



Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission 2009/10

June 24, 2010

Electoral Boundaries Commission releases final report

Edmonton- The final report recommending the areas, boundaries and names of 87 electoral divisions for Alberta has now been released by Alberta's Electoral Boundaries Commission. Commission Chair Judge Ernest Walter said: "The task of recommending the electoral divisions has not been an easy one. We have spent many hours over the past 11 months drawing and redrawing boundaries to determine the best way to ensure effective representation for all Albertans."

The commission had released an interim report on February 24, 2010, and requested feedback on the proposed divisions. Following that request, the commission received over 500 written submissions and heard 117 presentations from individuals and groups.

Considering the submissions and taking into account available population information and factors affecting effective representation, the majority of the commission decided to maintain the allocation of divisions proposed in its interim report, allowing for the following increases:

- Calgary by two additional divisions
- Edmonton by one, and
- the rest of Alberta by one

Using the 2009 official population list, the total population considered by the commission is 3,556,583. Based on this number, electoral divisions will have an average population, or quotient, of 40,880.

In the proposed electoral division population and variance data, population may be significantly above the quotient. Judge Walter explains, "In many cases populations significantly above the quotient are the result of the feedback informing the commission that maintaining communities of interest, including the decision not to split residential communities, is more important than having a population closer to the quotient."

Two proposed special divisions, Dunvegan-Central Peace and Lesser Slave Lake, are recognized. Dunvegan-Central Peace meets all five criteria for a special division, and Lesser Slave Lake meets four of the five criteria.

The commission advises that if the population growth pattern of the past 20 years continues, by far the most significant issue for future Electoral Boundaries Commissions will be the effect of the concentration of population in the Calgary-Edmonton corridor and in the Grande Prairie and Wood Buffalo areas on the distribution of electoral divisions in the rest of the province.

To view the report and related maps, visit www.altaebc.ab.ca.

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