



## Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission

For Immediate Release

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### Electoral Boundaries Commission Releases Interim Report

*Edmonton* – “Our Interim Report strikes a balance between population numbers and public interest,” said Justice Myra Bielby, Chair of the Electoral Boundaries Commission. “I want to thank the hundreds of Albertans who participated in the review process to this point. The feedback was valuable and informed many of our recommendations. We look forward to receiving further input into our proposed boundary changes in the coming months.”

The Commission presented its Interim Report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly today. The report recommends the creation of three new electoral divisions, sometimes called constituencies, in areas of the province that have experienced growth significantly above the provincial average, and the amalgamation of various electoral divisions in areas of the province that have experienced rates of growth significantly below the provincial average. Specifically, it recommends that a new constituency be added to each of the cities of Calgary and Edmonton and that an additional constituency be created in the north-eastern portion of metro Calgary.

It also recommends the following amalgamations:

- the four electoral divisions currently named Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater, Fort Saskatchewan- Vegreville and Bonnyville-Cold lake be consolidated into three;
- the five electoral divisions currently named Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre, West Yellowhead, Drayton Valley-Devon, Whitecourt- Ste. Anne and Stony Plain be consolidated into four;
- the seven electoral divisions currently named Battle River - Wainwright, Drumheller-Stettler, Strathmore-Brooks, Little Bow, Cardson-Taber-Warner, Cypress-Medicine Hat and Vermillion-Lloydminster be consolidated into five.

Further, the Commission recommends retaining the two electoral divisions in the far northwest of the province that were previously granted special status under s. 15(2) of the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* (currently Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley and Lesser Slave Lake). Special status permits their populations to fall between 25% and 50% below the provincial average electoral division population.

To access the full report visit [www.ABebc.ca](http://www.ABebc.ca).

Albertans are invited to submit feedback on the recommendations in the Interim Report until July 8. Public hearings will be held between July 17 and 21 in Grande Prairie, Vermilion, Edmonton, Calgary and Brooks.

Following its public consultation the Commission will prepare its final report, which will be submitted to the Legislative Assembly in October of 2017.

Since its establishment in October of 2016, the Commission has received extensive public feedback, including 749 submissions and comments from hundreds of people who attended the public hearings. So far 21 public hearings have been held in 14 locations across the province.