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Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission 2009/10  
Suite 100, 11510 Kingsway Avenue  
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Dear Honourable Judge Walter and Commission Members:

It has come to my attention that Calgary public meetings are scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2009 and Friday, September 25, 2009 to discuss changes to Alberta's provincial electoral boundaries.

While you must act according to your mandate, I should get my first point out of the way: I have been contacted by quite a few constituents and community leaders who do not believe that four additional Alberta MLAs are needed. I share their view. Even if we were not in the midst of a global recession, this would not be a good use of provincial taxpayers' money. According to the letter sent me by the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission, the goal appears to be one MLA for every 37,820 Albertans. In my federal riding of Calgary Northeast, there are nearly 130,000 people. In Calgary's municipal Ward 3, I understand Alderman Stevenson represents over 100,000 people. Again, my constituents and I believe that four additional Alberta MLAs are not needed.

With that out of the way, I appreciate the Commission being directed to consider geographical features, including roads. Currently, 6 MLAs share pieces of Calgary Northeast. Incidentally, only 3 Calgary Aldermen share the same area. Calgary Northeast is bordered on the south side by the TransCanada Highway (16<sup>th</sup> Avenue N) and on the west side by Deerfoot Trail (Highway 2) for a good portion of the border. Both roads are definite geographic barriers complete with far more overpasses than traffic lights. On the south side of Calgary Northeast, however, 1 MLA touches the border (MLA Fritz) and 3 take a little on one side of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue N and a lot on the other side (MLAs Fawcett, Amery and Bhullar).

The west side of the federal riding is more clearly divided with Deerfoot Trail (Highway 2) dividing Calgary-McCall (MLA Woo-Paw) from Calgary Mackay (MLA Kang).

I have one simple suggestion. If thought is being given to natural geographic dividers such as creeks and streams, then provincial ridings should stop and start at very natural delineators like the TransCanada Highway (16<sup>th</sup> Avenue N). Currently, three provincial electoral districts cross the Highway as if it were not there and as if the average lay-person would not see it as being the natural boundary it is. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Devinder Shory, M.P.  
Calgary Northeast

