

FactSheet

The Municipal Assessment Amendment and Municipal Board Amendment Act

- The Municipal Assessment Amendment and Municipal Board Amendment Act modernizes how assessment information is communicated and enhances the capacity of the Municipal Board.
- The bill provides enhanced transparency and client services to provide electronic assessment notifications and enable electronic availability of assessment rolls.
- The bill also provides authority to the Municipal Board to expedite planning appeals by resolving disputes through mediation with the agreement of all parties and without holding a hearing.
- The bill amends The Municipal Assessment Act and The Municipal Board Act. Consequential amendments are made to The City of Winnipeg Charter and The Planning Act.

1. MODERNIZING ASSESSMENT NOTICES

- This bill amends The Municipal Assessment Act to enable all municipalities to post information from their assessment rolls online. Personal identifying information will not be posted.
- This bill also enables assessment notices to be sent electronically to a recipient if they choose electronic notices. Manitoba is developing an online portal to provide assessment notices to property owners in municipalities outside Winnipeg.
- Migrating property owners outside Winnipeg to electronic services represents a significant opportunity to improve client service and information accessibility for property owners. It also presents an opportunity for cost savings and reducing the province's environmental footprint.
- This bill will also enable the City of Winnipeg to provide property owners with electronic assessment notices, if they choose to do so.
- Enabling property owners to access their assessment notices and assessment rolls electronically will bring Manitoba in line with current customer service standards already adopted by other jurisdictions and private companies.

2. STREAMLINING APPEALS

Informal Resolution of Issues

The Municipal Board's rules of practice may authorize a board member to assist parties to a matter before the Board in resolving the matter through mutually beneficial alternatives to a formal hearing.

Timeline

Statutory time limits for the Municipal Board to hear and determine a matter may be extended, from the day the Board offers assistance to the parties in resolving, disposing, simplifying or expediting an appeal to the day the Board gives written notice to the parties that there is no reasonable prospect of resolving matters without holding a hearing, to a maximum of 60 additional days after the parties are offered assistance by the Board.

Grounds for Appeal

The bill creates a statutory requirement for an appellant filing a notice of appeal under an enactment, to file a written statement setting out the grounds for appeal in addition to any other requirements under that enactment.

Dismissal of Appeal

The Municipal Board must give written reasons to the parties if it dismisses an appeal or part of an appeal. It may dismiss an appeal or part of an appeal if:

- it is not within the jurisdiction of the board
- it was not filed within the applicable time limit
- in the opinion of the board, its subject matter is trivial or the application is not made in good faith
- in the opinion of the board, its subject matter is frivolous, vexatious or an abuse of process
- in the opinion of the board, there is no reasonable prospect that it will succeed
- its subject matter is being or has been dealt with appropriately according to a procedure provided for under another enactment
- the appellant has not paid any fee required to be paid under The Municipal Board Act or the enactment under which the notice of appeal was filed
- in the opinion of the board, the statutory requirements for filing the notice of appeal have not been met

Opportunity to make submission

Before dismissing an appeal or part of the appeal, the board must give the appellant an opportunity to make a written submission or otherwise be heard as to the dismissal.