

# Metropolitan Region Servicing Plan (MRSP)



A provincially mandated plan,  
focused on regionally  
significant priority service areas.

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 residents.

In 2019, a Board Task Force, supplemented by subject-matter experts from across the Region, determined the work could have the most impact in four priority service areas – solid waste, stormwater, fire / emergency medical services, and emergency management.

The MRSP is an essential tool created to support the implementation of the regional growth plan. It is key to realizing the projected savings of 160 km<sup>2</sup> of land (equivalent to the size of Elk Island Park) and \$5 billion in infrastructure (equivalent to building 300 new schools) and is important to all member municipalities.

#### This could be achieved by:

- building, collecting and sharing regional relevant data.
- pursuing best practices, and leading innovative research and technology.
- prioritizing regionally-scaled service investments informed by evidence.
- leveraging sub-regional service initiatives and economies of scale to benefit the Region.
- recognizing and understanding the unique rural and urban contexts.
- building in the safety and wellness of our citizens.



Increasingly, the cost and complexities of services are greater than each municipality can manage on their own.



## Why is this work important?

Because ...

- we're planning for a million more residents—the municipal services needed to keep pace with this future growth are significant.
- there are complex challenges associated with doubling our regional population.
- municipal services are the building blocks that support and enhance the quality of life for residents and are essential to attracting and supporting businesses.
- establishing one window access to the Region, and reducing duplication and inefficiencies, will ultimately lessen the burden on taxpayers, and maximize the value and benefits received.

**1.4m** Home to more than 1.4 million people and generating \$105 billion in GDP.

**5th** Canada's fifth largest economy, and the fastest growing region.



How will we accommodate the solid waste of a million more residents?



## Priority Municipal Service Areas

Through an environmental scan of key service areas, at the regional level, the Board approved the first MRSP, focusing their efforts on four key service areas.

### Solid Waste Management

- Currently solid waste is managed at a local level, where cost and efforts are duplicated to achieve similar results.
- With the doubling of the population, there is a clear need for effective waste management, including waste reduction and diversion.
- Landfills generate greenhouse gas emissions, accelerating climate change.

### Stormwater Management

- Increased growth means increased pressure on the stormwater management infrastructure.
- There is an increased risk to community safety.
- Recent impacts of climate disruption and the increasing unpredictability of the weather is resulting in more flooding of properties, transportation infrastructure, and agricultural lands.

### Fire and Emergency Medical Services

- Increased resource challenges associated with servicing a growing population and business sector.
- Increased costs of maintenance, new services and infrastructure.

### Emergency Management

- Increased occurrences of weather incidents and other emergencies are taxing the system.
- There is a heightened demand for coordination and communication amongst member municipalities since incidents know no boundaries.
- Recovery and reconstruction from major emergencies result in increased costs to the public.

Focusing on these regionally significant services ensures responsible growth as one interconnected Region and will continue to provide value for current and future generations.



By working cooperatively as one Region we can create the conditions that ensure health and safety, prosperity, and quality of life.



## Building our future today

We need to better position our Region to meet the challenges of a growing population and economy.

We need to act quickly to build a more efficient and sustainable future for generations to come.

We need to work in the best interest of the Region, while respecting local autonomy.

## Innovative work

Regional collaboration builds relationships. Working together fosters information sharing and creative thinking, allowing the Region to problem solve together and plan without boundaries. The work:

- leverages partners within the Region to get the best value/expertise.
- uses data and evidence-based decision making, technology and innovation to solve specific challenges.

## Deliberate and strategic work

As one of the youngest and fastest growing regions in all of Canada, we are continually creating conditions to increase economic and social advantage, to attract some of the best and brightest talent.



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