

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

ENGAGE
Building Connections. Creating Communities.

Planning works best when people come together. Yet, at this critical time when we face complex, multi-faceted challenges that require unity and collaboration, we find ourselves increasingly polarized and disconnected. ENGAGE seeks to reminds us of the importance of connections and community. By bringing together planners, administrators, decision makers, and community partners to share perspectives, build relationships and explore solutions, we hope to turn ideas, understanding and connections into actions to create stronger communities.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The 2027 Manitoba Planning Conference will take place on Treaty 2 Territory in present-day Brandon. We acknowledge that Brandon is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Anisininew, Dakota, Ininiwak/Nehethowuk, and Métis Peoples, who have been stewards of the land and its water for thousands of years and whose relationships continue to this day. As we gather from across Manitoba, we are reminded that the province is located on Treaty No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 9 Territory. Manitoba is also located on the unceded territory of the Dakota, and the ancestral lands of the Inuit, and is the homeland of the Red River Métis.

We recognize that Indigenous Nations in Canada have been managing and caring for the land and its water and animals for millennia, informed by their own unique traditions, laws, conventions, and knowledges. When Europeans settlers arrived, they sought to interrupt this, if not extinguish it altogether, and imposed their own form of planning. The harm caused by this colonial planning system continues to be felt by Indigenous Peoples today.

As we gather to share ideas, build relationships, and explore solutions, we invite conference participants to reflect on their own relationships to the land and waters where they live, work and play, to listen with openness and respect, and to learn from one another as we advance conversations that support reconciliation and honour diverse worldviews and knowledges.

The 2027 Manitoba Planning Conference is a forum where planners, administrators, decision makers, community partners, developers, 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 this year's theme:

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We welcome presentations on a variety of topics related to the theme, including those listed below.

Building Stakeholder Partnerships
Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience
Combatting Public Mis/Disinformation
Community Engagement and Consultation Best Practices
Cross Cultural Connections
Equity in Planning
Indigenous Land and Economic Development
Indigenous-Municipal Partnerships
Indigenous Planning Practices
Intermunicipal and Intergovernmental Cooperation
Public Participation in Decision Making
Reconciliation
Regional Collaboration
Rural Economic Development
Rural and Small Town Planning
Service Sharing

This list is not exhaustive, and we welcome any additional topics that may be relevant to our theme.

PRESENTATION FORMATS

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/presenters, including 5-10 minutes for questions and discussion

Pre-Conference Workshops

- Three-hour hands-on interactive skill development and/or training workshop

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 mealtimes (breakfast and lunch)

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Proposals 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 email address and telephone number;
3. Previous presentation and/or speaking experience, including relevant speaking engagements;
4. Proposed presentation format (group/individual, workshop, etc.);
5. Short (50 words) 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 required (if applicable).

SELECTION CRITERIA AND REVIEW PROCESS

The Conference Program Committee, composed of volunteers from practice and academia, will review each proposal and selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Relevance and applicability to planning and the conference theme;
- Inclusion of innovative approaches to presentations or content ideas;
- Presenter expertise, knowledge, and ability to engage/challenge delegates; and
- Consistency with the submission requirements listed on page four.

Please submit all proposals to Jessie Russell-Edmonds by email at jessie.russell-edmonds@gov.mb.ca.

The submission deadline is Friday, December 18, 2026.

You will be notified by Friday, January 29, 2027 as to whether your presentation has been selected.

If you have any questions, please contact Jessie Russell-Edmonds by email at jessie.russell-edmonds@gov.mb.ca or by phone at (204) 785-5131.