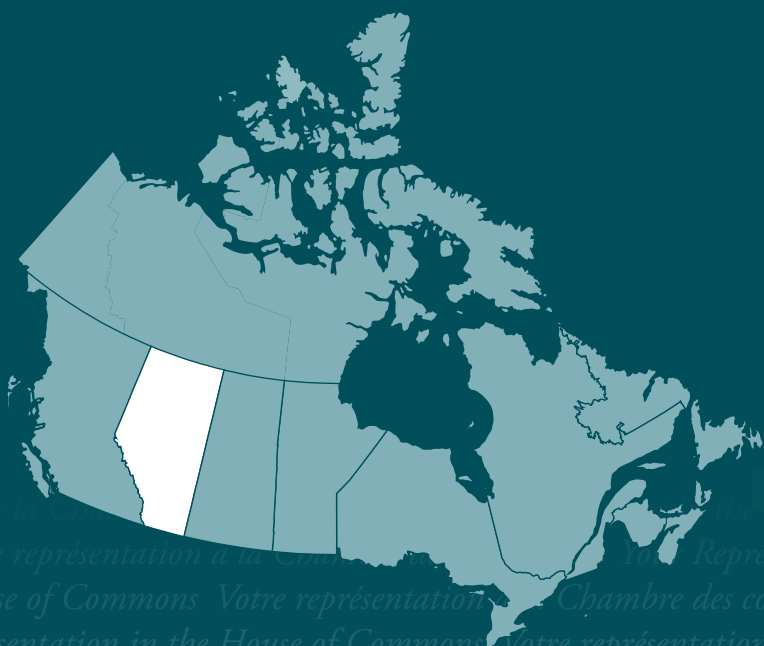




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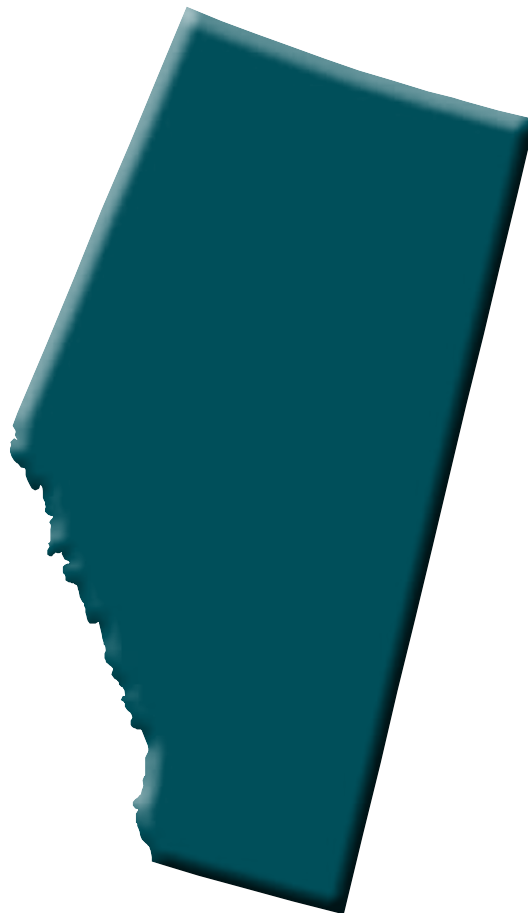
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**Report of the  
Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission  
for the Province of Alberta**

*2012*



Report of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Alberta

ISBN 978-1-100-22175-5

Cat. No.: SE3-23/9-2012-1E-PDF

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## Foreword

The *Report of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Alberta* (the “Report”) was completed on December 10, 2012, and tabled in the House of Commons on December 12, 2012. The Commission’s Report was then referred to the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs (the “Standing Committee”) on December 12, 2012, and members of Parliament were able to file objections relating to the Report. Ten objections to the Report were filed with the Standing Committee.

In accordance with subsection 22(3) of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. E-3 (the “Act”), the Forty-Third Report of the Standing Committee, the objections to the Commission’s Report, and the relevant minutes of proceedings and evidence were referred back to the Commission for consideration of the matter of the objections.

The initial version of the Report is included in this final Report in its entirety.

The new section titled “Addendum – Disposition of Objections” provides the Commission’s consideration and its disposition of objections. The changes are as follows:

1. The name of the electoral district Edmonton Callingwood changes to Edmonton West.
2. The electoral boundaries of Yellowhead and Red Deer—Wolf Creek are altered; the County of Ponoka, in its entirety, has been placed in the electoral district of Red Deer—Wolf Creek.
3. The electoral boundaries of Calgary Skyview and Calgary Forest Lawn are altered; a small geographic section from the electoral district of Calgary Forest Lawn has been moved into Calgary Skyview.
4. The electoral boundaries of Foothills and Medicine Hat are altered; the communities residing in the area between the Waterton and Belly rivers have been moved to the Foothills electoral district, with the exception as described further on.

These adjustments and reasons for the changes are provided in the Addendum and in the “Amendments to Schedule B” section of this amended Report.

In all other respects, the Commission’s Report of December 10, 2012, is unaltered.

# Report

Report

(as of December 10, 2012)



# Introduction

## Establishment of the Commission

The 2012 Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Alberta (the “Commission”) was established pursuant to the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. E-3, as amended (the “Act”) to reconfigure the boundaries of Alberta’s federal electoral districts, which are the basis for representation in the House of Commons. The Commission is an independent, three-person body responsible for defining the sizes, boundaries and names of the federal electoral districts within the Province of Alberta.

The number of electoral districts in the House of Commons, and for each province, is determined by the formula and rules set out in the *Constitution Act, 1867*. Applying those rules, the total number of seats in the House of Commons will increase from 308 to 338 in this redistribution, and the number of seats allocated to the Province of Alberta will increase from 28 to 34.

The federal electoral boundaries of each province in Canada must be readjusted following each decennial census to accommodate new electoral districts and the growth, shifts and changes in population since the last readjustment of boundaries.

The Chair of the Commission, appointed by the Chief Justice of Alberta, is the Honourable Madam Justice Carole Conrad of the Court of Appeal of Alberta. The other members of the Commission, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Commons, are Mr. Edwin Eggerer of Airdrie, a realtor and former returning officer in 10 federal elections, and Ms. Donna R. Wilson of Edmonton, an election specialist and a returning officer in 8 federal elections.

Ms. Joanne G  r  mian, a skilled geography specialist seconded to the Commission by Elections Canada, provided invaluable expert assistance in preparing the electoral boundaries maps and descriptions. The Commission benefitted from the proficient support of Ms. Ooldouz Sotoudehnia, the Commission Secretary.

## Principles Governing the Commission

The principles set forth in the Act govern the readjustment of federal electoral boundaries. Paragraph 15(1)(a) of the Act provides that the division of the province into electoral districts and the description of the boundaries “shall proceed on the basis that the population of each electoral district ... shall, as close as reasonably possible, correspond to the electoral quota for the province”. This principle is often referred to as population parity, and its rationale rests in the democratic principle of one person, one vote.

Parity is not the sole consideration. The Commission must also consider the following criteria set forth in paragraph 15(1)(b):

- (i) the community of interest or community of identity in or the historical pattern of an electoral district in the province, and
- (ii) a manageable geographic size for districts in sparsely populated, rural or northern regions of the province.

Where the Commission considers it necessary or desirable with regard to these considerations, it may deviate from strict population parity. In such cases, deviation from the province’s electoral quota shall not exceed 25% more or less, unless the Commission views the circumstances as being extraordinary (subsection 15(2) of the Act).



The 2011 population count as determined by Statistics Canada provides the basis for the redistribution of electoral districts under the Act. Between the 2001 and the 2011 censuses, Alberta's population count increased from 2,974,807 to 3,645,257. The electoral quota for Alberta is obtained by dividing the 2011 Alberta census population count of 3,645,257 by 34 (the number of electoral districts), for an electoral quota of 107,213. Alberta's electoral quota is the highest in Canada.

The Supreme Court of Canada dealt with the issue of population parity and deviations in *Reference re Provincial Electoral Boundaries (Sask.)*,<sup>1</sup> where it found that the right to vote enshrined in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*<sup>2</sup> is the right to effective representation.<sup>3</sup> The majority of the court noted that while a citizen's vote should not be unduly diluted, absolute parity is impossible and relative parity may detract from the goal of effective representation. McLaughlin J. (as she then was) stated at para. 55:

It emerges therefore that deviations from absolute voter parity may be justified on the grounds of practical impossibility or the provision of more effective representation. Beyond this, dilution of one citizen's vote as compared with another's should not be countenanced. I adhere to the proposition asserted in *Dixon, supra*, at p. 414, that "only those deviations should be admitted which can be justified on the ground that they contribute to better government of the populace as a whole, giving due weight to regional issues within the populace and geographic factors within the territory governed."

In summary, the overarching principle of the Act is to ensure that each electoral district shall, as closely as reasonably possible, correspond to the electoral quota for the province. The Commission must also consider communities of interest, communities of identity, historical patterns and geographic size when drawing electoral boundaries. When the Commission determines that it is either necessary or desirable to deviate from population parity in the interest of effective representation, it has the discretion to do so within the limits of the legislation.

## The Proposal

The Commission was established on February 21, 2012, and commenced its work within the framework of the Act. The Act requires each province's commission to prepare a proposed redistribution plan (the "Proposal") and hold at least one public hearing following advertisement of the proposed electoral districts in the *Canada Gazette* and at least one newspaper of general circulation. Notice of the times and places fixed for any public hearings is also included in the advertisements.

Prior to preparing its Proposal, the Commission, through its website, invited brief comments and suggestions from the public and received more than 80 responses. The public input was informative and useful. The Commission also had access to data from Natural Resources Canada and the Chief Statistician of Canada. In preparing its Proposal, the Commission reviewed the transcripts of the 2002 public hearings. It also considered general public information about the province, including geographical information, history, regional plans, maps, First Nations reserves and Métis settlements. The Commission did not consider any polling or voting data.

The Commission's Proposal was published in the *Canada Gazette* on July 14, 2012, inserts were placed in three newspapers, quarter-page advertisements appeared in 118 publications throughout the province. The Proposal and hearings schedule were also posted on the Commission website.

<sup>1</sup> *Reference re Provincial Electoral Boundaries (Sask.)*, [1991] 2 S.C.R. 158.

<sup>2</sup> *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, s. 2, Part I, *Constitution Act, 1982*, being Schedule B to the *Canada Act 1982 (U.K.)*, 1982, c. 11.

<sup>3</sup> *Reference re Provincial Electoral Boundaries (Sask.)*, *supra* note 1, citing *Dixon v. B.C. (A.G.)*, (1986) 7 B.C.L.R. (2d) 174.

## Preparation of the Report

Following the public hearings, the Commission reviewed its Proposal, made revisions and prepared this report for presentation to the House of Commons. The report sets out the decisions of the Commission concerning the division of the province into electoral districts, the description and boundaries of the districts, and the population and name to be given to each district. This report will be forwarded to the Chief Electoral Officer no later than December 21, 2012, and he will transmit it to the Speaker of the House of Commons for review by a parliamentary committee. Any objections filed with that committee by members of the House of Commons are returned to the Commission for consideration. The Commission makes such changes as it deems necessary and returns its final report to the Chief Electoral Officer for implementation.

## Structure of the Report

The remainder of this report will cover the following topics:

- an overview of public hearings
- name changes and reasons for them following the public hearings
- readjustments to boundaries and reasons for them following the public hearings

Schedule A provides a list of the 34 electoral districts, together with the populations and the percentage by which each electoral district deviates from the electoral quota. Schedule B sets out the boundary descriptions and names of the 34 electoral districts. Maps follow in the last section.

## The Public Hearings

The Proposal was discussed at 15 public hearings held during September 2012 at the following places:

Barrhead	Monday, September 10, 2012
Grande Prairie	Monday, September 10, 2012
Peace River	Tuesday, September 11, 2012
Fort McMurray	Tuesday, September 11, 2012
Vegreville	Wednesday, September 12, 2012
Edmonton	Wednesday, September 12, 2012
Edmonton	Thursday, September 13, 2012
Edmonton	Thursday, September 13, 2012
Camrose	Friday, September 14, 2012
Lethbridge	Tuesday, September 18, 2012
Strathmore (cancelled)*	Tuesday, September 18, 2012
Red Deer	Wednesday, September 19, 2012
Red Deer	Wednesday, September 19, 2012
Calgary	Monday, September 24, 2012
Calgary	Monday, September 24, 2012
Calgary	Tuesday, September 25, 2012

\*The public hearing that was scheduled for Strathmore was cancelled as the only registered presenter agreed to present in Lethbridge.

The Commission received 164 notices to appear at the public hearings, although not all registered persons appeared. Time permitted submissions from the floor at each hearing, resulting in a total of 154 oral presentations; this included presentations from three sitting members of Parliament. The Commission received 383 written submissions from persons and organizations, all of which were considered in preparation of the Commission's report. The written material ranged from formal submissions with accompanying maps to brief faxes and e-mail messages.

At the public hearings, the Commission thanked the public for its participation and reviewed its statutory mandate under section 15 of the Act. The Commission explained the requirement to seek population parity where reasonably possible, the need to consider the criteria outlined in paragraph 15(1)(b), and the right to deviate where it was deemed necessary or desirable.

The public hearings provided valuable information about factors such as geography, history, and communities of interest and identity in relation to the federal electoral boundaries. At every hearing, the Commission gained local knowledge that assisted in its deliberations. The need to balance various competing interests, however, inevitably led to not all requests being accommodated.

The Commission's Proposal met with considerable approval from presenters and from many correspondents. Many expressed support for the low deviations from the electoral quota. In Edmonton and Calgary, presenters expressed general satisfaction with the boundaries, and most requests for change relating to the two major cities were minor.

The Proposal also attracted negative comments, particularly in relation to the geographic size of the proposed electoral district of Peace River—Westlock. In addition, presenters from various areas expressed concerns with some of the following: electoral district names; combinations of rural and urban interests; placement in one electoral district over another; hidden and shadow populations; anticipated population growth; and disassociation from shopping, social and recreational networks.

Concerns were also expressed about the division of specific counties and municipalities. When drawing boundaries, the Commission considered existing boundaries of federal electoral districts, provincial electoral districts, counties and municipalities, and followed those boundaries where practical. After the hearings, the Commission considered the requests to unite municipalities and counties; it was able to accommodate some, but not all, requests. Although coterminous boundaries help maintain communities of interest and ease administrative communications, federal policies are not generally determined on the basis of municipal boundaries and the Commission occasionally found it necessary or desirable to divide counties.

Following the hearings, the Commission reviewed all of the electoral districts and revisited many of the electoral boundaries. As a result of the constructive input received, the Commission has made boundary changes to 20 of the 34 proposed electoral districts. Those changes vary from significant to minor. Names of five proposed electoral districts have also been changed.

The Commission remains satisfied that no extraordinary circumstances exist to require a deviation from the province's electoral quota by more or less than 25%. The largest electoral district has a 2011 census population count of 111,785, which is 4.26% above the electoral quota; the smallest has a population of 101,538, which is 5.29% below the electoral quota.

## Name Changes and Reasons Following the Public Hearings

### Electoral District Name Changes

At the public hearings, several presenters suggested name changes. The Geographical Names Board of Canada provides guidelines for names of federal electoral districts. Those guidelines suggest that a name should provide an immediate sense of the province and, if possible, the region or part of the province in which the district is located. Names of places and features should be given priority, and names of persons should generally be avoided unless they have a long-established and generally accepted association with an area.

The Commission's search for a unique physical or historical feature that readily identified an electoral district was not always successful. Sometimes the name of a community within the electoral district that was well known, historical or descriptive seemed the best choice.

A few presenters urged retention of directional names for electoral districts in large cities. In particular, many presenters requested that the name of Edmonton Centre be retained in place of the proposed Edmonton McDougall. The Commission moved away from quadrant and directional descriptors, viewing them as less effective as city growth continues. Nonetheless, having regard to the strong desire expressed for the name Edmonton Centre, its central location, and the retention of the name Calgary Centre, the Commission grants that request.

Other comments in Edmonton related to the proposed names of Edmonton Callingwood, Edmonton Manning and Edmonton Griesbach. The name Edmonton Callingwood is retained as Callingwood is a central community in the electoral district and contains a prominent recreation centre with its name. The Commission considered Edmonton Manning an appropriate identifier because of the prominence of Manning Drive as a major road in that electoral district. Similarly, Griesbach was a well-known military base once situated in the electoral district, and the name continues to identify that area of the city. The Commission did not consider any suggested alternative names for those three electoral districts to be preferable.

In Calgary, some presenters objected to the name Calgary Spy Hill because of its association with a correctional institute and a landfill. Others objected to Calgary McCall, noting that confusion arises where federal and provincial electoral districts with the same name are not coterminous. The opposition to the names Calgary Spy Hill and Calgary McCall are accepted and new names set forth below. The Commission found the suggested names of Crowchild, Deerfoot, Country Hills and Stony Trail inappropriate because of their association with multiple electoral districts.

The Commission continues to view Signal Hill and Nose Hill as excellent geographic features identifying the associated electoral districts. Similarly, because Forest Lawn and Midnapore were once the names of small towns in the area, those names maintain an historical connection and serve as excellent identifiers of the associated electoral districts. The Commission also retains the name Calgary Shepard, which provides a link to the district's past. Shepard was a Canadian Pacific Railway station in 1884 and a hamlet prior to annexation. The former Shepard Racetrack also ties the name to the district.

Requests were also made to retain the name Crowfoot in the renamed electoral district of Battle River. Although Crowfoot and Crowfoot Creek lie outside of the geographic area of Battle River, the Commission recognizes the historical connection of many parts of the electoral district with the name Crowfoot and changes the name to Battle River—Crowfoot.

Following reconfiguration of the northern electoral district, the name Fort McMurray—Athabasca is no longer appropriate; it is changed to Fort McMurray—Cold Lake.

In summary, the following changes to the proposed names are adopted by the Commission:

1. Fort McMurray—Athabasca becomes Fort McMurray—Cold Lake
2. Edmonton McDougall becomes Edmonton Centre
3. Calgary Spy Hill becomes Calgary Rocky Ridge
4. Calgary McCall becomes Calgary Skyview
5. Battle River becomes Battle River—Crowfoot

## Readjustments to Boundaries and Reasons Following the Public Hearings

### Overview

The creation of six new electoral districts, combined with a significant population shift to urban centres, resulted in a new electoral district landscape for Alberta. As new electoral boundaries were drawn, existing boundaries were inevitably impacted, and all electoral districts in Alberta have been altered – some more substantially than others.

When preparing this report, the Commission was governed by its constitutional and statutory obligations to keep the electoral districts as close to the electoral quota as reasonably possible. At the same time, as required by section 15 of the Act, the Commission considered the communities of interest or identity, the historical pattern, and the manageable geographic size of each district when determining whether deviation from the electoral quota was either necessary or desirable to achieve fair and effective representation. The Commission considered the topography of each district and the impact of its geographic size on representation, particularly in the northern, rural and less populated areas of Alberta.

Considering all of the criteria enumerated in section 15 of the Act, the Commission is satisfied that the redistribution of electoral districts in Alberta is appropriate for effective representation.

### General Comments on Regions

#### Northern Alberta

Alberta's two existing northern electoral districts of Peace River and Fort McMurray—Athabasca comprise approximately one half of the land mass of Alberta, with only 7.2% of the population. The current electoral district of Peace River is large in terms of both geography and population. At the time of the last redistribution in 2001, Peace River had a population of 123,877, which was 16.6% over the electoral quota. By 2011, the population count had grown to 150,925, representing a 40.8% deviation above the current electoral quota. Fort McMurray—Athabasca's population grew from 88,882 in 2001 to 115,372 in 2011, resulting in a 7.6% deviation above the current electoral quota.

In view of the large deviations above the quota, the Commission determined in its Proposal that the north required additional representation.



### ***Peace River—Westlock, Grande Prairie***

The Commission considered the creation of one electoral district across the northern reaches of the province, as recommended by the last commission, but found that such a solution remained unworkable due to the continued absence of a viable east–west transportation route.

As such, to create an additional electoral district serving the north, the Commission extended the southern boundary of Peace River to include the counties of Westlock, Barrhead and Woodlands, and proposed a new electoral district named Peace River—Westlock. It also proposed a second electoral district named Grande Prairie, comprising the City of Grande Prairie and the surrounding area. The proposed Grande Prairie electoral district was considerably smaller than the proposed Peace River—Westlock electoral district.

At the public hearings, presenters voiced concerns about the geographic size of the newly created northern electoral district of Peace River—Westlock. In particular, disquiet was expressed about distances, travel times and the separation between people north and south of the sparsely populated area around Fox Creek and Swan Hills. Presenters noted that the Peace River area has different trading partners and different communities of interest and identity than the southern counties. Some presenters suggested that the Commission should deviate well below the electoral quota in all northern districts, rather than expand south for more population.

The Commission recognizes that the north has always consisted of a vast geographic region with a multiplicity of interests, including numerous First Nations reserves and Métis settlements. The Commission is satisfied that the counties of Barrhead, Westlock and Woodlands are a reasonable fit with many of the communities in the north. The inclusion of the southern counties in the electoral district of Peace River—Westlock is desirable to increase representation in the northwest.

The Commission notes that the communities throughout the proposed electoral district of Peace River—Westlock, including the southern counties, share many economic interests such as agriculture, forestry, lumber, and resource services and development. Whitecourt, Barrhead and Westlock are located on established transportation routes, serving as gateways and service providers to the north. At the public hearings, the Commission was informed that the oil and gas industry in Peace River would rival that of Fort McMurray in 20 years. Further resource development will inevitably continue to strengthen commonalities along the north–south corridors as service providers travel north to support expansion of the resource industry.

Furthermore, technological advances continue to facilitate representation in the north. Information technology and social media provide linkage among people and communities. Technology has aided and will continue to aid communication. This remains true despite the fact that not all remote areas have high-speed connectivity. Moreover, the expansion of industry in the north will improve access to technology.

In addition, monetary allowances further facilitate representation in northern regions. Elected representatives have access to the electoral supplement based on population, and monetary allowances for geographically large and remote districts.

The Commission remains convinced that the southern counties are an appropriate fit. As a result of public consultation, however, the Commission agrees that a reconfiguration of the northern electoral districts is desirable.

In particular, the Commission determined that the geographic size of northwest Alberta should be more equitably divided between the two northwest electoral districts. Accordingly, in this report, the geographic size of the electoral district of Peace River—Westlock is decreased, and that of Grande Prairie is enlarged. Alberta's northern region will be better served by sharing the representation of the sparsely populated, less accessible northern area of the province. This reconfiguration allows two members of Parliament to share the travel and duties of representing the far north.

The northern boundary of the Grande Prairie electoral district will now reach the Northwest Territories and extend east to meet the western boundary of the electoral district of Fort McMurray—Cold Lake. The new northern boundary keeps the Little Red River Cree Nation, the Tallcree First Nation and the Beaver First Nation together within the Peace River—Westlock boundaries, while the Dene Tha' First Nation reserves and the Town of High Level are within the electoral district of Grande Prairie. The Municipal District ("MD") of Fairview No. 136, the MD of Peace No. 135 and Birch Hill County are placed in the Peace River—Westlock electoral district. Both northern electoral districts share interests, and although the City of Grande Prairie has urban interests, those are intermixed with the interests of neighbouring communities. The new configuration provides a more equitable sharing of the representational duties. Moreover, the new configuration of Peace River—Westlock has the advantage of reducing the distance from the southeastern to the northwestern corner of the electoral district, a subject of complaint at the public hearings.

The present electoral district of Peace River, currently served by one elected representative, is 162,871 km<sup>2</sup>. The newly created Peace River—Westlock is 105,925 km<sup>2</sup>, while the new Grande Prairie is 109,194 km<sup>2</sup> – both significantly smaller than the current Peace River electoral district.

The Commission is satisfied that the two electoral districts of Grande Prairie and Peace River—Westlock are an improvement in terms of both geographic size and population. Members of Parliament may find ways to work together to serve the north, and the Commission is satisfied that the far north will be better served by having two representatives.

In summary, although geographic size is always a consideration when drawing northern boundaries, the Commission is satisfied that fair and effective representation can occur within the established electoral districts, and that a larger deviation from the electoral quota is neither necessary nor desirable.

### ***Fort McMurray—Cold Lake***

Representatives of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo urged the Commission to create an electoral district named Fort McMurray, comprised of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and Improvement District No. 24 ("ID No. 24"). This presentation relied on the hidden and shadow populations and the anticipated growth around Fort McMurray. Representatives alternatively suggested that if the Commission were not prepared to so limit the electoral district, the City of Cold Lake and Lac La Biche County, which share heavy oil and work camp issues, would be a better fit with Fort McMurray than is the farming community of Athabasca.

The Commission acknowledges that hidden and shadow populations exist in and around Fort McMurray but notes that, although not as significant, hidden and shadow populations exist in various areas province-wide. During the public hearings, the Commission heard many arguments across the province relating to the fact that the 2011 population figures are not accurate or current due to hidden populations and development since the census. The electoral quota, however, is based on the 2011 census population count, and the Act mandates the Commission to create electoral districts with populations “as close as reasonably possible ... to the electoral quota”. Thus, it is the population count of 2011 – not the population count of 2011 plus the hidden population, actual development and anticipated development – that must be measured against the electoral quota.

Moreover, if the Commission were to engage in determining an actual population count for one electoral district as opposed to relying on the 2011 population count from Statistics Canada, then in fairness to all, the Commission would have to engage in a guessing game about actual populations across the province. It is not the role of the Commission to calculate a different population number than what is provided by Statistics Canada.

The Commission recognizes that populations are not static and change between censuses. The Commission is also aware that it can consider such factors as geography, transportation, municipal and natural boundaries, and growth projections when it creates electoral districts and determines deviation from strict equality.<sup>4</sup> Nonetheless, the Commission considers it neither necessary nor desirable to deviate from population parity to the extent required to create an electoral district comprised of only the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and ID No. 24.

However, in light of representations concerning Athabasca, Thorhild, Cold Lake, Fort McMurray and Smoky Lake, the Commission concluded that some reconfiguration in northeastern Alberta would yield preferable federal electoral districts. For example, several presenters requested that the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range be united with the Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake.

With consideration for the common interests throughout Cold Lake, Lac La Biche and the Fort McMurray area, the Commission has therefore reconfigured the northeastern electoral districts. The Fort McMurray—Cold Lake electoral district will include the City of Cold Lake, the northern portion of the MD of Bonnyville No. 87, Lac La Biche County, ID No. 24, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, and most of the MD of Opportunity No. 17. The communities of Trout Lake and Peerless Lake, due to the location of the sole access road, remain in the electoral district of Peace River—Westlock. As discussed under the heading “Eastern Alberta” below, Athabasca County is moved to the new electoral district of Lakeland.

The Commission recognizes that Fort McMurray—Cold Lake’s deviation of 5.29% below the electoral quota is the largest in the province, but considers this deviation desirable in order to implement the proposed configuration and to take into consideration anticipated growth.

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<sup>4</sup> *Reference re Provincial Electoral Boundaries (Sask.)*, *supra* note 1.



## Eastern Alberta

Two rural electoral districts were proposed along Alberta's eastern border between the existing electoral districts of Medicine Hat and Fort McMurray—Athabasca, namely, Lakeland and Battle River.

Common ground existed among several presenters in asserting that Athabasca County would be more connected with such communities as Slave Lake, Westlock, Smoky Lake, Thorhild and Barrhead than with Fort McMurray. Presenters noted that Smoky Lake preferred to remain in an electoral district with the communities belonging to the existing Westlock—St. Paul district. The Commission accepts that Athabasca County has more in common with the communities in Lakeland than it does with Fort McMurray. As a result of readjustments to the southern boundary of Fort McMurray—Cold Lake and presentations at the public hearings, the Commission has now adjusted the boundaries of Lakeland to exclude Cold Lake and the surrounding area, and to include the counties of Athabasca, Smoky Lake and Thorhild.

The member of Parliament for Crowfoot made representations to retain the name Crowfoot as part of the renamed electoral district (proposed as Battle River). As noted above, that request is granted. The member of Parliament expressed satisfaction with the proposed electoral district but suggested that Special Areas No. 2 and 3 be included, indicating no concern about the increased geographic size that would result. A resolution of the town council of Oyen was subsequently received, similarly requesting that the Town of Oyen (in Special Area No. 3) remain in the new Battle River—Crowfoot electoral district.

At the public hearing, two presenters spoke to the inclusion of the Town of Tofield (in particular), Beaver County and perhaps Wainwright County in the electoral district of Lakeland. Several presenters and a petition asked that the portion of Red Deer County containing the villages of Delburne and Elnora be moved from the electoral district of Battle River—Crowfoot to Red Deer—Mountain View.

The Commission considered the above requests. It was not convinced that the northern boundary of Battle River—Crowfoot should change, and considered the commonalities within both electoral districts appropriate for effective representation. As a result, the proposed east-west boundary dividing Lakeland and Battle River—Crowfoot along the county boundaries between highways 14 and 16 is, for the most part, retained.

As a result of the representations and reconsideration of the province's southern electoral districts, the Commission has reconfigured Battle River—Crowfoot to include Special Areas No. 2 and 3 and the MD of Acadia No. 34, as described in Schedule B. The Commission has also been convinced by the public input to move the portion of Red Deer County containing Elnora and Delburne from Battle River—Crowfoot to Red Deer—Mountain View.

The Commission is satisfied that these changes to the eastern electoral districts are an improvement. Both electoral districts maintain their rural character and share many interests and communities of identity which can be fairly and effectively represented. It considers the small deviations from the electoral quota desirable.

## Calgary

The City of Calgary's population has increased significantly since the 2001 decennial census, growing from 878,866 to 1,096,833 in 2011. The practice of annexation prior to development historically led to federal electoral districts lying within existing city limits. To respect the community of urban interests, the Commission's Proposal maintained electoral districts within the municipal boundaries of Calgary.

Two new electoral districts were proposed, one in the south and one in the northwest, increasing Calgary's electoral districts from 8 to 10. The average deviation from the electoral quota was +2.30% for the 10 districts. The Commission's allocation of 10 electoral districts within the city boundaries was well received at the public hearings, and suggestions for change were minor.

One presenter, noting that Calgary is still under-represented, recommended boundaries drawn on a regional, rather than a municipal, basis. This approach could result in 13 electoral districts in the Calgary area with less deviation. For example, hybrid electoral districts might combine parts of east Calgary with the Town of Chestermere, north Calgary with the City of Airdrie, or south Calgary with the Town of Okotoks.

Hybrid electoral districts may be desirable by the next redistribution. However, the Commission is satisfied that the already small deviations are desirable because they maintain the 10 electoral districts within city limits. The general acceptance of the Proposal supports this view.

The newly created electoral district in south Calgary resulted in three southern electoral districts named Calgary Heritage, Calgary Midnapore and Calgary Shepard. All three electoral districts extended to the southern city limits, where anticipated future population growth could be shared. The eastern electoral districts were named Calgary Forest Lawn and Calgary McCall (changed in this report to Calgary Skyview).

The second newly created electoral district in the northwest resulted in four electoral districts named Calgary Signal Hill, Calgary Spy Hill (changed in this report to Calgary Rocky Ridge), Calgary Nose Hill and Calgary Confederation. Calgary Centre retained its name, although its boundaries were extended south to Glenmore Trail.

At the hearings, presenters recommended that several communities be exchanged between two electoral districts to keep communities of interest together. The Commission accepts that the following changes to the Proposal are an improvement:

1. The community of Whitehorn is moved to the electoral district of Calgary Skyview to reunite it with the community of Temple. The community of Coral Springs and a portion of the community of Monterey Park are moved to Calgary Forest Lawn. This creates appropriate populations and unites the community of Monterey Park within one electoral district.
2. The community of Dalhousie is moved to the electoral district of Calgary Confederation, and the community of Silver Springs is moved to the electoral district of Calgary Rocky Ridge. This adjustment was requested, by written submission, to avoid isolating Silver Springs by a golf course and ravine. The Commission agrees that drawing the boundary along Sarcee Trail and the ravine produces districts of greater geographical compactness and keeps the neighbouring communities east and west of Sarcee Trail together.

The requested move of the communities of Erin Woods and Dover from Calgary Shepard to Calgary Forest Lawn could not be easily accomplished. One suggestion was to combine parts of east Calgary with Chestermere, a move that would have a domino effect on other electoral districts outside the city. It would also result in moving city population outside city boundaries, contrary to the public's general acceptance of electoral districts within city limits. The populations of Dover and Erin Woods are large. No desirable exchanges with other communities were available, and a large deviation from the electoral quota is not necessary.

The Commission remains confident that Dover and Erin Woods can be effectively represented within the electoral district of Calgary Shepard. The Commission rejects the argument that affluent and less affluent communities cannot coexist within electoral boundaries. Electoral districts throughout the province contain more than one community of identity and interest.

One presenter urged the Commission to extend, where possible, all urban electoral districts to city boundaries to help share in anticipated future development. That presenter requested a transfer of communities from the electoral district of Calgary Rocky Ridge to the electoral district of Calgary Nose Hill to prevent serious under-representation in Calgary Rocky Ridge by the time of the next census. In addition, the Commission was asked to extend the northern boundary of Calgary Nose Hill to the northern city limits. Subsequent to the public hearings, the Commission received correspondence from a Calgary Nose Hill representative opposing that request, stating that anticipated growth is not a legitimate criterion for this Commission.

As mentioned previously, the electoral quota is based on the 2011 census figures – not on the 2011 census plus actual and anticipated growth. The Commission appreciates that the Supreme Court of Canada, in *Reference re Provincial Electoral Boundaries (Sask.)*,<sup>5</sup> stated that anticipated growth may justify a deviation from strict equality at the time that the boundaries are drawn. But in the Commission's view, that was not a direction to attempt to recalculate present populations of electoral districts, nor a direction to try to equalize populations by the next decennial census. The court was merely stating that future growth is a factor to be considered when weighing criteria and determining deviations.

The Commission is not prepared to move communities from the electoral district of Calgary Rocky Ridge for the sole purpose of deliberately reducing the population in one electoral district at the expense of another in anticipation of development. Moreover, on a balancing of all factors, the Commission does not consider a further deviation to be required.

At the same time, the Commission is not blind to certain-fact situations and accepts that development will occur in north Calgary over the next 10 years. The request to create a boundary through undeveloped land so that future growth is shared by two electoral districts is valid. That boundary will have no immediate impact on populations within the targeted electoral districts and will not affect deviation from the electoral quota. The Commission finds that suggestion attractive and agrees to extend the northern boundary of Calgary Nose Hill through undeveloped lands to the northern city limits.

The Commission does not accept that any further requests for change in Calgary are either necessary or desirable.

### **Edmonton and Region**

The decennial census population count for the City of Edmonton grew from 666,104 in 2001 to 812,201 in 2011. Edmonton is surrounded by eight sizable communities: Beaumont, Devon, Fort Saskatchewan, Leduc, Sherwood Park, Spruce Grove, St. Albert and Stony Plain. A large portion of Edmonton's workforce resides in these surrounding communities, with the furthest community situated approximately 10 kilometres from the city limits.

The 2002 commission viewed the Edmonton region as a whole and created eight electoral districts. It noted the shared regional interests and considered hybrids an appropriate means of blending suburban, urban and rural communities in close proximity. The creation of hybrid electoral districts was done, in part, to preserve electoral district parity between Edmonton and Calgary. As a result, the 2002

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<sup>5</sup> *Reference re Provincial Electoral Boundaries (Sask.)*, *supra* note 1.

commission created three electoral districts situated entirely within the city limits of Edmonton and five hybrid districts utilizing the hub and spoke, or pie, approach. The hybrids reach from the city into surrounding communities and beyond.

In response to requests for submissions prior to preparing the Proposal, this Commission received mixed views about the hybrid districts. Some noted the effectiveness of hybrids where infrastructure and other regional interests are shared between the city and the outlying areas. Others preferred urban electoral districts to remain within municipal boundaries where possible.

The Commission accepts that hybrid electoral districts are one viable, and sometimes necessary, means of combining an urban area with the region lying beyond its municipal boundaries. They are frequently a practical means of bringing population numbers closer to the electoral quota. Several commonalities often exist in the hub and spoke approach, depending on the reach of the spoke. Moreover, a heavily populated area outside an urban centre may have more in common with the urban or suburban space than with the rural region beyond. Sometimes topographical features support hybrid electoral districts. Regional plans providing for shared services are also a consideration. Thus, when drawing boundaries, it is sometimes helpful to view redistribution through a regional lens, rather than merely a local lens.

Doughnut electoral districts are another method of dealing with large populations outside municipal boundaries. Following the doughnut (or portion of a doughnut) approach, an electoral district may be configured to take in several small communities surrounding a city. The doughnut concept rests on the theory that communities inside the doughnut have more in common with each other than with the city they surround or the rural region beyond. Sometimes, to retain any semblance of population parity, both urban and rural areas may be required within a doughnut's boundaries.

The Commission accepts that electoral district boundaries can be configured in many ways, and the decision is frequently driven by common sense and practical considerations. There is no universal best way to create electoral districts. The balancing of different criteria pursuant to the Act impacts the location of a particular boundary. Boundary choices must be made on a case-by-case basis with regard to the particular facts and circumstances of the area, the statutory criteria, the population count and the many alternatives for creating electoral districts. The goal is to create an electoral district that can be fairly and effectively represented.

This Commission considered the various representations and alternatives in making its Proposal. It created seven electoral districts totally within the city limits and two hybrids which extend beyond the city limits. The following seven electoral districts were proposed within the City of Edmonton: Edmonton Callingwood, Edmonton McDougall (reverted in this report to Edmonton Centre), Edmonton Griesbach, Edmonton Manning, Edmonton Mill Woods, Edmonton Riverbend and Edmonton Strathcona.

The North Saskatchewan River, flowing through the centre of the City of Edmonton, is a significant natural geographical boundary. The Commission proposed that one of the hybrid districts be in the northwest and one in the south.

The Commission agreed with the 2002 commission that the current hybrid electoral district of Edmonton—St. Albert joins common interests and concerns. It proposed that the hybrid electoral district continue as configured and, in light of St. Albert's increased population, be renamed St. Albert—Edmonton. The Commission proposed a second hybrid electoral district named Edmonton—Wetaskiwin, containing the southernmost communities of Edmonton, and portions of the counties of Leduc and Wetaskiwin.



The Commission established a new electoral district adjacent to and east of Edmonton, containing Sherwood Park, Fort Saskatchewan and all of Strathcona County. The proximity of communities and the commonality of interests in this area provided an excellent basis for the electoral district, which was given the name Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan.

Finally, the Commission configured the electoral district of Sturgeon River, consisting of several communities around the northwestern limits of Edmonton. This electoral district formed a partial doughnut around Edmonton and included communities with numerous commonalities: Spruce Grove, Stony Plain, Redwater, Sturgeon County, Parkland County and a portion of Lac Ste. Anne County. This electoral district had the added benefit of keeping together several communities which share a Francophone history, including Morinville, Legal, Gibbons, Villeneuve, Rivière Qui Barre and Bon Accord.

The Commission's proposal for electoral districts in Edmonton and region were very well received – some groups even suggested adoption as proposed. With the exception of Edmonton—Wetaskiwin, discussed below, the suggestions for change were relatively minor. The Commission has therefore made the following modifications:

1. Considering traffic flow and the divided community of Lynnwood, the electoral districts of Edmonton Callingwood and Edmonton Centre are readjusted. The western half of Lynnwood and the communities of Rio Terrace, Patricia Heights and Quesnell Heights move from Edmonton Callingwood to Edmonton Centre; the area north of Stony Plain Road between 156 Street and 170 Street moves to Edmonton Callingwood.
2. Considering the single road egress out of Brookside and Brookside's historic affiliation with the community of Riverbend, Brookside moves from the electoral district of Edmonton Strathcona to Edmonton Riverbend. Several presenters requested that the community of Riverdale be moved from Edmonton Strathcona to Edmonton Griesbach, while several others disagreed and felt Riverdale fit well in Edmonton Strathcona. The Commission agrees with the latter group and is not persuaded to move the community of Riverdale from Edmonton Strathcona to Edmonton Griesbach, notwithstanding Riverdale's location north of the river.

Several presenters spoke to Edmonton Strathcona's low population. The Commission acknowledges that Edmonton Strathcona's boundaries are sealed from growth, and ideally its population would not be below the electoral quota. The most logical expansion to acquire population, however, would be to extend the southwest boundary across Whitemud Drive to take in all, or parts, of the communities of Rideau Park, Duggan, Royal Gardens and Greenfield. The Commission concluded that the impact of such a change on other electoral districts would be undesirable. Having regard to the general acceptance of the proposed boundaries, the southern boundary of Edmonton Strathcona is retained.

A few presenters requested changes relating to the combination of affluent and less affluent communities within Edmonton Griesbach, St. Albert—Edmonton and Edmonton Manning. After reviewing the presentations and alternative maps provided, the Commission remains unconvinced that any proposed option improved the overall redistribution. In any event, the Commission agrees with the 2002 commission that elected representatives can, and do, represent Canadians of all socio-economic groups within an electoral district. As mentioned above, the Commission rejects the argument that electoral districts cannot contain diverse communities of interest and identity. Within even the most homogenous of electoral districts, interests vary from group to group and citizen to citizen.

The configuration of the electoral districts of Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan, Sturgeon River, St. Albert—Edmonton and Edmonton Mill Woods attracted no unfavourable comments at the public hearings. The greatest concerns expressed about the Edmonton region came from representatives of the City of Wetaskiwin and County of Wetaskiwin. These related to the combination of rural and urban interests within Edmonton—Wetaskiwin, the division of the county, the division of regional partnerships, and Wetaskiwin's separation from the Hobbema communities of the Ermineskin First Nation, the Samson Cree Nation, the Louis Bull Tribe and the Montana First Nation. Presenters also noted that Pigeon Lake Indian Reserve No. 138A is part of the Cree First Nations at Hobbema.

In consideration of these concerns, the Commission has now decided to reconfigure the electoral district of Edmonton—Wetaskiwin to keep the County of Wetaskiwin intact. The Commission finds that there are many common interests in the proposed electoral district. The communities are in close geographic proximity, and a resident may work, live, travel and play in different communities across the district. It was acknowledged at the hearings that many people in Wetaskiwin work in Edmonton or in the towns and cities between. The rural component of this district is sizable, and the Commission is satisfied that the rural-urban mix is not an impediment to the effective representation of the electoral district.

## **Remaining Rural Electoral Districts**

### **Western Alberta**

#### ***Yellowhead***

The creation of an additional northern electoral district in the Proposal resulted in significant changes to the electoral district of Yellowhead. The domino effect of moving the northern electoral districts south was that Yellowhead's boundaries also moved south to achieve an acceptable population count. The reconfigured electoral district of Yellowhead included a large portion of the current electoral district and portions of the existing electoral districts of Wild Rose, Wetaskiwin and Red Deer. Yellowhead maintained its historical character, with many shared rural interests such as farming, oil and gas, pulp and paper, forestry and tourism.

Several presenters from Clearwater County appeared at the Red Deer public hearings to request that Clearwater County be included in Red Deer—Wolf Creek. In addition, a representative from the Town of Rimbey spoke to maintaining the old Wetaskiwin electoral district and objected to the town's inclusion in the electoral district of Yellowhead.

Yellowhead, like many of the northern electoral districts, is a large and sparsely populated region. It has always contained pockets of concentrated population separated by vast, unpopulated areas and a national park. Following the public hearings, the Commission considered a variety of configurations presented there. The accommodation of many of the requests would have resulted in long, narrow electoral districts extending from the Queen Elizabeth Highway II ("QE II") corridor to the western boundary. This was not considered preferable to the proposed electoral districts, which kept the communities along the QE II corridor intact.

The Commission recognizes the desire of neighbours to stay with neighbours. Populations near an electoral boundary frequently have attachments and associations with organizations and groups on the other side, but a boundary line has to be drawn somewhere. Associations and attachments will continue regardless of the line, as people do not organize their lives around a federal electoral boundary. Commonalities often exist across large populations and large geographic areas, but not all can be in the same electoral district if population parity is to have effect. Sometimes, drawing lines to honour one criterion may mean a separation of people sharing a different criterion. The importance of population parity in a democratic society means that electoral boundaries change from time to time, but life and commerce will continue to cross those electoral boundaries.

The Commission noted the strong desire of those in Clearwater County to be placed in Red Deer—Wolf Creek. The Commission also noted the desire of Ponoka County to not be divided and to remain with Wetaskiwin County. Considering the overall map, the Commission was not convinced that other configurations were preferable. Although some of the small towns such as Rimbey are no longer with the remainder of Ponoka County, they are still united with several of their neighbouring towns and communities in the larger Yellowhead electoral district. Much of the district's population consists of small towns and communities on its eastern side. The geographic size of Yellowhead remains substantially the same.

The Commission therefore adopts the electoral district of Yellowhead as proposed, subject only to the removal of a portion of the County of Wetaskiwin which is added to Edmonton—Wetaskiwin (discussed above). The Commission is satisfied that the new configuration, outlined in Schedule B, can be effectively represented.

### **Banff—Airdrie**

The 2011 increased population count of the existing Wild Rose electoral district, renamed Banff—Airdrie in the Proposal, led the Commission to decrease its geographic size. The reconfiguration of the district was appropriate in terms of geography, history and communities of interest and identity. No objections were made to the proposed Banff—Airdrie electoral district; only approval was expressed.

### **Southern Alberta**

The three existing electoral districts of Macleod, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat currently share Alberta's southern boundary. In view of population increases, particularly in Chestermere, Lethbridge, Okotoks and Strathmore, the Commission's Proposal created a new electoral district in the southern region of the province. This resulted in the four electoral districts of Lethbridge, Foothills, Bow River and Medicine Hat.

The proposed Lethbridge electoral district contained the City of Lethbridge and County of Lethbridge, with a population count of 105,999. At the public hearings, the proposed electoral district met with general approval. Several communities would have preferred to remain in the Lethbridge electoral district, but acknowledged that such a configuration was not practical.

As the new electoral district of Lethbridge was reduced in size, counties formerly part of that district were divided between the two proposed southern districts of Foothills and Medicine Hat. The new Bow River electoral district was comprised of areas from the old Macleod, Crowfoot and Medicine Hat electoral districts.

At the public hearings, several presenters requested changes to the proposed southern districts. Requests included the following: moving the County of Newell to the electoral district of Medicine Hat; keeping the MD of Willow Creek and the communities along Highway 2 from Calgary to Fort Macleod together in the electoral district of Foothills; returning Oyen and the surrounding area to Battle River—Crowfoot; keeping communities around Highway 1 together; creating an electoral district around Calgary, in the form of a partial doughnut, to include Okotoks and Chestermere; and keeping the towns of Stirling, Raymond, Magrath and Cardston together.

The member of Parliament for Lethbridge, along with many other presenters, spoke to maintaining the towns along the Mormon Trail in one electoral district. He submitted 1,182 cards signed by constituents requesting that the counties of Warner and Cardston be kept together in the new Foothills electoral district. The choice of some presenters was to leave the counties of Warner and Cardston together in Lethbridge, but in view of the population figures, that option was recognized as problematic. The next preferred option was to transfer the County of Warner to the new electoral district of Foothills or, at the very least, to divide the county along the Westwind Regional School Division boundaries to bring Raymond and Stirling into the Foothills electoral district. The final option was to move Cardston County, which includes the towns of Cardston and Magrath, into the Medicine Hat electoral district. The overriding objective of the presentations was to keep the four towns along the historic Mormon Trail together within one electoral district.

Other presenters expressed opposition to these submissions, and some opposed any change to the electoral district of Foothills. One presenter voiced concern with the use of faith as a guide to drawing boundaries, and urged that broad social and economic connectors be considered. The presenter asked that the proposed Foothills electoral district be reconfigured to include the entire MD of Willow Creek and all communities along Highway 2 between Calgary and Fort Macleod.

Following the hearings, the Commission examined various reconfigurations. In particular, the suggestion of a partial doughnut around Calgary that combined suburban interests seemed an attractive alternative. Following an attempt to create a half doughnut, however, the Commission concluded that this solution was unworkable. Such a configuration either negatively impacted the proposed electoral district of Bow River or reached too far beyond the suburban areas to be desirable.

In an attempt to place the County of Newell in Medicine Hat, the Commission also considered creating a doughnut around Lethbridge; but this resulted in Bow River becoming an unwieldy, disconnected and less desirable electoral district. Likewise, the request to add Warner County to the Foothills electoral district would have made that district unnecessarily large in geographic size.

However, the Commission did accept the suggested readjustment of the boundaries of the Foothills electoral district to unite the MD of Willow Creek and the towns along Highway 2 from Calgary to Fort Macleod. This is preferable to the proposed configuration as it leaves the electoral districts of Foothills and Bow River more compact and viable. Moreover, this configuration maintains much of the historical character of the current electoral district of Macleod.

In this readjustment, the MD of Taber is moved from the electoral district of Medicine Hat to the electoral district of Bow River, which is a primarily rural electoral district with agricultural interests. This reconfiguration keeps many of the towns along Highway 1 together in Bow River. At the public hearings, the reeve of the MD of Taber had indicated the MD's satisfaction with its inclusion in the Medicine Hat electoral district. However, he noted that their primary wish was to remain in an electoral district with an agricultural and energy focus. The Commission is of the view that the MD of Taber is a similarly



good fit with Bow River, particularly as communities with similar interests and rural connections exist throughout that electoral district. Bow River now contains the MD of Taber, the counties of Newell, Vulcan and Wheatland, and parts of the counties of Kneehill and Rocky View, all of which are rural and agricultural in character.

The new configuration moves Cardston County and the Blood Indian reserve from the Foothills electoral district to the Medicine Hat electoral district, which now extends further south and west. It also places the counties of Warner and Cardston in the electoral district of Medicine Hat, keeping together the towns along the Mormon Trail (Stirling, Magrath, Raymond and Cardston). As previously noted, Special Areas No. 1 and 2 and the MD of Acadia No. 34 have been moved to Battle River—Crowfoot.

Population growth in southern Alberta led the Commission, in its Proposal, to create a new southern electoral district and make significant changes to the existing electoral districts. The Commission's changes since the Proposal have resulted in electoral districts that are compact, with communities of interest that are appropriate for representation, and no further deviation from the electoral quota is either necessary or desirable.

### **Central Alberta and Red Deer**

During the past 10 years, there has been a population boom in Red Deer and along the transportation corridor between Edmonton and Calgary. Red Deer's population rose from 67,707 in 2001 to 90,564 in 2011. In its Proposal, the Commission created two electoral districts around the QE II, between the southern border of the proposed district of Edmonton—Wetaskiwin and the northern border of the proposed district of Banff—Airdrie.

In arriving at this configuration, the Commission considered two viable alternatives for dealing with the population increase. First, it considered creating one new electoral district that would comprise the City of Red Deer, with a second electoral district forming a doughnut around the city. Second, it considered dividing the City of Red Deer and creating two hybrid electoral districts. One hybrid would include north Red Deer and extend to the southern boundary of Edmonton—Wetaskiwin; the second hybrid would contain south Red Deer and extend to the northern boundary of Banff—Airdrie.

Although the Commission considered both alternatives viable, it preferred and proposed the hybrid option. It also preferred the hybrids to the option of long, narrow electoral districts stretching from the central core to the western reaches of the province, which some rural eastern communities outside the corridor might have preferred.

Red Deer's interests in matters such as agriculture, trade, industry, recreation and health are inextricably intertwined with those of the surrounding communities. Considering shape, proximity and shared interests, the Commission proposed dividing the City of Red Deer by an east–west line (primarily along the Red Deer River and Ross Street) to create two hybrid electoral districts named Red Deer—Wolf Creek and Red Deer—Mountain View. The Commission had received a written request to keep the Hobbema reserves of Samson, Ermineskin, Louis Bull and Montana together; accordingly, it proposed that the four reserves be placed in the electoral district of Red Deer—Wolf Creek. (Unfortunately, honouring the requests to keep the County of Wetaskiwin together means the reserve at Pigeon Lake will remain in Edmonton—Wetaskiwin.)

Presenters expressed both support for, and opposition to, a division of the City of Red Deer into the two electoral districts of Red Deer—Mountain View and Red Deer—Wolf Creek. The majority of presenters spoke more to the composition of the proposed electoral districts than to the actual division of Red Deer. For example, representatives of Delburne and Elnora, which are farming areas, presented a petition asking to be added to Red Deer—Mountain View. Presenters from Clearwater County and many of its towns asked

to be placed in the northern electoral district of Red Deer—Wolf Creek. The Town of Rimbey wanted to remain with the Ponoka and Wetaskiwin counties, while representatives speaking for the City of Red Deer wanted a strictly urban electoral district. Presenters expressed concerns about the combination of rural and urban voices, and many spoke to their community's commercial, social, recreational, shopping and general associations with Red Deer.

Following the public hearings, the Commission considered alternative configurations. As noted above, meeting some requests would have meant creating long, narrow electoral districts reaching from the central corridor to the western border of Alberta. The Commission continues to prefer the proposed hybrids, which work to preserve the integrity of the QE II corridor as a community of interest. The Commission recognizes that hybrids combine rural and urban interests, but as noted earlier, it considers hybrids a valid redistribution tool. Notwithstanding concerns expressed, the Commission continues to view the two balanced hybrid electoral districts as preferable to other options, including a rural doughnut. The urban and rural populations in each electoral district are significant, and the Commission is satisfied that neither the urban nor rural voices will be lost. The elected representatives will attend to both interests.

The growth and success of the industries within the City of Red Deer's boundaries are intertwined with the success of the agricultural and resource industries lying beyond its borders. Geographical distances within the electoral districts are short. Moreover, some of the rural and urban regions within the electoral districts share regional plans and services. The Commission is satisfied that, having regard to all of the factors, including the compact size of the electoral districts, both hybrids can be effectively represented.

Unfortunately, as noted above, the Commission could not accommodate all requests for inclusion within either of the hybrid districts. The Commission is aware of the association many of the rural towns have with Red Deer as well as the shopping patterns of many of the communities. However, a federal electoral boundary line is not an electric fence – nor is it any fence at all. Commerce, industry, shopping and social activities will continue crossing federal electoral boundary lines, unhindered by their existence. But for voting and political activities, life is not strictly lived within electoral boundaries.

By the next decennial census, population numbers along the QE II may accommodate a different configuration. For this redistribution, however, the Commission is retaining the two hybrid electoral districts as proposed, subject to one adjustment. The eastern portion of Red Deer County containing the communities of Delburne and Elnora is moved from Battle River—Crowfoot to the electoral district of Red Deer—Mountain View.

The Commission is satisfied that effective representation can occur within the electoral districts of Red Deer—Mountain View and Red Deer—Wolf Creek.

## Summary and Closing Remarks

The Commission is grateful for the helpful input from the public at both the pre- and post-proposal stages, and would like to take this opportunity to thank the public for its participation in the redistribution process. The Commission was impressed with the quality and thoughtfulness of the presentations. Public input is invaluable and provides information and local insight not otherwise readily available. Communication between the Commission and the public is an example of democracy in action.

The electoral district landscape of Alberta has changed to accommodate six new electoral districts as well as the population shifts and changes since the 2001 census. All existing electoral districts have changed – some significantly. The cities of Calgary and Edmonton constitute 52.3% of the 2011 census population count and contain 17 of Alberta's 34 electoral districts.

The Commission has created one new electoral district in northern Alberta, two new electoral districts in and around the City of Edmonton, two new electoral districts in the City of Calgary and one new electoral district in southern Alberta.

The Commission carefully followed its mandate to achieve population parity where reasonably possible and to consider the mandatory criteria in section 15 of the Act. The Commission is satisfied that it has achieved a fair balance of the criteria in its redistribution of the 34 electoral districts in the Province of Alberta. Considering size, shape and character, the Commission is satisfied that fair and effective representation can occur within each electoral district.

Dated at Calgary, in the Province of Alberta, this 10th day of December, 2012.

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Honourable Madam Justice Carole Conrad  
*Chair*

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Mr. Edwin Eggerer  
*Member*

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Ms. Donna R. Wilson  
*Member*

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Ms. Ooldouz Sotoudehnia  
*Commission Secretary*

CERTIFIED copy of the Report of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Alberta.

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Signature

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Date

# *Schedules*

## Schedules

(as of December 10, 2012)



## Schedule A — Population of Electoral Districts and Deviation from the Quota

Electoral District	Population	Deviation from Quota of 107,213
Banff—Airdrie	105,442	-1.65%
Battle River—Crowfoot	107,140	-0.07%
Bow River	103,871	-3.12%
Calgary Centre	108,931	+1.60%
Calgary Confederation	111,785	+4.26%
Calgary Forest Lawn	108,256	+0.97%
Calgary Heritage	108,320	+1.03%
Calgary Midnapore	111,227	+3.74%
Calgary Nose Hill	109,286	+1.93%
Calgary Rocky Ridge	108,901	+1.57%
Calgary Shepard	110,296	+2.88%
Calgary Signal Hill	109,647	+2.27%
Calgary Skyview	110,184	+2.77%
Edmonton Callingwood	104,422	-2.60%
Edmonton Centre	106,121	-1.02%
Edmonton Griesbach	107,809	+0.56%
Edmonton Manning	106,262	-0.89%
Edmonton Mill Woods	106,103	-1.04%
Edmonton Riverbend	106,302	-0.85%
Edmonton Strathcona	103,183	-3.76%
Edmonton—Wetaskiwin	110,644	+3.20%
Foothills	104,459	-2.57%
Fort McMurray—Cold Lake	101,538	-5.29%

Electoral District	Population	Deviation from Quota of 107,213
Grande Prairie	106,738	-0.44%
Lakeland	104,616	-2.42%
Lethbridge	105,999	-1.13%
Medicine Hat	103,903	-3.09%
Peace River—Westlock	108,095	+0.82%
Red Deer—Mountain View	110,793	+3.34%
Red Deer—Wolf Creek	107,985	+0.72%
Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan	111,541	+4.04%
St. Albert—Edmonton	105,162	-1.91%
Sturgeon River	105,733	-1.38%
Yellowhead	104,563	-2.47%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,645,257</b>	

## Schedule B — Boundaries and Names of Electoral Districts

There shall be in the Province of Alberta thirty-four (34) electoral districts named and described as follows, each of which shall return one member.

In the following descriptions:

- (a) reference to “road”, “street”, “avenue”, “drive”, “highway”, “trail”, “boulevard”, “river” or “railway” signifies their centre line unless otherwise described;
- (b) townships, ranges and meridians are in accordance with the Dominion Lands system of survey and include the extension thereof in accordance with that system. They are abbreviated as “Tp”, “R” and “W 4” or “W 5”;
- (c) the bank of a river is referred to as the right or left bank, according to whether it is to the right or left respectively when facing downstream. If no bank is mentioned, the centre thread shall be used;
- (d) all villages, summer villages, towns, cities, district municipalities, Indian reserves and national parks of Canada lying within the perimeter of the electoral district are included unless otherwise described;
- (e) reference to “county”, “municipal district”, “special area” and “national park of Canada” for inclusion in an electoral district signifies that all villages, summer villages, towns, cities, Indian reserves and other areas within the county, municipal district, special area and national park of Canada are included unless otherwise described;
- (f) wherever a word or expression is used to denote a territorial division, such word or expression shall indicate the territorial division as it existed or was bounded on the first day of January, 2011, unless otherwise specified;
- (g) the translation of the terms “street”, “avenue” and “boulevard” follows Treasury Board standards, while the translation of all other public thoroughfare designations is based on commonly used terms but has no official recognition; and
- (h) all coordinates are in reference to the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83).

The population figure of each electoral district is derived from the 2011 decennial census.

### **Banff—Airdrie**

(Population: 105,442)

(Map 1)

Consisting of that part of the Province of Alberta described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the northerly limit of the Municipal District of Rocky View County with Highway No. 791; thence southerly along said highway to Highway No. 567; thence easterly along said highway to Highway No. 791; thence generally southerly along said highway to Highway No. 564; thence westerly along said highway to the easterly limit of the City of Calgary; thence generally northwesterly, westerly and generally southwesterly along the easterly, northerly and westerly limits of said city to Highway No. 1; thence generally westerly and northwesterly along said highway to the easterly limit of the Municipal District of Bighorn No. 8; thence southerly, westerly and northerly along the easterly, southerly and westerly limits of said municipal district to the southeasterly corner of Stoney Indian Reserve No. 142, 143, 144; thence generally westerly along the southerly boundary of said Indian reserve to the west boundary of



R 7 W 5; thence south along the west boundary of R 7 W 5 to the south boundary of Tp 24; thence west along the south boundary of Tp 24 to the southerly limit of the Town of Canmore; thence westerly, southerly, westerly, northerly and westerly along said limit to the south boundary of Tp 24; thence west along the south boundary of Tp 24 to the easterly boundary of Banff National Park of Canada; thence generally southerly along said boundary to the west boundary of said province; thence generally northwesterly along said boundary to the northerly boundary of Banff National Park of Canada; thence generally northeasterly and southeasterly along said boundary to the northerly limit of the Municipal District of Bighorn No. 8; thence generally easterly, generally northeasterly and generally southerly along the northerly and easterly limits of said municipal district to the northerly limit of the Municipal District of Rocky View County; thence generally easterly along said limit to the point of commencement.

### **Battle River—Crowfoot**

(Population: 107,140)

(Map 1)

Consisting of that part of the Province of Alberta described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the east boundary of said province with the northerly limit of the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61; thence generally northwesterly along said limit to the easterly limit of Beaver County; thence generally northwesterly, generally southeasterly and generally westerly along the easterly, northerly and westerly limits of said county to the easterly limit of Leduc County; thence northerly and westerly along the easterly and northerly limits of said county to Highway No. 21; thence southerly and generally southeasterly along said highway to the northerly limit of Camrose County; thence westerly and generally southerly along the northerly and westerly limits of said county to the westerly limit of Stettler County No. 6; thence generally southerly along said limit to the northeasterly corner of Kneehill County; thence generally westerly and generally southerly along the northerly and westerly limits of said county to Township Road 314; thence easterly along said road to Highway No. 806; thence southerly along said highway to Highway No. 582; thence generally easterly along said highway and Highway No. 27 to the left bank of the Red Deer River; thence generally southerly along said bank to the westerly limit of the Town of Drumheller; thence generally southeasterly along said limit to the westerly limit of Special Area No. 2; thence generally southeasterly, easterly, southerly and generally northeasterly along the westerly and southerly limits of said special area to the east boundary of the Province of Alberta; thence north along said boundary to the point of commencement.

### **Bow River**

(Population: 103,871)

(Map 1)

Consisting of that part of the Province of Alberta described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the westerly limit of Kneehill County with Township Road 314; thence easterly along said road to Highway No. 806; thence southerly along said highway to Highway No. 582; thence easterly along said highway and Highway No. 27 to the left bank of the Red Deer River; thence generally southerly along said bank to the westerly limit of the Town of Drumheller; thence generally southeasterly along said limit, the easterly limit of Wheatland County and the easterly limit of Newell County No. 4 to the easterly limit of the Municipal District of Taber; thence generally southerly, westerly and generally northerly along the easterly, southerly and westerly limits of said municipal district to the southeasterly limit of Vulcan County; thence generally southwesterly and generally northwesterly along the southerly and westerly limits of said county to the southerly limit of Wheatland County; thence generally westerly along said



limit and the southerly limit of Rocky View County to the easterly limit of the City of Calgary; thence generally northerly along said limit to Highway No. 564; thence easterly along said highway to Highway No. 791; thence generally northerly along said highway to Highway No. 567; thence westerly along said highway to Highway No. 791; thence northerly along said highway to the northerly limit of Rocky View County; thence generally easterly along said limit to the southwesterly limit of Kneehill County; thence generally northerly along said limit to the point of commencement.

### **Calgary Centre**

(Population: 108,931)

(Map 2)

Consisting of that part of the City of Calgary described as follows: commencing at the intersection of 37 Street SW with Glenmore Trail SW (Highway No. 8); thence northerly along 37 Street SW to Bow Trail SW; thence generally easterly along said trail to Crowchild Trail SW; thence northerly along said trail to the right bank of the Bow River; thence generally easterly (passing to the north of Prince's Island) and generally southerly along said bank to Glenmore Trail SE; thence northwesterly and generally westerly along said trail and along Glenmore Trail SW (Highway No. 8) to the point of commencement.

### **Calgary Confederation**

(Population: 111,785)

(Map 2)

Consisting of that part of the City of Calgary described as follows: commencing at the intersection of Sarcee Trail NW with John Laurie Boulevard NW; thence southeasterly and northeasterly along said boulevard to McKnight Boulevard NW; thence generally easterly along said boulevard and along McKnight Boulevard NE to Deerfoot Trail NE (Highway No. 2); thence southerly along said trail to Memorial Drive NE; thence westerly along said drive to the Canadian Pacific Railway; thence southerly along said railway to the right bank of the Bow River; thence generally westerly along said bank (passing to the north of Prince's Island) to Crowchild Trail SW; thence northerly along said trail to the left bank of the Bow River; thence generally northwesterly along said bank to a point at approximate latitude 51°05'37"N and longitude 114°11'02"W; thence northeasterly in a straight line to a point on Silverview Way NW at approximate latitude 51°05'46"N and longitude 114°10'54"W; thence generally northerly along said road to a point at approximate latitude 51°06'08"N and longitude 114°10'55"W; thence northerly in a straight line to a point on Silver Springs Gate NW at approximate latitude 51°06'13"N and longitude 114°10'56"W; thence generally northeasterly along said road and Sarcee Trail NW to the point of commencement.

### **Calgary Forest Lawn**

(Population: 108,256)

(Map 2)

Consisting of that part of the City of Calgary described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the easterly limit of said city with 17 Avenue SE; thence westerly along said avenue to the Canadian National Railway; thence southwesterly along said railway to the southeasterly production of 48 Street SE; thence northwesterly along said production and 48 Street SE to the easterly production of 26 Avenue SE; thence westerly along said production, 26 Avenue SE and its westerly production to the right bank of the Bow River; thence generally northerly along said bank to the Canadian Pacific Railway; thence northerly along said railway to Memorial Drive NE; thence easterly along said drive to Deerfoot Trail NE (Highway No. 2); thence northerly along said trail to McKnight Boulevard NE; thence generally easterly along said boulevard to 36 Street NE; thence southerly along said street to 32 Avenue NE; thence easterly along said avenue to 68 Street NE; thence northerly along said street to 64 Avenue NE; thence easterly along said avenue and its easterly production to the easterly limit of said city; thence southerly, easterly and southerly along said limit to the point of commencement.

### **Calgary Heritage**

(Population: 108,320)

(Map 2)

Consisting of that part of the City of Calgary lying westerly and southerly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the southerly limit of said city with 14 Street SW; thence northerly along said street and northerly and easterly along James McKeivitt Road SW to Macleod Trail S; thence northerly along said trail to Glenmore Trail SW (Highway No. 8); thence westerly and generally northwesterly along said trail to 37 Street SW; thence southerly along said street to the westerly limit of said city.

### **Calgary Midnapore**

(Population: 111,227)

(Map 2)

Consisting of that part of the City of Calgary described as follows: commencing at the intersection of Macleod Trail S with Glenmore Trail SE (Highway No. 8); thence generally easterly along Glenmore Trail SE (Highway No. 8) to the left bank of the Bow River; thence generally southerly along said bank, including all islands adjacent to the river bank, to the southerly limit of said city; thence southerly, westerly and generally northwesterly along the southerly and westerly limits of said city to 14 Street SW; thence northerly along said street and northerly and easterly along James McKeivitt Road SW to Macleod Trail S; thence generally northerly along said trail to the point of commencement.

## **Calgary Nose Hill**

(Population: 109,286)

(Map 2)

Consisting of that part of the City of Calgary described as follows: commencing at the intersection of Sarcee Trail NW with Stoney Trail NW (Highway No. 201); thence generally northeasterly along Stoney Trail NW (Highway No. 201) to 14 Street NW; thence northerly along said street to the northerly limit of said city; thence easterly along said limit to Centre Street N; thence generally southerly along said street and Harvest Hills Boulevard N to Beddington Trail NE; thence southeasterly along said trail to Deerfoot Trail NE (Highway No. 2); thence southerly along said trail to McKnight Boulevard NE; thence generally westerly along said boulevard and McKnight Boulevard NW to John Laurie Boulevard NW; thence southwesterly and northwesterly along said boulevard to Sarcee Trail NW; thence generally northerly along said trail to the point of commencement.

## **Calgary Rocky Ridge**

(Population: 108,901)

(Map 2)

Consisting of that part of the City of Calgary lying westerly and northerly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the northerly limit of said city with 14 Street NW; thence southerly along said street to Stoney Trail NW (Highway No. 201); thence generally southwesterly along said trail to Sarcee Trail NW; thence generally southerly along said trail to Silver Springs Gate NW; thence generally southerly along said road to a point at approximate latitude 51°06'13"N and longitude 114°10'56"W; thence southerly in a straight line to a point on Silverview Way NW at approximate latitude 51°06'08"N and longitude 114°10'55"W; thence generally southerly along said road to a point at approximate latitude 51°05'46"N and longitude 114°10'54"W; thence southwesterly in a straight line to a point on the left bank of the Bow River at approximate latitude 51°05'37"N and longitude 114°11'02"W; thence generally westerly along said bank to the westerly limit of said city.

## **Calgary Shepard**

(Population: 110,296)

(Map 2)

Consisting of that part of the City of Calgary described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the Canadian National Railway with 17 Avenue SE; thence easterly along said avenue to the easterly limit of said city; thence generally southerly and generally westerly along the easterly and southerly limits of said city to Deerfoot Trail SE (Highway No. 2); thence generally northerly along the left bank of the Bow River to Glenmore Trail SE (Highway No. 8); thence northwesterly along said trail to the right bank of the Bow River; thence generally northerly along said bank to the westerly production of 26 Avenue SE; thence easterly along said production, 26 Avenue SE and its easterly production to 48 Street SE; thence southeasterly along said street and its southeasterly production to the Canadian National Railway; thence northeasterly along said railway to the point of commencement.

## **Calgary Signal Hill**

(Population: 109,647)

(Map 2)

Consisting of that part of the City of Calgary lying southerly and westerly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the westerly limit of said city with the left bank of the Bow River; thence generally easterly and generally southeasterly along said bank to Crowchild Trail SW; thence southerly along said trail to Bow Trail SW; thence generally westerly along said trail to 37 Street SW; thence southerly along said street to the southerly limit of said city at the northeasternmost corner of Tsuu T'ina Nation Indian Reserve No. 145.

## **Calgary Skyview**

(Population: 110,184)

(Map 2)

Consisting of that part of the City of Calgary lying northerly and easterly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the easterly limit of said city with the easterly production of 64 Avenue NE; thence westerly along said production and 64 Avenue NE to 68 Street NE; thence southerly along said street to 32 Avenue NE; thence westerly along said avenue to 36 Street NE; thence northerly along said street to McKnight Boulevard NE; thence generally westerly along said boulevard to Deerfoot Trail NE (Highway No. 2); thence northerly along said trail to Beddington Trail NE; thence northwesterly along said trail to Harvest Hills Boulevard N; thence generally northerly along said boulevard and Centre Street N to the northerly limit of said city.

## **Edmonton Callingwood**

(Population: 104,422)

(Map 3)

Consisting of that part of the City of Edmonton lying southerly and westerly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the westerly limit of said city with Yellowhead Trail NW (Highway No. 16); thence easterly along said trail to the Canadian National Railway (south of Kinokamau Lake); thence northeasterly along said railway to 156 Street NW; thence generally southerly along said street, Meadowlark Road NW and 159 Street NW to Whitemud Drive NW (Highway No. 2); thence westerly along said drive to an unnamed creek; thence generally southeasterly along said creek to its mouth; thence due east in a straight line to a point on the right bank of the North Saskatchewan River at approximate latitude 53°30'04"N and longitude 113°35'13"W; thence generally southwesterly along said bank to the southerly limit of said city.

### **Edmonton Centre**

(Population: 106,121)

(Map 3)

Consisting of that part of the City of Edmonton described as follows: commencing at the intersection of Yellowhead Trail NW (Highway No. 16) with 97 Street NW (Highway No. 28); thence southerly along said street and its southerly production to the right bank of the North Saskatchewan River; thence generally southwesterly along said bank to a point due east of the mouth of an unnamed creek at approximate latitude 53°30'04"N and longitude 113°35'13"W on the left bank of said river; thence due west in a straight line to the mouth of said creek; thence generally northwesterly along said creek to Whitemud Drive NW; thence easterly along said drive to 159 Street NW; thence generally northerly along said street, Meadowlark Road NW and 156 Street NW to the Canadian National Railway; thence generally easterly along said railway to Yellowhead Trail NW (Highway No. 16, west of 121 Street NW); thence easterly along said trail to the point of commencement.

### **Edmonton Griesbach**

(Population: 107,809)

(Map 3)

Consisting of that part of the City of Edmonton described as follows: commencing at the intersection of Yellowhead Trail NW (Highway No. 16) with the right bank of the North Saskatchewan River; thence northeasterly along said bank to the Canadian National Railway; thence northwesterly and westerly along said railway to 66 Street NW; thence northerly along said street to 153 Avenue NW; thence westerly along said avenue to Castle Downs Road NW; thence southerly along said road to 137 Avenue NW; thence westerly along said avenue to St. Albert Trail NW (Highway No. 2); thence southeasterly along said trail to the Canadian National Railway; thence easterly and southerly along said railway to Yellowhead Trail NW (Highway No. 16, west of 121 Street NW); thence easterly along said trail to 97 Street NW (Highway No. 28); thence southerly along said street and its southerly production to Grierson Hill NW; thence northeasterly and easterly along said road and 101 Avenue NW to 95 Street NW; thence northerly along said street to Rowland Road NW; thence easterly and northeasterly along said road to 92 Street NW; thence northerly along said street to its endpoint; thence northeasterly in a straight line to the intersection of 89 Street NW with 103A Avenue NW; thence northeasterly along said avenue to 87 Street NW; thence easterly and southerly along said street to Rowland Road NW; thence easterly along said road to the right bank of the North Saskatchewan River; thence generally northeasterly along said bank to the point of commencement.

### **Edmonton Manning**

(Population: 106,262)

(Map 3)

Consisting of that part of the City of Edmonton lying northerly and easterly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the easterly limit of said city with the right bank of the North Saskatchewan River; thence northeasterly along said bank to the Canadian National Railway; thence westerly along said railway to 66 Street NW; thence northerly along said street to 153 Avenue NW; thence westerly along said avenue to Castle Downs Road NW; thence generally northerly and generally easterly along said road to 97 Street NW (Highway No. 28); thence northerly along said street to the northerly limit of said city.

### **Edmonton Mill Woods**

(Population: 106,103)

(Map 3)

Consisting of that part of the City of Edmonton described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the easterly limit of said city with Whitemud Drive NW (Highway No. 14); thence generally westerly along said drive to Calgary Trail NW (Highway No. 2); thence southerly along said trail to Anthony Henday Drive NW (Highway No. 216); thence easterly and northeasterly along said drive to the easterly limit of said city; thence generally northerly along said limit to the point of commencement.

### **Edmonton Riverbend**

(Population: 106,302)

(Map 3)

Consisting of that part of the City of Edmonton described as follows: commencing at the intersection of Whitemud Creek with the right bank of the North Saskatchewan River; thence generally southerly along said creek to Whitemud Drive NW; thence easterly along said drive to Calgary Trail NW (Highway No. 2); thence southerly along said trail to Ellerslie Road SW (9 Avenue SW); thence westerly along said road and its westerly production to the right bank of the North Saskatchewan River; thence generally northeasterly along said bank to the point of commencement.

### **Edmonton Strathcona**

(Population: 103,183)

(Map 3)

Consisting of that part of the City of Edmonton described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the easterly limit of said city with Whitemud Drive NW (Highway No. 14); thence westerly along said drive to Whitemud Creek; thence generally northerly along said creek to the right bank of the North Saskatchewan River; thence generally northeasterly along said bank to the southerly production of 97 Street NW; thence northerly along said production to Grierson Hill NW; thence northeasterly and easterly along said road and 101 Avenue NW to 95 Street NW; thence northerly along said street to Rowland Road NW; thence easterly and northeasterly along said road to 92 Street NW; thence northerly along said street to its endpoint; thence northeasterly in a straight line to the intersection of 89 Street NW with 103A Avenue NW; thence northeasterly along said avenue to 87 Street NW; thence easterly and southerly along said street to Rowland Road NW; thence easterly along said road to the right bank of the North Saskatchewan River; thence generally northeasterly along said bank to the easterly limit of said city; thence generally southerly, generally easterly and southerly along said limit to the point of commencement.



## Edmonton—Wetaskiwin

(Population: 110,644)

(Map 3)

Consisting of:

(a) that part of the City of Edmonton lying easterly and southerly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the southerly limit of said city with the right bank of the North Saskatchewan River; thence northerly along said bank to the westerly production of Ellerslie Road SW (9 Avenue SW); thence easterly along said production and Ellerslie Road SW (9 Avenue SW) to Calgary Trail NW (Highway No. 2); thence northerly along said trail to Anthony Henday Drive NW (Highway No. 216); thence easterly and northeasterly along said drive to the easterly limit of said city;

(b) that part of Leduc County described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the southerly limit of Leduc County with Range Road 22; thence northerly along said road to Township Road 474; thence easterly along said road to Highway No. 771; thence northerly along said highway to Highway No. 616; thence easterly along said highway to Range Road 20; thence northerly along said road to Township Road 482; thence easterly along said road to Range Road 10; thence northerly along said road and its intermittent productions to the northerly limit of Leduc County on the right bank of the North Saskatchewan River; thence generally northeasterly along said bank to the southerly limit of the City of Edmonton; thence easterly along said limit to the westerly limit of Strathcona County; thence southerly and easterly along the westerly and southerly limits of said county to Highway No. 21; thence southerly and generally southeasterly along said highway to the northerly limit of Camrose County; thence westerly and generally southerly along the northerly and westerly limits of said county to the southerly limit of Leduc County; thence generally westerly and generally southwesterly along said limit to the point of commencement;

(c) Wetaskiwin County No. 10, excepting Louis Bull Indian Reserve No. 138B, Ermineskin Indian Reserve No. 138 and Samson Indian Reserve No. 137; and

(d) the summer villages of Golden Days, Itaska Beach and Sundance Beach; the City of Leduc; the towns of Beaumont, Devon and Calmar.

## Foothills

(Population: 104,459)

(Map 1)

Consisting of that part of the Province of Alberta described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the west boundary of said province with the southerly boundary of Banff National Park of Canada; thence generally northerly along the easterly boundary of said national park to the north boundary of Tp 23; thence east along the north boundary of Tp 23 to the southerly limit of the Town of Canmore; thence easterly, southerly, easterly, northerly and easterly along said limit to the north boundary of Tp 23; thence east along the north boundary of Tp 23 to the east boundary of R 8 W 5; thence north along the east boundary of R 8 W 5 to the southerly boundary of Stoney Indian Reserve No. 142, 143, 144; thence generally easterly along said boundary to the westerly limit of the Municipal District of Bighorn No. 8; thence southerly, easterly and northerly along the westerly, southerly and easterly limits of said municipal district to Highway No. 1; thence generally easterly along said highway to the westerly limit of the City of Calgary; thence generally southeasterly along said limit to the southeasterly corner of said city (northerly limit of the Municipal District of Foothills No. 31); thence generally easterly and generally southerly along the northerly and easterly limits of the Municipal District of Foothills No. 31 to the northeasterly corner of the Municipal

District of Willow Creek No. 26; thence generally southeasterly along the easterly limit of said municipal district to the Belly River; thence generally southwesterly along said river and the westerly limit of Cardston County to the northwesterly corner of Blood Indian Reserve No. 148A; thence southerly and easterly along the westerly and southerly boundaries of said Indian reserve to its southeasterly corner; thence easterly along the production of the southerly boundary of said Indian reserve to a point on Range Road 282A at approximate latitude 49°01'15"N and longitude 113°40'21"W; thence southerly along said road to the south boundary of said province; thence westerly and generally northerly along the south and west boundaries of said province to the point of commencement.

### **Fort McMurray—Cold Lake**

(Population: 101,538)

(Map 1)

Consisting of that part of the Province of Alberta lying northerly and easterly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the east boundary of said province with the easterly production of Township Road 610 at a point at approximate latitude 54°14'13"N and longitude 110°00'20"W; thence westerly along said production and Township Road 610 to the southeasterly corner of Cold Lake Indian Reserve No. 149; thence westerly and northerly along the southerly and westerly boundaries of said Indian reserve to Highway No. 28; thence generally southwesterly along said highway to Highway No. 660; thence generally westerly along said highway and Township Road 612 to the westerly limit of the Municipal District of Bonnyville No. 87; thence generally northerly along said limit to the southeasterly limit of Lac La Biche County; thence generally westerly and generally northwesterly along the southerly and westerly limits of said county to the easterly limit of the Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17; thence generally southwesterly and generally northwesterly along the easterly, southerly and westerly limits of said municipal district to a point at approximate latitude 56°27'33"N and longitude 114°56'59"W; thence easterly in a straight line to a point at approximate latitude 56°27'24"N and longitude 114°04'54"W; thence northerly in a straight line to a point at approximate latitude 56°48'16"N and longitude 114°04'44"W; thence westerly in a straight line to a point on the westerly limit of the Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17 at approximate latitude 56°48'28"N and longitude 114°57'31"W; thence northerly and easterly along the westerly and northerly limits of said municipal district to the westerly limit of the Specialized Municipality of Wood Buffalo; thence northerly along said limit and the westerly boundary of Wood Buffalo National Park of Canada to the left bank of the Peace River; thence generally northeasterly along said bank to a point at approximate latitude 58°41'21"N and longitude 113°55'32"W; thence easterly in a straight line to a point on the right bank of the Peace River at approximate latitude 58°41'21"N and longitude 113°43'36"W; thence generally northerly along said bank to a point at approximate latitude 58°42'00"N and longitude 113°43'25"W; thence northerly in a straight line to a point on an unnamed trail at approximate latitude 58°45'55"N and longitude 113°43'25"W; thence westerly in a straight line to a point on the westerly boundary of Wood Buffalo National Park of Canada at approximate latitude 58°45'55"N and longitude 114°00'00"W; thence northerly, westerly and northerly along said boundary to the north boundary of the Province of Alberta.



## **Grande Prairie**

(Population: 106,738)

(Map 1)

Consisting of that part of the Province of Alberta lying northerly and westerly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the west boundary of said province with the north boundary of Tp 64; thence east along the north boundary of Tp 64 to the east boundary of R 24 W 5; thence north along the east boundary of R 24 W 5 to the southerly boundary of Sturgeon Lake Indian Reserve No. 154; thence northerly, easterly and northerly along the easterly boundary of said Indian reserve to a point on the westerly production of Township Road 704 at approximate latitude 55°05'00"N and longitude 117°21'43"W; thence easterly along said production to Range Road 230; thence generally northerly along said road, Range Road 225 and its intermittent productions to the northerly limit of the Municipal District of Greenview No. 16; thence westerly, generally northerly and generally southwesterly along said limit to the northerly limit of the Municipal District of Grande Prairie County No. 1; thence generally southwesterly, southerly, westerly and northerly along said limit to the southeasterly corner of Saddle Hills County; thence northerly along the easterly limit of said county to the southerly boundary of Spirit River Indian Reserve No. 133; thence northerly, easterly, generally northerly and westerly along the easterly and northerly boundaries of said Indian reserve to the easterly limit of Saddle Hills County; thence northerly and generally northwesterly along said limit to the southerly limit of the Municipal District of Clear Hills; thence generally easterly and northerly along the southerly and easterly limits of said municipal district to the southwesterly corner of Northern Lights County; thence easterly and generally northerly along the southerly, easterly and northerly limits of said county to a point at approximate latitude 58°04'47"N and longitude 117°03'01"W; thence northerly in a straight line to the southerly boundary of Bushe River Indian Reserve No. 207; thence easterly and generally northwesterly along the southerly and easterly boundaries of said Indian reserve to its northerly boundary; thence northerly in a straight line to a point at approximate latitude 58°45'13"N and longitude 116°58'59"W; thence easterly in a straight line to the easterly limit of Mackenzie County; thence northerly, westerly and generally northerly along said limit to the north boundary of the Province of Alberta.

## **Lakeland**

(Population: 104,616)

(Map 1)

Consisting of that part of the Province of Alberta described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the east boundary of said province with the southerly limit of Vermilion River County; thence generally northwesterly and westerly along said limit, continuing along the southerly limit of Minburn County No. 27 and along the southerly limit of Lamont County to the easterly boundary of Elk Island National Park of Canada; thence southerly, generally westerly and generally northerly along the easterly, southerly and westerly boundaries of said national park to the westerly limit of Lamont County; thence westerly and generally northerly along said limit to the southwesterly corner of the Town of Bruderheim; thence northerly along the westerly limit of said town and the westerly limit of Lamont County to the right bank of the North Saskatchewan River; thence generally northeasterly along said bank to the southeasterly corner of Thorhild County No. 7; thence westerly and generally northerly along the southerly and westerly limits of said county to the southerly limit of Athabasca County; thence westerly, generally northwesterly, generally northeasterly and generally southerly along the southerly, westerly, northerly and easterly limits of said county to the northerly limit of Smoky Lake County; thence generally easterly and generally southeasterly along the northerly and easterly limits of said county to the northwesterly boundary of White Fish Lake Indian Reserve No. 128; thence generally northwesterly and generally southeasterly along the westerly and

northerly boundaries of said Indian reserve to the westerly limit of St. Paul County No. 19; thence northerly, generally easterly and generally southeasterly along the westerly, northerly and easterly limits of said county to Township Road 612; thence generally easterly along said road and Highway No. 660 to Highway No. 28; thence northeasterly along said highway to the westerly boundary of Cold Lake Indian Reserve No. 149; thence southerly and easterly along the westerly and southerly boundaries of said Indian reserve to Township Road 610; thence easterly along said road and its easterly production to a point on the east boundary of the Province of Alberta at approximate latitude 54°14'13"N and longitude 110°00'20"W; thence south along said boundary to the point of commencement.

### **Lethbridge**

(Population: 105,999)

(Map 1)

Consisting of:

(a) the City of Lethbridge; and

(b) Lethbridge County.

### **Medicine Hat**

(Population: 103,903)

(Map 1)

Consisting of that part of the Province of Alberta described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the east boundary of said province with the northerly limit of Cypress County; thence generally westerly and generally southerly along the northerly and westerly limits of said county to the westerly limit of the Municipal District of Forty Mile County No. 8; thence southerly and generally westerly along the westerly limit of said municipal district to the northerly limit of Warner County No. 5; thence generally westerly along said limit to the northerly limit of Cardston County; thence generally northwesterly along said limit to the northeasterly boundary of Blood Indian Reserve No. 148; thence northwesterly along said boundary to the Belly River (including those parts belonging to Cardston County adjacent to the northeasterly boundary of said Indian reserve); thence generally southwestwardly along said river and the westerly limit of Cardston County to the northwesterly corner of Blood Indian Reserve No. 148A; thence southerly and easterly along the westerly and southerly boundaries of said Indian reserve to its southeasterly corner; thence easterly along the production of the southerly boundary of said Indian reserve to a point on Range Road 282A at approximate latitude 49°01'15"N and longitude 113°40'21"W; thence southerly along said road to the south boundary of said province; thence easterly and northerly along the south and east boundaries of said province to the point of commencement.

## Peace River—Westlock

(Population: 108,095)

(Map 1)

Consisting of that part of the Province of Alberta described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the easterly limit of Mackenzie County with a point at approximate latitude 58°45'55"N and longitude 114°00'00"W; thence easterly in a straight line to a point on an unnamed trail at approximate latitude 58°45'55"N and longitude 113°43'25"W; thence southerly in a straight line to a point on the right bank of the Peace River at approximate latitude 58°42'00"N and longitude 113°43'25"W; thence generally southerly along said bank to a point at approximate latitude 58°41'21"N and longitude 113°43'36"W; thence westerly in a straight line to a point on the left bank of the Peace River at approximate latitude 58°41'21"N and longitude 113°55'32"W; thence southwesterly along said bank to the easterly limit of Mackenzie County; thence southerly and westerly along the easterly and southerly limits of said county to the easterly limit of Northern Sunrise County; thence southerly along said limit to a point at approximate latitude 56°48'28"N and longitude 114°57'31"W; thence easterly in a straight line to a point at approximate latitude 56°48'16"N and longitude 114°04'44"W; thence southerly in a straight line to a point at approximate latitude 56°27'24"N and longitude 114°04'54"W; thence westerly in a straight line to a point on the easterly limit of Northern Sunrise County at approximate latitude 56°27'33"N and longitude 114°56'59"W; thence generally southerly along said limit to the northerly limit of the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124; thence easterly, southerly, easterly and generally southerly along the northerly and easterly limits of said municipal district to the easterly limit of Westlock County; thence generally southerly, easterly, generally southerly and generally southwesterly along the easterly and southerly limits of said county to the easterly limit of Barrhead County No. 11; thence southerly and generally northwesterly along the easterly and southerly limits of said county to the easterly limit of Woodlands County; thence generally southerly, generally westerly and generally northwesterly along the easterly and southerly limits of said county to the southerly limit of the Municipal District of Greenview No. 16; thence generally southwesterly along said limit to the west boundary of R 23 W 5; thence north along the west boundary of R 23 W 5 to the southerly boundary of Sturgeon Lake Indian Reserve No. 154; thence northerly, easterly and northerly along the easterly boundary of said Indian reserve to the westerly production of Township Road 704 at a point at approximate latitude 55°05'00"N and longitude 117°21'43"W; thence easterly along said production to Range Road 230; thence generally northerly along said road, Range Road 225 and its intermittent productions to the northerly limit of the Municipal District of Greenview No. 16; thence westerly and generally northerly along said limit to the southeasterly limit of Birch Hills County; thence generally southwesterly and generally northerly along the easterly, southerly and westerly limits of said county to the southerly limit of the Municipal District of Fairview No. 136; thence generally northwesterly and generally easterly along the southerly, westerly and northerly limits of said municipal district to the westerly limit of the Municipal District of Peace No. 135; thence northerly and easterly along the westerly and northerly limits of said municipal district to the northwesterly corner of the Town of Peace River; thence generally northeasterly along the northerly limit of said town to the westerly limit of Northern Sunrise County; thence generally northerly along said limit and the westerly limit of Mackenzie County to a point at approximate latitude 58°04'47"N and longitude 117°03'01"W; thence northerly in straight line to the southerly boundary of Bushe River Indian Reserve No. 207; thence easterly and generally northwesterly along the southerly and easterly boundaries of said Indian reserve to its northerly boundary; thence northerly in a straight line to a point at approximate latitude 58°45'13"N and longitude 116°58'59"W; thence easterly in a straight line to the point of commencement.

## **Red Deer—Mountain View**

(Population: 110,793)

(Map 4)

Consisting of:

(a) Mountain View County; and

(b) Red Deer County and the City of Red Deer, excepting:

(i) that part lying northerly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the northwesterly limit of said county with Highway No. 11 (David Thompson Highway); thence generally easterly along said highway to the westerly limit of the City of Red Deer; thence southerly along said limit to the right bank of the Red Deer River; thence generally easterly along said bank to Taylor Drive; thence generally easterly along said drive, Ross (50) Street and its easterly production to 20 Avenue; thence northerly along said avenue to Highway No. 11 (David Thompson Highway); thence generally easterly along said highway to the northerly limit of said county;

(ii) the summer villages of Jarvis Bay and Norglenwold; the Town of Sylvan Lake.

## **Red Deer—Wolf Creek**

(Population: 107,985)

(Map 4)

Consisting of:

(a) Lacombe County;

(b) that part of Red Deer County and the City of Red Deer lying northerly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the northwesterly limit of said county with Highway No. 11 (David Thompson Highway); thence generally easterly along said highway to the westerly limit of the City of Red Deer; thence southerly along said limit to the right bank of the Red Deer River; thence generally easterly along said bank to Taylor Drive; thence generally easterly along said drive, Ross (50) Street and its easterly production to 20 Avenue; thence northerly along said avenue to Highway No. 11 (David Thompson Highway); thence generally easterly along said highway to the northerly limit of said county;

(c) that part of Ponoka County lying easterly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the southern limit of said county and Range Road 14; thence northerly along said road to Township Road 422; thence easterly along said road to Highway No. 771; thence northerly along said highway to Highway No. 53; thence easterly along said highway to Highway No. 792; thence northerly along said highway to the northerly limit of Ponoka County; and

(d) Louis Bull Indian Reserve No. 138B, Ermineskin Indian Reserve No. 138, Samson Indian Reserve No. 137, Samson Indian Reserve No. 137A and Montana Indian Reserve No. 139; the summer villages of Parkland Beach, Jarvis Bay and Norglenwold; the towns of Ponoka and Sylvan Lake.

## **Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan**

(Population: 111,541)

(Map 1)

Consisting of:

- (a) the City of Fort Saskatchewan; and
- (b) the County of Strathcona.

## **St. Albert—Edmonton**

(Population: 105,162)

(Map 3)

Consisting of:

- (a) the City of St. Albert; and
- (b) that part of the City of Edmonton lying westerly and northerly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the northerly limit of said city with 97 Street NW (Highway No. 28); thence southerly along said street to Castle Downs Road NW; thence generally westerly and generally southerly along said road to 137 Avenue NW; thence westerly along said avenue to St. Albert Trail NW (Highway No. 2); thence southeasterly along said trail to the Canadian National Railway; thence westerly and southwesterly along said railway to Yellowhead Trail NW (Highway No. 16); thence westerly along said trail to the westerly limit of the City of Edmonton.

## **Sturgeon River**

(Population: 105,733)

(Map 1)

Consisting of that part of the Province of Alberta described as follows: commencing at the northeasterly corner of Sturgeon County; thence generally southwesterly and generally westerly along the easterly and southerly limits of said county to the northerly limit of Parkland County; thence southerly along the easterly limit of said county to the northerly boundary of Stony Plain Indian Reserve No. 135; thence easterly and southerly along the northerly and easterly boundaries of said Indian reserve to the easterly limit of Parkland County; thence southerly and easterly along said limit to the right bank of the North Saskatchewan River; thence generally southwesterly along said bank to the southerly production of Range Road 20; thence northerly along said production, Range Road 20 and its northerly production to Township Road 510; thence westerly along said road to Range Road 20; thence northerly along said road and Range Road 20-Lake Eden Road to the southerly limit of Lac Ste. Anne County; thence westerly along said limit to Highway No. 43; thence northerly and generally northwesterly along said highway to the easterly boundary of Alexis Indian Reserve No. 133; thence northerly and westerly along the easterly and northerly boundaries of said Indian reserve to Highway No. 43; thence generally northwesterly along said highway to Highway No. 764; thence northerly along said highway to the northerly limit of Lac Ste. Anne County; thence generally northeasterly and generally southeasterly along said limit to the westerly limit of Sturgeon County; thence generally northeasterly and easterly along the westerly and northerly limits of said county to the point of commencement.



## Yellowhead

(Population: 104,563)

(Map 1)

Consisting of that part of the Province of Alberta described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the west boundary of said province with the north boundary of Tp 64; thence east along the north boundary of Tp 64 to the east boundary of R 24 W 5; thence south along the east boundary of R 24 W 5 to the northerly limit of Yellowhead County; thence generally easterly along said limit to the westerly limit of Lac Ste. Anne County; thence generally northerly, generally easterly and generally southerly along the westerly and northerly limits of said county to Highway No. 764; thence southerly along said highway to Highway No. 43; thence generally southeasterly along said highway to the northerly boundary of Alexis Indian Reserve No. 133; thence easterly and southerly along the northerly and easterly boundaries of said Indian reserve to Highway No. 43; thence generally southeasterly and southerly along said highway to the northerly limit of Parkland County; thence easterly along said limit to Range Road 20-Lake Eden Road; thence southerly along said road and Range Road 20 to Township Road 510; thence easterly along said road to the northerly production of Range Road 20; thence southerly along said production, Range Road 20 and its southerly production to the right bank of the North Saskatchewan River; thence generally southeasterly along said bank to the northerly production of Range Road 10; thence southerly along said production, Range Road 10 and its intermittent productions to Township Road 482; thence generally westerly along said road to Range Road 20; thence southerly along said road to Highway No. 616; thence westerly along said highway to Highway No. 771; thence southerly along said highway to Township Road 474; thence westerly along said road to Range Road 22; thence southerly along said road to the northerly limit of Wetaskiwin County No. 10; thence westerly, generally southerly and generally easterly along the northerly, westerly and southerly limits of said county to Highway No. 792; thence southerly along said highway to Highway No. 53; thence westerly along said highway to Highway No. 771; thence southerly along said highway to Township Road 422; thence westerly along said road to Range Road 14; thence southerly along said road to the southerly limit of Ponoka County; thence generally westerly along said limit to the easterly limit of Clearwater County; thence generally southerly, generally westerly, generally southerly, westerly and generally northwesterly along the easterly, southerly and westerly limits of said county to the southerly boundary of Jasper National Park of Canada; thence generally northwesterly and generally southwesterly along said boundary to the west boundary of the Province of Alberta; thence generally northwesterly and northerly along said boundary to the point of commencement.

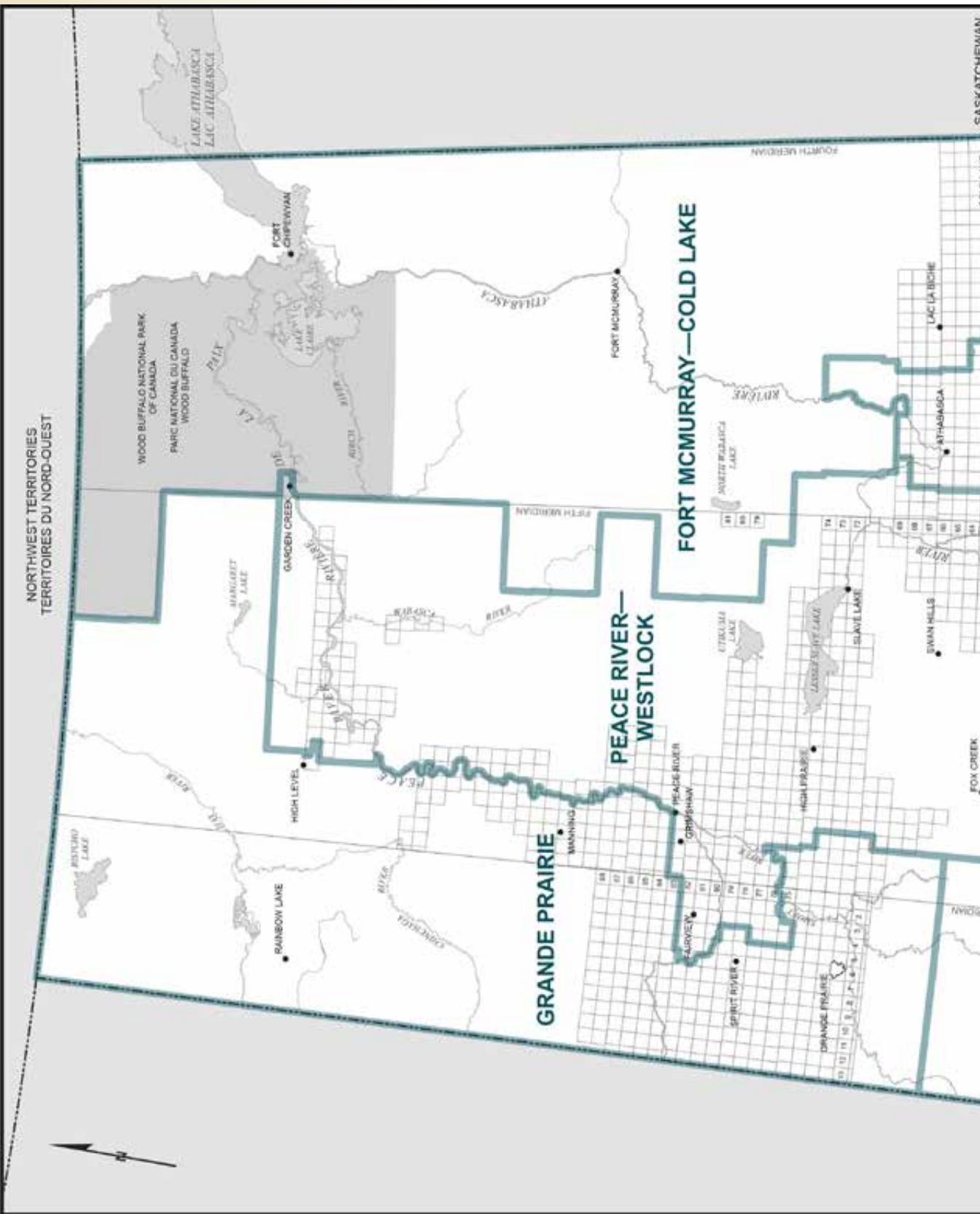




# Maps

(as of December 10, 2012)

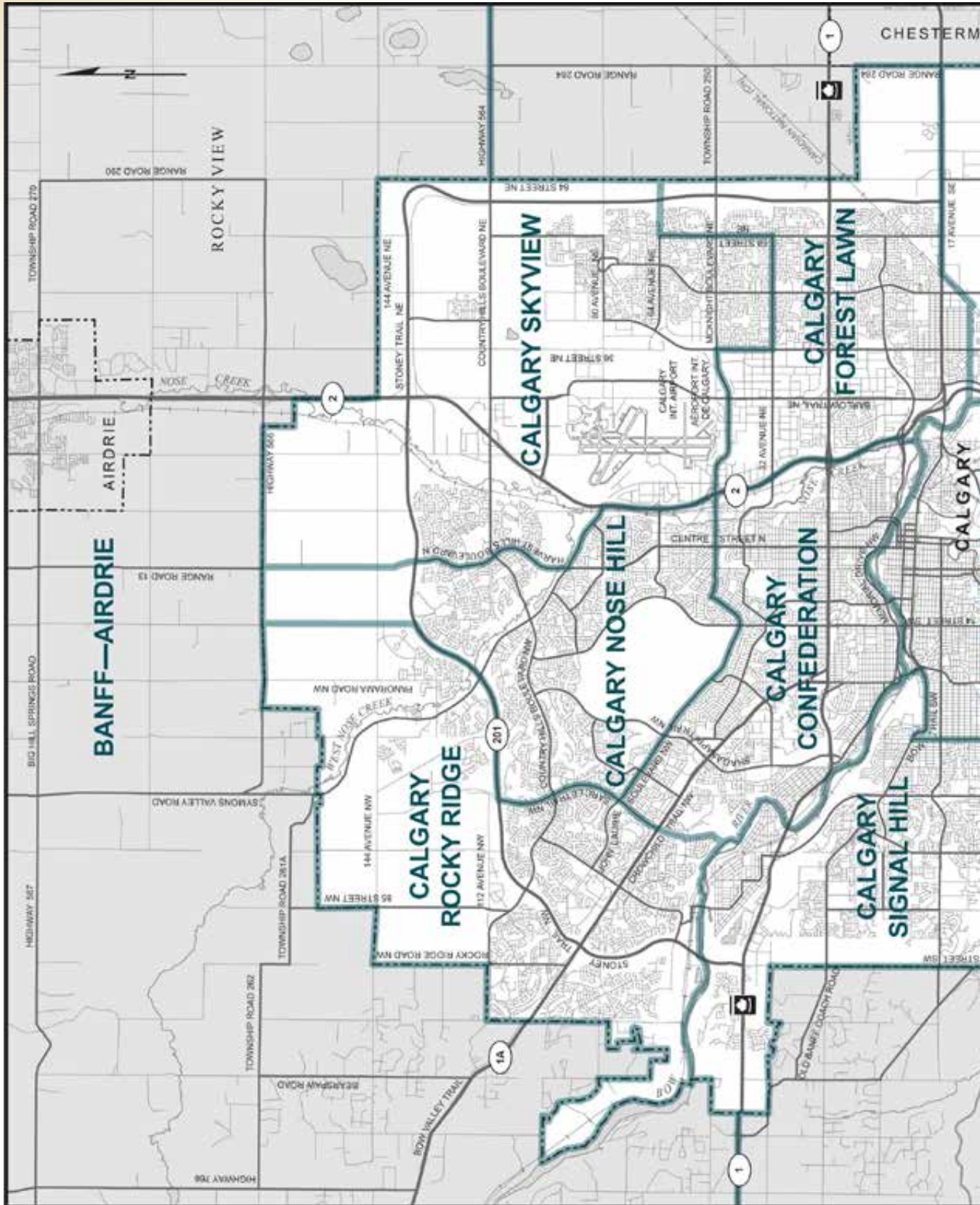




SOURCE: THE ELECTORAL GEOGRAPHY DIVISION, ELECTIONS CANADA.



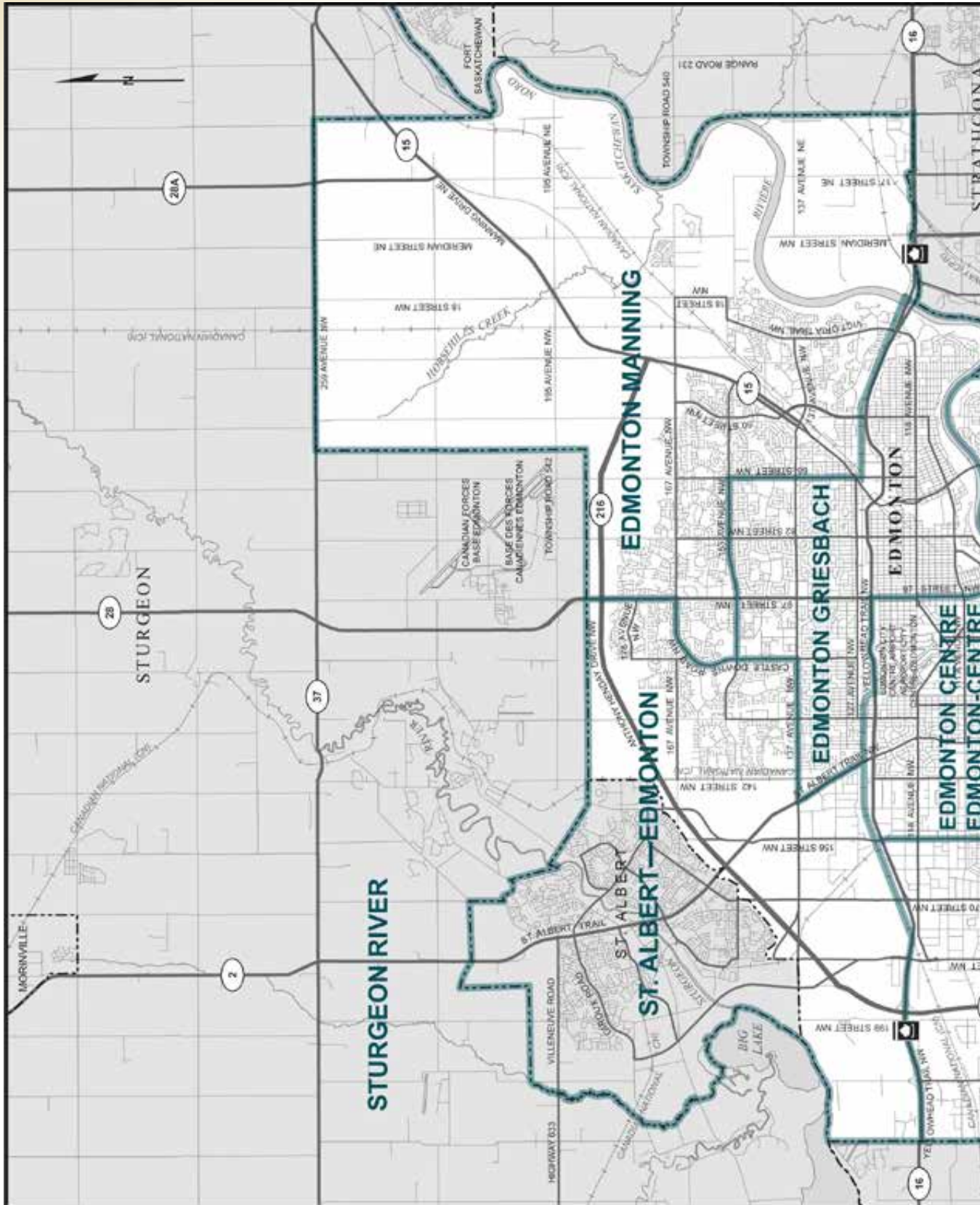




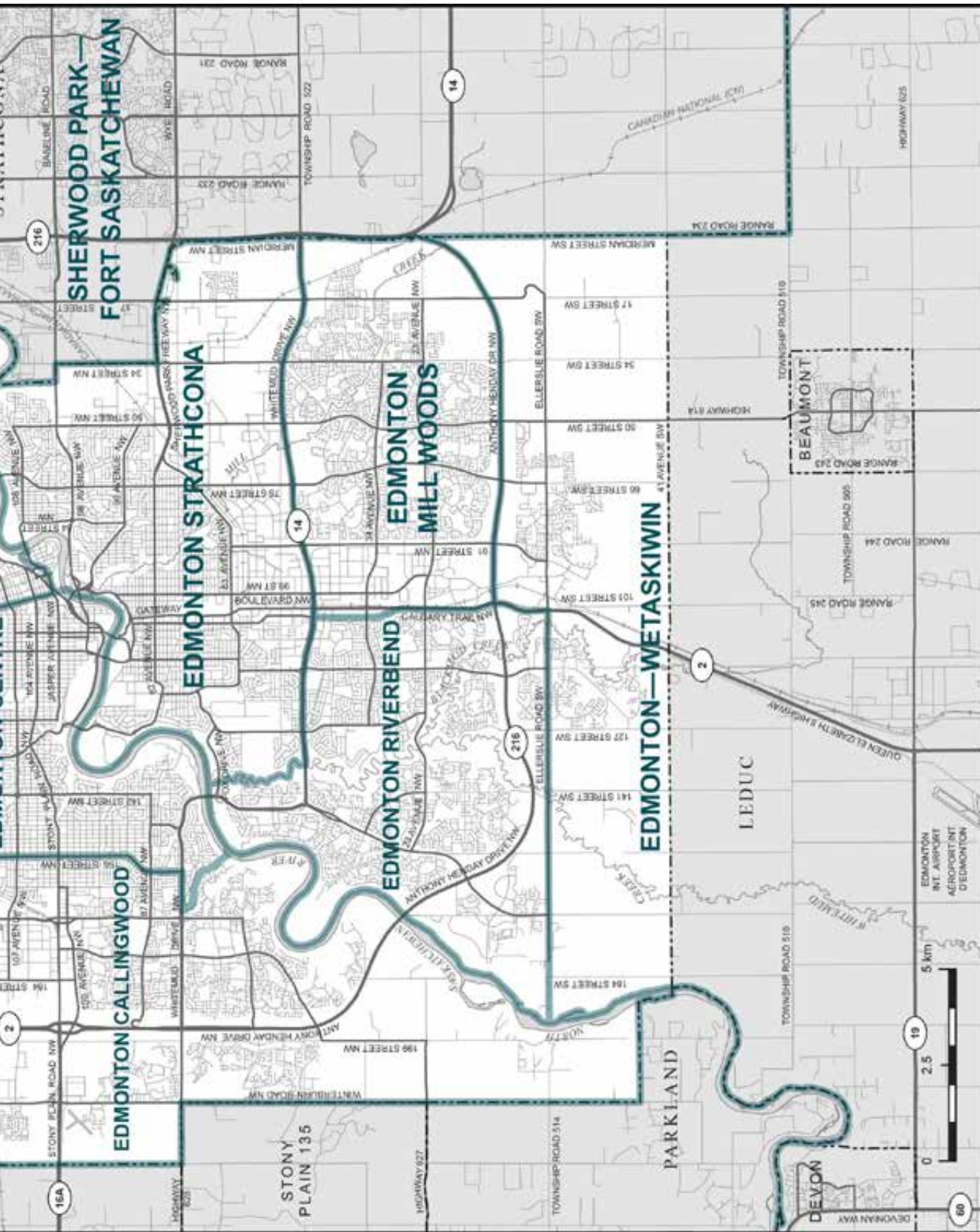
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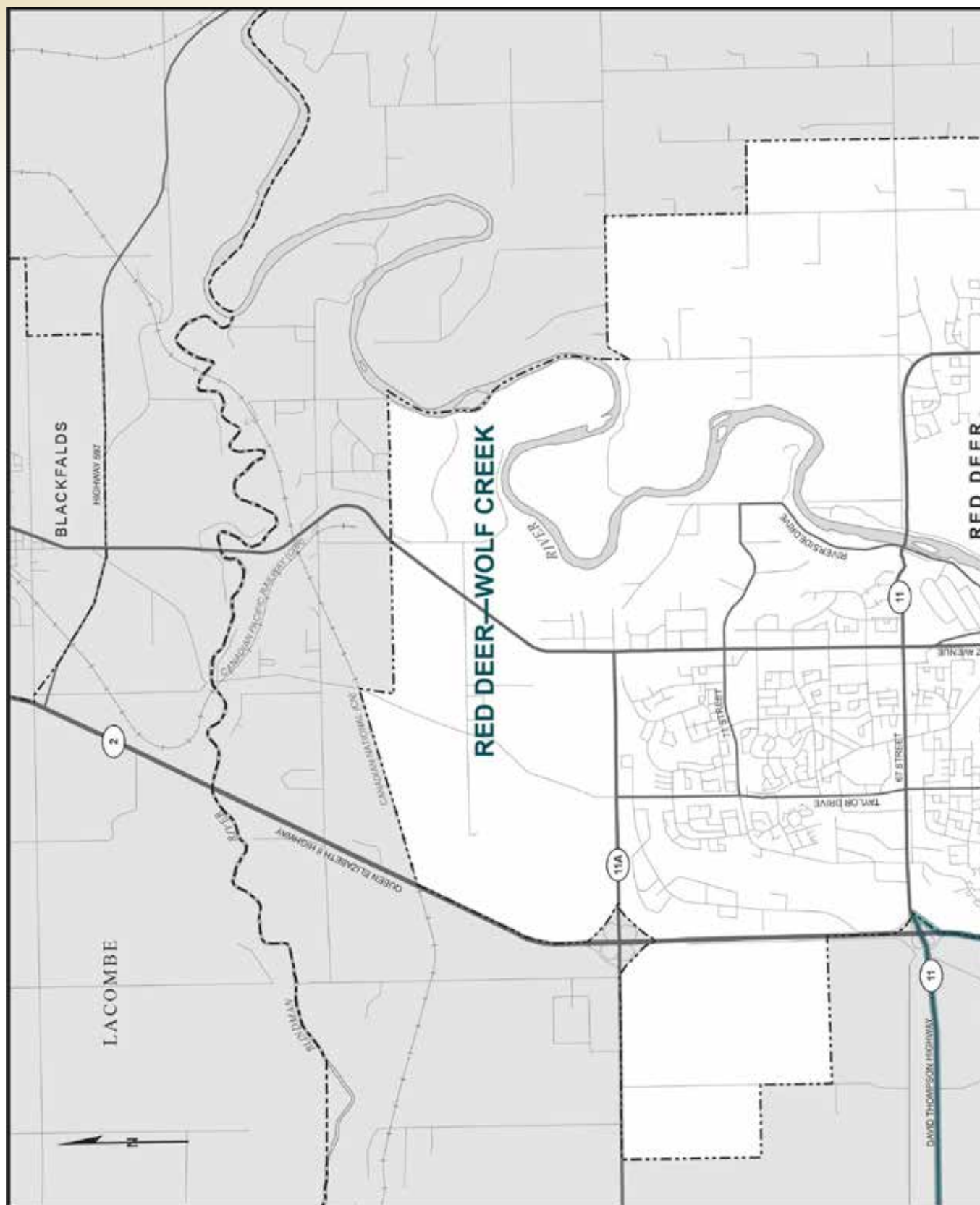


SOURCE: THE ELECTORAL GEOGRAPHY DIVISION, ELECTIONS CANADA.





## City of Red Deer (Map 4)



SOURCE: THE ELECTORAL GEOGRAPHY DIVISION, ELECTIONS CANADA.



# *Addendum— Disposition of Objections*

## **Addendum — Disposition of Objections**

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## Introduction

The 2012 Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Alberta (the “Commission”) received the Forty-Third Report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs (the “Standing Committee”) and has completed the final stage of its obligations under the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. E-3 (the “Act”), which required the Commission to consider and dispose of the objections raised in the Standing Committee’s report.

### Brief Background

After each decennial census, the number of electoral districts in the House of Commons, and for each province, is determined by the formula and rules set out in the *Constitution Act, 1867*. This process resulted in the creation of six new electoral districts in Alberta following the 2011 Census.

An independent commission is established in each province to divide that province into electoral districts. Each commission is established pursuant to, and governed by, the terms of the Act, and is required to submit a report for redistribution of electoral districts. Pursuant to the Act, members of the House of Commons have 30 calendar days from the date the report is tabled to file objections to the report. An objection must be in writing and in the form of a motion, specifying the provisions of the report it objects to and the reasons for the objection. An objection must be signed by no fewer than 10 members of the House of Commons.

Pursuant to the Act, the Standing Committee is required to consider the objections and file its report within 30 days or such longer period as may be approved by the House of Commons. That report is then referred back to the Commission for consideration. The Commission has 30 calendar days to consider and dispose of the objections raised in the Standing Committee’s report and finalize its report with or without amendment, depending on the Commission’s disposition.

The *Report of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Alberta* (the “Report”) was tabled in the House of Commons and referred to the Standing Committee on December 12, 2012. By the end of the 30-day period, the Clerk of the Standing Committee had received 10 objections. The Standing Committee considered those objections and its Forty-Third Report was referred to the Commission on March 7, 2013, for consideration. The Commission must file its disposition by April 6, 2013.

The Standing Committee offered several general comments, including the following:

The Committee is convinced the proposals submitted to the Commission in this report are an important reflection of the “on-the-ground” knowledge possessed by MPs. The Committee considers these proposals as not driven by any partisan interests but instead by a desire to assist the Commission in ensuring that the various rural and urban communities of Alberta receive their fullest representation in the House of Commons.

The Committee considers the work done by the Commission to maintain small deviations between the proposed electoral districts throughout the province to be admirable. The proposals brought forward by MPs in this report by and large maintain low deviations from the province’s electoral quota, and certainly below the limits provided for in section 15 of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*. The Committee, nonetheless, respectfully wishes to remind the Commission that equality of population between ridings is but one of a number of important considerations to be taken into account during boundary readjustments, as set out in the Act.

The Committee trusts that the Commission will view the proposals in this report with openness and with a view to striking the appropriate balance between representation by population and the maintenance of communities of interest and communities of identity in existing electoral districts.



## General Comments

The Commission has considered and disposed of the objections with respect to the Commission's Report dated December 10, 2012, filed by the following members of Parliament (MPs): LaVar Payne, MP for Medicine Hat; the Honourable Rona Ambrose, PC, MP for Edmonton—Spruce Grove; Blaine Calkins, MP for Wetaskiwin; Brian Jean, MP for Fort McMurray—Athabasca; Chris Warkentin, MP for Peace River; the Honourable Rob Merrifield, PC, MP for Yellowhead; Joan Crockatt, MP for Calgary Centre; Devinder Shory, MP for Calgary Northeast; Jim Hillyer, MP for Lethbridge; and the Honourable Ted Menzies, PC, MP for Macleod.

The Commission appreciates the input and has reconsidered its Report having regard to the objections, the minutes of the Standing Committee, audio recordings of the proceedings, and the Forty-Third Report of the Standing Committee. The Commission recognizes the valuable information elected representatives contribute to the redistribution process, and appreciates the effort and thoroughness demonstrated in these submissions. The Commission is an independent body and, as such, is not bound by the representations.

Throughout the process the Commission has been mindful of and governed by its mandate under the Act, including its discretion to deviate from population parity. Section 15 provides:

15. (1) In preparing its report, each commission for a province shall, subject to subsection (2), be governed by the following rules:

(a) the division of the province into electoral districts and the description of the boundaries thereof shall proceed on the basis that the population of each electoral district in the province as a result thereof shall, as close as reasonably possible, correspond to the electoral quota for the province, that is to say, the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the province as ascertained by the census by the number of members of the House of Commons to be assigned to the province as calculated by the Chief Electoral Officer under subsection 14(1); and

(b) the commission shall consider the following in determining reasonable electoral district boundaries:

(i) the community of interest or community of identity in or the historical pattern of an electoral district in the province, and

(ii) a manageable geographic size for districts in sparsely populated, rural or northern regions of the province.

(2) The commission may depart from the application of the rule set out in paragraph (1)(a) in any case where the commission considers it necessary or desirable to depart therefrom

(a) in order to respect the community of interest or community of identity in or the historical pattern of an electoral district in the province, or

(b) in order to maintain a manageable geographic size for districts in sparsely populated, rural or northern regions of the province,

but, in departing from the application of the rule set out in paragraph (1)(a), the commission shall make every effort to ensure that, except in circumstances viewed by the commission as being extraordinary, the population of each electoral district in the province remains within twenty-five per cent more or twenty-five per cent less of the electoral quota for the province.

The statutory objectives and effective representation can be achieved by various configurations. It is not, however, possible to please everyone on every issue. That is particularly true in a province where the number of electoral districts has increased from 28 to 34. These new electoral districts, and population changes, necessarily affect the electoral boundaries within which old relationships and prior historical associations existed. The new boundaries also place some communities accustomed to being in the centre of an electoral district on the edge of a district, or in a new district altogether. A perfect configuration for one electoral district often negatively impacts adjoining electoral districts and beyond. Redistribution is directed at ensuring fair federal representation for all citizens, not at creating preferred electoral districts for some.

## Objections

The following is a detailed list of the objections and the Commission's disposition of those objections. They have been grouped in two categories: objections relating to name changes and objections relating to electoral boundary changes.

### Disposition of Objections Relating to Name Changes

#### **1. Medicine Hat**

LaVar Payne, MP for Medicine Hat, objected to the boundaries of the proposed electoral district of Medicine Hat and requested a name change to Badlands—Medicine Hat—Brooks. The Commission addresses both requests later in this disposition when dealing with boundaries in southern Alberta, under the heading “Medicine Hat and Lethbridge”.

#### **2. Edmonton Callingwood**

The Honourable Rona Ambrose, PC, MP for Edmonton—Spruce Grove, filed an objection proposing two name changes. Ms. Ambrose objected to the name Edmonton Callingwood, requesting a name change to Edmonton West. Her second objection relating to a name change is dealt with under the heading “Sturgeon River”, below.

##### *Standing Committee*

The Standing Committee endorsed the name Edmonton West as giving an unambiguous sense of the location of the electoral district.

##### *Commission's Reasons*

As urban electoral districts increase in number, directional names become less effective as identifiers. As a result, the Commission moved away from the use of directional names for the most part, and sought historical or geographic features to identify an electoral district. Occasionally, it chose the name of a community within the electoral district as the best identifier.

The Commission could not find an appropriate historical or geographic feature to identify this electoral district, and instead selected a large community within the district. It recognizes, however, that there were numerous objections expressed at the hearings to this name. Upon reconsideration, it agrees that Edmonton Callingwood is somewhat unique in that Edmonton's western city limit is almost entirely within this district. The Commission agrees that Edmonton West is an appropriate name and is an appropriate identifier here, and grants this request.

##### *Disposition*

The objection is allowed and the electoral district of Edmonton Callingwood is renamed Edmonton West.

#### **3. Sturgeon River**

Ms. Ambrose also requested a name change for the electoral district of Sturgeon River, noting that while the Sturgeon River flows through the electoral district, it does not originate within the district and also flows through the City of St. Albert. Ms. Ambrose suggested that adding a reference to Parkland County would better identify the district and proposed the name Sturgeon—Parkland.

### *Standing Committee*

The Standing Committee endorses this recommendation as better reflecting the entire electoral district.

### *Commission's Reasons*

The Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC) provides guidelines for names of federal electoral districts. The guidelines suggest that the name should provide an immediate sense of the province and, if possible, the region or part of the province in which the district is located. Names of places and features should be given priority.

The Commission does not find the proposed name Sturgeon—Parkland either a better identifier or less confusing, as a large portion of Parkland County falls within the Yellowhead electoral district. The Commission continues to view Sturgeon River as an excellent identifier. The portion of Parkland County containing Spruce Grove and Stony Plain is located in the Sturgeon River watershed. Although the headwaters of the Sturgeon River are outside the electoral district, and a small portion of the river flows through St. Albert, a very large proportion of the Sturgeon River watershed falls within the electoral district of Sturgeon River. The Sturgeon River watershed is a natural feature and the use of the name Sturgeon River is in keeping with the GNBC's principles. The use of this name also avoids selecting one county, community or town over others in the district. The Commission continues to view Sturgeon River as the preferable identifier of the area.

### *Disposition*

The objection is dismissed.

## **4. Red Deer—Wolf Creek**

Blaine Calkins, MP for Wetaskiwin, filed a motion with the Standing Committee that contained two separate objections concerning the proposed electoral district of Red Deer—Wolf Creek.

First, Mr. Calkins objected to the proposed name of the electoral district of Red Deer—Wolf Creek. Second, he objected to the electoral boundary change for Red Deer—Wolf Creek; the Commission addresses the second objection later in this disposition when dealing with the boundaries in Edmonton, under the heading “Edmonton—Wetaskiwin”.

With respect to the name change, Mr. Calkins requested that the name Red Deer—Wolf Creek be changed to Red Deer—Lacombe to avoid confusion. He argued that Wolf Creek is the name of a local school district, whereas Lacombe is the name of a local city. In addition, Father Albert Lacombe, the city's namesake, did extensive charitable work within the area.

### *Standing Committee*

The Standing Committee supports this proposal, stating that it adds clarity to the name of the electoral district.

### *Commission's Reasons*

The Commission does not find Red Deer—Lacombe a preferable identifier, as that suggests an electoral district extending from Red Deer to Lacombe, whereas the district reaches north beyond Lacombe to the communities of Ponoka and Hobbema. Viewing a map, the Commission notes that the Wolf Creek school division almost mirrors the electoral boundaries of Red Deer—Wolf Creek, with the exception of Red Deer and a few communities in the northeastern portion of the district. In addition, the Wolf Creek Golf Course, prominently visible along the Queen Elizabeth II Highway between Lacombe and Ponoka,

has created a public awareness of the name Wolf Creek and its association with that area. As a result, the Commission continues to view the name Red Deer—Wolf Creek as the preferable identifier of the area included within the electoral district.

### *Disposition*

The objection is dismissed.

## **Disposition of Objections Relating to Electoral Boundaries**

### **Northern Alberta**

#### **1. Fort McMurray—Cold Lake**

Brian Jean, MP for Fort McMurray—Athabasca, objected to the proposed electoral boundaries of the riding of Fort McMurray—Cold Lake. Mr. Jean's objection is based on community of interest, established by economic ties between towns located on a single common transportation route.

Mr. Jean argued that Fort McMurray and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo should not be placed within the same riding as Wabasca, primarily because there is no direct east–west route connecting the two areas. He argued that Wabasca's economic ties and community of interest lie with the communities of High Prairie, Slave Lake and Athabasca, which are located on highways 813 and 754, while Fort McMurray is tied to the communities along its lone transportation corridor, Highway 63, which connects it to the south.

Mr. Jean put forward two further reasons to justify the deviation should the Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17 be removed from the electoral district of Fort McMurray—Cold Lake. First, there is a significant shadow and hidden population (i.e. population not counted in the census) around Fort McMurray; and second, Fort McMurray is a fast-growing city with expected future growth.

### *Standing Committee*

The Standing Committee agreed with Mr. Jean's assertion. It stated:

The Committee is conscious of the laudable work done by the Commission to have maintained a deviation of no more than 5.29% above or below the electoral quota throughout the entire province. Indeed, the 5.29% deviation below the quota is for the electoral district of Fort McMurray – Cold Lake. Mr. Jean's proposal would give the Fort McMurray – Cold Lake electoral district a population of 96,688 or a 9.82% deviation below the province's electoral quotient. The committee is comfortable recommending such a deviation on the basis that it is well below the maximum deviation provided for by section 15 of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*. Further, the purpose of allowing such a deviation, as set out in the Act, is to provide for effective representation for geographically remote rural areas, such as the proposed electoral district of Fort McMurray – Cold Lake.

Another reason the Committee feels comfortable recommending Mr. Jean's proposal, despite its enlargement of the deviation below the provincial electoral quota, is that Mr. Jean provided the Committee with compelling evidence that Statistics Canada's census data for the municipality of Wood Buffalo may not have adequately captured the actual number of people resident in that municipality. The evidence provided by Mr. Jean to the Committee suggests that the census data may have underestimated this population by up to 25%. The Committee is aware that the Commission must, by law, rely solely on the census data provided by Statistics Canada, and not from other sources. It is also not the Commission's role to "second-guess" the census data. The Committee, nonetheless, respectfully puts forward that sufficient grounds exist to consider the municipality of Wood Buffalo, as the centre of oil sands economic activity and one of the fastest growing municipalities in the country, as an exceptional electoral district in terms of its potential unmeasured or shadow population, along with the municipality's potential for future population growth.

The Standing Committee stated in its report:

The Committee notes that the Commission's initial proposed electoral districts did not place Fort McMurray and Wabasca in the same riding, and that it was only following the public hearings that the northeastern portion of the map was reconfigured to place Wabasca within the same riding as Fort McMurray. As such, Mr. Jean and the communities affected by this change did not have the opportunity to oppose this proposal during the public hearings.

#### *Commission's Reasons*

The Commission wishes to address this last point first. The Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17, including Wabasca, was in the same electoral district as Fort McMurray in both the Commission's Proposal and its Report. For that matter, Wabasca is currently in the electoral district of Fort McMurray—Athabasca, being represented by an MP from Fort McMurray. The only change made between the Proposal and the Report relating to the Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17 was as follows: in the Proposal, the entire municipal district was in the same electoral district as Fort McMurray; in the Report, a small portion of the municipal district, containing the communities of Red Earth Creek, Loon Lake, Peerless Lake and Trout Lake, was carved out and placed in the electoral district of Peace River—Westlock because the only access road into those communities was Highway 686, branching off to the east from Highway 88. Thus at all times, including the present, Wabasca had remained in the same electoral district as Fort McMurray and therefore there was full opportunity to address this issue. The geographic size of the Fort McMurray electoral district was also addressed at the public hearings. The Commission wishes to correct any suggestion that Mr. Jean and the communities were caught by surprise.

In any event, the absence of an east–west route connecting Wabasca to Fort McMurray has not prevented the Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17 from being within the same electoral district as Fort McMurray, at present and in the past. Access for representational purposes will continue along the same transportation routes. Although part of the road now passes through the electoral district of Lakeland, the road has not changed and it is not any longer.

Several presenters at the public hearings acknowledged that Cold Lake would be an appropriate fit with Fort McMurray because of common issues arising from heavy oil interests. The Commission notes that the primary industry of Wabasca is oil and gas exploration, and it is the nearest community to the Wabasca oil sands; thus it too has similar interests.

The Commission recognizes that Wabasca's access to Slave Lake and High Prairie to the west and Athabasca and beyond to the south provides service and creates associations, but an electoral boundary line will not stop those associations. Moreover, Athabasca is no longer in the same electoral district as Slave Lake or High Prairie.

The Commission also notes that the Standing Committee's report states, "In respect of the riding's western border, he [Mr. Jean] proposed that it go no further west than the fifth meridian ... and, as such, exclude Wabasca."

Again, there appears to be confusion. If the Fifth Meridian were selected as the western boundary of Fort McMurray—Cold Lake, as suggested, the Hamlet of Wabasca-Desmarais and the majority, if not all, of the First Nations reserves would still remain in the same electoral district as Fort McMurray.

Mr. Jean also based his objection in part on hidden and shadow populations and future growth in and around Fort McMurray. The Commission heard full arguments on these concerns at the public hearing in Fort McMurray, including Mr. Jean's filed written representations. Although scheduled to speak, Mr. Jean withdrew his request to make an oral presentation as the issues were extensively covered by other presenters. The Commission covered these issues in its earlier Report and those comments are applicable here.



The Commission recognizes that hidden and shadow populations are an issue for Fort McMurray, but that Fort McMurray is not the only community in the province with hidden or shadow populations, nor the only rapid-growth centre. The Commission heard several complaints that the census figures were not accurate. The difficulty, however, is that assessing shadow and hidden populations is at best a guessing game. Moreover, the Commission is directed by law to base its redistribution on the decennial census population count, and as the Standing Committee notes, it is not the role of the Commission to second-guess the census data. Not only is that approach not mandated, but such an approach would negatively impact rural areas, many of which do not experience growth during the 10 years between censuses.

The Commission recognizes that populations may change significantly from the decennial census population count by the time a report is implemented – even more by the time of the next decennial census – and common sense requires this factor to be considered in a general way. In its Report, the Commission noted the expected growth around Fort McMurray when approving the deviation of –5.29%. However, the starting point for establishing populations is based by statute on a fixed census population count and the Commission is not inclined to deviate further for this reason alone.

In summary, the Commission is not convinced that there is any valid or principled reason for reconfiguring this electoral district to exclude Wabasca, nor would selecting the requested Fifth Meridian as a boundary have that result. The Commission has sought to balance representation for all of the northern electoral districts, keeping in mind the historical location of the Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17 within the same electoral district as Fort McMurray and considering common resource interests. The Commission is satisfied that the electoral district of Fort McMurray—Cold Lake, as configured in its Report, has appropriate boundaries and can be effectively represented.

The Commission configured northern electoral districts to share the challenges of representation, including travel in sparsely populated areas. While it recognizes the right to deviate further, the Commission deems no further deviation necessary for effective and appropriate representation within the electoral district as configured.

#### *Disposition*

The objection is dismissed.

## **2. Peace River—Westlock**

Chris Warkentin, MP for Peace River, filed an objection to the proposed boundaries of the electoral districts of Grande Prairie and the adjacent district of Peace River—Westlock. The objection was based on the following: rural MPs have added responsibilities as compared with urban MPs; there are 26 municipal councils and 32 First Nations leadership groups in the current Peace River electoral district, whereas an urban MP might have only one municipal council to deal with and it might be shared with other MPs; access to the Internet and use of mobile phones remain limited in northwestern Alberta; literacy rates in northern Alberta are below the national average; and the most important manner for communicating with northern communities remains via face-to-face meetings.

In addition, the Standing Committee stated in its report:

Mr. Warkentin submitted that communities of interest and identity, based on common service areas and economic ties, exist among the towns located along the lone transportation route (highway 35) running north-south in northwestern Alberta. He explained that under the electoral boundaries as proposed by the Commission, these communities would, in essence, be split into opposite sides of one highway. In its report, the Commission explained that this configuration is meant to better serve these communities by having two MPs share the work of representing the far north. Mr. Warkentin, however, raised a number of convincing practical difficulties that would arise under such an arrangement. Mr. Warkentin provided the Committee with a detailed



description of the undesirable logistical difficulties for an MP seeking to conduct face-to-face town hall meetings along this stretch of highway with some communities, while not others, depending on which side of the highway these communities were located on.

Finally, Mr. Warkentin submitted that, since a large, relatively unpopulated forest belt lies between Valleyview and Whitecourt, no meaningful connection exists between communities to the south of this forest belt and those to its north.

Mr. Warkentin proposed that Peace River—Westlock capture the communities located along Highway 35 (Manning and High Level) and the northern portion of Highway 2 (Peace River, Grimshaw and Fairview). The electoral district would encompass Swan Hills and Valleyview at its southern end, but not Whitecourt; as proposed by Mr. Warkentin, that town would be located in the northern end of the Yellowhead electoral district. Mr. Warkentin submitted that his proposal would change the deviation of the proposed electoral district of Peace River—Westlock from +0.82% to -10.75%.

#### *Standing Committee*

The Standing Committee felt comfortable supporting Mr. Warkentin's proposal because the deviation remains well below the maximum deviation provided for by section 15 of the Act. Reduced populations are often the norm in rural areas and regions where the populations are dispersed. The Committee supported Mr. Warkentin's proposal and viewed it as an improvement on the one proposed by the Commission. The Standing Committee referred to the requirement that two MPs, rather than one, travel the long distances from the southern part of the electoral district to its northern reaches. This struck the Committee as an undesirable duplication that could be avoided by capturing this transportation corridor and its communities within a single electoral district.

#### *Commission's Reasons*

The Commission has considered this request. It agrees that northern electoral districts throughout Canada present unique challenges. Northern MPs, like MPs in many other rural electoral districts of Canada, have further distances to travel in often sparsely populated areas. The Commission is also aware of the numerous Métis and First Nations communities in the north. The Commission recognizes its discretion to deviate from the electoral quota if it considers that to be necessary or desirable.

Every electoral district, whether urban or rural, comes with its own unique character. Frequently, urban electoral districts are also comprised of very diverse communities with strong, conflicting needs. Issues often arise within an electoral district as a result of the demographic makeup of that district, including linguistic, ethnic, economic, social, geographic and cultural values.

The Commission was mindful of the geographic and demographic makeup of the current Peace River electoral district when it prepared its initial Proposal. It recognized that Peace River was the largest electoral district both geographically and by population count, and it determined that further representation was required in the north. Initially, the Commission proposed an electoral district of Grande Prairie similar to the one being put forth by Mr. Warkentin.

At the public hearings, however, the geographic size of the proposed Peace River—Westlock district was one of the main issues addressed. In particular, presenters expressed concerns about the distance between Westlock and the northwestern corner of Alberta. The Commission listened to those concerns and agreed. It determined that responsibility for serving the north should be shared on a more equitable basis.

For example, the representational responsibilities and travel involved in serving the 26 municipal councils and 32 First Nations leadership groups referred to by Mr. Warkentin would be shared by two MPs. Mr. Warkentin's proposal would transfer the lion's share of these representational duties and travel to the MP for Peace River—Westlock. The Commission does not view that as preferable.

The Commission accepts the fact that Internet access varies within the north, and service is not universal. That is also true in other rural areas of Alberta. Nonetheless, the infrastructure is in place to make Internet connectivity possible in the north. The Alberta Supernet, a network of fibre cables and towers currently reaching 2,429 communities across Alberta, is designed to serve a population of over 3.5 million people, including the 1 million living in more rural and remote communities. In addition, there are many service providers currently facilitating communication in the north and the Commission is satisfied that technology will continue to aid communication.

The Commission appreciates that literacy rates in northern Alberta are below the national average and agrees that face-to-face communication is desirable. For facilitating dialogue with municipal councils and First Nations groups by means of town hall meetings, the Commission views the configuration it proposed as preferable since two MPs share that responsibility more equitably.

The Commission is concerned about the Standing Committee's statement that the communities along Highway 35 would, in essence, be split into opposite sides of one highway. It wants to clarify that the boundary is not Highway 35 but the Peace River. This vast river is located an average of 20 kilometres east of Highway 35. The river also serves as the county line. Thus, the towns along Highway 35, both to its east and west, do not fall within two different electoral districts as described by the Standing Committee.

The Commission was mindful of the community of interest that often exists in towns and communities along highways, and it ensured that Highway 35 would not be the boundary line. Towns and communities around Highway 35 are not split, and town hall meetings along the highway would be inclusive for all inhabitants west of the Peace River.

With the Peace River as the boundary, the MP for Grande Prairie can serve the communities west of the river along Highway 35, and the MP for Peace River—Westlock can serve the communities east of the river along Highway 88, which is the second north–south highway serving the northwestern part of the province. Towns and reserves along Highway 88 remain intact within the Peace River—Westlock electoral district. Although approximately 178 kilometres of Highway 88 are not paved, the highway is located entirely within the electoral district of Peace River—Westlock. If the communities along the gravelled portion of Highway 88 are to be visited, access is via that road.

The Standing Committee's statement that "duplication ... could be avoided by capturing this transportation corridor and its communities within a single riding" suggests a misunderstanding as to the existence of two arterial spines serving the northwest. Each falls within its own electoral district, separated by the vast Peace River. Each MP would therefore serve a different corridor and its corresponding communities. This is not duplication but instead the opportunity for better personal communication with all communities.

The Commission is aware of the forest belt between Valleyview and Whitecourt. This is not unique, however, as many geographic features in Alberta separate different communities within the same electoral district. For example, Jasper is geographically separated by mountains from the rest of its electoral district. Not every separate interest can be individually represented and most, if not all, electoral districts contain several communities of interest. While the Commission considered recognized communities of interest where reasonably possible, it does not have the duty to create electoral districts comprised of only one community of interest. Attempts to do so would fail. In any event, the Commission addressed this issue in its Report and further discusses it below, under the heading "Yellowhead".

The factors supporting Mr. Warkentin's objection were all considered by the Commission when it configured northern electoral districts, applying the statutory criteria. The Commission concluded that the far north would be better served by two elected representatives, sharing travel and other representational responsibilities on a more equitable basis. Each of the proposed electoral districts is smaller than the current electoral district of Peace River in size and population. Although the Standing Committee's recommendation would work well for the electoral district of Grande Prairie, the Commission does not accept that it would work as well for all of the citizens of the two electoral districts.

There are obviously other configurations that could be proposed. The Commission is satisfied that the boundaries, as established, properly combine populations and are fully justified for the reasons given in its Report. To change the boundaries again would serve only to please some people and displease others. The Commission is not persuaded that the proposed changes are an improvement.

#### *Disposition*

The objection is dismissed.

### **3. Yellowhead**

The Honourable Rob Merrifield, PC, MP for Yellowhead, filed an objection to the proposed boundaries of the electoral district of Yellowhead and the adjacent districts of Grande Prairie and Peace River—Westlock, based on communities of interest and identity, geography, and historical patterns. According to Mr. Merrifield:

1. Whitecourt has no community of interest with the north. The natural geographic gap of forest and farmland separates Whitecourt from the nearest town to its north, Valleyview, which lies almost 200 kilometres away.
2. The Commission maintains that inclusion of the southern counties in the electoral district of Peace River—Westlock is desirable to increase representation in the northwest. Mr. Merrifield informed the Standing Committee that contrary to this logic, Whitecourt, Barrhead and Westlock are in fact so large in comparison to the communities of the northwest that they would dominate the riding.

Mr. Merrifield proposed that the Town of Whitecourt and a portion of Woodlands County be placed in the proposed electoral district of Yellowhead. In order to balance population counts, he proposed that Grande Cache and a portion of the Municipal District of Greenview No. 16 be transferred from Yellowhead to the proposed electoral district of Grande Prairie. The natural boundaries of the Athabasca River to the north of Yellowhead and the Berland River to the south of Grande Cache were suggested as rough guidelines for a boundary for Mr. Merrifield's proposal.

#### *Standing Committee*

The Standing Committee stated that the net result of Mr. Merrifield's proposal would be to alter the deviations from the province's electoral quota for the three proposed electoral districts as follows: Yellowhead, from -2.47% to +5.00%; Peace River—Westlock, from +0.82% to -10.75%; and Grande Prairie, from -0.44% to +3.65%. The Standing Committee supported this proposal, stating:

The committee, however, is comfortable recommending such a deviation [-10.75%] as it agrees with Mr. Merrifield's view that the removal of Whitecourt from the Peace River – Westlock riding better serves both the people of Whitecourt, who have no common community of interest or identity with the northwest of Alberta, as it does the communities of the northwest, whose issues, interests and concerns would be at risk of being marginalized or dimmed by having been included in a riding with a large southern population base.

Further, a -10.75% deviation from the province's electoral quota remains well below the maximum deviation provided for by section 15 of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*. The Committee considers such a

deviation warranted in this instance as the purpose of allowing for deviations from strict representation by population is to provide for effective representation for geographically remote rural areas, such as the proposed electoral district of Peace River – Westlock.

### *Commission's Reasons*

The Commission heard similar arguments at the public hearings relating to a proper division of the current electoral district of Peace River. As noted earlier, it is not uncommon for electoral districts to contain more than one identifiable group or interest. The Commission attempted to balance factors in the best interests of all citizens, towns and areas, rather than to simply draw the boundaries of an electoral district to meet the wishes of a few. Sometimes it is not reasonably possible to keep communities together.

Mr. Merrifield and several presenters at the public hearings opposed the inclusion of Westlock, Whitecourt and Barrhead in the electoral district of Peace River—Westlock. The transcripts of the Standing Committee's hearings record Mr. Merrifield's concern that the Commission did not listen and did not understand. Accordingly, the Commission wishes to reiterate how it arrived at the inclusion of the southern counties of Woodlands, Barrhead No. 11 and Westlock in its configuration of the Peace River—Westlock electoral district.

The Commission is directed to proceed with its redistribution on the basis that each electoral district shall, as close as reasonably possible, correspond to the electoral quota for the province. It also must consider communities of interest, communities of identity, historical patterns and manageable geographic size for sparsely populated, rural or northern regions. Where the Commission considers it necessary or desirable with regard to these considerations, it may deviate from population parity by up to 25% and beyond in extraordinary circumstances.

The census population count for Peace River was 150,925. The geographic size was 162,871 square kilometres. The Commission concluded that the current electoral district of Peace River is too large and too populated to continue as a single electoral district. There is no east–west transportation route that connects northeastern Alberta to northwestern Alberta. Simply dividing the geographic territory of the current electoral district of Peace River to create two electoral districts would give at least one, if not both, a deviation in excess of 25% from the electoral quota. The Commission did not find that extraordinary circumstances existed to support such a deviation. As a result, it chose to include the counties of Woodlands, Westlock and Barrhead No. 11 within the electoral district of Peace River. Those communities have common interests with each other and no one has suggested otherwise.

Mr. Merrifield submits that these counties do not have a common interest with the north and that they are separated by a large forest belt. He stated that a natural geographic gap of forest and farmland separates Whitecourt from the nearest town to its north, Valleyview, which lies almost 200 kilometres away. (The Commission notes that the nearest town from Whitecourt is actually the Town of Fox Creek, which is approximately 83 kilometres from Whitecourt and almost halfway between Whitecourt and Valleyview, which are 170 – not 200 – kilometres apart.) In any event, the Commission was and is mindful of this issue. It understands that the people in Whitecourt, Barrhead and Westlock do not frequently travel north for cultural reasons.

Nonetheless, there are many common interests the communities have with each other and many common interests shared throughout the district. The communities lying above and below the forest belt share interests in agriculture, forestry, mining, and oil and gas. In answer to questions on this issue before the Standing Committee (Meeting No. 60), Mr. Merrifield acknowledged these interests, stating, "Just because a community has agriculture or forestry or mining or oil and gas doesn't mean it's connected culturally or historically or that it identifies with those other communities. It's not that there's that much difference, but certainly there's a massive amount of forestry without any population between those communities."



The Commission has heard and understands Mr. Merrifield's concern. Not all communities will share all the same interests, and the far reaches of many electoral districts do not necessarily share the same cultural and historical interests.

The Commission considered many configurations for dividing the north and determined that together, Woodlands, Barrhead No. 11 and Westlock counties were a good fit within the electoral district of Peace River—Westlock for the reasons given in its Report.

For the first time, Mr. Merrifield proposes that Whitecourt and only a portion of Woodlands County be placed in the Yellowhead electoral district. The Commission spent considerable time looking at various configurations to accommodate this request. Although numerically, and solely in terms of the deviation, such a configuration is possible and has appeal, the Commission is troubled at the removal of Whitecourt from the balance of its county. The Town of Whitecourt is the centre of Woodlands County; there being no other large centre, its removal would be significant and would negatively impact the voice of the county. More important, as commonality of interest between the north and south was core to the discussion at the hearings, the Commission is concerned about separating Whitecourt from the counties of Westlock and Barrhead No. 11, which together have an acknowledged community of interest. The removal of Whitecourt dilutes that interest.

Finally, the Commission rejects the argument that a representative who was elected from south of the forest belt would not adequately represent the interests of the northern communities. Mr. Merrifield argues that the southern communities would dominate the electoral district. Collectively, Westlock, Barrhead No. 11 and Woodlands counties have 34.71% of the population of the Peace River—Westlock electoral district. The fear of domination and abandonment of the balance of the district is not justified. An MP, whether elected from the north or south, would not ignore the balance of the electoral district. This Commission has great faith in the honour of MPs and their ability to properly represent all constituents in their electoral districts. Change is sometimes painful but change is also inevitable where new electoral districts are created in a province.

In summary, the Commission finds no principled reason for excluding Whitecourt from the electoral district of Peace River.

#### *Disposition*

The objection is dismissed.

## **Edmonton**

### **1. Edmonton—Wetaskiwin**

Blaine Calkins, MP for Wetaskiwin, filed an objection to the proposed boundaries of the electoral districts of Edmonton—Wetaskiwin and Red Deer—Wolf Creek.

Mr. Calkins was concerned about the electoral district of Edmonton—Wetaskiwin, fearing that urban interests would outweigh the rural interests in the area. He did not, however, ask for any change to that electoral district and noted that he was grateful to the Commission for keeping the County of Wetaskiwin whole.

Mr. Calkins requested changes to the electoral district of Red Deer—Wolf Creek. He noted that the proposal continues to sever a community of interest that exists between the communities located on the east-west trading corridor of highways 11 and 53, and he proposed that Rimbey be relocated in the proposed electoral district of Red Deer—Wolf Creek. He argued that Rimbey has no connections with the communities further to its west, such as Grande Cache, Hinton and Edson. Mr. Calkins also expressed

an interest in seeing Rocky Mountain House included in the Red Deer—Wolf Creek district as it is a community with stronger economic and political relationships with the communities to its east. The addition of both communities or either of them to the electoral district of Red Deer—Wolf Creek had the full support of the current MPs representing the electoral districts in the area.

Mr. Calkins indicated that he does not expect the Commission to completely redraw the electoral districts of central Alberta. Instead, his proposal focuses on asking the Commission to give serious consideration to the maintenance of existing relationships between long-standing communities of interest.

#### *Standing Committee*

The Standing Committee reported that the net result of Mr. Calkins' proposal to add Rimbey to the proposed electoral district of Red Deer—Wolf Creek would be to alter its deviation from the province's electoral quota, along with that of Yellowhead, as follows: Red Deer—Wolf Creek, from +0.72% to +6.04%; and Yellowhead, from -2.47% to -7.80%. Adding Rimbey and Rocky Mountain House to Red Deer—Wolf Creek would alter the deviations from the province's electoral quota as follows: Red Deer—Wolf Creek, from +0.72% to +15.39%; and Yellowhead, from -2.47% to -17.15%.

The Standing Committee fully supported Mr. Calkins' proposal. The disappearance of a Wetaskiwin riding, for the first time since Confederation, is an understandable source of dissatisfaction and unhappiness for its residents. The Standing Committee enjoined the Commission to be cognizant of the importance of maintaining a strong rural voice in the ridings of central Alberta when preparing its final map for the province.

#### *Commission's Reasons*

The Commission notes that although the MP for Wetaskiwin is concerned about the electoral district of Edmonton—Wetaskiwin, no relief is sought with respect to that district. In any event, the Commission does not view the configuration as one in which Wetaskiwin has disappeared. Rather, Wetaskiwin's historical importance is recognized and its name retained in the new electoral district. Edmonton accounts for about 25% of the population in that electoral district. Large tracts of farmland continue to exist around Leduc and Beaumont, and the Commission is satisfied that rural interests will be properly represented. Moreover, the public hearings confirmed other common interests: many Wetaskiwin residents work in Edmonton, Beaumont and Leduc. Finally, a major issue at the hearings related to the division of the County of Wetaskiwin, and the Commission reunited that county.

Mr. Calkins requested the Commission to include the Town of Rimbey and surrounding communities within the electoral district of Red Deer—Wolf Creek. In addition, if possible, he requested the inclusion of the Town of Rocky Mountain House. The Commission carefully reconsidered this request.

Configuring electoral districts is not an exact science and many configurations are viable for an area. At the public hearings, many of the communities in the southern and central portions of the proposed Yellowhead electoral district wanted to be relocated to Red Deer—Wolf Creek. The population count made these requests not reasonably possible. Moreover, given the large geographic size of the Yellowhead electoral district, the Commission considered it important to keep together many of the Yellowhead communities located near the corridor, to avoid their isolation and enable them to work together. As a result, and in view of the population of Rocky Mountain House, the Commission is unable to accommodate the request to include Rocky Mountain House in the Red Deer—Wolf Creek electoral district. Moreover, the removal of Rocky Mountain House from the County of Clearwater would have a significant negative impact on the county. As Yellowhead is a large electoral district with numerous unpopulated, or sparsely populated, tracts of land, it is important to keep the voice of Clearwater County united.



The Commission recognizes the numerous submissions relating to towns along Highway 53 and has reconsidered the issue of reuniting Ponoka County. The Commission accepts Mr. Calkins' proposal and agrees to place the balance of Ponoka County, including Rimbey, in the electoral district of Red Deer—Wolf Creek. This change results in the following deviations: Red Deer—Wolf Creek's population count goes from 107,985 to 113,693, with a deviation going from +0.72% to +6.04%; and Yellowhead's population count goes from 104,563 to 98,855, with a deviation going from -2.47% to -7.80%. The Commission finds these deviations acceptable in the interest of keeping Ponoka County united and having regard to its topography.

The Commission is satisfied that the boundaries as established are consistent with the mandate under the Act, achieve the required goal, combine compatible populations and are fully justified for the reasons given in the Commission's Report. The Commission finds that this adjustment is an improvement in that it keeps the county together.

#### *Disposition*

The objection is allowed in part: the County of Ponoka is united within the electoral district of Red Deer—Wolf Creek, as described earlier and in the "Amendments to Schedule B" section of this Report.

## **Calgary**

### **1. Calgary Centre**

Joan Crockatt, MP for Calgary Centre, filed an objection regarding the northwest and east boundaries of the proposed electoral district of Calgary Centre. Her objection is based on the maintenance of cohesive communities, historical patterns, the well-established flow of commerce, and the traditional provincial, federal and municipal boundaries. Ms. Crockatt considers that the Commission's proposed boundaries for the electoral district amount to "radical surgery" in a situation where continuity could instead be maintained.

Ms. Crockatt proposed that the area in the northwest of the Calgary Centre electoral district bounded by 37 Street SW and Bow Trail SW be removed from the district. She suggested the area south of 26 Avenue SW and north of Glenmore Trail SE be extended to Sarcee Trail SW to prevent the disruption of communities located east of the Sarcee Trail (the "Ring Road").

Ms. Crockatt also proposed that the large industrial area located to the east of both Macleod Trail SW and 3 Street SE, along with the communities of Ramsay and Inglewood, be removed and placed in the electoral district of Calgary Shepard. She suggested the Elbow River as a natural eastern boundary, being the one used for provincial and municipal ridings. Ms. Crockatt explained that a large industrial area in Calgary Centre is a poor fit in terms of community of interest. Calgary Centre is a populous electoral district containing head offices, homeless shelters, a large immigrant population and suburban communities. In her view, the sparsely populated industrial area would be a better fit in the proposed electoral district of Calgary Shepard.

Finally, she submitted that her proposal would leave Calgary Centre and its adjacent ridings within plus or minus 5% of the province's electoral quota.

Ms. Crockatt took her seat in the House of Commons on December 11, 2012, only one day before the Commission's Report was tabled. She felt the riding of Calgary Centre did not have a sitting MP during most of the electoral boundaries readjustment process.

### *Standing Committee*

The Standing Committee found Ms. Crockatt's arguments persuasive and fully supported her proposal.

### *Commission's Reasons*

The Commission understands that communities are uneasy about change. Significant change is, however, inevitable when the number of electoral districts increases, as is happening in Calgary. Moreover, since there are 25 provincial electoral districts in Calgary and only 10 federal electoral districts, it is not possible to keep all federal boundaries coterminous with provincial ones.

The Standing Committee reiterated Ms. Crockatt's position that "[r]esidents of these communities have close ties; their community associations collaborate, as do their churches and schools." Such relationships will continue across federal electoral boundaries. Federal boundaries do not restrict community cooperation and involvement. The Commission sees no merit to switching communities within Calgary Centre as suggested.

The Commission considered Ms. Crockatt's argument that Signal Hill's "topographical difference is significant, meaning virtually no traffic flow occurs between the neighbourhoods inside the ring road and outside the ring road." The Commission notes, however, that there are four well-travelled main arteries south of the Bow River which cross the Ring Road, namely, 17 Avenue SW, Bow Trail SW, Glenmore Trail SW and Richmond Road SW. Citizens pass freely between the communities on both sides of the Ring Road to work, shop, attend schools and participate in sports. The major shopping area of Signal Hill also draws shoppers and workers across the Ring Road.

Regarding Ms. Crockatt's request to remove the eastern portion of the electoral district, the Commission continues to view Inglewood and Ramsay as an appropriate fit in Calgary Centre. These communities are in close proximity, with easy access to and from downtown Calgary. Ninth Avenue in Inglewood is a popular shopping and restaurant location frequented by people from the downtown core. Although industrial areas are large, they exist in several electoral districts. The Commission is not convinced that there is any principled basis to move this industrial area from Calgary Centre to Calgary Shepard.

Ms. Crockatt was not an MP at the time of the public hearings, and the Commission regrets that her input was not received at the time. Nonetheless, the hearings were advertised and all citizens were invited to express concerns. Riding associations could and often did make presentations.

The redistribution of the federal electoral districts in Calgary and Edmonton was generally well received, and the Commission is not inclined to make a substantial change without a compelling reason.

Balancing all of the objectives, including consideration of adjacent electoral districts, the Commission is satisfied that Calgary Centre, as described in its Report, can be properly and effectively represented. The Commission does not find the proposal for change either necessary or desirable.

### *Disposition*

The objection is dismissed.

## **2. Calgary Northeast**

Devinder Shory, MP for Calgary Northeast, filed an objection requesting the addition of a small geographic section to the proposed electoral district of Calgary Skyview from the adjacent riding of Calgary Forest Lawn. He asked that his riding's constituency office, which has been in the same location for approximately 25 years, remain within the electoral district of Calgary Skyview.

Mr. Shory proposed that the western boundary at 36 Street NE and 32 Avenue NE be moved further westward towards either Barlow Trail NE and 32 Avenue NE or Deerfoot Trail NE and 32 Avenue NE. The population of the electoral districts involved in this change would be approximately five people, as the extended boundary incorporates only commercial areas. The adjacent district is represented by Deepak Obhrai, MP for Calgary East, who has corresponded with Mr. Shory, indicating his support for this proposal. Mr. Shory emphasized to the Standing Committee that his electoral district is culturally diverse, welcoming many new Canadians each year. Over the past two decades, his constituency office has become an easy-to-find community landmark. While the office is not located centrally within the electoral district, access to it remains very convenient for constituents as it is located on a major road.

#### *Standing Committee*

The Standing Committee views Mr. Shory's request as a simple one to accommodate and supports it fully.

#### *Commission's Reasons*

While political factors are not appropriate considerations for drawing boundaries, the Commission agrees with the Standing Committee. This is a simple request. It affects only five electors, and not adversely. The constituency office in question is well known and easily accessed by a culturally diverse population. This minor change provides continuity. Moreover, 32 Avenue NE is a major arterial road, is well known and makes a suitable boundary.

#### *Disposition*

The objection is allowed as described above and in the "Amendments to Schedule B" section of this Report.

## **Southern Alberta**

### **1. Medicine Hat and Lethbridge**

Jim Hillyer, MP for Lethbridge, and LaVar Payne, MP for Medicine Hat, filed objections to the inclusion of the counties of Cardston and Warner No. 5 in the proposed electoral district of Medicine Hat.

Mr. Payne requests inclusion of the towns of Brooks, Bassano and the County of Newell No. 4 in the electoral district of Medicine Hat. He suggests that the electoral district of Medicine Hat be readjusted as follows: that the County of Forty Mile, the County of Newell No. 4, Cypress County, the area south of the Red Deer River and north of the two counties of Newell No. 4 and Cypress, including Empress and Buffalo, become an electoral district to be named Badlands—Medicine Hat—Brooks. In support of his submission, Mr. Payne argues that there is a strong community of interest in terms of economic, cultural, social, education and health linkages.

Mr. Payne's and Mr. Hillyer's proposal would move approximately 30,000 people out of the electoral district of Bow River into their proposed Badlands—Medicine Hat—Brooks electoral district. To counterbalance this loss of population in the Bow River riding, Mr. Hillyer suggests relocating the counties of Cardston and Warner No. 5 from the Medicine Hat riding to Bow River. The population of the counties of Cardston and Warner No. 5 is a little in excess of 25,000 people.

#### *Standing Committee*

In its report, the Standing Committee stated:

Mr. Hillyer stated to the Committee that no connection or affinity existed between Medicine Hat and the rural areas of Cardston, Warner, Watertown [sic], Blood Reserve or other communities west and south of Taber and Lethbridge, either economically, professionally, medically or scholastically. He emphasized that the residents and leaders of the rural counties of Cardston and Warner wished to remain, and felt that they would receive better

representation, in a federal riding which was rural in character. Mr. Hillyer expressed concern that Medicine Hat, a city that residents of Cardston and Warner felt no connection with, would dominate the proposed electoral district of Medicine Hat, leaving Cardston and Warner as afterthoughts. The Committee notes also that it was not until after the public hearings that Cardston was placed in the Medicine Hat riding. Therefore, no opportunity had previously existed to object to this proposal.

Both Mr. Hillyer and Mr. Payne expressed a degree of concern that the Commission appears to have given preference to the community of interest and identity that exists along the historic Mormon Trail, at the expense of other, equally vibrant and vital communities of interest in southern Alberta.

In support of their proposals, Mr. Hillyer and Mr. Payne received letters from the Reeve of Cardston, the mayors of Magrath, Cardston, Raymond, Stirling, Coutts, and Milk River, along with nearly 1,200 signatures from residents of this region. Their proposals are also supported by Mr. Kevin Sorenson, M.P. from Crowfoot, and the Hon. Ted Menzies, P.C., M.P. for Macleod.

The Committee agrees with and fully supports the proposals put forth by Mr. Hillyer and Mr. Payne. The Committee appreciates the diligence and thoroughness the Commission appears to have lent the readjustment of the boundaries of southern Alberta. The Committee respectfully suggests that the Commission consider the proposals put forward by Mr. Hillyer and Mr. Payne as important, practical and widely supported.

### *Commission's Reasons*

Before dealing with the substantive objections contained in the Standing Committee's report, the Commission wishes to make some preliminary comments.

First, the Commission wishes to address the suggestion that it drew the boundaries for religious reasons. The Commission agrees that religion, per se, is not a ground upon which electoral boundaries are drawn. It is not the duty of a commission to intentionally keep a group together, nor intentionally divide it, for the purpose of influencing an election result.

The Commission was governed by subsection 15(1) of the Act, which requires it to achieve population parity where reasonably possible and to consider community of interest, community of identity, historical patterns and manageable geographic size for districts in sparsely populated, rural or northern regions of the province.

The Commission received numerous submissions requesting that the towns of Stirling, Cardston, Raymond and Magrath remain together within one electoral district as they share many common interests, including economic, social, educational, cultural and religious interests. Communities of interest and identity frequently arise from those interests, and common bonds are part of what creates a community of interest. The Commission was informed that many of the families of current residents settled this area and were instrumental in the development of irrigation in southern Alberta. As a result, there is an historical relationship on many levels and there is a community of interest that goes beyond religion.

The Commission wants to clarify that the boundaries in its Report were not drawn to keep the towns along the Mormon Trail together. Rather, the new configuration of the south was driven by other factors. When the Commission reconfigured the Foothills electoral district, the population count made it necessary to combine the southern counties of Warner No. 5 and Cardston in a different electoral district. The Commission notes that Mr. Hillyer's and Mr. Payne's proposal also keeps the counties of Warner No. 5 and Cardston together.

Second, the Commission was surprised at Mr. Hillyer's expressed concern that the Commission had given preference to the community of interest that exists along the Mormon Trail, his objection to the proposed electoral district of Medicine Hat, and the suggestion that there was no opportunity to address the possibility of moving Cardston into the electoral district of Medicine Hat. At the Lethbridge public



hearing, the Commission heard from 25 presenters and received several written submissions concerning this particular region. Many, though not all, expressed a desire to keep the four towns along the Mormon Trail together as they share many commonalities of interest. Mr. Hillyer submitted 1,182 signature cards asking that Warner County No. 5 and Cardston County remain together in the Foothills electoral district. The entire thrust of his presentation was to keep the towns together, even if it meant dividing Warner County No. 5.

More important, the possibility of placing Warner County No. 5 and Cardston County in the Medicine Hat electoral district was canvassed with Mr. Hillyer at the public hearings and although it was not his first choice, he considered it acceptable. Thus, the Commission is surprised by Mr. Hillyer's late objection.

Finally, the Commission notes that the new configuration, placing Cardston and Warner No. 5 counties in the electoral district of Bow River, is being presented for the first time. As a result, the suggestion that the Commission rejected this proposal (which it had not received) is puzzling.

Turning to the main objections, the Commission recognizes that change creates stress and uncertainty. That is particularly true where constituents fear losing an MP with whom they have an established relationship. However, significant change was necessitated in southern Alberta as a result of the increased population in the south and the creation of the new electoral district of Bow River.

Lethbridge County presented the features of an ideal electoral district, and nobody has disputed this view. As a result, Warner County No. 5 and Cardston County were carved out of the current electoral district of Lethbridge. The Commission initially examined the possibility of creating one electoral district across southern Alberta but the population count could not support such a configuration. In its initial Proposal, the Commission placed Warner County No. 5 within Medicine Hat, and Cardston County within Foothills.

Strong representations were heard at the public hearings about the proposed division of southern Alberta; following these, adjustments were made to the electoral boundaries. The Commission considered many reconfigurations. It examined a partial doughnut around the City of Calgary, keeping Chestermere, Okotoks and other like communities together. The population count of the bedroom communities around Calgary, however, did not make this approach preferable.

The Commission re-examined the electoral district of Foothills, taking into account representations recommending that the Municipal District of Willow Creek No. 26 remain intact within Foothills, following the historical pattern of the electoral district along Highway 2 to Fort Macleod. The Commission reconfigured the Foothills electoral district to address these concerns. Presenters requested that the towns along Highway 1 be kept together to the furthest extent possible, and that was accomplished in large part within the new electoral district of Bow River. The Commission also examined the possibility of placing the County of Newell No. 4 within Medicine Hat but concluded that such a configuration would have a significant negative effect on the Bow River electoral district.

The Commission has carefully considered the new proposal of Mr. Hillyer and Mr. Payne. While their suggested map works well for the Medicine Hat electoral district, it does not work well for the electoral district of Bow River. The Commission recognizes the connection between Newell County No. 4 and Medicine Hat, but any attempts to keep them together result in an electoral district of Bow River that is unnecessarily and undesirably far-reaching. Moreover, the new proposal of Mr. Hillyer and Mr. Payne disconnects Taber County from Medicine Hat, Newell County No. 4 and Lethbridge, the three counties with which Taber County is most closely connected. Although the Commission's configuration disconnects Taber from Medicine Hat and Lethbridge, its relationship with Newell County No. 4 is



maintained. In any event, the economic and social ties between Bassano, Brooks and Medicine Hat will continue regardless of federal electoral boundaries.

The objections raise one further issue. It is suggested that the Medicine Hat population will overpower that of other communities in the electoral district of Medicine Hat. The Commission recognizes that any combination with Medicine Hat will have both urban and rural interests together within a single electoral district. That is not uncommon. As noted earlier, many districts share different interests, all of which can be effectively represented. The City of Medicine Hat has a population of 60,005. Wherever the MP resides, the balance of the electoral district will not be ignored.

It is important to note that, although Mr. Hillyer spoke on behalf of Warner No. 5 and Cardston counties, no one purported to speak on behalf of the communities in the northern portions of the Bow River electoral district. The Commission did not receive negative comments from Acme, Carbon or other northwestern areas of the electoral district of Bow River. The Bow River electoral district is compact as currently drawn, with primarily rural agricultural interests. To make a major change from the Report, such as that suggested by Mr. Hillyer and Mr. Payne, would be a disservice to residents of the northern portions of the Bow River electoral district as it would significantly change the district's size and configuration.

The Commission is satisfied that the configuration adopted in its Report is appropriate for southern Alberta. The electoral district of Bow River, as configured in the Report, is far preferable in terms of shape and combines appropriate commonalities of interest. On balance, considering all factors, the Commission finds its configuration preferable to that proposed by Mr. Hillyer and Mr. Payne.

#### *Disposition*

The objection is dismissed.

In view of the Commission's decision with respect to the boundaries of Medicine Hat, the application for a name change is also dismissed.

## **2. Foothills**

The Honourable Ted Menzies, PC, MP for Macleod, filed an objection to the incorporation of the communities located in the area between the Waterton and Belly rivers into the Medicine Hat electoral district.

Mr. Menzies proposed that these communities be included in the Foothills electoral district. His objection is founded on a community of interest based on travel and trade between the communities and Pincher Creek, rather than with Lethbridge or any major community in the Medicine Hat electoral district. Moreover, this particular area is at present in the existing Macleod electoral district.

The communities referred to in Mr. Menzies' objection have a population of 892 people. The population of the proposed Foothills electoral district is 104,459, representing a deviation of -2.56% from the province's electoral quota; the population for the proposed electoral district of Medicine Hat is 103,903, representing a deviation of -3.09% from the province's electoral quota. The changes proposed by Mr. Menzies would increase the population of the Foothills electoral district to 105,351, representing a deviation of -1.74% from the province's electoral quota; the population of Medicine Hat would decrease to 103,011, representing a deviation of -3.92% from the province's electoral quota. Both of these deviations remain well below that allowable under section 15 of the Act.

### *Standing Committee*

The Standing Committee appreciates the difficulty the Commission encountered in balancing requests to group certain communities together. It also appreciates that, following the public hearings, the Commission re-examined various configurations for ridings in southern Alberta before arriving at its most recent proposal. The Standing Committee, nonetheless, considers Mr. Menzies' request to be a minor but important adjustment, and supports his request.

### *Commission's Reasons*

The Commission had considered a similar reconfiguration earlier and accepts that either solution could provide effective representation. The Commission agrees with the Standing Committee that this is a minor request. It would also decrease the geographic size of the electoral district of Medicine Hat. Considering the area's affiliation with Pincher Creek, and its present inclusion in the electoral district of Macleod, the Commission accepts this request as reasonable, with one exception: it is of the view that the Blood Reserve should be kept together, and therefore Blood Reserve Nos. 148A and 148 should remain together in the electoral district of Medicine Hat.

### *Disposition*

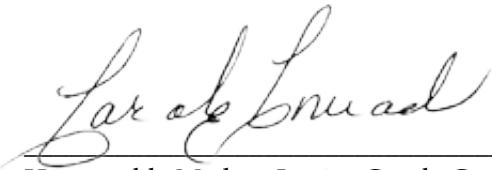
The objection is allowed with the exception as described above and in the "Amendments to Schedule B" section of this Report.

## **Conclusion**

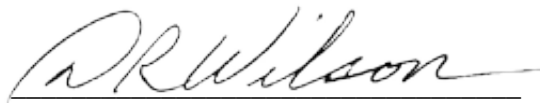
The Commission has been governed by the principles set out in the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*. It has followed its mandate, has addressed the requirement of electoral parity where reasonably possible, has considered the required criteria set out in section 15 of the Act, has considered all applications fairly, and has made changes where it deemed them to be improvements. The Commission is satisfied that the electoral districts created will be manageable in size, and contain commonalities of interest and identity, enabling fair and efficient federal representation across the province.

The Commission is satisfied that the present configuration, as altered by this addendum, will allow for effective representation.

Dated at Calgary, in the Province of Alberta, this 6th day of April, 2013.



Honourable Madam Justice Carole Conrad  
*Chair*



Ms. Donna R. Wilson  
*Member*

Mr. Ed Eggerer  
*Member*



Ms. Ooldouz Sotoudehnia  
*Commission Secretary*

CERTIFIED copy of the Report of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Alberta.

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Signature

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Date

### **Note**

Commission member Ed Eggerer passed away on March 17, 2013. He was an instrumental part of the Commission throughout the development of the redistribution proposal, the series of public hearings held across the province and the preparation of its Report. Mr. Eggerer took part in the decision-making process for the disposition of objections. Unfortunately, his untimely passing meant he was unable to complete this last phase of the redistribution process. The Commission is grateful for his wisdom, dedication, hard work and friendship. His contribution to the process was invaluable.

Throughout his life, Mr. Eggerer consistently contributed to the democratic process in Canada. He will be greatly missed.

# *Amendments to Schedule B*

## Amendments to Schedule B

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## Schedule B – Boundaries and Names of Electoral Districts

### Calgary Forest Lawn

(Population: 108,251)

(Map 2)

Consisting of that part of the City of Calgary described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the easterly limit of said city with 17 Avenue SE; thence westerly along said avenue to the Canadian National Railway; thence southwesterly along said railway to the southeasterly production of 48 Street SE; thence northwesterly along said production and 48 Street SE to the easterly production of 26 Avenue SE; thence westerly along said production, 26 Avenue SE and its westerly production to the right bank of the Bow River; thence generally northerly along said bank to the Canadian Pacific Railway; thence northerly along said railway to Memorial Drive NE; thence easterly along said drive to Deerfoot Trail NE (Highway No. 2); thence northerly along said trail to 32 Avenue NE; thence easterly along said avenue to 68 Street NE; thence northerly along said street to 64 Avenue NE; thence easterly along said avenue and its easterly production to the easterly limit of said city; thence southerly, easterly and southerly along said limit to the point of commencement.

### Calgary Skyview

(Population: 110,189)

(Map 2)

Consisting of that part of the City of Calgary lying northerly and easterly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the easterly limit of said city with the easterly production of 64 Avenue NE; thence westerly along said production and 64 Avenue NE to 68 Street NE; thence southerly along said street to 32 Avenue NE; thence westerly along said avenue to Deerfoot Trail NE (Highway No. 2); thence northerly along said trail to Beddington Trail NE; thence northwesterly along said trail to Harvest Hills Boulevard N; thence generally northerly along said boulevard and Centre Street N to the northerly limit of said city.

### Edmonton West

(Population: 104,422)

(Map 3)

Consisting of that part of the City of Edmonton lying southerly and westerly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the westerly limit of said city with Yellowhead Trail NW (Highway No. 16); thence easterly along said trail to the Canadian National Railway (south of Kinokamau Lake); thence northeasterly along said railway to 156 Street NW; thence generally southerly along said street, Meadowlark Road NW and 159 Street NW to Whitemud Drive NW (Highway No. 2); thence westerly along said drive to an unnamed creek; thence generally southeasterly along said creek to its mouth; thence due east in a straight line to a point on the right bank of the North Saskatchewan River at approximate latitude 53°30'04"N and longitude 113°35'13"W; thence generally southwesterly along said bank to the southerly limit of said city.



## **Foothills**

(Population: 105,515)

(Map 1)

Consisting of that part of the Province of Alberta described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the west boundary of said province with the southerly boundary of Banff National Park of Canada; thence generally northerly along the easterly boundary of said national park to the north boundary of Tp 23; thence east along the north boundary of Tp 23 to the southerly limit of the Town of Canmore; thence easterly, southerly, easterly, northerly and easterly along said limit to the north boundary of Tp 23; thence east along the north boundary of Tp 23 to the east boundary of R 8 W 5; thence north along the east boundary of R 8 W 5 to the southerly boundary of Stoney Indian Reserve No. 142, 143, 144; thence generally easterly along said boundary to the westerly limit of the Municipal District of Bighorn No. 8; thence southerly, easterly and northerly along the westerly, southerly and easterly limits of said municipal district to Highway No. 1; thence generally easterly along said highway to the westerly limit of the City of Calgary; thence generally southeasterly along said limit to the southeasterly corner of said city (northerly limit of the Municipal District of Foothills No. 31); thence generally easterly and generally southerly along the northerly and easterly limits of the Municipal District of Foothills No. 31 to the northeasterly corner of the Municipal District of Willow Creek No. 26; thence generally southeasterly along the easterly limit of said municipal district to the Belly River; thence generally southwesterly along said river to the northeasterly corner of Blood Indian Reserve No. 148A; thence westerly, southerly and easterly along the northerly, westerly and southerly boundaries of said Indian reserve to its southeasterly corner; thence easterly along the production of the southerly boundary of said Indian reserve to a point on Range Road 282A at approximate latitude 49°01'15"N and longitude 113°40'21"W; thence southerly along said road to the south boundary of said province; thence westerly and generally northerly along the south and west boundaries of said province to the point of commencement.

## **Medicine Hat**

(Population: 102,847)

(Map 1)

Consisting of that part of the Province of Alberta described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the east boundary of said province with the northerly limit of Cypress County; thence generally westerly and generally southerly along the northerly and westerly limits of said county to the westerly limit of the Municipal District of Forty Mile County No. 8; thence southerly and generally westerly along the westerly limit of said municipal district to the northerly limit of Warner County No. 5; thence generally westerly along said limit to the northerly limit of Cardston County; thence generally northwesterly along said limit to the northeasterly boundary of Blood Indian Reserve No. 148; thence northwesterly along said boundary to the Belly River (including those parts belonging to Cardston County adjacent to the northeasterly boundary of said Indian reserve); thence generally southwesterly along said river to the northeasterly corner of Blood Indian Reserve No. 148A; thence westerly, southerly and easterly along the northerly, westerly and southerly boundaries of said Indian reserve to its southeasterly corner; thence easterly along the production of the southerly boundary of said Indian reserve to a point on Range Road 282A at approximate latitude 49°01'15"N and longitude 113°40'21"W; thence southerly along said road to the south boundary of said province; thence easterly and northerly along the south and east boundaries of said province to the point of commencement.

## **Red Deer—Wolf Creek**

(Population: 113,693)

(Map 4)

Consisting of:

(a) Lacombe County;

(b) Ponoka County;

(c) that part of Red Deer County and the City of Red Deer lying northerly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the northwesterly limit of said county with Highway No. 11 (David Thompson Highway); thence generally easterly along said highway to the westerly limit of the City of Red Deer; thence southerly along said limit to the right bank of the Red Deer River; thence generally easterly along said bank to Taylor Drive; thence generally easterly along said drive, Ross (50) Street and its easterly production to 20 Avenue; thence northerly along said avenue to Highway No. 11 (David Thompson Highway); thence generally easterly along said highway to the northerly limit of said county; and

(d) Louis Bull Indian Reserve No. 138B, Ermineskin Indian Reserve No. 138, Samson Indian Reserve No. 137, Samson Indian Reserve No. 137A and Montana Indian Reserve No. 139; the summer villages of Jarvis Bay and Norglenwold; the Town of Sylvan Lake.

## **Yellowhead**

(Population: 98,855)

(Map 1)

Consisting of that part of the Province of Alberta described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the west boundary of said province with the north boundary of Tp 64; thence east along the north boundary of Tp 64 to the east boundary of R 24 W 5; thence south along the east boundary of R 24 W 5 to the northerly limit of Yellowhead County; thence generally easterly along said limit to the westerly limit of Lac Ste. Anne County; thence generally northerly, generally easterly and generally southerly along the westerly and northerly limits of said county to Highway No. 764; thence southerly along said highway to Highway No. 43; thence generally southeasterly along said highway to the northerly boundary of Alexis Indian Reserve No. 133; thence easterly and southerly along the northerly and easterly boundaries of said Indian reserve to Highway No. 43; thence generally southeasterly and southerly along said highway to the northerly limit of Parkland County; thence easterly along said limit to Range Road 20-Lake Eden Road; thence southerly along said road and Range Road 20 to Township Road 510; thence easterly along said road to the northerly production of Range Road 20; thence southerly along said production, Range Road 20 and its southerly production to the right bank of the North Saskatchewan River; thence generally southeasterly along said bank to the northerly production of Range Road 10; thence southerly along said production, Range Road 10 and its intermittent productions to Township Road 482; thence generally westerly along said road to Range Road 20; thence southerly along said road to Highway No. 616; thence westerly along said highway to Highway No. 771; thence southerly along said highway to Township Road 474; thence westerly along said road to Range Road 22; thence southerly along said road to the northerly limit of Wetaskiwin County No. 10; thence westerly along said limit to the easterly limit of Clearwater County; thence generally southerly, westerly and generally northwesterly along the easterly, southerly and westerly limits of said county to the southerly boundary of Jasper National Park of Canada; thence generally northwesterly and generally southwesterly along said boundary to the west boundary of the Province of Alberta; thence generally northwesterly and northerly along said boundary to the point of commencement.

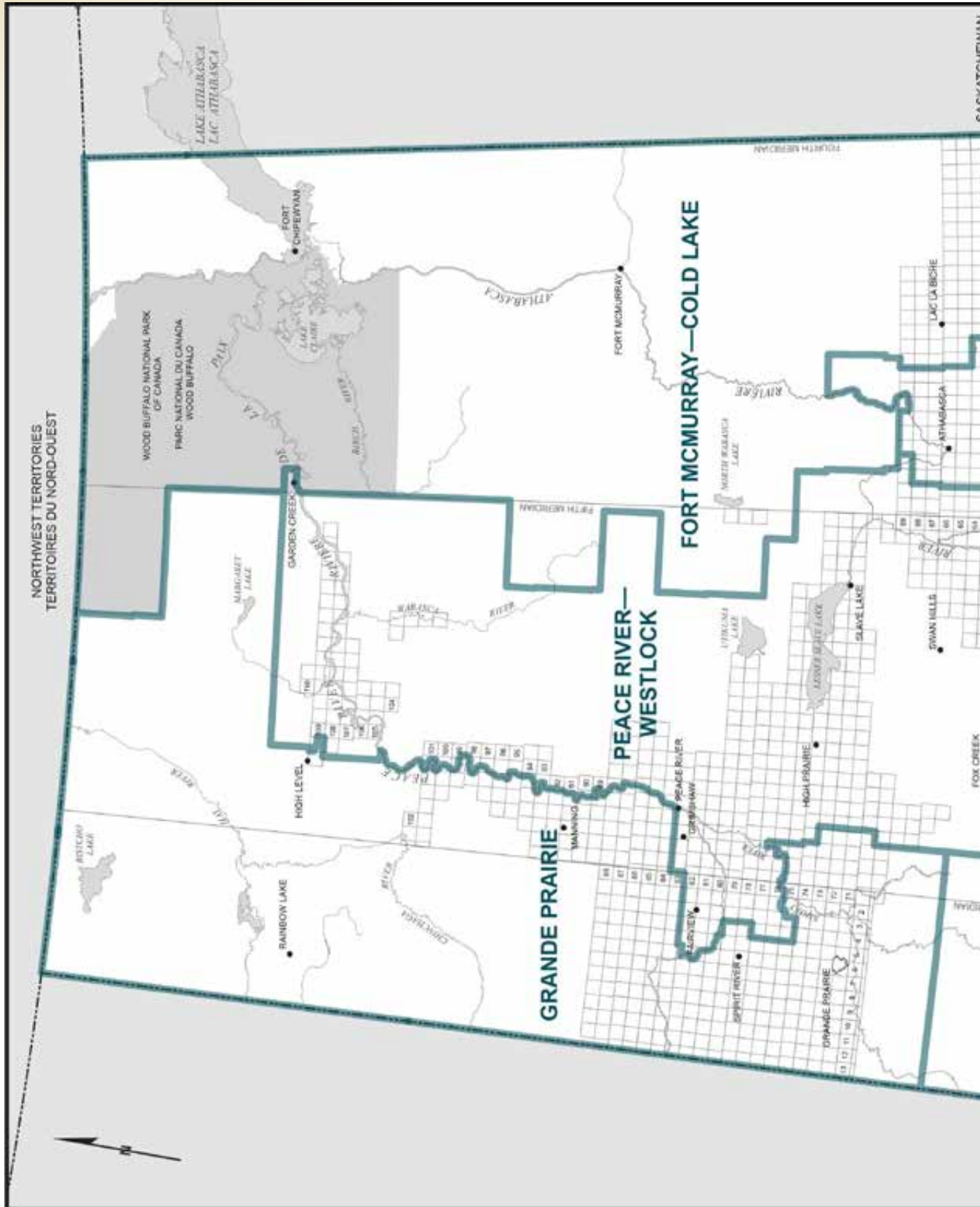


# *Amended Maps*

## Amended Maps

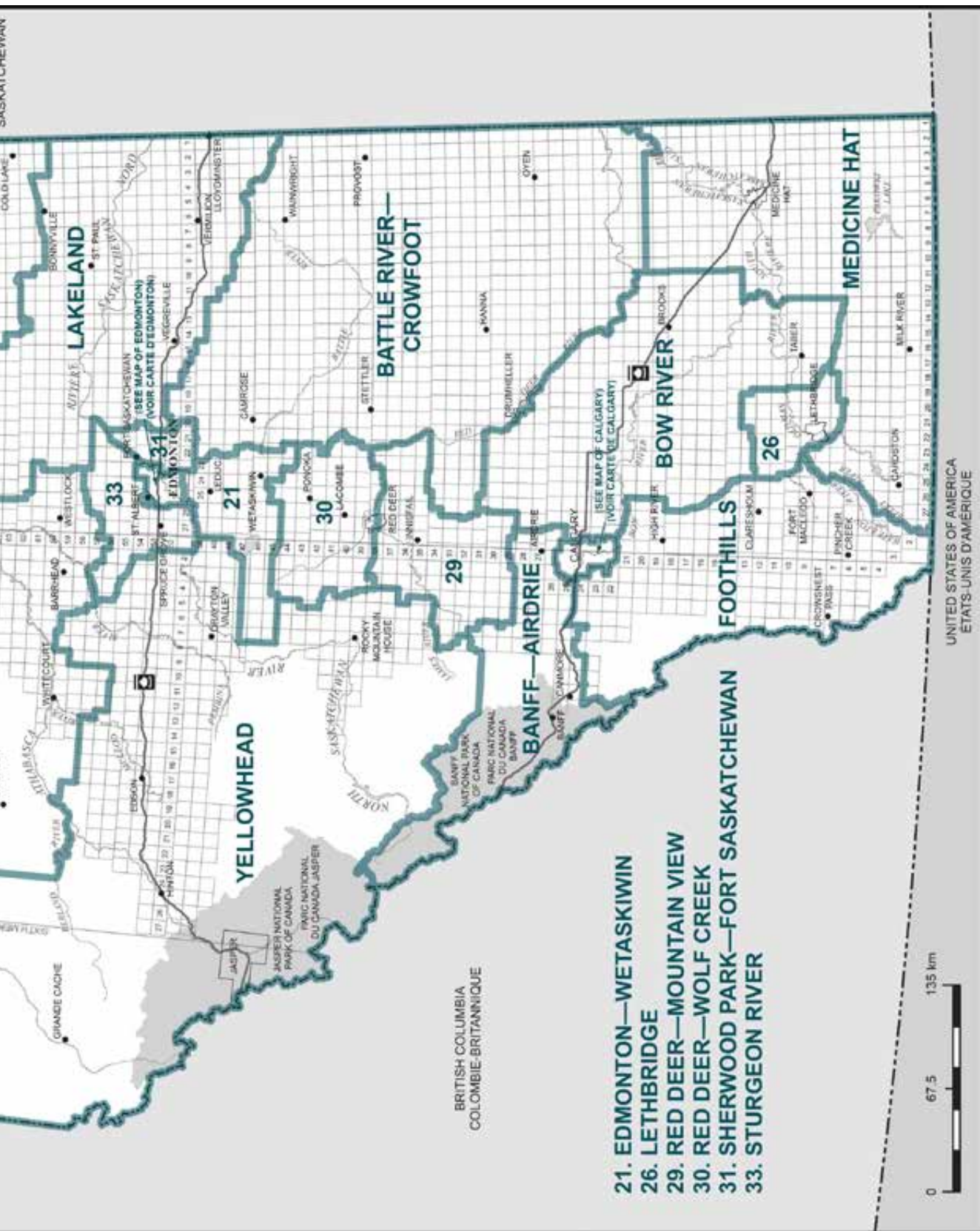
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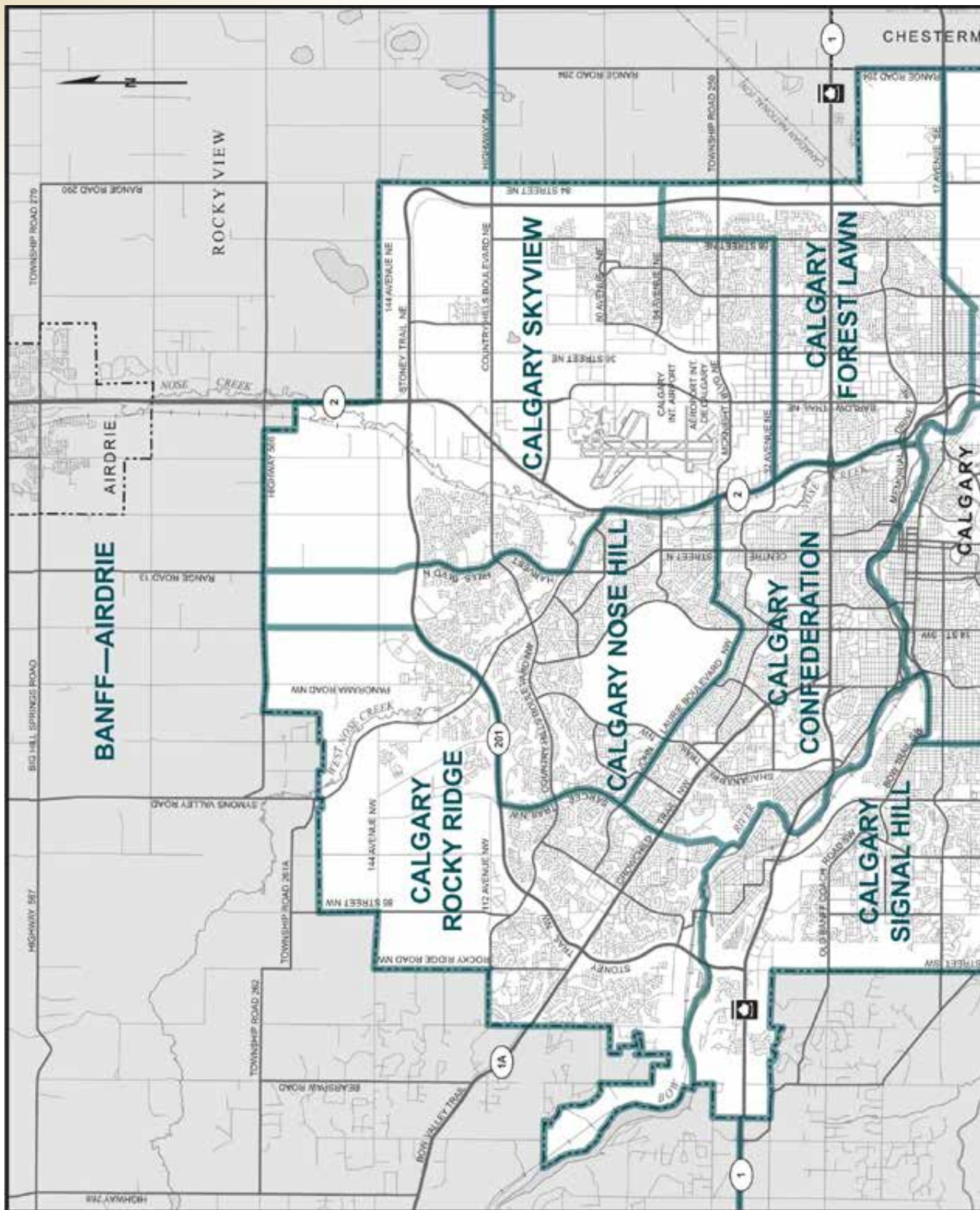




SOURCE: THE ELECTORAL GEOGRAPHY DIVISION, ELECTIONS CANADA.

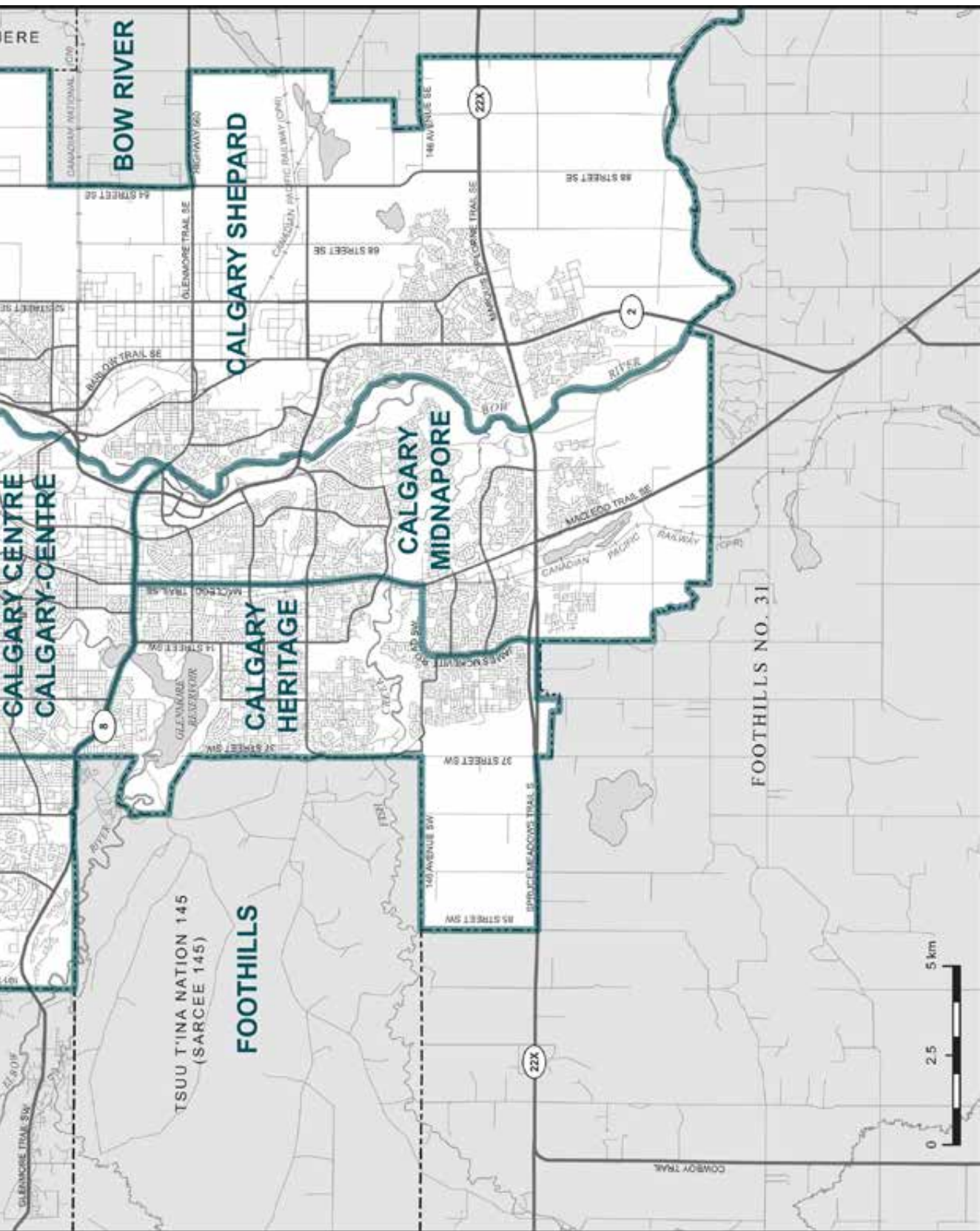


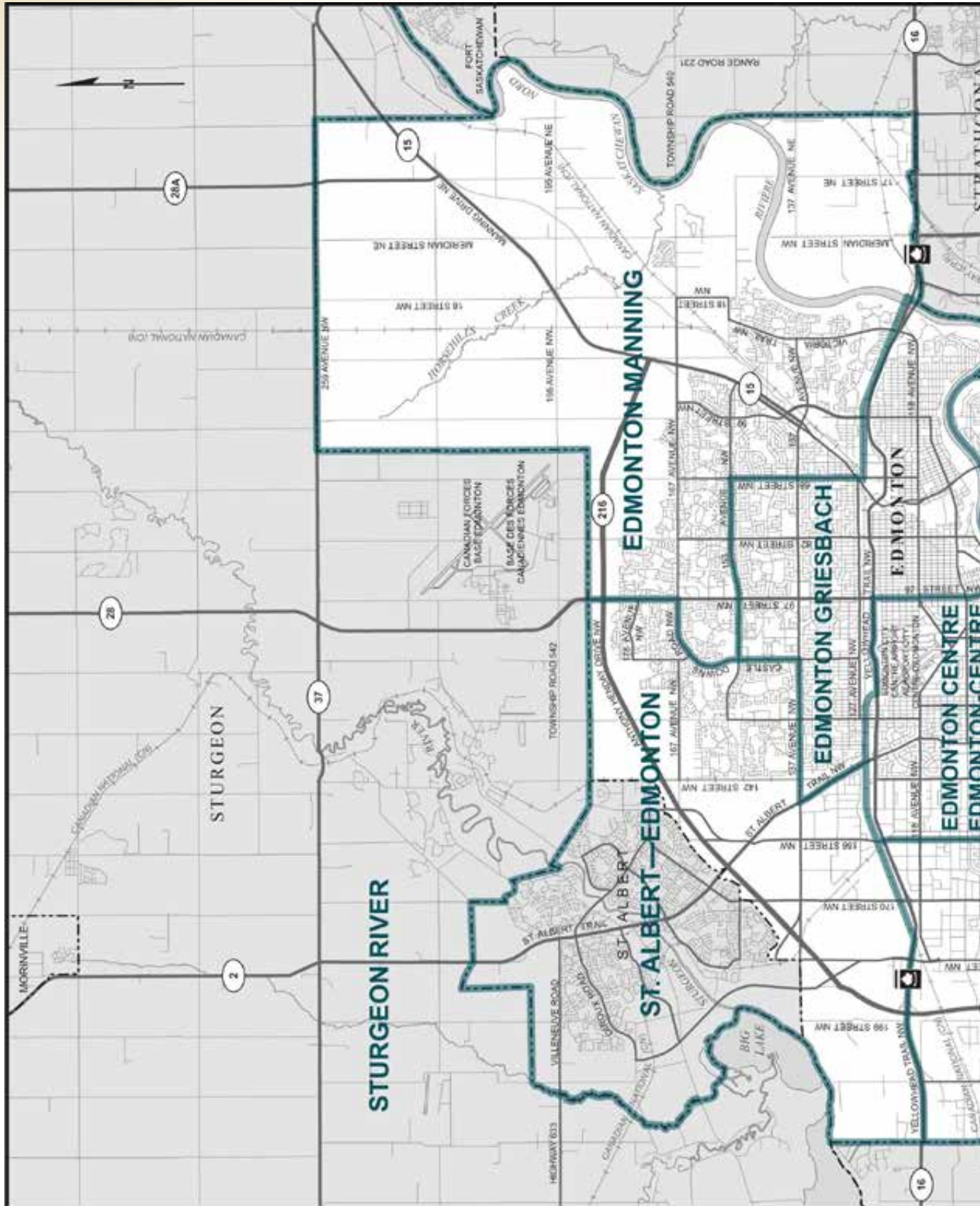




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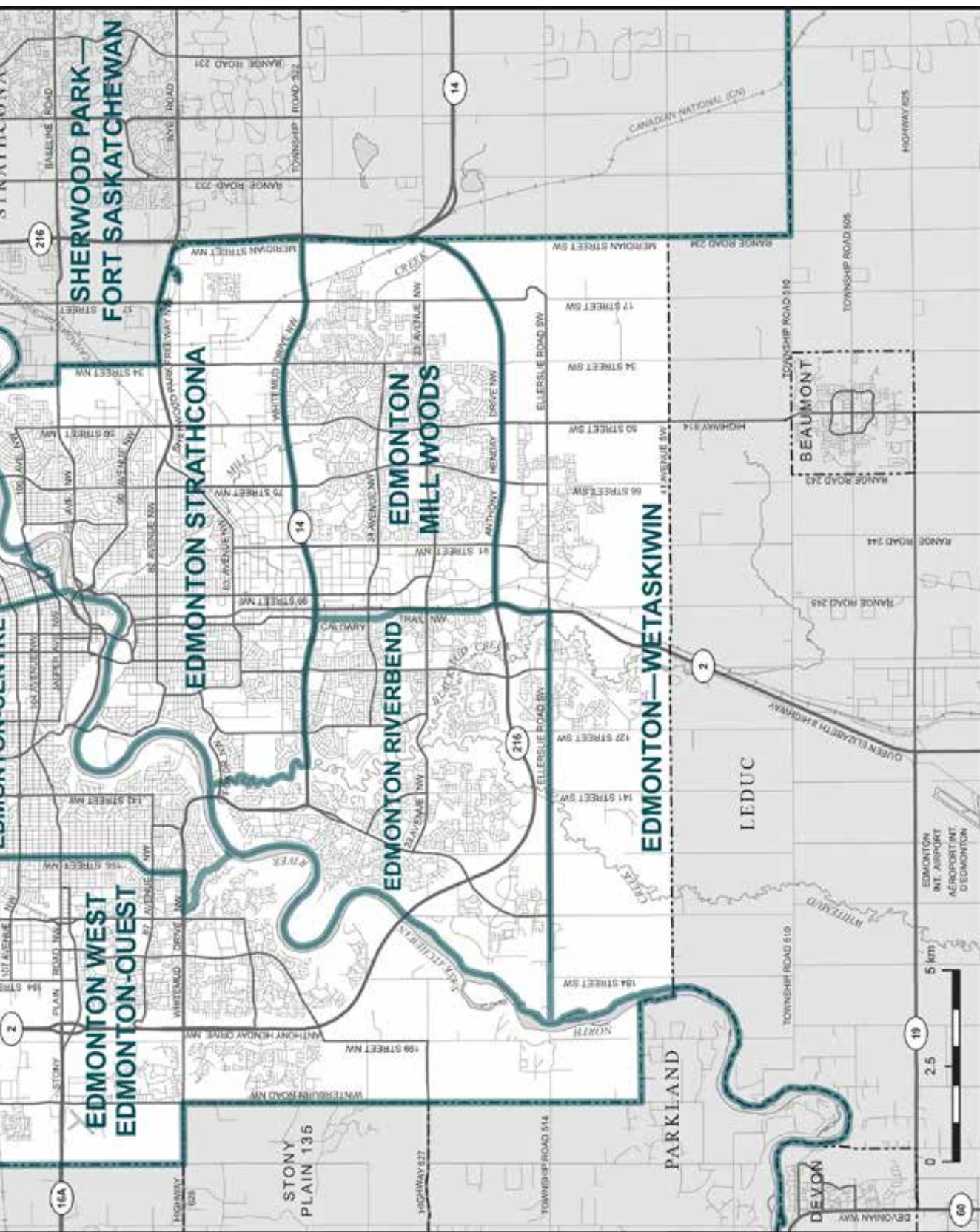






SOURCE: THE ELECTORAL GEOGRAPHY DIVISION, ELECTIONS CANADA.









**Redistribution**  
Federal Electoral Districts  
**Redécoupage**  
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