

To whom it may concern,

I have had the opportunity to review the recent report released by your commission. At first I was shocked, then dismayed and now very disturbed by the report and the recommendations therein as it applies to the Grande Prairie region. The recommendation to create a riding from Fox Creek to the BC border and at the same time creating a half baked riding encompassing only a part of the City of Grande Prairie is simply unbelievable. Indeed the boundaries proposed are not only ludicrous, they go against the very criteria the commission was supposed to follow in determining boundaries including population, geography, municipal boundaries and so forth. The proposed boundaries follow none of the criteria.

The Commission has completely disregarded the will of the public by choosing to follow the recommendations of a single individual, speaking on behalf of the NDP party and philosophy he embraces. It ignored the other comments from several groups and organizations and individuals in favour of largely keeping the ridings intact. The current boundaries meet the criteria given to the commission to follow.

I want the opportunity to question those who drew these non-sensical boundaries. What was going through their minds? They need to be accountable to the people of the Grande Prairie region and to all the voters that they will disenfranchise through this proposal. They need to return to Grande Prairie to explain their logic and be convinced of the error of their ways. And they need to drive to Grande Prairie, not just drop in by virtue of a ride in a government aircraft.

This report is now in the public domain for review. I know that I speak for many others when I say that recommendations need to be overturned as they apply to the Grande Prairie area. The process for a review of the recommendations needs to include a visit to Grande Prairie by the Commission so that the full impact, issues and problems created by the proposed recommendations can be vetted in a public forum. After all, isn't that what democracy is about.

I look forward to learning of the date of the return to Grande Prairie so that I am more fully able to make another presentation to the Commission.

Sincerely,
John A. Simpson