

I am a participative voter here in Alberta. I vote based on the calibre of the individual candidate, and I do try and attend at least one public forum during election campaigns. I commend the work you are doing on behalf of Albertans.

My particular riding does not seem to match municipal neighbourhood boundaries for Clareview (it seems too "flat"), but I won't offer any further specific recommendation as I don't have the population statistics for my neighbourhood. Overall I would prefer that boundaries correspond to postal code districts. Demographic data is now readily available by postal code, so it should be much easier to evaluate and administer boundaries if they corresponded at least to postal code districts.

I have just finished reading the American President Obama's book, "The Audacity of Hope". He specifically mentions the importance of "nonpartisan districting" as a method to "increase the competitiveness of races and might spur more participation from the electorate - and the more the electorate is paying attention, the more integrity is rewarded." (p. 159, 160)

So again I commend you on your work and I encourage you to be brave in your choices. It is very unlikely that our province will vote in a different government due to the changes you are making, but it very may well rebalance our legislature with a larger opposition. Healthy opposition helps our government remain accountable. Healthy dialogue and debate may wake up our new generation of voters, who may not yet be convinced that their vote counts. Greater participation is good for everyone.