



Overview of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board

We're Building Our Region's Future Today

Our work over the coming years means our Region will strategically attract and supply the investment, infrastructure, jobs, homes, services, and vital amenities needed so that something is left -- something better -- for future generations.

The Edmonton Metropolitan Region is home to 1.2 million people who live in 13 closely connected municipalities. It's among the youngest and fastest growing regions in all of Canada. As it grows, its citizens are setting the pace for the development of a vibrant, resilient, and connected economic and social sphere - which has an increasingly prominent place on the global stage.

The Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board (EMRB) is a collection of decision-makers who are responsible for planning this growth. Its job is to break down traditional barriers and boundaries, and collaboratively harness the potential and passion of the Region, for the benefit of all - through a rigorous and transparent governance model.

The EMRB provides a platform to plan and partner on key regional initiatives from transportation to infrastructure, from investment attraction to environmental stewardship from services like solid waste and emergency management to how we manage our prime agricultural lands to value-added agriculture to residential, business, and industrial development, from regional energy corridors to regional broadband, and so much more. The EMRB is a regional advocate and partner with industry and other orders of government.

Where leadership, efficiency, innovation, and sustainability intersect, the EMRB has a role to play, leveraging collaborative expertise to gain economies of scale, enhance regional prosperity, and improve the overall quality of life for every resident in the Region.

The Region's population is expected to grow by another million people in the next 25 years. This amount of growth will impact us all in different ways and as a Region we need to plan the infrastructure, investment, services, and jobs to sustain that growth, and to build prosperity for future generations.

HISTORY

The regional collaboration journey began over 70 years ago when the Region's leaders started coming together to form a voluntary planning commission due to the uncoordinated growth caused by the oil boom in the 50's. In 1963, the Edmonton Regional Planning Commission formed – it is the first mandatory regional planning body. In the mid-1990s a combination of the provincial government's political philosophy of the day, the economic downturn, and tensions among members at the regional planning commissions led the Government of Alberta to dissolve the commissions and devolve all planning authority back to individual municipalities. In 1994, the Government of Alberta introduced a new Municipal Government Act. Rather than prescribing what municipalities could do, the legislation gave municipalities much more

autonomy. Between 1995 and 2008, the Region experienced a gap in planning policy, while at the same time, it continued to face tensions between urban and rural municipalities, which resulted in much uncertainty and a period of uncoordinated growth across municipalities in the Region.

In 2008, the Province stood up the Capital Region Board and mandated the adoption of a growth management plan for the Region. Municipal plans would now be required to be consistent with the Capital Region Growth Management Plan. The establishment of a regional Board also prescribed mediation to support the cooperative resolution of issues, meaning that municipalities wouldn't default to the courts to resolve issues.

In 2017 the Municipal Government Act was amended again; the Capital Region Board would continue as the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board and along with a reduction in members from 24 to 13 would be required to develop a regional servicing plan to support the implementation of the regional growth plan.

MANDATE

The EMRB is a regional growth management board established under the *Municipal Government Act* to plan for the future, to ensure the long-term economic prosperity and quality of life for the residents of the Region. Specifically, EMRB shall:

- strive towards consensus regarding matters before the Board,
- promote the long-term sustainability of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region,
- ensure environmentally responsible land use planning, growth management and efficient use of land,
- develop policies regarding the coordination of regional infrastructure investment and service delivery,
- promote the economic well-being and competitiveness of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region, and
- develop policies outlining how the Board shall engage the public on the growth plan and the servicing plan.

MEMBERSHIP

The Board's membership is mandatory and set out in legislation under the EMRB Regulation. The Board is comprised of appointed members from 13 municipalities in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region, which includes 3 towns, 4 counties, and 6 cities. Often, municipal representation has been comprised of the Mayor and one (1) alternate council member. Meetings are also often attended by the Corporate Administration Officer (CAO) / City Manager.

**The EMRB also has standing committees and task forces where member municipalities may also be represented. Either the Mayor or members of Council may participate in these committees and task forces.*

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD

EMRB Board members work collaboratively and on a consensus basis with other regional leaders to support the growth and long-term planning outcomes for the Region as a whole. Board members explore opportunities for collaboration, debate issues, and work to ensure the long-term growth and sustainability of the Region. The primary responsibility of the Board is to provide leadership on the implementation of the Region's 30-year growth plan, [Re-Imagine. Plan. Build.](#), and the [servicing plan](#), approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. This work includes:

- creating future-oriented and collaborative regional planning processes to support the implementation of the growth plan through initiatives that include the Regional Agriculture Master Plan (RAMP); the Integrated Regional Transportation Master Plan (IRTMP) and emerging work with regional partners;
- identifying operational efficiencies, economies of scale and reducing duplication of planning, delivery, and investment across the Region, through initiatives like the servicing plan and the work on solid waste and stormwater, streamlining the regional evaluation process
- creating the conditions for economic development and investment readiness and certainty, through initiatives like broadband strategy and ongoing advocacy, IRTMP, and emerging work of ESG- environmental, social and governance; and
- encouraging responsible growth through clear and consistent regulatory and policy frameworks across the Region by reviewing municipal statutory plans for consistency with growth plan and exploring regional approaches to mitigating and adapting to impacts of climate change.

MEETINGS

Board and Committee of the Whole meetings occur monthly, they are open to the public, and livestreamed or viewed on YouTube. To access scheduled meetings, times and dates visit our website access [EMRB Meetings](#).

**Traditionally, the work of the EMRB is conducted through several standing committees and task forces that meet regularly. Task Force meetings may occur as frequently as a monthly basis but are subject to approved workplans for each initiative.*

TERM

Four (4)-year term, unless otherwise determined by Council.

GOVERNANCE MODEL

The EMRB has a unique governance model. As a not-for-profit corporation established under the EMRB Regulation, the Board operates as a Board, and not like a Council. EMRB is not another order of government. Board members are appointed and each member has a fiduciary duty to the obligations set out in the MGA and [EMRB Regulation](#). When members sit at the Board, they are called upon to act in the best interests of the entire Region, and not only of their

respective municipalities.

FUNDING MODEL

At the onset, the EMRB received the majority of its funding from the Province; however, the provincial contribution has been steadily declining. It currently totals \$1.5 million and it is expected to flatline at \$1 million as of 2022-23. Currently, 2/3 of EMRB revenue comes from member municipality contributions, currently totaling roughly \$1.9 million annually.

VALUE PROPOSITION

The EMRB's regional collaborative efforts are in support of long-term economic, environmental, and social well-being and quality of life of our citizens. The EMRB's work helps to create the conditions that lead to increased economic competitiveness, so that our Region can compete globally for investment. The EMRB creates certainty and consistency to better support investment and the choices residents are making about where they live, work and play. It drives efficiencies and leverages economies of scale. And because the Region's municipalities are all at the table, this means the organization provides one-window access to the Region and enables our local leaders to advance regional advocacy priorities with one voice.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Over the next 30 years, as the Region implements the growth plan, the Region will reap rewards in land savings of an estimated 160 sq km, the equivalent of Elk Island National Park, and \$5 billion in infrastructure cost, enough to fund the equivalent of 300 schools.

DELIVERING RESULTS

In addition to developing a growth plan in 2017, and a servicing plan in 2019, we continually pursue common goals and solving regional challenges. By putting the Region's collective interests first, we have looked at a variety of initiatives from housing to agriculture to broadband, along with engaging in regional partnerships and creating KPI dashboards and GIS platforms. For more information on our results, check out our Delivering Results fact sheet.

2021-2024 A REGION BY DESIGN (Strategic Priorities)

- 1. Enable Responsible Growth Across the Region:**
The EMRB develops and implements holistic growth and servicing plans to achieve the 50-year vision that will attract investment, ensure sustainability, enhance efficiencies, seed economic development, and elevate the quality of life for citizens across the Region.
- 2. Commit to Environmental, Social, And Governance (ESG) Practices and Policies:**
The EMRB embeds an environmental, social, and governance (ESG) lens in the policies and practices guiding the work of the organization to meet the triple bottom line and ensure sustainable communities for future generations.
- 3. Collaborate to Enhance Outcomes Across the Region:**
The EMRB focuses on opportunities that leverage economies of scale, find efficiencies, and enable member municipalities to work smarter together and in partnership with others.