

# 2026 Manitoba Planners Conference **Program**



# 2026 MANITOBA PLANNING CONFERENCE PROGRAM.

Delta Winnipeg | May 6 – 8, 2026

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 while adapting to present challenges. Momentum through uncertainty depends on shared vision, collective action and partnerships across governments, communities, and stakeholders. By recognizing that we operate in turbulent times, we can situate the 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.

TIME	DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026
4:00 – 7:00PM	Conference Registration
5:00 – 6:00PM	Manitoba Professional Planners Institute (MPPI) Annual General Meeting (MPPI members only) 1.0 CPL*
6:30 – 8:00PM	Opening Reception (hors d'oeuvres, cash bar) Included with full conference registration.  The Event Space at The Forks: 2nd floor, The Forks Market, 1 Forks Market Road, Winnipeg

TIME	DAY 2 – THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026
7:30AM – 4:00PM	Registration
7:30 – 9:00AM	7:45 – 7:55 Conference Opening & Welcome from: David Neufeld & Jeff Pratte, MB Planning Conference Steering Committee Co-chairs 7:55 – 8:10 Land acknowledgement 8:15 – 9:00 Keynote Address (K-1): Mark Seasons, University of Waterloo  0.75 CPL*

TIME	DAY2–THURSDAY, MAY7, 2026			
Session 1 9:10 – 10:10AM	Planning for People	Planning for Places	Planning for Prosperity	Mobile Tour (M)
	<p>(IB-1) – Charleswood B</p> <p>Dear Young Planner: Urban Planning doesn't need more geniuses, it needs fewer cowards</p> <p>Using ten insights shared by Cities Forum and ten Brandon planning experiences, we will reflect together on how planners can better position ourselves to stay the course, keep the momentum, and make it through turbulent times. Join me in a reflection on the beast that is Urban Planning.</p> <p>Sonikile Tembo, RPP Principal Planner, City of Brandon</p>	<p>(SB-1) – Delta A</p> <p>Planning for Change: Local Impacts of the Housing Accelerator Fund Initiatives and Launch of the Housing Design Catalogue Resources</p> <p>This session, presented by the Municipal Relations team, will build upon the key insights presented at last year's conference with outcomes of Housing Accelerator Fund initiatives implemented nationally and success stories shared by local governments. New housing solutions, such as the Housing Design Catalogue and Local Partners, will be explored.</p> <p>Christine Edward, MLArch Senior Specialist, Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation Roger Lam, MCIP, MCP (RPP) Senior Manager, Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation</p>	<p>(PB-1) – Delta B</p> <p>The Long Road to Compliance: A Municipal Case Study on Derelict Buildings</p> <p>For more than three years, the City of Thompson has worked to bring a neglected property into compliance under its Vacant and Derelict Building By-Law. This presentation shares the administrative and legal steps taken, along with practical lessons that can guide other municipalities facing similar challenges.</p> <p>Danny Haywood Chief Building Inspector, City of Thompson Lyle Safronet Director, City of Thompson</p>	<p>(MT-1)</p> <p>Walk on – Downtown Momentum Mobile Tour <u>Fee:</u> \$25/pp <u>Depart:</u> 9:30AM – meet in hotel lobby <u>Return:</u> 12:30PM</p> <p>There is no doubt that Downtown faces significant challenges, but we continue to move forward to build momentum towards positive change. This walking tour will visit new and refreshed public spaces, Portage Place, and a new affordable housing development; and will cover adaptive re-use, City infrastructure changes, public spaces, innovative partnerships, and new builds. Come join members of Winnipeg's Downtown Planning Team for a session that celebrates our resilience, leans into our strengths, and looks to the future of Downtown Winnipeg.</p> <p>Karin Kliewer, RPP, MCIP Senior Planner, City of Winnipeg Dan Iskierski, RPP, MCIP District Planner, City of Winnipeg</p>
	1.0 CPL*	1.0 CPL*	1.0 CPL*	3.0 CPL*
10:10 – 10:40AM	Networking Break, Student Posters and Exhibitor Showcase			

	Planning for People	Planning for Places	Planning for Prosperity
<b>Session 2</b> <b>10:40 – 11:40am</b>	(IB-2) – Charleswood B  Focus Shift: Planning with and for ADHD in Practice, Process, and Community  This session will invite planners and leaders to explore the impact of ADHD on how we work, collaborate, make decisions and plan with and for community. Planning work is complex, nonlinear, and often cognitively demanding - conditions that can both hinder and elevate practitioners with ADHD. The session will examine how embracing diverse cognitive styles can strengthen collaboration, spark new ideas, and broaden the profession's creative capacity.  Ryan Segal Alexander, RPP, MCIP, MCP Owner & Consultant, Assembly Studio	(SB-2) – Delta A  The Power of Exploratory Scenario Planning: Strengthening Piney's Wildfire Preparedness  This session introduces Scenario Planning, a low-cost, high-impact tool used to navigate uncertainty by exploring multiple plausible futures. Drawing on the RM of Piney's experience with Exploratory Scenario Planning (XSP), attendees will learn how this approach strengthens resilience, supports land-use and policy decision-making, and helps municipalities anticipate risks, opportunities, and future change.  Martin Van Osch CAO, RM of Piney Allison Driedger Bluestem Development	(PB-2) – Delta B  Removing Barriers to Understanding Accessibility Legislation in Manitoba, and Creating Inclusive Communities for All  Accessibility legislation in Manitoba continues to evolve, requiring flexible compliance by municipal governments. This presentation explores how municipalities and planners can learn from legislation and precedent accessibility plans across Canada, with the goal to help ensure Manitoban municipalities create inclusive communities for all that go above and beyond minimum requirements.  Sarah Manteuffel, RPP, MCIP Community Planner, Urban Systems
	1.0 CPL*	1.0 CPL*	1.0 CPL*
<b>Lunch</b> <b>12nn – 1:30PM</b>	12:45 – 1:30 Keynote Address (K-2): Michael Redhead Champagne Beyond Land Acknowledgements		

Session 3 1:30 – 2:30PM	Planning for People	Planning for Places	Planning for Prosperity	Mobile Tour (M)
	(IB-3) – Charleswood B	(SB-3) – Delta A	(PB-3) – Delta B	(MT-2)
	<p>The Road to RPP</p> <p>Aspiring and current RPP candidates seeking certification as Registered Professional Planners (RPPs) in Canada, Mentors, and Sponsors are invited to join us on a journey through the certification process. In this presentation, we'll explore the pathways to becoming an RPP. From the requirements for admission through to obtaining your RPP designation to the final exam, we'll demystify the certification process.</p> <p>Ryan Jones Operations Manager, Professional Standards Board</p>	<p>City of Winnipeg Housing Needs Assessment 2025</p> <p>The 2025 Housing Needs Assessment gives a snapshot of housing in Winnipeg today. Guided by an advisory committee of subject matter experts, this HNA draws on local data and engagement with groups and individuals with lived experience to analyze trends, current needs, and future expectations related to housing in Winnipeg.</p> <p>Emma Fineblit, MCP Housing &amp; Neighbourhood Revitalization Coordinator, City of Winnipeg Mike Lennon, MCP HAF Program Support Specialist, City of Winnipeg</p>	<p>Soils and Agricultural Land Use Planning: Foundations for Sustainable Development</p> <p>Soil survey information provides the baseline inventory of our land resource and insight for informed and comprehensive land management decisions. Explore how soil surveys are used in land use planning including determining development plan designations, assessing subdivisions, and other forms of development under Manitoba's PLUPS (Provincial Land Use Policies).</p> <p>Michelle Erb, M.Sc., P.Ag. Agricultural Planning Specialist, Manitoba Agriculture Tina Harms, M.Sc., P.Ag. Land Use Specialist, Manitoba Agriculture Ellen Enns, RPP, MCIP Regional Manager, Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations</p>	<p>Adapting to the Market, providing housing options and sustainable growth in the suburbs: Sage Creek</p> <p><u>Fee:</u> \$50/pp <u>Depart:</u> 1:30PM – meet in hotel lobby <u>Return:</u> 4:30PM</p> <p>This mobile tour explores Sage Creek, an 850-acre Qualico community 20 years in the making. Learn about development challenges, market conditions, and adaptations along the way. Sage Creek now features diverse housing, integrated land uses, a central marketplace, new schools, parks, landscapes inspired by the natural environment, and an extensive AT network.</p> <p>Bryan Ward MCIP, RPP Vice-President, Qualico Communities Trevor Grafton MALA, CSLA Urban Designer, Qualico Communities</p>
	1.0 CPL*	1.0 CPL*	1.0 CPL*	3.0 CPL*

	Planning for People	Planning for Places	Planning for Prosperity
<b>Session 4</b> <b>2:30 – 3:30pm</b>	(IB-3) – Charleswood B  That'll Never Work Here - Resisting the Idea Against Active Transportation in a Winter City  A Brazilian immigrant, once car- dependent, discovered that winter cycling in Winnipeg is not only possible— it's transformative. I'll dismantle the "That'll never work here" mindset with personal stories, hard data, and lessons from global cities, showing how bicycles can reclaim our streets, health, and community in any season.	(SB-3) – Delta A  From Muddy Waters to Clear Plans: Practical Resources for Flood Risk Management  Gain practical tools to maintain planning momentum through turbulent times. Learn how to assess flood risk and apply geospatial strategies for proactive land- use, infrastructure design, and community resilience. This session transforms uncertainty into opportunity—turning muddy waters into clear, actionable plans for safer, stronger communities.	(PB-3) – Delta B  From Plans to Philanthropy: Turning Public Priorities into Donor-Ready Projects  See how to turn community plans and public priorities into projects donors are excited to fund. This session will walk through translating planning goals into clear cases for support, matching public dollars with private gifts, and engaging donors as long-term partners in community prosperity and reconciliation. Group workshop with PowerPoint presentation and small-group exercises.
	Patty Wiens Board Director and Newsletter Editor for Bike Winnipeg	Angela Howells Divisional Analyst, Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure Evan Graham Assistant Director, Manitoba Emergency Management Organization Dr. Kibreab Assefa Senior Water Control Systems Planning Engineer, Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure	Pamela Simmons, APR, CFRE, CTT Senior Consultant, Global Philanthropic
	1.0 CPL*	1.0 CPL*	1.0 CPL*
<b>3:30 – 4:00PM</b>	Networking Break, Student Posters and Exhibitor Showcase		

<b>Session 5</b> <b>4:00 – 5:00pm</b>	<p>Unlocking Municipal Potential: The Municipal Maturity Model in Action</p> <p>Discover Manitoba's unique planning tool for the delivery of municipal services in both official languages. This practical assessment framework helps Manitoba's bilingual municipalities evaluate readiness, identify opportunities, and build sustainable strategies, benefiting Manitoba's Francophone and bilingual communities. See how AMBM member municipalities are leveraging Manitoba's bilingual advantage to unlock their potential.</p> <p>Découvrez l'outil de planification unique du Manitoba pour la prestation de services municipaux dans les deux langues officielles. Ce cadre d'évaluation pratique aide les municipalités bilingues du Manitoba à évaluer leur état de préparation, à identifier des opportunités et à élaborer des stratégies durables, au bénéfice des collectivités francophones et bilingues du Manitoba. Voyez comment les municipalités membres de l'AMBM tirent parti de l'avantage bilingue du Manitoba pour libérer leur potentiel.</p> <p>Justin Johnson  Chief Executive Officer, Association of Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities (AMBM)</p> <p>1.0 CPL</p>
<b>6:30– 9:30PM</b>	Reception & Gala Dinner

TIME	DAY3–FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026
<b>7:30am – 12nn</b>	Registration
<b>7:30 – 9:00AM</b>	<p>7:45 – 7:55    Conference Opening &amp; Welcome from: David Neufeld &amp; Jeff Pratte, MB Planning Conference Steering Committee Co-chairs</p> <p>7:55 – 8:10    Land acknowledgement</p> <p>8:15 – 9:00    Keynote Address (K-3): Dr Enid Slack, University of Toronto</p>
<b>Session 6</b> <b>9:00 – 10:00 AM</b>	<p>Plenary Session</p> <p>Keynote Address (K-4): Dr. Brent Roussin, MD JD MPH FRCPC, Chief Provincial Public Health Officer, Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care</p> <p>This keynote highlights findings from Manitoba's 2025 Health Status Report and explores how a Health in All Policies framework for cross-sector partnership and collaboration can be used to address shared challenges and promote health and well-being for all Manitobans.</p>
<b>10:00 – 10:30 AM</b>	Networking Break, Student Posters and Exhibitor Showcase



Session 7 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Planning for People	Planning for Places	Planning for Prosperity
	<p>(IB-3) – Charleswood B</p> <p>Mapping Winnipeg's Abandoned Transportation Scheme or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Winnipeg's Transportation Network</p> <p>The 1968 Winnipeg Area Transportation Study (W.A.T.S) proposed a dramatic network of highways cutting across many of Winnipeg's urban neighbourhoods. This presentation will showcase a never before seen view of the unbuilt freeway master plan, discuss its legacy in Winnipeg's planning lexicon, and reflect on current transportation planning in Winnipeg.</p> <p>Evan Allan, RPP, MCIP, MCP Senior Planner, City of Winnipeg Anna McKinnon, MCP Planner, City of Winnipeg Andrew Condon Public Works Manager, City of Winnipeg</p>	<p>(SB-3) – Delta A</p> <p>Practical Tactical – Road Safety Community Quick-builds</p> <p>Our transportation networks are changing to increase safety and encourage mode shift. Changes can be temporary, and they don't have to cost a lot. In this session, City of Winnipeg staff will highlight two projects. The first is a pilot that made streets safer using temporary quick-build traffic calming to rapidly change the layout of intersections and roads. The second is a work-in-progress that is transforming a Downtown street into a temporary (and hopefully permanent) public space. Join for a discussion highlighting processes, designs, partnerships, lessons learned, and next steps.</p> <p>Karin Kliewer, RPP, MCIP Senior Planner, City of Winnipeg Dan Iskierski, RPP, MCIP District Planner, City of Winnipeg Denae Penner Road Safety Outreach Coordinator, City of Winnipeg Amanda Pushka, M.Sc., P.Eng., RSP2 Road Safety Engineer, City of Winnipeg</p>	<p>(PB-3) – Delta B</p> <p>Accelerating Housing in Turbulent Times: How Winnipeg's Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) Team is Accelerating Housing Development through Innovative Initiatives and Partnerships</p> <p>On December 5, 2023, the City of Winnipeg received \$122.4 million in HAF funding contingent on the City fast tracking the development of over 3,100 housing units in a three-year period. This session highlights the eight targeted Action Plan initiatives implemented by the City to accelerate development and increase the supply of affordable housing units. It will share lessons learned from "building the plane while flying it" and provide practical tools for practitioners facing similar challenges across Manitoba.</p> <p>Lissie Rappaport HAF Manager, City of Winnipeg Elise Finnigan, RPP, MCIP HAF Affordable Housing Concierge, City of Winnipeg</p>
	1.0 CPL*	1.0 CPL*	1.0 CPL*



<b>Lunch 12:00 – 1:00pm</b>	University of Winnipeg Undergraduate Certificate Program in Planning announcement  Scott McCullough, MCP Sr. Research Associate Institute of Urban Studies, Dept. of Geography University of Winnipeg		
<b>Session 8 1:15pm – 2:45pm</b>	<b>Planning for People</b>	<b>Planning for Places</b>	<b>Planning for Prosperity</b>
	<p>(IB-3) – Charleswood B</p> <p>Planners in a Turbulent Time Developing Conflict Readiness for Muddy Waters (1.5 hours)</p> <p>In increasingly polarized and high-pressure planning environments, conflict is unavoidable. This interactive session introduces conflict readiness as a practical skillset for planners, municipal staff, and councillors. This interactive session will introduce frameworks and exercises to navigate tense public engagement, misinformation, and development pressures with greater confidence, and clarity, increasing internal resilience and mitigating burnout.</p> <p>Paul Bell RPP, MCIP Place and Community Lead, Narratives Inc. Meaghan Morrish Dialogue &amp; Transformation Lead   Project Director, Narratives Inc.</p> <p>1.5 CPL*</p>	<p>(SB-3) – Delta A</p> <p>Managing Momentum: Winnipeg Policy Responses to Recent Population Growth, Urban Expansion, and Fiscal Pressures</p> <p>In the 1990s, Winnipeg faced low growth, prompting tax-focused policies that limited municipal tax increases and service delivery. Since the mid-2000s, immigration-driven growth has created planning and fiscal challenges. This presentation explores historical trends, infrastructure pressures, financial challenges, and tools the City uses to manage growth and inform policy decisions.</p> <p>Tyler Kroeker Senior Economist, City of Winnipeg Michael Pyl Growth Management Coordinator, City of Winnipeg</p> <p>1.0 CPL*</p>	<p>(PB-3) – Delta B</p> <p>Building Healthier Communities Together: Collaborative Opportunities for Public Health, Planners, and Municipalities</p> <p>The design and creation of our built environments profoundly influence population health, equity, and well-being. Evidence-informed planning principles that support healthy neighbourhood design, transportation networks, food systems, housing, and natural environments will be introduced. Collaborative opportunities for public health professionals, planners and municipal officials to address these and other current societal challenges (e.g. climate change) will then be explored.</p> <p>Dr. Brent Roussin, MD JD MPH FRCPC Chief Provincial Public Health Officer, Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long Term Care</p> <p>Dr. Lisa Richards, MD MNRM MSc FRCPC Medical Officer of Health, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority</p> <p>1.0 CPL*</p>