



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Electoral Boundaries Commission  
Public Hearings

Calgary

Tuesday, June 10, 2025  
6:28 p.m.

Transcript No. 15

## **Legislative Assembly of Alberta**

### **Electoral Boundaries Commission**

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Greg Clark

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## **Electoral Boundaries Commission Public Hearings – Calgary**

### **Public Participants**

Marcia Cormier  
Jaret Hargreaves  
Jeremy Hexham  
Mike Horembala  
Jayne Martin



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[Justice Miller in the chair]

**The Chair:** Good evening, and welcome to our evening session for the Electoral Boundaries Commission public hearing in Calgary.

First of all, I'd like to introduce the commission. My name is Justice Dallas Miller. I'm the chairman of the commission, and I also serve as a justice of the Court of King's Bench. By the way, you can see our full profiles on the EBC website, abebc.ca.

To my left is Susan Samson, a long-time resident of Sylvan Lake and an experienced municipal politician who has served a four-year term as mayor of Sylvan Lake. Her volunteer activity has been recognized by the community by way of receiving the citizen of the year award and the Queen Elizabeth II diamond jubilee award for volunteer service.

To her left is Mr. John Evans, KC, a lawyer with the province-wide firm known as Stringam, and he works out of their Lethbridge office. John conducts trials across the province. His legal ability has been recognized by way of receiving the King's Counsel, or KC, designation. John also volunteers as a member of the Alberta Judicial Nominating Committee.

To my right is Dr. Julian Martin, a retired history professor from the University of Alberta with advanced degrees from Cambridge University. Julian has volunteered on many committees throughout the years in Edmonton and in Sherwood Park and serves on the provincial Surface Rights Board and Land Compensation Board.

At the far end of the table is Mr. Greg Clark from Calgary. Greg is an entrepreneur and consultant focusing on information and knowledge management. Greg brings to this commission a real advantage in that he served as a member of the Legislative Assembly representing Calgary-Elbow a few years ago. Greg also serves as the chair of the Balancing Pool of Alberta and consults widely with organizations relative to proper governance.

We are your Electoral Boundaries Commission. This is our third session in Calgary: a full morning this morning, all afternoon, and this evening. We're going to be in another location tomorrow in Calgary. This is our third week of touring the province. We started in Pincher Creek and Lethbridge week one, and then last week we were in Edmonton and some northern smaller communities around Edmonton. We were in Drumheller on Monday. Next week we see the far north, Fort McMurray and Grande Prairie and other locations. We've had the privilege of seeing a good chunk of the province, and we have learned so much every session about the community that people represent or live in and lots of suggestions and ideas.

We are as an Electoral Boundaries Commission an independent body that has been appointed by the Speaker of the Legislature on behalf of the Legislative Assembly. Our task is to come up with a set of boundaries for the province, and two huge factors will determine our work. Number one, the Legislature has expanded the Legislative Assembly from 87 seats to 89, so we have to incorporate two new seats, and the legislation that we work under tells us that we have to take into consideration the population gains. As you're aware, Alberta has experienced a huge population growth, so that's a factor that we must consider.

It's of assistance, I think, to give people an idea of what our timeline is like as a commission. We are under very strict timelines. We were appointed in late March by the Speaker, and in April we met as a commission a couple of times. We started our deliberations in late May and will go to the end of June. Based on the information we receive in the public hearings and on the population data that we'll be studying and the written submissions that we receive, we will come up with an interim report.

That interim report will be filed with the Speaker of the Legislature by late October. That will then become a public document, and individual Albertans will be able to respond to that, and we'll have another round of public hearings throughout December, January, and February. Then in late March we're obligated to come up with a final report that we will file with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and then the government and the opposition will deal with our report and enact enabling legislation based on what we say.

As you know, each electoral division or riding or constituency, has one member of the Legislature that is elected by the voters in that constituency. I'm pretty good at my presentation, but when the PowerPoint doesn't work, I can't remember what the next line is. We operate under the guidelines of the legislation, that tells us several things which we must consider. Our ultimate goal, of course, is effective representation, to come up with a map and boundaries that ensure effective representation for all Albertans.

Population. For comparative purposes, if we go back to the last electoral boundary commission in 2017, they based their report on a population of just slightly over 4 million people. Right now we're dealing with a population of 4.88 million people across the province. To give you some comparative perspective, the 2017 commission had a formula that determined the mean average of people in each electoral division and the target population to keep it safe as a riding of minus 25 to plus 25. In other words, the total population divided by 87 constituencies reveals a mean average of 46,697. The target, then, is minus 25 of that figure or plus 25. That was 2017. This time around, for the population that we are dealing with of 4.8 million divided by 89 ridings, the mean average is 54,929. You can see the range of minus 25 being just over 41,000 and plus 25 being almost 69,000.

6:35

The challenge is that the population growth has not been consistent and evenly divided or spread across the province, so we have to come up with electoral divisions that take into account that population growth in the two largest centres and that yield effective representation. Effective representation is the standard under Canadian electoral law, not one person, one vote.

How do we come up with effective representation? We can consider several factors from the legislation. One of them is the relative sparsity and density of population. The next is common community interests and organizations. Next is geographic features, more applicable, I think, to areas outside of Calgary and Edmonton but also applicable within the cities. Communication and transportation lines across the province. When we consider all those factors from the legislation, our task is to then come up with what is described as understandable and clear electoral boundaries. That's our challenge, and that's where we look forward to hearing from folks like you at our public hearings.

Finally, we want to hear from you. What I'm showing you right now is a current electoral map of Alberta, considering 87 electoral districts. After we're finished our project, it'll be slightly different, showing 89 electoral divisions.

Based on that introduction, we're happy to provide any clarification to questions if you have any as you present, but I'm happy to call up Jayne Martin to be our first presenter.

**Mrs. Martin:** Thank you. Do I sit here and speak into the mic?

**The Chair:** Yes. Have a seat right there.

**Mrs. Martin:** I thought somebody else would be before me, so I thought: then I'll find out what they do.

**The Chair:** Oh, one other thing. Everything that goes on in the public hearing is recorded and will be available in audio form on our website in a matter of a day or two, and it's also transcribed by the people that operate *Hansard*, and the written transcript will be on the website as well.

**Mrs. Martin:** Thank you very much. Good evening. I'm Jayne Martin. The riding I currently live in is Calgary-Glenmore, where I have resided for the past five years. Although I was born in Calgary, after two years we moved to Jumping Pound, and I lived there for five years. For grades 1 and 2 I attended the Springbank Community Hall because there was no elementary school. This is now where Calaway Park is located. Then we moved to Pincher Creek for two years.

The summer before I started grade 5, we moved back to Calgary, and I still remember it being a huge adjustment moving to the big city from a small town and sticking out like a sore thumb. I recall overhearing my mom telling my dad that she was worried about me because I spoke like a country hick. At the time I wasn't sure what she was talking about, but I did find that I had a difficult time fitting in and that I had less in common with my new city peers.

From my personal experience, life definitely differs in rural, small-town, and city ridings. I had different needs when I lived in Jumping Pound versus Pincher Creek and then Calgary. MLAs need to be able to represent their riding to the best of their ability. It would not be fair to the MLA or to the constituents to stretch a municipal riding beyond its municipal boundaries. I would encourage drawing up a fair map that keeps cities together.

Calgary-Glenmore is the perfect example of a riding sharing geographic commonality, bordered by the Glenmore reservoir, Glenmore parks, and Fish Creek provincial park. I think it is important to keep provincial boundaries aligned with municipal boundaries. This is critical to ensure ridings do not lump disparate communities together. I recommend adding a seat to north Calgary and to south Edmonton to reflect current and future population growth.

There is a substantial Jewish population residing in Calgary-Glenmore, which is home to three synagogues, a Jewish seniors' residence, Jewish recreation centre, Jewish Learning Institute, Calgary Jewish Federation, and Calgary Jewish Academy. Many seniors also reside in Calgary-Glenmore, with access to three nursing homes, two long-term care facilities, two medical centres, a hospice, and a hospital. The demographics are changing with more families now residing in Calgary-Glenmore.

Located within Calgary-Glenmore are 15 public schools, including a junior high for gifted children and William Roper Hull school for students with behavioural, emotional, social, and mental health challenges. There are also three separate schools and two charter schools, including a girls-only school. Calgary-Glenmore also has four child care centres and an orphanage. There are numerous playgrounds and green spaces, soccer fields, baseball diamonds, rinks, basketball courts, a skateboard park, an athletic park and sports field, and the Southland Leisure Centre.

For the most part, regardless of their age, our constituents tend to be more active and have chosen to live in Calgary-Glenmore due to its close proximity to the Glenmore reservoir, Glenmore parks, and Fish Creek provincial park, where they can take part in water sports and have access to an extensive pathway system where they can walk, jog, or cycle. In addition, Calgary-Glenmore has two golf courses, tennis, and pickleball courts, a racket club, and off-leash dog parks.

As part of the boundary commission I respect that you have an important role to play in our democratic process to not manipulate the boundaries, to keep our communities intact, and prevent

gerrymandering through a fair and democratic process. I thank you for your time tonight.

**The Chair:** Thank you, Mrs. Martin.  
Mr. Evans, any comments or questions?

**Mr. Evans:** No gerrymandering, right?

**Mrs. Martin:** No.

**The Chair:** No. Okay.  
Susan.

**Mrs. Samson:** Thank you for coming out tonight.

**Mrs. Martin:** You're welcome.

**Mrs. Samson:** You should know that we've had a lot of people from Calgary-Glenmore come out this afternoon and this morning, and they are passionate about that community.

**Mrs. Martin:** Thank you. I called them all and got them to come out.

**Mrs. Samson:** You weren't supposed to say that. Anyways, it's really refreshing.

**Mrs. Martin:** When I was the only one here, I thought: uh-oh.

**Mrs. Samson:** No. You're well represented.

**Mrs. Martin:** Good. I'm glad to hear that.

**Mrs. Samson:** I've asked the questions, so don't read into that. We've asked a ton of questions.

**Mrs. Martin:** Sure.

**Mrs. Samson:** Thank you very much.

**Mrs. Martin:** Thank you.

**The Chair:** Dr. Martin.

**Dr. Martin:** Well, yes, thank you. Yes, we have asked a ton of questions about Calgary-Glenmore. I'm just thinking: when do I get to move here? It seems pretty full. You're a little low but not much. Do you experience infill?

**Mrs. Martin:** No, we haven't really as of yet. We're not quite inner city yet. You're talking about, like, infills as far as buildings?

**Dr. Martin:** That's right. And, you know, basement suites and that sort of thing.

**Mrs. Martin:** Not as much, no. I think we're more of an established neighbourhood, so we're not seeing that as much in our areas. It hasn't quite reached us yet.

**Dr. Martin:** So you're not experiencing the growth that seems to characterize much of Calgary.

**Mrs. Martin:** Exactly.

**Dr. Martin:** Interesting. You mentioned Jewish communities and Jewish infrastructure.

**Mrs. Martin:** Yes.

**Dr. Martin:** Is that in this district as well?

**Mrs. Martin:** Yes, it is.

**Dr. Martin:** Okay. Thank you very much.

**Mrs. Martin:** You're so welcome.

**Mr. Clark:** Thank you very much for being here. We have heard a fair bit about Calgary-Glenmore. I guess I'll ask: if there were neighbourhoods in Calgary-Glenmore that if we needed to make some changes, even just little tweaks one way or the other, what's important to keep together? Where do you feel like it would be natural, if we were to add a little bit from the edges of Calgary-Glenmore into Calgary-Glenmore, if we had to?

**Mrs. Martin:** Certainly. North Glenmore Park. I believe part of it is in Calgary-Glenmore, and the other part is in maybe your old riding perhaps, Calgary-Elbow. Is that correct?

**Mr. Clark:** You know what? There's that cut-out at the very top there, strangely enough. North Glenmore Park is actually altogether in Elbow, but that one little top part is south of Glenmore Trail. Technically the North Glenmore Park Community Association is altogether in Calgary-Elbow, but that one little odd bit is south of Glenmore Trail and sort of feels a little bit like it's more Lakeview.

6:45

**Mrs. Martin:** Okay. And then my old neighbourhood was Kingsland. I could see Kingsland because it's across the street from Chinook Park in Kelvin Grove, so I could see that if you were adding a neighbourhood. I think Kingsland was part of Calgary-Glenmore at one time.

**Mr. Clark:** Okay. And that would be where it is, in the top right-hand corner there: Glenmore Trail, Elbow Drive, just punching Elbow Drive, that boundary, out east a bit to Macleod Trail. That's Kingsland.

Okay. That's helpful. Thank you.

**Mrs. Martin:** You're welcome.

**The Chair:** We have some time, so I'm going to exercise my right to ask a question.

**Mrs. Martin:** Certainly.

**The Chair:** Being from Calgary-Glenmore, you expressed some concern at the beginning about mixing small towns and cities. You're one of the last ridings that would ever be – it's almost impossible to do that.

**Mrs. Martin:** Well, there's Tsuut'ina, right? So possibly.

**The Chair:** Oh, okay. That's what your concern was.

**Mrs. Martin:** Well, that could, you know, possibly be. Yeah. I'm not sure.

**The Chair:** Sorry. I was thinking south.

**Mrs. Martin:** No. That would be right, right?

**Mrs. Samson:** Yeah. You are.

**The Chair:** Okay. Good. Well, thank you very much.

**Mrs. Martin:** You're so welcome.

**The Chair:** You're excused, and please stay for the rest of the deliberations.

**Mrs. Martin:** I appreciate that. Thank you.

**The Chair:** Jaret.

**Mr. Hargreaves:** I'm glad I didn't show up late.

**The Chair:** Yeah. We don't mark people late, and you get no bonuses for being early.

**Mr. Hargreaves:** I will apologize in advance. This is the first time I've spoken at a meeting of this sort, and I'm not nearly as well prepared or as well researched as Jayne was, so I will probably take less time.

My name is Jaret Hargreaves, and I'm a resident of Calgary-Buffalo. My personal and family story is a fairly common Alberta story. Both of my parents were born and raised on the farm in the Red Deer area. They met in Innisfail, and they married in Red Deer, and then they moved to Calgary to raise a family here. My personal story. I was born in the Holy Cross. I grew up in Brentwood in what is now Calgary-Varsity. I attended the University of Calgary and have lived in Beltline with my wife now for about 15 years. I live one and a half kilometres from the location where I was born.

I've lived and worked in Calgary-Buffalo for about 15 years, working downtown in Inglewood and Ramsay and elsewhere. The biggest change I think I've seen is the one that we've talked about a couple of times here already today, which is population growth and, disproportionately, urban population growth. I think the second map from the end here that's been prepared with the population overlays is a great demonstration of that and how much more quickly some urban ridings have been growing or constituencies have been growing.

Understanding, you know, the foregoing and not having understood previously the technical definition of effective representation, I think it would probably be the expectation of Albertan electors and voters, generally speaking, that their voice has similar weight to other Albertans. I think that is probably the expectation most electors or voters would have.

With the population growing and growing disproportionately in urban ridings, I give an example of my parents, growing up in Innisfail-Sylvan Lake, very familiar territory for some, and now living in Calgary-Varsity. Calgary-Varsity has seen population growth that is about 30 per cent quicker, 30 per cent greater than in Innisfail-Sylvan Lake. If you were to check out the second map on the right, you would see five or six ridings where the population has actually marginally decreased since the last count on the map there. This is not just my immediate family; you know, across the seven siblings between my mom and dad's families five of the seven have moved to urban ridings over their life, whether in Calgary or Red Deer or elsewhere.

Again, notwithstanding the definition of effective representation I think most Albertans have the expectation that their vote would have a similar weight and also that they see themselves in their community so that they feel they're effectively represented when they feel that the ridings are drawn in such a way that they're in like communities.

I think, as was previously stated, urban and rural voters, urban and rural communities see themselves differently. They see themselves as having a different identity and different interests. Keeping in mind not only that the urban ridings have grown more quickly than the rural ridings but also that they will continue to grow more quickly and that the recommendations that are made in

the report of this commission will stand for eight or 10 years following this, that should be taken into account.

I would go a little bit further than the previous speaker to say that if it is the case that the average number of voters in each of these ridings is going to increase that much, that just adding a riding to each of Calgary and Edmonton would not feel fundamentally fair to most Albertans. I think that I would go further to say that urban ridings should be better represented or have fewer electors per riding as a general principle, and like a previous speaker, say that municipal boundaries ought to be respected. To already answer one of the previous questions: no; I don't expect that that will affect Calgary-Buffer in any substantive way. But there have been massive population increases in the riding I live in.

Thank you, all, for being here. I do appreciate your time and appreciate your preparation for this.

**The Chair:** Well, thank you. I think, unless I'm misremembering, you're the first person that's here on behalf of Calgary-Buffer.

Greg, any questions?

**Mr. Clark:** I do have questions. Yeah. I think you flagged it bang on. With a lot of the growth in other parts of the world, maybe, or other sort of large urban centres, the centre hollows out, and perhaps people have a bit of a flight to the suburbs, not the opposite. There is significant growth around the edges of Calgary, but there's also growth, substantial growth, as you point out, in Calgary-Buffer. That presents a real conundrum for us because right now the math doesn't work. We are well over the 25 per cent threshold in Calgary-Buffer. Every time I drive through downtown Calgary, there seems to be another big hole in the ground, which is going to be 30 more storeys of residential and office conversions and all of that, which I imagine probably resonates and lands with your experience as well.

Given that, if we need to break this up – we do need to reduce the size and the population – do you have any opinion or perspective on what belongs with what and where? What decisions we may want to be making on that?

**The Chair:** Feel free to grab the mic and go to the map if you want to show us.

**Mr. Hargreaves:** I think I can speak to it.

**The Chair:** Okay.

**Mr. Hargreaves:** You're saying with respect to Calgary-Buffer.

**Mr. Clark:** Buffer specifically. Yeah. What would you, if you were sitting on this side of the table and you had to make that choice, try to keep together, and where would you maybe carve off?

**Mr. Hargreaves:** Yeah. I mean, generally speaking, the Bow River provides a very natural geographic barrier, one that's understandable to people. I wouldn't have said 10 or 15 years ago that I felt a kinship with Ramsay and Inglewood in the way I do now. I would say that actually as a member of the Beltline it feels very contiguous. You know, culturally, population-density-wise. I would say that if you had to decrease the size of the riding due to the density, it might be south of 17th Avenue. The section in Cliff Bungalow and – what is the other community, whose name is escaping me?

**Mr. Clark:** Mission.

**The Chair:** Use 17th as the border?

**Mr. Hargreaves:** Yeah. As the south border over to effectively where Macleod is, just north of the Elbow River. I think the rest of the riding – I would have to see what that meant for the numbers, but I think generally speaking.

**Mr. Clark:** Thank you.

**The Chair:** Julian.

**Dr. Martin:** No. As my colleague alluded to, we have been talking a lot about Calgary-Buffer because of the size. You know, this is for the most part the most urban riding in the city. I think we do have to do something with it, but quite a lot of the usual rules don't seem to apply because it's not a land of bungalow neighbourhoods, is it? It's rather hard to decide where the residential growth is coming. Crudely put, we need to reassign 20,000 people.

**Mr. Hargreaves:** Yeah. I would say that the single family that does exist is in that area south of 17th Avenue.

**Dr. Martin:** Yeah. That's a very great point. But what about Inglewood and Ramsay and whatnot?

**Mr. Hargreaves:** Yeah. There is some single family there as well. I would just say that I've seen increasing densification right down almost to the edge of the riding as it's drawn here. Where the 17th Avenue east flyover is into International Avenue, there are large, multi-unit buildings that have been placed there as well. It's a possibility, but it feels more contiguous to my mind.

6:55

**The Chair:** Thank you.

Susan.

**Mrs. Samson:** Thank you for your presentation. I just more or less would like to make a comment. We are tasked to do the redraw with only two extra boundaries, so it became really apparent when we look at Calgary and a riding like Calgary-Buffer that once the changes are made to get Calgary-Buffer closer to the mean with room for growth, it's going to affect everything around it. Don't be overly surprised that a riding that you've come to be near and dear to is not going to look like that.

**Mr. Hargreaves:** I think I'm close enough to the centre that I'll be ...

**Mrs. Samson:** Yes. You will be fine.

**Mr. Clark:** It may no longer actually look like a buffalo.

**Mr. Hargreaves:** Yeah. Fair.

**Mrs. Samson:** Yes. Good point. I didn't see that.

**The Chair:** Mr. Evans.

**Mr. Evans:** Yeah. I've got a question for you kind of along the lines of what Greg asked you about, where you would make a new boundary, you know, east to west. As I look at the map, I'm wondering: what happens on 11th Street southeast if the boundary is there?

**Mr. Hargreaves:** Oh, I see. It's 11th there. I think it's 12th further north.

**Mr. Evans:** Okay. I'm wondering if you could identify for me as well in terms of looking at this where this substantial growth is coming in this particular electoral district. I want to settle my mind



as to whether or not we have a situation where we've had a bunch of growth but we're satiated now and we're not going to have a bunch of growth or we're going to have less growth. If that's the case, then I think the solution is much easier than it could be. If you can tell me where you are identifying most of the growth to be coming from and if it's on one side or the other, I think there might be a solution.

**Mr. Hargreaves:** I would say that I've not seen a lot of new buildings, again, south of 17th Avenue in the Mission area. There are some. In Inglewood as you leave eastbound on 9th Avenue, you know, there was some fairly strong community opposition, but there are now three- and four- and five-storey buildings there in places where there weren't previously. I still think there's a lot of room for growth in Inglewood in particular.

**Mr. Evans:** What could you tell me about the conversion of commercial space downtown into residential space? Is that something that's going to increase? Any sense of that?

**Mr. Hargreaves:** My understanding is that people intend for that to be the case, but it's proving significantly costly. The idea that a building that sits empty as a business or in a commercial space can be easily converted to residential is not proving out, and all of those projects are in cost overrun. I think it is a good idea in principle; I don't think the growth is going to be there in the way that people had hoped it might.

When you're looking at 30 per cent, you know, the highest reported numbers – and it may well have been higher than that at a certain point for commercial real estate vacancies – it's a very attractive idea. I do think the downtown needs revitalization, but I'm not sure that it's going to proceed at the same pace that people had hoped.

**Mr. Evans:** Thank you very much. Appreciate your answers.

**The Chair:** Mr. Hargreaves, just for interest, I'm going to read the last paragraph of the 2017 electoral boundaries report on Calgary-Buffalo.

The level of positive variance in the population created is justified, in the view of the majority, by the likelihood that population growth will fall below provincial average, given the character of this central area. As a result, it is expected that population levels will likely be at or below provincial average population by the time of the next electoral boundaries [commission] review.

**Mr. Hargreaves:** Without understanding all of the thought that went into that, it would be, I think, fair to say that there are some who support densification and some who do not. I would say that the facts of the matter are that Calgary-Buffalo's population has increased and will continue to at the same rate.

**The Chair:** Oh yeah; no question. I don't cite this as a criticism of the previous commission either.

**Mr. Hargreaves:** As a historical note, it's kind of interesting.

**The Chair:** The best laid plans of mice and men go aft agley.

**Mr. Hargreaves:** For sure.

**The Chair:** Okay. Well, thank you very much for coming and presenting and for your thoughtful comments.

**Mr. Hargreaves:** Thank you.

**Mrs. Samson:** Thank you.

**The Chair:** Marcia Cormier.

Good evening.

**Ms Cormier:** Thank you for this opportunity. I heard about it, and I thought it was important for as much participation as possible, given that you're providing the opportunity. I'm another resident of Calgary-Glenmore. Jayne did not call me. I'm here on my own.

**Mr. Evans:** Plausible deniability.

**Ms Cormier:** Yeah. I'm kind of pleased to hear that there's been a lot of people representing our communities. I think it's reflective of the communities and the enthusiasm that we have around all of the communities that are currently in the riding.

Obviously, you've gotten a lot of details about the area and the neighbourhoods, so I won't be too long. I've lived in Calgary-Glenmore for almost 20 years now. I've been in Calgary for almost 35 years. I'm a now retired health care worker. Obviously, I have stayed in the area for 20 years because of the area, so I feel pretty enthusiastic about the area, and I think that is why you've maybe had people from the neighbourhoods.

I think that there is a lot of diversity in the neighbourhoods that currently make up Calgary-Glenmore, like some economic diversity, but the things we have in common are probably more important than some of the diversity. I think there's diversity, probably, in all ridings and that adds to it, but I think that, really, we have more things in common than we have differences, particularly the geographic area in terms of the southwest around the Glenmore reservoir, all of the natural spaces, the reservoir, Fish Creek, the Weaselhead. I think people are pretty devoted and enthused about those natural areas; for sure we are. That gives us common purpose, common goals, common problems, sometimes.

I feel quite strongly that I would like the boundaries. The boundaries make sense right now for me. I would like them to stay similar at least, if not the same, because I think we have similar needs and similar concerns. I think all communities have unique needs and that all communities need MLAs that will represent those needs effectively. I think it would make it harder for the MLAs as well as the residents if there was too much potential mix, like a rural or bedroom community mixed with urbans.

Our communities are a mix of business people, nature lovers, and, as Jayne mentioned, a lot of seniors, but what we've noticed is also a lot of influx of younger families. Particularly, when we moved in 20 years ago, it was quite senior in our particular neighbourhood anyway, and now it's shifting quite dramatically to a lot of young families.

7:05

In conversations that we've had with people in communities, that I've had, I think most of them share my opinion, anyway, that either adding or subtracting too much to what we currently have, particularly if anything went outside of city limits: people would be probably not too happy about that. I think that would be detrimental in many ways. You know, we have common concerns about traffic flow and services and keeping our recreation and all those natural spaces as much as possible. I think in any area it would make the job of an MLA more challenging to represent really diverse needs and concerns.

Given that you've obviously heard a lot about that area, the other concern that people have probably expressed – I heard Jayne express a little bit – is that it's important that Albertans everywhere – Calgary, rural, urban, whatever – have confidence in a fair and

democratic election process. We have such shaky times right now in terms of confidence in politics and government processes, and I hope that we can, you know, strive to not add to those and make them worse. Even perceptions of unfairness or gerrymandering can, I mean, just make things even worse in lots of ways. We all, I think, expect a fair and democratic process, but perceptions are important.

So I hope that in terms of my riding it sort of is kept more or less intact. I can't really speak to – I mean, I've worked downtown. I've worked in different areas of the city and obviously been in different areas of the city, but I'm just really speaking to my district because that's where I'm most familiar and passionate about.

Thank you again for your time and listening and this process.

**The Chair:** Thank you.

Mr. Evans, any questions or comments?

**Mr. Evans:** No, no questions. Thank you.

**Mrs. Samson:** No questions, but thank you for your time tonight. I appreciate it.

**Dr. Martin:** I want to come back to your remark about young families moving in, which is always a good thing, because I'd like to think that that is a positive sign for growth, population growth, filling the schools out and so on. So is it your experience that the schools are stable in their populations?

**Ms Cormier:** Well, my children – I shouldn't say both of them, but one of them did go to both elementary and high schools in the area, but he's older now. So I have no recent experience with the schools, but I haven't heard they aren't. I can't really speak a lot to how stable, overcrowded, undercrowded, or whatever.

**Dr. Martin:** Because you are seeing young families move in.

**Ms Cormier:** Yeah.

**Dr. Martin:** I'm very pleased to hear it, because, as I say, you're slightly under, but I don't feel motivated to do too much about it because it may look after itself.

**Ms Cormier:** Yeah. I mean, it does seem like there's a shift at least in the particular area right around me. You know, like, it seems quite dramatic. When we moved in, there was not a little kid running around the street. We're fairly close to a dog park and the Weaselhead, so there are always bikers and joggers and whatever, but there were no kids on the streets. Now there are kids running all over the place, so it is shifting for sure.

**Dr. Martin:** That's good. Thank you.

**Mr. Clark:** Yeah. Good. I don't know if I have any more questions I could possibly think of for Calgary-Glenmore. There's a Facebook group or – I don't know – like, a bat signal or something, but clearly you guys got yourselves organized, so message heard loud and clear on Glenmore.

**Ms Cormier:** Okay.

**The Chair:** Let me, because we have some time. We've heard "gerrymander" used twice this evening. Let me just pose a hypothetical for you and look at the west end of your constituency. You said that it would be very, very detrimental – very detrimental – if outside areas were brought in.

**Ms Cormier:** I mean outside city limits.

**The Chair:** Right, so let's look at the west boundary. Now, I don't think this is the case based on my knowledge of that part of the city, but let's assume there are a few clusters of acreages there and we needed a couple of thousand people just to bring your numbers up. How damaging would that be if we brought them into Calgary-Glenmore? You talk about traffic patterns, and that's an area of growth. I mean, that's a big concern. It's going to be a big concern. If there were acreages out there, why would that be so detrimental?

**Ms Cormier:** Well, I think that there are just vastly different issues and problems or concerns that those kinds of areas would not share with the urban areas. Like, we have all these natural spaces, but we're also quite urban, you know, and we're quite – we're not downtown, but in terms of the geographic size of the whole of Calgary we're pretty urban. I know that, and I lived in Okotoks for a while, for example, so I have some experience with outside city limits and some of the more rural acreage kinds of places, and I just think the concerns are quite different. For both those kinds of populations I think it would be detrimental.

**The Chair:** In terms of board governance diversity is key to success, so a little bit of diversity may not be that damaging if you had a few acreages in your constituency.

**Ms Cormier:** Yes. I mean, we have little bits of diversity within what we have currently.

**The Chair:** Right, but if we needed the numbers, there would be no big problem with that, would there be?

**Ms Cormier:** Yeah. I mean, I don't know for sure, but I would be concerned about it. I would be concerned also about the perceptions of why that was happening.

**The Chair:** Numbers. As I said, numbers. Like, if we had to get you up and there were 2,000 people there, that would be – because they can't go anywhere else.

**Ms Cormier:** Well, so where would they be currently? I don't know. Like, where are they currently?

**The Chair:** Well, I realize it's hypothetical, but in order to give you numbers right next door, right across the line, I guess I'm just asking: how damaging would that be to Calgary-Glenmore?

**Ms Cormier:** I don't know how damaging it would be. I'm just concerned that people with sort of similar issues, similar shared geography, similar issues around services and transportation and – we've had some issues in the neighbourhood with development and stuff. I would be concerned that there are different concerns on both sides that would make it difficult not just for the residents but for whoever ends up representing and trying to – you know, even though they may be close in miles, they may be quite different in terms of needs and concerns.

7:15

**The Chair:** Yeah. Okay. Thank you. You're excused, ma'am. You can return.

Anybody else here to present that I haven't called on? Yes, sir.

**Mr. Horembala:** I was going to register, but I'm brand new to this process.

**The Chair:** Well, if you want to present, come forward. We won't charge you extra at all.

**Mr. Horembala:** I'm a learner in this process, a lifelong learner as an educator. My name is Mike Horembala, a recently I'd like to say retired but I'm going to have to say rewired administrator. Mike is fine or Mr. H.

I came to the University of Alberta in 1987 from Vancouver. I was at UBC and transferred into the Faculty of Education, and I never left. I still kind of weirdly consider my home to be in Vancouver, but I've been here teaching in the Rocky Mountain House area for 22-plus years, and I've been a teacher, vice-principal, and administrator in that area. I've been at Lindsay Thurber in Red Deer. In 2014 I came down and became vice-principal at Highwood high school and was recently, just at the beginning of the pandemic, transferred to Oilfields, about a block and a half from my house. I've been there since, and my wife and I have taken big routes. She's from Calgary. She was hoping to make it tonight but wasn't feeling well.

My riding, I guess, is Highwood, of course, and there wasn't really specific – I knew you guys weren't coming down to Diamond Valley to see us. This has been very eye opening for me. Just kind of my understanding of this process has grown quite a bit. But even hearing that, especially in this area here and some of the concerns I've heard in our area as well, we're not sure, if there were to be realignment, how our riding would end up possibly going. Would it be a little east? Would it be a little west, snaking around the edge of the mountains?

**The Chair:** We want to hear from you. Okay. The map is up now for Highwood.

**Mr. Horembala:** Sure. Yeah.

I've heard all kinds of different things in the coffee shops, you know, about where it might be going. But one of the elements is that, speaking about a lot of my personal values, having grown up in an urban environment, sometimes I'll speak a little closer to what Calgary values, a lot of more urban people would. We call our place even, like – I don't know if you guys heard this, but it's new to me – rurban, that sort of in between.

**Mrs. Samson:** Yes. We've heard.

**Mr. Horembala:** I know that where I am in Diamond Valley, again, a lot of the values are still a strong agricultural-based community, and our students at Highwood – like, I've subbed there probably 70 per cent of the school year. My phone is vibrating right now because they're short guest teachers and needing us to keep coming back in. But I know that the values definitely are very different. It's interesting. You brought up the idea of how impactful would it be if some acreages – I call them the sort of estate acreages – that are out in that area extending out from the Spruce Meadows or along through those edges through there, how that would be. I'm sort of coming more from the perspective that the values where we are, I think, would be very different.

I would feel odd voting in an election if that went that far, and I don't know if that is even a consideration. The further you get sort of south and west from that area and from the Calgary-Glenmore-type riding, it would be very different for us. I think that our alignment from values – I know diversity. I know what you're saying, too, because of my whole life of teaching diversity and explaining it. We need that to have a quality environment and community as citizens, but there are also just some very big divides in how people look at things.

I'm just wondering. Can I ask a question? Is that all right? Forgive me; it's part of my learning process here. The considerations, for example, that have gone on with Calgary and

moving perhaps parts and pieces: is it a common practice to pull rurban or through rural into more urban environments, like, in this process?

**The Chair:** Is it a common practice?

**Mr. Horembala:** Yeah.

**The Chair:** It's a good question. You know, we haven't done anything yet in terms of this commission, and the last commission: I'm not sure. No. In fact, the last commission I don't think did.

**Mr. Horembala:** Yeah. People were curious in our community, just wanting to know if that is a consideration, say, whether it's new or ongoing or so on. Again, that term that I heard brought up twice previously: I'm just wondering about how to – you know, wanting to make sure that it's a clean, democratic process. The values are quite a bit different, I would say, the further – it's almost like a bull's eye; the further you move away from the centre, then the values are changing quite considerably in how people want to see the government formed in that process.

Yeah. Even though Diamond Valley, too, just from a demographic perspective – in the last couple of years even I've noticed it. We don't have a ski hill, so we do not grow at the rate that Canmore does. If we did, I think we would grow more. But we are finding that it's becoming more of a bedroom community and more people are buying up places. Homes are getting not, like, below asking price; they're now starting to get above asking price. A part of that was the ring road being completed. Our demographic is for sure changing in that way. I know there's a professor at Mount Royal who drives from south of us, and I work quite a bit for the University of Calgary in the outdoor centre, so I'm coming here quite often to work, and the ring work has been a big piece in that. So there is definitely a demographic change, but at this point it's been slow, in my observation of it, and I think it'll be a while before, like I say, the values within that community in Calgary will be closer. They'll never be exactly the same, and we don't want them to be.

Anyway, I think that's all I kind of wanted to say and share. I appreciate you taking my question and helping me with my learning journey here. Part of being retired, too – you know, I've immersed myself so far in my job and coaching and sports. I'm finally becoming a citizen again and getting involved in other areas and volunteering. Anyways, thank you very much for your time. I appreciate it.

**The Chair:** I've got to ask. How did people adjust to Diamond Valley?

**Mr. Horembala:** It was interesting. We had to actually move our mail addresses back to Black Diamond because mail wasn't coming through to us because people weren't recognizing it. Like, the mayor – I work with his wife, and I've taught his kids. It was one of those things. Somebody in Diamond Valley would say "Turner Valley," and you got spit on the side there. I think the dust has finally settled. There are still a few municipal things of departments that are working their way out, but it has finally become a thing, and I can say it now almost without thinking.

**The Chair:** Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Evans, any questions or comments?

**Mr. Evans:** No. Thank you.

**The Chair:** Mrs. Samson.

**Mrs. Samson:** Thank you. Thank you for your presentation. The one thing that had come up in previous presentations is that Millarville, which is sitting in that little dip, is sitting in the Banff-Kananaskis riding, and in discussions I think that's something we're going to look at because it appears from the presentations that it's better suited to the ranching country that's represented by your riding. That's not a big population base or anything, but that was one thing that we've certainly made note of.

You know, the other thing, too, that we haven't asked much today because they've been mostly Calgary people, is: how about the name of your riding? We've also been tasked to change riding names if appropriate to do so or for whatever reason. You being in Highwood: what do you think of that?

**Mr. Horembala:** That's actually a pretty good question. I mean, I taught in High River, and for me that was sort of the face of that area. As a school district that's where the offices are. Provincial offices are in High River as well. You can't overlook the famous show as well in there. Yeah. Definitely, it's different representation there, I would say. It's on the far, far edge out. Highwood is not part of, like, geographically in the past and everything else. I think it would be something that would be possibly considered.

**Mrs. Samson:** Yeah. Sometimes they pick the largest centre. Like, you know, you could be called Okotoks-Something, because Okotoks is not a stand-alone piece. If you came up with something, let us know.

**Mr. Horembala:** Honestly, the two most central pieces of this document are, obviously, the population. Okotoks is geographically centre but also Okotoks-Sheep. The Sheep River, as you can see, comes through the heart of Diamond Valley, through the heart of Okotoks, and it just catches the Highwood off there. I mean, along that Okotoks-Sheep or over there is the middle or part of our – our veins go through there although it's looking right now more like Sheep Creek.

7:25

**The Chair:** Is that where the blueberry plant is? Isn't there a blueberry farm?

**Mr. Horembala:** I'm not sure.

**The Chair:** Close to Okotoks?

**Mr. Horembala:** Yeah, they've got a number in there. The saskatoon berry farm ...

**The Chair:** Oh, sorry.

**Mr. Horembala:** Yeah, saskatoons, which are prevalent. The dog park is – all through those areas everybody is starting to get excited about the picking season.

**The Chair:** So Okotoks-Saskatoon wouldn't be that helpful, then.

**Mr. Horembala:** Everybody in this constituency eats them.

**The Chair:** Okay. Julian, any questions?

**Dr. Martin:** Well, no, not really. I've heard it said, but I don't think it can be the case, so I'm going to ask you: what about the connectivity between Okotoks and High River? Could you ever conceive of them being in the same riding?

**Mr. Horembala:** Okotoks is central. For example, from the school district perspective I've taught now in most of the schools in the

district, and probably the number one bedroom community for Foothills school division is Okotoks. The run between those two is nonstop. We have a lot of south Calgary people coming out to work but not anywhere near – like, I was surprised when I found out how many of our staff are from Okotoks. Very few live locally in our area. They just go out in all directions and to all the schools throughout the district. So it is a bit more – but I would see that that would be an extension potentially of that riding.

**Dr. Martin:** I'm not suggesting that I'm in favour of it, but whenever we see two towns and plausible adjacency, we just need to ask if you're friendly.

**Mr. Horembala:** Yeah. Well, as far as I know, there's no spitting when they're mentioned.

**Dr. Martin:** Thank you.

**The Chair:** Greg?

**Mr. Clark:** Yeah. I think Susan asked my question about Millarville. It's always interesting just to know what the kind of trading area is. I guess, you know, you talked earlier about building on Ms Cormier's comments on sort of like with like. I guess the part I reflect on is not so much that we want everyone in a constituency to be homogeneous and totally the same, but I think that what we want to try to avoid – and I'm trying to phrase this as a question as opposed to sort of a statement.

I guess if there was a scenario – and I can't think of a logical or reasonable one around Diamond Valley – where you, just to make up the numbers, have a relatively small group of people who really don't necessarily fit, so they are perhaps rural or rural whereas the dominant group would be city, and then you've got 55,000 people in city neighbourhoods, and then you've got 5,000 people in a rural area, if I were to put that to you and you were one of those people in the rural area where that was the scenario presented, how would you feel about that?

**Mr. Horembala:** It would be different. I mean, for example, the challenge was brought up around an MLA properly representing somebody from outside of us. Where our school district goes, Millarville, obviously, is within our catchment area, but I was shocked to find out – I was driving to Bragg Creek one day to teach out west, seeing school buses that were almost in Bragg Creek that had Foothills school division on them. That area and, again, the demographic: I think it would be challenging for an MLA to have to actually be able to represent such broad, diverse views.

I mean, Glenmore is a long-established community. A lot of tradition in it, but it's a different ranching community. Like, our kids: it still shocks me how many kids wear Roper boots in phys ed. They're out playing football in shorts and T-shirts and Roper boots. You would never find that sort of representation. Yeah, I'm kidding a little bit, but at the same time that's also the demographic of the population. It's very, very different out there. It's got a very strong western flavour, the Millarville Farmers' Market. Everything out there is very different.

**Mr. Clark:** That's great. Thank you.

I think you have to go with Diamond Valley because Turner-Black sounded too much like a country singer.

**Mr. Horembala:** It did. It very much did.

**Mr. Clark:** Thank you very much. That was great. We appreciate you coming out.

**The Chair:** Well, thank you for being dragged up here.

**Mr. Horembala:** Oh, no. I would say that it's part of my commitment to moving forward into my semireirement here. I just wanted to be a bit more involved. When I have questions, instead of just sitting in my house, I want to come out and ask them. Thank you very much for having me.

**The Chair:** Okay. Thank you.

Yes, Sir, do you want to present?

**Dr. Hexham:** I wouldn't mind.

**The Chair:** Well, come forward. Again, we won't charge you extra for not registering. Please identify yourself, and tell us which riding you live in.

**Dr. Hexham:** Dr. Jeremy Hexham, and I live in Calgary-Varsity. I've been listening to these presentations all day, and I'm going to bring up a bit of a different perspective on things, I hope. I live in Silver Springs. I've been in Silver Springs since 2005. When I moved into Silver Springs, I was part of Calgary-Bow. In 2008 I was actually the elections clerk for Calgary-Bow, so I know the riding very well. Very large riding. Very glad it was slowed down. It took me about 45 minutes to drive to the different polling stations. In 2011 we became part of Calgary-Hawkwood. In 2015 I was the returning officer for Calgary-Hawkwood. In 2019 we became Calgary-Varsity. So in the years I've lived there, I've been part of three different ridings for it. We get moved around a lot. In fact, in 2019 I had no idea that Calgary-Hawkwood had been eliminated and we were part of Calgary-Varsity.

What I would ask is: for certain communities like mine can we have some stability? Can we have one riding permanently that doesn't move around constantly so that people actually know where we are? Nobody knows who our MLAs are or where we are. You know, Silver Springs was in fact named best community in Calgary with a CBC poll a couple of years ago, so I think we should just call it, the new riding, Silver Springs or Springs or even, if we have to, bring back Calgary-Hawkwood.

**Mr. Clark:** That's fascinating. I'm looking just at the map right here, and Nose Hill Drive and Crowchild Trail are four constituencies on that. I can completely understand how previous folks who sat around the table like we did would look at major roads and go, "Ah," as my colleague Dr. Martin likes to say, "we all would nip and tuck a little bit of this here and there." I'm glad you mentioned that to us because, should it come down to it, that's actually a very relevant consideration. If you have bounced around a bunch and we can avoid it, we certainly will endeavour to do so. That's very helpful. Thank you.

**The Chair:** Julian?

**Dr. Martin:** Well, my perennial question, really, is: do you anticipate significant new residential growth?

**Dr. Hexham:** No, I do not. Not for Silver Springs because there's just nothing going on. I mean, the biggest thing we had happen recently was that a Habitat for Humanity complex went in, but there's nowhere, really, that you can do massive growth in Silver Springs. Now, other areas maybe but not Silver Springs per se.

**Dr. Martin:** But in the whole of Calgary-Varsity?

**Dr. Hexham:** I don't know. I'm thinking more of my own community. I'm being very selfish here.

**Dr. Martin:** Well, that's fair.

**The Chair:** Susan.

**Mrs. Samson:** Excellent point on boundaries. That's why you got moved all over the place. The act clearly says to us that one of our tasks is to consider clear and understandable boundaries and keep the chaos to a minimum. So I appreciate you hammering that point home. Thank you.

**The Chair:** Mr. Evans, any comments?

**Mr. Evans:** Yeah. I'm interested in that you seem very attuned to your community and tuned out to the rest of Calgary-Varsity. That's important to me because I don't think you're alone. That wasn't a negative comment; that was an observation. I don't think you're alone. I want to know why you're so in tune to Silver Springs but, perhaps more importantly, what other communities surrounding Silver Springs you're more in tune with and why than you are with the balance of Calgary-Varsity. Does that make sense? I want to hear your connectivity.

**Dr. Hexham:** Yeah. I think, in one perspective, I do very little in Calgary-Varsity or any of the other communities. I mean, other than doing my PhD in 2010 to 2017, I didn't really go anywhere in that area other than the University of Calgary. I do my shopping at the Crowfoot shopping centre, which is just above – so if you look at Crowchild Trail, it's just up and to the left. My parents live in Hawkwood. You know, when we were Calgary-Hawkwood, I thought we were much closer, connected, going up with what we did. Calgary-Hawkwood was Silver Springs, Ranchlands, Hawkwood, Arbour Lake, Citadel.

7:35

**Mr. Evans:** So you moved north and west, where you . . .

**Dr. Hexham:** That's what Calgary-Hawkwood was.

**Mr. Evans:** If I was stalking you, that's where I would hang out.

**Dr. Hexham:** Yeah. And downtown.

**Mr. Evans:** And downtown. Well, that makes it complicated.

**Dr. Hexham:** Yeah, I know.

That's basically the area that we were in. Calgary-Varsity: you know, I don't think I've been down to 18th Street northwest, at the far end of the riding, ever. Maybe I have. I mean, I don't go down that far. I'm not connected to that part of it whereas I'm more connected to Hawkwood, Ranchlands, the Crowfoot shopping centre, Arbour Lake, that sort of area.

**Mr. Evans:** Are you part of any community associations?

**Dr. Hexham:** No, I'm not.

**Mr. Evans:** Do you know other people in your community that are like minded, like you, that sort of gravitate to the same parts of the city, or are you a lone wolf?

**Dr. Hexham:** I'm a lone wolf. I'm unique in my own – I mean, I don't really think we do. I have a lot of neighbours who go down to Bowness because Bowness is where they have a good library down there. They have an arts school. They have an art supply place. I think people do that area of Bowness for some of the activities. But I don't know: would my neighbours go elsewhere? I stand alone, and I'm quite unique when it comes to my neighbours.

**Mr. Evans:** Is it easy to get to Bowness from . . .

**Dr. Hexham:** Not as easy. To go down to Bowness park, you just go down Nose Hill and then – yeah, I mean, it's quite easy. It's just one street to go down. We're sort of – it's out of the way, but we're there. It's not that hard. For Baker park, which is there, you have to go down Nose Hill and I think to – Nose Hill goes across Sarcee, and then I think it's 85th Street that gets you into Bowness.

It's easier to get into Bowness and other areas. But, I mean, Bowness, again, is a unique area unto itself. Should it be part of Calgary-Bow? I don't know. I would put Bowness, Montgomery, Westmount, all that area together if it was me. But, yeah, I just know Silver Springs and what we are.

**Mr. Evans:** Okay. Thank you. I appreciate those answers.

**The Chair:** Okay. Thank you very much, Dr. Hexham. You did kind of portray it as a bit of a negative going back and forth. It could be construed as a positive. Everybody wants Silver Springs. Everybody wants that in their constituency.

**Mr. Clark:** Community of the year.

**Dr. Hexham:** No, I agree with you on that perspective. But, I mean, when you've moved around a lot, people sort of get confused about voting. I remember Calgary-Bow in 2008. Part of Calgary-Bow is part of Silver Springs. There's a little part of it that was part of Calgary-Varsity. The amount of phone calls that we took from people who went to the one school to vote and weren't allowed to vote and were calling the media outlet saying, "I wasn't allowed to vote at this school because it was part of Calgary-Varsity, not Calgary-Bow," was a headache I still remember. So from that perspective, yes, but from another it'd be nice to have some consistency. Let's keep one riding so we're not bouncing like a ball all over the place.

**The Chair:** Well, that little corner problem has, I think, turned the lights on for the commission to be cognizant of. Thank you very much.

I think I pretty well cornered everybody in the room to make a presentation.

**Mrs. Samson:** You have. You have.

[The commission deliberated]

[The hearing adjourned at 8 p.m.]



