

APPENDIX 11.3

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BASELINE REPORT

DORSEY-PORTAGE SOUTH TRANSMISSION LINE (D83P)

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BASELINE

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Manitoba Hydro has identified a need to enhance its transmission system in southwest Manitoba. The proposed Dorsey to Portage South Transmission Line Project (the Project) is one component required to improve this system. The Project will include a 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, and will be about 70 km long. The Project will originate at the Dorsey Station, located northwest of Winnipeg near the village of Rosser, Manitoba. It will terminate at the Portage South Station located southeast of Portage la Prairie.

The scheduled in-service date is April, 2015. The Project will pass through the Rural Municipalities of Portage la Prairie, Cartier, St. Francois Xavier, and Rosser.

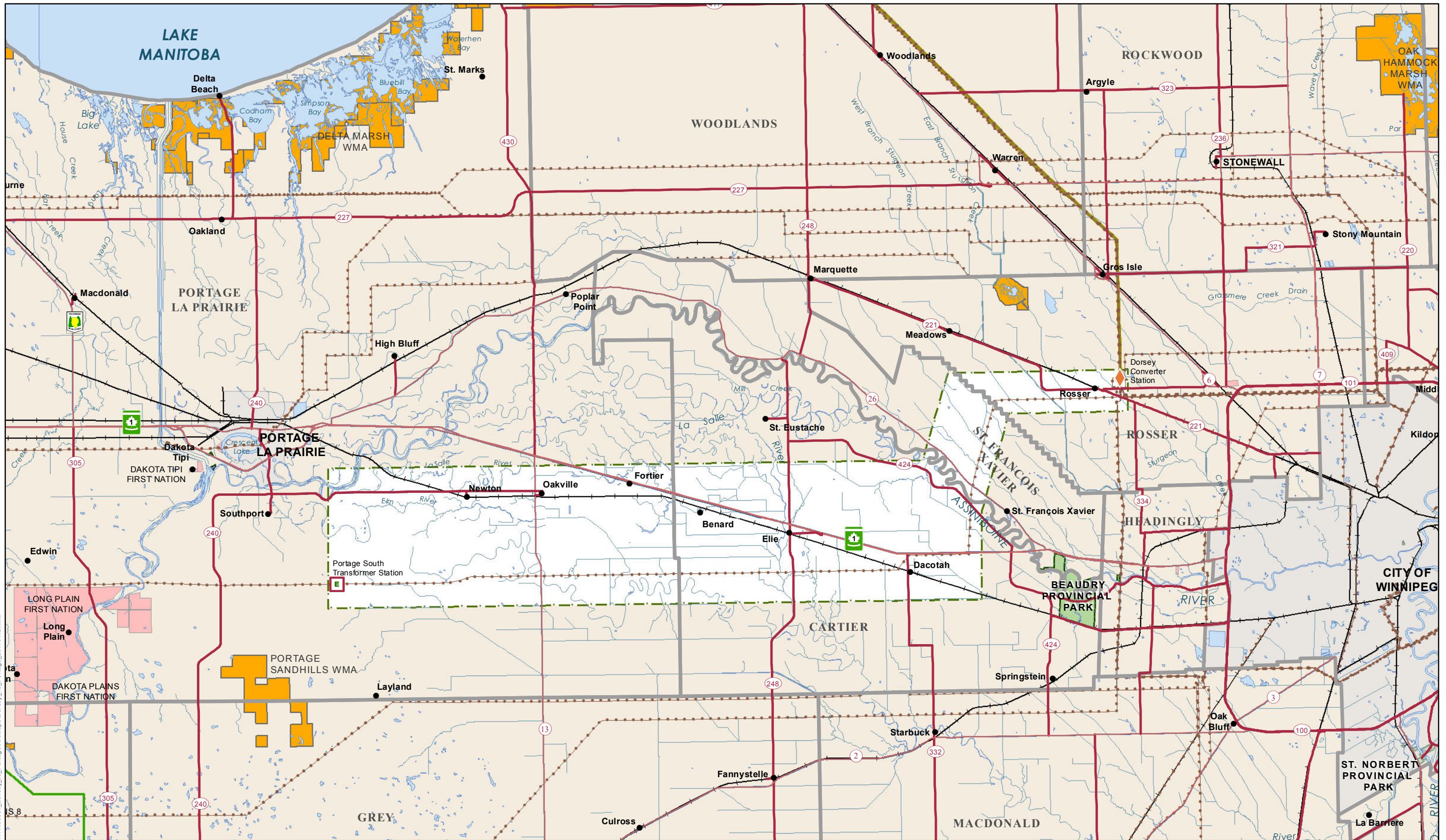
This document summarizes baseline information relevant to the socio-economic environment which may be affected by the Project. The socio-economic baseline focuses on characteristics of the socio-economic environment which may be affected by the Project.

The socio-economic baseline is organized into the following sections:

- **Land and Resource Use:** Provides an overview of the scheme of land ownership and regulation, as well as a description of land and resources use for municipal, commercial, industrial, agricultural and recreational resource use.
- **Economy:** Provides a description of the local and regional economy including labour force characteristics and local businesses.
- **Community Services:** Provides a description of emergency, health and other social services.
- **Personal, Family and Community Life:** Provides a description of community health and wellness, way-of-life, governance and aesthetics.

The description of the socio-economic baseline was prepared based on a review of relevant literature, government reports and documents, and readily available statistical publications. The structure of this document differs from that in the Project EIS as its production was largely completed prior to final selection of VECs.

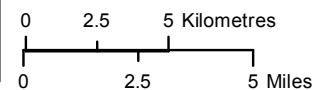
The baseline document describes elements of the socio-economic environment at the scale necessary to understand and assess potential effects of the Project. For socio-economic purposes, the "Study Area" is comprised of an area surrounding the Project. It originates at the Dorsey Station, located northwest of Winnipeg near the village of Rosser and terminates at the Portage South Station located southeast of Portage la Prairie. The Study Area includes incorporated municipalities closest to the Project which could potentially experience effects from the project. This includes the Rural Municipalities (RMs) of Portage la Prairie, Cartier, St. Francois Xavier and Rosser (see Figure 1-1).



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Coordinate System: UTM Zone 14N NAD83
 Data Source: MB Hydro, ProvMB,
 and Tetra Tech
 Date Created: April 12, 2011



Legend

- Study Area
- Portage South Transformer Station
- ◆ Converter Station
- Transmission Lines
- First Nations
- Rural Municipalities
- Provincial Parks
- Wildlife Management Areas
- Provincial Forests

Dorsey to Portage South Transmission Line Project

Draft Study Area

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Figure 1-1

2.0 LAND AND RESOURCE USE

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This section outlines the major types of land and resource use in the Study Area where land is typically divided up using a section-township-range system. The vast majority of this land consists of agricultural, privately-owned parcels. There are publicly-owned parcels of land located throughout the Study Area as well. These may be allocated for a range of purposes, including landfills, cemeteries, municipal infrastructure and other purposes.

The broad categories of land use reviewed in this section are:

- Agriculture;
- Property Ownership and Residential Development;
- Infrastructure; and
- Other Land and Resource Use.

This Project will be located in a primarily agricultural setting. Manitoba Hydro obtains the legal right to construct, operate and maintain their transmission lines and this right is generally obtained through easement of privately owned land. The existing D12P transmission line right-of-way (ROW) is located on a 67-meter wide corridor. The Project will require approximately 15 m of additional ROW width along the north side of the existing D12P ROW. ROW widths are determined to allow safe conductor swing or blow-out, to limit radio interference, and to provide adequate lateral distance under strong wind conditions to limit flashovers onto objects located near the edge of the ROW. All tower structures will be placed on ROW that is owned by Manitoba Hydro.

Clearing of trees and other vegetation within the ROW is required for safe and reliable operation of the Project. Access for construction will generally be within the ROW. Access to the ROW will typically be from adjacent or intersecting roadways or road allowances, further reducing the need for additional access trail development. Marshalling yards may be established near the Project route, but no construction camps are expected to be required for the Project.

2.2 AGRICULTURE

2.2.1 Agricultural Setting

The Project will be located in a primarily agricultural setting. Further, within the Study Area between Dorsey and Portage Stations, agricultural land use consists of intensive cropping between these Stations. Active and potential irrigation areas were found closer to the Portage Station.

From Dorsey Station lacustrine clay soils (Red River and Osborne soils) continue on from Rosser to Elie. There are a few towns and villages, farm yards, other rural residences, and large scale livestock operations along the existing D12P. The irrigation potential is still low and intensive crop production is

normal for the area with cereal crops, canola, corn, soybeans and alfalfa being produced (J&V Nielsen and Associates Ltd. 2012).

The clay soils turn to Oakville silty clay loam soils west of Elie. The soils have some irrigation potential but there is no existing irrigation along the Project (J&V Nielsen and Associates Ltd. 2012).

2.2.2 Soil Capability and Present Agricultural Use

The Study Area was divided into seven agricultural categories:

- **Category 1:** Limited Agricultural Use Areas – There are no lands of this type in the Study Area.
- **Category 2:** Mixed Farming Areas – There are no lands of this type in the Study Area.
- **Category 3:** Cereal, Special Crop and Mixed Farming Areas – There are no lands of this type in the Study Area.
- **Category 4:** Cereal and Special Crop Areas – These lands have been placed in Category 5.
- **Category 5:** Cereal, Special and Row Crop Areas – These lands consist of high value row crops, such as soybeans, sunflowers and corn, and include areas where there is more potential for expansion in the future. There are increasing efforts to produce row crops. These soils are found in the Study Area between Rosser and Elie. These are Red River and Osborne lacustrine clay soils that are intensively farmed, however, do not have any irrigation potential.
- **Category 6:** Existing and Potential Irrigation Areas – These lands consisting of silty and sandy soils from Elie to Portage South Station. One quarter section pivot irrigation system was observed closer to the Portage South Station. Pivot irrigation systems are generally used for potato production. There is potential to grow more irrigated row crops in this area. With quarter section pivot operation towers will need to be spaced appropriately.
- **Category 7:** Intensive Livestock Production Area – There are lands of this type in the Study Area, however, they have been placed in Category 6.

For the purpose of this work, agricultural land use was placed within Categories 5 and 6, determined on the basis of soil type, present and potential agricultural use, and the intensity of present agricultural use (J&V Nielsen and Associates Ltd. 2012).

Manitoba Hydro's guidelines and policies with respect to agricultural land and private property include the following:

- Consultation with landowners regarding structure placement in special areas;
- Access roads on private property will be discussed with the landowner in advance of construction;
- Access will be developed to minimize impacts on irrigation and drainage, sensitive biological sites, cultural and historic resources and intensive farming practices and other special operations;

- Permanent gates will be installed where access across fences is required; and
- Construction schedule will try to accommodate agricultural operations where possible.

ROW easements required on private property are typically secured through negotiation with the respective landowners. Compensation for ROW easements is determined on the basis of two types of payments:

- Land Payment: This is a one-time payment based on 75% of the fair market value of the land within the required ROW; and
- Structure Payment: This payment accounts for impacts associated with structures placed on the land. (not applicable to this project)

2.3 PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

2.3.1 Municipal Jurisdiction and Land Use Planning

In general, local government jurisdiction is divided between rural municipalities (RMs) and urban centres (incorporated cities, town and villages). Many smaller urban settlements are communities that have no independent municipal status. Rural Municipalities consist of a board/council of elected officials represented by one Reeve. Most municipalities are divided among wards to ensure that all individuals are represented equitably in any decision-making process. Each municipality is responsible for a board range of infrastructure services and regulatory authority within its jurisdiction. The municipalities derive their authority from the provincial government, which also retains direct control over a certain higher order of regional services (e.g., provincial highways and roads). In some circumstances, certain areas of responsibility may also be subject to regional authorities like Planning Districts and Conservation Districts. Figure 2-1 illustrates RM boundaries and planning districts.

D83P Transmission Project

Infrastructure

- Converter Station
- Transformer Station

Administrative

- Community Interest Zone
- Rural Municipality

Planning District

- White Horse Plains
- South Interlake
- Portage La Prairie
- Grey - St Claude
- Macdonald - Ritchot

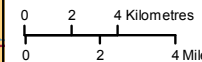
Heritage

- Historic Site

Landbase

- Study Area
- Community
- Trans Canada Highway
- Provincial Road
- Railway
- Watercourse
- Waterbody

Coordinate System: UTM Zone 14N NAD83
 Data Source: MBHydro, ProvMB, NRCAN
 Date Created: January 31, 2012



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Administrative Boundaries

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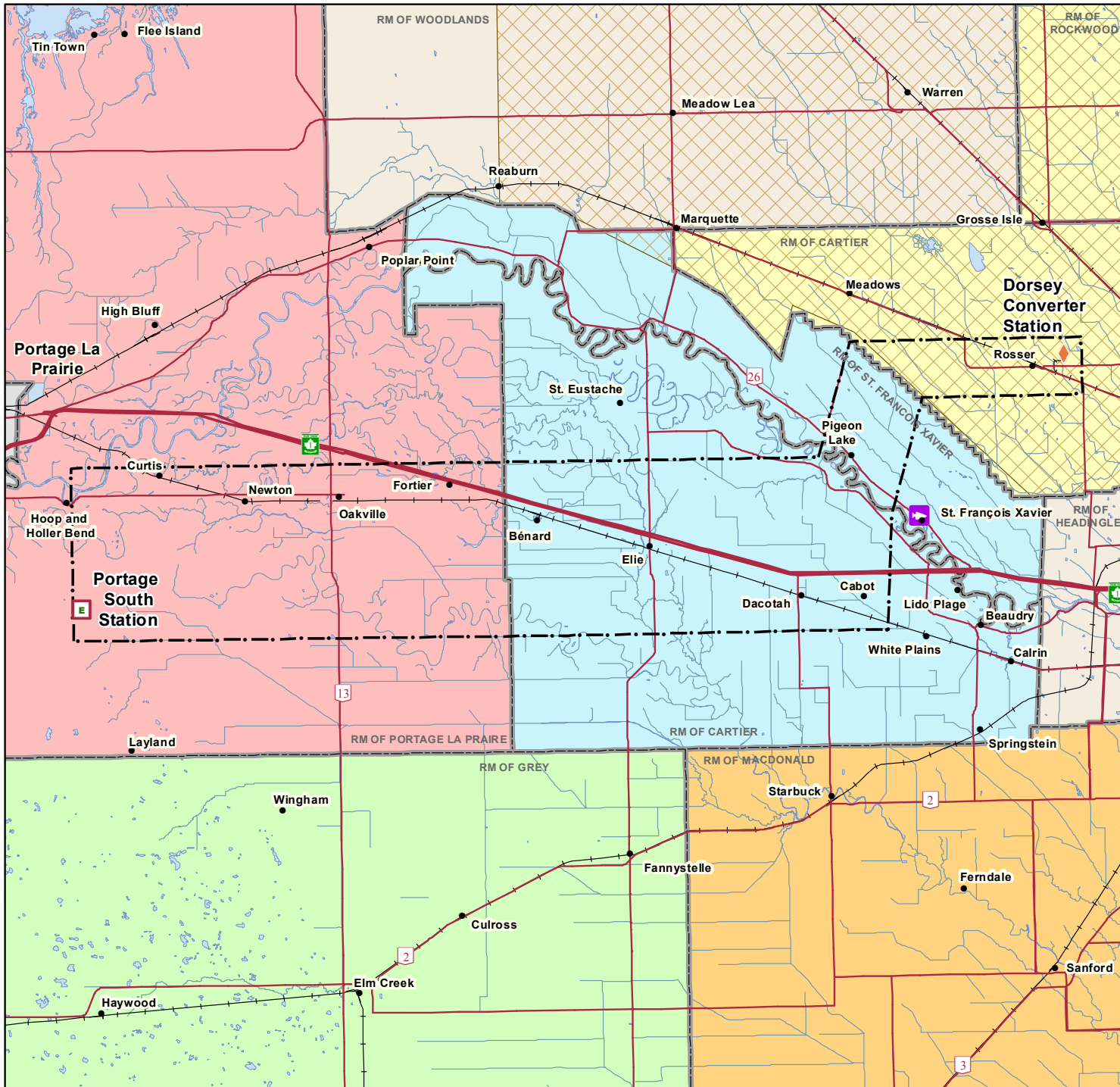


Figure 2-1

The Project will run through four RMs, including:

- RM of Portage la Prairie;
- RM of Cartier;
- RM of St. Francois Xavier; and
- RM of Rosser.

As noted, land use planning responsibilities within the Study Area are under the jurisdiction of individual municipalities or planning districts. Municipal jurisdictions may adopt development plans and zoning by-laws to guide land use decisions within their boundaries. Planning districts can be created by joining RMs with aims of working together to adopt policy regarding land use, future developments in the area and construction of public facilities. Planning districts are responsible for the following:

- Adoption, administration and enforcement of the development plan for the entire district;
- Administration and enforcement of member municipal by-laws, or a district-wide zoning by-law and any secondary plans; and
- Building by-laws of member municipalities, including those dealing with minimum standards of maintenance and occupancy of buildings.

There are currently three planning districts within the Study Area. The Portage la Prairie Planning district serves the RM of Portage la Prairie; White Horse Plains Planning District serves the RMs of Cartier and St. Francois Xavier, and the Interlake Planning District serves the RM of Rosser.

2.3.1.1 Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie

The RM of Portage la Prairie was incorporated in 1879. It is centrally located in Manitoba and is the largest municipality in the province. The RM of Portage la Prairie falls in the western-most portion of the Study Area. The eastern border of the RM of Portage la Prairie is about 50 km west of the City of Winnipeg along the Trans Canada Highway (Hwy 1) (Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie NDa). The RM Council consists of a Reeve, Chief Administrative Officer and seven ward counsellors (Manitoba Local Government ND).

In 2002, the City of Portage la Prairie and the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie formed the Portage la Prairie Planning District (PLPPD) and worked together to produce the PLPPD Development Plan. The primary purpose of the PLPPD is to manage a planning program for the municipal partners. One of the goals is to provide standardized planning requirements through an updated development plan and zoning by-law for the district. In addition, the office of the PLPPD is responsible for building inspections, permitting, planning and development plan amendments, and creating zoning memorandums (Portage la Prairie Planning District ND).

Key objectives for the RM outlined in the development plan include:

- Encourage agricultural development initiatives and diversifications which sustain the agricultural food industry in Portage la Prairie.
- Agricultural land use is a priority in the 'Rural Policy Area'. Developments must be compatible with agricultural land use. These may include agro-commercial, agro-industrial and outdoor recreation land uses. Rural residential lots are not considered an appropriate use of agricultural lands.
- Non-farm developments should not be located near prime agricultural land or lower class agricultural land, or livestock. New developments should not be located on prime agricultural lands, unless there are no alternate sites.
- Division of agricultural lands into smaller parcels should be avoided.

With regard to utilities, the PLPPD Development Plan states that essential activities of government, public and private utilities should be permitted in any land use designation subject to requirements in a municipal zoning by-law (Lombard North Group 2008). Land use in the RM of Portage la Prairie (including the City of Portage la Prairie) is subject to PLPPD By-Law No. 1-2006 (Lombard North Group 2008). The zoning By-law in the RM of Portage la Prairie is By-law 2459 (V. Cutting, personal communication) and in the City of Portage la Prairie is By-law 10-8492 (Portage la Prairie Planning District 2012).

The Oakville Industrial Park is located in Oakville, which lies just south of the TransCanada Highway, approximately 20 km east of the City of Portage la Prairie. It is home to the K & K Pick Parts and the Blight's Seeds depot (Central Plains Inc. ND). Centre Port Canada, an airport-centred inland port located in Winnipeg, does not currently encompass land in the RM of Rosser but there are indications that this development may in the future expand into the RM of Rosser (Rural Municipality of Rosser 2009).

2.3.1.2 Rural Municipality of Cartier

The RM of Cartier was incorporated in 1914 (Manitoba Historical Society 2012) and falls in the central portion of the Study Area. The eastern border of the RM of Cartier is situated approximately 20 km west of the City of Winnipeg. The RM Council consists of a Reeve, Chief Administrative Officer, and five councillors (Manitoba Local Government ND).

The RM of Cartier is within the White Horse Plains Planning District (WHPPD) which jointly serves the RM of Cartier and the RM of St. Francois Xavier (Rural Municipality of St. Francois Xavier NDc). The Planning District is involved and responsible for establishing the joint Development Plan and Zoning By-Laws that dictate the future development and land use within each member municipality. Land use in the RM of Cartier is subject to the White Horse Plains Planning District Development Plan By-Law No. 1-2008. (Rural Municipality of St. Francois Xavier 2010) The majority of the land in this Planning District is designated a Rural General Policy Area. Under the Development Plan, a policy objective relating to Municipal Services seeks to ensure that expansion of utility services and corridors are coordinated with other Municipalities, landowners and utility companies. Further, in its statement of General Policies, the Development Plan states that essential activities of government and public and private utilities shall be allowed in any land use designation subject to the WHPPD zoning by-law requirements (White Horse Plains Planning District

2010). The zoning by-law in the RM of Cartier is By-Law No. 1620 (V. McLennan, personal communication).

2.3.1.3 Rural Municipality of St. Francois Xavier

The RM of St. Francois Xavier was incorporated in 1880 (Rural Municipality of St. Francois Xavier NDa) and falls in the central-eastern portion of the Study Area. The eastern border of the RM of St. Francois Xavier is about 10 km west of the City of Winnipeg along the Trans Canada Highway (Hwy 1). The RM Council consists of a Reeve, Chief Administrative Officer, and four councillors (Rural Municipality of St. Francois Xavier NDb).

The RM of St. Francois Xavier is within the White Horse Plains Planning District (WHPPD). This planning district was formed jointly by the RM of Cartier and the RM of St. Francois Xavier. The WHPPD is involved and responsible for establishing the joint Development Plan and Zoning By-Laws that dictate the future development and land use within each member municipality. Land use in the RM of St. Francois Xavier is subject to the White Horse Plains Planning District Development Plan By-Law No. 1-2008 (Rural Municipality of St. Francois Xavier 2010). The majority of the land in this Planning District is designated as Rural General Policy Area. Under the Development Plan, a policy objective relating to Municipal Services seeks to ensure that expansion of utility services and corridors are coordinated with other Municipalities, landowners and utility companies. Further, in its statement of General Policies, the Development Plan states that essential activities of government and public and private utilities shall be allowed in any land use designation subject to the WHPPD zoning by-law requirements (White Horse Plains Planning District 2010). The zoning By-law in the RM of St. Francois Xavier is By-law No. 4-2011 (Rural Municipality of St. Francois Xavier 2011).

2.3.1.4 Rural Municipality of Rosser

The RM of Rosser was incorporated in 1893 and falls in the eastern portion of the Study Area (Rural Municipality of Rosser 2011). The south-eastern border of the RM of Rosser is adjacent to the City of Winnipeg. The RM Council consists of a Reeve, Chief Administrative Officer, and four councillors (Manitoba Local Government ND).

The RM of Rosser is within the South Interlake Planning District (SIPD). The SIPD is comprised of the RM of Rosser and the RM of Rockwood (South Interlake Planning District 2010). The SIPD Development Plan sets out its overall objectives as ensuring that development is consistent with Provincial Land Use Policies and, among other goals, seeks to protect surface and groundwater, protect prime agricultural soil, and protect areas that can support aggregate extraction. This Development Plan states in its Utilities Policies section that essential activities of public and private utilities shall be permitted in any land use designation, subject to requirements in member municipality Zoning By-Laws (South Interlake Planning District 2010). Land use in the RM of Rosser is subject to the South Interlake Planning District Development Plan By-Law No. 03/10. The zoning By-law in the RM of Rosser is By-law 4-85.

2.3.2 First Nations and Metis

No First Nations communities lie within the Study Area. However, three First Nations are located near the Study Area in the RM of Portage la Prairie (Dakota Plains First Nation, Dakota Tipi First Nation and Long

Plain First Nation) and Metis have a history and presence in the Study Area. Peguis First Nation has a Community Interest Zone (CIZ) in the Study Area (see section 2.3.5).

2.3.3 Conservation Districts

There are 18 Conservation Districts in Manitoba. These Conservation Districts are represented by the Manitoba Conservation Districts Association whose mission is to provide a leadership role and unified voice between Conservation Districts, Water Stewardship and partners in watershed management for Manitobans. Conservation Districts usually lead the development of integrated watershed management plans (IWMP). They also assist area residents in the planning of watershed programs. The purposes of these IWMPs are to:

- Identify priority land and water-related issues in the watershed;
- Determine projects or policies targeted to address the issues; and
- Identify how land and water management programming will be cooperatively carried out throughout the watershed (Manitoba Conservation Districts Association ND).

The only Conservation District within the Study Area is the La Salle Redboine Conservation District (Manitoba Water Stewardship 2006). This Conservation District encompasses the area of land that contributes water to the La Salle River, including the Elm River and Elm Creek. The plan for this conservation district is called the La Salle River Integrated Watershed Management Plan. The RMs of Portage la Prairie and Cartier are two of the six partner-RMs associated with this watershed management plan (La Salle River Watershed Planning Authority 2010).

2.3.4 Hutterite Colonies

Hutterite colonies are located in the rural municipalities of Portage la Prairie, Cartier, St. Francois Xavier and Rosser. The following is a list of Hutterite colonies that own land or operate colonies in the Study Area:

- Barickman Colony;
- Bon Homme Colony;
- Brantwood Colony;
- Elm River Colony;
- Grand Colony;
- James Valley Colony;
- Maxwell Colony;
- Milltown Colony;

- Star Lite Colony;
- Sunnyside Colony;
- Waldheim Colony;
- Lakeside Colony;
- Iberville Colony;
- Huron Colony;
- Rosedale Colony;
- Sturgeon Creek; and
- Wingham Colony.

2.3.5 Aboriginal Lands

Reserve Land

There is no reserve land in the Study Area.

Treaty Land Entitlement

None of the First Nations (Long Plain First Nation, Dakota Plains First Nation, and Dakota Tipi First Nation) have outstanding Treaty Land Entitlement requirements (AANDC 2011; AANDC 2010).

Community Interest Zones

A Community Interest Zone (CIZ) is a temporary area of protection adjacent to a First Nation's main reserve established by the Province of Manitoba. The intent is to protect these areas from development while a First Nation is involved in selecting or acquiring lands through the TLE process. A CIZ typically includes the area within 30 km of the exterior boundaries of the reserve, where its main administrative office is located. The Province of Manitoba is required to give First Nations notice of any proposed disposition of Crown Lands within their CIZ (Manitoba Government ND). A Community Interest Zone, known as the Peguis Notice Area, is in place in the eastern portion of the Study Area (see Figure 2-1).

2.3.6 Designated Protected Areas

Protected areas are land, freshwater or marine areas, where logging, mining, hydroelectric development, oil and gas development, and other activities that significantly and adversely affect habitat are prohibited through legal means. Manitoba's protected areas network is comprised of a collection of Crown lands with different land designations including ecological reserves, national and provincial parks, wildlife management areas and provincial forest (Manitoba Conservation ND). As shown in Figure 2-2, there is a

Protected Areas Initiative Priority Area located in the southwest corner of the Study Area. There are no federal designated lands in the Study Area.

D83P Transmission Project

Infrastructure

- Converter Station
- Transformer Station

Recreation

- Campground
- Snowmobile Trail
- Historic Trail

Provincial Park Land Use

- Access
- Backcountry
- Recreational Development
- Resource Management

Protected Areas of Interest

- Priority Area

Ecosystem Category *

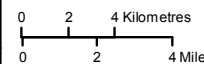
- Animal Assemblage
- Fungus
- Invertebrate Animal
- Terrestrial Community
- Vascular Plant
- Vertebrate Animal

* Defines ecosystems of significance (EOS)

Landbase

- Study Area
- Community
- Trans Canada Highway
- Provincial Road
- Railway
- Watercourse
- Waterbody

Coordinate System: UTM Zone 14N NAD83
 Data Source: MBHydro, ProvMB, NRCCAN
 Date Created: January 30, 2012



Recreation, Parks, and Ecosystems

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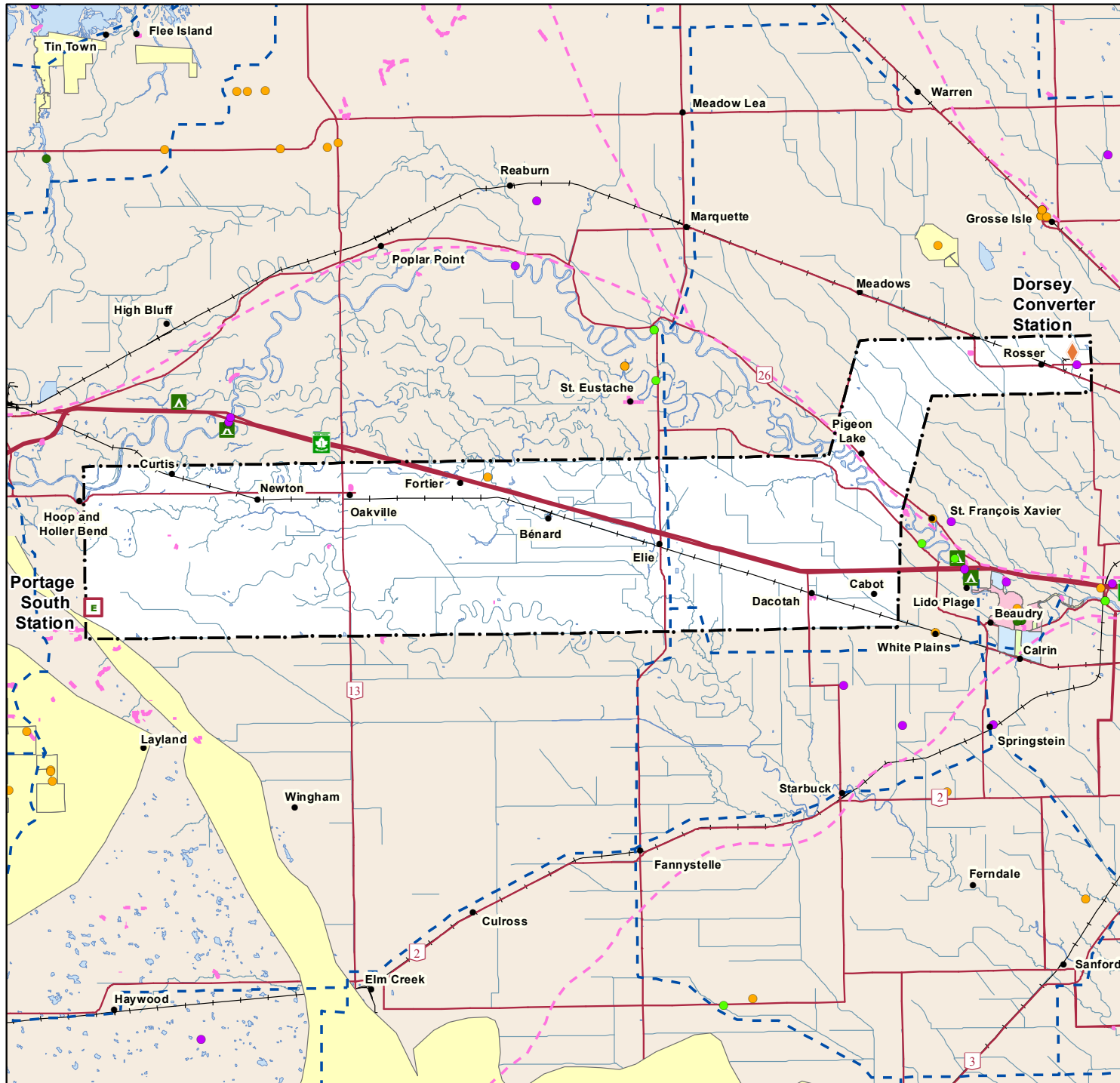


Figure 2-2

2.4 INFRASTRUCTURE

2.4.1 Provincial Trunk Highways and Provincial Roads

Figure 2-3 shows highway and road infrastructure in the Study Area. Key thoroughfares, by RM, include:

- RM of Portage La Prairie: Hwy 1 (national), Hwy 13, Hwy 331;
- RM of Cartier: Hwy 1 (national), Hwy 424 Hwy 248, Hwy 332;
- RM of St. Francois Xavier: Hwy 26; and
- RM of Rosser: Hwy 221, Hwy 236, Hwy 334.

In Manitoba, generally speaking, highways under the control of the Minister of Infrastructure & Transportation are classified as either RTAC routes, Class "A1" or Class "B1" highways. Each class of highway has its own specific axle loading and gross vehicle weight limits (MIT ND).

With respect to the above highway and road infrastructure, the following classifications apply:

- The TransCanada Highway and Provincial Trunk Highway 13 are classified as RTAC routes;
- Provincial Trunk Highway 26 is classified as a Class A1 highway; and
- Provincial Roads 221, 236, 248, 332, and 424 are classified as Class B1 highways (MIT ND).

Table 2-1 illustrates the maximum prescribed gross vehicle weights for each class of highway as prescribed by the Vehicle Weights and Dimensions on Classes of Highway Regulation (The Highway Traffic Act 1988).

Table 2-1: Highway Classification and Maximum Prescribed Gross Vehicle Weight

Highway Classification	Maximum Prescribed Gross Vehicle Weight
RTAC Routes	62,500 kg.
Class A1 Highways	56,500 kg.
Class B1 Highways	47,630 kg.

The majority of the rural areas within the Study Area are connected by a square mile grid of gravel or dirt roads which are maintained by the municipalities.

2.4.2 Railways

Both the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways service the Study Area. The Canadian National Railway lies in a north-west to south-east alignment through the RMs of Portage la Prairie and Cartier. The Canadian Pacific Railway passes through the RM of Rosser in a north-west to south-east alignment (see Figure 2-3).

D83P Transmission Project

Infrastructure

- Converter Station
- Transformer Station
- Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Antenna Site
- Broadcast Antenna Site

Mining

- Quarry Drill Hole
- Oil and Gas Pipeline
- Park

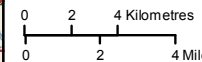
Transportation

- Runway
- Tower

Landbase

- Study Area
- Community
- Trans Canada Highway
- Provincial Road
- Railway
- Watercourse
- Waterbody

Coordinate System: UTM Zone 14N NAD83
 Data Source: MBHydro, ProvMB, NRCAN
 Date Created: January 31, 2012



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Infrastructure, Mining, and Transportation

Draft: For Discussion Purposes Only

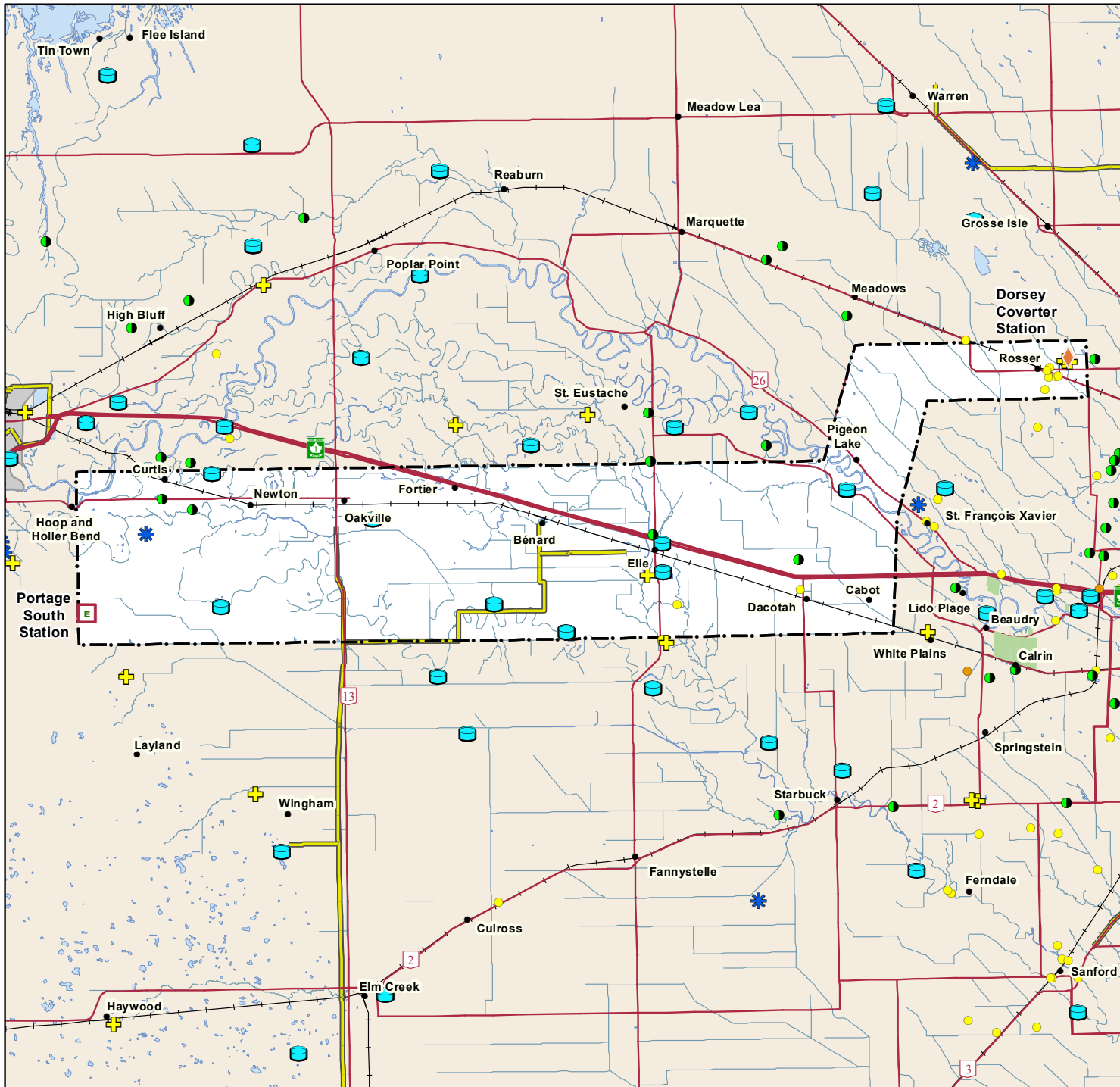


Figure 2-3

2.4.3 Transmission and Distribution Lines

Six transmission lines converge at the Dorsey Station in the RM of Rosser, in the north-easternmost portion of the Study Area: one 500 kV line, four 230 kV lines and one 138 kV line. Five of these transmission lines extend less than 2 km into the Study Area. One of the 230 kV transmission lines (D12P) spans almost the entire east-west length of the Study Area from the Dorsey Converter Station to the Portage South Station.

There are six electrical sub-stations within the Study Area. Two stations lie within the RM of Portage la Prairie, including the Portage South Station. Three electrical stations lie within the RM of Cartier. One electrical station, the Dorsey Station, lies within the RM of Rosser. Figure 2-4 provides a map of transmission and distribution lines in the Study Area.

D83P Transmission Project

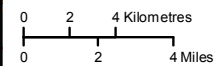
Infrastructure

- Converter Station
- Transformer Station
- Transmission Line
- Centra Gas Line Main
- Distribution and Sub Transmission Network
- Electrical Station
- Communication Tower

Landbase

- Study Area
- Community
- Trans Canada Highway
- Provincial Road
- Railway
- Watercourse
- Waterbody
- City / Town

Coordinate System: UTM Zone 14N NAD83
 Data Source: MBHydro, ProvMB, NRCCAN
 Date Created: January 31, 2012



Manitoba Hydro Infrastructure

Draft: For Discussion Purposes Only

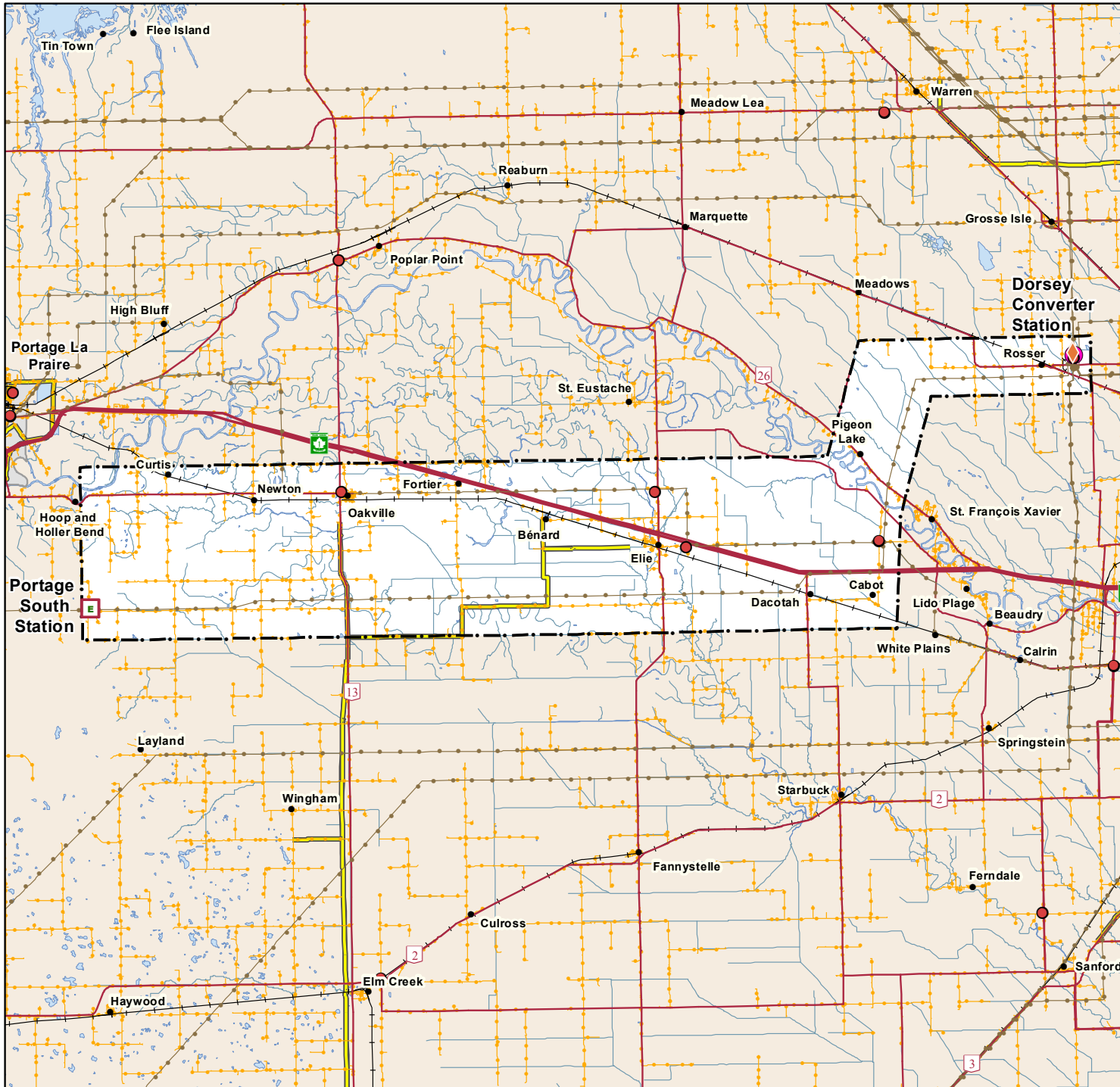


Figure 2-4

2.4.4 Oil and Gas Pipelines

There is a Centra Gas line located in the central region of the Study Area south of Benard (see Figure 2-3). There are no oil pipelines located in the Study Area.

2.4.5 Airports/Aerodromes

There is a runway located just outside of the eastern edge of the Study Area within the RM of St. Francois Xavier. There is also one runway located in the western portion of the Study Area (see Figure 2-3). Characteristics and patterns of usage have not been determined. Southport Aerospace Centre Inc. is located just northeast of the western edge of the Study Area.

2.4.6 Communication Facilities

There are several distinct types of communications facilities found throughout the Study Area. These are maintained by telephone/communication companies, broadcast companies and radio stations and corporations, the Government of Canada, Provincial and municipal governments and utility companies. There are eight antenna sites (see Figure 2-3). These sites are all in the easternmost portion of the Study Area in the RM of Rosser. There is also a communication tower located east of Rosser.

2.4.7 Water and Sewer Services

The northern, central and western regions of the RM of Portage la Prairie are served by the City of Portage la Prairie's Albert R. Barrett water treatment plant. Other residents of the RM are serviced by the Cartier Regional Water Treatment Plant (City of Portage la Prairie 2010). There are three wastewater facilities in the RM of Portage la Prairie that lie within the Study Area (see Figure 2-3).

The Cartier Regional Water Co-op Inc. (CRWCI) is located just north of St. Eustache. It is jointly owned by the RMs of Cartier, Grey, Headingly, Portage la Prairie, Rockwood, Rosser, and St. Francois Xavier. Water from the plant is treated and distributed to several distribution plants within the RM of Cartier (Rural Municipality of Cartier 2011d). Water and sewer infrastructure in the RM of Cartier includes sewage lagoons in both the communities of Springstein and Elie (Rural Municipality of Cartier 2011a). In total, there are four wastewater facilities in the RM of Cartier that lie within the Study Area (see Figure 2-3).

2.4.8 Landfills

There is one landfill located in the Study Area. The RM of Cartier landfill site is located on Dugas Siding Road (Road 10 W.), approximately 3 miles east of Elie and one mile south of Highway #1 (Rural Municipality of Cartier 2011a).

2.4.9 Population

Table 2-2 provides a summary of the 2001 and 2006 populations for each of the four RMs located in the Study Area, as well as the total population of those four RMs combined. From 2001 to 2006, the RMs of

Cartier and St. Francois Xavier show some growth in population and the RM of Rosser shows a reduction in population.

Figures 2-6 through 2-9 provide visual representations of the age and gender distributions for 2006 for each of the four RMs that are overlapped by the Study Area. The age distributions for all four RMs in 2006 are similar, with relatively large proportions of the population in the forty to fifty age groups and smaller proportions of the population in the 25 – 29 age group.

Table 2-2: Total Population for the Study Area Rural Municipalities (RMs) for 2001 and 2006

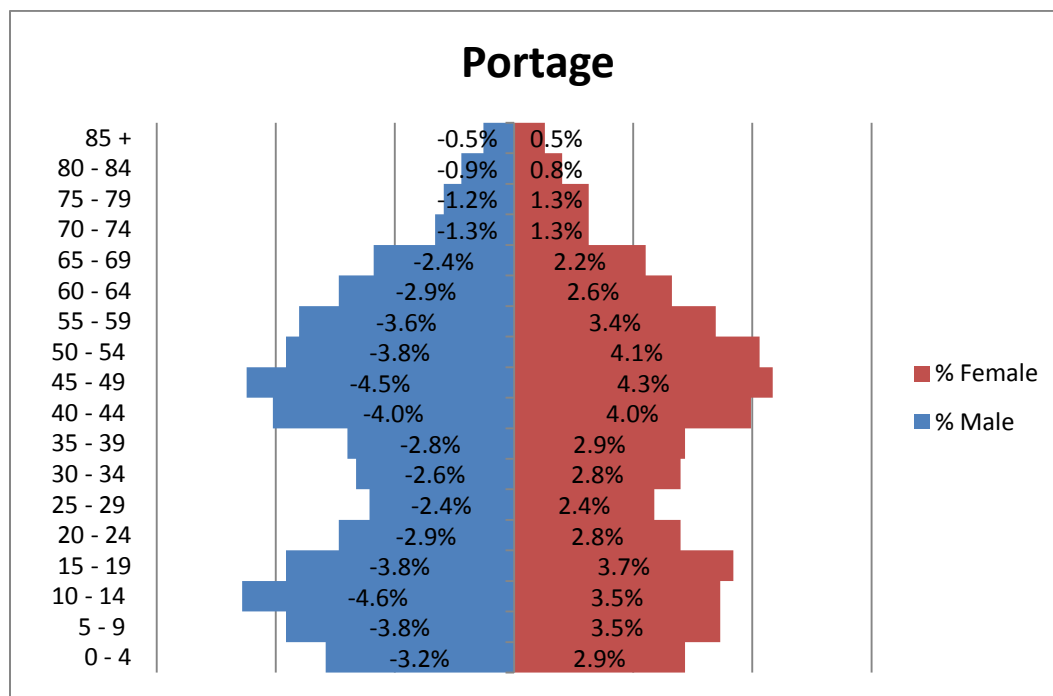
Year	RM of Portage la Prairie		RM of Cartier		RM of St. Francois Xavier		RM of Rosser		Total of all RMs	
	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006
Total Population^{1,2,3}	6,790	6,790	3,120	3,165	1,025	1,085	1,410	1,360	12,345	12,400

Source: Statistics Canada 2002; Statistics Canada 2007.

Notes:

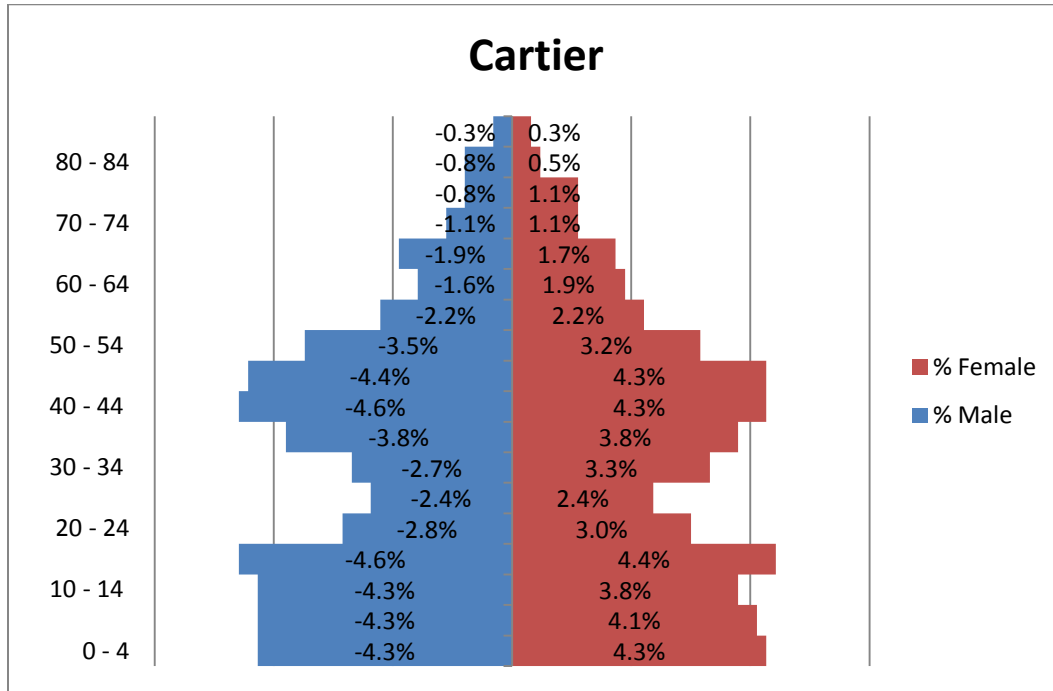
1. The 2001 and 2006 population data consists of 100% of the census population.
2. The 2001 and 2006 Census population is subject to random rounding; population totals and individual cells are rounded.
3. Total populations were calculated by InterGroup Consultants.

Figure 2-5: Population Distribution of Portage la Prairie (RM) by Age and Gender - 2006



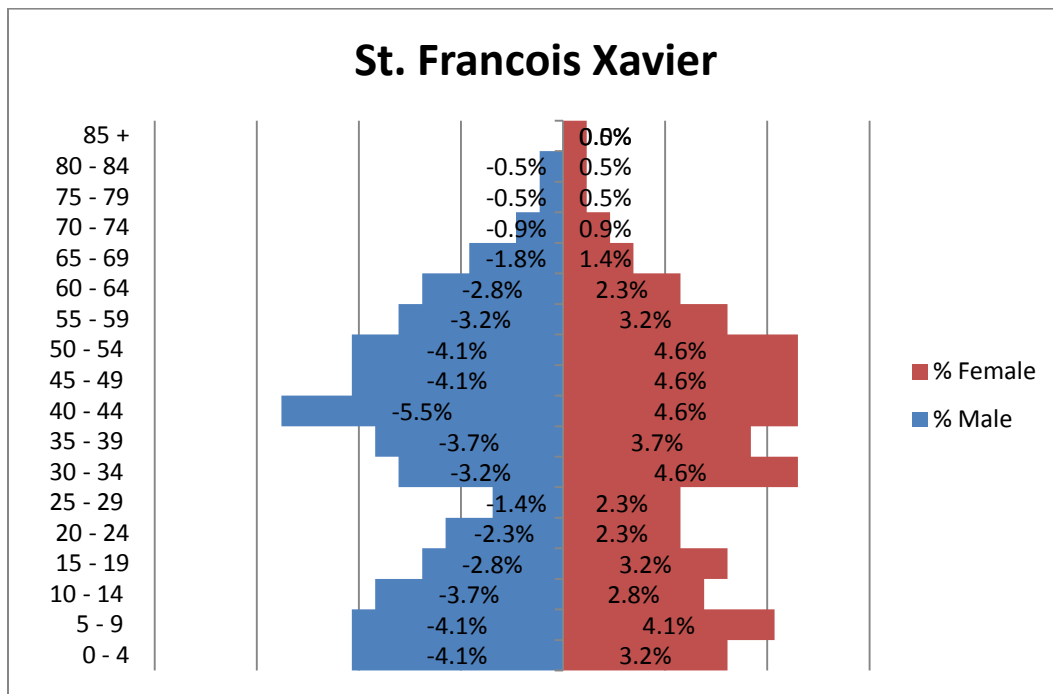
Source: Statistics Canada 2007.

Figure 2-6: Population Distribution of Cartier (RM) by Age and Gender - 2006



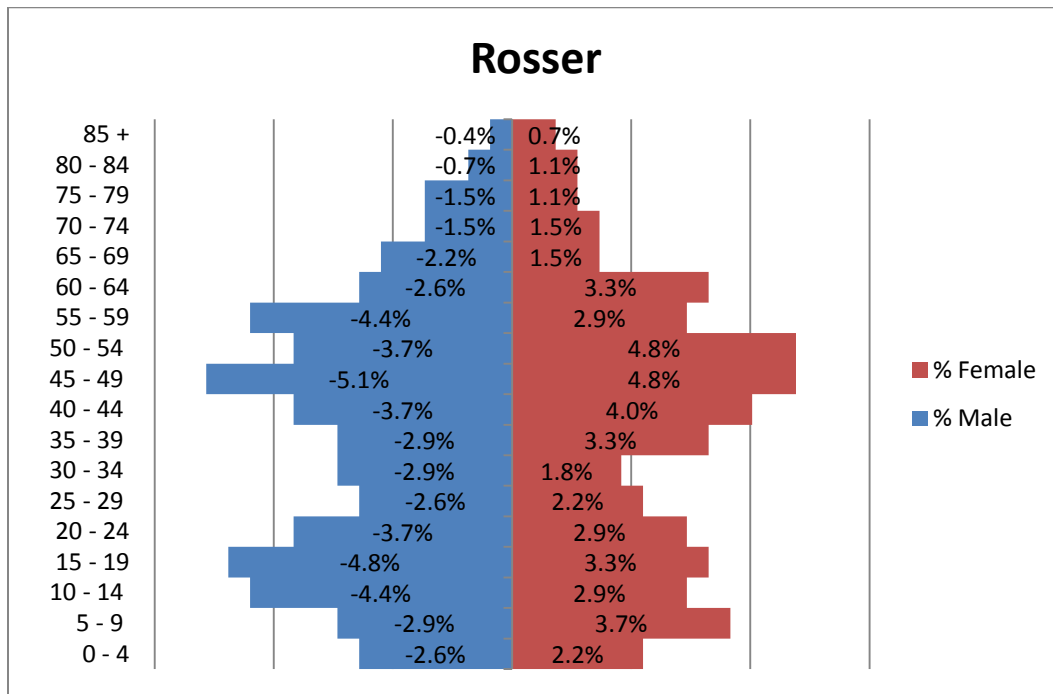
Source: Statistics Canada 2007.

Figure 2-7: Population Distribution of St. Francois Xavier (RM) by Age and Gender – 2006



Source: Statistics Canada 2007.

Figure 2-8: Population Distribution of Rosser (RM) by Age and Gender - 2006



Source: Statistics Canada 2007.

2.4.10 Housing

Table 2-3 provides information on housing characteristics in 2006 for each of the four RMs overlapped by the Study Area. This information relates to the total number of occupied private dwellings, the average number of rooms per dwelling, and major repairs.

Table 2-3: Housing Structure Characteristics for Study Area Rural Municipalities (RMs) for 2006

Housing Structure Characteristics ^{2,4}	RM of Portage la Prairie	RM of Cartier	RM of St. Francois Xavier	RM of Rosser
Total number of occupied private dwellings ^{1,3}	2,185	765	385	450
Average number of rooms per dwelling	7.0	7.2	7.8	7.1
Major repairs	270	60	25	55

Source: Statistics Canada 2002; Statistics Canada 2007.

Notes:

1. Total number of occupied private dwellings is based on a 20% sample for all Census years.
2. Data is rounded using a random rounding procedure, which may result in the reported count having been rounded by 5, or occasionally, 10.
3. A private dwelling is an enclosed shelter, protecting the permanent occupant(s) from the elements, with a source of heat or power. The 1991 Census dictionary also stipulates that the dwelling have a source of water. The private dwelling must have its own private entrance or a shared entrance connected directly to the outside or from a common hall, lobby, vestibule or stairway, which does not pass through the occupants' living quarters.

2.5 OTHER LAND AND RESOURCE USE

2.5.1 Woodlots

Manitoba Conservation is responsible for delineating forest management sections, management units, and integrated wood supply areas within Manitoba. The department also issues forest management licenses which provide industrial forestry operations with a reliable source of timber. There are no forestry management licenses issued for areas within the Study Area (Manitoba Conservation & Water Stewardship NDa). Forestry on crown land in the area is thus limited to personal use timber permits, which allow individuals to harvest up to 10 cords of timber from certain crown lands under to the condition that is it used solely by the permit holder (Manitoba Conservation & Water Stewardship NDb). There are no Provincial Forests in the Study Area.

Landowners in the Study Area may privately manage their own woodlots with the help of several different programs (Manitoba Forestry Association 2012a). The Manitoba Forestry Association is a non-government education organization aimed at promoting good stewardship of forests. The association provides woodlot program evaluation, which can help landowners better manage private woodlots (Manitoba Forestry Association 2012b). Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives has an Agro Woodlot Program which provides knowledge and advice to participants to carry out sustainable woodlot management (MAFRI ND). There may be some privately managed woodlots in the Study Area.

2.5.2 Recreation and Tourism

A variety of outdoor recreation activities take place in the Study Area. This section describes some of the major outdoor recreational land and resource use activities.

2.5.2.1 Hunting and Fishing

Manitoba hunters have hunting opportunities available on millions of hectares of wildlife management areas (WMAs), provincial forests, some provincial parks, and other undesignated Crown lands (Manitoba Conservation & Water Stewardship NDc). Hunting is strictly a rural pursuit and is regulated by Manitoba Conservation. The types of game commonly hunted in the area include white-tail deer, waterfowl, and upland birds. Treaty Indians are not subject to the same hunting regulations for seasons and limits, but must respect trespassing laws associated with the use of private property for hunting (Manitoba Conservation & Water Stewardship NDd).

The Assiniboine River, which the Study Area crosses, is home to nine major types of game fish and the fishing season is open for most of the year except during spawning, when it is closed from April 1 to May 13. Fisheries are regulated, monitored, and managed by Manitoba Water Stewardship (Manitoba Water Stewardship 2011). According to the 2005 survey of recreational angling, 51% of fish caught in Manitoba walleye, 27% were northern pike, and 9% were perch (Manitoba Water Stewardship 2005). There is no species catch rate data collected for the Assiniboine River at Portage la Prairie.

2.5.2.2 Snowmobiling and Skiing

Snowmobilers of Manitoba Inc. (Snoman) develops and maintains a network of snowmobiling trails with the help of local clubs with the goal of promoting organized, safe, and environmentally responsible snowmobiling (Snoman 2012). According to the Snoman map for the 2011 trail system, there are trails that run through the Study Area in an east-west orientation along the south side of the Trans Canada Highway #1 from approximately Beaudry Provincial Park to Elie. The trails in this area are maintained by the Cross Country Snow Drifters (Snoman 2011). There is another snowmobile trail that crosses the Study Area in a north-south orientation through Elie (see Figure 2-2).

2.5.3 Aggregates

The ownership of mineral rights is determined by the title of ownership of the land. During land ownership transfers, rights can be retained by the seller, transferred to the buyer, or split in a variety of ways. Although there are many ways in which rights can be divided, the general sets of rights in a title are surface rights, sand and gravel rights, and mineral under-rights. In most cases, if the title of the land was issued before 1890, the purchaser gained all rights with only some exceptions. If the title was issued between 1890 and 1930 the mineral under-rights went to the Canadian Government, but sand and gravel went to the purchaser unless specified otherwise in the Study Area of the title. If the title was transferred after 1930, surface rights alone went to the purchaser, with all others going to the crown, which had become the province (La Salle Redboine Conservation District 2007).

The Portage la Prairie Planning District's Development Plan contains mineral resources policies that protect these resources from incompatible uses (Lombard North Group 2008).

The White Horse Plains Planning District (WHPPD) Development Plan states its objectives regarding mineral resources, including known sand and gravel deposits, as protecting from conflicting land uses which may prevent the economic extraction of minerals. Further, these lands are to be rehabilitated in accordance with applicable government regulations (White Horse Plains Planning District 2010).

The South Interlake Planning District (SIPD) Development Plan By-Law states its aggregate mineral policies to be in concert with those of the Province and reflect the importance of these resources to the economic well-being of the District, as well as to the overall construction industry in the Winnipeg region (South Interlake Planning District 2010).

There are several quarry drill-hole locations within the Study Area (see Figure 2-3).

2.5.4 Future Development

There is also potential future development in proximity to the Project: namely, the Dakota Wind Energy (DWE) project. A proposal to develop this was filed in 2006 by Sequoia Energy Inc. The project description includes installation of between 35 and 70 wind-turbine-generators, approximately 29 km of road access, one collector substation, an interconnecting transmission line from an existing Manitoba Hydro transmission line to Manitoba Hydro substation, and an operations and maintenance building. Although specific locations for the turbines are not yet known, the DWE study area overlaps with the Dorsey-Portage Final Preferred Route between the towns of Dacotah and Elie as well as to the south of that area.

3.0 ECONOMY

3.1 EMPLOYMENT

This section provides information on the employment and labour force characteristics of communities in the Study Area. Additional information for the province of Manitoba is provided where appropriate.

Statistics Canada uses the following indicators to describe the labour force:

- **Potential Labour Force:** The number of people aged 15 years and over on Census Day. It is often described as a percentage of the total population.
- **Active Labour Force:** The number of people in the potential labour force who were either employed or unemployed and looking for work in the week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day. Typically, Statistics Canada does not consider the following persons as part of the active labour force: full-time students, homemakers, retired workers, seasonal workers in an 'off-season' who are not looking for work, as well as individuals with disabilities or illnesses that preclude them from being able to work.
- **Participation Rate:** The labour force in the week prior to Census Day, expressed as a percentage of the potential labour force (i.e., population 15 years of age and over).
- **Employment Rate:** The number of persons employed in the week prior to Census Day, expressed as a percentage of the potential labour force (i.e., population 15 years and over).
- **Unemployment Rate:** The percentage of persons in the labour force that are not employed, in the week prior to Census Day.

Table 3-1 provides details on each of these indicators for communities in the Study Area and comparisons to the province of Manitoba.

Table 3-1: Employment, Participation and Unemployment in the Labour Force for the RMs, RM Totals, and Manitoba (2001, 2006)

Labour Force Characteristics ^{1,2,3}	2001					
	Portage la Prairie (RM)	Cartier (RM)	St. Francois Xavier (RM)	Rosser (RM)	RM Totals	Manitoba
Total population 15 years and over by labour force activity⁴	5,210	2,250	800	1,105	9,365	869,315
In the labour force ⁴	3,725	1,600	635	805	6,765	585,420
Employed ⁵	3,590	1,545	580	765	6,480	549,990
Unemployed ⁶	135	50	55	40	280	35,430
Not in the labour force ⁷	1,480	655	160	300	2,595	283,895
Participation rate ⁸	71.5%	71.1%	79.4%	72.9%	73.7%	67.3%
Employment rate ⁹	68.9%	68.7%	72.5%	69.2%	69.8%	63.3%
Unemployment rate ¹⁰	3.6%	3.1%	8.7%	5.07%	5.1%	6.1%
Labour Force Characteristics ^{1,2,3}	2006					
	Portage la Prairie (RM)	Cartier (RM)	St. Francois Xavier (RM)	Rosser (RM)	Total of all RMs	Manitoba
Total population 15 years and over by labour force activity⁴	5,340	2,345	840	1,095	9,620	908,450
In the labour force ⁴	3,885	1,780	695	855	7,215	611,280
Employed ⁵	3,795	1,720	680	835	7,030	577,710
Unemployed ⁶	95	60	10	20	185	33,575
Not in the labour force ⁷	1,455	565	140	245	2,405	297,170
Participation rate ⁸	72.8%	75.9%	82.7%	78.1%	77.4%	67.3%
Employment rate ⁹	71.1%	73.3%	81%	76.3%	75.4%	63.6%
Unemployment rate ¹⁰	2.4%	3.4%	1.4%	2.3%	2.4%	5.5%

Source: Statistics Canada 2002; Statistics Canada 2007.

Notes:

1. 'In the labour force' refers to persons who were either employed or unemployed during the week prior to the Census Day. Enumeration occurred June 4, in 1991 Census, May 15 for 2001 Census and May 16th, for 2006 Census.
 2. Labour force characteristics for the 2001 and 2006 Census derived from 20% sample data.
 3. The figures shown in the tables have been subjected to a confidentiality procedure known as random rounding whereby values are rounded either up or down to a multiple of '5', and in some cases '10'.
 4. In 2006, full-time and part-time students were not differentiated, and all students, either in elementary or secondary school who were not 'Employed', were classified as 'Not available for work'. Full-time and part-time students were differentiated in the 2001 Census year, and since 1991 "persons on lay-off or with a new job to start or who looked for full-time work in the past 4 weeks and were in full-time attendance at elementary or secondary school were considered unavailable for work, and therefore, not in the labour force" (Source: Statistics Canada Appendix E Comparability of labour force activity data with those of previous censuses (1971 to 2006) and with the Labour Force Survey).
 5. Employed refers to persons 15 years and over, excluding institutional residents who, during the week prior to Census Day: "a) did any work at all for pay or in self-employment or without pay in a family farm, business or professional practice; or, were absent from their jobs or business, with or without pay, for the entire week because of vacation, an illness, a labour dispute at their place of work, or any other reasons." (Source: 2006 Census Dictionary).
 6. "Unemployed refers to persons who, during the week prior to census day, were without paid work or without self-employment work and were available for work and either:
a) had actively looked for paid work in the past four weeks; or b) were on temporary lay-off and expected to return to their job; or c) had definite arrangements to start a new job in four weeks or less" (Source: 2006 Census Dictionary).
 7. "Not in the labour force refers to persons who, in the week prior to Census Day, were neither employed nor unemployed. It includes students, homemakers, retired workers, seasonal workers in an 'off' season who were not looking for work, and persons who could not work because of a long-term illness or disability." (Source: 2006 Census Dictionary).
 8. The Participation Rate refers to the number of people in the labour force in the week prior to Census Day, as a percentage of the population 15 years and over, excluding institutional residents.
 9. The Employment Rate refers to the number of people employed in the week prior to Census Day as a percentage of the total population 15 years and over, excluding institutional residents.
 10. The Unemployment Rate refers to the number of people unemployed in the week prior to Census Day expressed as a percentage of the labour force.
-

3.2 BUSINESS

Commercial and industrial activities in the RM of Portage la Prairie are primarily related to agriculture, the agriculture service industry, and the food processing industry. There is also activity in the transportation and shipping, retail, wholesale, health services, and restaurants/accommodations sectors.

A large proportion of Cartier's residents either farm or are employed in related agricultural businesses or service industries. Local businesses include two grain elevators (both in Elie), two farm implement dealers, two seed plants and two farm equipment supply and fertilizer dealers (Regional Health Authority Central Manitoba Inc 2009).

Commercial and industrial activities in the RM of St. Francois Xavier are primarily related to agriculture, including a variety of different grain, seed, and livestock operations. As well, the village of St. Francois Xavier and surrounding area provide a range of retail outlets, services, and small industries including construction, electrical, plumbing, heating, refrigeration, mechanical repairs, roofing, landscaping and yard maintenance, financial and estate planning, clerical services, carpet cleaning & janitorial, and hairdressing. Industries include auto parts recycling, pellet fuel manufacturing, and manufacturers of GO-4 vehicles (Rural Municipality of St. Francois Xavier Ndf).

In the RM of Rosser, there are a number of businesses and services. Prominent employers in the region include the BFI disposal grounds, Bel Acres Golf and Country Club, Maxim Transport and Collision Centre, Manitoba Hydro, and Player's golf course. Because of its unique location, Rosser is home to many trucking trailer services and terminals. The RM of Rosser also has a very strong agricultural presence, with many residents employed as farmers or in agricultural businesses such as grain elevators, seed plant cleaners, and farm equipment suppliers and dealers (RM of Rosser 2011).

3.2.1 Employment by Sector and Occupation

Table 3-2 outlines employment by key occupational industries for the RMs within the Study Area for 2001 and 2006. Data for province of Manitoba is also provided for comparison.

In 2006, the top two categories of occupations in the RMs of Portage la Prairie Cartier, and Rosser were within occupations unique to primary industry and also within sales and service occupations. In the RM of St. Francois Xavier the top two categories were trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations and in business, finance and administrative occupations.

Table 3-2: Distribution of Occupation Classifications for the Study Area Rural Municipalities, Rural Municipality Totals, and Manitoba (2001)

Occupation Classification ^{1,2,3,6}	2001					
	Portage la Prairie (RM)	Cartier (RM)	St. Francois Xavier (RM)	Rosser (RM)	Total of all RMs	Manitoba
All occupations⁵	3,700	1,600	625	795	6,720	577,345
Occupation - Not applicable ⁴	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Management occupations	5%	5%	15%	8%	7%	9%
Business, finance and administration occupations	11%	11%	15%	18%	12%	18%
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	2%	3%	7%	7%	3%	5%
Health occupations	9%	4%	6%	6%	7%	6%
Occupations in social science, education, government service and religion	5%	5%	5%	3%	5%	8%
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Sales and service occupations	20%	18%	27%	16%	20%	24%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	16%	13%	12%	11%	14%	15%
Occupations unique to primary industry	27%	36%	8%	26%	27%	7%
Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	3%	6%	2%	4%	4%	6%

Occupation Classification ^{1,2,3,6}	2006					Total of all RMs	Manitoba
	Portage la Prairie (RM)	Cartier (RM)	St. Francois Xavier (RM)	Rosser (RM)			
All occupations⁵	3,875	1,780	695	855	7,205	602,150	
Occupation - Not applicable ⁴	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	
Management occupations	7%	8%	9%	8%	7%	9%	
Business, finance and administration occupations	13%	9%	18%	12%	13%	17%	
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	2%	4%	6%	6%	3%	5%	
Health occupations	7%	4%	6%	4%	6%	7%	
Occupations in social science, education, government service and religion	6%	4%	6%	6%	6%	9%	
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%	2%	
Sales and service occupations	19%	18%	17%	17%	18%	25%	
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	17%	16%	18%	16	17%	15%	
Occupations unique to primary industry	22%	33%	12%	23%	24%	6%	
Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	4%	3%	6%	5%	4%	5%	

Source: Statistics Canada 2002; Statistics Canada 2007.

Notes:

1. Statistics Canada currently uses the National Occupational Classification for Statistics 2006 – NOC-S 2006. The National Occupational Classification identifies jobs by type; and people's descriptions of their work are coded.
 2. Two different data sets were used for the table: 2001 (2001 National Occupational Classification for Statistics [NOC-S 2001]), and 2006 (National Occupational Classification for Statistics 2006 [NOC-S 2006]). Occupation categories are the same for the 2001 and 2006 data set, with a few minor updates in the 2006 Census which reflect emerging job descriptions and titles. Statistics Canada has provided the Occupation (historical) variable in the 2001 and 2006 Census to allow for direct comparison with the 1991 and 1996 Census years.
 3. The 2001 and 2006 Census data on education is based on a 20% sample data. However, on Indian reserves and in remote areas, the attempt was made to collect data from 100% of the population.
 4. Refers to Unemployed persons 15 years and over who have never worked for pay or in self-employment or who had last worked prior to January 1, 2005, (2006 Census), and January 1, 2000 (2001 Census).
 5. Refers to the experienced labour force population: includes persons who were employed and persons who were unemployed who worked for pay or in self-employment since January 1, 2005 (2006 Census), and January 1, 2000 (2001 Census).
 6. The figures shown in the table have been subjected to random rounding to a multiple of "5" and in some cases "10".
-

4.0 COMMUNITY SERVICES

4.1 EMERGENCY SERVICES

4.1.1 Fire Services

The RM of Portage la Prairie emergency fire services consists of a fire chief and deputy chief, as well as 16 full-time members and 25 part-time fire fighters. The department provides services to both the City and the RM and serves an area of approximately 850 square miles (Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie NDb; City of Portage la Prairie 2011).

The RM of Cartier Fire Department provides emergency fire services and consists of a team of paid on-call firefighters as well as a fully equipped fleet of emergency vehicles. The department operates out of one fire-hall centrally located in Elie (Rural Municipality of Cartier 2011c).

The RM of St. Francois Xavier Volunteer Fire Department provides emergency fire services to the RM (Rural Municipality of St. Francois Xavier NDd).

The RM of Rosser provides emergency fire services to the RM. This service consists of a fire chief, deputy chief, and volunteer firefighters (Rural Municipality of Rosser 2007).

4.1.2 Ambulance Services

The RM of Portage la Prairie is served by the Central Region Emergency Medical Services. The service is staffed with full-time, part-time and casual paramedics. These are aided by first responders in the community (Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie NDb).

The RM of Cartier has an ambulance service located in Elie. This station provides ambulance service to its RM as well as to the residents of the RM of St. Francois Xavier. In the event that this ambulance is unavailable, ambulance service can be provided to the RMs by any of the 13 other ambulances in the RHA (Central). In effect, this RHA operates as a single service within its boundaries. As well, depending on the location of where ambulance service is required, ambulance coverage may come from the IRHA: this occurs under an arrangement of mutual aid existing between RHAs (C. Debreuil, personal communication).

The RM of Rosser is provided ambulance service by Stonewall & District Ambulance located in the RM of Rockwood (Interlake Regional Health Authority, personal communication).

4.1.3 Police Services

The Portage la Prairie RCMP detachment serves the City of Portage la Prairie, the RM of Portage la Prairie and North Norfolk, as well as the three First Nation communities in the Study Area. The detachment consists of 39 regular members for the City of Portage la Prairie and 13 members in the rural component of the detachment. Within the Rural Municipalities, Portage la Prairie Detachment also provides policing service to the communities of Oakville, St. Ambroise, Delta Beach, High Bluff, Oakland, MacDonald,

Poplar Point, MacGregor, Austin, Sydney and twelve Hutterite colonies, as well as the towns of Amaranth and Treherne (RCMP 2011a).

The RMs of Cartier and St. Francois Xavier are provided police services by the Headingly RCMP Detachment which is responsible for providing policing services in five RMs located along the south and west sides of the City of Winnipeg and covering approximately 5,374 km² (2,075 square miles). In addition to small communities such as La Salle, Oak Bluff, Sanford, Elie, Headingley, St. Francois-Xavier, Starbuck, and St. Eustache, the area hosts numerous residential subdivisions. The Headingly Correctional Institute is also located within the detachment area (RCMP 2011b).

The RM of Rosser falls within the East Interlake RCMP Detachment which covers the area situated north of Winnipeg, between Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba. It encompasses approximately 7,750 square km with a population of approximately 35,000 people. There are five major highways that travel through the area. The Area runs from the northern limits of Winnipeg to Matheson Island. The East Interlake Detachment includes within it four detachments, one of which is the Stonewall Detachment which is a 25 minute drive from Winnipeg and located in the East Interlake Area (RCMP 2011c).

4.2 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

There are two RHAs providing health services in the Study Area. The Regional Health Authority of Central Manitoba ("RHA Central") covers an area in south-central Manitoba of 17,025 km² and had a population of 107,668 in 2010 (Manitoba Health 2010). In this RHA, infant mortality is 6.1 (per 1,000 live births of children under 1 year of age), life expectancy at birth (in years) is 80.6, and life expectancy at age 65 is 20.4 years (Statistics Canada 2011). This RHA serves the RMs of Portage la Prairie, Cartier, and St. Francois Xavier (Regional Health Authority Central Manitoba Inc. ND).

The Interlake RHA serves the RM of Rosser. It has four administrative areas that together encompass approximately 26,000 km², reaching from the RM of Rosser at the north perimeter highway of the City of Winnipeg up to the 53rd parallel and stretching between Lake Manitoba on the west and Lake Winnipeg on the east. Interlake RHA staff provide a full continuum of care to a population of 78,815 (Manitoba Health 2010). In this RHA, infant mortality is 5.1 (per 1,000 live births of children under 1 year of age), life expectancy at birth (in years) is 78.7 and life expectancy at age 65 is 18.6 years (Statistics Canada 2011). Programs and services include hospital and long term care, home care, public health and other community-based programs (Interlake Regional Health Authority 2010).

4.2.1 Health and Social Services

4.2.1.1 Health Care Services and Programs

The RM of Portage la Prairie is served by the Portage District General Hospital. This is located in the City of Portage la Prairie and is the primary health centre for the RM of Portage. It is an 89-bed acute care facility that provides full surgical, laboratory and diagnostic imaging services as well as rehabilitation, chemotherapy, dialysis, obstetrics and palliative care. As well, Portage la Prairie provides both a walk-in clinic as well as a full service clinic. It has two personal care homes as well as home care, mental health and public health programs. A variety of dental services are available through local dentists and orthodontists. There are a variety of eye care facilities in the city as well. The RM of Portage is served by

the Central Region Emergency Medical Services. The service is staffed with full-time, part-time and casual paramedics. These are aided by first responders in the community (Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie NDb).

In the RM of Cartier, the Cartier Health Centre provides public health service and the Elie Medical Clinic provides private health service. Both are located in the town of Elie. There is no hospital or mental health office or facility located in the RM of Cartier. However, residents of this RM have access to such facilities outside the RM (C. Debreuil, personal communication).

In the RM of St. Francois Xavier, some health services are provided by facilities located outside the RM. For instance, for residents located at the east end of the RM, the closest hospital is the Grace Hospital in Winnipeg. For residents located at the west end of the RM, the closest hospital facility is the Portage District General Hospital in Portage la Prairie. Medical clinics are located in nearby communities of Elie, Headingly and Winnipeg (Rural Municipality of St. Francois Xavier NDe).

The RM of Rosser does not provide any health facilities. For hospital or medical clinic service, RM residents attend facilities located either in the City of Winnipeg or in Stonewall (Interlake Regional Health Authority, personal communication).

5.0 PERSONAL, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LIFE

This section describes personal, family and community life, primarily in the Study Area. Some information is also provided for the province of Manitoba. Key elements of personal, family and community life include culture/way of life and aesthetics.

5.1 CULTURE / WAY OF LIFE

The Study Area includes several small communities and rural areas where agriculture is the predominant setting. Changes to the agriculture sector affect the way of life for many people in the Study Area. In particular, traditional family farms have undergone changes in recent years. There has been a trend toward farm consolidation into large properties, as well as agricultural diversification and livestock development (Lombard North Group 2008).

5.2 AESTHETICS

The Study Area consists primarily of agricultural properties interspersed by rural residences. The land is flat with some trees. Woodland cover is sparse through most of the Study Area with occasional small woodlots and shrub patches as well as planted hedgerows and shelter belts. Hedgerows and shelter belts are typically found around isolated farms and residential properties. Areas of mixed woodland are also present along the margins of the Assiniboine River, La Salle River and other waterways in the Study Area. Various communication towers, hydroelectric transmission and distribution lines are visible throughout the Study Area.

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