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Calgary AB

EBC-075

Electoral Boundaries Commission  
Suite 100, 11510 Kingsway Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5G 2Y5

September 21, 2009

To whom It May Concern:

I am in agreement with the views stated in the two items enclosed - that is, I feel that it is inappropriate to increase the number of electoral divisions in Alberta.

Firstly, in Calgary we have more MLAs (22) than we have aldermen on city council (14). I feel that there ought to be fewer provincial reps than there are members on the local government.

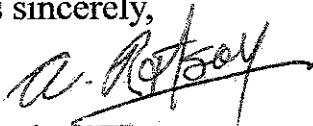
Secondly, in comparison to the elected representatives for the governments of British Columbia and Ontario, Alberta MLAs represent considerably fewer constituents. Why ?

Thirdly, transportation and communication facilities in our province are better than ever so it is easier for MLAs to be in contact with their constituents.

Fourthly, at this time the provincial government is making severe cut-backs in health and education. If cut-backs are necessary in those areas why can't we economize in the cost of government ?

I appreciate having been given the opportunity to express my views regarding this issue.

Yours sincerely,



Alexander Ratsoy

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2009 A15

# Democracy in Alberta still has a beating pulse — just



GRAHAM THOMSON

We are a province of three million people that has 83 legislative seats. When the commission has done its work we will have 87 legislative seats. We will not be any more democratic as a result. We will simply be paying 87 MLAs to represent us, as opposed to paying 83.

By comparison, British Columbia, with a population of four million, has 85 provincial legislative seats.

Ontario, with a population of 11 million, has 107.

It must be galling to conservative Albertans to realize we have roughly three times as many provincial politicians per capita as do Ontarians.

## Tories don't listen

Re: "Democracy in Alberta still has a beating pulse — just," Graham Thomson, Opinion, Sept. 14.

I read this column with great interest. The Alberta government sent out a flyer regarding changing the electoral boundaries. My first reaction when reading it was the last thing we need are more MLAs. If they need to change the boundaries, then do it in a manner as to reduce government.

The Alberta Boundaries Commission is meeting in Calgary and I will be attending. In the next few days, I will be sending a written submission to the commission, telling them why I do not think they should be increasing the number of MLAs. In fact, the number should be reduced. I called my MLA's office to let him know the same thing; that increasing the number of MLAs in this current economic climate is irresponsible.

What concerns me most is that the government is looking at reducing funding to health care and education, but is contemplating increasing its fixed expenses by adding more MLAs. Somehow, I do not think they are listening to the concerns of the electorate, which is disheartening. I hope that in the next election, the people of Alberta indicate to the PCs how unhappy they are and vote them out.

Judy Johnson, Calgary