

Regional Agriculture Master Plan (RAMP)

RAMP is the first-ever regional plan to manage land use for the future of agriculture, the second most important economic sector in the province. It is our legacy and our future.

RAMP is about:

- **raising awareness and the importance of agriculture in our Region by:**
recognizing and promoting the opportunities for economic diversification, GDP growth, job creation, investment attraction, climate change mitigation, stewardship of the land, as well as providing a local source of food for future generations, and retaining rural communities and lifestyles.
- **creating a sustainable future for investors, producers, and agri-foods processors by:**
providing certainty through the conservation of agricultural land and investment in critical infrastructure – roads, broadband, investing in research and development, removing market barriers, opening new markets and ensuring access to global markets.
- **fostering relationships to capitalize on investment by:**
providing a consistent regional approach to identifying and conserving prime agricultural land.
- **identifying opportunities to expand agriculture and agri-foods across our Region by:**
developing urban agriculture master plans that identify ways to promote and enable local opportunities that will educate the public, grow, and process food, and create a farm-to-table culture.



Regional growth depends on conserving prime agricultural land and creating opportunities for the value-added agri-food sector to grow.



Continued growth of agriculture and agri-foods sector could lead to an estimated \$10 billion increase in our Region's annual GDP in the next 10 years.

Our municipalities had over 100 years to build the services and infrastructure needed to house, move, and keep a million of us safe. We have only 25 years to plan for the next million.

Why is this work important?

Because ...

- agriculture is economic development.
- our Region has an abundance of rich productive soils – “black gold” that competes with development.
- agriculture lacks a unified voice.
- we're planning for a million more residents and need sustainable and balanced urban and rural growth.
- our Region can produce the food to ensure our food security for now and into the future.
- this Region has untapped potential to be leaders in agri-food sector because of the entrepreneurial nature of our producers and an opportunity to help feed a growing global population.
- agriculture serves to safeguard the environment by protecting watersheds, mitigating impacts of climate change, and sequestering carbon due to sustainable farming practices.

1.5m

Home to more than 1.5 million people and generating \$107 billion in GDP.

5th

Canada's fifth largest economy, and the fastest growing region.





How will we feed an additional million more residents?



We have the opportunity to become a global agricultural powerhouse by focusing on creating the right conditions for the sector to thrive.



Our Region is home to:

- some of the province's most fertile and productive soils.
- 35% of the province's class 1 soil.
- over 4,655 farm operators and 1.7 million acres of agricultural land, generating 40% more revenue per acre than their counterparts in the rest of the province.
- roughly 25% of the province's food and beverage processing industry, which is also the largest manufacturing employer in the province.
- several world leading institutions and special-purpose facilities that support agriculture and the food industry.

We are providing direction for future growth to allow agricultural operations to exist and co-exist within other land uses for as long as possible.

Agriculture is our Region's largest land use operations.

Building our future today

- We need to provide certainty for producers and investors for the next 25-50 years.
- We need to act quickly to invest in essential infrastructure like broadband to continue to lead in innovation and to secure our place on the global stage as being a net exporter of food.
- Agriculture is our legacy and our future, and we need to act in the best interest of the sector and enable its success by working together to remove barriers and create the conditions for success.

Innovative work

RAMP is adaptable and responsive to future growth:

- it applies a new and unique criteria based approach to subdivision, enabling growth of the agriculture and agri-food sectors while minimizing fragmentation of prime agricultural land for non-agricultural uses.
- the development of the Land Evaluation Site Assessment (LESA) tool, a first for the Prairies, informs and quantifies the prime agricultural areas for conservation and monitors changes to these lands over time.

Deliberate and strategic work

RAMP was informed by landowners, producers, and other stakeholders from across our Region. RAMP is only the first step in a long list of future work that needs to continue going forward.



This is the work of the EMRB
where efficiency, innovation,
and sustainability intersect.