

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009

I am in receipt of your flyer titled "Electoral Boundaries Commission". After reading and digesting the information contained therein, it is my considered opinion that we do not need 4 more electoral divisions and their attendant MLA's. It would make better fiscal sense for the Electoral Boundaries Commission to recommend to the Alberta Legislature that, if they re-draw the boundaries, they should do so in a manner as to reduce the number of constituencies.

I understand that Alberta law directs the EBC to review the existing electoral map of Alberta and to recommend changes to the Legislative Assembly but, with our current economic climate; I do not think the Alberta government should contemplate adding MLA's and increase the ongoing expense of government.

The number of MLA's should not be increased *until such time as those electoral divisions with an increase of population in excess of 25% show the same percentage increase at the next election ballot boxes - or the overall provincial average results in a turnout of 65%* (as stated in the September 13, 2009 letters to the Calgary Sun and used with permission of Mr. Orié Mandryk).

We are currently in a recession. Funding to Health Care and Education, in my opinion two very important areas, is being cut. Why then would we want to add the expense of 4 MLA's, their salaries, their expense accounts, their constituency offices, their accommodation when in Edmonton (if they don't live there) and other expenses that I am not aware of but am sure are there.

The front line health workers are expected to do more (if that is possible) with fewer people. It would appear the teachers will have larger classes (same thing, do more with less people). Why should MLA's have the luxury of adding to their numbers, they should also be expected to do more with less people?

I do not understand why, during this time of massive deficits, the government would consider adding MLA's. They are not reading the pulse of the electorate. I believe I speak for a lot of people; we do not want an increase in the size of government.

As it stands right now, Alberta has the highest number of MLA's per capita in Canada. There is not any need to add to the numbers, it would be better to reduce them.

The Premier and the Members of the Legislature need to be aware that even suggesting adding MLA's tells me the government is out of touch with the electorate. Are they not hearing the concern about cut backs in Health and Education? Why would they even think of increasing the ongoing cost of government at time such as this?

I trust you get my point - less MLA's not more.

I will be attending the meeting in Calgary on the evening of September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Mrs. Judy Johnson

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Calgary, Alberta

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