



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Electoral Boundaries Commission
Public Hearings

Wainwright

Thursday, June 5, 2025
6:37 p.m.

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Electoral Boundaries Commission

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Electoral Boundaries Commission Public Hearings – Wainwright

Public Participants

Linda Jacejko, President, Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright Constituency Association
Michael Jacejko

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[Justice Miller in the chair]

The Chair: Good evening, everyone, and welcome to our evening public hearing of the Electoral Boundaries Commission here in Wainwright.

Just to give you some background, first of all, we are an independent commission established by the Legislature of Alberta to follow the legislation, which requires every second election, approximately, or every eight to 10 years, to take a look at the boundaries of Alberta's constituencies and to determine whether they should be varied or changed. Our task for this commission is – one of the first things we have to deal with is the fact that the Legislature has decided to expand the seat numbers from 87 to 89. The map before you – well, not really. But the map of Alberta is divided into 87 constituencies currently. For the next provincial election there will be 89, so we have to decide where those two new constituencies go and where the boundaries are to be drawn for the others.

Before you is the commission. To my far right is – no; it's my far left. Sorry. Mr. John Evans is at the end of the table here. He is a lawyer from southern Alberta. He works with a province-wide firm known as Stringam and does trials throughout the province but mainly focused, you know, in Lethbridge. He's been recognized, in terms of his legal ability, by way of receiving the King's Counsel designation, and he also volunteers by serving on the Alberta Judicial Nominating Committee.

To my immediate left is Susan Samson. She hails from Sylvan Lake, Alberta. For those of us who live in the south, Sylvan Lake is central Alberta. She has been recognized for her volunteer activities, especially in the area of health care, and she has served several terms as a municipal councillor and as mayor of Sylvan Lake.

I'm Justice Dallas Miller. I'm a judge from the Court of King's Bench in southern Alberta, and I'm honoured to serve as chairman of this commission.

To my immediate right is Dr. Julian Martin, who is a historian, a retired university professor from the University of Alberta. He lives in Sherwood Park and volunteers with respect to several projects and committees in that community and also serves on the Surface Rights Board and the Land Compensation Board.

At the far end of the table is Mr. Greg Clark. Greg comes from Calgary, and he has been a member of the Legislature of Alberta and served one term representing Calgary-Elbow. Greg is in the information and knowledge industry and consults widely with corporations and gives advice on corporate governance.

We are your Electoral Boundaries Commission. To give you some sense of what we're going to do, it's helpful to look at a timeline. This commission was established by the Speaker of the Legislature in late March of this year. From the time of appointment the clock starts ticking, and we have to have a report at certain stages. We're appointed in late March. We met a couple of times in April as a commission to discuss the population, to discuss various approaches to how we're going to take on this task, and to lay out the public hearing schedule. We started the public hearings last week. We spent all of this week in Edmonton and Westlock, St. Paul, and now tonight Wainwright. We will conduct public hearings until the last week in June.

After we've completed our public hearings, we will work on a report, and the report will be completed by late October. That interim report will be submitted to the Speaker of the Legislature, and it'll become public. The public will have a chance for response, comments, and feedback to that report. We will then provide an

opportunity for further public hearings, starting possibly in November and December and up to February. Then, based on those public hearings on the interim report, the comments we receive from them, we will finalize the report and submit it to the Speaker of the Legislature in late March. Typically the Speaker receives that report, and the Legislature is then obligated to enact legislation with respect to electoral divisions based on that report. They're not bound by the terms of our recommendations, but they take our recommendations and fashion the statutory provisions from that point on.

As you know, each constituency has one member of the Legislature of Alberta – as I said, we're moving from 87 to 89 – and voters in that constituency elect that member of the Legislature.

To provide some context and background, I think it's helpful to look at previous commissions. The previous commission issued its final report in 2017. I indicated that we're moving from 87 to 89 seats. Well, the main reason we're doing that is because of the high population increase in the province of Alberta. In 2017 – it might be a little hard to see in that graph – the population that the commission based its recommendations upon was slightly over 4 million people. Now, for our report purposes, we are well over 4 million, in fact 4.88 million. The significance of that population change can be seen in these two charts. The last commission in 2017 took a population of 4,062,609 Albertans divided by 87. That gave us the mean amount of 46,697 per constituency.

In Alberta we are based on the principle of effective representation, and effective representation is met if your target population is anywhere below that mean by 25 per cent or above by 25 per cent. The target range is a population of 35,000, approximately, and just over 58,000. That was the 2017 report. By contrast, now the population of Alberta has increased well over 700,000 to 4,888,723. That's the population that this commission is relying on for the purposes of providing our report for electoral boundaries. That changes the mean average up to 54,929, or roughly 55,000, and that target range then varies from 41,000 to almost 69,000. That's the formula that we'll be relying upon for our report.

6:45

How do we come up with the boundaries? Well, we've got certain suggestions and guidelines in the legislation. Unfortunately, the population growth has not been evenly scattered across the province and is focused mainly on the larger cities. Nevertheless, we have certain legislative guides to help us come up with our report.

Our goal is to provide a report that Alberta constituencies all benefit from, for what we call effective representation, not necessarily one person, one vote but effective representation. In completing our task, we have to look at these various factors, the sparsity and the relative density of the population throughout the province, factors such as common community interests and organizations within each electoral division. Geographic features are important for helping us determine boundaries for constituencies, particularly in the outlying areas outside of urban situations. As well, we look at communication and transportation lines across the province. Our task is to produce very clear and understandable boundaries so that the public knows what electoral division they're in and where the borders are.

In addition, the legislation allows us to take into consideration other factors that may assist us in coming to our conclusions in our report. That's where public hearings come in. We're in the midst of the public hearings. We want to hear from you as Albertans as it relates to your thoughts in terms of your own local boundaries, but you're not restricted to your own electoral division in these presentations.

What you have before you is the current map of Alberta laying out the 87 constituencies. At the end of this process, by March of 2026, we will have another map of Alberta, giving the boundaries for 89 constituencies.

In light of that presentation, we have blocked off this evening. We have probably advised you that you're time limited for your presentation, but we've got lots of time this evening.

I'm going to call on Colleen Henning to give a presentation.

The Chair: Oh, I'm sorry. Are you Mrs. Linda Jacejko?

Mr. Jacejko: Nicely done.

The Chair: Pardon?

Mr. Jacejko: Nicely done. Jacejko.

Mr. Clark: Linda is a tough name to pronounce.

The Chair: Did you want to make a presentation today?

Mrs. Jacejko: Yes.

The Chair: Oh, well, please come forward. We have a little bit of a mix-up on our communication. You're going to fly the flag by yourself?

Mrs. Jacejko: I am. Surprise.

The Chair: Okay. Good. It makes us happy when you bring your own map. We know you're serious. Take some time to introduce yourself and tell us, you know, what you want us to know. We're a very inquisitive group. We like to ask questions, so we'll have a dialogue. You can stand or sit, whatever is comfortable.

Mrs. Jacejko: Sure. I am from Vermilion, within this constituency, and I am currently a president of a constituency association. We've only been in existence for about three or four years as a CA, so we've had a lot of building to do. We have about 12 core members, and about eight of them are extremely involved. That's kind of what we do.

Yeah. We had a couple of meetings on the boundaries, just trying to see if there was something that we could add to this discussion. Actually, we looked at population, but we did it in terms of people that could vote, not actual population. The figures I found were from March 2024, so that's kind of what I based what we were going to talk about on.

The Chair: Well, tell me. What's the source of those figures?

Mrs. Jacejko: Where did I find them? They give a really nice long list. I know I had to go back and find them again, and I had a little difficulty finding them again, but it looked to be like a fairly responsible type page . . .

The Chair: Source.

Mrs. Jacejko: Source. Yeah.

Except it was very tiny, so I had to write it all in big letters.

From this, we kind of looked at the numbers of voters. They say that it's about 2,966,192, and if you divide that by 87, you get 34,094.

Dr. Martin: That's the Elections Alberta data set.

The Chair: Oh, okay. Yeah. For voters. Right.

Mrs. Jacejko: Okay. Thank you. Yeah. That makes sense.

We come in at kind of in the middle, but we would have room for a couple of thousand, from those numbers.

The Chair: What is your number?

Mrs. Jacejko: Our number – we're the number second from the bottom – is 32,357, based on that chart. At the moment I think we have room for about a couple thousand based just on that alone, which could be different by now, too.

The Chair: Well, let me just tell you the figures that we'll be relying on. The last commission had a population base of 46,042 for this electoral district, okay? This year we're relying on the 2021 census, which I didn't explain properly earlier, which is updated continuously by both the federal government and the province. It's the figures from July 2024 that we're relying on overall for the province. That's a long explanation to get to the figures that we're relying on. Your riding has a population of 48,061.

Mrs. Jacejko: Okay. It just depends which . . .

The Chair: The variance is comparable. The variance is close to the voters, about 2,000 apart.

Mrs. Jacejko: Okay. Yeah. Right.

So it got us to thinking about various things. One is that not far from Vermilion is the little town of Mannville, and the trading area for Vermilion is Mannville. I mean, Mannville is only about 12 miles away, so they are lumped in with Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville, which is a long way away from them. And it is really quite close to our trading area.

The Chair: Yeah. We drove through that today.

Mrs. Jacejko: That was one thing that we noticed.

The other thing is that we – Colleen, actually, was going to speak on this. Her first husband was First Nations, and she has a daughter that is, and her daughter has had quite a lot to do with the First Nations people. The interesting thing is that we have in our constituency this area, which is Onion Lake, and the reality is that apparently Frog Lake and Onion Lake people go back and forth an awful lot. Some of them actually have some place to live in both places, so in many respects it would make sense for them to be part of our constituency just for that reason alone. I think the numbers come out quite well if we're looking for a couple thousand. I know that it interrupts the northern part, which then gets more complicated.

6:55

The Chair: But you have Onion Lake, and Frog Lake is next door.

Mrs. Jacejko: Yeah. We do not have Frog Lake.

The Chair: Yeah. And you're prepared to take it.

Mrs. Jacejko: We would. We think that probably they should have a little more attention, and we could do that using both communities and kind of try to, you know – actually Colleen is our plumb to help us to make some contacts and get them properly more involved in politics than they normally do sometimes. I'm not saying they all don't.

We also have a Hutterite colony. I've heard in the past that the only reason they voted was that they were given a lot of booze and then put on a bus and brought to the voting area, which doesn't sound right to me. I think it's better to help people to understand the voting before . . .

The Chair: Okay. Where is the colony on the map?

Mrs. Jacejko: The colony is near Marwayne. There are plenty in the area, but I think that's the only one that's in our neck of the woods.

What else did I want to say? Also, when I submitted a written report, I mentioned that street people didn't seem to be a big deal, but apparently in Lloydminster they are.

Mr. Evans: Did you say street people?

Mrs. Jacejko: It is a huge problem, so we need to send more oversight on that.

Also, the fact that Lloydminster is a border city: there are a lot of issues, and health care is another one. If Albertans go to Lloyd to see a specialist, it's worse if it's on the Saskatchewan side, but even if it's on the Alberta side, all the medical is looked after by Saskatchewan, even records coming back and forth. If you go to a doctor in Alberta, everything is in your online records. These are not, so you can go to your place that did your MRI, for instance, and say, "I want the results," and you can get them to take them back to your doctor, but there needs to be a lot of work done there, too. Little by little we start discovering some of these things. I don't live in Lloyd, but Colleen was, and she's actually just moving to Vermilion, the core.

I don't know. Did you get a copy of the report I sent you?

The Chair: Yes. We would have received it.

Mrs. Jacejko: Okay.

The Chair: I can't say that I specifically recall your name attached to it, but we have the records.

Mrs. Jacejko: Okay. It's just also that we've learned since then, too, so things change.

The other thing that had come up is that one of our members was involved in the Anglican church, and they use the pie-shaped kind of grouping, and they said it was a disaster. The communication just doesn't work properly. You know, you've got people up here and down here. I can understand that for a city that might be an idea, but it does pose its own problems. I was hoping to get Elizabeth to come, but she couldn't make it today to explain their experience of that, but I think she submitted a letter as well.

The Chair: Okay. When you say pie-shaped, what are you referencing?

Mrs. Jacejko: Well, like, if you took Edmonton, because that's where a lot of the population is, and you came outwards . . .

The Chair: Oh, for creating boundaries you mean.

Mrs. Jacejko: Yeah, for creating a constituency.

The Chair: Okay.

Mrs. Jacejko: Yeah. You know, it might look good on paper, but it brings with it a whole lot of . . .

The Chair: Challenges.

Mrs. Jacejko: Plus, you have a whole different kind of people living in each one. I mean, city versus semicity versus farming and ranching: you run into all kinds of issues that way.

Any questions?

Dr. Martin: Lots. Thank you very much. I love the map, and I'm sad it was taken away.

Mrs. Jacejko: You can have it back.

Dr. Martin: I wanted first to thank you because your presentation hits on many themes that we've been discovering in other hearings and the like, so thanks, and all your friends and colleagues who weren't here tonight to help you to discuss all this are to be thanked.

I wanted first just to clarify about the town to the east of Vermilion that is part of your market economy circle. What's the name of that?

Mrs. Jacejko: Mannville.

Dr. Martin: Mannville, ah. Jolly good.

Mr. Clark: Is it east or west?

Mrs. Jacejko: It's west.

Dr. Martin: It's west; excuse me.

Mrs. Jacejko: You know, just like the right of the table.

The Chair: That's very good.

Dr. Martin: I wanted to touch not upon Lloyd in particular but the whole general issue of sharing a border with our friends in Saskatchewan. Do you find that there are other issues that we as a commission should be alive to? For example, your reservation, which is tightly on the border up there in the northern part of your electoral riding: is there an equivalent one on the other side? Do these sorts of things happen, or is it just a special feature of Lloyd?

Mrs. Jacejko: No. There are other reservations not that far away.

Dr. Martin: So the transit across the Sask-Alberta border is quite common all along this stretch for any number of reasons.

Mrs. Jacejko: It is, yes, very much so. For the whole province, I believe.

Dr. Martin: Well, I'm sure that's true.

Mrs. Jacejko: Because on one side you might have Provost, and on the other side you've got some other town or community that keeps you going.

The Chair: Are you near Alsask?

Mrs. Jacejko: No.

The Chair: Okay. It's one of my favourite names.

Mrs. Jacejko: It is a nice name, isn't it?

Dr. Martin: I wondered if I might just pursue the economic theme that your mention of Mannville brings up. Do you feel that there is a lot of economic traffic south of Wainwright, past the military base, into, well, Provost? People go to Provost or people come from Provost to Wainwright, in your estimation?

Mrs. Jacejko: For Provost they might. I'm not positive about people coming up to Wainwright. But it is quite possible, yes. There are a lot of little towns in between.

Dr. Martin: Well, yeah. Your presentation, like others we have heard over the last couple of days, really points out that fact. You know, there are lots of villages that are active and vibrant and alive.

I have no further questions at this time. Thank you.

Mrs. Jacejko: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Clark: I'll just build on what Julian was saying. First off, I thank you very much for coming and giving some thought to this. It's a very important exercise, and for us it's been a real pleasure to travel around the province and just see different parts of the province and how it changes. It's really important to hear from people who live in the community, so thank you for coming and making that happen.

I'm curious. Practically speaking, talking about Mannville and the sort of trading area, how far west does that go, would you say? Sort of up highway 16 or places as far away as, like, Viking? That seems a little far away.

7:05

Mrs. Jacejko: I think by the time you get to Innisfree, then they start going to Vegreville.

Mr. Clark: Right. Okay. That's sort of what I thought just kind of looking at it.

Mrs. Jacejko: Yeah.

Mr. Clark: But I was just kind of curious what your perspective on that is. That's very helpful. Thank you.

Mrs. Jacejko: You're welcome.

Mrs. Samson: Again, thank you for coming out. You know, you got under pressure here with losing your colleague, and I think you've done quite well.

I wanted to ask you: we were in St. Paul earlier in the day, and they spent quite a bit of time talking about the industry in the area and potential growth. I have to say that I'm not that familiar with your riding of Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright. Can you talk at all about the industry or any forecast or big things coming on board that we should be aware of that might see an increase in your population, that people would move into the area for?

Mrs. Jacejko: That's always a good question. Well, Lloydminster is an oil centre, definitely. They have some very big refinery type things. I don't even know all the things they do with oil there. When oil goes up and down, Lloydminster also does go up and down, for sure.

We have to the south – part way, actually just out of Vermilion, to Mannville, running along the Battle River is a brand new wind farm. It's now been there about two years. For many of us that was fantastic. There are people who didn't think so, but I think so. I come from farther north of Vermilion originally, in the farmland there. It hurts me every time I drive down highway 41 to see the number of black tanks that are in practically every single field all the way to pretty much Elk Point. This is probably not your issue, but I don't understand why wind farms are considered so ugly compared to all these black tanks and all the problems with trying to clean up after the tanks. I mean, one of our members on our executive has had their oil well cleaned and fixed a number of years ago, and it's starting to seep through the ground again. I don't know if we ever will end that problem. I don't know. Just the fact that it can happen, hopefully not too often, but that is an issue.

We have a lot of farmers. The farmers have become bigger. Some of them have turned into corporations. Bigger machinery, bigger amounts of yield, and that is for the most part going well. Some are ranching. The oil industry, of course, is smattered around the whole region. Then there is, of course, the army base here at Wainwright. We have a few of them that take some interest in local politics. I also think that what happens is that they're moved around so much that they never really . . .

The Chair: They're not there very long.

Mrs. Jacejko: Yeah.

What else? That's some of the highlights anyway.

Mrs. Samson: Thank you.

The Chair: John?

Mr. Evans: I don't have any questions. Thank you so much.

Mrs. Jacejko: You're welcome.

The Chair: We're all concerned about representation, okay? I don't see on the list your MLA here. Have you talked to him or her about any challenges that they usually might have about the size of the riding or anything like that?

Mrs. Jacejko: Unfortunately, our MLA doesn't seem to – I mean, he'll hear you, but he doesn't really help.

The Chair: What about access to your MLA? Can you get a hold of his office?

Mrs. Jacejko: We can, yes. Actually, his office is in Vermilion now. It used to be here in Wainwright.

The Chair: Okay.

Mrs. Jacejko: Lots of letter writing, lots of that kind of thing. Yeah. I don't know.

Mr. Evans: I take it you're not in his constituency office.

Mrs. Jacejko: I have been in it. But, yeah. I've been to the one on wanting to get rid of the Canadian pension plan.

The one point that Colleen was going to make is that she actually was in Saskatchewan for a while, and she said that there is that one minister that has the top third of Saskatchewan and uses his plane. You might have heard me saying that before we started. They seem to think that that's a better way of doing it than trying to stretch out constituencies the way we have to.

The Chair: Now, is that a plane provided by the government?

Mrs. Jacejko: I'm not sure. I would hope so, but I don't know. It would seem to be reasonable. I mean, if we're going to have to look after a bigger area just for the population, we have to find some other ways to deal with it. I mean, we still would really like to have population-based voting and not have 50,000 over here and 20,000 over here. I know it happens, but if there's a way of circumnavigating that, that would be good.

Do you want my map?

The Chair: No. Actually, I want to go back to the formula. I just want to make sure. Okay. So right now according to our figures the population of this electoral division is 48,001, so you're in the low end of the sweet spot, basically. Populationwise you're doing fine here.

Mrs. Jacejko: We're not complaining, but at the same time if we do have to make some accommodations, we thought, well, then it should be something that makes sense.

The Chair: Now, you did say – can we go back up to the map? Yeah. If you wouldn't mind maybe just showing us. Initially you mentioned a couple of things, a town that is in your electoral division but is disconnected with the community. So it should be in another one. Did I understand you correctly?

Mrs. Jacejko: The opposite.

Mr. Clark: Yeah. Mannville.

Mrs. Jacejko: Mannville is out of it. Yes.

The Chair: So you would be happy if Mannville went the other way.

Mrs. Jacejko: Yes. For their sake. We had four people that showed up at one of our meetings and didn't realize that they weren't from our constituency because they're across the road.

Mrs. Samson: Right.

Mr. Clark: Yeah. That's not very far off the boundary.

Mrs. Jacejko: No, it isn't.

The Chair: Okay. Any other questions, or any questions that you may have of us?

Mrs. Jacejko: No. I think that you do a fantastic job.

The Chair: Thank you. I've noted that we have your written submission as well, and we will be sure to look at that.

Dr. Martin: Just as a passing final remark, I think Justice Miller has remarked the fact that we, under the act, are charged with looking at population, which obviously is a larger pool of humans than the voting pool. I looked at that chart myself a few weeks back and did a rough and ready calculation that the average across the province is to multiply your voter population by 1.67 because that tends to be the mean number across the province. But we've also found that nearly every district is so different that that really isn't a helpful finding guide for us.

7:15

In some districts, some parts of Edmonton, if you multiply their voting population by 1.67, it's right on. Every 100 voters are carrying a responsibility for voting for 167 persons. But it's not true in other areas. So there's a very limited kind of argument that you can push by examining the voter totals. It is valuable because if this riding hasn't changed very much and others, of course, have changed wildly because of the growth of their populations – I found at least that it wasn't a tool that I could apply very readily in other places.

We're also asked in the act to only accept figures, census figures or any other useful information that we can distribute across each of the ridings. I know the line of argument that goes along with looking at the voters, and I pressed it myself until I discovered that it faltered. I think we'll have to leave the voter argument by the by.

The Chair: Okay. Thank you very much and for, obviously, the time you've put into it.

Mrs. Jacejko: Thank you very much. I appreciate your time.

The Chair: Anybody else have any comments? I don't want to put anybody on the spot, but I can.

Yes, sir. Can you come forward so that the mic catches you? One thing I failed to mention is that we are recording everything.

Mrs. Samson: That's how we record, through the mic.

Mr. Jacejko: Okay.

The Chair: I like your hat. I like your cap.

Mr. Evans: *O Canada.*

Mr. Jacejko: Okay. You're saying that taking the numbers by the voters will go by the by. How is the emphasis on the population more valid than that?

Mr. Clark: I'll take a quick crack at that. There are a few things. MLAs represent things like schools, hospitals, postsecondaries, social services. And, of course, people under 18 don't vote, but they're a big part of what MLAs work on, schools and things. Then people move to Alberta from other places.

Mr. Jacejko: You're saying MLAs?

Mr. Clark: Yeah. The Member of the Legislative Assembly, your representative.

Mr. Jacejko: Oh, okay.

Mr. Clark: They would be responsible to make sure that schools are in place, for example. If there's a significant population of kids in a particular constituency, it's picked up in population, but it's not picked up in the voter rolls. The voter roll tends to lag behind pretty far in terms of population. We're pretty good at population; we calculate that on a pretty regular basis. But until there's an election or a big enumeration, the voter numbers are pretty unreliable.

Then, of course, as you know, lots of people move to Alberta. That's a good thing. Those people get their health care card, they get a job, they pay a bit of tax, but they don't tend to register to vote right away. That, again, sort of lags behind. So there a few reasons why those voter roll numbers are a little less reliable than population. Does that makes sense?

Mr. Jacejko: Yeah. That makes perfect sense.

Dr. Martin: I would add to that that you have shadow populations in the oil patch. You know, they're here. They're not registered to vote here, but they're here. That skews numbers as well. It's certainly true in the big cities we have a lot of new Canadians. They're not eligible to vote, but they're here. So the burden on the MLA is that they're all the same.

It seems a little awkward when you first confront these facts, but I'm starting to get comfortable with it. That is to say that the MLA has the responsibility for all of those people as well as the voters. Well, in fact, the voters have a responsibility for all the other people as well. I never had thought about voting from that point of view before, but it is the case that there are more people who every single voter has to carry the burden of representing, a bunch more people who can't vote. I'm not sure we're making your life easier, but that's the way we are dealing with it, and then the sheer, brutal, formal fact of the law is that we're directed to pay our attention to the total population number.

Mr. Jacejko: Okay. I should have worn my t-shirt that has a slogan on it that says, "I just don't get it."

The Chair: We could all have one of those.

Mr. Jacejko: Shall I take your names down?

The Chair: Oh, we didn't get your name for *Hansard*. They would just want to know.

Mr. Jacejko: For which?

Dr. Martin: We just need you to identify yourself.

Mr. Jacejko: Michael, or Mick, Jacejko, Linda's spouse. That would be my title: Linda's spouse.

You know, sometimes in a discussion or decision, two sides are presented, and neither one seems to really fit the bill for what's trying to be accomplished. It seems to me there's a third place somewhere that's slipping away.

The Chair: You mean in terms of numbers?

Mr. Jacejko: I thought constituencies were set up according to the number of people that could vote to vote in their MLA, whoever that might be. So whether you've got 10,000 people in there – that's the population – but of the 10,000 only 50 are eligible to vote. How does the population carry more weight than the voter? I'm missing something. I'm sorry. I'm a little bit slow at this kind of stuff.

The Chair: No, you actually raise a conundrum.
Go ahead.

Mrs. Samson: I'll just add a thought that the population is a snapshot in time of everybody who is in that area, and that area is made up of, as they indicated, voters and nonvoters, but the boundaries that we put together today will stay in place for eight years, two election cycles, and the change happens. Those groups: the new Canadians will become Canadians and vote, the 17-year-old will turn 18 and vote, and other people will die.

Mr. Jacejko: Okay. Before I lose my train of thought, because where I'm at, it slips away quickly: then we're looking at the potential of the number of voters that could come from the growth of that population.

The Chair: That's part of it.

Mrs. Samson: Also, that's another group that I didn't touch on. There will be a change in the people moving in and moving out, so they felt that the best representation of how large or small your area

is is to not look at voters but to look at populations because that is easier to track over the next eight years.

Mr. Jacejko: Okay. For me, unless I'm mistaken in my interpretation, the keyword there is potential voters in that population over the eight years. I mean, what you have now is maybe not what will be in four years or five years.

Mrs. Samson: You're exactly right because the number we use today is already out of date. That population number is changing as we speak, so is that voter number. It's either one or the other, but it's always been population because of the span between this kind of work that we do. It's also, you know, more nonpartisan. You know, it's everybody. It's not any specific voter. It's everybody in the riding.

The Chair: Several generations before the decision was made to do population, and that's not unique to Alberta. It's every province and federally as well. There was a time back as recent as the '60s they did enumerate or calculate the numbers based on voters, but that has changed. We can disagree, but there's nothing we can do about it.

Mr. Jacejko: Yeah.

The Chair: So the act is very specific as to how we do that calculation.

Mr. Jacejko: That makes a little bit more sense to me. Thank you very much.

Mrs. Samson: I'll take that shirt, too.

Mr. Jacejko: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Mrs. Samson: Thank you.

7:25

The Chair: Thank you.

Okay. Well, we can adjourn, have our early break now, and if anybody else comes by 8 o'clock, we can – we've advertised for this time slot. Sometimes people come late, so we'll wait here till about 8 o'clock before we shut down things completely.

[The commission deliberated]

[The hearing adjourned at 8 p.m.]

