

Appendix 2 - Role of the Province

The Government of Saskatchewan has introduced Bill 90, The Planning and Development Amendment Act, 2013. The powers introduced in the Act are through Regulation and ministerial order and provide provincial authority over regional planning that municipalities currently assume. The Bill received first reading in the legislature on March 28, second reading concluded April 16 and was committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice. It is expected to receive Royal Assent before or on this session's end date of May 16, 2013.

Highlights of the proposed amendments to the Act include the following:

- The Amendments will not replace District Planning Commissions (DPCs) but rather create a new section of the Act, which introduces the Regional Planning Authorities (RPAs) alongside DPCs.
- Whereas DPCs are established voluntarily by Agreement, the newly proposed RPAs may be formed by ministerial order.
- The Minister may, by order, or at the request of a municipality or municipalities establish a regional planning authority (authority), for a regional planning area of 'included municipalities'.
- The composition and description of the regional planning area will be outlined in the order.
- A regional planning area may consist of all or any portion of a city and its adjacent rural municipality(s).
- The regional planning authority will prepare a regional plan for the regional planning area.

Implications of the Amendments to the Act include:

- Regional Planning ceases to be based solely on inter-municipal cooperation in Saskatchewan. The Minister may order a regional authority to be formed.
- The Act enables a single municipality to request the Minister to form a RPA, "if the Minister considers it appropriate to do so, or at the request of a municipality or municipalities to be included in a proposed regional planning area, the Minister may, by order, establish a regional planning authority ..."
- The Minister has the power to form and direct the regional planning authority through ministerial order, including setting terms and conditions appropriate in its establishment. However, after consultation with the included municipalities, may amend the order over time.
- The 2013-14 budget establishes the regional planning authority program providing \$250,000 in new funding to support the creation of regional planning authorities and the preparation of land use and infrastructure plans for the regional planning area. Matching funds from the municipalities will be required.