



Town of Redwater

"The Town with a Future"

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March 15, 2010

Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission 2009/10
 Suite 100, 11510 – Kingsway Avenue
 Edmonton, Alberta
 T5G 2Y5

ATTN: Honourable Judge Ernest J.M. Walter, Chairman

RE: Electoral Division Name Change

Council, at their last regular meeting, reviewed and discussed the 2009/2010 Electoral Boundaries Commissions report. Upon doing so, we made a rather alarming discovery. The Athabasca-Redwater Constituency name is being proposed to change to Athabasca-Sturgeon. Council is extremely disappointed in this recommendation and strongly objects to it.

There are few questions we are posing and comments we wish to share in defense of leaving the name it currently exists:

1. Sturgeon is not a place, it is a county region. Why cause confusion particularly with the citizens that live in and around the constituency.
2. Sturgeon is actually split into three different electoral divisions. This compounds the confusion. Certainly there may be some justification to the name change if Sturgeon County was all encompassed in one electoral division, but it is not.
3. Administrative costs. Why initiate additional costs related to changing the name on all correspondence, even at the local constituency board level. This constituency has already gone through numerous changes in the last 10 years which included a boundary re-alignment.

What we would like to know is why the Commission is recommending this change? What possible reason could justify initiating confusion and adding unnecessary costs to the tax payer? This certainly does not look good in times of economic restraint. The province is not replacing vacancies in their staffing complement, health care and schools are having to look at new ways to do business in order to save costs, so too are most departments. Thus the question: Why is this even being proposed? We look forward to your response.

Yours truly,

Mel Smith, Mayor

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chief electoral office

cc: Jeff Johnson, MLA, Athabasca-Redwater Constituency