



Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission 2009/10

February 24, 2010

Electoral Boundaries Commission releases interim report

Edmonton- Alberta's Electoral Boundaries Commission has released its interim report recommending the areas, boundaries and names of 87 electoral divisions for Alberta, four more than at present. Commission Chair Judge Ernest Walter notes, "The commission has found it both very interesting and challenging to weigh the concerns and relevant factors put before it during the preparation of this interim report."

Taking into account available population information and factors affecting effective representation, the majority of the commission concluded that the redistribution of the 87 divisions should allow for the following increases:

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

Walter explains: "Based on changes to population distribution since the last electoral boundaries review and projected growth, the commission's recommendation is to add two divisions in Calgary, one division in Edmonton, and one division in the Rest of Alberta. This would ensure effective representation across the province."

Using the 2009 official population list, the total population being considered by the commission is 3,556,583. Based on this number, electoral divisions will have an average population, or quotient, of 40,880. Electoral divisions are to be within +/- 25 per cent of the provincial average population with the exception that up to four constituencies may exceed that range where sparse population is spread over large areas. The commission recognized two proposed special divisions, Dunvegan-Central Peace and Lesser Slave Lake.

The Commission has attempted to limit the variations in the average population per division. Under the commission's recommendations the variation of the average population per electoral division from the quotient would range from +4.3% in Calgary to -2.8% in the Rest of Alberta.

Calgary: +4.3%
Edmonton: +0.7%
Rest of Alberta: -2.8%

The variation from the quotient of the proposed electoral divisions within the categories is:

	High	Low
Calgary	+16.5%	-9.9%
Edmonton	+7.8%	-10.0%
Rest of Alberta	+14.7%	-23.3%
Special	-29.5%	-39.1%

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The commission is seeking public input on the interim report. Walter notes, "We are very pleased with the large amount of public feedback received to date and encourage people to review the report

and give us their comments by April 2, 2010.” Based on this feedback, a second series of public hearings will be held, to be scheduled as required during the period April 12 to 30, 2010. The commission will receive comments on this report and will issue its final report in July.

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

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