

Submission to Electoral Boundaries Commission

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It is clear that Alberta's population distribution by electoral division is inequitable at present, with its cities being dramatically underrepresented as compared to the rural & small town divisions. This situation results in the urban citizen's vote being less significant than the rural citizen's.

Supporting this observation are several facts:

1. The average population of Calgary's electoral divisions is 43,398: 9% more than the present division average & Edmonton's is 40,725: 3% more than the average, whereas the average population of rural area & town divisions is 36,261: 9% less than the average.
2. 17 electoral divisions in Calgary & Edmonton have over 10% more than the average division population, whereas only 6 divisions in rural areas and towns have over 10% more than the average. At the same time, no electoral divisions in Calgary & Edmonton have over 10% less than the average division population, whereas 14 divisions in rural areas and towns have over 10% less than the average.
3. Calgary & Edmonton contain 8 of the 10 electoral divisions which exceed the 25% variance maximum, with Calgary containing 7 of the 10 divisions.

In the past, this unfair distribution has probably been justified by the difficulty in communicating with a sparse rural population versus a dense urban population. This should no longer be an issue, given the numerous methods available to communicate with the majority of the population.

I trust that the Commission will rectify this unfair situation when it reconfigures the electoral divisions by reducing the populations of the urban electoral divisions and increasing the populations of the rural and town electoral divisions.