



Partners in Advocacy &amp; Business

September 17, 2009

Honourable Judge Ernest J.M. Walter  
Electoral Boundaries Commission  
100, 11510 Kingsway Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 2Y5

Dear Judge Walter,

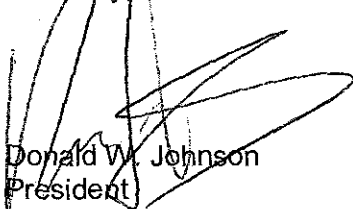
I write to inform the commission of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties' (AAMDC) position on Bill 45 and the creation of four more constituencies. The AAMDC Board of Directors supports this bill and appreciates that the increased population since 1986 must be dealt with appropriately to ensure effective representation for all Albertans.

The AAMDC would like to stress the need to place one of the new constituencies in the Fort McMurray area. Though population estimates vary and there is a component of transient population, without doubt the Fort McMurray area has undergone an enormous population increase in recent years. The area is in need of effective representation just as much as other urban areas that have experienced comparable population increases.

Throughout the electoral boundary process, the AAMDC encourages the Electoral Boundaries Commission to take into account the findings from the 2002/2003 review. That report very clearly states that "the purpose of the right to vote enshrined in the Canadian Charter of rights is not equality of voting power per se, but the right to effective representation." Many rural constituents are located hours away from their representative and increasing these distances will only make effective representation more difficult. This makes the increase of four seats, with one assigned to the Fort McMurray area, to be the best way to ensure effective representation continues in Alberta.

I would be very happy to discuss this topic or answer any questions you may have with regard to this issue at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Donald W. Johnson  
President