



Regional Planning Advisory Committee

400 - 800 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg MB R3G 0N4  
CANADA

October 24, 2003

Honourable Rosann Wowchuk  
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs  
301 Legislative Building  
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister Wowchuk:

I am pleased to submit on behalf of my colleagues on the Regional Planning Advisory Committee, the Final Report *A Partnership for the Future: Putting the Pieces Together in Manitoba's Capital Region*. The Report contains analysis and recommendations for the development of a regional policy plan for Manitoba's Capital Region.

This Report represents the culmination of two years of work which included private meetings with the fifteen (15) of the sixteen (16) governments in the Capital Region, six (6) public hearings based upon a Discussion Paper, two (2) roundtables with experts on development and planning issues, meetings with relevant provincial departments, and the commissioning of a public opinion survey.

The Committee wishes to thank former Minister Honourable Jean Friesen, and the Government of Manitoba for selecting us to undertake this important and challenging assignment and for respecting the independence of the Committee to reach its own conclusions.

The Committee has been very well served by the professional and administrative support staff in a number of provincial departments who have met with us, prepared briefing notes at our request and prepared sections of our final report. We wish to thank all of them for their valuable contribution to our work. Special thanks must be extended to the staff throughout Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs, the department with which we have had the most extensive contact. Arlene Penston and Nora Heitmann capably provided administrative and typing support. We thank them for their indispensable help. During the course of our work, a number of students working within the Department conducted research and prepared briefing material for the Committee. We wish to thank the following individuals and wish them well in their future careers: Grant Melnychuk, Christine Gidney, Grant Hoole, and Martin Frigo.

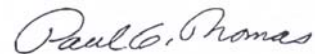
Two very capable and dedicated public servants worked continuously with the Committee and we could not have completed our work without their excellent support and professional advice. Michael Teillet, Director, Provincial Planning Services, Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs, attended nearly all of working meetings of the Committee. His experience, detailed knowledge and insights into the planning process were very helpful to the Committee and we thank him most sincerely for his help. Jennifer Rogers, MCIP, Regional Planner, Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs was the key person in our work. Our indebtedness and gratitude to her is enormous. From start to finish she organized the work of the Committee in terms of establishing contacts, arranging meetings and public hearings, finding information and preparing briefing material. All of this she did with great skill and dedication. The Committee simply could not have completed its work without her excellent professional assistance. We thank her most sincerely.

Doug Smith did copy editing of the final report. More than just improve our prose; he asked pertinent questions to clarify our thinking and suggested the rearrangement of material to make the report a more coherent document. We thank him for improving the quality of the final document.

Finally, the Chairperson of the Committee would like to thank his colleagues for their excellent cooperation and dedication to our work. From start to finish, they showed deep commitment to the task by agreeing to attend numerous meetings and to undertake the preparatory work necessary to make those meetings productive. At the beginning of its work, the Committee agreed to undertake an as in-depth analysis of the issues and policy options as possible. This approach meant a great deal of extra reading and a much longer, more analytical report than they probably anticipated at the outset. Throughout our work everyone on the Committee sought to relate to the evidence as we found it, rather than react on the basis of institutional affiliation or previously held positions. It was a privilege and a pleasure to work with this “public spirited” and capable group of people.

The Regional Planning Advisory Committee encourages you as Minister and the Government of Manitoba to give immediate and serious consideration to the 69 recommendations contained in our Report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul G. Thomas".

Paul G. Thomas  
Chairperson