best reflect the conference theme and format. The Conference Program Committee, composed of volunteers from practice and academia, will review each proposal with selection based on the following criteria:

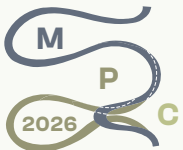
Relevance and applicability to the conference theme.

Presenter expertise, knowledge, and ability to engage / challenge delegates.

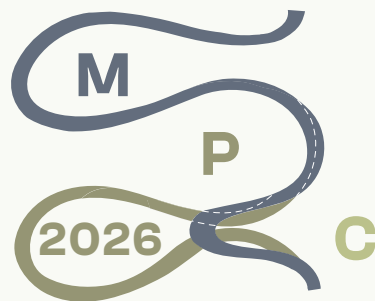
Consistency with the format requirements listed on page 5.

Proposed session fit within the three overarching conference streams.

Ability to exemplify and articulate a specific activity or approach with real world application.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THE
2026 MANITOBA PLANNING CONFERENCE.**



Remember to submit your proposal in accordance with the **submission requirements** and **selection criteria** detailed on pages 5 and 7 via email to vanessa.akerstream@gov.mb.ca by **December 12, 2025** for consideration in the conference.