

To the Electoral Boundaries Commission:

I disagree with the plan to increase the number of MLAs to 87.

Alberta

has fewer constituents per MLA than most other provinces in Canada, and there is a significant cost involved - which is a concern during

these tough economic times.

We constantly hear that people in far-flung but sparsely populated rural areas must have access to their MLAs. True. I understand and support the principle of minority rights. But we now have technology

such as email and even video conferencing that makes communication a

lot more feasible than it was in the past. Also, I am pretty sure that

increasing the expense budget for MLAs in this type of rural constituency would address this issue satisfactorily. And it would be

a lot cheaper than adding more seats to the house.

My second - and perhaps more important - concern is "rep by pop." We

live in the most urbanized province in the country. Of course, it has

a rural and agricultural background and culture - I recognize that since I grew up on an Alberta farm myself. But, as "Ralph" told us, "That was then and this is now." Why are we still talking about decreasing the size of rural constituencies and increasing the size of

urban ones? As a resident of Edmonton, I protest the fact that a vote

cast by someone else in Alberta has 25 or more times the clout that my

vote has.

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