


Implementation Fact Sheet

Amendments to the Municipal Government Act, 2015-17

Municipal Development Plan (MDP)

Legislation	Municipal Government Act (MGA) 
Regulation	None
Category	Planning and Development
Section Number	MGA s. 632

Previous MGA requirement:

Municipal Development Plans (MDPs) identify future development patterns within municipal boundaries, and facilitate local planning and economic growth. These plans provide citizens and businesses information on how the municipality will address the current and future needs of the community, including land use, transportation systems, municipal services and environmental considerations. Previously under the MGA, the creation of MDPs was mandatory only for municipalities with a population of 3,500 or greater.

What's changed?

- All municipalities, no matter their population, are now required to create an MDP. [s.632\(1\)](#)

What do municipalities need to know?

- An MDP must address matters such as:
 - the future land use within the municipality;
 - the manner of and the proposals for future development in the municipality;
 - the provision of the required transportation systems either generally or specifically within the municipality and in relation to adjacent municipalities; and
 - the provision of municipal services and facilities either generally or specifically.
- They must also contain policies that:
 - are compatible with the subdivision and development regulations to provide guidance on the type and location of land uses adjacent to sour gas facilities;
 - respecting the provision of municipal, school or municipal and school reserves, including but not limited to the need for, amount of and allocation of those reserves and the identification of school requirements in consultation with affected school boards; and
 - respecting the protection of agricultural operations.
- An MDP may also address:
 - proposals for the financing and programming of municipal infrastructure;
 - the coordination of municipal programs relating to the physical, social and economic development of the municipality;
 - environmental matters within the municipality;
 - conservation reserves;
 - the financial resources of the municipality;
 - the economic development of the municipality; and
 - any other matter relating to the physical, social or economic development of the municipality.

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- An MDP may also contain statements regarding the municipality's development constraints and goals, objectives, targets, planning policies and corporate strategies. [s.632\(3\)](#)
- If a municipality wishes to provide for conservation reserves the taking of the land as conservation reserve must be consistent with the municipality's municipal development plan. 664.2(1)(a) to (d). [s.632\(3\)\(g\)](#)
- An MDP must be consistent with an intermunicipal development plan with respect to any lands that are included in both plans. [s.632\(4\)](#)
- A municipality must review an existing MDP to ensure consistency with an intermunicipal development plan as required by section 632(3).

When does this change take place?

- The amendments come into force on April 1, 2018 and municipalities that currently do not have an MDP must, by bylaw adopt an MDP by April 1, 2021 (three (3) years after the amendments come into force).

What resources are/will there be available to assist?

- Best practice guidance documents to support small municipalities with MDP development (in partnership with Regional Services Agencies and Commissions). [↗](#)
- [Municipal Affairs Regional Training Session](#). [↗](#)
- [Elected Officials Education Program](#) (EOEP) – www.eoep.ca (AAMDC/AUMA) [↗](#)
- [Municipal Planning Hub](#) (AUMA)
- [Modernized Municipal Government Act, 2016](#) [↗](#)
- [An Act to Strengthen Municipal Government, 2017](#) [↗](#)



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