



# Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission 2009/10

August 27, 2009

## Electoral Boundaries Commission Seeks Public Input

**Edmonton-** Alberta's five-member Electoral Boundaries Commission has begun its task of ensuring that Albertans have effective provincial representation. Commission Chair Judge Ernest Walter notes: "I am pleased with the progress to date. This is a strong team and I believe that each member will make an important contribution to the commission's work. We are now being briefed on electoral law, demographics, political science and the roles of rural and urban MLAs."

The Alberta *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* was amended this year to add four more seats in the Legislative Assembly. "We have a different challenge from the previous three commissions who recommended revisions to the existing 83 electoral divisions in that we are recommending boundaries for 87 electoral divisions," says Walter.

To assist in meeting that challenge, the commission is seeking public input. An information brochure will be distributed to all Alberta households in the next week explaining the work of the commission and advertisements will appear in local newspapers outlining specific dates and times for public hearing locations. Individuals and groups are invited to provide suggestions and advice either in writing or by making a presentation at one of the public hearings held across Alberta from mid-September to early October.

The commission will review Alberta's constituency boundaries using federal census information. The 2006 census reported an Alberta population of 3,290,350 (to be adjusted to account for residents on Indian reserves who did not take part in the census). Walter comments: "Based on this number, electoral divisions will have an average population of 37,820. Currently the population per electoral division ranges from 23,649 in Dunvegan-Central Peace to 60,511 in Calgary-North West." A new provision allows the commission to use more recent population information in conjunction with the census information. "That should help us to accommodate high-growth areas in recommending constituency boundaries," adds Walter.

Electoral divisions are to be within 25 per cent of the provincial average population except that up to four constituencies may exceed that range where sparse population is spread over large areas.

The commission will present an interim report in February 2010 and a final report by July 2010. The new electoral map, once approved by the Legislative Assembly will be used for the next provincial election. "The commission's work," says Walter, "will be guided by the law, views shared at the public hearings, submissions we receive, and by common sense." For more information, visit [www.altaebc.ab.ca](http://www.altaebc.ab.ca).

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**BACKGROUND**

**FIRST ROUND OF PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULE**

Times and locations will be advertised in newspapers and on the website [www.altaebc.ab.ca](http://www.altaebc.ab.ca)

<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Wednesday, September 16, 2009	Fort McMurray
Thursday, September 17, 2009	St. Paul
Thursday, September 17, 2009	Wainwright
Tuesday, September 22, 2009	Edmonton
Wednesday, September 23, 2009	Edmonton
Thursday, September 24, 2009	Calgary
Friday, September 25, 2009	Calgary
Monday, October 5, 2009	Drumheller
Monday, October 5, 2009	Medicine Hat
Tuesday, October 6, 2009	Lethbridge
Wednesday, October 7, 2009	Grande Prairie
Wednesday, October 7, 2009	Peace River
Thursday, October 8, 2009	Slave Lake
Thursday, October 8, 2009	Westlock
Friday, October 9, 2009	Edson
Friday, October 9, 2009	Red Deer