



Outlook

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## Interim Report Submission from Max Amerongen

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 1:15 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



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**First Name**

Max

**Last Name**

Amerongen

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Edmonton

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

34 - Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

Multiple electoral boundaries

**What are the multiple electoral boundaries you are making a submission about?**

Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, Edmonton-Riverview-Glenora, Medicine Hat

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Urban concerns
- Communities of interest
- Effective representation
- Projected growth

**Submission**

I believe that the current boundary suggested for Edmonton Highlands Norwood is effective, and allows for effective representation. I am also happy to see the respect of municipal boundaries in Edmonton, and hope the respect for municipal boundaries is extended to communities like Medicine Hat in the next iteration of the proposal.

Edmonton has grown significantly since the most recent census. Every Edmontonian sees this growing population every day in the form of traffic, new neighbours, and growing use of public services. The city's stated goal of 50% of growth being accommodated by infill is likely to mean more of this growth takes place in the core. New neighbourhoods like the Exhibition Lands, Blatchford, and citywide densification of existing neighbourhoods (especially in the west end) should be considered in these plans. Previous ratios of growth between suburban neighbourhoods and central ones may not be the best metric by which to plan new riding boundaries - for example, city building permit numbers show substantial growth in the city's central-west end. I urge the commission to consider these shifting patterns of growth before removing a central Edmonton riding.

I am happy to see that our riding has generally remained unchanged through this process - and I am grateful to the commission for their hard work.

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## Interim Report Submission from Jessica Hiemstra

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 1:13 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



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**First Name**

Jessica

**Last Name**

Hiemstra

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Woodlands

**Interim Report Considerations**

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**What is your current electoral division?**

87 - West Yellowhead

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

88 - West Yellowhead

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Naming of electoral boundaries

**Submission**

Dear Members of the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission,

I am writing regarding the proposed removal of Jasper from the West Yellowhead electoral division. While I recognize the Commission's obligation to consider population parity, I believe this proposal unnecessarily weakens northern representation and fails to make full use of the population variance tools explicitly provided under Section 15 of the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act.

Keeping Jasper within West Yellowhead would bring the riding's population more closely in line with provincial averages, reducing the need for more disruptive boundary changes elsewhere. The Act permits population variances of up to  $\pm 25\%$  specifically to ensure effective representation in large, rural, and sparsely populated regions. The Commission has acknowledged the legitimacy of higher variances in northern Alberta, yet this proposal removes population from an already vast riding instead of using the legislative flexibility available.

Eliminating or weakening northern ridings in pursuit of strict numerical parity risks concentrating representation in urban centres at the expense of geography, accessibility, and economic contribution. Northern MLAs already represent an extraordinary share of Alberta's landmass, infrastructure, and resource economy. Section 15 exists to prevent precisely this erosion of representation, and its limited use in the current draft is concerning.

Rather than removing Jasper, the Commission should preserve existing northern ridings as much as possible and apply the variances allowed by law. This approach would better balance population considerations with the constitutional requirement for effective representation.

Respectfully,

A resident of West Yellowhead

Jessica

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## Interim Report Submission from Ryan Oliver

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 1:11 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



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**First Name**

Ryan

**Last Name**

Oliver

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Woodlands

**Interim Report Considerations**

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**What is your current electoral division?**

87 - West Yellowhead

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

88 - West Yellowhead

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Naming of electoral boundaries

**Submission**

I write as a resident of West Yellowhead to raise concerns about the broader implications of removing Jasper from the riding, particularly under Section 14(f) of the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act, which allows consideration of “any other factors” relevant to effective representation.

Other provinces including Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Nova Scotia have long recognized the necessity of protecting northern and remote ridings through legislative carve-outs. These protections exist because geography, climate, and sparsity fundamentally alter what effective representation requires. Alberta’s north faces the same realities, even if defined more organically than statutorily. The absence of explicit northern carve-outs in Alberta’s legislation makes it even more important that the Commission exercise discretion thoughtfully rather than narrowly applying population arithmetic.

Removing Jasper from West Yellowhead contributes to a pattern of incremental erosion of northern representation. While any single change may appear modest, the cumulative effect over successive boundary reviews is to silence northern voices and create constituencies so large and disconnected that meaningful representation becomes impossible. This outcome is neither sustainable nor consistent with the intent of Section 14 as a whole.

Jasper’s residents identify socially, economically, and politically with communities in West Yellowhead. Maintaining this alignment respects history, geography, safety, and access, while preserving the integrity of northern representation within Alberta’s Legislature. I urge the Commission to reconsider this proposal in light of these broader considerations.

Respectfully submitted,  
A West Yellowhead constituent

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## Interim Report Submission from Brad Betson

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 1:11 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



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**First Name**

Brad

**Last Name**

Betson

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Whitecourt

**Interim Report Considerations**

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**What is your current electoral division?**

87 - West Yellowhead

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

88 - West Yellowhead

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Naming of electoral boundaries

**Submission**

Dear Members of the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission,

I am writing regarding the proposed removal of Jasper from the West Yellowhead electoral division. While I recognize the Commission's obligation to consider population parity, I believe this proposal unnecessarily weakens northern representation and fails to make full use of the population variance tools explicitly provided under Section 15 of the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act.

Keeping Jasper within West Yellowhead would bring the riding's population more closely in line with provincial averages, reducing the need for more disruptive boundary changes elsewhere. The Act permits population variances of up to  $\pm 25\%$  specifically to ensure effective representation in large, rural, and sparsely populated regions. The Commission has acknowledged the legitimacy of higher variances in northern Alberta, yet this proposal removes population from an already vast riding instead of using the legislative flexibility available.

Eliminating or weakening northern ridings in pursuit of strict numerical parity risks concentrating representation in urban centres at the expense of geography, accessibility, and economic contribution. Northern MLAs already represent an extraordinary share of Alberta's landmass, infrastructure, and resource economy. Section 15 exists to prevent precisely this erosion of representation, and its limited use in the current draft is concerning.

Rather than removing Jasper, the Commission should preserve existing northern ridings as much as possible and apply the variances allowed by law. This approach would better balance population considerations with the constitutional requirement for effective representation.

Respectfully,

A resident of West Yellowhead

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Outlook

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## Interim Report Submission from Donald Mills

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 1:04 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



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**First Name**

Donald

**Last Name**

Mills

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Cooking Lake

**Interim Report Considerations**

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**What is your current electoral division?**

84 - Strathcona-Sherwood Park

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

85 - Strathcona-Sherwood Park

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Hybrid electoral divisions

**Submission**

I became aware of your most recent proposal to make significant changes to our Strathcona-Sherwood Park electoral division. Apparently you are proposing to remove Heritage Hills and add Beaumont and a portion of Leduc County. This makes no sense at all to remove a portion of Strathcona County and replace it with a portion of Leduc County??? To what purpose or logic does this in any way make sense?

Secondly to add Beaumont to the Strathcona-Sherwood Park electoral division makes even less sense. Given that Beaumont shares no economic, community, or cultural connection whatsoever with Strathcona-Sherwood Park there is no connection at all. Beaumont is a suburb community located directly between Edmonton and Leduc and is by default aligned and associated with those two communities. I would be very surprised to find anyone in Beaumont supportive of this change in any way shape or form.

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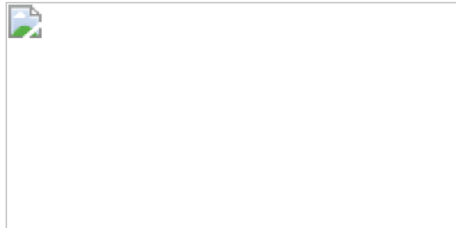
## Interim Report Submission from Adam Singer

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 1:02 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



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**First Name**

Adam

**Last Name**

Singer

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Calgary

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

13 - Calgary-Glenmore

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

15 - Calgary-Glenmore

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Urban concerns

**Submission**

I have resided in Calgary Glenmore (or its predecessor riding/s) for nearly 40 years. I am 67 years old and am a lawyer with Wilson Laycraft in Calgary. I practice divorce and family law and have been a lawyer since 1987. I grew up in Edmonton, where I attended law school at the University of Alberta and articulated with the firm Parlee McLaws. My wife and I moved to Calgary at the end of 1987. We raised two daughters, one of whom is now a pediatrician in the US and the other a lawyer in Toronto.

My wife and I have chosen to live in this part of Calgary because we are Jewish and most of Calgary's Jewish community lives in this area. We have been members of the Calgary JCC since soon after we arrived here. Our daughters attended the Calgary JCC daycare before attending the Calgary Jewish Academy school until grade 9 (they then attended Henry Wise Wood High School). Our synagogue, Temple B'nai Tikvah, was located at the Calgary JCC until 2004.

I greatly value being part of Calgary's Jewish community. While our community's share of the population is small, we have been able to make our voices heard to the civic and provincial governments through the activities of our community organizations, particularly Calgary Jewish Federation (CJF) which operates out of the Calgary JCC. I have held volunteer leadership roles with CJF, the Calgary Jewish Academy and Temple B'nai Tikvah, and I currently volunteer as a member of the CJF's Community Relations Committee.

I have had an opportunity to review your recommendations. Thank you for keeping Calgary within the municipal boundaries. This enables Calgary, which is Alberta's largest urban centre and its economic engine, to be effectively represented in the legislature. The map which you have created is fair, and you have upheld important democratic principles. Thank you for adding 2 seats in Calgary, which reflects its growth. Given that our city has experienced exceptional growth, however, I hope that you will consider a further seat within Calgary's boundaries.

Thank you for your service to the Electoral Boundaries Commission and to the people of Alberta.

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EBC-2025-2-906



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## Interim Report Submission from Jeff Binks

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:57 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



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**First Name**

Jeff

**Last Name**

Binks

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Calgary

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

18 - Calgary-Mountain View

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

Proposed electoral boundaries as a whole

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Urban concerns

**Submission**

Dear Commissioners,

Calgary is not just Alberta's biggest city – it's Canada's third-largest city, and the beating heart of our economy. Calgary is growing rapidly and will quickly approach two million people within the immediate future. Calgarians are already having discussions about how we as a city can best manage and respond to this growth, as recent conversations around city planning, zoning, and our public transit infrastructure have shown.

As the President of the LRT on the Green Foundation, I've had the opportunity to be on the front lines of a lot of these discussions that shape our future, which often involve thousands of citizens and multiple orders of Government. One thing I have continually heard from Calgarians – of all political stripes and with many different ideas about how our city should be planned and run – is that Calgary needs and deserves a strong voice and representation at the Provincial level to shape the future of our city, and our Province.

I am pleased to see that the Commission has recognized this and is increasing both the number of seats that Calgarians will have in the next Legislature, and the proportion of Calgary's influence in how Alberta's next Government is formed. Both new seats being added to the map recognize areas of significant growth: Calgary-Confluence will accommodate the growing and revitalizing areas east of Downtown, while Calgary-Nose Creek will capture continuing development and growth in our north. Both of these seats are an excellent addition to the map, and should be maintained as proposed in the Final Report.

However, there are a few actions that the Commission needs to take to improve the proposed map and make sure it truly reflects Calgary's voice freely and fairly in the next Legislature: the proposed 'mixed' or 'hybrid' ridings of Calgary-Cross and Calgary-West- Elbow Valley group in small numbers of rural voters from outside of Calgary's municipal boundaries for no readily apparent reason. Each seat could be drawn to fully include only Calgary voters to ensure that the elected MLA can advocate exclusively for Calgary's interests, while the rural areas attached to these ridings in the Interim Proposal could be included with smaller rural ridings outside of Calgary to bring them closer to the average population.

The Commission also failed to take into account the massive population growth

in

Calgary, which is only likely to increase as immigration and interprovincial migration

continue and new public transit options – like the Green Line – make our city more

connected. The Commission needs to plan for the future by adding at least one additional exclusively-Calgary seat in this part of the city. This would make Calgary's seat share in the next Legislature more reflective of its future population growth.

I hope you will take these submissions into consideration and that you will make sure

Calgary is fairly represented in the final report. Wishing you all the best in your deliberations,

Jeff Binks

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Outlook

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**Interim Report Submission from Theresa Letendre**

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:56 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



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**First Name**

Theresa

**Last Name**

Letendre

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Foothills

**Interim Report Considerations**

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**What is your current electoral division?**

50 - Banff-Kananaskis

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

53 - Banff-Jasper

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Rural concerns
- Effective representation

**Submission**

I am writing as a resident whose provincial electoral representation would be directly affected by the proposed boundary changes outlined in the Interim Report of the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission.

I currently reside in a community that falls within the Banff-Kananaskis electoral division. Under the proposed changes, my community would become part of the Banff–Jasper riding. I wish to share my perspective on how this change affects my sense of representation, accessibility, and community alignment.

I identify strongly with the Foothills region, which is where I work, where my children attend school, where I volunteer, and where my extended family lives. My daily life and community connections are deeply rooted in this area.

For work, I travel regularly throughout communities such as Millarville, Red Deer Lake, and High River. I access services and amenities primarily in Diamond Valley, Okotoks, and Calgary, and my family's recreation time is spent in Kananaskis Country and Bragg Creek. I also volunteer locally, including in Millarville, at the Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area, and within my own community of Priddis.

While I value Alberta's mountain communities, my day-to-day life is not oriented northward toward Jasper. The proposed Banff–Jasper riding would span a vast geographic area with communities that face very different priorities, travel patterns, and service needs from those of residents in the southern Foothills and Kananaskis regions.

From my perspective, this significant expansion weakens effective representation. The scale of the proposed riding raises concerns about accessibility to my elected representative, the ability to build meaningful relationships, and whether local Foothills-based issues would receive adequate attention within such a geographically large and diverse constituency.

In addition, my children attend schools within Foothills School Division, and education issues that matter to my family are grounded in the realities of Foothills communities. I am concerned that education priorities affecting families in my area would be less visible within a riding whose focus must span from Banff to Jasper.

Taken together, the proposed shift from Banff-Kananaskis to Banff-Jasper does not enhance my sense of representation. Instead, it significantly diminishes it by placing my community within a riding that does not reflect my lived experience, community connections, or daily interactions.

I respectfully ask the Commission to consider whether this proposed configuration meaningfully improves effective representation for residents in the southern Foothills and Kananaskis areas, and whether alternative approaches

could better preserve established communities of interest.

EBC-2025-2-908

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective as part of this review.

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# Electoral Boundaries Commission Submission

By Cathy Wilcox

I am writing to you, the Electoral Boundaries Commission, to express multiple concerns that I have with the new constituency called Mackenzie, and the radical breaking up of the existing Lesser Slave Lake Constituency. I have recently moved out of the Lesser Slave Lake Constituency, but having lived there for the previous 43 years, I think I have a good perspective of some of the issues that could arise because of the proposed changes.

I would like to begin by stating an appreciation of the Commission, its political independence, and of the time and effort that has gone into this huge task. I appreciate the difficulty of doing justice to each and every constituency. I have not read all of the report, but I did read a good part of the background in order to better understand the thinking that is behind the changes recommended, not just for the north but also for province as a whole. It is indeed complicated.

Secondly, I would like to state that living in the north changed me. I was born in Calgary and never visited any place north of Edmonton until my husband accepted a teaching job in 1980 that landed us first in Grouard and later in Jossard. Much has changed since our arrival there in 1980, but from the start, it was clear to me that northerners got fewer government services than places in the south, and our concerns rarely hit the news – or probably the legislature. Northerners are resourceful as a result, and work with their neighbours and communities to get what they need – hospitals, schools, community halls, playgrounds, roads, bridges – nothing comes easily in small northern places with small tax bases and many miles of open territory between them. Even the hours of travel required just to get to a city is transformational. So being a northerner is a kind of personality trait, and survival up there requires a different mind-set than in the rest of the province. And the difference is not just rural to urban, it truly is a north-south difference. That is the perspective that underlies the issues I will outline below.

- My first concern is the immense size of the new Mackenzie riding, which appears to be nearly double in size to the existing Lesser Slave Lake constituency. While you as Commission members were fortunate to be able to charter a plane to enable your visits to some of the larger northern communities, you did not get close to the outer boundaries of Mackenzie. Air travel, as you noted, did not allow you to experience just how far that is, or how difficult travel, accommodation and communication is for the average person who lives in the north. There is no commercial air service to any of the communities in Mackenzie, and scheduled bus service is either unavailable or unreliable where it does exist. Cell service is non-existent in much of the north, and reliable broadband service is still only a pipedream, even after it has been available elsewhere for decades now. Roads are few, many are not paved, and there are vast areas where help would be difficult to find if needed. With accommodations and viable airstrips being unavailable in many communities, how can an MLA even visit remote areas that require an overnight stay?

Given that these limitations already restrict the availability of the Lesser Slave Lake MLA for visits to remote place such as Peerless Lake to once or twice during a 4-year election cycle, it seems exceedingly unfair that the distances will now be nearly doubled. Whether you are a citizen living in Mackenzie, or the MLA elected to serve it, the lack of adequate representation will be a huge impediment to life in that over-large constituency.

- My second concern is the way the southern portion of Lesser Slave Lake constituency has been divided, particularly in the portion nearest to the Town of High Prairie. Currently in that area, all constituents gravitate to the Town of High Prairie to do banking, grocery shopping and other business, attend secondary and post-secondary education, seek health facilities and medical professionals, courts and other government services. High Prairie is known to serve a catchment area of nearly 20,000 people although its own population is consistently around 2,500. The communities it serves include the East Prairie, Peavine and Gift Lake Metis Settlements, as well as the Kapawe'no, Sucker Creek, Driftpile and Swan River First Nations, as well as the Big Lakes County hamlets of Enilda, Grouard, Joussard, Faust and Kinuso. But the boundaries of Mackenzie have separated all of those communities from High Prairie. (They will also be separated from Slave Lake, which also provides many services for those communities.) This is a problem of effective representation, where citizens of Mackenzie would have to look to the MLAs of other constituencies for assistance with issues of government service delivery. It also has resulted in Big Lakes County being split among four constituencies, and impossible situation for a small municipality. It would make sense that the catchment area communities should either follow High Prairie to its new riding, or that High Prairie should remain with those communities within Mackenzie.
- My third issue is the notion of lumping all of the Metis Settlements and First Nations in one immense constituency. It is a bit puzzling that this approach has only been applied in the north, given that Indigenous communities exist all over Alberta. But while there are familial and cultural connections that would be shared among all indigenous communities, it would be a mistake to assume that the various indigenous communities naturally agree with each other, or the same view of the world. The communities that are closer to larger communities further south will have fewer gaps in services and fewer needs than those in the north, and community demographics will differ widely. So, while I can appreciate that indigenous communities can be viewed as 'communities of interest', and it seems easy enough to group them on a map, it still overlooks how much they differ. Those further north will gravitate to High Level, Peace River and Grande Prairie for government services and other needs - not High Prairie or Slave Lake. I am not convinced that one lone MLA would be the best way to represent those communities. I suspect that a lone voice representing small communities spread across a vast area would undoubtedly get lost among the other 88 MLAs. It seems that having a different

boundary design with a few more MLAs sharing that indigenous population might produce better results, for all concerned.

It is clear that the north has to incorporate some changes to its electoral boundaries, but I think it is important to consider why and how the current Lesser Slave Lake boundaries work very well for its constituents.. The current boundaries solidly reflect the way the communities within it interact, and the way people find the many services they need. They include the three larger communities of Slave Lake, High Prairie and Wabasca, where most services can be found and which anchor the region. The boundaries also respect the shared history and close ties of the Indigenous people who live there, both within the Indigenous communities and within the ‘settler communities that share the land with them. And they respect the dominant geographical feature in the area, Lesser Slave Lake itself – something that new constituency of Mackenzie does not.

The Commission has recognized the importance of geographical features in its rationale, specifically mentioning rivers as community connectors. At the same time the importance of Lesser Slave Lake (the largest lake entirely within Alberta) has been overlooked as the focal point of the region in which it sits. The reason why people settled here, whether it be the indigenous people, the fur traders, or the generations of settlers that followed, was the lake and its tributaries. The lake was a transport corridor that supported the fur trade a century before Alberta even existed, and was the site of the signing of Treaty 8 in 1899. It supported a thriving commercial fishing industry until the recent past, and is now the focus of important tourism initiatives. It is also water source for local communities, and an important stop for 200+ avian species on their migration. For these reasons, Lesser Slave Lake should remain a focal point for governance as well, and should not be split into two constituencies.

In closing, I accept that there is a need to reduce the number of northern constituencies and to increase the number of urban constituencies - and that no design will perfectly answer all priorities. But I would ask that the Commission have a fresh look at the north and to look for new ways to draw boundaries that show more understanding of how people there actually live and relate to each other. The people of northern Alberta deserve nothing less!





Outlook

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**Interim Report Submission from Rebecca Schulz**

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:52 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

Rebecca

**Last Name**

Schulz

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Calgary

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

23 - Calgary-Shaw

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

Multiple electoral boundaries

**What are the multiple electoral boundaries you are making a submission about?**

Calgary-Shaw, Calgary-South East

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Rural concerns
- Urban concerns
- Northern Alberta concerns
- Hybrid electoral divisions
- Communities of interest
- Effective representation
- Projected growth

**Submission**

To the Members of the Electoral Boundaries Commission,

I am writing to you today as a resident of south Calgary and someone who knows these communities well. I appreciate the important work the Commission is doing.

To be clear, I am not looking to influence the specific boundaries of the constituency I currently represent for any personal or political benefit. I know the boundaries of the riding will likely change, given the rapid growth we've seen. My purpose in writing is to ensure that the final boundaries for south Calgary as a whole actually reflect our growing population and our communities' needs. I'd like to share three main points from a local perspective:

#### A New Seat for South Calgary

The southern part of the city is growing incredibly quickly. In fact, many of the communities in south Calgary aren't yet completely developed. While the city center is dense, the population is stable, and in some cases have a lot of people who aren't eligible to vote, like temporary residents or students. In contrast, south Calgary is full of active, eligible voters. This puts a larger demand on our representatives. It does not make any sense to add a new riding in the downtown core. Adding a new seat in the south, rather than downtown, would help address this growth.

#### Support for "Hybrid" Ridings

I do support the Commission's move toward "hybrid" ridings that mix urban and rural areas. As neighbors, our lives don't stop at a city limit sign. Many of us live in the suburbs but work, go to school, or use services across municipal lines. Creating ridings that reflect how we actually live—rather than just following a rigid map—helps keep our communities together. Furthermore, we've seen growth of the suburban areas in south Calgary into these rural areas as they become part of the city.

#### Fair Representation Over Rigid Numbers

I hope the Commission continues to be flexible with population numbers. In the city center: Geography is tight and services are close, so it makes sense for those ridings to have more people.



- In the suburbs and rural areas: Because of rapid growth and the sheer distance between neighbors, these ridings should be allowed to have slightly fewer people.

I also want to specifically support protecting the voices of our rural and northern neighbors. They deal with challenges like distance that we don't face in the city, and these constituents also deserve accessibility to their officials so their perspectives are heard.

Thank you for considering these perspectives.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Schulz  
MLA, Calgary-Shaw

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Outlook

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**Interim Report Submission from Rebecca Brown**

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:48 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



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**First Name**

Rebecca

**Last Name**

Brown

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Bearspaw

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

47 - Airdrie-Cochrane

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

Proposed electoral boundaries as a whole

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Rural concerns

**Submission**

My name is Rebecca Brown, and I live in Bearspaw, a rural area just outside Calgary. I am participating because I believe that rural and urban boundaries should remain distinct and that rural areas should remain connected to rural communities rather than being absorbed into urban ones. I similarly believe that urban boundaries should remain urban, to reflect the population density and their differing needs. Rural areas are unique, they contain tight-knit communities where neighbors know each other and share a lifestyle that is fundamentally different from the urban experience. Our priorities, such as agricultural land use, rural infrastructure, are very distinct from those of a city, or large town. Combining rural ridings with large cities such as Calgary, for example, will dilute our voice and make it harder to advocate for the needs that matter most to us.

Urban areas face challenges like transit expansion and dense housing, while, for example, Bearspaw's concerns center more on keeping large industrial and retail from encroaching on too much of the land, ensuring density doesn't impact our infrastructure and protecting our water and lands from contamination. Keeping rural areas like Bearspaw aligned with other rural areas ensures effective representation and respects the principle of those communities. Thank you for your hard work and for considering the importance of maintaining the rural voice in Alberta.

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Outlook

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**Interim Report Submission from Juan Vargas**

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:47 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



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**First Name**

Juan

**Last Name**

Vargas

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Edmonton

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

29 - Edmonton-City Centre

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

Proposed electoral boundaries as a whole

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Urban concerns
- Hybrid electoral divisions

- Projected growth

## Submission

Dear Boundaries Commission,

Thank you for proposing balanced and fair new electoral boundaries for Alberta, and in my case specifically: Edmonton. As you know, the Greater Edmonton Area has grown by 200,000 people in the last four years, and creating boundaries that respect that growth while keeping existing boundaries mostly intact is key. It's also important to me that you not create hybrid ridings, and so I commend you for that.

As I noted, the growth in the Edmonton area gives us a lot to think about. In that case, thank you for adding a new riding in Edmonton that will allow us to better be represented within the legislature, affecting incredibly important decisions on local funding, health care, and schools. Knowing that we are still growing rapidly, I would urge the boundaries commission to consider adding an additional Edmonton urban boundary without moving into a hybrid territory. To that end, ensuring we're keeping together shared geographies and communities of interests is equally important.

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Outlook

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## Interim Report Submission from Kathryn Telfer

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:44 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



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**First Name**

Kathryn

**Last Name**

Telfer

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Edmonton

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

33 - Edmonton-Gold Bar

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

Multiple electoral boundaries

**What are the multiple electoral boundaries you are making a submission about?**

Edmonton Gold Bar Edmonton-Riverview Edmonton-Southeast Edmonton-West-Enoch; Beaumont Leduc-Beaumont and Strathcona-Sherwood Park; Medicine

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Urban concerns
- Communities of interest
- Projected growth

**Submission**

Thank you for the chance to share my feedback as the commission reviews input on its interim report. Balancing the complex needs of urban, suburban, and rural communities are essential, especially as our population changes and grows.

My interest in politics began early, shaped by experiences like the 1964 Canadian flag debate, campus protests, and ongoing discussions about women's rights, human rights, freedom of speech, war, and environmental issues. We are still debating same issues. I've always found democratic processes fascinating—especially witnessing government shifts, such as the 1979 federal government defeat on a non-confidence motion. I was also an Alberta provincial government employee in more than 7 departments for the majority of my working career and had many opportunities to interact with MLAs and their staff. My late mother played a significant role in encouraging all her children to vote as soon as we were eligible. It's with this sense of civic responsibility that I offer my thoughts.

The report leaves me optimistic that Edmonton's growing urban presence is being acknowledged. In older neighborhoods, we're seeing renewal as young families purchase and renovate homes passed down from previous generations. Living in Edmonton Gold Bar, I've noticed our population rising, retail options expanding, and schools that are the envy of other areas. New infill housing with rental units is changing local demographics, and developments—like the large apartment complex at 85 Street and 90 Avenue—are transforming the community landscape.

My concerns arise from the reduction of core Edmonton constituencies from six to five, eliminating Edmonton-Riverview and redistributing its areas. Since city council aims to increase central population density through multi-family housing, these districts are actually experiencing growth rather than the decline, as referenced in the commission's report. I urge the commission to reconsider the removal of Edmonton-Riverview constituency and restore the central constituency boundaries.

I overwhelmingly support creating the new Edmonton-Southeast riding, as rapid housing construction and fast population growth there highlight the need for additional representation. This is a blend of mixed housing and had a personal reason to travel to the area recently. Already there are well-established big-name grocery stores located in attractive brand-new retail malls and surrounded by various housing styles and sizes.

The new Edmonton-West-Enoch includes suburban neighbourhoods in west Edmonton and the Enoch Cree Nation. This also breaches the idea of maintaining integrity of urban boundaries in the two largest cities in the province. This suggested boundary divides a growing urban area from the rest of the city when it comes to representation and ignores critical factors including municipal alignment, geography and community identity.

Thank you to the commission for maintaining municipal boundaries in Calgary and Edmonton constituencies, with one exception, and it is recognized in the commission's work. MLAs can focus on the distinct infrastructure and service needs of each city or the unique challenges of rural communities, rather than having split priorities. The relationships and work of each city with the provincial government is focused and the lines of communications not complicated.

Preserving strong, cohesive urban centers is crucial. That's why I'm concerned about the proposed division of Beaumont along 50 Street, which would split a unified community of over 22,000 residents and fragment their shared interests. Beaumont's Francophone heritage further supports keeping the city whole within one provincial riding.

It also brings into question the fact the commission still left the City of Medicine Hat divided. This is a growing centre and deserves to have its urban integrity maintained. It is widely apparent that Brooks' community needs are clearly diverse from Medicine Hat and both areas deserve far more responsible and dedicated, focused elected representatives. In addition, mixing rural areas like fingers into urban areas can weaken effective representation, no matter who the elected individual is.

Increasing urban population density means MLAs and their staff face more responsibilities within smaller geographic areas—even if they're not traveling long distances, they must address diverse resident needs and manage demands for more public services, businesses growth and innovation, expectations of business organizations and community groups, in addition to their legislative responsibilities. More people require more than adequate funding from various levels of government for essential services like social services, vital public healthcare and public education. MLAs must be afforded the capacity to effectively listen and serve all their constituents.

While rural populations continue to decline, it's important to acknowledge Alberta's demographic evolution—from an even rural/urban split mid-century to over 80% now living in urban areas.

I recognize that the commission has approached these questions thoughtfully, and this is appreciated. For future recommendations, I hope the commission will account for growing demands for elected representation in urban regions. Anticipating long-term population trends will be key for effective and honest electoral planning.

I have used social media to hopefully raise awareness of the important work of the commission and the opportunities to engage with the commission. This is important work in a healthy democracy and the independent decision making of



the commission must be honoured. Thank you.

EBC-2025-2-913

Kathryn Telfer, Edmonton

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Outlook

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**Interim Report Submission from George Chmielewski**

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:43 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



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**First Name**

George

**Last Name**

Chmielewski

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Lethbridge

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

72 - Lethbridge-West

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

70 - Lethbridge-West

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Southern Alberta concerns
- Effective representation

- Projected growth

EBC-2025-2-914

### **Submission**

Leave Lethbridge as is.

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December 19, 2025

The Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission  
The Honourable Justice Dallas K. Miller, Chair

Dear Honourable Justice Miller and Members of the Commission,

On behalf of the Board and membership of Jasper Park Chamber of Commerce, we are writing to provide formal input regarding the Commission's proposal to remove the Municipality of Jasper from the West Yellowhead electoral division and place it within the proposed Banff-Jasper constituency.

Having thoroughly reviewed the report, we understand the Commission's rationale behind the proposal at issue here. Indeed from an industry perspective, it's true that Jasper is aligned with our partners to the south due to our communities' shared tourism-based economies.

However, from a wider socio-economic and business perspective, we respectfully submit that this change would undermine established regional economic integration and does not align with the principles of effective representation set out in Sections 14 and 15 of the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act.

The business economy of Jasper is deeply integrated with the broader West Yellowhead region. While it's true that Jasper shares a tourism brand at a national and international level with Banff, the supply chains, labour force, professional services and business supports that sustain Jasper's economy run primarily east-west along the Trans Canada Yellowhead Highway corridor. Local businesses rely on contractors, wholesalers, trades, financial services, transportation and even workforce housing located in Hinton, Edson and surrounding communities within West Yellowhead.

These are not incidental relationships; they are the foundational to Jasper's seasonal and year-round visitor economy. This interdependence directly ties Jasper's economic health to the rest of West Yellowhead and distinguishes it from Banff, which operates within a different housing, workforce and service ecosystem.

Tourism is recognized by the Alberta Government as representing significant growth opportunity as expressed in ***Higher Ground: a tourism sector strategy***. As the Province's keystone attraction for international visitation, Alberta's Rockies are critical to the strategy. Currently, the Central Rockies region extending from Jasper south to Kananaskis is represented by two MLAs. Under the redistribution, we are concerned about a loss of representation for this important and geographically extensive Alberta Rockies tourism region.

Furthermore, while it's true that Banff, Jasper and Canmore are connected as tourism destinations, it's important to recognize Jasper's integration and connection with the Edmonton region as a partner in Tourism and as a critical hub for international arrivals and departures. And for north-central regions of the province, Jasper is Alberta's primary mountain tourism destination,

illustrating another way in which the Yellowhead corridor represents unified industry connectivity.

Transportation realities reinforce this integration. Highway 16 is the primary commercial artery for goods movement, workforce commuting and service delivery. By contrast, Highway 93 to Banff is not a reliable year-round corridor. Economic representation must reflect the ways businesses and residents move goods, access labour and interact with government, rather than where visitors travel. That unreliability will also present an obstacle for the MLA, compromising consistent presence and representation to the northern and southern extremities of the division. Where Jasper is currently well-served in this respect, we are concerned that we would inevitably see less presence of our MLA in our community because of the change.

From an economic development perspective, of particular note is Community Futures West Yellowhead, which provides essential business development, financing, entrepreneurship support and economic diversification programming across the region, including Jasper. Community Futures West Yellowhead's regional coverage reflects the federal and provincial recognition of West Yellowhead as a coherent economic region.

Removing Jasper from the provincial electoral division aligning with this economic development structure would create a counterproductive separation between political representation and socio/economic realities. Businesses benefit when their MLA represents the same functional region as their economic development, workforce and investment programs.

From the perspective of education, the West Yellowhead constituency also aligns closely with the Grande Yellowhead Public School Division, again supporting Jasper's continued inclusion in the constituency.

From a population standpoint, retaining Jasper within West Yellowhead would bring the riding closer to provincial population averages while preserving economic cohesion. Section 15 of the Act allows population variance precisely to avoid disrupting established regions of economic and community interest. Using these tools to maintain West Yellowhead's integrity is preferable to reallocating Jasper in a manner that weakens northern and rural economic representation.

Jasper Park Chamber of Commerce is concerned that separating Jasper from West Yellowhead prioritizes symbolic tourism alignment over practical economic function. Effective representation must enable MLAs to advocate for infrastructure investment, workforce development, small business supports and regional economic resilience within areas that actually function as unified economies.

For these reasons, the Jasper Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges the Commission to retain the Municipality of Jasper within the West Yellowhead electoral division. Doing so would better reflect economic realities, support regional business development and align political representation with established service, labour, and investment networks.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input and for your continued work on this important process.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Butler  
Executive Director

## Submission to the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission

**\*\*From the perspective of a resident of South Calgary\*\***

To the Members of the Electoral Boundaries Commission,

I am writing as a resident of south Calgary to provide input on the redistribution of Alberta's electoral boundaries pursuant to the \*Electoral Boundaries Commission Act\* and the principles of effective representation articulated by the Supreme Court of Canada and reflected in Alberta's legislation. I appreciate the Commission's work and the balanced approach it has taken to date, particularly its recognition that voter parity, while important, is not the sole determinant of fair and effective representation.

This submission addresses three interrelated considerations that I believe should guide the Commission's final recommendations.

### **1. Location of a New Seat: South Calgary, Not Central Calgary**

South Calgary is experiencing sustained and significant population growth driven by new residential development, demographic change, and continued suburban expansion. In contrast, much of central Calgary has relatively stagnant population growth and, critically, a lower ratio of actual voters to total population.

While central Calgary may still exhibit higher overall population density, population alone does not fully capture representational demand. Central urban ridings typically contain higher proportions of non-voting residents, including students, temporary residents, and individuals not eligible or not registered to vote. South Calgary ridings, by contrast, tend to have a higher proportion of eligible and active voters, placing greater representational demands on Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).

Under the \*Electoral Boundaries Commission Act\*, the Commission is expressly permitted to deviate from strict population parity to ensure effective representation. In this context, adding a new seat to south Calgary better reflects both current realities and future growth pressures. It would also reduce the risk of immediately overburdening south Calgary constituencies as growth continues over the next redistribution cycle.

For these reasons, I respectfully submit that any additional seat allocated to the City of Calgary should be located in the south of the city rather than in central Calgary.

### **2. Support for Hybrid Ridings and Their Expansion**

I strongly support the Commission's emerging use of hybrid ridings—electoral districts that combine urban and rural areas within a single constituency. I commend the Commission

for proposing such ridings in its interim report, particularly those extending into the Capital Region and the Greater Calgary Metropolitan Region.

Hybrid ridings reflect how Albertans actually live, work, and access services. Communities of interest are not confined to municipal boundaries or property tax jurisdictions. They are defined by shared infrastructure, transportation corridors, school divisions, healthcare facilities, employment centers, and regional service hubs. Many residents of suburban and exurban Calgary-area communities commute into the city for work, attend schools across municipal lines, and rely on urban hospitals, courts, and government offices while maintaining strong ties to nearby rural communities.

Expanding hybrid ridings into and around major urban centers such as Calgary is consistent with the same “communities of interest” rationale that supports underpopulated ridings in northern Alberta. If communities of interest justify population deviations in the north due to geography, remoteness, and service access, then similar logic applies to urban–rural interface areas where daily life transcends municipal borders.

Hybrid ridings can enhance representation by ensuring MLAs represent coherent regions rather than artificially separated populations. I encourage the Commission to continue and expand this approach, including within the Greater Calgary Metropolitan Region.

### **3. Flexible Application of Population Parity in Favour of Effective Representation**

I support the Commission’s balanced approach to population equity and strongly encourage it not to apply population parity rigidly. The \*Electoral Boundaries Commission Act\* explicitly allows for population variances of up to  $\pm 25\%$ , and in exceptional circumstances, particularly in northern and remote regions, variances of up to  $\pm 50\%$ .

Effective representation requires consideration of many factors beyond raw population counts, including but not limited to:

- \* Communities of interest and shared social and economic networks
- \* The number of actual voters relative to total population
- \* Geographic size and travel complexity of constituencies
- \* Anticipated population growth, particularly in suburban areas
- \* Economic base and dominant industries
- \* Cultural, linguistic, or Indigenous communities
- \* Infrastructure, transportation corridors, and service delivery realities

City-centre constituencies, where geography is compact and services are centralized, are well suited to approach the +25% population limit. Conversely, suburban, hybrid, rural, and fast-growing constituencies should be permitted to fall below the average population to account for growth over the redistribution cycle and the increased complexity of representation.

I also explicitly recognize and support the protection of rural and remote voices in Alberta. Rural and northern constituencies face unique challenges related to distance, weather, infrastructure, and service delivery. The use of the -25% provision, and where justified the -50% exemption, is essential to ensure residents of these areas receive meaningful and effective representation in the Legislative Assembly.

### Conclusion

In closing, I encourage the Commission to continue its principled and flexible approach to boundary redistribution. Adding a new seat in south Calgary, expanding the use of hybrid ridings, and prioritizing effective representation over rigid population equality will better reflect how Albertans live and participate in civic life.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input and for your careful consideration of these views.

Respectfully submitted,

Veljko Marjanovic

A black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Veljko Marjanovic.

**\*A resident of South Calgary\***





Outlook

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## Interim Report Submission from Kelly Barany

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:37 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



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**First Name**

Kelly

**Last Name**

Barany

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Taber

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

85 - Taber-Warner

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

56 - Cardston-Taber-Warner

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Southern Alberta concerns
- Naming of electoral boundaries

**Submission**

Dear Commission.

It is my belief that the current electoral boundaries for Taber Warner continue to make sense. I would not change it back to Cardston, Taber, Warner. People in Taber are certainly more associated with businesses and activities along the highway 3 corridor specifically between Taber and Lethbridge. It is important that Taber maintains its connection to the areas that Taber people work, commute and live in. The current electoral boundaries which include Taber and Coaldale make sense.

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## Submission to the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission

**\*\*From the perspective of a resident of South Calgary\*\***

To the Members of the Electoral Boundaries Commission,

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This submission addresses three interrelated considerations that I believe should guide the Commission's final recommendations.

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While central Calgary may still exhibit higher overall population density, population alone does not fully capture representational demand. Central urban ridings typically contain higher proportions of non-voting residents, including students, temporary residents, and individuals not eligible or not registered to vote. South Calgary ridings, by contrast, tend to have a higher proportion of eligible and active voters, placing greater representational demands on Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).

Under the \*Electoral Boundaries Commission Act\*, the Commission is expressly permitted to deviate from strict population parity to ensure effective representation. In this context, adding a new seat to south Calgary better reflects both current realities and future growth pressures. It would also reduce the risk of immediately overburdening south Calgary constituencies as growth continues over the next redistribution cycle.

For these reasons, I respectfully submit that any additional seat allocated to the City of Calgary should be located in the south of the city rather than in central Calgary.

### **2. Support for Hybrid Ridings and Their Expansion**

I strongly support the Commission's emerging use of hybrid ridings—electoral districts that combine urban and rural areas within a single constituency. I commend the Commission

for proposing such ridings in its interim report, particularly those extending into the Capital Region and the Greater Calgary Metropolitan Region.

Hybrid ridings reflect how Albertans actually live, work, and access services. Communities of interest are not confined to municipal boundaries or property tax jurisdictions. They are defined by shared infrastructure, transportation corridors, school divisions, healthcare facilities, employment centers, and regional service hubs. Many residents of suburban and exurban Calgary-area communities commute into the city for work, attend schools across municipal lines, and rely on urban hospitals, courts, and government offices while maintaining strong ties to nearby rural communities.

Expanding hybrid ridings into and around major urban centers such as Calgary is consistent with the same “communities of interest” rationale that supports underpopulated ridings in northern Alberta. If communities of interest justify population deviations in the north due to geography, remoteness, and service access, then similar logic applies to urban–rural interface areas where daily life transcends municipal borders.

Hybrid ridings can enhance representation by ensuring MLAs represent coherent regions rather than artificially separated populations. I encourage the Commission to continue and expand this approach, including within the Greater Calgary Metropolitan Region.

### **3. Flexible Application of Population Parity in Favour of Effective Representation**

I support the Commission’s balanced approach to population equity and strongly encourage it not to apply population parity rigidly. The \*Electoral Boundaries Commission Act\* explicitly allows for population variances of up to  $\pm 25\%$ , and in exceptional circumstances, particularly in northern and remote regions, variances of up to  $\pm 50\%$ .

Effective representation requires consideration of many factors beyond raw population counts, including but not limited to:

- \* Communities of interest and shared social and economic networks
- \* The number of actual voters relative to total population
- \* Geographic size and travel complexity of constituencies
- \* Anticipated population growth, particularly in suburban areas
- \* Economic base and dominant industries
- \* Cultural, linguistic, or Indigenous communities
- \* Infrastructure, transportation corridors, and service delivery realities

City-centre constituencies, where geography is compact and services are centralized, are well suited to approach the +25% population limit. Conversely, suburban, hybrid, rural, and fast-growing constituencies should be permitted to fall below the average population to account for growth over the redistribution cycle and the increased complexity of representation.

I also explicitly recognize and support the protection of rural and remote voices in Alberta. Rural and northern constituencies face unique challenges related to distance, weather, infrastructure, and service delivery. The use of the -25% provision, and where justified the -50% exemption, is essential to ensure residents of these areas receive meaningful and effective representation in the Legislative Assembly.

### Conclusion

In closing, I encourage the Commission to continue its principled and flexible approach to boundary redistribution. Adding a new seat in south Calgary, expanding the use of hybrid ridings, and prioritizing effective representation over rigid population equality will better reflect how Albertans live and participate in civic life.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input and for your careful consideration of these views.

Respectfully submitted,

Veljko Marjanovic

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Veljko Marjanovic.

**\*A resident of South Calgary\***



Outlook

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**Interim Report Submission from Ghazala Nasim**

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:35 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

Ghazala

**Last Name**

Nasim

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Calgary

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

20 - Calgary-North East

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

57 - Chestermere-Strathmore

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Urban concerns
- Communities of interest

- Geographical features
- Effective representation

### Submission

I want to thank you for recognizing in your draft proposal that Conrich is closely tied to Calgary and for placing it in a Calgary-based electoral district. I can attest that Conrich functions very much as part of Calgary's outer neighborhoods.

Residents rely on the city for everything from employment to education to groceries.

Keeping Conrich in a Calgary riding is important to ensure its residents have representation that reflects their realities. Their concerns, traffic, infrastructure, and city services, mirror those of Calgary suburban communities, not rural areas. Moving them back into a rural district would create a disconnect and risks leaving their voices unheard.

Thank you for your thoughtful work in considering these communities. I strongly encourage you to maintain Conrich in a Calgary-based electoral district to provide residents with meaningful, relevant representation.

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Outlook

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## Interim Report Submission from Lefteris Apostolidis

---

**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:34 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

Lefteris

**Last Name**

Apostolidis

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Calgary

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

03 - Calgary-Bow

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

04 - Calgary-Bow

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Rural concerns
- Urban concerns



- Communities of interest
- Geographical features
- Effective representation
- Projected growth
- Naming of electoral boundaries

## Submission

Hello,

I am writing to you as a resident of West Springs to urge the Commission to reconsider the boundaries proposed in the interim report. As someone who lives on the western edge of the city, I see firsthand that Springbank is not a separate rural entity or a satellite of Cochrane. It is a neighboring suburb that is fully integrated into our social and economic life. For example, my family is at the Westside Recreation Centre quite often for kids' camps and programs, and my children are consistently in groups with kids from Springbank. We share the same parks, the same grocery stores and the same local services.

The decision to group Springbank into a "Cochrane-Springbank" riding—stretching 60 kilometers north to the Hamlet of Madden—ignores the massive residential growth happening right here in West Calgary. We are currently seeing significant development in West District, which is one of the most active construction sites in the city. With thousands of new units and a high-intensity "Main Street" coming to Broadcast Avenue, the population of Calgary-Bow is set to increase considerably in the coming years. By including Springbank in Calgary-Bow now, the Commission would be creating a cohesive, future-proof riding that represents a unified group of suburban residents.

In contrast, the older neighborhoods on the eastern side of the current constituency, like Bowness and Montgomery, have very different needs and histories. Those are established, high-density urban areas that don't share the same suburban growth challenges as West Springs, Crestmont, Cougar Ridge, and Springbank. Moving those older neighborhoods into a more central Calgary district would allow Calgary-Bow to focus on the unique infrastructure and school capacity issues that affect all of us on the western edge.

Effective representation requires that a district reflects the natural community of interest where people actually conduct their business and social lives. It is clear that Springbank residents are our neighbors in every functional sense, and forcing them into a riding with distant rural hamlets like Madden only serves to disconnect them from their primary service hub in West Calgary. I ask that you adjust the boundaries to keep our suburban community together, ensuring that our representative can advocate for the specific needs of this rapidly growing western corridor.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important decision.

Lefteris Apostolidis

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Outlook

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**Interim Report Submission from Kathy Williams**

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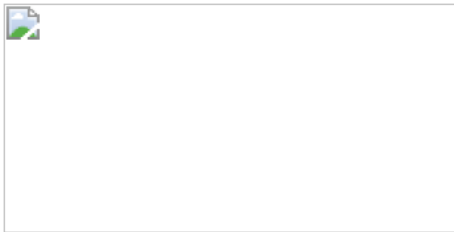
**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:34 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>

 1 attachment (16 KB)

Written Submission to the 2025 Boundaries CommissionDecember 2025.docx;



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**First Name**

Kathy

**Last Name**

Williams

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Edmonton

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

40 - Edmonton-Riverview

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

35 - Edmonton-Glenora-Riverview

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Urban concerns
- Effective representation
- Projected growth

**Submission**

Written Submission to the 2025 Boundaries Commission December 2025

My name is Kathy Williams. I have lived with my family in the neighbourhood of Edmonton-Riverview known as Belgravia for 38 years. My husband and I operated a pottery in the small commercial strip for 20 years. I was employed at Athabasca University, also for 38 years. The University of Alberta, the University Hospital and the Cross Cancer Institute are close neighbours; many residents work and study at these institutions.

Thank you for your thoughtful and thoroughly researched Interim Report. I appreciate the discussion of effective representation and its value in Canadian democracy. Creation of new seats in both Edmonton and Calgary will bolster effective representation. That being said, I suggest that both Edmonton and Calgary would need another seat to make representation truly effective. I suggest keeping Edmonton-Riverview within its current boundaries would facilitate the extra Edmonton seat.

The City of Edmonton totally revamped its zoning bylaws to encourage revitalization in the central ridings and to reduce expensive, wasteful urban sprawl. Densification is in full swing in Riverview. Belgravia, Windsor Park, McKernan on the south side of the river, Crestwood, Parkview and other neighbourhoods on the west side are all experiencing significant infill construction. In Belgravia many of the singlefamily homes built in the 1950s have been demolished and replaced with 8-plexes, 6-plexes, 4-plexes, duplexes and skinny houses. In Belgravia alone there are five new multifamily high rises that will create 525 new residences.

The suggestion to maintain the boundaries of Edmonton-Riverview looks to the future and is based on the massive construction boom in the riding. It looks to the near future when the riding will have reached the magic size of 54,929 that ensures maximum effective representation. Glenora and Strathcona will also continue to grow because of Edmonton's infill policies and construction boom. Splitting Riverview between Glenora and Strathcona creates two ridings that may quickly exceed the desired average size, thus reducing effective representation.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Boundaries Commission process.

Sincerely,

Kathy Williams

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**File (Optional)**

- [Written-Submission-to-the-2025-Boundaries-CommissionDecember-2025.docx](#)

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## Interim Report Submission from Shelley Koebel

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:32 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

Shelley

**Last Name**

Koebel

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Jasper

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

87 - West Yellowhead

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

88 - West Yellowhead

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Naming of electoral boundaries

## Submission

### Purpose of the submission

To express opposition to relocating Jasper into a Banff–Canmore–Bow Valley electoral riding

To outline practical, safety-based, and community-aligned reasons for remaining in the Yellowhead riding

Jasper's geographic location, service networks, and community systems are fundamentally aligned with the Yellowhead region

### 1. Geographic and Transportation Alignment

Jasper is located on the Yellowhead Highway, Highway 16, not the Trans-Canada Highway. Primary transportation routes, supply chains, and regional mobility operate on an east–west axis through Hinton, Edson, and Edmonton. Commercial freight, essential goods, and workforce access are already aligned with the Yellowhead corridor. Electoral boundaries should reflect functional geography and transportation reality rather than tourism-based regional groupings.

### 2. Emergency Management and Public Safety

Jasper's emergency planning, evacuation routes, and mutual aid agreements are coordinated through the Yellowhead region. Recent wildfire response efforts demonstrated reliance on east–west regional coordination for fire services, emergency medical response, and disaster recovery support. Maintaining consistent regional alignment is critical to public safety and effective emergency response.

### 3. Education and School Division Continuity

Jasper is part of the Grande Yellowhead Public School Division. Families benefit from stable governance, staffing continuity, and regional education planning that reflects Jasper's remote location and housing constraints. The school division has established experience supporting small communities within the Yellowhead region. Electoral boundary changes should not disrupt education systems that are functioning effectively.

### 4. Community Scale and Needs

Jasper is a small, remote community facing unique service delivery challenges. Banff and Canmore are larger Bow Valley communities with different population sizes, housing markets, and infrastructure pressures. Policies designed for Bow Valley municipalities may not align with Jasper's scale or needs. Effective representation depends on grouping communities with similar realities.

### 5. Economic and Workforce Integration

Jasper's economy relies on trades, healthcare workers, educators, and service providers who primarily travel and operate through the Yellowhead corridor. Workforce mobility, supply access, and professional services are oriented east–west rather than south. Economic regions should reflect how businesses and workers function in practice.

## 6. Representation and Community Voice

Jasper risks reduced influence within a Bow Valley focused electoral riding where larger municipalities dominate regional priorities. Remaining within the Yellowhead riding ensures representation alongside communities with shared concerns related to remoteness, service access, and regional resilience. Electoral representation is most effective when communities share common interests and challenges.

## 7. Stability During Recovery

Jasper continues to navigate wildfire recovery and long-term resilience planning. Introducing changes to electoral boundaries during recovery creates uncertainty and additional administrative strain. Stability in governance and regional alignment supports effective recovery and long-term planning for small communities.

## 8. Conclusion

Jasper's geography, emergency systems, education networks, workforce patterns, and community scale are aligned with the Yellowhead region. Maintaining Jasper within the Yellowhead electoral riding reflects how the community functions and ensures effective representation, public safety, and regional stability.

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## Interim Report Submission from Devin Dreesen

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:29 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

Devin

**Last Name**

Dreesen

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Red Deer County

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

66 - Innisfail-Sylvan Lake

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

86 - Sylvan Lake-Innisfail

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Central Alberta concerns

**Submission**

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to provide feedback on the October 2025 Interim Report of the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission.

Since the release of the report, I have heard concerns from many constituents of the report's proposed reduction of provincial representation in Central Alberta.

On their behalf, I submit that the final boundary maps should maintain the current number of ridings in Central Alberta. This would provide better representation for our region and would prevent the dilution of rural voices up in Edmonton.

Rural communities with distinct populations, institutions, history, and character are deserving of special consideration to ensure effective provincial representation.

Central Alberta is a distinct region within Alberta. And there are several distinct areas within Central Alberta.

They differ in their geographies, economies, and cultures. The people who live in them deal with each other through their own shared institutions, businesses, and community organizations.

Within my current riding, Bowden, Innisfail, Penhold, Elnora, Pine Lake, Delburne, and surrounding communities form a tightly knit group. They look toward Red Deer as a major municipal centre. But more importantly, they look to each other, sharing schools, grain elevators, churches, restaurants, and sports teams.

I grew up in Pine Lake, attended elementary school in Elnora, and high school in Innisfail. It is a close community where families have known each other for generations.

It is critical that these areas remain as the core of a single electoral constituency, and I am pleased that this was recognized in drafting the interim report.

Regarding specific changes to my riding, I would submit that the part of Red Deer County west of Highway 2 has never been part of this constituency, for the simple reason that the people there look to towns in the west for services; and therefore have been represented by Members of the Legislative Assembly from that region.

Conversely, the town of Trochu has strong connections to my constituency – that is where multi-generational farm families in the core of my riding buy their farm equipment and sell their grain – and would integrate well within the constituency.

There are differences between communities within Central Alberta, and each of them deserves proper representation.

To the farms and badlands in the east.

The ranches, forests, and foothills to the west.

And the lakes and towns to the north and northwest.

It is important to understand how the people in these areas live – and that often doesn't mesh well with straight lines on a map.

Thank you for considering this submission and for your important work in ensuring fair and effective provincial electoral boundaries.

Devin Dreeshen  
MLA, for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake

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December 15, 2025

Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission  
Suite 100, 11510 Kingsway NW  
Edmonton, AB T5G 2Y5

Dear Honourable Justice Miller and Commissioners,

**Re: Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission – Interim Report**

I am writing as a Calgary resident to express my concern about some of the recommendations set forth in the *Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission – Interim Report* (the “**Interim Report**”). Although I support many of the recommendations set forth in the Interim Report, I am deeply concerned about the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission's (the “**Commission**”) recommendation to create hybrid electoral divisions that extend the boundaries of some of Calgary’s electoral districts into surrounding bedroom and rural communities. While I appreciate the complex challenges the Commission faces in balancing representation across Alberta, I believe the proposed hybrid divisions fundamentally undermine the constitutional principle of effective representation that guides your mandate.

**The Hybrid Approach Contradicts Requirements for Effective Representation**

The Commission correctly cites the landmark *Reference re: Provincial Electoral Boundaries* (Saskatchewan), [1992] 2 SCR 158 (the “**Carter Decision**”) which established that “...the purpose of the right to vote enshrined in s. 3 of the Charter is not equality of voting power *per se*, but the right to “effective representation”.” However, the Commission’s proposed hybrid electoral divisions contradict this very principle.

Effective representation requires MLAs who can meaningfully advocate for their constituents' distinct needs and priorities. Urban communities in Calgary face challenges fundamentally different from rural communities: infrastructure, density, multicultural service delivery, and housing affordability. Rural communities are faced with challenges not often found in an urban setting, such as agricultural policy, resource extraction, and service delivery to a population that is spread over a large geographic area.

As your own report acknowledges through MLA Jasvir Deol's testimony about Edmonton-Meadows, urban representation requires specialized approaches: "multilingual staff," "ethnic media engagement," "culturally appropriate and multilingual services," and "immigration support as a vital bridge for newcomers." These needs are quite different than those of many rural communities that are more focused on agricultural or resource-based priorities. The residents of these communities access different services and see themselves as distinct.

The Commission's admission that "public input has been skeptical of hybrid electoral divisions" reflects constituents' understanding that effective representation cannot bridge such disparate community needs. Section 14 of the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* requires consideration of "communities of interest". I respectfully submit that Calgary’s urban communities are fundamentally different communities of interest than neighbouring rural communities and cannot effectively be served by a hybrid electoral district.

## The Commission's Process Reveals Predetermined Rural Protection Rather Than Evidence-Based Boundary Drawing

The report's language reveals a concerning approach that prioritizes predetermined outcomes over constitutional requirements. The Commission explicitly states it was "reluctant to remove electoral divisions from rural Alberta" and made decisions "with some reluctance given a desire not to take additional electoral divisions away from rural Alberta."

This predetermined bias contradicts the Alberta Court of Appeal's clear direction in the 1994 *Alberta Reference* that variance from population averages "must be made only on the basis of a singular electoral division, not as part of a grand province-wide scheme." Yet the Commission's approach explicitly describes a province-wide scheme to protect rural representation at urban expense.

Most tellingly, regarding Calgary-Okotoks, the Commission admits: "there were no submissions that supported this link between Calgary and Okotoks" yet proceeds with that recommendation anyway. This represents exactly the kind of arbitrary boundary-drawing that undermines public confidence in the process.

The Commission's own "Plan B" acknowledges that there is a viable alternative that demonstrates that fully urban solutions are feasible.

## Calgary's Growth Pattern Justifies a Third Full Urban Electoral Division

The Commission's own population data supports Calgary receiving three complete urban electoral divisions rather than forced hybrid arrangements.

The Interim Report documents that Calgary and Edmonton "accounted for over three-quarters of the province's growth between 2021 and 2024." Calgary's 2025 population distribution shows sufficient density to support three urban divisions within the constitutionally mandated 25% variance range—the Commission's own calculations demonstrate this feasibility. Given Calgary's expected population growth, denying Calgary a third electoral district will simply entrench the under representation that Calgarians have endured for years.

The alternative approach—utilizing Section 15(2) protections for up to four rural divisions with populations up to 50% below average—provides the constitutional tool for addressing rural representation concerns without artificially constraining urban representation.

## Recommendation

I respectfully urge the Commission to reconsider its hybrid division recommendations and instead:

1. **Create an additional fully urban Calgary electoral division** utilizing natural boundaries within the city.
2. **Address rural representation concerns** through existing Section 15(2) variance provisions rather than forced urban-rural amalgamation.
3. **Maintain community integrity** by respecting the fundamental differences between urban and rural communities of interest.

The Charter decision's wisdom lies in recognizing that effective representation serves democracy best when electoral divisions reflect genuine communities of interest rather than artificial constructs designed to achieve predetermined regional balance.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns. I trust the Commission will prioritize the constitutional mandate of effective representation over regional accommodation in your final recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Chima Nkemdirim, K.C.  
Calgary, Alberta



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## Interim Report Submission from Jen Gray

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:26 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

Jen

**Last Name**

Gray

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Sherwood Park

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

81 - Sherwood Park

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

79 - Sherwood Park

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Rural concerns
- Urban concerns

- Geographical features
- Effective representation
- Projected growth
- Other concerns

## Submission

To the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission,

I am writing to express my opposition to the interim proposal to alter Sherwood Park's internal boundaries, particularly the proposed split of Heritage Hills.

I strongly urge the Commission to keep the existing urban boundaries at Clover Bar Road and Wye Road, consistent with the 2023 map. Neighbourhoods east of Clover Bar Road have been represented within Strathcona-Sherwood Park for over a decade, and moving them would disrupt established community ties, convention, and voter clarity. For example, residents often share the same school catchment areas and community league boundaries. Maintaining these boundaries preserves neighbourhood continuity and avoids unnecessary confusion.

Instead of redrawing internal hamlet lines, I propose expanding the Sherwood Park riding north into Strathcona County, creating a new constituency that could be called Sherwood Park-Josephburg.

To meet the population target, the riding should extend as follows:

The Boundary Proposal: The riding should expand north of Highway 16 to include the area south of Highway 15 and the Fort Saskatchewan city limits.

West: Follow the North Saskatchewan River (County boundary).

North: Follow the Fort Saskatchewan city limits to Highway 15, then follow Highway 15 East to the County boundary (Range Road 204).

East: Follow the Strathcona County boundary south along Elk Island National Park to Highway 16.

South: Follow Highway 16 West back to Highway 21.

This configuration results in a population of approximately 53,500–54,000, very close to the provincial target.

Strathcona County is a specialized municipality with intertwined urban and rural interests and important local priorities, including in its northern area. This unique structure means urban and rural priorities—such as industrial growth, agricultural stewardship, and municipal service delivery—are managed cohesively by a single County Council, demanding an MLA with a singular focus on this municipality. The said area is home to key community projects and assets, including:

\* The proposed new multi-purpose recreation facility (anchored by the Sherwood Park Crusaders)

\* The Pointe Agricultural Event Centre



Aerodrome (an official municipal airport owned and operated by Strathcona County)

These projects and assets require an MLA who is deeply invested in Strathcona County's specific priorities, rather than one stretched across nearly 20 different jurisdictions.

Furthermore, this proposal would allow nearly all County residents to be represented by just two MLAs, improving accountability and coordination with County Council. It would also ensure that northern Strathcona County residents have an MLA focused on local priorities of one municipality rather than having an MLA representing an extremely large, multi-municipality region.

I respectfully ask the Commission to reject the proposal to split Heritage Hills and instead adopt the Sherwood Park-Josephsburg model. This approach not only maintains community integrity and meets population requirements, but most importantly, it ensures that Strathcona County residents receive focused and effective representation for their specific municipal priorities.

Warmest regards,  
Jen Gray

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## Interim Report Submission from Gursharan Singh Sidhu

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:26 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

Gursharan Singh

**Last Name**

Sidhu

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Calgary

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

17 - Calgary-McCall

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

03 - Calgary-Bhullar-McCall

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Urban concerns

**Submission**

It is a great privilege to submit my thoughts on the proposed changes, and I thank you for taking the time to accept them.

I am Gursharan and I live in the riding of Calgary-Bhullar-McCall. Calgary has grown by a very large amount, and that's even more true in the north east. Every day there is more and more construction, more and more people moving here.

The esteemed and qualified commission made thoughtful and careful recommendations for Calgary-Bhullar-McCall in their first report, and I think these changes are wise, considered, and in keeping with the goals and purpose of the Commission. I remain concerned that Calgary still needs an additional MLA, to help to balance the diminished value of votes in the city when compared to much smaller ridings outside the city. Calgary's needs are very different than the rural areas immediately outside our border, and city MLAs should not have to split their representation across constituents with very different priorities.

Thank you deeply for your time, your consideration of my thoughts, and for the essential work of the commission. I have great faith in you and the critical role you play in our elections.

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Outlook

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## Interim Report Submission from Lina Chinchilla

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:24 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

Lina

**Last Name**

Chinchilla

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Edmonton

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

34 - Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

35 - Edmonton-Glenora-Riverview

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Urban concerns
- Communities of interest

- Geographical features
- Projected growth

## Submission

To the Members of the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission,

I would like to start by expressing my appreciation for the work you do. Redrawing boundaries is not an easy task, it requires balancing fairness, representation, and community identity. I've reviewed your maps and reports, and I can see the thoughtful effort that has gone into this process. Maintaining strong urban representation while considering rural voices is no small feat, and I commend the transparency and detail in your approach.

I have lived in Edmonton since I was six years old, when my family and I arrived here as refugees. This city has been my home for decades, and I've seen firsthand how boundaries shape real lives, not just politics. They determine who we vote with, who advocates for our needs, and how connected we feel to our community.

For the past four years, I've lived in Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, a community rich in history and cultural diversity. It's a neighborhood where you can walk down the street and find incredible cultural stores and restaurants. As someone who is a Colombian, having Tienda Paraiso Tropical just a couple of blocks away is amazing; it's more than a store, it's a connection to my roots. These cultural hubs, along with strong community leagues and local businesses, make Highlands-Norwood feel like home.

At the same time, I work in the Edmonton-Riverview constituency, which includes neighborhoods such as Strathcona, Garneau, Belgravia, Windsor Park, McKernan, Queen Alexandra, Grandview Heights, and Parkallen. This area is unique for its proximity to the University of Alberta, its historic character, and its role as a cultural hub as well. It's a mix of long-standing communities and newer developments, tied together by transit routes and shared advocacy on housing and heritage. Splitting these areas would dilute their voice and disrupt shared advocacy on issues like housing, transit, and heritage preservation.

As a social worker and currently completing my Master's in Social Work with a focus on International Community Development my passion is helping people feel connected and supported. Strong communities thrive when their voices are unified, and boundaries play a critical role in that. If Edmonton-Riverview were split up, it would fracture the networks that residents rely on, community leagues, cultural organizations, and advocacy groups that work together on housing, transit, and heritage issues.

From my experience, when people feel disconnected from their representatives, engagement drops. Students, seniors, newcomers, and individuals with disabilities are among those most at risk of being left behind when community connections weaken. Fragmentation would make it harder for these communities to access resources, advocate for their needs, and feel a sense of belonging.

For me, serving communities means ensuring they have a strong, collective voice. Splitting Riverview risks weakening that voice and undermining the collaborative spirit that makes this area so unique.

Thank you for considering these perspectives. I deeply respect the complexity of your work and hope these insights help in shaping boundaries that reflect the lived realities of Edmonton residents.

Best,

Lina Chinchilla

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## Interim Report Submission from Ken Jones

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:18 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

Ken

**Last Name**

Jones

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Sherwood Park

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

84 - Strathcona-Sherwood Park

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

85 - Strathcona-Sherwood Park

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Rural concerns
- Urban concerns

- Hybrid electoral divisions
- Geographical features
- Effective representation
- Projected growth
- Other concerns

## Submission

To the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission,

I am writing as a resident of Strathcona-Sherwood Park to provide feedback on the proposed electoral boundary changes.

I strongly oppose the Commission's proposal to remove Heritage Hills from our constituency and to add Beaumont and parts of Leduc County. These changes do not reflect our community of interest, and I urge you to reconsider based on the following factors:

· **Heritage Hills Belongs Here:** Heritage Hills is an integral part of our community. Families there utilize Sherwood Park schools, recreation centres, and services. Removing this neighbourhood disrupts natural school catchments and splits a community that functions as one unit.

· **Beaumont is a Distinct Community:** While Beaumont is a vibrant community, its economic and social ties are to Leduc and Edmonton, not Sherwood Park. Furthermore, Strathcona County is a Specialized Municipality with a unique service delivery model that differs significantly from the City of Beaumont. Merging them forces one MLA to represent two incompatible municipal frameworks.

· **Population Targets Will Be Met Naturally:** Our constituency is currently sitting at approximately 51,000 residents, which is within the legal variance. With the rapid growth occurring in Ardrossan and Hillshire, we are projected to reach the provincial target of 55,000 naturally without requiring major boundary shifts.

· **Economic and Commuter Patterns:** Our riding is tied together by the Industrial Heartland and Refinery Row. In contrast, Beaumont's transportation corridors and commuter flows point toward Leduc and Edmonton.

**Recommendation:** Please abandon the proposal to attach Beaumont and remove Heritage Hills. If the Commission determines that adding population is strictly necessary, I submit that Tofield is a much more logical addition. Residents of Tofield already commute to Sherwood Park for work, shopping and services, creating a genuine community of interest that does not exist with Beaumont. Please keep our boundaries stable and allow our natural growth to meet your targets.

Sincerely,

Ken A. Jones

[Redacted Signature]

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Outlook

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## Interim Report Submission from Stephen Smith

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:18 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

Stephen

**Last Name**

Smith

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Edmonton

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

45 - Edmonton-West Henday

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

35 - Edmonton-Glenora-Riverview

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Urban concerns
- Communities of interest

- Geographical features
- Effective representation
- Projected growth
- Naming of electoral boundaries

## Submission

To the electoral boundaries commission:

I write to offer my thoughts on the proposed redesign of electoral districts on Alberta. I want to commend the electoral district commission on one aspect of the draft plan and critique the plan on two other aspects.

As a piece of background, I was born, grew up, and currently live in West Edmonton, and I currently work in the Edmonton-Riverview constituency office. I write with a deep familiarity both in my personal and professional life about this area of Edmonton and the concerns that residents contact their MLA about.

I was delighted, upon reading the draft electoral boundaries report, to discover that the commission has kept the shape of the Edmonton constituencies largely similar. I had been concerned, following media reports on the matter, that Edmonton might be divided up into something that looked like a sliced pizza, with each district being paired with a large amount of non-city area, diluting the voting influence of people who live within the city boundaries. I commend the commission on having the wisdom to avoid this style of “hybrid district” to a great extent.

However, I was concerned to see that Edmonton continues to be underrepresented relative to both the rural areas of the province and the other cities. The interim report makes this clear on page 108: the median Edmonton district is 3.6% more populous than the rest of the districts in Alberta. And the averages undersell the matter: 9 of Edmonton’s electoral districts – almost half – are more than 5 percentage points more populous than the target average, compared to only 5 constituencies being that far off in Calgary. Lethbridge, Airdrie, and Red Deer have no 5+ percentage point variance ridings at all. Notably, despite being a larger city, Calgary has fewer aberrantly large constituencies than Edmonton – a fact attributable to Edmonton receiving only one net new riding, while Calgary gets two.

Edmonton is in need of a new constituency above and what the commission has already designated. Edmonton added more than 100,000 new people between 2022 and 2024 alone (1), and a recent City of Edmonton report suggests that even more growth is likely soon, taking the city’s population to 1.25 million in the next two years (2). Given the commission’s apparent target of just under 55,000 people per electoral district, we should expect that Edmonton would need two new MLAs because of the 2022-24 growth alone – and another new MLA again to account for future growth. Instead, however, Edmonton nets just one new MLA in the draft report.

It is important that Edmonton be appropriately represented in the Legislature, both out of basic fairness for the people who live here, and because Edmontonian concerns are different than those for people who live outside the city. One need

only look at the frequent conflicts between Edmonton's city council and the Alberta government to see this clash of interests in action. Without adequate representation, the unique views of Edmontonians will not receive the consideration they deserve in the Alberta legislature.

Edmonton's poor representation is due to the removal of the Edmonton-Riverview constituency, a move to which I object strongly.

Edmonton-Riverview is the epicentre of development along the route of the Valley Line West LRT. Notably, the Valley Line West LRT route has been categorized by the City of Edmonton as a "priority growth area" (3) – which is to say, an area in which a high amount of growth through densification is not just expected, it is encouraged, and has been rezoned for.

Growth in the priority areas is already extremely visible, with numerous apartment buildings, townhouses, and duplexes under construction. It is worth noting that the scale of housing development is large enough to have prompted concerns from residents on both sides of the North Saskatchewan river. I would encourage members of the commission to travel along the priority growth areas and take note of the scale of the new construction that is underway. While growth in this central part of the city may have been stagnant for many years, it is no longer.

The current borders of Edmonton-Riverview include about half of the Stony Plain Road/156 street PGA corridor, as well as half of the University/Garneau PGA. The proposed redistricting, on the other hand, would leave the entirety of the Stony Plain Road/156 street PGA within the new Edmonton-Glenora-Riverview area, and the entirety of the University/Garneau PGA within Edmonton-Strathcona. While Edmonton-Strathcona will start out with its new borders at a normal size, Edmonton-Glenora-Riverview begins its life overstuffed with constituents at 12.3% above average, and will only get more out-of-alignment with fair representation as the City's planned growth continues.

The solution to this is to retain Edmonton-Riverview, and if necessary, expand its borders to include the entirety of the Priority Growth Rezoning areas. While Riverview may be a below-average population riding for a period (although still, I might add, with a higher population than half a dozen ridings outside of Edmonton) the trend would be upward, and over the next ten years would easily balance out to allow fair representation for Edmontonians and the rest of Alberta.

One thing that is very clear from my work in the Edmonton-Riverview constituency office is that people who live on both sides of the river tend to have similar concerns, views, and demographics. Numerous constituents I have spoken to work at the University but live on the North side of the river, for example, or live on the South side but take their recreation at facilities like the Buena Vista Dog Park, which is connected by the Hawrelak Park footbridge to the South half of the riding. While the river is a notable landmark in the city, as a division between communities, it is overstated, and routes like the aforementioned Hawrelak Park footbridge, Whitemud Drive, and Groat Road reinforce connections between the halves of the riding.

On a final note: I object to the name Edmonton-Glenora-Riverview. It's too long, and without the river bisecting the riding, doesn't represent the area. I would instead suggest Edmonton-Jasper or Edmonton-Jasper Place. "Jasper Place" was the name of this community prior to it being consolidated with Edmonton in 1964. While the two municipalities have been merged for 60 years, "Jasper Place" survives as the name of the local high school, the bus station, and three different community leagues (Jasper Park, Jasper Place, and West Jasper Place). Recognizing this history through a constituency name would be appropriate and immediately understandable to residents.

I want to recognize, once again, that the Electoral Boundaries Commission faces a number of very difficult choices, and that the draft map is a very good start. However, Edmonton does deserve to be properly represented, and the way to make this happen is to restore Edmonton-Riverview atop Edmonton's priority growth areas. This would bring Edmonton up to a defensible two net-new MLAs, and will allow the map to properly account for upcoming growth.

Thank you again to the commission for their work on this so far, and for considering the suggestions I have made here. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about my submission.

Kind regards,  
Stephen Smith  
Constituency Manager, Edmonton-Riverview Constituency Office

- (1) Growth Planning | City of Edmonton  
([https://www.edmonton.ca/city\\_government/urban\\_planning\\_and\\_design/growth-analysis](https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/urban_planning_and_design/growth-analysis))
- (2) Edmonton could grow to 1.25M people in two years, says administration | Edmonton Journal (<https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/growth-plan-report>)
- (3) Priority Growth Area Rezoning | City of Edmonton  
([https://www.edmonton.ca/city\\_government/city\\_vision\\_and\\_strategic\\_plan/priority-growth-area-rezoning](https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/city_vision_and_strategic_plan/priority-growth-area-rezoning))

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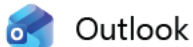
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Outlook

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## Interim Report Submission from Kayden Tonita

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:17 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



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**First Name**

Kayden

**Last Name**

Tonita

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Edmonton

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

44 - Edmonton-Strathcona

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

Multiple electoral boundaries

**What are the multiple electoral boundaries you are making a submission about?**

The Urban Core of Edmonton broadly, but more specifically Edmonton-Gold Bar, Glenora and Riverview. I also speak about both Sherwood Park constituencies.

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Urban concerns
- Hybrid electoral divisions
- Communities of interest
- Geographical features
- Effective representation
- Projected growth
- Other concerns

**Submission**

My name is Kayden Tonita, and I work in the Constituency Office for MLA Marlin Schmidt in Edmonton-Gold Bar, and currently live in the Ritchie Neighbourhood in Edmonton-Strathcona, yet I call Sherwood Park my home, and hope to live there again soon, in the coming years. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the interim report.

**Urban Edmonton Representation**

I appreciate the Commission's recognition of growth in major centers. However, Edmonton's population growth, both recent and projected, requires more representation than currently proposed. As constituency staff in Edmonton's urban core, I see firsthand the strain on social services and the increasing number of residents seeking help. Constituency offices often serve as the first point of contact for Albertans in distress, connecting them to essential resources. This demand is concentrated in core urban ridings, where vulnerable populations and frontline services are located.

When I first saw the proposal to amalgamate Edmonton-Glenora and Edmonton-Riverview, I had a visceral reaction. These are some of Edmonton's most complex and high-needs constituencies. From my experience in Edmonton-Gold Bar, I know how overwhelming the casework and walk-in traffic can be. Our office already manages a high volume of urgent requests for assistance, casework, and daily correspondence. Merging Glenora and Riverview would make it nearly impossible for one MLA and one constituency office to provide effective representation and timely support.

Additionally, the urban core is where most frontline services are located, and where Albertans who require the most crisis assistance live. Reducing representation here risks leaving residents underserved and will push surrounding constituencies to absorb higher volumes of casework. I strongly urge the Commission to reconsider this amalgamation and instead explore adding more seats in Edmonton to reflect the scale of need and anticipated growth.

Finally, I encourage the Commission to consider the impact of infill and densification on Edmonton's urban core. For example, in my own neighborhood of Ritchie, standing at the corner where I live on 75th Avenue and 97 Street, you can see six lots currently undergoing redevelopment into multi-unit dwellings, many with garage suites. While population may temporarily dip during construction, these properties will soon house three times as many residents as



before. This trend is not isolated; it reflects Edmonton's broader push toward infill development, which will significantly increase population density in established neighborhoods. These changes underscore the need for adequate representation in Edmonton's core to match the scale of future growth.

#### Municipal Boundary Consistency

I commend the Commission for keeping Edmonton ridings within municipal boundaries and avoiding rural-urban combinations. This approach respects communities of interest and local governance structures.

#### Sherwood Park and Bremner Growth

Although I live in Edmonton, my roots are in Sherwood Park, and I hope to return there one day soon. I encourage the Commission to review municipal boundaries in Strathcona-Sherwood Park when finalizing maps. Including Beaumont in this riding is concerning because these communities differ significantly in geography, municipal governance, and cultural identity. Beaumont's francophone community and cultural history deserves cohesive representation, which may be diluted under the current proposal. Additionally, please consider the rapid growth expected in Sherwood Park's Bremner development north of the Yellowhead. Area development plans project tens of thousands of new residents in the near future. Incorporating this growth into your calculations will help ensure fair population distribution and effective representation.

#### Closing

Thank you for your work and for considering these points. Edmonton's urban core and Sherwood Park's future growth deserve thoughtful boundaries that reflect communities of interest and ensure Albertans receive the representation they need.

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## Interim Report Submission from Frank Frey

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:16 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

Frank

**Last Name**

Frey

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Calgary

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

09 - Calgary-Elbow

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

Proposed electoral boundaries as a whole

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Urban concerns
- Projected growth

**Submission**

Thank you for the proposed modifications to Calgary Elbow. The creation of Calgary Confluence and changes to Calgary Buffalo are a good solution to balancing the challenges of creating fair and equitable boundaries.

I would have preferred the municipal boundary of Calgary would have been given greater weight, Calgary West and the southern boundary.

The relative weight given to rural riding and the projected growth rates are a concern about how equitable the division of constituencies urban/rural will get less equitable. Calgary and Edmonton should have more seats.

Frank Frey

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Outlook

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**Interim Report Submission from IrisAnn Porter**

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:16 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

IrisAnn

**Last Name**

Porter

**Email**

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**Municipality / City**

Foothills County

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

65 - Highwood

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

24B - Okotoks-Diamond Valley

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Rural concerns
- Southern Alberta concerns

- Hybrid electoral divisions
- Effective representation
- Projected growth

**Submission**

Highwood is known as a farming, ranching, camping, hiking area with strong grassroots western culture in this province, hence respectfully having a portion of the City of Calgary in this constituency would not be compatible and potentially compromise the harmony of both City Residence and their Rural Neighbors.

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## Interim Report Submission from Rodney MacKenzie

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:11 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

Rodney

**Last Name**

MacKenzie

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Calgary

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

05 - Calgary-Cross

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

07 - Calgary-Cross

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Communities of interest
- Effective representation

### Submission

I believe to the extent possible, communities that have been grouped together historically should remain together. Rundle, Pineridge, Marlborough and Marlborough Park should remain in the same electoral district.

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Outlook

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**Interim Report Submission from Josh Heuberger**

---

**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:10 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

Josh

**Last Name**

Heuberger

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Calgary

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

13 - Calgary-Glenmore

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

15 - Calgary-Glenmore

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Urban concerns
- Communities of interest



- Geographical features
- Effective representation
- Projected growth

## Submission

The 2025 Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission's interim report proposes changes to Calgary ridings due to population growth and new seats. However, alterations to the established Calgary-Glenmore division are absolutely unnecessary and largely disruptive. Its current boundaries, set in 2017 and effective since 2019, align well with the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act's principles: communities of interest, geographic compactness, population balance, and voter continuity.

### 1. Strong Community Cohesion

Calgary-Glenmore encompasses mature southwest neighbourhoods like Kelvin Grove, Eagle Ridge, Pump Hill, Palliser, Bayview, Oakridge and other which are bounded by Glenmore Trail, the Glenmore Reservoir, Tsuut'ina lands, 14 Street SW, Macleod Trail, and areas near Heritage Park and Weaselhead. Residents share amenities like Glenmore Landing, Heritage Park, and the Heritage LRT. Proposed shifts to adjacent ridings (e.g., Calgary-Acadia, Calgary-Elbow, Calgary-Fish Creek) would fragment these ties and dilute local priorities.

### 2. Adequate Population Balance

Calgary-Glenmore's population aligns with provincial averages, showing moderate growth, unlike the rapid suburban expansion we see more south in areas like Apline Park, etc. It falls within allowable variances and complies with Charter requirements. Any changes seem driven by ripple effects from new Calgary seats rather than any imbalance here.

### 3. Geographic Compactness and Natural Boundaries

Current lines effectively use landmarks like Glenmore Trail (north), reservoir/river pathways (west/south), and arterial roads like Macleod Trail. This creates a logical, connected district with shared parks and routes. Alterations could reduce clarity and incorporate mismatched areas.

### 4. Voter Continuity and Effective Representation

Stable for over a decade, the riding fosters strong MLA-constituent relationships on issues like mature-neighbourhood housing, reservoir stewardship, and Glenmore Trail improvements. Changes would disrupt trust in these family-oriented communities. With new seats addressing growth elsewhere, established ridings like Glenmore should remain unchanged to minimize disruption.

In summary, Calgary-Glenmore fully meets electoral criteria. The Commission should retain its boundaries in the final report to preserve a cohesive community.

## Terms

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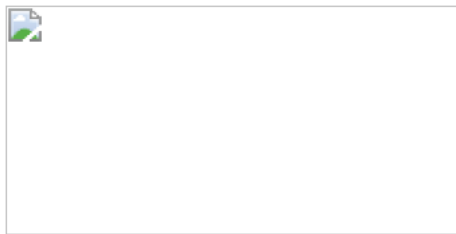
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**Interim Report Submission from Erica Bullwinkle**

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:10 PM**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca> 1 attachment (19 KB)

Boundaries Commission submission Bullwinkle.docx;



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**First Name**

Erica

**Last Name**

Bullwinkle

**Email****Municipality / City**

Edmonton

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

40 - Edmonton-Riverview

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

Multiple electoral boundaries

**What are the multiple electoral boundaries you are making a submission about?**

Edmonton-Riverview, Edmonton-Strathcona, Edmonton Glenora-Riverview,  
Edmonton McClung, Edmonton-North West, Edmonton-West-Enoch

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Urban concerns

**Submission**

Submission to the Electoral Boundaries Commission for Alberta

My name is Erica Bullwinkle and I live in the constituency of Edmonton Riverview. Under the reorganization of boundaries, I will be in Edmonton Strathcona.

I would like to acknowledge the excellent work done by the boundaries commission, which appears to have strived for fairness and respected natural boundaries in its deliberations. I am, however, troubled by the number of voters in some of the Edmonton constituencies. The city has grown outwards for some time now and this makes it logical that extra seats would be added on the periphery of the city. However, trends in population growth in our city, and others, are beginning to change.

As a matter of public policy, municipalities are encouraging, through bylaw changes, increased density within existing boundaries. This is particularly noticeable in central Edmonton, in what are sometimes called the core communities. For both economic and environmental reasons, new urban development is now focused on so-called "infill". In my own neighbourhood of Windsor Park, this is taking the form of a variety of different residential options. It began with lots being divided and a single home being replaced with two (sometimes known as "skinnies"). We now also have new multi-unit buildings. There is a 14-storey apartment building on the corner of 87 Ave and 118 St and behind it another seven-storey development, currently under construction, that will consist of more than 100 units, where there were formerly five houses. Buildings with six to eight units are being built on what was formerly a single lot and it looks as though there will be a lot more of these.

In the community of Garneau, whole blocks of five to seven storey apartments have replaced single family homes. And there are even taller buildings recently built or under construction in all the neighbourhoods close to me. I think we can expect the population of the new constituency of Edmonton-Strathcona to grow considerably in the next few years and this trend is being seen across the core communities.

Variance in the population size of constituencies is a feature of Alberta's electoral map and urban voters have learned to accept, albeit reluctantly, that their votes will sometimes be worth less than rural ones. As the commission points out, strict representation by population is not the tradition in Canada for drawing of

electoral boundaries. This boundaries commission has mostly done a good job of keeping of variances to a minimum. Nevertheless, with the elimination of the constituency of Edmonton-Riverview, the new constituency of Edmonton Glenora-Riverview will have one of the highest populations in the province, as will Edmonton-McClung and Edmonton-North West. These three constituencies have larger variances than anywhere else, all with about a third more total voters than Mackenzie and Drumheller-Stettler.

I would like to ask the commission to consider adding an extra seat to Edmonton, as it is clear from current trends that the population of central constituencies will grow over the next few years. I realize that this will be challenging, so I would like to talk a bit about the current boundaries of Edmonton Riverview, where I have been a resident since it was first created for the 1997 election. Although the constituency is somewhat unusual because it is divided by the North Saskatchewan River, this has not seemed to be an obstacle to having effective representation from the MLA, either the current or previous ones (we've had MLAs from three political parties). I believe this is because the communities on both sides are similar, being mature neighbourhoods with neighbourhood schools, well-established community leagues and some small businesses, so residents tend to have similar concerns and priorities. The commission should not consider reintroducing a constituency divided by the river as a problem, if this would introduce a more equitable number of voters in Edmonton constituencies, provided such a constituency does consist of neighbourhoods with similar interests and character.

I would like to note that having the University of Alberta in Edmonton-Riverview gives its MLA additional constituents who are often not captured as residents in the census process and this will also be true if the university is moved into Edmonton Strathcona.

I would also draw the commission's attention to the new hybrid constituency of Edmonton-West-Enoch. Putting more urban voters into this one and redistributing some of its voters into surrounding suburban/rural seats would enable reduction in the population of the constituencies in west and north-west Edmonton.

I hope these reflections will be helpful to the commission as it develops a final map to recommend to the Alberta Legislature. Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

Erica Bullwinkle

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

12/19/25

**File (Optional)**

- [Boundaries-Commission-submission\\_Bullwinkle.docx](#)

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## Interim Report Submission from John (Jack) Redekop

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:05 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



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**First Name**

John (Jack)

**Last Name**

Redekop

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Calgary

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

11 - Calgary-Fish Creek

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

13 - Calgary-Fish Creek

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Urban concerns
- Communities of interest

- Geographical features
- Effective representation
- Projected growth

## Submission

As a resident of south Calgary for over 30 years and directly involved as a community volunteer (President of Trico Centre for Family Wellness 2006-2010, memberships from 53 community associations at the time, etc.) and politically both federally and provincially I feel I have an intimate understanding of Calgary south communities.

My objections are primarily around Communities of Interest, Geographical features and Projected growth.

I am comparing your Proposed to Existing and rather than having specific data on individual community populations I am using my personal understanding of the population sizes of these communities and your 2024 constituency population statistics on your map.

Specifically;

(1) For Calgary Fish Creek Proposed, the west of Macleod Trail sliver along Fish-Creek is more naturally attached to Calgary Loughheed, not just geographically, but from a community use standpoint. I appreciate the effort to maintain the integrity of the name by including as much of areas around Fish-Creek as possible, but the fact of the matter is that community usage of this area of the park is mostly from the communities of Shawnee, Evergreen, Evergreen Estates, Millrise, etc. Of course geographically it aligns more logically, with Loughheed, as well. From a total population standpoint it would add to Loughheed bringing them closer to the mean.

(2) I suggest adding Diamond Cove/Queensland to Calgary Acadia - basically extending down Canyon Meadows Drive all the way to Fish Creek Park/Bow River and including all that is north of Canyon Meadows Drive, except Deer River. Not only is this a more natural geographical fit, but the communities of Diamond Cove, and Queensland actually, more naturally associate with Bonavista Downs, Lake Bonavista etc. than with Deer Run, Deer River, Deer Ridge. Of course from a population standpoint it increases Calgary Acadia, bringing them closer to the mean.

(3) I suggest adding Shawnessy and Silverado to Loughheed, both a geographical fit and an increase in population bringing them more to the mean, as well as organic growth from the new communities of Balmoral, so basically covering the west side of Highway 2A.

(4) I suggest adding to Calgary Fish Creek by extending the boundary all the way down 194th Ave. East to the Bow River. Geographically a better fit, an increase in population bringing them closer to the mean and continued organic growth in those new communities.



(5) Calgary Shaw, geographically is huge with its population, so that above changes reduce that and more equally distribute to Loughheed and Fish-Creek. But of course they would be substantially diminished in population and size with the implementation of the suggestions above. I suggest adding Cranston - which would probably make up more than the difference lost, but expected still not to deviate too much from the mean.

(6) Calgary South-East loses Cranston but is part of the heaviest growth of communities of Mahogany, Seton, and the new and rapidly expanding communities of Rangeview, an Heartwood, etc. These communities are anywhere from 10% to 50% of their expected capacity and are clearly the fastest growing communities in Calgary, much less the province. Of course 2024 statistics show Calgary South-East as over 13,000 above the mean.

I think, if you examine these suggestions carefully, you will discover that constituency populations will end up much more closer to the mean by 2027, are geographically superior to what has been proposed and, most importantly, fit the communities' living, travelling, and activity engagement habits with regards to education (schools attended), recreation (facilities and park attendance), shopping, etc.

Sincerely, Jack Redekop (Full Disclosure as well as evidential representation of my knowledge of these communities: Currently member of the Calgary Fish-Creek UCP Board and Chief Financial Officer of the United Conservative Party. Past President of Calgary Trico Centre, Calgary Fish Creek UCP CA, Calgary South-East UCP CA, Calgary Midnapore Conservative Party of Canada, members of Calgary South East Federal constituency, hockey coach for 10+ years).

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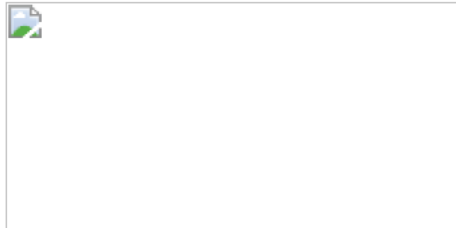
## Interim Report Submission from Don Hubble

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:05 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



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**First Name**

Don

**Last Name**

Hubble

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Taber

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

85 - Taber-Warner

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

56 - Cardston-Taber-Warner

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Southern Alberta concerns

## Submission

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. As a long term resident of Taber I would respectfully ask you to reconsider a hybrid model that incorporates part of Lethbridge with communities to the East / South East down the Agri Food Corridor that extends down Highway 3. Your proposal to recreate Cardston Taber Warner is quite unpalatable as we have few economic or social ties with the good people of Cardston, Glenwood, Hill Springs, etc. Residents of Taber and the Highway 3 corridor travel into Lethbridge for economic, social, health, education and legal items. We are linked by common economic and social concerns. For example there is currently a major fundraising campaign underway to create cardiac centers of excellence for Southern Alberta in Lethbridge and Medicine Hat which people outside of those two cities are contributing to. As a resident of Taber we view Lethbridge as larger version of ourselves with many, many people commuting to and from each community for work everyday. We have a lot in common as we live and work seamlessly between the various communities that stretch along the highway 3 corridor. So I would urge you to try and keep this corridor intact and leave Coaldale with Barnwell, Taber, Bow Island in the redrawn boundaries.

A final comment on Cardston-Taber-Warner constituency. There is no "nostalgia" for that riding and myself and many others were happy when a previous commission eliminated it in favor of Taber-Warner. Resurrecting Cardston-Taber-Warner will not be a step forward for people who live here.

In closing I would urge the commission to recognize how the people in this area live, work, play, and receive services. We do that along the Agri food corridor / highway 3 that links us together.

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**Interim Report Submission from Susan Jubb**

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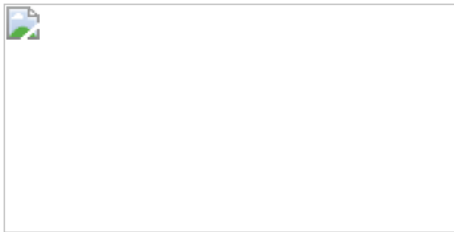
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**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:05 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>

 1 attachment (104 KB)

Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission 2nd Submission.pdf;



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**First Name**

Susan

**Last Name**

Jubb

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Edmonton

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

29 - Edmonton-City Centre

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

38 - Edmonton-Manning

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Urban concerns
- Hybrid electoral divisions
- Effective representation
- Projected growth

**Submission**

Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission  
 Suite 100, 11510 Kingsway NW  
 Edmonton, AB T5G 2Y5

To the Members of the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission,

I am writing to you as a long-term resident of Edmonton Manning. Having participated in the initial round of in-person sessions, I would first like to thank the Commission for its commitment to a fair and equitable process and for upholding the fundamental principles of our democracy.

I am submitting these comments for the second round of consultations to reinforce previous suggestions and offer further refinements to the proposed map.

#### 1. Maintaining the Distinction Between Urban and Rural Ridings

I strongly advocate for keeping urban and rural ridings separate. Residents choose their environments based on specific needs; I choose Edmonton for its proximity to specialized infrastructure—such as transit systems, high-density retail, and major hospitals—and for the cultural diversity provided by our festivals and theaters.

In contrast, rural communities have distinct identities and priorities. Frequently, a "solution" for a city is a "problem" for the country. Combining these divergent demographics into a single riding creates a zero-sum game for an MLA. By blending these populations, we risk a "dilution of interest" where neither group's unique needs are effectively championed, leading to poor representation for both.

#### 2. The Necessity of an Additional Riding for Edmonton

Given that this map will govern our province for the next 8 to 10 years, it must account for Edmonton's unprecedented growth. My support for an additional riding is based on the following:

**Rapid Influx:** Edmonton's 5.7% growth between 2023 and 2024 is the fastest in two decades.

**The "Red Deer" Metric:** Edmonton is effectively adding the population of a city the size of Red Deer every two years.

**Future Projection:** With the city-proper population expected to reach 1.5 million by 2035, the current proposal is a necessary corrective measure.

Without this additional riding, the voting power of Edmontonians will be significantly diluted compared to residents in slower-growing regions. To ensure "one person, one vote," we must ensure that urban MLAs are not overwhelmed

by massive caseloads, particularly in neighborhoods with high concentrations of young families and newcomers who require accessible provincial support.

Thank you for your consideration of these points as you finalize the 2026 electoral map.

Sincerely,  
Susan Jubb

**File (Optional)**

- [Alberta-Electoral-Boundaries-Commission-2nd-Submission.pdf](#)

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# **Preserving Representation in Northern Alberta**

*The Case for Retaining the Lesser Slave Lake Electoral District*

Prepared by Mayor Francesca A. Ward, CPA-CGA, on behalf of the Town of Slave Lake  
Council

Final Submission – December 16, 2025

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## Advocacy Report Opposing the Elimination of the Lesser Slave Lake Electoral District

For decades, Lesser Slave Lake has been more than lines on a map – it encompasses our town, First Nations and Métis communities, rural municipalities, and service areas that work together as one. Eliminating this constituency would disregard constitutional principles, violate the spirit of Alberta’s electoral boundaries legislation, and ignore existing regional governance structures that bind our communities. We urge the Legislature to consider the evidence and analysis in this report, which demonstrates why retaining the Lesser Slave Lake riding is vital for fair representation in Alberta’s democracy.

---

### Introduction

The Lesser Slave Lake electoral district has existed since 1971, providing a voice in the Legislature for a vast area of north-central Alberta[1][2]. It is home to the Town of Slave Lake and Town of High Prairie, the entirety of the Municipal District (M.D.) of Opportunity No. 17, and parts of Big Lakes County, the M.D. of Lesser Slave River No. 124, and Northern Sunrise County[3][1]. This region includes at least eleven First Nations and multiple Métis communities that share a common geography and history[4]. Under the current boundaries, Lesser Slave Lake has been one of Alberta’s specially designated low-population ridings, recognizing the unique needs of a large rural and Indigenous constituency spread across hundreds of kilometres [5].

The Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission’s interim proposals would eliminate the Lesser Slave Lake riding entirely, splitting its communities among three new or expanded constituencies[6]. This comes despite the Legislature expanding from 87 to 89 seats, ostensibly to improve representation[7][8]. Under the proposal, our region would paradoxically lose representation. The proposed map merges or reassigns northern districts such that “two Peace Country ridings [Central Peace-Notley and Peace River] be combined into one” [9] and most of the current Lesser Slave Lake constituency is carved up among other divisions[10]. Specifically, the M.D. of Lesser Slave River (which surrounds the Town of Slave Lake) is to be placed in a new “Slave Lake–Athabasca–Westlock” riding, Big Lakes County (High Prairie area) would be moved into a merged “Peace River–Notley” riding, and the majority of our northern territory (including Wabasca and surrounding communities in the M.D. of Opportunity) would be absorbed into a far-northern “Mackenzie” riding[6]. These drastic changes raise serious concerns under both the constitutional principle of adequate representation and the practical governance of our region.

All assertions herein are supported by current data, legislation, commission reports, and court rulings, fully cited for the Electoral Boundaries Commission’s consideration. The stakes for northern representation are high – as Alberta grows, we must ensure that urban representation grows without silencing the North. The goal of this report is to advocate constructively for keeping Lesser Slave Lake intact as an electoral district, as a matter of effective representation and regional integrity in Alberta’s democracy.

## 1. Constitutional Principles of Effective Representation

Section 3 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees citizens the right to vote in provincial elections, which the Supreme Court of Canada has interpreted to mean the right to “effective representation,” not merely numerical parity[11]. In the landmark *Reference re Provincial Electoral Boundaries (Sask.) 1991* (the Carter decision), the Court affirmed that while voters’ relative equality in population is an essential factor, deviations from absolute population equality are justified to ensure adequate representation, taking into account factors like geography, community history, community interests and minority representation[11]. The Court famously stated that “*the purpose of the right to vote enshrined in s. 3 of the Charter is not equality of voting power per se but the right to ‘effective representation’*” [11]. In other words, representation in our Legislature must balance population with an MLA’s practical ability to represent a large, remote region, and the need for communities with distinct identities to have a voice.

This constitutional principle is reflected in Alberta’s own legislation. The Electoral Boundaries Commission Act (EBCA) sets parameters for redistributing seats, allowing certain districts to maintain effective representation in exceptional cases. Generally, the Act directs that the population of a riding should be within  $\pm 25\%$  of the provincial average[12][13]. However, crucially, Section 15(2) of the Act permits the Commission to recommend up to four electoral divisions with populations as much as 50% below the provincial average (i.e. at most half of the norm) if at least three of several specified criteria are met[14][15]. Those criteria include:

1. a vast geographic area (over 20,000 km<sup>2</sup>)[15],
2. significant distance from the Legislature (boundary more than 150 km from Edmonton)[16],
3. lack of any town larger than 8,000 residents in the district[17],
4. inclusion of Indigenous reserves or Métis settlements[18], and
5. The presence of a provincial border as a district boundary[19].

These provisions embody the Carter principle – they explicitly allow sparsely populated, remote regions with dispersed communities (often including Indigenous peoples) to maintain their own MLA even if their numbers are far below average, so that those voters have adequate representation in the Legislature[14][15]. Alberta’s law recognizes that “one-size-fits-all” voter parity would fail northern and rural areas where distances are vast, and communities of interest must be kept whole.

Lesser Slave Lake has consistently met the criteria for such a special electoral division. It spans a huge area (our current boundaries stretch roughly 350 km north-south, from Peerless Lake in the North to just beyond Calling Lake in the south) and contains no large urban centre – our two small towns have populations of ~6,700 (Slave Lake) and ~2,300 (High Prairie), well under the 8,000 threshold[20]. The district is over 250 km from

Edmonton at its nearest point, and much farther for many northern communities. It also encompasses numerous First Nations reserves and Métis settlements (e.g. Bigstone Cree, Driftpile, Sawridge, Sucker Creek, Peavine Métis, Gift Lake Métis, and others)[4]. In short, Lesser Slave Lake satisfies at least four of the EBCA's five criteria – a textbook case for an allowable low-population district. This status was acknowledged in the last boundary review: Lesser Slave Lake was one of only two ridings given “special division” status in 2017 due to its sparse population and expansive territory[5]. At that time, the district's population (27,818) was about 41% below the provincial average, a variance explicitly permitted by law in recognition of the “relatively low population in the region and large distances between population centers.” [5] The Commission in 2017 unanimously agreed that Lesser Slave Lake warranted this exceptional variance to ensure residents were effectively represented[5].

It is concerning, then, that the current proposal would erase Lesser Slave Lake's special consideration despite no change in these underlying conditions. The interim report suggests reallocating our communities to raise population counts in other ridings, effectively prioritizing arithmetic parity over the effective representation of our unique region. This runs contrary to the spirit of Carter and the EBCA. The Act's allowance for up to four under-populated ridings is a deliberate choice by the Legislature to protect places like ours. Using fewer than the maximum four exceptions (or eliminating one that has long existed) is a policy choice that must be justified against the loss of representation it entails.

In *Carter*, the Supreme Court warned that overemphasis on population equality can undermine effective representation for rural and northern areas[11]. The goal is to avoid “relative parity of voting power” being the *only* driver, at the cost of leaving citizens in remote regions without meaningful access to their MLA[11]. Here, eliminating Lesser Slave Lake would create an enormous new Slave Lake–Athabasca–Westlock riding stretching from the shores of Lesser Slave Lake to the outskirts of Edmonton, and another Mackenzie riding spanning even more remote territory to the northwest[21]. Each new riding would absorb tens of thousands of square kilometres and disparate communities. One MLA would be expected to cover what two MLAs do today. This is precisely the scenario the Supreme Court and our provincial law caution against – representation so strained by distance and diversity of communities that it ceases to be “effective” in any practical sense.

In summary, the constitutional and statutory principles of effective representation strongly support retaining Lesser Slave Lake as a distinct electoral district. The Canadian Charter and Alberta's EBCA both recognize that equitable democracy doesn't always mean identical populations in every riding – it means every Albertan having a fair opportunity to be heard, including those in the North. As MLA Colin Piquette (Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater) pointed out in the last redistribution debate, “the Canadian system has never been predicated on a strict one-person, one vote... Effective representation means it is legitimate to take other factors into consideration.” Those factors are squarely at play here. The proposed elimination of our riding would sacrifice the effective representation of northern Albertans on the altar of mathematical equality. It is both legally permissible and, we submit, democratically necessary to instead preserve Lesser Slave Lake's seat, using the tools our laws provide to balance representation by population with representation of communities.[22][23]

## 2. Disregard for Regional Governance Structures in Proposed Boundaries

Beyond legal principles, the proposal to dissolve Lesser Slave Lake flagrantly disregards the existing regional governance and service structures that organize our community life. Over many years, our municipalities, Indigenous governments, and provincial agencies have developed collaborative frameworks that *already define Lesser Slave Lake and its environs as a functional region*. These include health service zones, school divisions, housing authorities, and economic alliances that align closely with the current electoral division. By carving our area into pieces and attaching them to far-flung southern or northern ridings, the proposal would rupture these established relationships, harming service delivery and diluting our collective voice.

### 2.1 Health Services Region – Alberta Health North-Central (Region 4)

The Government of Alberta itself recognizes the Slave Lake area as a distinct region for health planning. Alberta Health recently established Regional Health Advisory Councils, and notably “Regional Advisory Council 4 covers communities in the north-central area of the province” – essentially the Lesser Slave Lake and surrounding corridor[24]. Council 4’s membership and mandate are to identify health issues and priorities spanning Slave Lake, Wabasca, High Prairie, and adjacent communities, reflecting the fact that we form a *coherent health service region*[24]. For example, our region’s major hospital (Slave Lake Healthcare Centre) and the surrounding network of clinics serve residents from Slave Lake, Sawridge, Lesser Slave River, Big Lakes, and parts of the M.D. of Opportunity as one catchment. Patient referral patterns and emergency response routes all orient around this hub. The North-Central Health Council (Region 4) is an official forum intended to give our area a voice in Alberta Health’s decision-making.

Splitting the Lesser Slave Lake riding would sever this health region politically. Under the interim map, the communities covered by Health Region 4 would be represented by *three* different MLAs in ridings that each also cover much larger external areas[6]. The integrity of our health advocacy could suffer – today, one MLA can raise local health needs (e.g. hospital staffing, mental health programming for the whole Slave Lake/Wabasca area) directly in Edmonton. Tomorrow, that responsibility could be fragmented, with Slave Lake’s hospital in one constituency and outlying communities in another. There is a real risk that health outcomes in our rural north-central zone will be deprioritized, as our concerns become subsumed under vastly larger constituencies that also encompass urban or other distant populations. This contradicts the very purpose of having a Regional Health Council for our area. The Commission’s proposal thus runs counter to the government’s own regionalization of health engagement, effectively disempowering our local health council and the residents it speaks for.

### 2.2 Education – High Prairie School Division Jurisdiction

Education is another sphere where Lesser Slave Lake forms a natural region. The High Prairie School Division (HPSD No. 48) is the public-school authority serving most of this area. HPSD operates 12 schools across a broad territory “from Falher... to Slave Lake, Alberta” [25] – essentially the communities along the southern half of Lesser Slave Lake and westward to the

Smoky River. The division provides K-12 education to a population of over 23,000 within its zone[26]. Importantly, HPSD's governance is structured by wards that mirror our communities: for instance, Ward 4 of HPSD covers the Town of Slave Lake and surrounding communities (including nearby rural hamlets)[20]. High Prairie (Ward 2) and the lake's western settlements like Jousard/Kinuso (Ward 3) also have their own trustees, ensuring local representation on the board[20]. In effect, the school division knits together the Lesser Slave Lake basin's communities – Slave Lake, Sawridge, Kinuso, Jousard, Faust, High Prairie, etc. – under one educational governance umbrella.

Currently, our MLA can work with one school board to address education concerns for the whole region, from infrastructure funding to Indigenous education programs. The proposed boundary changes would complicate this drastically. If Big Lakes County and High Prairie are moved into a Peace River-anchored riding while Slave Lake goes south, the HPSD territory gets split between two or more MLAs[6]. Those MLAs will each also represent other school divisions (e.g. Peace Wapiti in the northwest, Aspen View or Pembina Hills in the south), and HPSD's unified voice could be lost in the mix. The Commission's map ignores the HPSD jurisdictional boundary, which has long been drawn to reflect community ties and student movement patterns in our area. Instead, schools in the eastern half of HPSD (Slave Lake) would be represented by an MLA focused on communities toward Westlock, while schools in the western half (High Prairie/Falher) would fall under an MLA focused on Peace Country. This split is purely artificial – it does not arise from any shift in where people live or how they interact, but solely from an attempt to meet population targets by merging unrelated regions. The outcome would be that our local educational issues become lower priorities, as they will form smaller portions of much larger, more diverse constituencies. We risk fewer advocacy wins, like new school approvals or program funding, because our needs will compete with those of distant communities that do not share our school system or challenges.

### **2.3 Housing & Social Services – Lesser Slave Lake Regional Housing Authority**

Our region also collaborates extensively on housing and social programs. The Lesser Slave Lake Regional Housing Authority (LSLRHA) is a prime example. This housing management body, established by Ministerial Order under the Alberta Housing Act, pools resources across three municipalities – the Town of Slave Lake, the M.D. of Lesser Slave River #124, and the M.D. of Opportunity #17 – plus local Métis and veteran organizations[27]. The LSLRHA's board includes representatives from Slave Lake, Lesser Slave River, Opportunity, Métis Nation Region 5, and the Slave Lake Legion[27]. It operates seniors' lodges, affordable housing, and rent subsidies in the Slave Lake *and* Smith areas of Lesser Slave River, as well as in Wabasca (Opportunity). This regional housing authority was explicitly created to address housing needs spanning the greater Slave Lake area and certain remote hamlets in our Indigenous communities[27]. It embodies the principle that our municipalities are stronger by working together – a senior in Slave Lake, a family in Red Earth Creek, and a single parent in Smith all benefit from the coordinated approach LSLRHA provides to low-cost housing and supportive living.

If Lesser Slave Lake is eliminated, the partnership underpinning LSLRHA could be strained. Today, one MLA (our MLA) can champion the Housing Authority's initiatives and funding requests, knowing they benefit constituents across all three member municipalities. Under the new map, Slave Lake and M.D. Lesser Slave River would be in a different riding than Wabasca and the M.D. of Opportunity, splitting the Housing Authority's stakeholders between at least two MLAs[6]. Those MLAs might prioritize other areas or push different housing strategies, making it harder for LSLRHA to secure unified political support. There is also a fear that future provincial decisions (funding, new housing builds, etc.) could play our communities against each other if they fall in separate political camps. The Ministerial Order establishing LSLRHA envisioned it as a vehicle for inter-municipal cooperation within a contiguous region[28][27]. Tearing that region apart electorally is counterproductive – it ignores the on-the-ground reality that Slave Lake, Sawridge, MD 124 Lesser Slave River, and Wabasca (Opportunity) share housing challenges and have chosen a collaborative solution. The Commission's plan could weaken that solution by dispersing accountability. It disregards the "functional geography" of social services in our area, which do not align with the far-flung groupings now proposed.

#### **2.4 Economic Development & Regional Alliances – Alberta North Central Alliance (ANCA)**

Perhaps most striking is how the proposed boundaries would undermine the Alberta North Central Alliance (ANCA) – a regional economic and advocacy alliance that was specifically formed to unite the Lesser Slave Lake corridor and adjacent Indigenous communities. Established in 2021 out of the successful tri-council partnership in Slave Lake, ANCA brought together five municipalities and four First Nations in our region to speak with one voice on common interests[29][30]. Charter members included the Town of Slave Lake, M.D. of Lesser Slave River, Sawridge First Nation, Bigstone Cree Nation (Wabasca area), and initially the M.D. of Opportunity[30]. The Alliance's purpose is to advocate for infrastructure, transportation, broadband, and investment in "the Lesser Slave Lake and Wabasca area, which is geographically in the middle of Alberta, but considered northern Alberta." [30] In other words, ANCA explicitly defines our region as a meaningful unit – *northern but central*, rich in natural resources, with communities interconnected by trade, travel, and family ties. This Alliance has pursued projects like improved highway corridors (e.g. Hwy 88 and 2), healthcare facility upgrades, and economic diversification programs that benefit all member communities.

The Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission's proposal would all but shatter ANCA's political cohesion. Under the new map, ANCA members would be split across three ridings: Slave Lake and Sawridge FN with Athabasca–Westlock, Bigstone Cree Nation and (if it rejoins ANCA) M.D. of Opportunity with the new Mackenzie riding far to the North, and any western partners (e.g. Big Lakes or High Prairie, should they participate) with Peace River–Notley[6]. It is hard to imagine the Alliance remaining as effective when its member communities must now lobby through a patchwork of MLAs who each represent divergent areas and priorities. The very impetus for ANCA was to overcome fragmentation – previously, our towns and First Nations often felt overlooked as isolated pockets; together, we formed a critical mass. The proposed boundaries re-fragment us. For example, a primary ANCA goal has been improving

Hwy 2 and 2A (the transportation backbone from Athabasca through Slave Lake to High Prairie). Who will be accountable for that goal if the route traverses three constituencies? One segment of the highway will lie in an Edmonton-area dominated riding, another in a Peace Country riding, and a third in a far-northern riding. No single MLA will see it as “their” highway to champion, and the project could fall through the cracks.

Similarly, ANCA’s voice on provincial policy (forestry, oil and gas, tourism in the Lesser Slave Lake region) will be diluted. The Alliance had given us a seat at the table provincially, but if our unity is not reflected in our representation, our influence wanes. It is telling that even during the current review process, our local leaders emphasized using “natural trading patterns” and common interests to guide boundaries. Those natural patterns are exactly what ANCA embodies – yet the interim plan pointedly ignores them, lumping Slave Lake with communities far south with which we have little in common, and Wabasca with High Level, which is over 400 km away. This disregard for existing regional alliances like ANCA signals a top-down approach that runs contrary to the provincial trend of encouraging regional cooperation. In fact, the 2017 Commission’s majority had argued “the time has come to stop treating differences between rural and urban Albertans as a main driver” for boundaries. But ANCA’s existence proves that rural northern Albertans have forged their own regional identity – and losing our dedicated MLA would deprive this region of focused advocacy. The proposed new constituencies do not correspond to any economic development zones or municipal associations; they are purely electoral concoctions. We submit that the Legislature should honour the organic regional structures like ANCA, rather than carving them apart. Keeping Lesser Slave Lake riding intact would directly support the ongoing efforts of our local governments and Indigenous partners to collaborate for the betterment of our region.[31][32]

### **3. Loss of Representation for Northern Alberta**

The elimination of Lesser Slave Lake must also be viewed in the broader context of representation in Alberta’s North. Under the proposed redistribution, northern Alberta stands to lose one Member of the Legislative Assembly even as the total number of MLAs increases province wide. The Legislature is expanding from 87 to 89 seats to reflect population growth[7][33], yet none of those new seats are allocated to the North – in fact, the North is asked to give up a seat. This is evident from the Commission’s recommendations: two existing northern rural ridings (Peace River and Central Peace-Notley) are combined into one[9], effectively subtracting one MLA from the northern half of the province. While a new “Mackenzie” district is created in the far northwest, it appears to mostly cover areas that were previously in the Peace River riding[34]. Meanwhile, Lesser Slave Lake is dissolved. The net effect is that the number of MLAs serving northern and rural Alberta would drop, while new seats are added in urban or suburban areas (as hinted by discussions of new Calgary, Edmonton, or Airdrie divisions in public commentary[35]).

This shift has concrete implications. Our northern constituencies are already vast and challenging to serve, a fact acknowledged by our current and former MLAs. During Commission hearings, witnesses from the North recounted the difficulty when one MLA had

to cover what is now two ridings, noting it was “not a fun time” and that asking a single representative to handle an area like Fort McMurray north “is a tall task” that strains effective representation[36][37]. With the interim plan, we are heading back in that direction: one MLA would cover the combined Peace region; another would cover an enlarged Fort McMurray–Lac La Biche, plus perhaps more territory; and the new Slave Lake–Athabasca–Westlock district would mash together communities currently served by two MLAs. When MLAs must spend more time travelling and less time with each community, citizens inevitably receive less attention and service. For example, an MLA based in Westlock will be hard-pressed to attend regular events in Slave Lake (a 1.5-2 hour drive one-way) on top of duties in their southern towns. Similarly, an MLA for the new Mackenzie riding might be covering from High Level to Wabasca – hundreds of kilometres apart, with totally different local issues, meaning places like Wabasca could see their representative only infrequently.

It cannot escape notice that the areas losing standalone representation are those with significant Indigenous populations and resource-based economies. Lesser Slave Lake riding has one of the highest proportions of First Nations and Métis residents in Alberta[4]. Reducing northern seats effectively diminishes Indigenous representation. The Supreme Court in *Carter* recognized that effective representation of diverse communities, including Indigenous peoples, is a valid reason to maintain smaller ridings even if the population is low[38]. Our current MLA has been responsible for liaising with at least 11 First Nation governments – a responsibility that could now be split and diluted among multiple MLAs who each also serve large non-Indigenous populations. There is a real fear that Indigenous voices will be drowned out. As one local leader observed in 2017, our system’s strength is its “hands-on approach at the constituency level,” which should not be attenuated[39][22]. Removing an MLA from the North does precisely that – it attenuates the attention to unique northern issues like treaty rights, remote healthcare, infrastructure gaps, and economic reconciliation.

Likewise, the resource revenues generated in our northern region are disproportionate – for example, the oil sands near Wabasca and forestry around Slave Lake contribute mightily to Alberta’s economy. One speaker in Fort McMurray noted that the GDP per capita in that region is exponentially higher than in urban areas, yet “one seat” in the Legislature cannot reflect that contribution[40][41]. The sentiment in our region is similar: we work hard and drive economic growth, but fear being politically sidelined. Taking away our dedicated MLA seat sends a demoralizing message. It reinforces the feeling that urban Alberta’s numerical clout can overwhelm northern Alberta’s needs – precisely the imbalance the Charter’s effective representation guarantee seeks to prevent[11].

To be clear, we support fair representation for growing cities. But fairness must not come at the total expense of rural and northern representation. Even after the last redistribution in 2017, analysts noted that rural overrepresentation “is not really the big issue it used to be” – by 2010 and 2017, most rural ridings were within 10-15% of the average population[42][43]. In fact, only two special-case districts (including Lesser Slave Lake) remained far below average[44]. Thus, the historical imbalance has already been largely corrected, and rural Albertans today are under the same MLA workload pressures as urban MLAs, if not greater, due to travel. In this context, removing one of the last special ridings (LSL) and consolidating



others appears less about fairness and more about a calculus that undervalues northern communities. The optics and reality are that the Legislature would grow by two members, yet our northern residents would be represented by fewer voices than before. This is inequitable. Alberta's democratic framework should balance population shifts with geography – not swing like a pendulum to the point where northern regions become severely underrepresented outliers. Losing one MLA may sound minor, but it means tens of thousands of northerners will now line up behind someone who also represents tens of thousands of others, rather than having their own champion. Given the expansion of the House, this outcome is unnecessary and avoidable.

#### **4. Fragmentation of Regional Voice and Community Identity**

A core problem with the proposed redistribution is the fragmentation of our region's voice and shared identity. The Lesser Slave Lake area has a unique social and cultural fabric that has developed over generations. Our communities – whether they be the Town of Slave Lake, the hamlet of Joussard, the Sawridge First Nation, or the Métis of East Prairie – share a *northern Alberta identity centred around Lesser Slave Lake*. We have a common history (including the fur trade and forestry heritage), we celebrate events together (like Riverboat Daze in Slave Lake or Treaty Days in Wabasca), and we rally together in adversity (such as the 2011 wildfire disaster that saw the entire region pull together to support Slave Lake's recovery). This sense of community of interest is invaluable in representation. It means our MLA can genuinely understand and articulate our local values, because they are not trying to reconcile vastly different identities within one riding.

Tourism impacts must also be considered as part of our community of interest and regional functioning. The Lesser Slave Lake region operates as a hub-and-spoke tourism economy anchored by the Town of Slave Lake, serving as a gateway to lakeshore recreation, provincial park access, accommodations, events, and visitor services that support the broader region, including Kinuso, Joussard, Driftpile, Wabasca, and rural Big Lakes County. Fragmenting this cohesive tourism region across multiple electoral districts weakens coordinated advocacy for provincial investment in park access, marina and shoreline infrastructure, highway connectivity, signage, and visitor safety. Tourism also creates predictable seasonal pressures on transportation corridors, emergency services, policing, and local healthcare capacity during peak months, and increases demand for short-term and seasonal workforce housing. Splitting the region among multiple ridings dilutes accountability for these shared pressures and complicates long-term planning for sustainable economic development and public safety across the Lesser Slave Lake tourism corridor.

The interim boundaries would fracture this community of interest. By dividing our region among three new constituencies, the proposal ensures that our people will be a minority in each of those ridings. No longer will there be an MLA whose primary identity and mandate is "Lesser Slave Lake" or the "greater Slave Lake region." Instead, our concerns will compete with larger population centers or different regions within those new districts. For instance, in the proposed Slave Lake–Athabasca–Westlock riding, the population base will likely be in Athabasca and Westlock, which are agricultural and bedroom communities for Edmonton.

The northern half (Slave Lake area) could be seen as an add-on. In the Mackenzie riding, the population may center around High Level and La Crete; the communities near Lesser Slave Lake's north shore (e.g. Peerless Trout Lake, Loon River, Wabasca) would be on the far southern fringe. In Peace River–Notley, High Prairie and Big Lakes would be lumped with Peace River town – again, voices like the small communities of Kinuso or Faust by Lesser Slave Lake's western shore could be easily overlooked by an MLA focused on Peace River's concerns.

This matters because shared community identity is a key factor the Commission must consider under its mandate (the EBCA instructs commissions to consider “common community interests” and neighbourhood or local connections). When a region with a strong common identity is split, it diminishes everyone's influence. As an example, consider how our First Nations' electoral strength will be diluted: Today, the many Treaty 8 First Nations in the Lesser Slave Lake riding can together significantly impact one electoral contest and thereby demand attention to Indigenous issues from that MLA. Tomorrow, they will be split among at least two ridings (Bigstone, Peerless/Trout in one; Sawridge, Driftpile, Sucker Creek in another), each group a smaller fraction of the whole. The community of Indigenous interest around Lesser Slave Lake – which has its own Tribal Council and inter-nation initiatives – will not speak with one MLA's voice anymore.

Similarly, our urban-rural balance will be upset. The current Lesser Slave Lake riding blends one mid-sized town (Slave Lake), several smaller towns/hamlets, rural counties and reserves. Our MLA must balance those and usually does so effectively, since all lie in the North and face similar realities. But if Slave Lake is joined to a riding that includes large farming districts and exurban towns closer to Edmonton, the dynamic changes. The MLA's attention may tilt to the southern farming communities that form the majority of voters, making Slave Lake's issues secondary. This concern was raised by rural leaders in previous boundary debates: they cautioned that merging unlike areas leads to MLAs who “cannot be able to attend functions and events in multiple places in the same day, as an urban or city MLA would be able to” [45] and that communities “with not a lot in common” would end up awkwardly joined [46]. That is precisely what is being done to us. As one Athabasca official said in 2017 about a similar proposal, “*certainly we don't have a lot in common with Fort McMurray*” [31] – by analogy, Slave Lake doesn't have a lot in common with Westlock, yet we may be forced into a political marriage. Our distinct voice will be muffled.

The fragmentation also risks lower engagement and voter confusion. Lesser Slave Lake has existed as a riding for over 50 years; people strongly identify with it. Turnout and participation can suffer when familiar boundaries are altered. Some residents will find themselves in a new riding name that they might not even recognize. For example, a resident of Sawridge First Nation might suddenly be told she is part of “Athabasca-Westlock,” which historically has never included her community. This could create a sense of alienation – that her community's vote is now swallowed up in a distant electoral sea. Indeed, after the last redistribution's small changes, there were reports of voter confusion when neighbourhoods were shifted between ridings, with people going to the wrong poll [47][48]. The proposed changes here are far larger. We fear that community members will feel less connected to their

MLA and the democratic process when the riding no longer reflects any recognizable region or coherent community. A fragmented region's issues can also fall through the cracks when MLAs assume "the other riding" is handling that concern, as happened when an artificial split of a town in Fort McMurray caused residents to be unsure whom to turn to[49][50]. Fragmentation thus not only diminishes voice; it can lessen the quality of representation and accountability.

In sum, the Lesser Slave Lake region has a shared identity that amplifies our voice when kept together. Breaking it apart would disperse that voice and weaken the connection between the people and their representatives. The Legislature should weigh this heavily: representation is not just about numbers; it's about communities having a champion who truly knows them. If our communities are split, we lose that champion and that familiarity. The proposal's fragmented ridings violate the principle that electoral divisions should, where possible, reflect actual community bonds. We have such bonds – please do not let them be sundered by an arbitrary line on a map.

## 5. Recommendations to Retain the Lesser Slave Lake Riding

To address the concerns outlined above, I respectfully submit the following concrete recommendations for the final electoral boundaries:

1. (1) Retain a distinct Lesser Slave Lake electoral division in the final boundary plan. The Commission and Legislature should utilize the flexibility afforded by the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* to preserve this riding as one of the (up to) four allowable low-population constituencies[5][15]. This will ensure continued effective representation for a vast region of northern Alberta without exceeding the legislative seat count. The rationale from 2017 still holds – sparse population, large area, significant Indigenous communities – and remains compelling[5].
2. (2) Adjust boundaries *within* the Lesser Slave Lake region rather than eliminating it. If modest population increases are deemed necessary, consider adding adjacent communities that share similar interests. For example, the Calling Lake area (currently in Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock) lies just south of our current boundary and is culturally tied to our Indigenous communities; incorporating it could raise the district's population slightly while respecting community of interest[51]. Another option is to include *all* of Big Lakes County and its towns fully within Lesser Slave Lake (the 2017 boundary split a portion)[3][1]. These tweaks could be done *instead of* the drastic mergers proposed, keeping our region whole.
3. (3) Do not merge Peace River and Central Peace-Notley if it forces cutting Lesser Slave Lake. The North should not be the sole source of a seat reduction. If a new far-northern "Mackenzie" seat is needed for growing communities around High Level, it could be created without collapsing the Peace country into one. For instance, some population from Central Peace-Notley might be shifted to Lesser Slave Lake (e.g. bringing the Falher area, which is already in HPSD's orbit, into our riding)[25]. This would bolster Lesser Slave Lake's numbers and could allow Peace River and Grande

Prairie regions to be adjusted without losing a seat. In other words, redistribute the growth more evenly so that urban seat gains do not come entirely at northern rural expense.

4. (4) Recognize regional service areas as a key factor in boundary decisions. We urge the Commission to explicitly factor in the boundaries of health regions, school divisions, and regional alliances. Where possible, keep these functional regions intact within one constituency. In our case, that means keeping M.D. of Lesser Slave River, Town of Slave Lake, Sawridge First Nation, Big Lakes County, and M.D. of Opportunity together – as they collaborate on health (RAC 4), education (HPSD 48), housing (LSLRHA), and economic development (ANCA). As a precedent, past Alberta boundary commissions have sometimes kept municipalities with shared services together. We recommend the same deference to existing cooperative frameworks here, to avoid disrupting service delivery and advocacy networks.
5. (5) Protect Indigenous representation and involvement. Maintain electoral divisions that concentrate Treaty 8 First Nations and Métis communities, rather than dispersing them. Lesser Slave Lake riding has effectively functioned as an “Indigenous voice” constituency (with Indigenous voters forming a significant block). This should be preserved in the interest of reconciliation and inclusive governance. If anything, the Legislature could consider formalizing this by ensuring one of the four special ridings is designed around a high Indigenous population, which Lesser Slave Lake already fulfills[4][5]. Retaining our district would demonstrate Alberta’s commitment to Indigenous representation in the democratic process.
6. (6) Rename and redefine proposed ridings to reflect reality if LSL is not retained. If, despite objections, the final plan still alters our area, at a minimum, the naming and configuration should reflect our communities. For example, a name like “Slave Lake–Athabasca” (without Westlock) would acknowledge our presence instead of implying the riding stops at Athabasca. Likewise, ensure Slave Lake is not lumped with far-away towns beyond natural travel routes – for instance, Westlock is over 165 km south; if population requires adding areas, Athabasca (150 km) might suffice without extending further. The aim is to limit the damage of fragmentation by keeping the core Lesser Slave Lake communities together in whatever new riding forms. Ideally, that new riding’s boundaries would substantially mirror the current ones, with only necessary additions for population balance, and its name would carry the “Slave Lake” identifier so our community identity remains visible in the Legislature.
7. (7) Allocate new seats with fairness to all regions. One of the two new seats could be allocated to northern Alberta (for example, a new Mackenzie district) without eliminating an existing northern seat. The other new seat can address rapid growth in urban areas (e.g. a new Calgary or Edmonton suburban district). This balanced approach would allow the total MLAs for northern Alberta to remain at least the same, if not a modest increase, proportional to population share. It would avoid the current plan’s optics of two more MLAs for the cities, one less for the North. We recommend

the Legislature instruct the Commission to explore alternatives that do not result in a net loss of northern ridings, especially given the vital economic contributions of these regions.

8. (8) Increase resources for large rural ridings rather than enlarging their boundaries. If the concern driving these changes is that some rural MLAs represent too few people, a more equitable solution than boundary elimination is to provide those MLAs additional support (budget, staff, travel allowance) to handle the geographic challenge. Our community would support measures such as funding more satellite constituency offices or assistants in remote communities, rather than enlarging ridings. This way, representation quality is improved without stripping residents of their own MLA. The EBCA acknowledges this approach by requiring consideration of “density and relative rate of population growth” in addition to absolute numbers. Let’s lean on that flexibility. Keep Lesser Slave Lake, but bolster its MLA’s capacity – a win-win for representation.

In implementing these recommendations, the overarching principle should be clear: the democratic voice of northern Alberta is not expendable. We urge that the final boundaries reflect a compromise that honours our region’s distinctiveness and ensures the Legislature continues to hear directly from Lesser Slave Lake through its own elected Member. The solutions above show it is entirely feasible to do so while still meeting the legal criteria and accommodating population changes.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, we strongly advocate that the Alberta Legislature reject any electoral map that would eliminate the Lesser Slave Lake constituency. Such a move would run counter to the Constitution’s guarantee of effective representation and to the latitude provided in Alberta’s laws to protect unique ridings like ours. The proposed redistribution disregards the very real regional structures – in health, education, housing, and economic cooperation – that make Lesser Slave Lake a cohesive community of interest. It would silence and scatter a northern voice that has spoken in the Legislature for over fifty years, to the detriment of not only our residents but the diversity of perspective in Alberta’s democracy.[11][5][15]

The evidence presented in this report demonstrates that retaining the Lesser Slave Lake riding is both justified and necessary. Our region meets the established criteria for special consideration on multiple counts, from geography to Indigenous representation. We have functioning inter-municipal alliances that would be hobbled by the proposed boundaries, whereas keeping our riding intact would empower those grassroots initiatives to continue thriving. Moreover, eliminating our seat would contribute to a net loss of representation for the North at a time when the Legislature is growing – a step backwards for balanced governance.

I urge the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Electoral Boundaries Commission, in its final report, to heed the recommendations put forth. By adjusting the plan to preserve Lesser Slave Lake (or an equivalent constituency encompassing our people), Alberta can

ensure that rural northern communities are not left behind in the political process. True equality in representation is not achieved by carving up communities; it is achieved by listening to and valuing every community. The North has spoken clearly through public input: we want our voice to remain whole.

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## Appendices

### Appendix A: Electoral Boundary Maps (Current vs. Proposed)

Current Lesser Slave Lake Electoral Division (2017 Boundaries): The map below shows the existing Lesser Slave Lake provincial riding in northern Alberta, highlighted in red within the province. This district encompasses the Slave Lake region, including the town of Slave Lake, the town of High Prairie, M.D. of Opportunity No. 17, most of Big Lakes County, and part of M.D. of Lesser Slave River No. 124[3][1]. It has existed since 1971 and was reaffirmed in 2017 as a special low-population riding due to its large area and isolated communities[5].

*Current boundaries of the Lesser Slave Lake electoral district (outlined in red), as established in the Electoral Divisions Act 2017. Note the district's extensive area and inclusion of communities around Lesser Slave Lake and north-central Alberta.[5][4]*

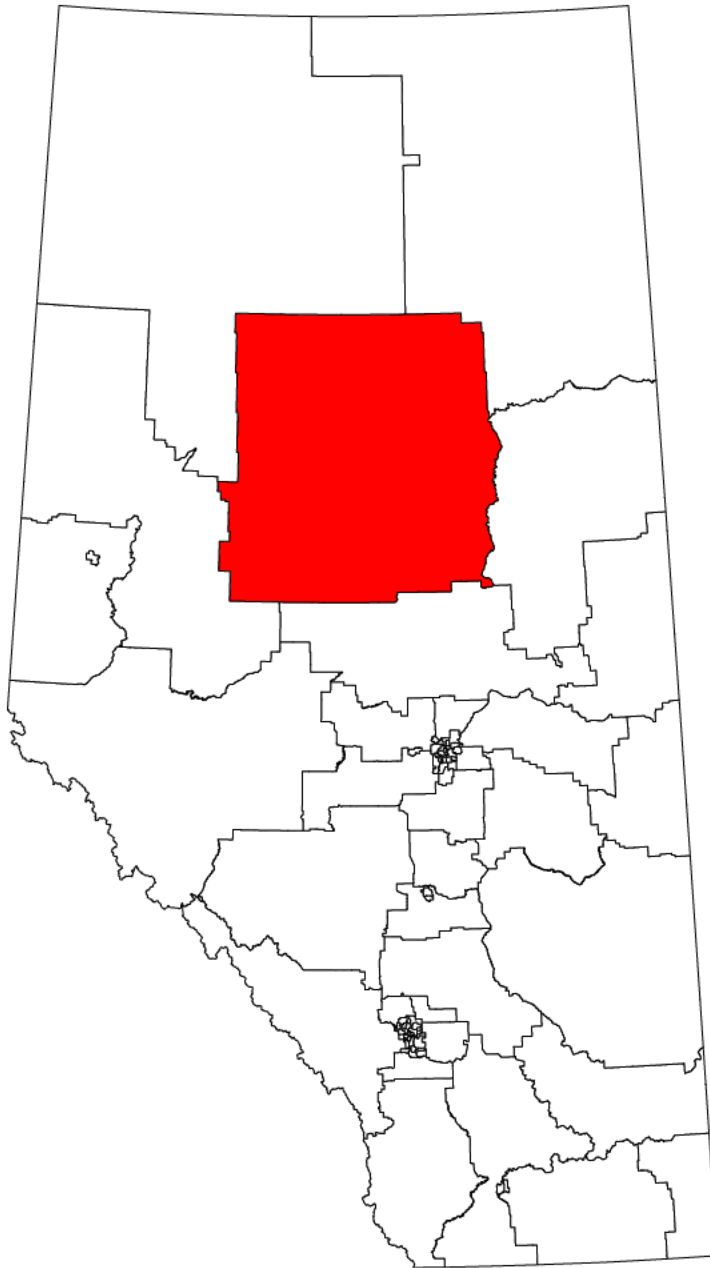
Proposed Redistribution Impact: Under the 2025 Interim Report's proposal, the Lesser Slave Lake riding would be eliminated. Its territory would be divided primarily into three new/modified districts: - "Slave Lake–Athabasca–Westlock": covering Slave Lake, M.D. Lesser Slave River, and communities south along Hwy 2 to Athabasca and Westlock[52]. - "Mackenzie": a new far-northern district taking in Wabasca (M.D. Opportunity) and extending north to include Mackenzie County (High Level, Fort Vermilion)[34]. - "Peace River–Notley": a merged district combining Peace River with parts of Central Peace-Notley and also picking up eastern Big Lakes County (High Prairie)[53]. *Please Note: No single map was provided in the interim report delineating these changes in one image; instead, several individual maps were offered[54]. For clarity, the description above summarizes the reallocation of current Lesser Slave Lake areas into the proposed ridings.*

Under this plan, the Lesser Slave Lake region is essentially split three ways, as described in the report body[6]. The following diagrams (from the Commission's materials) illustrate two key portions of the change: - *Peace Country & Slave Lake region*: Central/Northern Alberta map showing the merger of Peace River & Central Peace-Notley (dark green outline) and the excision of Slave Lake area to a southern riding (blue outline). - *Far North*: Map showing new Mackenzie riding (orange outline) extending south to include Wabasca from the former Lesser Slave Lake territory. *Please Note: Detailed maps are available via the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission website for the interim report proposals[54]. Stakeholders should refer*

*to those official maps for precise boundary definitions.)*

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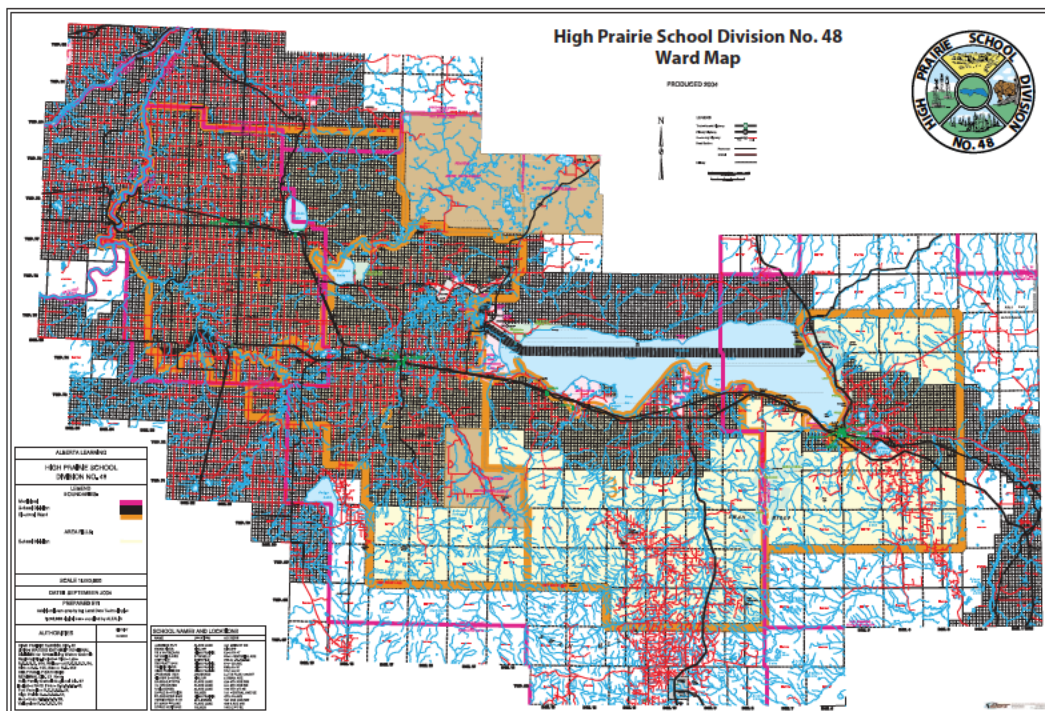
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## Appendix B: High Prairie School Division Boundary

The jurisdiction of High Prairie School Division No. 48 spans the Lesser Slave Lake region. As shown in HPSD's official electoral map, the division covers communities from Slave Lake in the east to Falher in the west, roughly aligning with the current Lesser Slave Lake and parts of adjacent ridings. The division's wards correspond to sub-regions (Slave Lake, High Prairie, etc.)[20]. This alignment underscores the natural community ties in our area.

*(Map source: HPSD No. 48 Electoral Map[25]. The map depicts Ward 4 (Slave Lake and area), Ward 3 (Kinuso/Joussard and lake shore communities), Ward 2 (High Prairie area), and Ward 1 (Falher area), collectively encompassing the region around Lesser Slave Lake.)*

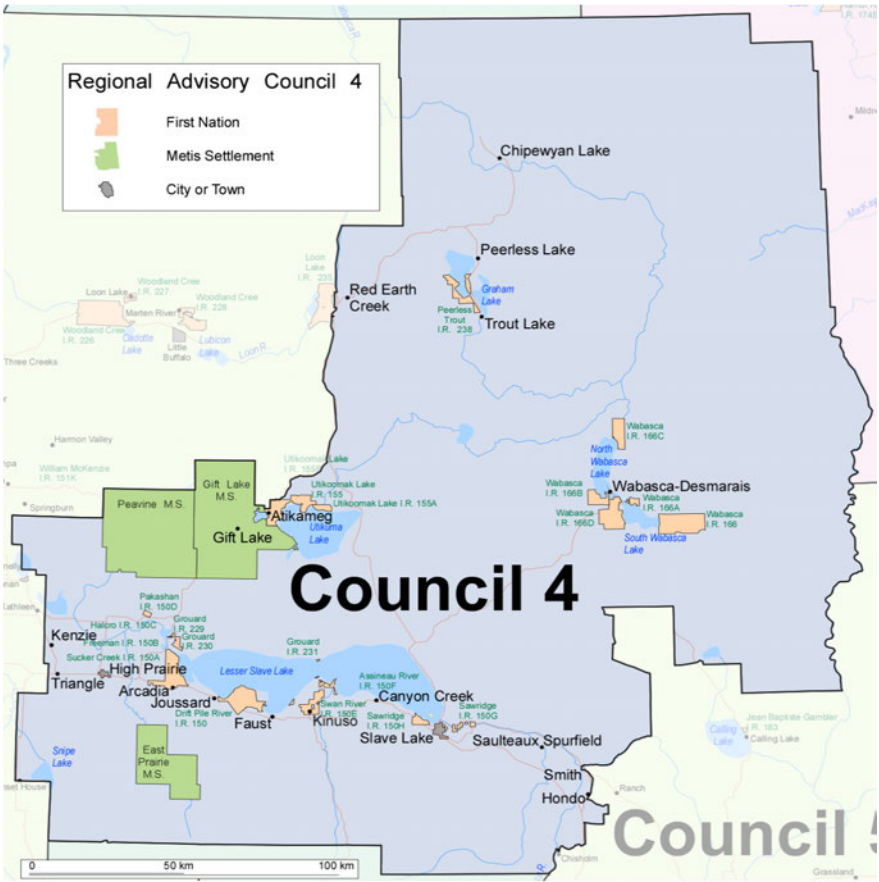


## **Appendix C: Regional Health Advisory Council Structure**

Alberta Health's North-Central Regional Health Advisory Council (Council 4) covers the Slave Lake–Wabasca–High Prairie zone. The province's health council map delineates this region, indicating that it is considered a singular unit for health system consultation[24]. The proposed electoral changes would split this council's communities into multiple ridings, contrary to the health region's integrity.

*(Map source: Government of Alberta – Map of Regional Health Advisory Councils[24]. Council 4 is highlighted, showing the geographic area from Slave Lake through Wabasca up to Peerless Lake that comprises the north-central health region.)*

Regional Advisory Council 4



#### **Appendix D: Ministerial Orders and Alliance Agreements**

1. Ministerial Order H:029/11 (Housing): Established the Lesser Slave Lake Regional Housing Authority as a management body under the Alberta Housing Act[28]. This order (and subsequent amendments) joins Slave Lake, M.D. Lesser Slave River, and M.D. Opportunity in one region for delivering seniors and affordable housing. *Relevance:* It legally binds our municipalities in a shared service area, which the proposed boundaries would fragment.
2. Alberta North Central Alliance (ANCA) Agreement (2021): The founding agreement and signing ceremony records of ANCA formalized a partnership between five local governments (Slave Lake, Lesser Slave River, Opportunity, Sawridge FN, Bigstone Cree Nation) to pursue regional economic development[30]. Meeting minutes from 2022–2023 reinforce the Alliance’s joint advocacy on transportation and infrastructure projects for the “Lesser Slave Lake and Wabasca area” [30]. *Relevance:* Demonstrates the pre-existing political unity of the region targeted for division.

*(These documents can be provided upon request or accessed via Municipal Affairs archives and local council records. They show the intentional collaborative governance in our area that should be considered in boundary decisions.)*

## Appendix E: Source Citations

This report has cited authoritative sources, including:

1. Legislation and Court Rulings: *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* (Alberta) provisions[15]; *Carter v. Saskatchewan* (SCC 1991) principles[11].
2. Commission Reports & Transcripts: 2017 Alberta Boundary Commission Final Report (population and variance data)[5]; 2025 Commission Interim Report summary (proposed changes)[21]; Public hearing transcripts (Fort McMurray & Slave Lake) with local testimony[36][22].
3. Statistical Data: Wikipedia summary of Lesser Slave Lake riding geography and demographics[1][55]; High Prairie School Division profile[26].
4. News Articles: *Everything GP* news on interim boundary proposals (Peace and Slave Lake region)[34][6]; *Town & Country* news on 2017 rural boundary concerns[45][22].
5. Local Documents: Town of Slave Lake and M.D. Lesser Slave River releases (housing authority info)[27]; Lakeside Leader local reporting (ANCA and council discussions)[30].

All direct quotations and facts are referenced in the format **【source†lines】**, per the Legislature’s submission standards. These citations ensure the credibility of the evidence presented and allow verification of the claims herein.

---

[1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [51] [55] Lesser Slave Lake (electoral district) - Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lesser\\_Slave\\_Lake\\_\(electoral\\_district\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lesser_Slave_Lake_(electoral_district))

[6] [9] [10] [21] [34] [52] [53] [54] Big changes proposed for Peace Country ridings in new Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission report | EverythingGP

<https://everythinggp.com/2025/10/29/big-changes-proposed-for-peace-country-ridings-in-new-alberta-electoral-boundaries-commission-report/>

[7] [8] [33] [36] [37] [40] [41] [47] [48] [49] [50] EBC-Fort-McMurray\_20250616\_1257.pdf  
file:///file\_00000000219c61f58eef466cb6f9539c

[11]

<https://lf.kitchener.ca/WebLinkExt/DocView.aspx?dbid=0&id=1860105&page=1>

[12] [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [42] [43] [44] Rural overrepresentation not really the big issue it used to be in Alberta – daveberta.ca – Alberta Politics and Elections

<https://daveberta.ca/2017/01/rural-overrepresentation-alberta-elections/>

[20] [25] [26] High Prairie School Division - Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High\\_Prairie\\_School\\_Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_Prairie_School_Division)

[22] [23] [31] [32] [35] [39] [45] [46] Pushing boundaries - Athabasca, Barrhead & Westlock News

<https://www.townandcountrytoday.com/athabasca-news/pushing-boundaries-1869496>

[24] Regional Advisory Council 4 - Health | Alberta.ca

<https://www.alberta.ca/regional-advisory-council-4-health>

[27] Lesser Slave Lake Regional Housing Authority | Slave Lake, AB

<https://slavelake.ca/2050/Lesser-Slave-Lake-Regional-Housing-Autho>

[28] Seniors and Housing-Ministerial Orders and Policies | PDF - Scribd

<https://www.scribd.com/document/373333170/Seniors-and-Housing-Ministerial-Orders-and-Policies>

[29] Home | Alberta North Central Alliance (ANCA) | Regional Alliance ...

<https://albertanca.ca/>

[30] Opportunity to apply to rejoin Alberta North Central Alliance | Canada - Regional Chats

<https://albertachat.com/forums/threads/opportunity-to-apply-to-rejoin-alberta-north-central-alliance.5491/>

[38] Reference re Prov. Electoral Boundaries (Sask.), 1991 CanLII 61 ...

<https://www.canlii.org/en/ca/scc/doc/1991/1991canlii61/1991canlii61.html>



Outlook

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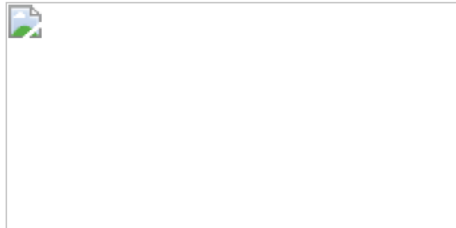
**Interim Report Submission from Jason Sokolosky**

---

**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 12:01 PM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

Jason

**Last Name**

Sokolosky

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Calgary

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

03 - Calgary-Bow

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

28 - Calgary-Varsity

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Urban concerns
- Communities of interest

**Submission**

I am a long term resident of Montgomery. I have lived here since 1999, and own multiple properties in the community. I am a strong advocate of the community and serve on the Montgomery Community Association.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to our neighbourhood being removed from the Calgary Bow riding and attached to the Calgary Varsity riding. I think this change is confusing and unnecessary. We have always been a part of Calgary Bow except for two elections in 2012 and 2015 and the last time you redrew the Boundaries, you put our neighbourhood back into Calgary Bow. They also just changed it back federally too, so I think changing it again provincially for no apparent reason just a few years later after it was fixed is unnecessary and will just be confusing for voters, especially because we also elect the same MP. Our neighbourhood is separated from the rest of Calgary Varsity by the University, but we are connected to Bowness by two bridges and share a natural area around the Bow river.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Jason Sokolosky

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## Interim Report Submission from Christine Albrecht

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 11:59 AM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

Christine

**Last Name**

Albrecht

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Sherwood Park

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

84 - Strathcona-Sherwood Park

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

85 - Strathcona-Sherwood Park

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Other concerns

**Submission**

To the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission,

I am writing as a resident of Strathcona-Sherwood Park to provide feedback on the proposed electoral boundary changes.

I strongly oppose the Commission's proposal to remove Heritage Hills from our constituency and to add Beaumont and parts of Leduc County. These changes do not reflect our community of interest, and I urge you to reconsider based on the following factors:

- **Heritage Hills Belongs Here:** Heritage Hills is an integral part of our community. Families there utilize Sherwood Park schools, recreation centres, and services. Removing this neighbourhood disrupts natural school catchments and splits a community that functions as one unit.
- **Beaumont is a Distinct Community:** While Beaumont is a vibrant community, its economic and social ties are to Leduc and Edmonton, not Sherwood Park. Furthermore, Strathcona County is a Specialized Municipality with a unique service delivery model that differs significantly from the City of Beaumont. Merging them forces one MLA to represent two incompatible municipal frameworks.
- **Population Targets Will Be Met Naturally:** Our constituency is currently sitting at approximately 51,000 residents, which is within the legal variance. With the rapid growth occurring in Ardrossan and Hillshire, we are projected to reach the provincial target of 55,000 naturally without requiring major boundary shifts.
- **Economic and Commuter Patterns:** Our riding is tied together by the Industrial Heartland and Refinery Row. In contrast, Beaumont's transportation corridors and commuter flows point toward Leduc and Edmonton.

**Recommendation:** Please abandon the proposal to attach Beaumont and remove Heritage Hills. If the Commission determines that adding population is strictly necessary, I submit that Tofield is a much more logical addition. Residents of Tofield already commute to Sherwood Park for work, shopping and services, creating a genuine community of interest that does not exist with Beaumont. Please keep our boundaries stable and allow our natural growth to meet your targets.

Sincerely,

Christine Albrecht

[Redacted Signature]

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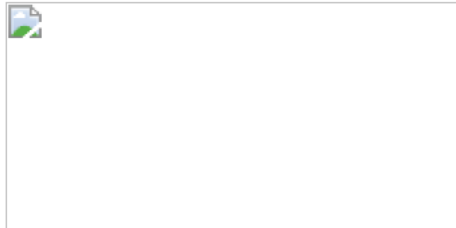
## Interim Report Submission from Allan Pugh

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 11:53 AM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

Allan

**Last Name**

Pugh

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Calgary

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

01 - Calgary-Acadia

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

01 - Calgary-Acadia

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Hybrid electoral divisions
- Communities of interest

- Geographical features
- Effective representation
- Projected growth

## Submission

Boundaries commission 2nd submission

Thank you for doing an impossible job, with no perfect answers.

For the most part it seems that my major concerns in my first submission were at least partially addressed, provincially.

Equality of representation

My riding of Calgary-Acadia would now be under represented, (above average population) and with the pace of densification along Macleod Trail and the LRT line, the representation will continue to become more unbalanced. This could be addressed by adding less new population from the south end of the riding.

Homogeneous ridings

Keeping ridings as homogeneous as possible as opposed to having two different communities with conflicting needs makes it much easier to advocate for the constituents. Using natural boundaries when appropriate has helped with this objective. Avoiding the rural and urban combinations for the most part has also helped keep communities of similar interests intact. Please keep this objective in mind if making more changes.

Regards,

Allan Pugh

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## Interim Report Submission from Angelica Revega

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 11:48 AM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

Angelica

**Last Name**

Revega

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Strathcona - Sherwood Park

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

84 - Strathcona-Sherwood Park

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

85 - Strathcona-Sherwood Park

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Rural concerns
- Urban concerns

- Central Alberta concerns
- Communities of interest

## Submission

To the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission,

I am writing as a resident of Strathcona–Sherwood Park to share my concerns regarding the proposed electoral boundary changes.

I strongly oppose the proposal to remove Heritage Hills from our constituency and to add Beaumont and portions of Leduc County. These changes do not align with our community of interest, and I respectfully ask the Commission to reconsider for the following reasons:

Heritage Hills belongs in Strathcona–Sherwood Park: Heritage Hills is a core part of our community. Residents rely on Sherwood Park schools, recreation facilities, and local services. Removing this neighbourhood would disrupt established school catchments and divide a community that functions as a cohesive whole.

Beaumont is a separate community with different ties: Beaumont is a thriving municipality, but its economic, social, and commuting connections are oriented toward Leduc and Edmonton—not Sherwood Park. In addition, Strathcona County is a Specialized Municipality with a distinct service delivery model that differs significantly from Beaumont's. Combining these areas would require one MLA to represent two fundamentally different municipal structures.

Population targets can be achieved without major changes: Strathcona–Sherwood Park is currently home to approximately 51,000 residents, which is within the permitted variance. With rapid growth underway in Ardrossan and Hillshire, the constituency is expected to reach the provincial target of 55,000 residents naturally, without the need for significant boundary adjustments.

Economic and commuter patterns support keeping the riding intact: Our riding is connected through shared economic activity tied to the Industrial Heartland and Refinery Row. Beaumont's key transportation routes and commuting patterns, by contrast, flow toward Leduc and Edmonton.

Recommendation: I urge the Commission to withdraw the proposal to attach Beaumont and remove Heritage Hills. If additional population must be added, Tofield would be a far more appropriate option. Many Tofield residents already travel to Sherwood Park for work, shopping, and services, reflecting a genuine community of interest that does not exist between Sherwood Park and Beaumont.

Please keep our constituency boundaries stable and allow natural growth to bring the riding to the target population.

Sincerely,

Angelica Revega

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Outlook

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## Interim Report Submission from Spencer Watkins

---

**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 11:47 AM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

Spencer

**Last Name**

Watkins

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Okotoks

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

65 - Highwood

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

24 - Calgary-Okotoks

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Rural concerns
- Communities of interest

- Geographical features
- Naming of electoral boundaries

### Submission

I have intentionally lived in a rural community with rural values. While I understand growth and urbanization being lumped into a big city boundary with Calgary will surely result in me and my fellow neighbours losing their rural voice.

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**Interim Report Submission from Tim Revega**

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 11:44 AM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

Tim

**Last Name**

Revega

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Strathcona Sherwood Park

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

84 - Strathcona-Sherwood Park

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

85 - Strathcona-Sherwood Park

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Rural concerns
- Urban concerns

- Central Alberta concerns
- Communities of interest
- Effective representation

## Submission

To the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission,

I am writing as a resident of Strathcona–Sherwood Park to share my concerns regarding the proposed electoral boundary changes.

I strongly oppose the proposal to remove Heritage Hills from our constituency and to add Beaumont and portions of Leduc County. These changes do not align with our community of interest, and I respectfully ask the Commission to reconsider for the following reasons:

Heritage Hills belongs in Strathcona–Sherwood Park: Heritage Hills is a core part of our community. Residents rely on Sherwood Park schools, recreation facilities, and local services. Removing this neighbourhood would disrupt established school catchments and divide a community that functions as a cohesive whole.

Beaumont is a separate community with different ties: Beaumont is a thriving municipality, but its economic, social, and commuting connections are oriented toward Leduc and Edmonton—not Sherwood Park. In addition, Strathcona County is a Specialized Municipality with a distinct service delivery model that differs significantly from Beaumont's. Combining these areas would require one MLA to represent two fundamentally different municipal structures.

Population targets can be achieved without major changes: Strathcona–Sherwood Park is currently home to approximately 51,000 residents, which is within the permitted variance. With rapid growth underway in Ardrossan and Hillshire, the constituency is expected to reach the provincial target of 55,000 residents naturally, without the need for significant boundary adjustments.

Economic and commuter patterns support keeping the riding intact: Our riding is connected through shared economic activity tied to the Industrial Heartland and Refinery Row. Beaumont's key transportation routes and commuting patterns, by contrast, flow toward Leduc and Edmonton.

Recommendation: I urge the Commission to withdraw the proposal to attach Beaumont and remove Heritage Hills. If additional population must be added, Tofield would be a far more appropriate option. Many Tofield residents already travel to Sherwood Park for work, shopping, and services, reflecting a genuine community of interest that does not exist between Sherwood Park and Beaumont.

Please keep our constituency boundaries stable and allow natural growth to bring the riding to the target population.

Sincerely,  
Tim Revega

EBC-2025-2-945

**Terms**

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Toll free 1 833 777 2125  
Email [info@abebc.ca](mailto:info@abebc.ca)



Outlook

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**Interim Report Submission from John Carlo Del Piccolo**

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 11:33 AM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

John Carlo

**Last Name**

Del Piccolo

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Edmonton

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

43 - Edmonton-South West

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

46 - Edmonton-South West

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Urban concerns
- Hybrid electoral divisions

- Geographical features
- Effective representation
- Projected growth

## Submission

I have been a resident of the Edmonton-South West Provincial Electoral District since September 2019. My submission considers only the proposed boundaries for the Edmonton-South West Provincial Electoral District as defined in the Interim Report of the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission dated October 23, 2025 and further defined in Map No. 46 in the Interim Report.

I am making this submission firstly to support the proposed boundaries and secondly out of concern for effective political representation which is foundational to our democracy. I do not support the creation of hybrid districts uniting multiple demographically and geographically distinct areas as I believe this would not result in effective political representation to the detriment of the residents.

Geography both natural and man-made can help define physical boundaries that often make sense. Edmonton-South West is one such area. It is partially physically defined by the North Saskatchewan River and Whitemud Creek, with major roadways also serving to physically and logically define the electoral district boundaries.

This area has seen tremendous population growth over the years and certainly in the 6 years that I have lived here. Development continues rapidly toward the southern boundary of the City of Edmonton resulting in unique characteristics, challenges and opportunities that deserve to be considered thoughtfully when setting the electoral boundaries.

I agree with the proposed boundaries for Edmonton-South West and commend the work of the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission which I found to be thoughtful, considered and sensible. The proposed boundaries take into account the natural and man-made geography such as:

North Saskatchewan River;  
Whitemud Creek;  
Anthony Henday Drive as the northern boundary; and  
Highway 19 as the southern boundary which is also the City Limit

The proposed boundaries for Edmonton-South West respect our unique demographics, characteristics, opportunities, challenges and growth now and into the future, while meeting the prime objective of effective political representation. Effective representation is essential to make the most from our opportunities and solving the challenges. After careful consideration I think it just makes sense to adopt the proposed boundaries which will serve Edmonton-South West well for the present and into the future.

## Terms

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## Interim Report Submission from Brian van Vliet

---

**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 11:32 AM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



---

**First Name**

Brian

**Last Name**

van Vliet

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Calgary

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

14 - Calgary-Hays

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

16 - Calgary-Hays

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Naming of electoral boundaries

**Submission**

**\*\*Submission to the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission\*\***

**\*\*From a constituent in Calgary Hays\*\***

To the Members of the Electoral Boundaries Commission,

I am a constituent in the Calgary Hays electoral district and a resident of the community of McKenzie Lake. I am writing to provide input on the redistribution of Alberta's electoral boundaries under the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act and the principle of effective representation as articulated by the Supreme Court of Canada and reflected in Alberta legislation.

My perspective is shaped by living in South Calgary and by direct experience with the growth pressures, voter engagement, and representational demands facing this part of the city. This submission addresses three related considerations that I believe should guide the Commission's final recommendations.

**\*\*1. Location of a New Seat South Calgary Rather Than Central Calgary\*\***

South Calgary continues to experience sustained and significant population growth driven by ongoing residential development, demographic change, and suburban expansion. Communities such as McKenzie Lake and surrounding neighbourhoods are well established, highly engaged, and continue to absorb new residents. This growth is present and ongoing.

By contrast, much of central Calgary has relatively stagnant population growth and a lower ratio of actual voters to total population. While central Calgary may show higher population density, population alone does not fully reflect representational demand. City centre constituencies tend to include higher proportions of non voting residents such as students, temporary residents, and individuals who are not eligible or not registered to vote.

South Calgary constituencies generally have a higher proportion of eligible and active voters. This places greater representational demands on Members of the Legislative Assembly through higher volumes of voter driven casework and community engagement.

The Electoral Boundaries Commission Act allows for deviation from strict population parity in order to achieve effective representation. In this context, allocating any additional Calgary seat to the south of the city better reflects current realities and future growth pressures. It also reduces the likelihood that South Calgary ridings will become overburdened immediately following the next redistribution cycle.

For these reasons, adding another seat in central Calgary is not the appropriate approach. Any additional seat allocated to the City of Calgary should be located in the south.

## **\*\*2. Support for Hybrid Ridings and Their Expansion\*\***

I strongly support the Commission's use of hybrid ridings that combine urban and rural areas within a single constituency. This approach reflects how Albertans actually live, work, and access services, particularly in and around the Greater Calgary region.

Communities of interest are not confined to municipal boundaries. They are shaped by shared infrastructure, transportation corridors, school systems, health care facilities, employment centres, and regional service hubs. Many residents of suburban and exurban communities surrounding Calgary commute into the city for work, rely on urban hospitals and courts, and participate in regional economies while maintaining strong ties to nearby rural areas.

Extending hybrid ridings into the Greater Calgary region is consistent with the same communities of interest rationale that supports population deviations in northern Alberta. If geography, service access, and daily life justify population variance in the north, the same logic applies at the urban rural interface.

Hybrid ridings can enhance representation by ensuring MLAs represent coherent regions rather than artificially divided populations. I encourage the Commission to continue and expand this approach, including in and around Calgary.

## **\*\*3. Flexible Application of Population Parity in Favour of Effective Representation\*\***

I support a flexible application of population parity as permitted under the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act. The legislation explicitly allows for population variances of up to twenty five percent, and in exceptional circumstances up to fifty percent, in order to ensure effective representation.

Effective representation requires consideration of factors beyond raw population counts, including communities of interest and shared social and economic networks, the number of actual voters relative to total population, geographic size and travel demands, anticipated population growth particularly in suburban areas, dominant economic activity, cultural and Indigenous communities, and infrastructure and service delivery realities.

Compact city centre constituencies with centralized services are well suited to approach the upper population limits. Suburban, hybrid, rural, and fast growing constituencies should be permitted to fall below the average population to account for growth over the redistribution cycle and the increased complexity of representation.

I also support the protection of rural and remote representation in Alberta. Northern and rural constituencies face unique challenges related to distance, infrastructure, weather, and access to services. Lower population thresholds in these areas are essential to ensure meaningful representation.

**\*\*Conclusion\*\***

Boundary redistribution should reflect how Albertans actually live and participate in civic life. Adding a new seat in South Calgary, expanding the use of hybrid ridings, and prioritizing effective representation over rigid population equality would better achieve that goal.

Respectfully submitted,

A constituent of Calgary Hays  
Resident of McKenzie Lake

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Outlook

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## Interim Report Submission from Daniel Dick

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 11:28 AM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



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**First Name**

Daniel

**Last Name**

Dick

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Sherwood Park

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

84 - Strathcona-Sherwood Park

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

85 - Strathcona-Sherwood Park

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Rural concerns
- Urban concerns

- Communities of interest
- Projected growth
- Other concerns

### Submission

I am writing as a resident of Strathcona-Sherwood Park to provide feedback on the proposed electoral boundary changes.

I strongly oppose the Commission's proposal to remove Heritage Hills from our constituency and to add Beaumont and parts of Leduc County. These proposals do not reflect our community of interest. Heritage Hills is an integral part of our community and belongs here far more than Beaumont or Leduc do. Families here utilize Sherwood Park schools, businesses and community services, and functions as a part of one community. Beaumont, meanwhile, does more business with Edmonton than with Sherwood Park. This proposal is looking to make a short-term disruptive change without an eye to the long-term. This is a vibrant and growing community - allow Strathcona-Sherwood Park to naturally continue to grow to meet population targets for a constituency, rather than force a change to stick unconnected regions together that will need to be changed again in the future.

Please keep our community stable and allow natural growth to meet population targets for the constituency rather than force in a shortsighted change.

Thank you,

Daniel

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## Interim Report Submission from Brian Wik

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 11:27 AM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



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**First Name**

Brian

**Last Name**

Wik

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Sherwood Park

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

84 - Strathcona-Sherwood Park

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

85 - Strathcona-Sherwood Park

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Communities of interest
- Geographical features

## Submission

To the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission,

I am writing as a resident of Strathcona-Sherwood Park to provide feedback on the proposed electoral boundary changes. I have read your Interim Report To The Speaker Of The Legislative Assembly of Alberta – October 2025 and commend you for trying to adjust constituency boundaries to accommodate growth within the province.

However, I am gravely concerned about the changes you have proposed for my riding of Strathcona Sherwood Park. In fact, I strongly oppose the Commission's proposal to remove Heritage Hills from our constituency and to add Beaumont and parts of Leduc County (pages 76 and 197 of your report). These changes do not reflect our community of interest, and I urge you to reconsider based on the following factors:

1. Differing Commuter Patterns and Economic: Our riding is tied together by the Industrial Heartland and Refinery Row. In contrast, Beaumont's transportation corridors and commuter flows point toward Leduc and Edmonton. Constituents in Strathcona Sherwood Park are more likely to drive to Edmonton than Beaumont for goods and services.

2. Beaumont is a Distinct Community: While Beaumont is a vibrant community, its economic and social ties are to Leduc and Edmonton, not Sherwood Park. Their issues differ from those of ours in Sherwood Park. Additionally, Strathcona County is a Specialized Municipality with a unique service delivery model that differs significantly from the City of Beaumont. Merging them forces one MLA to represent two incompatible municipal frameworks.

3. Heritage Hills Belongs Here: Heritage Hills is an integral part of our community and riding. Families there utilize Sherwood Park schools, recreation centres, and services. Removing this neighbourhood disrupts natural school catchments and splits a community that functions as one unit.

4. Population Targets Will Be Met Organically: Our constituency is currently sitting at approximately 51,000 residents, which is well within the legal variance. With the rapid growth occurring in Ardrossan and Hillshire, we are projected to reach the provincial target of 55,000 naturally without requiring major boundary shifts. The riding as it stands today meets the criteria right now that the commission is forecasting for the future. Therefore, no need to change the boundaries for population purposes.

Recommendation: Please abandon the proposal to attach Beaumont to the constituency of Strathcona Sherwood Park and remove Heritage Hills. Please keep our boundaries stable and allow our natural growth to meet your targets.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.



Sincerely,

Brian Wik

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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## Interim Report Submission from Tamara Jones

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**From** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

**Date** Fri 12/19/2025 11:26 AM

**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>



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**First Name**

Tamara

**Last Name**

Jones

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Municipality / City**

Calgary

**Interim Report Considerations**

- Chapters I-VII (pages 1-30) of the Interim Report outlines the rationale behind the Commission's proposed Electoral Division areas, boundaries, and names (e.g., population data, feedback from written submissions and public presentations, legal and judicial requirements, etc.). You may wish to review this information prior to making your submission as it might address certain questions and concerns.

**What is your current electoral division?**

21 - Calgary-North West

**Which proposed electoral division are you making a submission about?**

22 - Calgary-North West

**What issues are you concerned about in your submission?**

- Central Alberta concerns
- Hybrid electoral divisions

- Communities of interest
- Geographical features
- Effective representation
- Projected growth
- Naming of electoral boundaries

## Submission

Our family is a proud member of Calgary Northwest for over 20+ years. Majority of time living in Tuscany and now in Lynx Ridge. Our children went to Catholic School for the majority of their school years in our area but also played sports year-round (hockey, spring hockey, soccer, golf, rugby, volleyball). Many of these families were from our community of Tuscany but also in other communities close to us. Our youngest son went to prep-preschool at Bearspaw School with many families from Tuscany, Bearspaw, Watermark and Cochrane area including Glenbow.

Grocery shopping could be at Co-Op or Sobeys where many families from Bearspaw, Glenbow, Rockland Park and Church Ranches, Watermark shop at as well. Both Lions and Bearspaw market attract families from Tuscany and surrounding areas. A few years ago I was a part of Bearspaw Christmas market board - where were quite a few business sponsors, donors and volunteers from Tuscany as it was considered community.

12 mile coulee and all of its walking/biking trails join our communities where many families from these communities take part in together as 1 community. Additionally future path from Rockland.

Golfing at Lynx Ridge and Bearspaw have many families as members and walk ons from our communities - but also surrounding communities ; especially Watermark as it is a stone throw away.

Future 12 mile coulee and possible Ascension development will bring all our communities even closer together.

It simply makes sense that our current boundary should include Bearspaw, Church Ranches, Watermark, Glenbow as it is our community with like-minded families - already considering ourselves community.

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