

Trevor Harper
[REDACTED]
Grande Prairie, Alberta
[REDACTED]

September 4, 2009

Honourable Judge Ernest J.M. Walter
Electoral Boundaries Commission
Suite 100, 11510 Kingsway Ave
Edmonton, Alberta
T5G 2Y5

Dear Honourable Judge Ernest J.M. Walter:

RE: Electoral Boundaries Review

I am writing to express my opinion and offer input regarding the proposed changes to the electoral boundaries in n Alberta.

I am opposed to adding 4 electoral divisions. I do not see the need to increase the number of constituencies because of the additional cost relating to salaries and associated expenses maintaining more constituencies. Presently, Albertans are asked to do more with less and government needs to demonstrate leadership in the same way.

My suggestion is to reduce the number of constituencies in Calgary and Edmonton and leave the electoral boundaries unchanged in the rest of Alberta. There are 23 constituencies in Calgary and 18 electoral boundaries in Edmonton. Reducing the number of constituencies in Calgary for example from 23 to 20 would result in an average of about 49,395 people per constituency. This number would be an increase of 30.6% above the average electoral population of 37,820.

Similarly in Edmonton, there are presently 18 electoral divisions with a range of people per constituency of 35,357 in Edmonton-Rutherford to 56,596 in Edmonton-Whitemud. Reducing the number of constituencies from 18 to 15 would result in an average of about 48,692 people per electoral division.

I believe the electoral boundaries can be changed in both Edmonton and Calgary decreasing the total number of electoral divisions by 6 and still effectively represent homogenous groups of Albertans while at the same time reducing the cost of government. This money could be used for deficit reduction.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer input in the process.

Sincerely,
Trevor Harper