



New submission from Stacey Vanderveen

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

Date Mon 5/19/2025 10:22 AM

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



First Name

Stacey

Last Name

Vanderveen

Municipality / City

Rocky View County

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

Life in rural Alberta is very different from life in large urban centres. People who live on farms, acreages, or in rural clusters rely on nearby service hubs for their everyday needs, whether it's going to work, seeing a doctor, sending their kids to school, or picking up groceries. These patterns create natural communities of interest that should be taken into account when drawing electoral boundaries.

Take the area east of Calgary (in the ED of Chestermere-Strathmore), for example. Residents of the hamlet of Indus travel to Langdon or Chestermere for shopping, healthcare, and schooling. People living in the hamlets of Cheadle and Carseland and elsewhere in Wheatland County, depend heavily on Strathmore. Meanwhile, residents of Conrich access their services and employment in Calgary.

When boundaries split up these kinds of functional communities, separating where people live from where they go about their daily lives, it make

representation less effective. MLAs are better able to advocate for their constituents when their ridings reflect the actual connections and routines of the people who live there.

That's why it's important to keep communities with shared economic, social, and service ties within the same constituencies. For example:

-Carseland should remain in the same riding as Strathmore. These two communities are closely linked. People from Carseland rely on Strathmore for schools, medical services, groceries, and recreation. The Strathmore Handibus Association runs a shuttle between the two. Families from both places participate in the same sports leagues and community events. Splitting them into separate districts would disrupt a strong and established community of interest.

-Conrich, on the other hand, should be placed in a Calgary-based electoral district. While it's officially part of Rocky View County, in practice it functions as a Calgary suburb. With no local services of its own, Conrich is a bedroom community. Residents commute into Calgary for work and worship, to shop in the city, and rely on its healthcare services. It's directly connected to Calgary by major roads, and its development more closely resembles the city's urban fringe than rural Alberta. Including Conrich in a Calgary riding would result in more accurate and relevant representation.

-Langdon, while somewhat of a hub on its own, is deeply connected to both Chestermere and Strathmore, not just by geography, but through shared schools, services, and regional planning. It sits almost exactly between the two, and all three communities are already working together to prepare for the major de Havilland Field development coming to Wheatland County. This historic project will land right in the triangle formed by the three communities, and it's already driving aligned efforts, such as aerospace career and trades initiatives, and plans for residential growth. Keeping Langdon with Chestermere and Strathmore in the same constituency ensures unified representation, helping these communities speak with one voice during this critical time of major regional development.

We respectfully urge the Commission to consider the real, everyday connections between these communities when drawing electoral boundaries. Keeping interconnected communities such as Carseland and Strathmore together, ensuring suburban areas like Conrich are represented alongside the urban populations they rely on, and keeping Langdon with Chestermere and Strathmore as these communities navigate significant changes in the coming years, will strengthen local democracy and improve the quality of representation for Albertans. Thank you for your consideration.

Address (Optional)

[REDACTED]

Phone (optional)

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New submission from Rob Renner

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

Date Mon 5/19/2025 2:46 PM

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

 1 attachment (40 KB)

Electoral Boundary Submission.docx;



First Name

Rob

Last Name

Renner

Municipality / City

Canmore

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

Please find attached my written submission respecting Electoral Divisions Brooks - Medicine Hat and Cypress Medicine Hat. Although I currently reside in Canmore, I was born in Medicine Hat and had the honour of being elected in five consecutive elections. I served as the MLA for Medicine Hat from 1993 until I retired in 2012.

I trust that my file attachment has been transferred correctly, please contact me if you are unable to open it.]

Thanks

File (Optional)

- [Electoral-Boundary-Submission.docx](#)

Address (Optional)

[REDACTED]

Phone (optional)

[REDACTED]

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A

Honourable Robert W. Renner

TO

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

19.05.2025

Dear Commission Members:

Congratulations on having been appointed to conduct the Alberta Electoral Boundary Review. I don't underestimate the difficult task ahead of you. Good luck!

Elected in 1993 as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for Medicine Hat, I served for over 18 years until I retired in 2012. During my years of service I served as Chief Government Whip, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Minister of Environment.

From my perspective, the key to Electoral Boundary determination, apart from the obvious issue of ensuring that each constituency falls within reasonable population guidelines, is ensuring that existing municipal boundaries and geographic barriers are reflected in your recommendations. In southeastern Alberta, the rural municipalities are Cypress County, Forty Mile County and Special Areas. In turn, these municipalities are home to Medicine Hat, Redcliff, Bow Island and Hanna.

Under the current boundaries, the County of Newell and Brooks are included with portions of Medicine Hat, but Bow Island and Forty Mile County are not. This is contrary to longstanding existing trade corridors.

I suggest that Forty Mile County and Bow Island should be included with Cypress County and the City of Medicine Hat in new boundaries. Ideally, Medicine Hat would have an MLA dedicated to working with City officials and local residents. This however seems unworkable as the population would exceed guidelines and removing Medicine from the mix would create the need to dramatically increase the other southeast constituencies.

I therefore suggest that the new boundaries for the southeast create two constituencies. One named Medicine Hat – Redcliff and the other Medicine Hat – Bow Island. Medicine Hat – Redcliff would include approximately 33,000 residents from Medicine Hat, Redcliff the portion of Cypress County north of the City of Medicine Hat, Hanna and Special Areas. Medicine Hat – Bow Island would include approximately 35,000 residents of Medicine Hat, Bow Island, Forty Mile County and all residents of Cypress County south of the City of Medicine Hat.

While it is appreciated that equitable voting powers can be skewed as population changes within constituencies over time, boundary changes need to ensure that the result does not diminish the ability of MLA's to interact with their constituents due to ever increasing geographic size of rural constituencies as urban areas grow at disproportionate rates.

You may also consider the area served by the St. Mary Irrigation District. Running through portions of both Forty Mile County and Cypress County, including portions or all the Municipal District of Taber would allow the western boundary of Medicine Hat – Bow Island constituency to stretch further west along Highway #3. While this suggestion could serve to mitigate population averages, it would be counter to maintaining common urban and municipal boundaries and would not be my recommended solution for increasing the overall population size for this sparsely populated but vital part of Alberta.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Renner

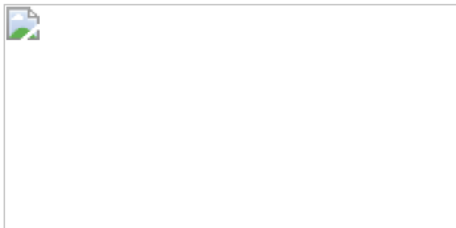


New submission from Loren Montgomery

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

Date Mon 5/19/2025 3:22 PM

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



First Name

Loren

Last Name

Montgomery

Municipality / City

Medicine Hat

Email**Message**

I don't like that parties can get donations from corporate entities, they are not voters!

Should not be allowed at all.

And changing boundaries to suit the party in power isn't how a democracy should work.

Thanks you.

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New submission from Dominik Kaiser

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

Date Tue 5/20/2025 8:08 AM

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



First Name

Dominik

Last Name

Kaiser

Municipality / City

Airdrie

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

It is important to me as an Airdrie resident, that the redistricting of the Airdrie-East and Airdrie-Cochrane electoral boundaries take into consideration municipal borders. To me, this means that a city such as Airdrie should not be separated at 8th St SW, to have a portion added to Cochrane. This boundary line results in uneven representation of Airdrie residents, while also undermining the needs of Cochrane and surrounding rural residents.

In general, I want to see electoral boundaries respect municipal districts, and community districts (indigenous communities should all be within the same boundary)

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

TOWN OF PEACE RIVER

May 20, 2025

VIA EMAIL: info@abebc.ca

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

Dear Electoral Boundaries Commission:

**Re: 2025 Review of Alberta's Electoral Boundaries
Boundary 77 – Peace River**

On behalf of Peace River Town Council, thank you for the opportunity to provide comment with respect to review of Alberta's electoral boundaries. These legislated reviews are so important, ensuring past practices align with present day needs.

Currently, our Indigenous partners, Woodland Cree First Nation, are located in electoral boundary 70, Lesser Slave Lake, and have expressed to us a desire to be incorporated into the same electoral boundary as the Town, boundary 77, Peace River.

Many of their community members were born in Peace River and have friends and family that live in Peace River. They also shop in Peace River, participate in recreational activities, coordinate and plan events in Town, and have a strong working relationship between the Councils and Administration. Additionally, WCFN recently purchased 32 acres of land within the boundaries of Town and have applied to the Federal government to convert this land to reserve, a process which the Town has been actively engaged.

Altogether, this culminates to the residents of WCFN feeling a strong connection to the Town of Peace River, and a desire to be included within our electoral boundary.

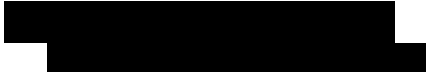
Elaine Manzer
Mayor, Town of Peace River
Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Town Administration Office
P.O. Box 6600, 9911-100 Street
Peace River, AB T8S 1S4
Phone: (780) 624-2574 Fax: (780) 624-4664
Website: www.peaceriver.ca

General Email: info@peaceriver.ca

Thank you for taking the time to collect and consider our comments with respect to your review of Alberta's electoral boundaries. We look forward to reading your initial report to the Province in October 2025.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Mayor Elaine Manzer.

Mayor Elaine Manzer
Town of Peace River
/kp



Outlook

New submission from Stanley Sakamoto

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

Date Tue 5/20/2025 5:43 PM

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



First Name

Stanley

Last Name

Sakamoto

Municipality / City

Medicine Hat

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

I am submitting my input to the Alberta Boundaries Commission regarding new electoral division boundaries in Southeastern Alberta.

Most importantly, Medicine Hat and Brooks have separate identities geographically, culturally, economically, and historically.

Brooks and Medicine Hat each have distinct college campuses. Both have immigrant populations with separate community concerns, and both should be represented by someone with knowledge and interest specific to their community.

The jog away from the river in Medicine Hat as a boundary makes no sense. The river as a natural boundary is a logical division. If population dispersion requires a change from the river as a boundary, neighbourhoods should not be divided by unnatural boundaries. Natural and fair boundaries should be considered.

The distance between Brooks and Medicine Hat prohibits sharing cultural and trade opportunities. Brooks residents perhaps do a portion of their trade in Medicine Hat, but they are a trade entity unto themselves. Brooks and Medicine Hat are not in the same economic area. In the past, Brooks residents may have shopped in Medicine Hat, but their retail base has grown, and residents can support local businesses.

There are several ways our area could be divided. For example, the County of 40 Mile has more in common with our riding than Taber. Specific ideas of geographical division can be further discussed during oral submissions.

Both Medicine Hat and Brooks deserve effective representation separate from one another. Representatives must understand the communities' specific and different needs.

The criteria outlined in the legislation and genuine democratic, accurate and fair representation must be considered. Natural boundaries and geographic features must also be taken into account. The best interests of our Southeastern Alberta population cannot be forgotten.

Address (Optional)

[REDACTED]

Phone (optional)

[REDACTED]

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New submission from Susan Sakamoto

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

Date Tue 5/20/2025 5:46 PM

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



First Name

Susan

Last Name

Sakamoto

Municipality / City

Medicine Hat

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

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Both have immigrant populations with separate community concerns, and both should be represented by someone with knowledge and interest specific to their community. The distance between Brooks and Medicine Hat prohibits sharing cultural and trade opportunities. Brooks residents perhaps do a portion of their trade in Medicine Hat, but they are a trade entity unto themselves. Brooks and Medicine Hat are not in the same economic area. In the past, Brooks residents may have shopped in Medicine Hat, but their retail base has grown, and residents can support local businesses.

The distance between Brooks and Medicine Hat prohibits sharing cultural and trade opportunities. Brooks residents perhaps do a portion of their trade in Medicine Hat, but they are a trade entity unto themselves. Brooks and Medicine Hat are not in the same economic area. In the past, Brooks residents may have shopped in Medicine Hat, but their retail base has grown, and residents can support local businesses.

The river as a natural boundary is a logical division, and the jog away from the river in Medicine Hat as a boundary makes no sense. If population dispersion requires a change from the river as a boundary, neighbourhoods should not be divided by unnatural boundaries. Natural and fair boundaries should be considered.

There are several ways our area could be divided. For example, the County of 40 Mile has more in common with our riding than Taber. Specific ideas of geographical division can be further discussed during oral submissions.

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The criteria outlined in the legislation and genuine democratic, accurate and fair representation must be considered. Natural boundaries and geographic features must also be taken into account. The best interests of our Southeastern Alberta population cannot be forgotten.

Address (Optional)

[REDACTED]

Phone (optional)

[REDACTED]

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New submission from Gwendoline Dirk

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

Date Tue 5/20/2025 7:27 PM

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



First Name

Gwendoline

Last Name

Dirk

Municipality / City

Medicine Hat

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

I am writing to the commission to advocate for better boundary lines for Medicine Hat. Presently, we are split into two riding: Cypress-Medicine Hat (57) and Brooks-Medicine Hat (52). Medicine Hat's merger into a blended rural-urban constituency represents a significant departure from principles of effective representation and community coherence that guided previous boundary decisions. Splitting the city into two ridings lacks logic and does not conform well to the needs of the constituents in either riding (Cypress or Brooks). There are five main reasons why the city of Medicine Hat should be ONE riding.

Firstly, Medicine Hat possesses a strong, cohesive urban identity that distinguishes it from surrounding rural areas. This distinct identity—rooted in its history, municipal governance, economic profile, and demographic characteristics—justifies its treatment as a standalone electoral district. Medicine Hat's subsumption into a broader rural-urban riding dilutes its political voice and disrupts the continuity of its civic representation. Medicine Hat is Alberta's sixth-

largest city and functions as a self-contained urban center with its own economic, cultural, and administrative structures. Its identity is tied to its status as a regional hub, with infrastructure, public services, educational institutions, and economic networks that are fundamentally different from the surrounding rural municipalities such as Cypress County, Brooks, or the County of Forty Mile.

Medicine Hat has urban priorities: municipal planning, transit, healthcare infrastructure, economic diversification, and education services—all of which differ significantly from the rural priorities of agriculture, land use policy, and rural broadband. Merging these into one constituency pits urban and rural voters against each other in competition for the attention of an MLA split between rural and urban needs.

Medicine Hat serves as the economic, administrative, and service center for a wide surrounding region in southeast Alberta. As such, its role as a regional hub links it closely with nearby communities like Cypress County and Redcliff—but not with more distant, disconnected regions like Taber or Brooks. The existing boundaries merge Medicine Hat with unrelated rural areas, undermines long-standing regional relationships and disrupts service delivery, economic coherence, and political representation.

Medicine Hat is not just a municipality—it is the economic and institutional core of a vast southeastern corridor. Residents from Cypress County, Redcliff, and surrounding rural municipalities routinely travel to Medicine Hat for: health care (Medicine Hat Regional Hospital is a major facility), post-secondary education (Medicine Hat College), commercial services and employment, cultural institutions and events, and provincial court and social services. The regional hub argument is not just administrative—it's democratic. If Medicine Hat is the heart of the region, it should not be politically subordinated to communities that are neither reliant on it nor geographically proximate. To do so is to misrepresent the true community of interest, a cornerstone principle in Canadian boundary design.

Additionally, creating a sprawling riding that includes both Medicine Hat and distant rural communities undermine the principle of effective representation. The physical size of such ridings makes it nearly impossible for an MLA to attend community events, engage with constituents in person and adequately represent both urban and rural interests. Medicine Hat, as a relatively populous and concentrated urban center, merits its own MLA who can focus on local governance without the logistical challenges of covering hundreds of kilometers of rural terrain. When an MLA is overburdened by geography, accountability decreases. Voters may struggle to even meet their MLA, much less influence decisions or raise concerns in person. This undermines core democratic values of responsiveness and accessibility. A dedicated MLA for Medicine Hat can participate in city council liaison, town hall meetings, school board consultations, and local initiatives without being stretched thin by faraway obligations.

One of the initial justifications to split Medicine Hat into multiple ridings was that with that advent of technology, representatives could easily cover the area they

represent. However, even in areas with access, online communication does not substitute for local, face-to-face engagement. Constituents often raise nuanced, urgent, or community-specific issues that require site visits, physical presence at council meetings, or informal interaction at public events. MLAs cannot digitally inspect flood zones, attend funerals, or share space with First Nations and Métis leadership—these are human obligations.

The Commission's decision to create large hybrid urban-rural ridings in regions like Medicine Hat imposes an unequal burden on MLAs in those districts, particularly when compared to their urban counterparts in Calgary or Edmonton. The result is a two-tiered system where rural and blended-riding MLAs must serve broader, more diverse, and more geographically dispersed constituencies, ultimately disadvantaging their voters.

Furthermore, the population size of Medicine Hat justifies urban-only riding. Medicine Hat, with a population exceeding 63,000, not only meets but exceeds the average provincial population size per electoral division. It therefore satisfies both legal and representational benchmarks to warrant an independent riding. Combining it with surrounding municipalities violates the principle of voter parity and contradicts precedent set for other similar-sized urban centers.

Finally, there is a functional disconnection of linking Brooks and Medicine Hat. Medicine Hat, with over 63,000 residents, is a self-contained city with urban infrastructure, transit, and civic institutions that are fundamentally different from those in smaller towns like Brooks. Grouping the two implies parity that does not exist and artificially flattens their political needs into one riding. Brooks is not part of Medicine Hat's immediate economic or service orbit. Unlike Cypress County, which naturally connects to Medicine Hat through hospital, education, and commerce, Brooks is its own regional center. There is no coherent regional relationship or shared governance between them. Medicine Hat residents prioritize urban issues: housing, public transportation, downtown revitalization. Brooks and surrounding rural areas prioritize agriculture, water use, and rural infrastructure. An MLA representing both would face conflicting pressures and would likely be forced to neglect one side.

Merging a large city with smaller centers risks over-representing the rural vote if the MLA comes from outside Medicine Hat or under-representing smaller towns if the MLA is Medicine Hat-based. Either way, the current riding of Brooks-Medicine Hat lacks coherence, and the constituents lack focused advocacy. The distance between Brooks and Medicine Hat is over 100 km. This makes effective, equitable MLA travel and visibility impractical, particularly in winter. Residents from both Medicine Hat and surrounding communities clearly and consistently opposed this kind of boundary redraw in their submissions. Medicine Hat should be its own distinct riding and not be grouped with Brooks or other small centers because it stands as a distinct urban entity—demographically, economically, geographically, and politically. The current EDAs lack shared interests or accessibility and weaken the voice of all constituents involved.

Thank-you for considering these points.

Address (Optional)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Outlook

New submission from Danica Wolkow

From Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>**Date** Tue 5/20/2025 9:13 PM**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>

First Name

Danica

Last Name

Wolkow

Municipality / City

Edmonton

Email

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the email address.

Message

Honourable Members of the Commission,

My family and I moved to Edmonton 21 years ago from Ontario. During that time we have seen and felt the impact of the incredible change in the population of this City. It is quite a distinct and growing population in terms of needs and concerns from the rural districts and as such deserving more representation.

Edmonton and Calgary have borne the brunt of the influx and the resulting demands in terms of human/social services and infrastructure. We are only being granted two more seats as a Province. To me it seems logical and respectful of the democratic principles of representation that those seats be divided between Calgary and Edmonton.

Sincerely,

D. Wolkow

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New submission from Dave Galasso

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

Date Tue 5/20/2025 9:32 PM

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



First Name

Dave

Last Name

Galasso

Municipality / City

Calgary

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

Attn: Boundaries Commission Representatives

Thank you for the opportunity to address the commission and share my perspectives on my riding. My name is David Galasso and I live in the riding of Calgary Glenmore. I work in sales for a local solar company. Prior to working in renewables I worked in the construction industry, and prior to construction I worked in the Outdoor Adventure tourism industry as a guide and instructor. Specifically, my wife and I are raising our children in the community of Oakridge. The reason we chose Oakridge is because it feels very much like a small town in the heart of a city. Prior to the ring road completion it was a bit of a dead end community which was fine by us. It's tall trees, 70's homes and large yards, remind me of the community I grew up in British Columbia. It has a special feel to it, with a varied demographic and a small town feel created when we recognize others while shopping, on a bike ride or a walk. The proximity to Glenmore reservoir, Weaselhead, Fish Creek Provincial Park and the kilometers

of bike paths give this riding a natural feeling rarely found in a city the size of Calgary.

Since the completion of the ring road it has changed somewhat, but not necessarily for the bad. There are plans to increase density around the rapid bus line (Glenmore Landing) and the Oakridge Shopping Centre. Both of which I am not opposed to as I believe it will add a vibrancy to those areas.

Since 2017, I believe that the demographic of our neighbourhood is slowly changing with a generational switch from retirees/empty nesters to younger families. The School my kids go to (Louis Riel) added portable classrooms in 2015 to answer the demand of a younger demographic and the popularity of the science based programming at Louis Riel.

I feel like Calgary-Glenmore riding boundaries currently reflect the demographic of this riding extremely well. We are a riding that is not quite suburban, and not really inner city and certainly not rural. We are firmly placed on the SouthWestern edge of Calgary with all the requirements and concerns of a riding located in a big city. My preference would be to keep the boundaries as they are as I believe they represent the population and demographic of this riding well.

Thank you for the opportunity to take part in this democratic exercise and thank you for reading my submission.

Regards,

David Galasso
Constituent Calgary-Glenmore

Phone (optional)

[REDACTED]

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Outlook

New submission from claudelafamme

From Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>**Date** Tue 5/20/2025 9:56 PM**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>

First Name

claudel

Last Name

lafamme

Municipality / City

High River

Email**Message**

2025 Electoral Boundaries Commission
Livingstone-Macleod Electoral Riding

My wife and I sold our educational software business in 2024. We are now retired and plan to remain in the area enjoying its unique rural atmosphere.

Of course we go up from time to time to Okotoks or even to Calgary for shopping and some special events and services, travel worldwide through Calgary airport, but our lives are almost entirely within the current Livingstone-Macleod riding: we frequently visit the Chain Lakes, Sheep and Highwood river areas of Kananaskis for canoeing, hiking and cycling, dropping in Diamond Valley or Longview on the way, we camp in the Castle and Waterton parks throughout the summer, we recently had a business meeting in Pincher Creek, we regularly visit Nanton for the bookstore and antique shopping, we have enjoyed special events in Fort Macleod, and today we spent the day in Claresholm for their first outdoor

I am pleased that the last boundary changes moved High River, Blackie and Waterton into the Livingstone-Macleod riding. This is a much better fit in fact, and in particular I believe that Waterton is a very good addition due to an increasing focus on tourism for our riding. While Turner Valley and Black Diamond moved out, which is debatable and we would gladly get them back. What is important is that the current boundaries reflect both a diversity of population and a cohesive rural constituency with common values and issues.

The geographic area included is quite large for a candidate to cover, so no expansion of the constituency would be recommended. There is a somewhat natural economic corridor toward Lethbridge, but interests there as part of a much larger city differ significantly from those of our rural riding, and I would be very much against extending in that direction.

Thus at this time I do not believe that any further changes to the LVMD boundaries are warranted.

Address (Optional)

[REDACTED]

Phone (optional)

[REDACTED]

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New submission from Dr David Carter

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

Date Wed 5/21/2025 10:19 AM

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



First Name

Dr David

Last Name

Carter

Municipality / City

Medicine Hat

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

ALBERTA REDISTRIBUTION 2025 Electoral Boundaries Commission Act

With respect and without prejudice 5/20/25

Your Honour and respected members of the commission.

My comments are as one who has been an active participant in constituency delineations since the beginning of 1979. I was nominated and elected in March 1979 for Calgary Millican constituency, which extended from the south bank of the Bow River including Chinatown, and extended through Victoria Park Stampede Grounds to Ogden and the south east city limits of the City of Calgary. In 1979 there were significant constituency realignments in part caused by rapid population growth and a considerable in migration of residents from other nations not limited to nor specifically identified – but Vietnam, China, India, and Pakistan. Many new Canadians understandably wished to live in close proximity to similar cultural identities.

In 1982 I was elected in Calgary Egmont constituency which included Kingsland west side of Macleod Trail and east into Acadia, Fairview, Willow Park and Maple

Ridge with the extreme east side limited by Deerfoot Trail and on the south side at Anderson Road S.E. Kingsland was removed and transferred to the riding of Calgary Elbow – this was curious as Kingsland was an integral portion of the original boundaries of Calgary Egmont.

I served as deputy chairman of the all-party Legislative Officers Committee which supervised the officers of the Assembly such as Ombudsman, Chief Electoral Officer, Auditor General. This umbrella committee was mandated to report to the Speaker who in turn was responsible to release the report to all members of the legislature. In each report there was no provision, nor should there be, to communicate or report to/with the government, the opposition or any other entity including the Speaker prior to the release of said document.

In the 1986 election I was elected in Calgary Egmont for the second time and subsequently elected Speaker. As such I was fully cognizant of the responsibilities of the Legislative Committee structure and jurisdictions, and that the Electoral Boundary report was released to all Members of the Assembly directly, concurrently, as the sole responsibility of the Speaker.

I was elected as MLA for Calgary Egmont in the 1989 election for the third time and elected for a second time as Speaker of the Legislature. I served until September 1993.

For personal reasons, I chose not to run in 1993. I retired to Eagle Butte south east of Medicine and continue to own and occupy this site, which is located in Cypress County, Cypress Medicine Hat. In addition, my wife and I occupy a condo in Medicine Hat within the Constituency of Brooks-Medicine Hat where the current MLA is Premier D. Smith. I am eligible to vote in either constituency. In elections since 1993 I cast my ballot in the Constituency of Brooks Medicine Hat.

I do not have any suggestions as to the present local boundaries including Medicine Hat.

Comment

As mandated as Speaker, in 1986, I supervised the renovations, upgrades of electronic capability, handicap and hearing access, fire and evacuation readiness in and from the Chamber, security within the Chamber, including adjacent areas specifically the Confederation Room and Rotunda.

I am very concerned as to the ramifications of the additional number of seats to eighty-nine. This will result in crowding. Including potential hinderance in the event of fire or evacuation from the Chamber. In my opinion, these additional seats are an ill-advised intrusion by the government and should be regarded architecturally as the absolute limit to the number of seats within the Chamber. I recommend this limitation be noted in the report.

(Any redistribution of electoral maps will do nothing to prevent at candidate nomination times, persons from outside the constituency boundaries attending with non-valid documentation to vote and subvert said process. This has been a continuing disruptive issue since at least 1979.)

Throughout the province there is need to take full account of the continued rapid growth in migration, especially in the ever-expanding urban sprawl. This stark reality should be addressed to fully address democratic 'representation' by population, and to cease giving "distorted" proportional influence for many rural constituencies.

As previously noted - In each report there was no provision, nor should there be,

to communicate or report to/with the government, the opposition or any other entity including the Speaker prior to the release of said document.

In this universe of rapid change, the commission is indeed challenged to act with wisdom, and I dare say courage.

Thank you. With respect and without prejudice

Dr. David J. Carter Former MLA – Calgary Millican – Calgary Egmont thrice

Former Alberta Speaker 1986-1993 (Ninth) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Address (Optional)

[REDACTED]

Phone (optional)

[REDACTED]

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New submission from Margaret Semel

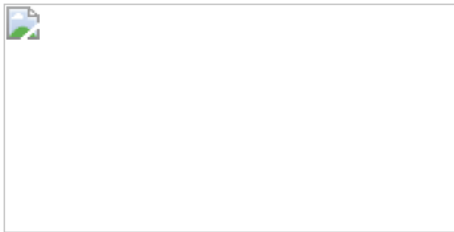
From Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

Date Wed 5/21/2025 10:18 AM

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

 1 attachment (15 KB)

Alberta Electoral Boundary Commission 2025.docx;



First Name

Margaret

Last Name

Semel

Municipality / City

Calgary

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

See file attached below

File (Optional)

- [Alberta-Electoral-Boundary-Commission-2025.docx](#)

Address (Optional)

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Phone (optional)

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Phone 780-690-2125
Toll-free 1-833-777-2125
Email info@abebc.ca

DATE: May 22, 2025

TO: Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission

FROM: Marg Semel

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I make this submission as a 40-year resident of Calgary Glenmore and a member of Calgary's Jewish Community. I contributed almost 40 years as a leader in the health care system in Alberta prior to my retirement.

Calgary Glenmore is adjacent to reserve and rural lands and is defined by a natural geographical boundary of the city limits, which make the riding distinct. The community within the riding is one of cultural and socio-economic diversity. A community where we share common interests and concerns about public services such as schools, development and infrastructure and have the common interest of religious freedoms where a wide range of religious beliefs and cultural diversity live as neighbours. The Jewish Community in Calgary Glenmore share common interests and need to stay together for their voice to be heard and represented. The riding offers that connection and engagement.

Although Calgary Glenmore has not grown like other Calgary ridings, north Calgary has experienced unprecedented growth since the last boundary review and population numbers support an additional riding. The Justice Statutes Amendment Act, which weakened the language regarding consideration of changes to electoral boundaries concerns me as a Jewish resident of Calgary Glenmore. Calgary Glenmore needs a fair electoral map, one that has the confidence of voters so that their vote will matter and they have effective representation.



New submission from MLA Turton

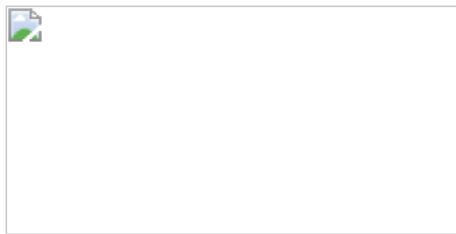
From Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

Date Wed 5/21/2025 11:56 AM

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

 2 attachments (3 MB)

Minister Turton Stony Plain.pdf; Minister Turton Spruce Grove Edmonton.pdf;



First Name

MLA

Last Name

Turton

Municipality / City

Spruce Grove

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

Explanation for changes made to constituency boundary:

The boundaries for the Spruce Grove-Stony Plain Constituency have been adjusted to better reflect overall population growth and community ties.

Previously the constituency encompassed both the municipality of Spruce Grove and Stony Plain, resulting in a population within the constituency that exceeded the provincial average for electoral districts. By revising the boundaries, the population now falls below the average, creating space for future growth while maintaining fair representation.

These new boundaries reflect how the community of Spruce Grove naturally functions. Many residents in the proposed constituency share strong ties with

Spruce Grove, commuting daily for work, accessing needed services, and attending schools within Spruce Grove. By adjusting the boundaries of the constituency of Spruce Grove-Stony Plain we are ensuring that the constituency more accurately represents shared community interests. The inclusion of Winterburn Industrial and the nearby residential communities in the new Stony Plain-Edmonton constituency recognizes the connection these areas have to the Yellowhead Trail corridor. This corridor is a critical link to industry, commerce, and commuting between Edmonton and its western outlying communities. Many residents who live near this corridor access needed services across Edmonton and the Spruce Grove area, and by including these communities in a single riding we are reflecting their connection.

As part of these changes, the possible Stony Plain constituency has been extended west to include areas that closely mirror the federal Parkland riding. This adjustment supports consistency between federal and provincial boundaries, and also ensures the new Stony Plain constituency remains at a population average that matches other constituencies across Alberta.

Directions for the boundary commission for new constituency proposal:

The boundary begins at the intersection of Township Road 540 and Range Road 270, proceeding north along Range Road 270 to Atim Lake. From there, it follows the natural course of Atim Lake and continues along Atim Creek northeastward until reaching Big Lake.

The boundary then traces the southern edge of Big Lake, turning east to align with 137 Avenue NW. It continues along 137 Avenue to Ray Gibbon Drive, then proceeds southward along Ray Gibbon Drive to its intersection with Anthony Henday Drive (Highway 216).

From this junction, the boundary follows Anthony Henday Drive south to the interchange with Stony Plain Road/Highway 16A, then continues west along Highway 16A until reaching 231 Street NW.

Turning south, the boundary follows 231 Street NW until it intersects with Whitemud Drive/Township Road 524. Turning west, the boundary follows Township Road 524 to Range Road 274, then continues north along Range Road 274 to Highway 16A. From there, it proceeds west along Highway 16A to Veterans Boulevard in Spruce Grove and continues north on Veterans Boulevard to reconnect with the Yellowhead Highway (Highway 16).

The boundary follows Highway 16 west briefly, then reconnects with Range Road 274, proceeding north to Township Road 540. It completes the loop by continuing west along Township Road 540 back to the starting point at Range Road 270.

File (Optional)

- [Minister-Turton-Stony-Plain.pdf](#)
- [Minister-Turton-Spruce-Grove-Edmonton.pdf](#)

Address (Optional)



Phone (optional)



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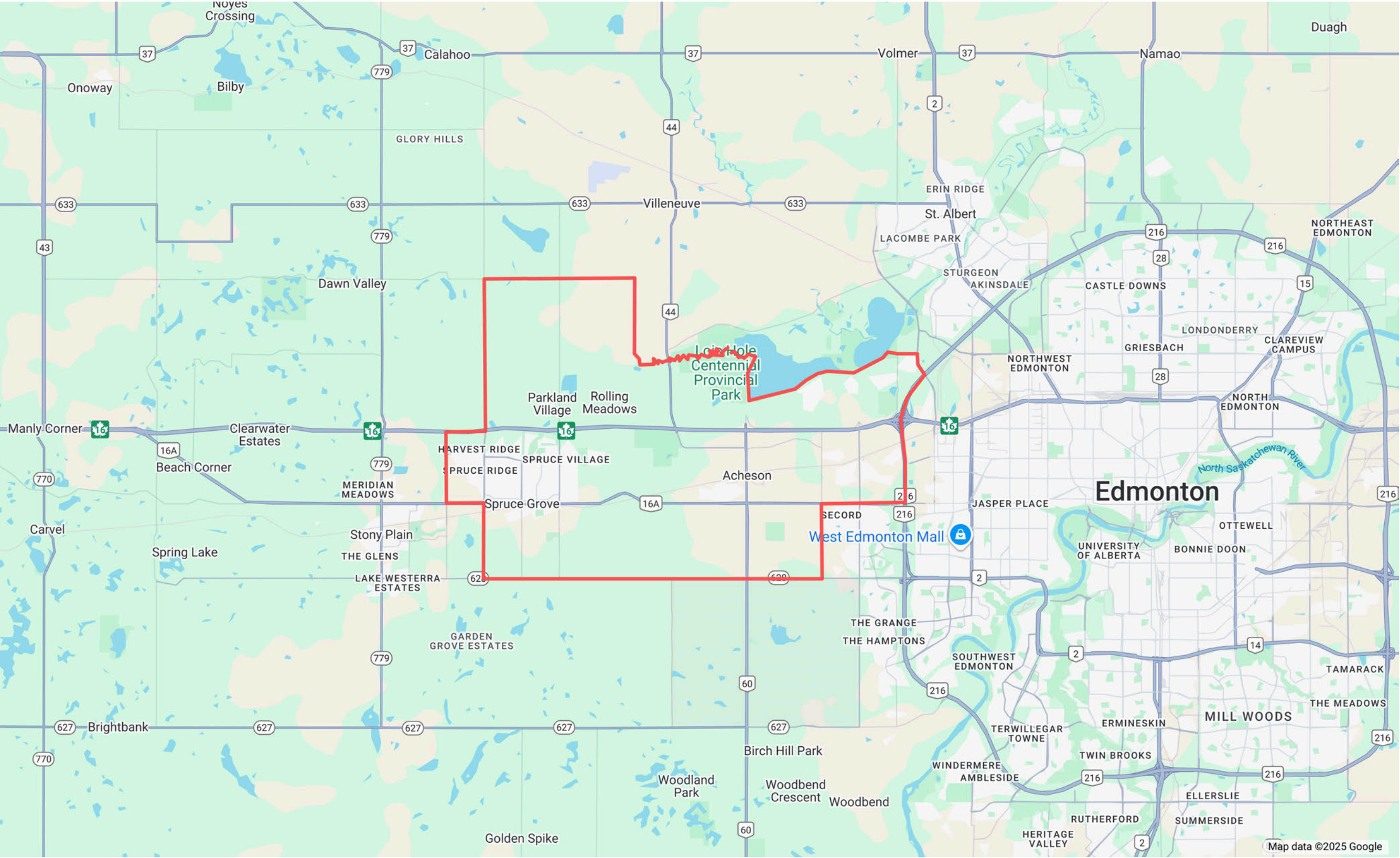
Phone 780-690-2125
Toll-free 1-833-777-2125
Email info@abebc.ca

Spruce Grove-Acheson

Spruce Grove-Acheson




Line 2

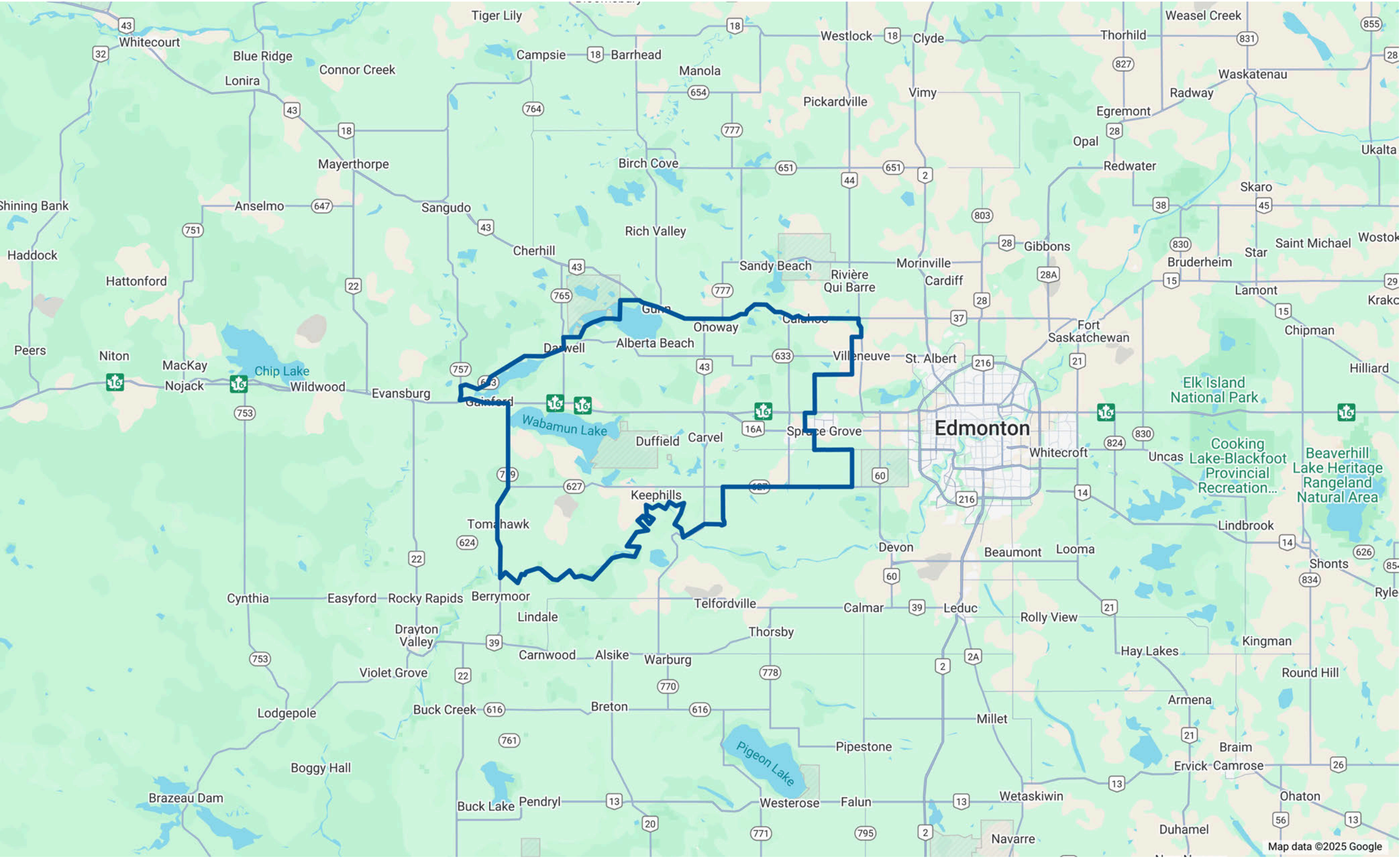


Stony Plain

Stony Plain



Stony Plain Boundary





Outlook

New submission from Mary O'Neill

From Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>**Date** Wed 5/21/2025 12:08 PM**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>

First Name

Mary

Last Name

O'Neill

Municipality / City

St. Albert

Email**Message**

The Electoral Provincial Boundary for the constituency of St. Albert, should be the city boundary of St. Albert. If those numbers don't work, then divide the city equally with the dividing line being St. Albert Trail.

Address (Optional)**Phone (optional)****Terms**

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New submission from Glenn van Dijken

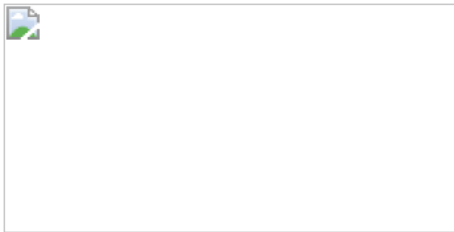
From Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>

Date Wed 5/21/2025 1:04 PM

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

 1 attachment (138 KB)

Glenn van Dijken MLA Written Submission.pdf;



First Name

Glenn

Last Name

van Dijken

Municipality / City

Westlock County

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

Dear Commissioners,

I have attached my Written Submission for your consideration as you begin the important work of reviewing Alberta's provincial constituency boundaries ahead of the next general election.

Kind regards,

Glenn van Dijken, MLA

File (Optional)

- [Glenn-van-Dijken-MLA-Written-Submission.pdf](#)

Address (Optional)



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
ALBERTA

Glenn van Dijken, MLA
Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock Constituency

May 20, 2025.

To the Chair and Members,
Electoral Boundaries Commission,
Suite 100, 11510 Kingsway NW,
Edmonton, AB T5G 2Y5.

Dear Commissioners,

Re: Written Submission – Rural Representation and Electoral Fairness

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written submission regarding the electoral boundaries review process currently underway. I am writing to express a deep concern shared by many Albertans living in rural constituencies across the province. As the Commission considers boundary adjustments and representation across Alberta's ridings, I urge you to seriously consider the unique challenges facing rural MLAs and their constituents.

The Unique Burden of Rural Representation: Rural constituencies in Alberta span vast geographic areas, often covering thousands of square kilometres—MLAs representing ridings such as Athabasca–Barrhead–Westlock, Bonnyville–Cold Lake–St. Paul, Drumheller–Stettler, Rimbey–Rocky Mountain House–Sundre, West Yellowhead and more, travel great distances to meet and engage constituents, attend municipal meetings, school division meetings, and participate in local events; this creates a significant logistical and time burden that urban MLAs do not face.

Rural MLAs often represent a dozen or more municipal jurisdictions, each with its own local council, needs, and expectations. By contrast, an urban MLA may represent only a few wards within a single municipal government. This disparity contributes to a growing gap in meaningful representation and undermines the democratic principle that all Albertans should receive equal access to their elected representative.

The sheer size of rural ridings dilutes the ability of MLAs to be present, accessible, and responsive. In effect, these large geographies translate into underrepresentation for rural Albertans, not due to neglect but due to structural limitations that the current boundaries fail to address.

The 25% Variance Rule – A Need for Flexibility: Alberta legislation allows the Electoral Boundaries Commission to adjust electoral division populations within a 25% variance of the provincial average. In fact, Section 15 (2) of the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act recognizes the challenges of providing effective representation to large, sparsely populated rural areas and allows the Commission to make exceptions beyond this threshold in up to 4 electoral divisions.

I submit that large, sparsely populated rural constituencies that do not meet the criteria under section 15 (2), still qualify as exceptional cases. The challenge of physical access and the need for in-person engagement in rural areas should be respected by allowing these ridings to exist well below the provincial population average, if necessary, to preserve fair and effective representation.

I encourage the Commission to utilize the 25% threshold where justified and create smaller population targets for sparsely populated rural ridings, acknowledging that geography and accessibility are just as important as numeric parity.

I also encourage the commission to utilize the 25% threshold and create larger population targets for densely populated urban ridings.

Section 15(2) rightly allows the Commission to recommend up to four electoral divisions with populations as much as 50% below the average, provided that at least three of the five criteria stipulated apply.

The intent of section 15(2) is clear. Sparsely populated regions covering large geographical areas need smaller population thresholds to provide effective representation. I strongly believe there are several 'real rural' ridings in Alberta that should be considered for the 25% reduction in population threshold in order to provide equal and effective representation to these Albertans.

Eligible Voters: The Commission often relies on total population figures to assess electoral fairness. However, this can lead to distortions, particularly when comparing urban and rural ridings. It is worth noting that rural ridings often have a higher number of eligible voters compared to urban centres, where many residents may be minors or new arrivals. This translates to more actual voters demanding active representation and a greater volume of voter engagement and casework in rural constituencies. I encourage the Commission to keep this context in mind when assessing representational demands across regions and exercise their discretion accordingly.

Rural MLAs Greater Workload: Given the vast area rural MLAs must cover and the diverse jurisdictions they represent, they routinely engage with more industry stakeholders, municipal councils, school boards and community groups than their urban counterparts. This often leads to overextended schedules and diminished capacity to respond promptly to

constituent concerns. It is an unintended form of underrepresentation, one that should not be further entrenched through aggressive population equalization of riding sizes.

Recommendations: Considering the above, I respectfully recommend that:

- The Commission allows greater flexibility utilizing the 25% variance when drawing boundaries.
- The Commission recognizes the complexity of rural representation, including travel demands, jurisdictional diversity, and the importance of local presence.
- Boundaries be drawn to reduce the geographic and municipal load on rural MLAs, ensuring they can fairly and fully represent their constituents.
- Limit the number of municipalities assigned to any single MLA where possible, to ease the administrative and community engagement burden.
- The Commission use Section 15(2) to designate real rural ridings for a 50% below-average population variance.
- Recognize that rural MLAs require more time and resources to serve geographically dispersed populations and adjust boundaries accordingly.

Conclusion: Alberta's rural communities are foundational to our province's history, economy, and way of life. Their voices deserve to be heard clearly and equally in the Legislature. Electoral fairness is not about identical numbers but equitable access to representation.

I urge the Commission to acknowledge the unique realities of rural Alberta and adopt a principled, flexible approach to ensure fair and proportionate representation for all Albertans. The trend toward ever-larger rural ridings is not sustainable and risks alienating thousands of voters who already face barriers to political engagement.

Thank you for considering this submission. I trust the Commission will consider rural Alberta's unique needs carefully and adopt boundary recommendations that respect our geography and democratic values.

Sincerely,

Glenn van Dijken, MLA

Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock Constituency.



Outlook

New submission from Kathleen Mary Dietrich

From Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>**Date** Wed 5/21/2025 1:15 PM**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>

First Name

Kathleen Mary

Last Name

Dietrich

Municipality / City

Medicine Hat

Email**Message**

Members of the Commission: I am currently a constituent of Cypress Medicine Hat. I am writing to indicate my views with respect to the redistricting exercise. I was surprised when the riding was bifurcated. Medicine Hat is the sixth biggest city in Alberta, is the economic and service centre for a large area encompassing south eastern Alberta and south western Saskatchewan. Given that our population is markedly urban, with a Medicine Hat College, the Regional Hospital, and a vibrant arts and entertainment sector (including sports teams and facilities).

Hatters on either side of the boundary have more in common with each other, than they do with inhabitants of Brooks and smaller rural communities surrounding the Hat. With a population of almost 68,000 we certainly have a large enough population to warrant our own MLA.

The primary reason I would support a single riding for the municipality of

Medicine Hat is for improved governance. MLAs need to be accountable to their constituents, and constituents are part of a community. It is too easy for an MLA to say either "you are not in my constituency" or the "the issue you raise affects the other side of the river". Where many people in the Hat live on one side of the river and work or do business on the other. The split dilutes responsibility and accountability and therefore weakens the representation for the people in Medicine Hat.

Another key aspect of good governance is participation, having a split constituency adversely impacts participation. Either Hatters feel disconnected from Brookes or Brooke inhabitants to feel disconnected from their riding. It is also difficult for people to effectively engage in the political process. It's one more level of potential confusion that could dissuade effective participation. (Even for myself, I need to remember which riding I belong to in deciding which political event I can attend).

I realize that the redistricting exercise is complicated. I have researched to see if I can find out why the riding was split in 2017, and I really find no compelling reason for it other than to have a balanced population per riding. But effective representation is more than just a numbers game. It has to do with community, proximity, access and accountability. I personally believe that Medicine Hat is not effectively represented by splitting the city into two different ridings. It is confusing.

Although the challenges of representing a rural riding remain distance between population groups, it is much easier to represent a cohesive community. Urban and rural voters have different priorities and differing policy perspectives. Keeping us split the way we are runs the risk that irrespective of the election , voters will feel that their votes have been diluted by the other group (urban versus rural), and potentially puts each group at odds with each other.

In conclusion, in absence of a compelling reason (other than administrative efficiency) to bifurcate Medicine Hat, I would recommend returning to the 2017 boundary makes sense, would lead to more effective representation and improve governance.

Regards, Kathleen M. Dietrich, CA CPA (Non-Practicing)

Address (Optional)

[REDACTED]

Phone (optional)

[REDACTED]

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Outlook

New submission from Kim Large

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

Date Wed 5/21/2025 2:21 PM

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



First Name

Kim

Last Name

Large

Municipality / City

Medicine Hat

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

The Case for a Distinct Medicine Hat Riding

Core Argument 1: Urban/Rural Identity

1. 2. 3. Medicine Hat possesses a strong, cohesive urban identity that distinguishes it from

surrounding rural areas. This distinct identity—rooted in its history, municipal governance, economic profile, and demographic characteristics—justifies its treatment

as a standalone electoral district. Medicine Hat's subsumption into a broader rural-urban

riding dilutes its political voice and disrupts the continuity of its civic representation. Even

during the previous electoral commission of 2016/2017,

Medicine Hat is Alberta's sixth-largest city and functions as a self-contained urban center

with its own economic, cultural, and administrative structures. Its identity is tied

to its

status as a regional hub, with infrastructure, public services, educational institutions, and

economic networks that are fundamentally different from the surrounding rural municipalities such as Cypress County, Brooks, or the County of Forty Mile.

Medicine Hat has urban priorities: municipal planning, transit, healthcare infrastructure,

economic diversification, and education services—all of which differ significantly from the

rural priorities of agriculture, land use policy, and rural broadband. Merging these into

one constituency pits urban and rural voters against each other in competition for the

attention of an MLA split between rural and urban needs.

Core Argument 2: Functional Role as a Regional Hub

1. Medicine Hat serves as the economic, administrative, and service center for a wide

surrounding region in southeast Alberta. As such, its role as a regional hub links it

closely with nearby communities like Cypress County and Redcliff—but not with more

distant, disconnected regions like Taber or Brooks. The existing boundaries merge

Medicine Hat with unrelated rural areas, undermines long-standing regional relationships

and disrupts service delivery, economic coherence, and political representation.

2. Medicine Hat is not just a municipality—it is the economic and institutional core of a vast

southeastern corridor. Residents from Cypress County, Redcliff, and surrounding rural

municipalities routinely travel to Medicine Hat for: health care (Medicine Hat Regional

Hospital is a major facility), post-secondary education (Medicine Hat College), commercial services and employment, cultural institutions and events, and provincial

court and social services.

3. The regional hub argument is not just administrative—it's democratic. If Medicine Hat is

the heart of the region, it should not be politically subordinated to communities that are

neither reliant on it nor geographically proximate. To do so is to misrepresent the true

community of interest, a cornerstone principle in Canadian boundary design.

Core Argument 3: Effective Representation and Travel Logistics

1. 2. 3. Creating a sprawling riding that includes both Medicine Hat and distant rural

communities undermines the principle of effective representation. The physical size of

such ridings makes it nearly impossible for an MLA to attend community events,

engage

with constituents in person, and adequately represent both urban and rural interests.

Medicine Hat, as a relatively populous and concentrated urban center, merits its own

MLA who can focus on local governance without the logistical challenges of covering

hundreds of kilometers of rural terrain.

When an MLA is overburdened by geography, accountability decreases. Voters may

struggle to even meet their MLA, much less influence decisions or raise concerns in

person. This undermines core democratic values of responsiveness and accessibility. A

dedicated MLA for Medicine Hat can participate in city council liaison, town hall meetings, school board consultations, and local initiatives without being stretched thin by

faraway obligations.

One of the initial justifications to split Medicine Hat into multiple ridings was that with that

advent of technology, representatives could easily cover the area they represent.

However, even in areas with access, online communication does not substitute for local,

face-to-face engagement. Constituents often raise nuanced, urgent, or

community-specific issues that require site visits, physical presence at council meetings,

or informal interaction at public events. MLAs cannot digitally inspect flood zones, attend

funerals, or share space with First Nations and Métis leadership—these are human

obligations.

4. The Commission's decision to create large hybrid urban-rural ridings in regions like

Medicine Hat imposes an unequal burden on MLAs in those districts, particularly when

compared to their urban counterparts in Calgary or Edmonton. The result is a two-tiered

system where rural and blended-riding MLAs must serve broader, more diverse, and

more geographically dispersed constituencies, ultimately disadvantaging their voters.

Core Argument 4: Population Size Justifies Urban-Only Riding

1. Medicine Hat, with a population exceeding 63,000, not only meets but exceeds the

average provincial population size per electoral division. It therefore satisfies both legal

and representational benchmarks to warrant an independent riding. Combining it with

surrounding municipalities violates the principle of voter parity and contradicts

precedent

set for other similar-sized urban centers.

Core Argument 5: Functional Disconnection of Linking Brooks and Medicine Hat.

1. Medicine Hat, with over 63,000 residents, is a self-contained city with urban infrastructure, transit, and civic institutions that are fundamentally different from those in

smaller towns like Brooks. Grouping the two implies parity that does not exist and

artificially flattens their political needs into one riding.

2. Brooks is not part of Medicine Hat's immediate economic or service orbit.

Unlike Cypress

County, which naturally connects to Medicine Hat through hospital, education, and

commerce, Brooks is its own regional center. There is no coherent regional relationship

or shared governance between them.

3. Medicine Hat residents prioritize urban issues: housing, public transportation, downtown

revitalization. Brooks and surrounding rural areas prioritize agriculture, water use, and

rural infrastructure. An MLA representing both would face conflicting pressures and

would likely be forced to neglect one side.

4. Merging a large city with smaller centers risks over-representing the rural vote if the MLA

comes from outside Medicine Hat, or under-representing smaller towns if the MLA is

Medicine Hat-based. Either way, the current riding of Brooks-Medicine Hat lacks coherence, and the constituents lack focused advocacy.

5. The distance between Brooks and Medicine Hat is over 100 km. This makes effective,

equitable MLA travel and visibility impractical, particularly in winter. Residents from both

Medicine Hat and surrounding communities clearly and consistently opposed this kind of

boundary redraw in their submissions.

Medicine Hat should be its own distinct riding, and not be grouped with Brooks or other small

centers because it stands as a distinct urban entity—demographically, economically,

geographically, and politically. The current EDAs lack shared interests or accessibility, and

weaken the voice of all constituents involved

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Toll-free	1-833-777-2125
Email	info@abebc.ca



Alberta Boundaries Commission written submission May 21/25 Myrna Nerbas...

From MYRNA NERBAS <[REDACTED]>

Date Wed 5/21/2025 2:31 PM

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

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Alberta Boundaries Commission written submission May 21/25 Myrna Nerbas - Calgary

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission.

I grew up in a small town in a farming community that also had mines in the area. After graduation I moved to a city to attend university and work. I lived in different areas of different cities, from the suburban outskirts to areas around the downtown. I rarely worked in the same area in which I lived. And now in retirement I live in the very inner city riding of Calgary Buffalo; my home is nestled in the curve of the Bow River between the Bird Sanctuary and the Alyth Rail Yard (the largest CP Rail yard in western Canada).

The population of Alberta has increased substantially in the last few years, particularly in Edmonton and Calgary. I have seen that in my own riding, Calgary Buffalo. Small houses with good size yards were demolished and replaced by larger houses with small yards, and now are being replaced by multi family apartments and townhouses often with no yards, making parks and green spaces important.

Given that Alberta's electoral ridings are to increase by two, from 87 to 89, and given that the biggest population increases have been in Edmonton and Calgary, I think it makes sense to add a riding in each of these cities.

I think there's a temptation to change riding boundaries to combine suburban and rural areas, to even up population numbers. However, I don't think that would provide effective representation for any of us. This is why.

Having lived in a small town in a farming community, and in both suburban and inner city areas, I have observed that transportation is a common theme, but with differences.

In my small hometown I could walk almost everywhere. Getting groceries once a week was a short drive by car and parking was close to the store and free. But jobs in town were limited, so my dad drove a half hour to and from work in a neighbouring mine. Our local hospital closed, so we had to

drive to a larger town or city for medical care. Those of us who couldn't drive ourselves relied on family and friends to take us. Well maintained roads and highways were important to us.

Living in suburban areas I walked mainly for exercise on sidewalks or walking trails in parks. While I occasionally walked home from work, I usually took a city bus or drove to work. I always drove to get groceries; parking lots were big and no charge. Hospitals and other medical facilities were in suburban areas. I could drive there but parking was limited and not free. City transit and taxis were available. Well maintained roads and sidewalks were important. However, traffic congestion and commuter routes cutting through residential neighbourhoods were significant issues.

After I retired I moved to an inner city area. Looking ahead to the time when I won't be able to drive, I specifically looked for a home on a transit route. Well maintained roads and sidewalks are important. There are no grocery stores in my immediate neighbourhood so I have to drive to get groceries. Parking at the grocery store is free but the lot is congested. For other amenities in the inner city, if parking is available it is definitely not free. Traffic congestion and commuter traffic cutting through residential and commercial areas are significant issues. Transit routes generally funnel people into and out of the downtown; getting around by transit in a community, both urban and suburban, can be a challenge. Safety on transit is sometimes a problem.

I hope I've outlined that although transportation is a common theme in the province, there are real and substantial differences depending upon where you live. And effective representation requires that we have MLAs who can be our voice in the Legislature, speaking up for the issues that are important to us and our communities. Electoral boundaries that reflect common interests (economic, cultural, municipal, geographical) are important. So too are electoral boundaries that reflect our different needs.


Thank you again for the opportunity to make this submission. I hope it's helpful in your deliberations and your decisions.

Sent from my iPhone

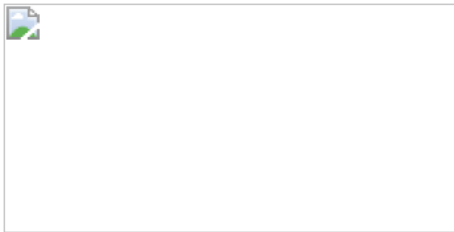


Outlook

New submission from Ashley Large

From Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>**Date** Wed 5/21/2025 3:36 PM**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca> 1 attachment (89 KB)

Med20Hat20Boundaries20Comission20Core20Arguments202202.pdf;



First Name

Ashley

Last Name

Large

Municipality / City

Medicine Hat

Email**Message**

Dear Boundary Commission,

I strongly believe that Medicine Hat should not have the unnecessary burden of trying to represent two distinctly different groups of Albertans. With a population of close to 70,000 people, very close in size to Lethbridge and Red Deer, the concerns of the urban population are different than that of the surrounding rural population. Giving two MLA's larger areas to cover and far more diverse people makes it more difficult for the local representatives to give full support to their constituents. Homelessness is not a concern in typical Rural politics, similarly the loss of rural land for industrial/development purposes is not a concern in Urban politics. Medicine Hat has had it's own MLA representative, and we need

to return to that system.

Thank you,

Ashley Large

File (Optional)

- [Med20Hat20Boundaries20Comission20Core20Arguments202202.pdf](#)

Address (Optional)

[REDACTED]

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Medicine Hat's merger into a blended rural-urban constituency represents a significant departure from principles of effective representation and community coherence that guided previous boundary decisions. This analysis examines the compelling arguments made during the 2016-17 Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission process that supported Medicine Hat as a distinct electoral riding, and demonstrates why these arguments remain valid today in advocating for the restoration of Medicine Hat's electoral independence.

The extensive public submissions from citizens, community leaders, and stakeholders during the 2016-17 review process revealed sophisticated understanding of democratic representation principles, geographic realities, and practical governance challenges. While the Commission initially recognized the merit of these arguments, subsequent boundary implementations have created the very problems that these submissions warned against: diluted urban representation, logistical challenges for MLAs, and the artificial yoking together of communities with fundamentally different interests and priorities.

Drawing from the original public submissions and ongoing evidence of representational challenges, this analysis presents five core arguments that demonstrate why Medicine Hat merits restoration as a distinct electoral riding: the preservation of distinct urban identity, recognition of Medicine Hat's role as a regional hub, ensuring effective representation through manageable geography, population size justification for standalone status, and the functional disconnection between Medicine Hat and distant communities forced together in the current boundary configuration.

These arguments are not merely theoretical—they reflect lived democratic realities and ongoing representational challenges that Alberta's sixth-largest city and southeastern regional hub continues to face under the current blended constituency model.

The Case for a Distinct Medicine Hat Riding

Core Argument 1: Urban/Rural Identity

1. Medicine Hat possesses a strong, cohesive urban identity that distinguishes it from surrounding rural areas. This distinct identity—rooted in its history, municipal governance, economic profile, and demographic characteristics—justifies its treatment as a standalone electoral district. Medicine Hat's subsumption into a broader rural-urban riding dilutes its political voice and disrupts the continuity of its civic representation. Even during the previous electoral commission of 2016/2017,
2. Medicine Hat is Alberta's sixth-largest city and functions as a self-contained urban center with its own economic, cultural, and administrative structures. Its identity is tied to its status as a regional hub, with infrastructure, public services, educational institutions, and economic networks that are fundamentally different from the surrounding rural municipalities such as Cypress County, Brooks, or the County of Forty Mile.
3. Medicine Hat has urban priorities: municipal planning, transit, healthcare infrastructure, economic diversification, and education services—all of which differ significantly from the rural priorities of agriculture, land use policy, and rural broadband. Merging these into

one constituency pits urban and rural voters against each other in competition for the attention of an MLA split between rural and urban needs.

Core Argument 2: Functional Role as a Regional Hub

1. Medicine Hat serves as the economic, administrative, and service center for a wide surrounding region in southeast Alberta. As such, its role as a regional hub links it closely with nearby communities like Cypress County and Redcliff—but not with more distant, disconnected regions like Taber or Brooks. The existing boundaries merge Medicine Hat with unrelated rural areas, undermines long-standing regional relationships and disrupts service delivery, economic coherence, and political representation.
2. Medicine Hat is not just a municipality—it is the economic and institutional core of a vast southeastern corridor. Residents from Cypress County, Redcliff, and surrounding rural municipalities routinely travel to Medicine Hat for: health care (Medicine Hat Regional Hospital is a major facility), post-secondary education (Medicine Hat College), commercial services and employment, cultural institutions and events, and provincial court and social services.
3. The regional hub argument is not just administrative—it's democratic. If Medicine Hat is the heart of the region, it should not be politically subordinated to communities that are neither reliant on it nor geographically proximate. To do so is to misrepresent the true community of interest, a cornerstone principle in Canadian boundary design.

Core Argument 3: Effective Representation and Travel Logistics

1. Creating a sprawling riding that includes both Medicine Hat and distant rural communities undermines the principle of effective representation. The physical size of such ridings makes it nearly impossible for an MLA to attend community events, engage with constituents in person, and adequately represent both urban and rural interests. Medicine Hat, as a relatively populous and concentrated urban center, merits its own MLA who can focus on local governance without the logistical challenges of covering hundreds of kilometers of rural terrain.
2. When an MLA is overburdened by geography, accountability decreases. Voters may struggle to even meet their MLA, much less influence decisions or raise concerns in person. This undermines core democratic values of responsiveness and accessibility. A dedicated MLA for Medicine Hat can participate in city council liaison, town hall meetings, school board consultations, and local initiatives without being stretched thin by faraway obligations.
3. One of the initial justifications to split Medicine Hat into multiple ridings was that with that advent of technology, representatives could easily cover the area they represent. However, even in areas with access, online communication does not substitute for local, face-to-face engagement. Constituents often raise nuanced, urgent, or community-specific issues that require site visits, physical presence at council meetings, or informal interaction at public events. MLAs cannot digitally inspect flood zones, attend funerals, or share space with First Nations and Métis leadership—these are human obligations.

4. The Commission's decision to create large hybrid urban-rural ridings in regions like Medicine Hat imposes an unequal burden on MLAs in those districts, particularly when compared to their urban counterparts in Calgary or Edmonton. The result is a two-tiered system where rural and blended-riding MLAs must serve broader, more diverse, and more geographically dispersed constituencies, ultimately disadvantaging their voters.

Core Argument 4: Population Size Justifies Urban-Only Riding

1. Medicine Hat, with a population exceeding 63,000, not only meets but exceeds the average provincial population size per electoral division. It therefore satisfies both legal and representational benchmarks to warrant an independent riding. Combining it with surrounding municipalities violates the principle of voter parity and contradicts precedent set for other similar-sized urban centers.

Core Argument 5: Functional Disconnection of Linking Brooks and Medicine Hat.

1. Medicine Hat, with over 63,000 residents, is a self-contained city with urban infrastructure, transit, and civic institutions that are fundamentally different from those in smaller towns like Brooks. Grouping the two implies parity that does not exist and artificially flattens their political needs into one riding.
2. Brooks is not part of Medicine Hat's immediate economic or service orbit. Unlike Cypress County, which naturally connects to Medicine Hat through hospital, education, and commerce, Brooks is its own regional center. There is no coherent regional relationship or shared governance between them.
3. Medicine Hat residents prioritize urban issues: housing, public transportation, downtown revitalization. Brooks and surrounding rural areas prioritize agriculture, water use, and rural infrastructure. An MLA representing both would face conflicting pressures and would likely be forced to neglect one side.
4. Merging a large city with smaller centers risks over-representing the rural vote if the MLA comes from outside Medicine Hat, or under-representing smaller towns if the MLA is Medicine Hat-based. Either way, the current riding of Brooks-Medicine Hat lacks coherence, and the constituents lack focused advocacy.
5. The distance between Brooks and Medicine Hat is over 100 km. This makes effective, equitable MLA travel and visibility impractical, particularly in winter. Residents from both Medicine Hat and surrounding communities clearly and consistently opposed this kind of boundary redraw in their submissions.

Medicine Hat should be its own distinct riding, and not be grouped with Brooks or other small centers because it stands as a distinct urban entity—demographically, economically, geographically, and politically. The current EDAs lack shared interests or accessibility, and weaken the voice of all constituents involved.



New submission from Lisa St Jean

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

Date Wed 5/21/2025 4:34 PM

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



First Name

Lisa

Last Name

St Jean

Municipality / City

Medicine Hat

Email

[REDACTED]

Message**Request to Restore Medicine Hat as a Distinct Electoral Division**

The merger of Medicine Hat into a blended rural-urban constituency undermines principles of effective representation, community coherence, and voter parity. Medicine Hat is Alberta's sixth-largest city with a strong urban identity, distinct governance needs, and a population that exceeds the average for a single riding. Grouping it with rural areas such as Brooks or the County of Forty Mile creates representational challenges that were foreseen—and widely opposed—during the 2016–17 Electoral Boundaries Commission review.

Key Reasons for Reinstating a Separate Medicine Hat Riding:

1. **Urban Identity:** Medicine Hat's governance, infrastructure, demographics, and priorities (e.g. transit, economic development, education, healthcare) differ markedly from the surrounding rural areas. Combining them dilutes the urban voice and pits conflicting interests against one another.

2. Regional Hub Function: Medicine Hat serves as the administrative and service core for Cypress County and Redcliff, not for distant communities like Brooks. The current boundary disrupts existing functional and economic ties.
3. Effective Representation: A geographically large and diverse riding makes it difficult for one MLA to adequately serve both urban and rural populations. Medicine Hat residents deserve an MLA who can focus exclusively on local needs without covering vast rural distances.
4. Population Justification: With over 63,000 residents, Medicine Hat meets and exceeds the threshold for its own riding. Similar-sized cities in Alberta have standalone representation.
5. Lack of Common Interests with Brooks: Brooks and Medicine Hat are over 100 km apart and do not share economic, political, or service networks. Combining them erodes accountability and misrepresents both communities.

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South Calgary Population Growth and Electoral Boundary Implications – Submission to the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission

Submitted by: David Cloutier

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the electoral boundaries review. My name is David Cloutier. My spouse and I raise our family here as parents to two young children. I am a long-time resident of South Calgary, having grown up in Woodlands, living in Patterson, starting a family in Legacy, and most recently growing that family into Bridlewood. I work as a school administrator, and I had the privilege of running as a candidate in the riding of Calgary-Shaw in the 2023 Provincial Election, which allowed me to engage directly with thousands of residents across its many diverse communities.

Personal and Community Context

Calgary-Shaw – representing the southernmost riding in Calgary – is experiencing remarkable growth and demographic change. Communities such as Legacy, Wolf Willow, Belmont, and Yorkville are expanding rapidly, fueled by interprovincial migration and new housing developments. These neighbourhoods are home to a vibrant mix of families from many different backgrounds. They reflect a younger, increasingly diverse demographic with evolving infrastructure and service needs.

Meanwhile, more established communities like Somerset and Shawnessy are also changing, with aging infrastructure, growing rental density, and concerns around transit and public safety. The unique challenges and strengths across these areas call for thoughtful representation that can respond to their specific needs and lived realities.

Considerations for Redistribution

Given the pace of development in Calgary-Shaw, the riding can be estimated to exceed the population thresholds outlined by the Electoral Boundaries Commission. Under Alberta law, a riding must remain within $\pm 25\%$ of the provincial average constituency population. In 2017, Calgary-Shaw had approximately 45,169 residents, slightly below the average at the time (2017 EBC Final Report – p. 40/60).

Calgary-Shaw is likely one of nine constituencies that have surpassed the +25% threshold, based on population estimates compiled from the 2017 EBC baseline and Statistics Canada data. (Daveberta Article - 2025) This situation creates a voter parity issue, where the weight of each vote in these ridings is diluted.

To address these issues, the province has rightly proposed increasing the number of seats from 87 to 89 to accommodate population growth, particularly in Calgary and Edmonton. Historically, similar population booms led to the creation of new ridings — in 2010, Alberta increased its total seats from 83 to 87 (Alberta Views, The Mapmakers).

As Justice Myra Bielby, chair of the 2016–17 Electoral Boundaries Commission, wrote in the 2017 report: The rapid pace of growth in Alberta's urban centres has thrown many ridings "substantially out of whack."

This mirrors Calgary-Shaw's current state and strongly supports the creation of a new riding in the deep south.

Urban-Rural Blended Ridings: A Cautionary Note

In seeking population balance, it is tempting to combine urban and rural areas into shared ridings to solve population representation issues. However, this approach consistently results in less effective representation. The 2017 Commission aimed to minimize blended ridings due to lack of common interests between urban and rural communities (2017 EBC Final Report, p. 18).

For example, when the Chestermere–Strathmore riding was formed, it merged a Calgary commuter suburb (Chestermere) with agricultural and rural communities in Wheatland County. This was met with concern. As reported in the Strathmore Times, Reeve Glenn Koester noted: "I can't see anything good coming out of it... These are not similar communities." (Strathmore Times, Oct 26, 2017)

Similarly, the Morinville–St. Albert riding combined an urban city with rural farming areas, despite objections from residents concerned about divergent priorities. These cases reflect the broader consensus from municipal leaders, political scientists, and public submissions: blended ridings stretch MLAs across disparate regions, increasing travel burdens and forcing them to represent communities with competing interests.

At the same time, the commission should consider the significant overrepresentation caused by several underpopulated rural ridings. In the 2017 redistribution, Calgary South-East had 92,148 residents while some rural ridings like Lesser Slave Lake had 28,858 residents, creating a voter weight imbalance of more than 3 to 1. As population data becomes available, attention should be given to cases where some ridings may have twice or more than the population of others in order to more equitably draw ridings for population size.

Conclusion

Calgary-Shaw's current and projected population place it beyond the allowable population range for a single riding. Past precedent, including the addition of new ridings in 2010, shows that Alberta has responsibly expanded representation in response to urban growth. The same logic applies now.

Instead of combining Calgary's growing communities with rural areas — a practice that risks weakening the voices of both — the Electoral Boundaries Commission should consider creating a new urban riding in Calgary's south, and adjusting existing rural seats to more equitably balance population representation. This would ensure voter parity, preserve community integrity, and uphold both the letter and spirit of Alberta's boundary laws.

Thank you again for your work and for considering my submission.

Sincerely,
David Cloutier
Lifetime South Calgary Resident
Teacher and School Administrator
Past Candidate, Calgary-Shaw

References:

1. Electoral Boundaries Commission Final Report (2017)
 - a. Source for population of Calgary-Shaw in 2017 (45,169) and the Commission's comments on urban growth.
 - b. PDF (see p. 40 and p. 60):
https://www.elections.ab.ca/uploads/abebc_2017_rpt_final.pdf
2. Daveberta - Alberta Is Getting a New Electoral Map (2025)
 - a. Secondary source that reviews the 2017 EBC report, Statistics Canada data, to show ridings likely exceeding population (all are urban):
 - b. Blog: <https://daveberta.substack.com/p/alberta-is-getting-a-new-electoral>
3. Alberta Views – "The Mapmakers" Article
 - a. Background on historical seat increases (e.g., from 83 to 87 in 2010), urban growth pressures, and quotes from Justice Bielby.
 - b. Article: <https://albertaviews.ca/the-mapmakers/>
4. Strathmore Times – Coverage of Chestermere–Strathmore Concerns
 - a. Reeve Glenn Koester's quote and criticism of the merge.
 - b. Article:
<http://strathmoretimes.com/2017/mla-disappointed-in-final-ebc-proposal/>



May 13, 2025
EBC 2025-1-073

Electoral Boundaries Commission

Dear Sirs:

I am concerned about the changes you are about to make in Alberta's electoral boundaries.

The new arrangement will no doubt give more power to urban voters and even less to rural ones, who are already so outnumbered that they can be conveniently ignored.

Also, some ridings, due to low population density, are extremely large, requiring excessive travel distances to serve all areas well.

I don't think population alone is a fair way to compare constituencies.

Concerning your previous such exercise: whoever decided how to divide the Medicine Hat riding did not have convenience in mind.

Take, for example, trap road 132 (to us, this is the Long Valley road). Residents on the south side are in the Irvine/Walsh Community and vote in Irvine. Those on the north side, though part of the same community, are in the next constituency and vote in Schuler. Between them and Schuler is a large community pasture crossed by a rarely travelled side road. They never go to Schuler otherwise.

Likewise, residents of Grubben area, south of Walsh, are to vote in Elkwater—a direct summer road away but indirect and distant by the highway route.

The people who make these decisions ^{should} consider that the terrain is not as flat as the map, and not all roads are the same.

Chermaine Wood

██████ Irvine, AB ██████



Outlook

New submission from Jennifer Williams

From Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>**Date** Wed 5/21/2025 4:57 PM**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>

First Name

Jennifer

Last Name

Williams

Municipality / City

Airdrie

Email**Message**

I am very frustrated that as a citizen of Airdrie, my representative is really focused on Cochrane, while my neighbors across the street have a more local MLA (as they live in the Airdrie-East riding and I am in the Airdrie-Cochrane riding). I'm not sure what the justification was to take a piece of Airdrie and put it with Cochrane, but please be assured we are very different communities with different ideologies and goals. I realize that a growing city like Airdrie needed more representation, but isn't there a way to divide it more evenly so one group doesn't feel less represented than another. Thanks!

Address (Optional)**Phone (optional)****Terms**

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Outlook

New submission from Michael Radziwon

From Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>**Date** Wed 5/21/2025 5:44 PM**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>

First Name

Michael

Last Name

Radziwon

Municipality / City

Airdrie

Email**Message**

I am writing to express concern about a gap in representation caused by the current electoral boundaries in Airdrie. When I contact my MLA regarding a local issue that directly affects Airdrie, I am often redirected to the MLA for "Airdrie." However, when I contact the MLA for Airdrie, I am informed that I am not in her riding and therefore not her constituent.

This leaves me in a situation where, effectively, no one claims responsibility for representing my concerns — particularly on issues that are specific to Airdrie but fall just outside the current electoral boundary. It's a frustrating and disenfranchising experience, and it makes me feel like I have no real representation in the Legislature when it comes to my community.

I urge the Commission to consider this issue seriously as you evaluate and redraw the boundaries. Representation should be meaningful and accessible, and right now, for people in my position, it is neither.

Thank you for your time and the important work you are doing.

Address (Optional)

[REDACTED]

Phone (optional)

[REDACTED]

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████████████████████
Calgary, Alberta
██████████
████████████████████

To Members of the Boundary Commission,

My name is Maria Dusevic, and I have been a resident of Calgary Foothills for 20 years. I am writing with the understanding that changes will likely be made to the electoral boundaries in NW Calgary before the next election. My main concern is that the boundary of Calgary Foothills must remain within the City of Calgary. I truly worry that my concerns, and the concerns of my friends and family, will not be adequately, or fairly, represented if Calgary Foothills is forced to join a rural municipality. Calgary Foothills is an urban constituency, with unique urban needs.

I have been a teacher in various schools in NW Calgary for 30 years. Throughout those years, I have witnessed a great deal of change in classrooms. These changes include an increase in English as a Second Language students, as well as students with diverse physical, emotional and academic needs. Classroom sizes have increased, as well, and there is often little to no support for struggling students. It is important to have an MLA who is willing to advocate for these students, and who understands the issues that are facing urban classrooms in Alberta.

Although Calgary Foothills is considered 'suburbia,' the concerns of people in this area are the same as citizens throughout Calgary. We want local schools for our children, access to recreation facilities and access to adequate health care. We want affordable housing, and adequate transportation corridors. We also want an MLA who recognizes the concerns of an evolving urban community.

Over the 20 years that I have lived in Calgary Foothills, I have witnessed immense change and growth. There are many young families, and a very large immigrant population. The community has embraced people of different cultures, and has provided spaces for people to join together to celebrate their faith and culture. This includes the Symons Valley United Church in my neighbourhood of Kincora, which opens its doors to many religious denominations. Rural communities surrounding Calgary simply do not have the cultural diversity of Calgary Foothills.

If Calgary Foothills is forced to join a rural municipality, urban voices will be competing with rural voices for their MLA's attention. Also, some people may be less likely to take part in the democratic process if they feel they do not have effective representation. One MLA simply cannot adequately meet the needs of an extremely demanding Calgary electoral district, as well as a rural electoral district.

In 2024, the Justice Statutes Amendment Act, Bill 31, changed legislation to state that 'municipal boundaries 'may be kept together,' rather than 'shall be kept together.' This has the optics of gerrymandering election results. I urge the Boundary Commission to respect that the boundary lines of Calgary Foothills should remain within the City of Calgary. We, the citizens of this electoral district, deserve the democratic principle of fair representation for our unique urban needs.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission.

Sincerely,

Maria Dusevic



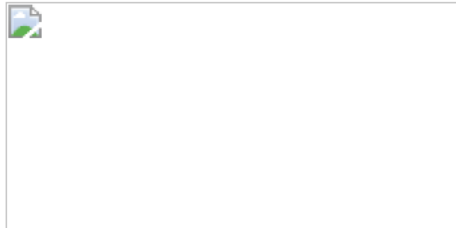
Outlook

New submission from Lorelei Harasem

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

Date Wed 5/21/2025 9:03 PM

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



First Name

Lorelei

Last Name

Harasem

Municipality / City

Coalhurst

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

To the Electoral Boundaries Commission Members:

I understand that you are doing a review of the electoral boundaries. I wanted to share my experiences with you as an individual who has had quite a unique experience that I feel warrants consideration as you are making decisions.

I live in the Town of Coalhurst and have lived here since 2007. Prior to that I lived in Lethbridge since 1989. This means that I am a resident of the Cardston-Siksika riding. However, from 2003-2022 I worked for the City of Lethbridge, serving the community through public service work in both Lethbridge East and Lethbridge West. I now work in the post-secondary sector in Lethbridge since 2022.

Initially in 2017 when Cardston-Siksika was created I didn't understand this change, however, over the last 8 years I have come to realize that in Coalhurst,

our needs are so much more aligned with the communities in the current riding that we are in, than they are with the people in the city.

As I travel throughout the region, I hear the same stories, the same concerns, and the same needs no matter if I am in Picture Butte or Cardston. Our communities all have needs around stabilizing rural Alberta. We work together in partnerships to get what we need done, to share resources and create efficiencies. The people living in these small towns are proud of their history and their unique stories and the ruralness of their communities. Community members relate to each other and their issues, their desires, and their futures are all very aligned.

When I consider my time working for the city, I recognize that the needs and future and planning was very different and distinct from what I experience in my rural living and volunteering (I volunteer with search and rescue, United Way, and a number of other region-wide charities). Even as a funder, through my former role in municipal government as compared to my role with the United Way, the asks and requests for funding are completely unique from rural to city.

If a blend of rural and city were to take place I'd be very concerned that the smaller rural community voices would feel lost in the voices of the city, especially since the city has such a higher population so would be louder in determining and demanding needs and supports from their elected leaders. I think that rural community members would be discouraged, frustrated, and felt like they no longer have a voice, whereas right now they do believe they are well represented by their MLA who understands their distinct needs.

I believe we need mapping that understands not only the geographical boundaries, but even moreso, respects the rural communities whose members all have similar goals and interests and need fair representation.

I understand from the news this past year that the two big cities and Red Deer have grown very quickly, putting pressures on services significantly more than Southern Alberta, and especially more than rural communities. I would think that these cities would be ones where consideration into fair representation and size of riding should be looked at as I believe that their needs would be much more similar than that of the people I live and spend time with evenings and weekends and where I call home, from the people I worked for and with in the city of Lethbridge. In fact, I know that we have hardly any, if any, post-secondary students in my home community so even thinking of my current role, the needs of post-secondary students is not anything that is understood by any of the rural communities in my current riding, yet those in the city understand the housing, food security, employment, transportation, and other needs that may be distinct to post-secondary students.

If you'd like any more information from me, please feel free to reach out as I'd gladly share more of my observations and experiences.

Sincerely,
Lorelei (Lori) Harasem

Address (Optional)

[REDACTED]

Phone (optional)

[REDACTED]

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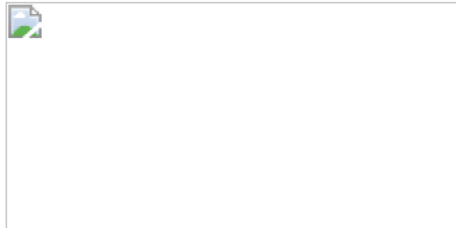
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Outlook

New submission from Tom Rooke

From Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>**Date** Wed 5/21/2025 9:06 PM**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>

First Name

Tom

Last Name

Rooke

Municipality / City

Medicine Hat

Email**Message**

I am posting this comment in support of the City of Medicine Hat be considered on electoral district unto itself. The population at last count by the Canada 2021 census is approximately 63000. Currently the city is divided in half with the South Saskatchewan River being the dividing line (except for a small portion on the south side of the river). By combining Brooks with the Cypress riding together you should be able to maintain the population balance for that riding. This would leave Medicine Hat alone as a united riding which voters understand a lot better. As the 6th or 8th largest metropolitan area in Alberta (depending on whose stats you read) it puts Medicine Hat in the same situation as St. Albert which appears to have its own riding. Voting public get confused when a city this size is divided. A voter may live on one side of the river but work on the other. I suggest that making this city one electoral district would increase the voting at election time. It would be easier for candidates as this is the current system used for municipal elections. Yes, the new area of Brooks-Cypress or Cypress-Brooks

would be larger area-wise but the rural ridings in our province will always be that large given the distribution of population in rural areas.

Address (Optional)

[REDACTED]

Phone (optional)

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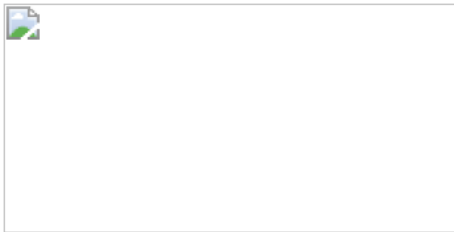


Outlook

New submission from Ed Dick

From Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>**Date** Thu 5/22/2025 7:21 AM**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>

 1 attachment (46 KB)
electoral_boundaries.odt;



First Name

Ed

Last Name

Dick

Municipality / City

Medicine Hat

Email**Message**

I live in the Medicine Hat/Brooks riding.

As far as I understand, there are a number of factors considered when determining electoral boundaries. In southeastern Alberta the two key factors are the significant differences in concerns between rural and urban communities and the physical size of the electoral districts.

At present, in order to mitigate the sizes of ridings, the city of Medicine Hat is divided between what are essentially two rural ridings. While this does something to address a physical issue it effectively ignores what many would consider more significant differences – those relating to community specific

interests – where urban and rural often diverge.

Changing electoral boundaries and making Medicine Hat its own riding would do much to solve two problems. At present, many urban citizens feel under and in some cases un – represented. As part of a rural/urban riding they believe that local urban issues are not properly addressed and can easily be ignored because they don't have a voice that truly represents them. This is directly tied to the second problem, where the MLA is expected to represent what might be two very distinct interests – should they advocate for rural interests or for urban interests when those interests conflict? Medicine Hat as its own riding would benefit both the residents, who would then have a rep exclusive to their community, and the representative, who would not be forced to balance the needs of two distinct communities against each other.

There is a perception at present that political power in the ridings which include Medicine Hat is controlled by the rural areas of each riding. This should concern those drawing up electoral boundaries, as it can breed distrust of both the electoral system and rural neighbours. It would be the same if clearly rural areas were incorporated within boundaries that are predominantly urban. Both situations should be avoided where possible. There are no compelling reasons why it cannot be avoided in Southeastern Alberta.

The geographic size of the riding around Medicine Hat would be larger if Medicine Hat were to have its own riding. While that is a consideration, the advances in communications technology make that much less of an issue that it once was and so it should not be a determining factor. It is also true that there was also a time when Medicine Hat was more rural-centric – and so had more in common with the smaller communities in the region. That time has passed.

Considering this, the most logical course of action would be to have an independent Medicine Hat riding, where one MLA would represent the unique interests of the city's residents. At the same time, a rural MLA could better represent rural interests.

Thank you for your interest in accepting submissions and considering the above.

Ed Dick

(I have added this message as an attachment as I wrote it in Libreoffice first, and then copied and pasted it here - so there is nothing in the attachment that is unique)

File (Optional)

- [electoral-boundaries.odt](#)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Phone (optional)



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New submission from ed fredeen

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

Date Thu 5/22/2025 8:12 AM

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



First Name

ed

Last Name

fredeen

Municipality / City

medicine hat

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

Regarding: The need for a Medicine Hat constituency

I believe there is a strong case for a distinct Medicine Hat constituency.

First of all, Medicine Hat possesses a strong, cohesive urban identity that distinguishes it from surrounding rural areas. This distinct identity—rooted in its history, municipal governance, economic profile, and demographic characteristics—justifies its treatment as a standalone electoral district. Medicine Hat's inclusion into a broader rural-urban riding dilutes its political voice and disrupts the continuity of its civic representation. Even during the previous electoral commission of 2016/2017, the city's unique character was often overshadowed when integrated with rural areas, further emphasizing the need for a dedicated electoral district.

Secondly, Medicine Hat is Alberta's sixth-largest city and functions as a self-

contained urban center with its own economic, cultural, and administrative structures. Its identity is tied to its status as a regional hub, with infrastructure, public services, educational institutions, and economic networks that are fundamentally different from the surrounding rural municipalities such as Cypress County, Brooks, or the County of Forty Mile.

And finally, Medicine Hat has urban priorities: municipal planning, transit, infrastructure, economic diversification, and education services—all of which differ significantly from the rural priorities of agriculture, land use policy, and rural broadband. Merging these into one constituency pits urban and rural voters against each other in competition for the attention of an MLA split between rural and urban needs.

In conclusion, Medicine Hat's urban identity, its self-contained nature, and its distinct priorities justify its treatment as a standalone electoral constituency. The city's unique position warrants a dedicated voice in Alberta's political landscape to ensure that its urban needs are adequately represented.

Yours truly
Edward Fredeen

Address (Optional)

[REDACTED]

Phone (optional)

[REDACTED]

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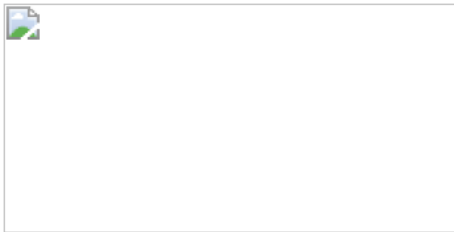


Outlook

New submission from Ross Watson

From Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>**Date** Thu 5/22/2025 8:44 AM**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca> 1 attachment (14 KB)

Boundaries.docx;



First Name

Ross

Last Name

Watson

Municipality / City

Cochrane

Email**Message**

May 22, 2025

To: Alberta's Boundaries Commission

Please accept this submission to recognize Cochrane's and Airdrie's requirements for representation.

Cochrane has grown to the size that makes the Town of Cochrane a viable riding. Cochrane will have a population of an estimated forty-eight thousand for the 2027 elections.

Currently Cochrane is combined with Airdrie West. Airdrie's population has also grown and Airdrie needs to have two representatives.

For proper distribution of representation Cochrane needs one representative in the Alberta legislature and Airdrie would require two representatives.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ross Watson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

File (Optional)

- [Boundaries.docx](#)

Address (Optional)

[REDACTED]

Phone (optional)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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New submission from Jean Peterson

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

Date Thu 5/22/2025 8:54 AM

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



First Name

Jean

Last Name

Peterson

Municipality / City

Airdrie

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

Electoral boundaries should be based on population. Not land mass. It is unfair for there to be areas with significantly higher population base to not be represented as they should be. Most MLAs do not have regular meet and greets for their constituents. The only time they have these events is for fundraising for a political party. With today's zoom meetings, email and other electronic messaging an MLA can actually be more accessible than ever before. Political interference should have no place in redrawing boundaries or adding ridings. Cities should not be underrepresented.

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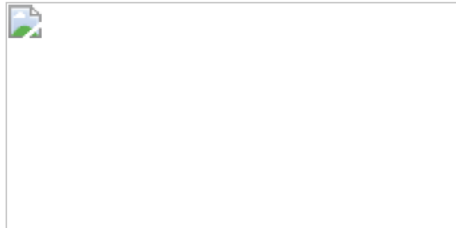
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Outlook

New submission from Justin Acton

From Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>**Date** Thu 5/22/2025 8:54 AM**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>

First Name

Justin

Last Name

Acton

Municipality / City

Calgary

Email**Message**

Representative democracy requires communities to be represented effectively. It is foolish and undemocratic to have ridings that split between large urban areas and surrounding areas. Those areas often have needs or wants that are in conflict with one another so one or the other will be poorly represented.

MLAs are supposed to represent their community in the government. If we start messing with this ability we drift further into the realm of MLAs representing the government in the communities and that is not representative government.

Phone (optional)**Terms**

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EBC 2025-1-083

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Alberta Electoral Boundary Commission

I am a retired voter who values a strong democratic environment. I live in the Botanical Arts City of St. Albert. I write a weekly blog for our local 50+ Activity Centre. I moved to my city more than 35 years ago from High Level, Alberta. It was my first choice for moving to an urban centre, and after all these years, I have no regrets about that decision, even with the population doubling.

When making this submission, I don't have a constituent base, so I am representing only myself with my views.

I have never done anything like this before, but these times have inspired me to participate in maintaining the very core of a democracy.

The province comprises a few million people, each with their own views and values, forming clusters of like-minded communities.

I needed a way to understand the role of the Boundary Commission that I could keep in mind while writing this submission. The analogy isn't perfect, but it was helpful to me. This is the best way I can convey my perspective to you.

I think of Alberta as a simple board game made up of squares, some of which are dark and some are light-coloured. These squares are represented in the Legislative Assembly.

Upon the squares rest different chess pieces. Some are very similar to other pieces, while others are higher class and more powerful, with their distinct moves around the board.

These differences get played out in "Legislature" for the greater good.

Unfortunately, there are too many squares to enable a functioning legislature, so we need to combine them in some way. Ideally, knights with knights and castles with castles. (Ah, if only it were that simple!) The resulting merger should not dilute differences, as that is the role of the legislature. It should group squares together to fairly blend like-communities, allowing for a reasonable representation at the top level when addressing our differences, and that is the legislature.

With the above in mind, I would like to outline my key points.

1. **St. Albert is a logical, like-minded community.**

My city has grown to over 70,000 residents—the nearby intersection of a divided main thoroughfare used to be a four-way stop. There are far too many traffic lights, which is just the beginning of a long list of first-world grievances shared by the residents. The key is that we share these grievances, as well as our interests in health, education, and transportation concerns, as residents of St. Albert.

I urge the Commission to maintain the boundaries of the municipality of St. Albert as intact as possible, aligning with the riding boundaries. We have our magazine titled “T8N.”

Where it is necessary to reach into the surrounding population, both economic and cultural/social ties with the people should be considered for a ‘best fit.’

2. St. Albert has shared concerns with the surrounding population.

A few examples of these shared interests include the hospital, libraries, the recreation centre, retail outlets, and transportation corridors.

The surrounding population to the south are residents of Edmonton, so my ‘surrounding population’ doesn’t include the residents of Edmonton.

Dipping into the City of St. Albert pool of voters to increase the ideal riding numbers, to use a slice of pizza analogy, would unfairly blend the unique interests of the city into a very different rural population.

If this were necessary, it should be minimized as much as possible. The best-fit may result in riding boundaries that appear haphazard on the map, but the underlying rationale must support them.

I want to thank the Commission members for undertaking this complex task, one that requires the wisdom of higher powers to accomplish.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Walmsley

[REDACTED]

St. Albert, Alberta

[REDACTED]



New submission from Ryan Yeats

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

Date Thu 5/22/2025 9:25 AM

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



First Name

Ryan

Last Name

Yeats

Municipality / City

Airdrie

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

The city of Airdrie has grown by almost 30,000 people in the last 10 years, reaching a population of 88,000 people. This growth, making the city the 6th largest in Alberta, has put Airdrie in a place where it would be best served with a representative more focused on the city. The current boundaries of Airdrie-East include large rural areas with very a very different community of interest and very different needs, while Airdrie Cochrane is left dealing with the needs of two cities, in different phases of growth as well as the rural areas between. The city should have a representative(s) who can help the city grapple with needs of a city who has grown so much, so quickly.

Additionally, at 88,000 the city is very close in size to both Lethbridge and Red Deer both of which have two ridings that are primarily focused on the cities themselves. While it is not the commissions job to forecast population growth, based on existing construction in Airdrie, the city will quickly equal or surpass those two cities in population. Would it not be beneficial for us to have equal

representation?

EBC 2025-1-085

Thank You

Address (Optional)

[REDACTED]

Phone (optional)

[REDACTED]

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Outlook

New submission from Sherry Perley

From Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>**Date** Thu 5/22/2025 10:23 AM**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>

First Name

Sherry

Last Name

Perley

Municipality / City

Airdrie

Email ■**Message**

Electoral seats should be based on equal population per seat across Canada no matter what the geographical hurdles are

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EBC 2025-1-086

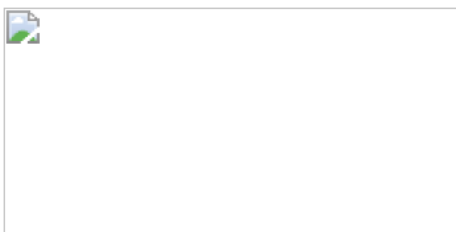


Outlook

New submission from Brandon Lundy

From Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>**Date** Thu 5/22/2025 12:09 PM**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca> 1 attachment (17 KB)

EDA Submission Leduc Riding.docx;



First Name

Brandon

Last Name

Lundy

Municipality / City

Leduc

Email**Message**

Please see attached my submission to split the current riding of Leduc-Beaumont into two separate ridings each anchored around those respective communities to account for projected population growth and the communities both acting as regional hubs.

File (Optional)

- [EDA-Submission-Leduc-Riding.docx](#)
- [Leduc-Riding.png](#)

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EDA Boundary Submission

Current Riding: Leduc-Beaumont

Proposal: Split riding (currently consisting primarily of the two communities of Leduc and Beaumont) into two separate ridings with each community acting as an anchor or main hub in their respective areas.

Rationale:

- Both Leduc and Beaumont have experienced a high rate of population growth in recent years, which is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. Splitting the two communities into distinct ridings will allow for continued population growth while maintaining effective representation.
- Both Leduc and Beaumont act as economic drivers and community hubs in their respective regions.

Proposed New Riding: Leduc

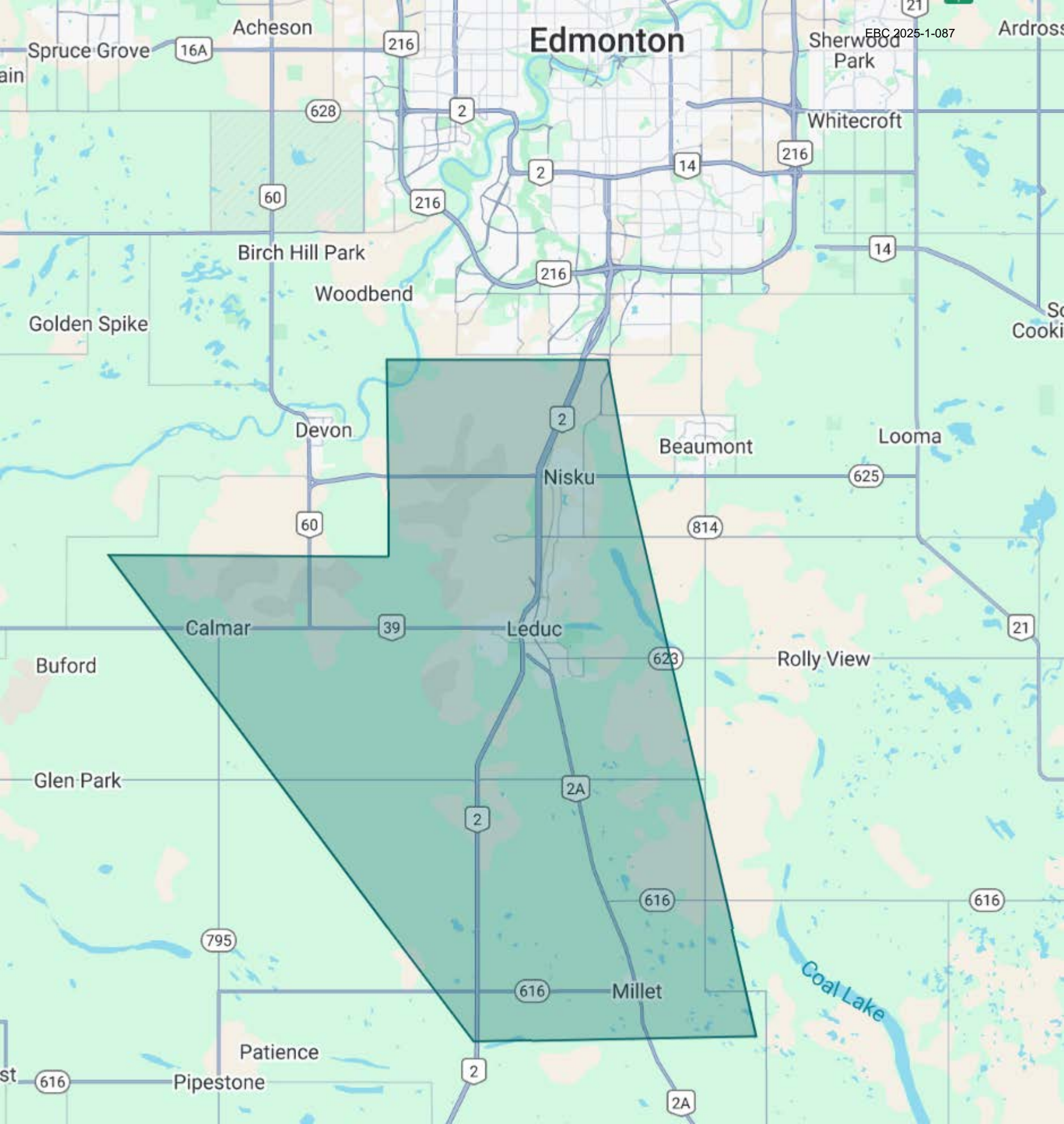
This proposed riding would be centered around the **City of Leduc**, with potential expansion to the south, east, or west to reflect its role as a growing regional hub.

- **Population & Growth:**
Leduc's current population is approximately **38,543** and is expected to grow significantly.
- Potentially adding the communities of Millet and Calmar as well as the surrounding areas (see proposed Map) would bring the population projections in-line with proposed targets, and compensate for the potential loss of the Beaumont population to the riding.
- **Geographic & Community Integration:**
Due to their geographic proximity and historical integration with the City, it is recommended that both Nisku and the Edmonton International Airport remain with Leduc.
- **Future Development Alignment:**
The City of Leduc has expressed interest in annexing land south of its current boundaries for residential development. Therefore, expanding the new riding south would be in alignment with this potential growth.

.

New Riding: Beaumont

- This new riding would consist primarily of the city of Beaumont and would be flexible in considering additional population centers in close proximity to reach population targets.
- Due to very strong population growth projections (5.83% and climbing) a new riding for Beaumont would have a logical case to be one of the ridings under the population target to accommodate for future growth.
- Beaumont acts as a primary non-Edmonton hub for regional economical and social activity in the region.
- As mentioned, there is some flexibility when considering pairing Beaumont with other population areas.





New submission from Max Amerongen

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

Date Thu 5/22/2025 12:39 PM

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



First Name

Max

Last Name

Amerongen

Municipality / City

Edmonton

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

My riding, Edmonton Highlands Norwood, has very effective boundaries. My MLA's office is accessible, and is able to effectively represent me, I think in large part due to the shared issues universal to neighborhoods across the riding. At other levels my neighbourhood has been included with far different contexts including the downtown core, and has even been located on the wrong side of the river, making representation difficult. I strongly support maintaining the current boundaries for Edmonton Highlands Norwood.

Address (Optional)

[REDACTED]

Phone (optional)

[REDACTED]

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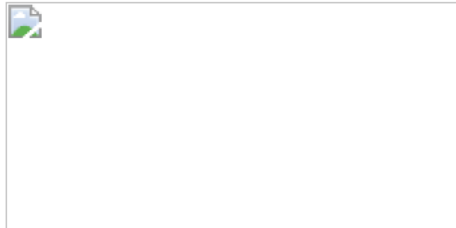
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Outlook

New submission from Soha Ahmad

From Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>**Date** Thu 5/22/2025 12:42 PM**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>

First Name

Soha

Last Name

Ahmad

Municipality / City

Calgary

Email**Message**

As a resident of NE Calgary, I would like to offer my perspective on why Conrich should be included in a Calgary-based constituency.

While it's technically part of Rocky View County, in reality, Conrich feels like part of Calgary's outer edge. The community is just minutes away from the city, if you didn't know the municipal boundary was there, you'd probably assume it was already part of Calgary. There's no real separation in terms of how people live. The residents of Conrich shop at the same stores, drive the same roads, access the same family doctors, and rely on city services that people in this part of Calgary rely on every day.

Conrich doesn't have its own local services, so residents naturally turn to Calgary for everything from work, shopping, healthcare, and places of worship. Their day-to-day life is centered in the city. From a representation standpoint, it makes sense that their MLA should be someone who understands and

advocates for Calgary's suburban communities, not rural areas that operate quite differently.

I understand that drawing boundaries is a complex process, but I believe the goal should be to reflect how people actually live, not just where jurisdictional lines happen to fall. Leaving Conrich in a rural district creates a mismatch. It puts people in a riding where the priorities and challenges are totally different from what they actually experience.

As Calgary keeps growing outward, communities like Conrich are part of that growth story. Including Conrich in a Calgary riding would ensure its residents have a voice that reflects their day-to-day reality.

I believe that's the kind of thoughtful, community-rooted representation we should be aiming for. And as someone who lives just down the road in NE Calgary, I can say it's long overdue.

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New submission from Lyndsey Henderson

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

Date Thu 5/22/2025 12:49 PM

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



First Name

Lyndsey

Last Name

Henderson

Municipality / City

Edmonton

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

I have worked in this constituency for nearly 20 years and feel strongly that the current boundaries should not be massively adjusted. The current boundaries keep the constituency within the logical bounds of 97 street and north of the yellowhead and ensure that the neighbourhoods represented are well defined as communities of common interest. These communities are often accessing the same recreation areas like Grand Trunk pool and recreation centre, common centres of commerce like 137 avenue, the small businesses in Rosslyn and Griesbach are very popular with surrounding neighbourhoods. There is a large proportion of newcomer Canadian populations throughout the constituency with many of their major faith centres being located in the constituency, including Al Rashid Mosque and Chin Yin Buddhist Temple. While the population estimate used by the commission currently has the population at -2.5% below the mean I would argue that the intense pace of new builds in Albany and Griesbach mean that we are likely a bit over the mean. Griesbach in particular has a large volume of high density developments being build with the entire north east quadrant of

the neighbourhood being planned for even more construction and density.

I believe the current boundaries go a long way to achieving the commission's guiding principles of equitable population distribution, communities of common interest, respecting natural geographic features and boundaries and effective representation.

I believe it would be a significant misstep to add a significant number of neighbourhoods to the constituency, causing it to be too high above the mean and diluting the ability for effective representation, specifically I would caution against pushing the constituency too far westward into neighbourhoods like Big Lakes, Trumpeter and Starling that are much more connected with the west end of edmonton versus the north west areas as well as traversing south of the yellowhead which is a well known major divider in Edmonton.

Phone (optional)



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Outlook

New submission from Judi Trelenberg

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

Date Thu 5/22/2025 1:03 PM

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



First Name

Judi

Last Name

Trelenberg

Municipality / City

Leduc County

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

We reside in the very northwest corner of the Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin riding at the corner of Hiway 814 and Airport Road. Our property is situated on the southeast side of this corner – [REDACTED]. I stand at the end of my driveway facing Airport Road and am in the Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin riding, but can throw a rock across the road and it lands in Leduc-Beaumont.

Could you please consider making Hiway 623 (Rolly View Road) or Hiway 616, the southern cut line instead of Airport Road to put us back into the Leduc-Beaumont riding? Many of us who live in this constituency commute, do our shopping, see doctors/dentists, use recreational facilities, etc. in either Leduc City and Beaumont. Wetaskiwin is the only major centre in the Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin riding. Most of us do not use its services on a regular basis as it can be well over 40+ minutes away while both Leduc City or Beaumont is 20 minutes at most. More importantly, the concerns within our area (roads, infrastructure,

etc.) are very, and conspicuously, different than those of Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin.

My apologies for not being more eloquent, however, being in a riding I have no or very little identity/interaction with, has been frustrating over the years. I see and have concerns within Leduc County, Leduc City and Beaumont I cannot speak freely on because the MLA for the Leduc-Beaumont riding is not my elected MLA. This frustration is also felt among my friends and family in New Sarepta and Rolly View who find themselves in this 'strip'. We need true local representation and presently feel fettered because boundaries set for the Leduc-Beaumont and Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin ridings do not make sense geographically.

This being said, it is important Beaumont NOT be amalgamated into an Edmonton riding. While some people living in Beaumont may work in Edmonton, the majority chose to live and raise their families in Beaumont and surrounding area, drawn to its rural, small town appeal. Should Beaumont be included in an Edmonton riding, concerns will never be given the same 'ear' they currently receive. Edmonton is large urban while Beaumont is small 'town' rural.

I hope this submission is given serious attention. While fully understanding constituencies are based on population numbers, in this instance, please consider how the Leduc County community is split, leaving constituents without meaningful representation. Put us back into Leduc-Beaumont please!

Thank you.

Judi Trelenberg

[REDACTED]

Address (Optional)

[REDACTED]

Phone (optional)

[REDACTED]

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Email info@abebc.ca



Written submission for 2025 Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission

From barbie.ivals@shaw.ca [REDACTED]
Date Thu 5/22/2025 1:25 PM
To Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>

 1 attachment (25 KB)
Boundaries Commission Written Submission.pdf;

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Hello,
Attached please find my submission for the current Boundaries Commission.

Sincerely,

Barbara Ivens

Hello. My name is Barbara Ivens and I live in NW Calgary in the neighbourhood of St. Andrews Heights located in the constituency of Varsity.

I have lived in my neighbourhood for approximately sixty-five plus years. In that time, I have witnessed the construction of the Foothills Hospital and the development and growth of the University of Calgary.

Most recently I watched the construction of the Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre which serves southern Alberta.

In the last twenty years the Foothills Hospital (now known as the Foothills Medical Facility) has grown substantially to become a world class medical research facility attached to the University of Calgary. Because of this rapid development there is occurring accelerated densification in the University District. Population at completion is estimated to be 14,000 to 15,000. In addition, changes to city zoning in Calgary have created additional residential building density in my neighbourhood.

Calgary Varsity is a highly educated, professional population. There are large numbers of health care workers, post secondary workers, researchers and students in addition to IT and resource economy professionals who access transit and infrastructure that are shared with other NW communities.

Population growth in Calgary since 2017 has risen by 300,000 plus. This population growth brings challenges unique to a large metropolitan center like Calgary. For example, homelessness, crime related to social disorder and economic inequality, housing issues, infrastructure demands ie new infrastructure and repair and maintenance of existing infrastructure and provision for cultural differences.

This reinforces the need to keep municipalities intact to provide adequate and nuanced representation for communities of interest.



Outlook

New submission from Catherine Roy

From Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>**Date** Thu 5/22/2025 1:44 PM**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>

First Name

Catherine

Last Name

Roy

Municipality / City

Edmonton

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

May 22, 2025

Submission to the Electoral Boundaries Commission

Dear Commission Members;

As a life-long Albertan, of a fourth generation settler family, I appreciate our province. Albertans thrive, not only in the industrial sector but also through the arts, and in our diverse cultural communities.

I am pleased to be able to take part in giving citizen input into the two new constituencies required by our growing population.

I have observed a distinct difference between urban and rural Albertans. I have made warm connections with people in agricultural communities. We share respect for others, a love of Alberta, and gratitude for our lives in Canada.

However – we differ in our understanding of issues that are important in each other's communities. For example- it is hard for a farm family to imagine the

disruption caused by thousands of homeless and by the Fentanyl crises in our cities. Likewise, city-dwellers lack understanding of the impact of fuel pricing and worker health and safety legislation on small, family-run farm businesses.

Because we have specific community identities it is essential that Alberta has a fair electoral map, keeping like communities together. We want to have effective representation by MLAs who truly speak for their community. A change that breaks up natural communities hurts the community's voice and can discourage participation in elections.

Alberta has grown by one million people since our last electoral map was drawn. Most of this growth has taken place in Edmonton south and Calgary north. The two additional legislative assembly seats must go to these large cities.

Thank you for your work on the new electoral boundary map. I appreciate the opportunity to add my thoughts.

Catherine Roy

[REDACTED]

Address (Optional)

[REDACTED]

Phone (optional)

[REDACTED]

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Electoral Boundaries Commission

Thank you for your service. I urge you to maintain voter trust in our democracy by ensuring equal and effective representation. Avoid mixing large urban and rural communities in ridings and strive for minimal population differences. Democracy relies on trust in "government of the people, by the people, for the people."¹ Large population discrepancies and mixing large urban and rural communities would undermine this, leading to gerrymandering, confusion, and mistrust.

My arguments for this recommendation are set forth below.

1. Risk of Ineffective Representation

Urban and rural communities often have fundamentally different priorities. Urban areas may focus on public transit, housing density, and infrastructure, while rural areas prioritize agriculture, land use, and access to basic services. Combining them can dilute the ability of either group to have their specific needs effectively represented. The blending of these distinct communities can lead to a situation where the unique issues of both urban and rural residents are inadequately addressed, thereby reducing the overall effectiveness of their representation.

2. Risk of Voter Confusion and Loss of Trust in Electoral System

While electoral boundaries aim for population parity, effective representation encompasses more than equal numbers; it includes geography, community history, and interests (Reference re Prov. Electoral Boundaries (Sask.), [1991] 2 S.C.R. 158). Rural areas often require larger geographic ridings due to sparse populations, challenging accessibility and representation. Combining these with urban areas exacerbates this issue, as representatives struggle to serve both urban and rural constituents due to significant travel distances and varying needs. Mixed ridings can also lead to voter confusion and reduced engagement, with constituents feeling overshadowed by the other group's concerns and unsure about whether to trust the system that treats them unfairly.

4. Risk of Political Gerrymandering

A significant argument against combining rural and urban areas within the same electoral riding is the risk of political gerrymandering. In cases where rural and urban populations have distinctly different voting patterns, merging these areas could be strategically used to dilute the voting power of one group, thereby benefiting the political interests of another. Such manipulation undermines the principles of fair and impartial boundary setting, ultimately compromising the integrity of the democratic process.

David J. Howard

██████████ Calgary AB ██████████

1 – President A. Lincoln Gettysburg Address November 19, 1863



Outlook

New submission from Mr Rob Cormier

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

Date Thu 5/22/2025 2:40 PM

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



First Name

Mr Rob

Last Name

Cormier

Municipality / City

Calgary

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

Electoral Boundaries - Calgary Glenmore

Dear Commissioners,

My wife and I and our son and daughter moved to Oakridge in early 2006 mainly because of its proximity to the Weaselhead Park and the Glenmore Reservoir. We love being close to nature and enjoy the many hiking trails throughout both natural areas.

Since retiring as a Project Manager in 2019, I've enjoyed daily hikes throughout the Weaselhead and along the Glenmore reservoir shore trail. During my daily hikes I occasionally run into the same regular hikers and cyclists using the same paved paths and woods trails. For example, Yagda and his dog Chinook from Palliser are regular visitors to the Weaselhead and we always stop and talk about the park and its wildlife and seasonal changes. Similarly when I see

Thomas from Lakeview riding his vintage bike along the shore trail, we always stop and compare notes about the wildlife: deer, coyotes, bobcats, and lately, the movements of beavers building a new lodge just north of Glenmore Landing. I regularly meet Stephen from North Glenmore along the Elbow River in the Weaselhead since he's an avid fisherman. What we all have in common is an intense love of these wonderful spaces in their rustic natural state, unspoiled by the modern city that completely surrounds us. We routinely pick up garbage or plastic and aluminum cans along the shoreline of the reservoir in order to preserve its beauty. We see ourselves as stewards of these natural spaces and care about their wellbeing.

Having the Weaselhead, Glenmore Reservoir and their surrounding communities like Oakridge and Lakeview within the boundary of Calgary-Glenmore Electoral District provides us with a single point of contact and dedicated MLA voice to the Legislature of Alberta for addressing issues regarding these natural resources, particularly in light of the impending redevelopment of Glenmore Landing and influx of new residents to our District. I am generally pleased with the current Electoral boundary of Calgary-Glenmore so long as the Weaselhead, Glenmore Reservoir and their surrounding communities are all maintained within its borders. I would not like to see any current community surrounding the Reservoir removed from our Calgary-Glenmore District.

I want to thank the Commission for allowing me this opportunity to express my view on our Electoral Boundaries.

Sincerely,

Mr Rob Cormier, PMP

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Address (Optional)

[REDACTED]

Phone (optional)

[REDACTED]

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EBC 2025-1-095



New submission from Anna Fiddler-Berteig

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

Date Thu 5/22/2025 2:57 PM

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



First Name

Anna

Last Name

Fiddler-Berteig

Municipality / City

Edmonton

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

Edmonton–North West really makes sense as a constituency because it follows the natural boundaries of this part of the city. Keeping all the communities north of the Yellowhead and west of 97th Street respects how people actually move around—those roads and divides are real in people's daily lives.

Even though the population here is currently about 2.5% below the average for a constituency, we're seeing a lot of growth—especially in Albany and Griesbach. If more neighbourhoods were added, it could push the numbers well above average pretty quickly, which wouldn't reflect the current balance.

The neighbourhoods in Edmonton–North West may vary in age, but the people here tend to share the same spaces—whether it's shopping centres, places of worship, or rec facilities. These shared connections really matter and speak to the idea of keeping "like communities" together, instead of combining very different parts of the city that don't interact much.

Demographically, the area is quite stable, with many newcomer families settling and building lives here. It's important to keep these communities connected to the supports they rely on, and to make sure their voices are heard in a way that reflects their shared experience. Keeping Edmonton–North West intact helps make that possible.

Address (Optional)

[REDACTED]

Phone (optional)

[REDACTED]

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Outlook

New submission from Jeff Baird

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

Date Thu 5/22/2025 3:24 PM

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



First Name

Jeff

Last Name

Baird

Municipality / City

Edmonton

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

Alberta needs to establish representative democracy, and stop the gerrymandering of electoral districts favouring rural votes up to 5:1 compared to urban votes.

Address (Optional)

[REDACTED]

Phone (optional)

[REDACTED]

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Observations about Edmonton Rutherford

Submission to Electoral Boundaries Commission

May 22, 2025

By Ellen Nygaard



Dear Commissioners:

I appreciate this opportunity to give my perspective of the community in which I live, how it has changed, and what I believe to be its main characteristics and concerns.

For context, I have been an Edmontonian most of my adult life, having arrived here in 1967 to attend the University of Alberta. Back then, Edmonton Rutherford did not exist by that name, and the area was only beginning to be developed as a residential suburb. The Whitemud Freeway and Southgate Mall were under construction. Fast forward to the year 2000: my family moved from the university area to Blue Quill in Edmonton Rutherford. Our house was built in 1976.

What was once a suburb on the edge of town is now a set of established neighbourhoods in central Edmonton. The LRT currently terminates in the middle of our riding but is currently being extended much further south. The area around Century Park LRT station is the site of transit-oriented development and will soon be filled with low- and high-rise apartments (owned and rented). It is likely to attract young people and new arrivals, including immigrants, because it is affordable and close to transit as well as other amenities.

Meanwhile, the predominantly single-family housing stock (most of it built between 1961 and 1980) is aging and so is the infrastructure around it such as streets, sewers, water lines, street lighting, trails, schools, strip malls and community leagues. The neighbourhoods are home to many seniors who are still living in the house they bought over 40 years ago. Most neighbourhoods include (by design) some medium-density rental housing (low-rise apartments and townhouses). In these latter areas are a lot of immigrants, singles, and single-parent families.

I have outlined these characteristics as context to the concerns that arise in such communities:

- Aging public infrastructure
- Need for accommodative services such as in health, education and transportation for special demographics such as seniors and recent immigrants

- Increasing incidence of low-income households because of recent immigration, aging, and desire to live in a central area to be close to public transit and other public services
- Stresses on road infrastructure due to the increase in commuters from newer areas passing through our communities

In short, our need for public services is strong and changing. We are no longer clamouring for new services in a rapidly expanding area, but our services and infrastructure nevertheless need to change and keep up to the realities of a mature urban community.

The above description would also likely apply to many constituencies and neighbourhoods “inside the Henday”.

As I understand it, the aims of the electoral boundaries review are to keep the population variation between ridings within an acceptable range, and to promote fair representation. To me, fair representation means, among other things, that there is enough commonality that the community’s needs can be well understood and represented. It also means that we are within any relevant natural boundaries.

As things stand, we are very slightly (4%) below the target riding size of about 55,000 people, and our boundaries are very sensible given the above criteria for fair representation. To me, this means that one possible fair outcome of your deliberations would be to leave Rutherford exactly as is.

However, I can see that the growing areas at and beyond the edges of Edmonton sometimes have populations far in excess of the target size. There will be two more seats in the Legislature but the large overall population increase in Alberta since the last boundaries were drawn likely means there will have to be some reshuffling in the city.

I strongly recommend, if boundaries within Edmonton are to be redrawn, that our neighbourhoods continue to be grouped with other mature, urban neighbourhoods because our commonalities with those neighbourhoods means that priorities and policies for such neighbourhoods will have the great possible relevance to our circumstances.

Thank you for considering my submission. I wish you the best in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Ellen Nygaard

Electoral Boundary Proposal for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul

Scott Cyr, MLA

Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul

Submitted to the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission

May 22, 2025

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 5. Projected Population Influx – 4 Wing Cold Lake
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 7. Proposed Boundary Changes
 8. Conclusion and Request
-

1. Introduction

This proposal is submitted in accordance with the mandate of the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission to ensure effective and fair representation for all Albertans. As the elected Member of the Legislative Assembly for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul, I am requesting that the western boundary of the constituency be redrawn to follow exactly the boundaries of the Municipal District of Bonnyville No. 87 and the County of St. Paul No. 19, including I.D. 349 (Cold Lake Air Weapons Range).

These changes have been presented to Glenn van Dijken, MLA for Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock, whose electoral district would be affected by the proposed adjustment, and he has been receptive to the potential changes.

2. Current Representation Challenges

Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul is currently serving an excessive population. Based on the 2021 census data, and excluding on-reserve First Nations populations, the total population is at least 61,829—well above the 58,504 upper limit derived from the 2017 electoral division average (46,803 with a 25% variance).

If we factor in off-reserve populations living provincially and continued migration to the area, the figure likely exceeds 70,000, creating an imbalance in representative access and effectiveness.

3. Population Data and Underrepresentation

The Electoral Boundaries Commission Act permits a population variance of $\pm 25\%$ from the provincial average population per constituency, which was established as 46,803 during the 2017 redistribution. This allows for a minimum of 35,102 and a maximum of 58,504 residents per electoral district.

The Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul constituency, as currently drawn, exceeds this upper limit significantly. Based on 2021 Statistics Canada data, the combined population of the Municipal District of Bonnyville, the City of Cold Lake, the Town of Bonnyville, the County of St. Paul, the Towns of Elk Point and St. Paul, and the various Metis settlements and First Nations (excluding on-reserve populations) totals approximately 61,829.

This figure is already 3,325 residents over the recommended limit. If more recent population increases are considered—based on continued economic growth, housing development, and school enrollments—our best estimate places the actual figure closer to 66,000 to 68,000 today. Including the on-reserve populations and federally excluded shadow population (discussed below), the actual service burden on this constituency could exceed 75,000 people.

To illustrate the breakdown more clearly:

Jurisdiction	2021 Population (census)
City of Cold Lake	~16,302
Town of Bonnyville	~6,404
MD of Bonnyville (excluding Cold Lake)	~12,847
County of St. Paul No. 19	~6,306
Town of St. Paul	~5,863
Town of Elk Point	~1,400

Village of Glendon	~516
Fishing Lake Métis Settlement	~551
Elizabeth Métis Settlement	~594
Kehewin First Nation (on-reserve only)	~1,183
Frog Lake First Nation (on-reserve only)	~1,850
Cold Lake First Nations (on-reserve only)	~1,322
Saddle Lake First Nations (on-reserve only)	~6,691
Subtotal (excluding off-reserve)	~61,829

This does not include the off-reserve populations of Cold Lake First Nations, Kehewin, and Saddle Lake Cree Nation, which could collectively add thousands more to the service demands of the local MLA.

The challenge here is not just statistical—it's practical. An MLA serving a population that far exceeds the legislated limits cannot effectively engage, advocate, or respond to constituents in a timely or personal manner. Constituency offices become overwhelmed, and the quality of democratic engagement suffers. With the added administrative and community demands placed on MLAs in rural constituencies—where services are farther apart and local governance often involves a higher number of distinct municipalities and First Nations—overrepresentation hits especially hard.

This overpopulation is not a temporary or transitional issue—it is systemic and projected to grow further. Without adjustment, Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul will remain among the most overpopulated constituencies in the province and will continue to violate both the letter and spirit of Alberta's representation laws.

4. Shadow Population Impact

Our constituency experiences a significant and ongoing impact from the shadow population, driven by our thriving oil and gas sector. Many skilled workers reside in the region temporarily while retaining homes elsewhere.

The shadow population is composed primarily of rotational workers, contract staff, and temporary employees who are attracted to the region by major oil sands, thermal, and gas extraction projects as well as infrastructure construction. These individuals often work fly-in/fly-out or drive-in/drive-out shifts and do not permanently relocate their families to the area, but they nonetheless require and consume local infrastructure, services, and community support.

Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul is uniquely positioned as a regional employment hub for northeastern Alberta. It contains a concentration of industrial activity that draws non-resident labour from across the province and country, particularly during project ramp-ups. Despite their temporary residence, these individuals impact local housing, transportation, healthcare, policing, emergency response, and recreational infrastructure.

A report prepared for the Northern Alberta Development Council (*Shadow Populations in Northern Alberta*, pages 13–14)¹ estimates that the Cold Lake region serves a population 29.5% higher than reported by federal census data. Municipal Affairs permits shadow populations to be counted in municipal censuses, but federal statistics do not account for them.

This discrepancy in population reporting significantly underrepresents the true service burden and democratic demand placed on the local MLA. While I understand the Commission is bound by federal numbers, it is essential to acknowledge that the population we serve in practice is vastly greater than the data suggests. This has real implications for the MLA's ability to provide effective representation.

5. Projected Population Influx – 4 Wing Cold Lake

The federal government's F-35 program will soon be hosted at 4 Wing Cold Lake. Based on analogous U.S. deployments scaled to Canada's smaller but concentrated base strategy, the anticipated population increases are significant:

Category	Estimated Numbers
Regular Military Personnel	1,500–2,000
Construction Staff (temp.)	300–500
Technical Contractors	150–250
Civilian Support Staff	100–200
Total Additions	2,050–2,950

These numbers do not include dependents. Factoring in families, the estimated population increase could reach between 6,000 and 9,000 individuals over the coming years.

¹ <https://www.nadc.ca/Docs/Shadow-Populations.pdf>

6. Economic Anchors and Future Growth

The Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul constituency is supported by a robust and diverse economic base, centered on two major pillars: agriculture and the energy sector. Together, they underpin the region's demographic stability and forecasted growth, making this area unique among rural Alberta constituencies.

The agricultural sector is deeply entrenched in the local economy, with both large-scale commercial operations and family-run farms producing grain, canola, cattle, and other livestock. These operations support a substantial network of supply-chain businesses including machinery sales and maintenance, input suppliers, transport companies, and agri-services. The dependable nature of agricultural employment provides year-round economic stability and fosters long-term residency in the region.

The energy sector—particularly oil and gas—remains the region's largest growth driver. Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul is home to some of Alberta's most strategic thermal oil operations and SAGD (steam-assisted gravity drainage) facilities, including projects run by Imperial Oil, Cenovus, CNRL, Osum, and Husky. These developments continue to attract significant private investment and are forecast to grow production in the next decade.

For example:

- Imperial Oil's Cold Lake Expansion Project proposes to increase production through in-situ solvent-assisted SAGD technology.
- Cenovus' Christina Lake Project and CNRL's Wolf Lake expansion are expected to increase regional employment and economic activity substantially.
- Husky's Tucker Thermal Project and Osum's Orion site have ongoing drilling and development phases that project continued worker influx through 2035.

The direct employment created by these projects is complemented by indirect jobs in construction, transport, logistics, hospitality, retail, and regional services. Economic multipliers from oil and gas wages fuel a local economy that supports a broad range of secondary businesses.

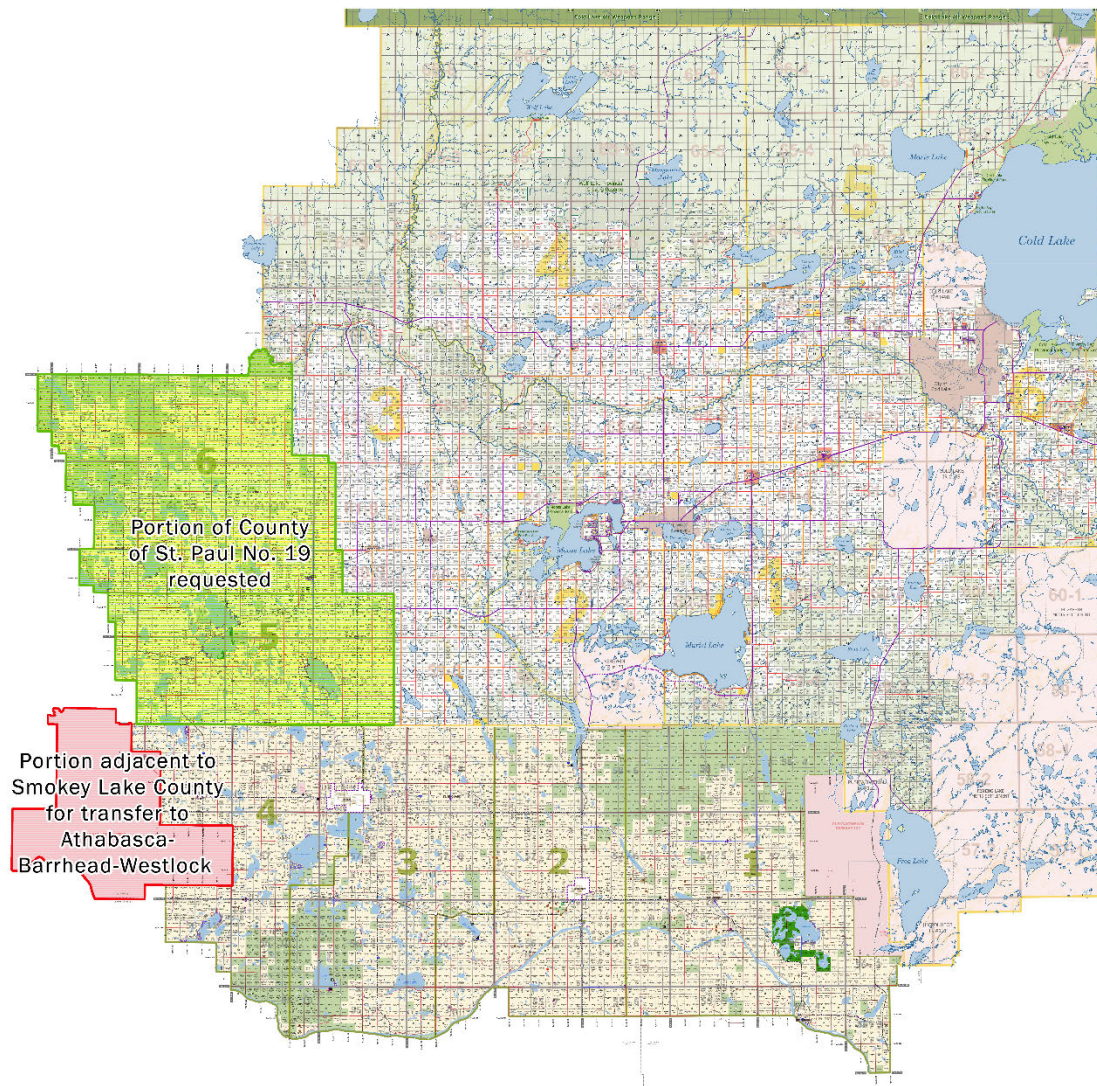
In addition, the province and private sector are actively investing in transportation, broadband, housing, and workforce training infrastructure to support and sustain this growth. The Cold Lake Regional Utility Services Commission and Bonnyville Regional Water Services Commission have undertaken major capital projects to meet increased demand for potable water and wastewater capacity.

All these factors contribute to steady in-migration from across Alberta and Canada, adding to the resident and shadow population alike. The long-term economic outlook for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul is therefore one of sustained growth, not contraction. This contradicts any assumption that the region is rural and stagnant; on the contrary, it is rural and thriving.

Failure to recognize the scale and permanency of this growth—alongside the realities of the shadow population—leads to underrepresentation of tens of thousands of Albertans. The

economic dynamism of this constituency must be accounted for when establishing boundaries that will shape representation for the next decade.

7. Proposed Boundary Changes



The above image is focused on the area of the proposed changes and does not show the northern part of the constituency, I.D. 349 which is part of both the current Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul constituency and the MD of Bonnyville and should remain so.

I am requesting the Commission adjust the western boundary of Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul to follow the full legal boundaries of:

- The Municipal District of Bonnyville No. 87 including its I.D. 349 (Cold Lake Air Weapons Range)
- The County of St. Paul No. 19

This realignment would:

- Transfer Saddle Lake Cree Nation from Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul and place it within Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock
- Reintegrate the northwestern portion of the County of St. Paul into Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul (currently part of Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock)

This change would reduce the constituency population by 6,691 (via the removal of Saddle Lake) and increase it slightly (by approx. 500–600) via the return of small communities including Mallaig (pop. ~210), Ashmont, McCrae, Boyne Lake, St. Vincent, Abilene, and Owlseye. The new total would be approximately 55,729—within the legal threshold for the moment.

Municipal and Electoral Clarity

The proposed boundaries would align electoral districts with municipal boundaries, eliminating confusion among residents. In the last election, residents in the northwestern portion of the County of St. Paul were unsure which constituency they belonged to.

The northwestern portion of the County of St. Paul naturally clusters with the MD of Bonnyville and the remainder of the County of St. Paul in terms of geography, service access, and economic ties. The current constituency boundaries do not follow any coherent geographical, cultural, or political rationale.

This adjustment was presented to MLA Glenn van Dijken, whose constituency would pass the northwestern portion of the County of St. Paul to Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul, and he has been receptive.

Saddle Lake Cree Nation and Representation

The scale of our overall population means that neither Saddle Lake residents nor the rest of the constituency are being adequately represented.

Demographically, Saddle Lake contributes 6,691 people to the current constituency population. This is over 10% of the total, and when added to the already high base population pushes Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul well past the legal population ceiling.

By transferring Saddle Lake to Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock, the population variance would be reduced from an overage to within the legislated limit. This adjustment not only enhances fairness but also enables more localized representation for Saddle Lake itself.

Saddle Lake residents vote on-reserve and do not experience the same polling confusion seen in the northwestern part of the county. Including them in a less overpopulated neighbouring constituency would allow for more equitable representation for all concerned.

This adjustment was presented to MLA Glenn van Dijken, who would receive Saddle Lake within Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock, and he has been receptive.

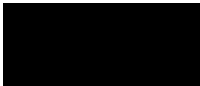
8. Conclusion and Request

To ensure fair representation and reduce systemic overpopulation in Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul, I respectfully request the Commission:

- Realign the constituency boundary to match the MD of Bonnyville and it's I.D. 349 and County of St. Paul precisely
- Transfer Saddle Lake Cree Nation to Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock
- Reinstate the northwestern portion of the County of St. Paul from Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock

These changes would restore demographic balance, enhance service alignment, and ensure communities are represented coherently and effectively. Thank you for your work and dedication to democratic fairness.


Sincerely,
Scott Cyr, MLA
Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul



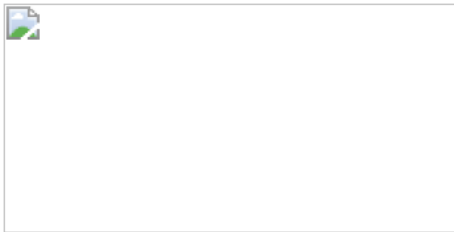


Outlook

New submission from Deniene Patriquin

From Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <abebc@patternhosting.com>**Date** Thu 5/22/2025 5:10 PM**To** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca> 1 attachment (15 KB)

Submission to the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission.docx;



First Name

Deniene

Last Name

Patriquin

Municipality / City

Calgary

Email**Message**

I am attaching my letter of submission regarding the upcoming boundary revisions.

File (Optional)

- [Submission-to-the-Alberta-Electoral-Boundaries-Commission.docx](#)

Address (Optional)**Phone (optional)**



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Submission to the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission

I am a resident of the Calgary Glenmore riding. I have had the privilege of living and working in both rural and urban Alberta throughout my life. That experience has shown me just how diverse our communities are. Each has its own concerns, priorities, and values. When electoral boundaries are drawn thoughtfully, all those voices can be brought together fairly in the Legislature.

Although I left the farm and moved to the city, I stayed connected to my rural roots. I returned home regularly, even after my father moved into a nearby town. That shift alone showed how different the concerns of town residents are from those living on the farm, both of which differed from the issues I encountered in the city. I spent most of my career working daily with rural oil and gas teams. Sadly, the divide between rural and urban is reinforced by common stereotypes: rural residents are often dismissed as less educated, while urban professionals are seen as out of touch and insulated. My background helped me bridge that gap, especially at rural town hall meetings. I understand that the concerns of both groups are equally valid and deserve to be heard.

That is why I am deeply concerned about the upcoming changes to Alberta's electoral boundaries. The commission has a difficult task: to add two new ridings and draw boundaries that are fair, practical, and reflect the lives of real people. While it may appear efficient on paper, combining rural and urban populations into a single riding risks muting the voices of both and silencing one.

Even within areas that share geography, it is difficult to balance competing priorities. When MLAs are expected to represent regions with very different needs, the result is often division. Some voices will inevitably go unheard, as it is difficult for one individual to argue for two sides of an issue. In Calgary Glenmore, for example, we are focused on transit, education, and social issues. In a rural farming community, the priorities are more likely to include water resources, land use, and basic infrastructure. Both are very different from a bedroom community like Okotoks. Asking one MLA to effectively represent more than one distinct group weakens everyone's voice.

Urban areas like Calgary also have natural demographic clustering. People with similar values, needs, and lifestyles tend to live in nearby neighbourhoods. This allows for more responsive, community-based representation. When boundaries are drawn through these communities, it breaks up that cohesion and undermines representation. People end up with MLAs who may not understand or reflect their lived experience.

Boundaries should reflect communities of interest, not just population numbers. Combining rural and urban communities undermines meaningful representation. We benefit when each community has an independent voice at the table. Diversity of perspectives leads to stronger, more balanced decisions that reflect the full range of Albertans' experiences.

I've voted for both the NDP and the UCP in the past. My concern here isn't about political advantage—it's about preserving democratic fairness. Our democracy only works if people

believe their vote counts and their voice is heard, whether they are in the majority or the minority.

There is also a matter of public trust. Confidence in political institutions is already low. Given the number of recent concerns involving the UCP, any changes that appear to benefit one party at the expense of others will be viewed with suspicion. Even if that is not the intent, the perception of gerrymandering can be just as damaging as the act itself. I understand this is a preliminary process and that some boundaries may need to change to add the two new ridings. But given the current political climate and the rural–urban divide in voting patterns, any shift that appears to dilute urban votes by folding in rural areas will be seen as partisan. That kind of move would erode trust and deepen cynicism—all of which undermines the effectiveness of democracy.

We need to strengthen representation, not weaken it. Alberta’s electoral map must reflect the real-life experiences and concerns of its people. Urban is urban. Rural is rural. And like-minded communities should have fair representation that reflects the diversity of our province. I urge the Commission to ensure that the two new ridings are added in a way that keeps communities whole and ensures each voice continues to matter.

Sincerely,

Deniene Patriquin