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May 25, 2022

Committees Branch
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba
Room 251, 450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8
Via email: committees@leg.gov.mb.ca

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), which represents Manitoba's 137 municipalities, I am writing to provide some comments regarding Bill 34: *The City of Winnipeg Charter Amendment and Planning Amendment Act*.

Firstly, the AMM supports the proposed amendments under Sections 42 and 47 that reduce the deadline to appeal from 30 to 14 days concerning subdivisions, aggregate quarries and large-scale livestock operations. This amendment addresses concerns raised by the AMM around the new appeals process, noting that there is a high risk of delays for critical developments without a short process while appeals timelines in most other provinces were shorter – sometimes significantly – than the timelines in the initial framework. Therefore, we welcome the proposed amendment of moving to a 14-day timeline to enhance consistency within the appeals process.

Steps like these (and others in Bill 33) confirm that constructive engagement between the government and the AMM on these issues is possible, and also our belief that with additional work, the risk of red tape and development delays can be minimized in a manner that respects the unique role of democratically-elected local Councils in land use planning and governance.

While we are in support of this proposed amendment, we must note concerns with respect to changes in the Bill requiring the City of Winnipeg to send certain property notices by ordinary mail. The AMM believes greater flexibility should be provided since sending notice by ordinary mail would be very costly and time-consuming as well as counterintuitive to efforts aimed at modernizing and digitizing planning processes. Additionally, the AMM supports the City of Winnipeg in its call for further consultations between the City, Province, and industry stakeholders regarding secondary plans and corresponding by-law process.



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In closing, thank you for the opportunity to provide these brief comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kam Blight", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kam Blight
President

cc: Minister Eileen Clarke, Manitoba Municipal Relations
Deputy Minister Bruce Gray, Manitoba Municipal Relations