

Attached please find our submission to the Electoral Boundaries Commission on Friday, October 9, 2009 at 10:45 am

Thank you

Karen Robinson

Administrative Assistant

Brazeau County

(780) 542-7777 - Phone

(780) 542-7770 - Fax

www.brazeau.ab.ca



Electoral Boundary Comments

The information provided to the public indicates that the Commission has been directed by legislation to make recommendations that:

- Ensure Albertans have effective Provincial legislation
- Divide the Province into 87 electoral divisions (constituencies)
- Ensure that the population in each electoral division is within 25% of the provincial average

Upon reviewing the variance of the population of the existing 83 electoral divisions, the Commission is facing a difficult task to effectively represent the proposed average population of 37,820. Brazeau County Council is concerned that the physical representation area is as important as population distribution for effective representation.

Most industries that drive Alberta's economic engine are located in rural Alberta. It is crucial that MLA's understand the issues facing their citizens and industries within their constituencies both in times of economic downturn and under extreme growth pressures, and are the voice of these citizens and industries in caucus and in Legislature.

In order to make this voice heard it is crucial that rural MLA's do not see an increase in the physical area within their constituency. Rural MLA's who work tirelessly for their constituents are often faced with time constraints, distance constraints etc., when meeting with their constituents and attending functions throughout their area. It is with that in mind that we encourage the Electoral Boundaries Commission to ensure that boundaries in rural Alberta are not amalgamated or enlarged to include portions of urban centres with little or no commonalities to rural issues and concerns.

We encourage the Electoral Boundaries Commission to increase the number of constituencies in areas where they are needed, but not do so at the expense of rural areas. We encourage the Commission to leave boundaries in the historic rural areas of the Province as is.