



KEYSTONE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

December 15, 2025

Capital Region Plan Consultation

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is Manitoba's general farm policy organization, providing a unified voice for farmers on issues that affect agriculture. KAP represents and promotes the interests of all Manitoba farmers and 20 commodity associations.

Agriculture plays an indispensable role in the social and economic fabric of Manitoba. More than 14,500 farms exist in Manitoba with a considerable number existing within the future regional plan. In 2024, farm cash receipts totaled \$9.8 billion, and the sector contributed 7 percent to the provincial GDP. Given the size, scale, and importance of agriculture in the region, any regional plan must consider farmers' needs and perspective. Commenting on the details of a yet-to-exist regional plan creates challenge, but KAP recommends that planners consider the points below when drafting a regional plan:

- Protect agricultural land and operations;
- Hold extensive in-person consultations with farmers;
- Recognize the positive environmental practices farmers have adopted;
- Promote streamlining licenses and permits;
- Explain where the regional plan fits within provincial legislation;
- Highlight advantages with regional planning (e.g., funding opportunities, better co-ordination, improved tax efficiencies);
- Co-ordinate infrastructure projects between municipalities;
- Ensure that consistent municipal development plans exist;
- Consider how urban planning affects agricultural land and operations;
- Collaborate with neighboring municipalities about growth and servicing needs;
- Maintain and improve regional quality of life;
- Prevent agricultural land fragmentation, and ensure housing and residential expansion policies balance growth pressures with the need to protect agricultural land and avoid fragmentation;
- Consider farming complexity and avoid a one-size-fits-all approach for farm operations;
- Emphasize the important role agriculture plays in the region (e.g., social, cultural, economic, etc.);
- Reward environmental stewardship through incentives;
- Create a dynamic regional plan that adapts to changing regional needs;
- Value food security and policies that enhance local production and value-added processes;

- Promote agriculture within the region and the connection between the economy, food, and the environment;
- Increase public awareness of seasonal and daily agricultural operational needs;
- Recognize the role urban agriculture plays in improving the public's awareness and understanding of regional agriculture; and
- Create a collaborative governance framework between RMs.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the future regional plan. If you have any questions about this document, please contact KAP policy manager, Neil Van Overloop, at neil.vanoverloop@kap.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colin Hornby". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop at the bottom.

Colin Hornby

General Manager, Keystone Agricultural Producers Inc.