



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Regional Agriculture Master Plan Stakeholder Engagement

Who is being invited to participate in the RAMP Engagement?

- We want to hear from Stakeholders in our Region who will be affected or impacted by land use policies in support of the agriculture sector.
- Engagement is open to those working in or supporting the agriculture sector, with messaging in traditional and social media targeting a cross-section of the agriculture sector.
- In addition, each municipality in the Region identified a wide range of groups and individuals within their communities who are working in or supporting the agriculture sector.

How are we inviting stakeholders?

- Invitations to stakeholders will be sent via email. Municipalities also have the option to print and mail invitations to their sub-regional lists.
- Digital and print ads have been placed in local news outlets and posted on member municipalities' websites.
- Information will also be pushed on EMRB's Twitter account and on social media platforms managed by member municipalities and elected officials.

What do participants need to be prepared to participate in the engagement sessions?

- All participants will be provided with a Discussion Guide to help them prepare for the sessions.
- The Discussion Guide is also available at letstalkramp.ca

What sort of input are participants being asked to provide?

Our discussions with participants will focus on gaining input and insights on:

- how best to address the three RAMP objectives,
- reactions and input on taking an 'agriculture area' approach for developing the policies in RAMP, factors for identifying prime agricultural areas for conservation using broader criteria that responds to the future needs of the sector,
- how to limit and manage future fragmentation and conservation of prime agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses, and
- the opportunities for growth in agriculture and agri-foods and what the priorities in infrastructure are to support that growth.

For more details on the background and context for the engagement sessions and the complete list of questions that will be asked of participants, please download the Discussion Guide found at letstalkramp.ca

How many participants can attend the in-person sessions?

- Under COVID protocols in place as of November 1 (subject to change), in-person sessions are limited to 15 people. This means each session will accommodate 12 participants plus three staff who are conducting the session.
- In-person sessions are limited to registered participants only.
- Additional virtual and in-person sessions may be scheduled to accommodate increased demand from stakeholders.

How many participants can attend the virtual sessions?

- We are currently limiting the number of virtual participants to 12 to ensure everyone in the session has an opportunity to be heard.
- Additional virtual and in-person sessions may be scheduled to accommodate increased demand from stakeholders.
- If virtual sessions are full, interested stakeholders will be added to a wait list and will be contracted for a future session.

What are the COVID-19 safety precautions at the in-person sessions?

- For in-person sessions, COVID-19 protocols will require all participants wear a mask at all times, sanitize their hands upon entering the building, submit to a non-contact temperature check at registration, maintain sufficient physical distancing from others in attendance and refrain from bringing in any food or beverages in.
- EMRB will continue to monitor the evolving COVID-19 situation and official recommendations from authorities. Should local circumstances warrant and the EMRB decides to adapt, postpone, or cancel an in-person session, the EMRB will contact impacted participants directly.

What are the options for participants if sessions are full?

- The registration site will record the names of persons interested in attending a session. If a spot becomes available or additional sessions are added, waitlisted individuals will be notified about these additional engagement opportunities.

Can Stakeholders participate in more than one session?

- Given the importance of hearing from a wide range of stakeholders, participants will be limited to attending only one session, either virtual or in-person.
- If a stakeholder has additional input after attending a virtual or in-person session, they can provide a written submission at letstalkramp.ca .

Will there be a chance to review the input that the EMRB receives about RAMP?

- The input from stakeholders at the sessions and written submissions will be compiled into a 'What we Heard' report that will be shared publicly.
- Stakeholders who participated in the initial engagement sessions will receive an invitation to attend further sessions to review the consolidated feedback for further comment going into a final report.

How will stakeholder input be considered in the RAMP?

- The input obtained through this comprehensive engagement process will be compiled into a draft 'What We Heard' report, and there will be an opportunity for interested stakeholders to validate its content.
- Early in 2021, the final 'What We Heard' report will be tabled with the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force, which will inform the development of a draft regional agriculture plan.
- Once approved by the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board, the final Regional Agriculture Master Plan will be presented to the Government of Alberta for approval as part of the regional growth plan.

Can elected officials attend the in-person sessions to observe?

- Due to limited capacity for in-person gatherings, attendance in-person is limited to registered participants from the broader public. However, EMRB can accommodate the participation of elected officials as virtual observers at these in-person sessions.
- If you are interested in attending, please contact us at letstalkRAMP@emrb.ca and indicate the session you would like to observe.

How can elected officials participate in RAMP Engagement?

- There will be opportunities for elected officials to view the virtual online sessions in their communities and hear the input from stakeholders.
- If you are interested in attending, please contact us at letstalkRAMP@emrb.ca and indicate the session you would like to observe.

What if elected officials have input on RAMP?

- Municipal or elected officials with specific input on RAMP are invited to provide their thoughts to their Mayor who can reflect that feedback in discussions by either the RAMP Task Force or the EMRB.

Can media attend the engagement sessions?

- This is a process of targeted stakeholder engagement. It is not public engagement or a public forum. We are seeking input from those individuals and businesses that may be impacted and affected by the work we are doing. Information regarding registration has been made public to allow as much access as possible to these stakeholders.
- Stakeholder feedback may be influenced as a result of media participation – it is paramount that the integrity of the process be preserved.
- If members of the media are interested in covering this process, we will offer alternative opportunities to speak with elected officials and/or participants to make sure they can write a full story.
- A summary of the results of stakeholder input will be made available publicly at the end of the engagement process.

Who should Stakeholders contact if they have questions about the RAMP process?

- Stakeholders can contact their local municipal office or contact us at letstalkRAMP@emrb.ca or call us at 780.638.6000.

Who should elected officials contact if they have questions about the RAMP process?

- Elected officials can contact their Mayor, their local municipal office, or contact us at letstalkRAMP@emrb.ca or call us at 780.638.6000.

How long has this work been going on and why did you choose now to do the engagement?

- As part of the implementation of the regional Growth Plan, EMRB members collectively agreed to develop a plan for agriculture that would ensure the agriculture and agri-foods sector in the Region can continue to grow and thrive.
- This work was initiated in the Spring of 2018. To date, the Board has completed research on the state of agriculture in the Region, and opportunities for growth, as well as explored potential policy tools to manage land in the Region that will enhance agricultural activities and communities.
- The Board and Task Force are now gathering input on how to address the RAMP objectives and develop land-use policies to support the growth of the agriculture and agri-foods sector through a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process.

There is so much conversation in the agricultural world right now on innovation and investment? Have other government officials been consulted on RAMP or other related stakeholders?

- The RAMP Task Force includes non-voting members with representation from the Government of Alberta, the Government of Canada and Edmonton Global.
- The Government of Alberta has reiterated that Alberta's agriculture industry will be a key part of a prosperous economic future by ensuring a sustainable supply of wood fibre, building value-added processing capacity and opening markets for exports globally and domestically.

The Alberta government has set a goal of attracting \$1.4 billion in direct investment over the next four years in value-added agricultural processing in Alberta.

What are the timelines for RAMP?

- Following the Stakeholder Engagement, the RAMP Task Force will consider the contents of the "What We Heard Report" in order to draft the regional agriculture policies for RAMP. The final draft RAMP is expected to be presented to the Board in June 2021 for approval. Then the approved plan will go to the Province for approval and to be adopted as part of the Regional Growth Plan.