



NOVA SCOTIA

Justice
Office of the Minister

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JUN 14 2012

Teresa MacNeil
Chair of Electoral Boundaries Commission
7037 Mumford Road, Suite 6
Halifax, NS B3J 3C8

Dear Dr. MacNeil:

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of the Interim Report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission, dated May 31, 2012. I wish to thank the Commission for its work to date in preparing the interim report and for its consideration of the various issues and concerns expressed by Nova Scotians during the course of its public hearings.

It is clear that the Commission has given a great deal of thought as to whether the terms of reference in the final report of the Select Committee are a matter of guidance or are mandatory. As Attorney General, unfortunately, I am not able to accept the interim report as drafted, as it does not follow the requirements set out in the terms of reference in the final report of the Select Committee. I have been advised by the Chief Legislative Counsel of the House of Assembly that the terms of reference are legally binding upon the Commission, and that the interim report is therefore null and void. As such, I would request that the Commission prepare a revised interim report that complies with the terms of reference.

There is no authority in the terms of reference for constituencies that deviate by a variance of greater or less than 25 percent from the average number of electors per constituency. The government respects the independence of the Commission and does not wish to interfere in its work or recommendations. However, it is necessary that the Commission follow its legally binding terms of reference.

Given your public comments regarding the Commission's openness to hear the views of all Nova Scotians and the clarity provided by the Chief Legislative Counsel, I don't see a need for us to meet to discuss the interim report.

I look forward to receiving a revised interim report from the Commission as soon as reasonably possible, and the final report, which is due on or before August 31, 2012.

Yours very truly,

Ross Landry

C: Premier Darrell Dexter
Honourable Stephen McNeil, Leader, Liberal Party
Honourable Jamie Baillie, Leader, Progressive Conservative Party
Gordon Hebb, Chief Legislative Counsel
Neil Ferguson, Chief Clerk, House of Assembly

Madame Teresa MacNeil
Présidente, Commission de délimitation des circonscriptions électorales
7037 Mumford Road, bureau 6
Halifax (N.-É.) B3J 3C8

Madame,

Par la présente, j'accuse réception du rapport d'étape de la Commission de délimitation des circonscriptions électorales en date du 31 mai 2012. Je remercie la Commission pour le travail effectué jusqu'à présent pour la préparation du rapport d'étape et pour son étude des diverses préoccupations et inquiétudes soulevées par les Néo-Écossais lors des consultations publiques.

Il est évident que la Commission a réfléchi énormément à la question à savoir si le cadre de référence énoncé dans le rapport final du comité restreint est à titre indicatif ou obligatoire. En tant que procureur général, je ne peux malheureusement pas accepter le rapport d'étape tel qu'il a été présenté parce qu'il ne respecte pas les exigences énoncées dans le cadre de référence du rapport final du comité restreint. Le conseiller législatif principal de la Chambre d'assemblée m'a informé que le cadre de référence donné à la Commission était juridiquement contraignant et que par conséquent le rapport intérimaire était nul. Je demande donc à la Commission de réviser son rapport d'étape pour qu'il respecte le cadre de référence.

Le cadre de référence ne prévoit rien pour les circonscriptions qui s'écartent de plus ou de moins de 25 p. 100 du nombre moyen d'électeurs par circonscription. Le gouvernement respecte l'indépendance de la Commission et n'a aucun désir de s'immiscer dans son travail ou ses recommandations. Toutefois, il faut que la Commission respecte le cadre de référence établi.

Compte tenu de vos commentaires publics sur l'ouverture de la Commission aux points de vue de tous les Néo-Écossais et de la précision fournie par le conseiller législatif principal, je ne vois aucune raison de nous rencontrer pour discuter du rapport d'étape.

Je m'attends à recevoir un rapport d'étape révisé de la Commission le plus tôt possible et le rapport final au plus tard le 31 août 2012.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Madame, mes salutations distinguées.

Ross Landry

c.c. Darrell Dexter, premier ministre
L'honorable Stephen McNeil, chef du Parti libéral
L'honorable Jamie Baillie, chef du Parti progressiste conservateur
Gordon Hebb, conseiller législatif principal
Neil Ferguson, greffier en chef, Chambre d'assemblée



Electoral Boundaries Commission

Interim Report • May 31, 2012

Dr. Teresa MacNeil
Chair

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Introduction

On December 30, 2011 the independent Nova Scotia Electoral Boundaries Commission was appointed by the Select Committee on Establishing an Electoral Boundaries Commission.

The current review is the third one carried out in the past two decades by independent commissions to ensure that legislative representation keeps pace with population growth and movement. The process has at its core the objective of voter parity, recognizing that there is a wide range of views and interests to consider in achieving effective representation. The obvious challenge for the Commission and, ultimately for legislators, is to accommodate population shifts and trends in the province while being respectful of geography, community history and interests, and Nova Scotia's linguistic and cultural diversity.

The key issues confronting the Commission today are essentially those that challenged two previous provincial Commissions, namely, the status of 'protected constituencies', achieving relative voter parity to the extent possible, and population shifts that leave some constituencies requiring adjustment.

From its own research and deliberations as well as considerable public input, the Commission has identified and reflected on issues arising from its Terms of Reference. Its interpretation of the Terms of Reference provides a basis for a range of boundary adjustment recommendations that the Commission presents for consideration and for feedback during its second round of public meetings that will be held in June. Following those meetings a set of recommendations will be concluded for the Final Report due by August 31, 2012.

To assist further public discussion and commentary, this report contains a summary (see Appendix D) of what the Commissioners heard in the first round of public meetings. The Commission would like to thank those Nova Scotians who took the time to participate in this important democratic exercise. Public concerns and suggestions have been taken into consideration.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference provided by the Select Committee on Establishing an Electoral Boundaries Commission are as follows:

(2) Terms of Reference for the Provincial Boundaries Commission

In keeping with the constitutional right of Nova Scotians to fair and effective representation, the Committee directs the Provincial Boundaries Commission to be guided by the following:

2(a) Based on the most recent census and other population data available, the Commission delineate electoral boundaries to achieve an Assembly of not more than 52 seats, not counting any additional Member authorized pursuant to Section 6 of the House of Assembly Act;

2(b) Of paramount importance, relative parity of voting power must be achieved through constituencies of equal electoral population to the extent possible;

2(c) Deviations from parity of voting power may be justified in consideration of:

- i. Geography, in particular, the difficulty in effectively representing a large physical area;
- ii. Community history and interests;
- iii. Nova Scotia's linguistic and cultural diversity, in particular, the province's Acadian and African Nova Scotia population.

2(d) Notwithstanding 2(c), no constituency may deviate by a variance greater or less than 25 per cent from the average number of electors per constituency;

2(e) The Commission shall seek the advice, support and hear such presentations and consider such other information in such ways, at such times and in such places as it deems advisable, respecting existing electoral districts and the establishment of new electoral districts, as well as the area, name, representation and implementation of those electoral districts;

2(f) All submissions to the Commission from individuals and organizations be made in public;

2(g) In considering the representation of communities of interest, the Commission may also seek the advice of linguistic and cultural groups, including Mi'kmaq, Acadian and African Nova Scotian representatives;

2(h) Simultaneous French translation may be provided at designated meetings in Acadian Communities and at any other meetings the Commission deems appropriate;

2(i) The Commission must submit its interim report to the Attorney General of Nova Scotia, as designate of the Premier of Nova Scotia, on or before May 31, 2012, and its final report, on or before August 31, 2012.

3) For greater clarity the Commission is to be bound by Section 5, subsections 5 (4) and (5), of the House of Assembly Act.

Interpretation of the Terms of Reference

In most ways the Terms of Reference for the Electoral Boundaries Commission follow the principles provided to previous commissions. They continue to place paramount importance on relative voter parity, in keeping with democratic principles of fair and effective representation as set out in the Constitution Act, 1982. The Terms of Reference specify that the Commission consider geography, community history, and interests and Nova Scotia's linguistic and cultural diversity as possible justifications for deviating from relative voting power in framing constituency boundaries.

The Terms of Reference for this Commission differ fundamentally from those given to previous commissions:

- First, it is indicated in clause 2 (a) that the Commission may delineate not more than 52 seats; previous commissions were directed to provide recommendations for 52 seats;
- Second, in clause 2 (d), it is indicated that notwithstanding concerns about geography, community history and interests, and Nova Scotia's linguistic and cultural diversity, constituencies may not deviate by a variance greater or less than 25 per cent from the average number of electors per constituency; and
- Third, the Commission was not constrained by county or municipal boundaries.

The Commission heard various representations about how to interpret and act on its Terms of Reference. Having discussed how to act on the Commission's Terms of Reference at great length, the Commission decided to adopt the following course of action (the Dissenting Opinion Regarding the Commission's Interpretation of the Terms of Reference is expressed in Appendix H):

- The Terms of Reference provided by the House of Assembly Select Committee offer guidance and direction to the Commission;
- A literal interpretation of Clause 2 (d) would require the Commission to substantially alter the boundaries of the four constituencies that have been protected for the past twenty years as a means to encourage and promote the effective political representation of the Acadian and African Nova Scotian minorities in the legislature. Removal of this protection as implied by clause 2 (d) raises significant social, cultural, and political issues. Consequently, the Commission decided to retain the 'protected constituencies' of Argyle, Clare, Preston, and Richmond (see Appendix G);
- The Commission interpreted the aim of "constituencies of equal population to the extent possible" to mean that constituencies should be as close as possible to voter parity; and
- The Commission worked from the premise of retaining a Legislative Assembly of 52 seats. Given population decline over the last decade, one seat was removed from Cape Breton Regional Municipality, and another from mainland Nova Scotia. Conversely, population growth in the Halifax Regional Municipality and East Hants necessitated the addition of two seats.

Population and Electoral Data

The Commission examined population and voter statistics to determine trends and changes over the last decade. The latest 2011 Census data from Statistics Canada were used as a basis for determining population across the province. Accurate, current information on electors was provided by Elections Nova Scotia (see Appendix E). In order to calculate seat entitlements, the Commission set aside the four 'protected constituencies' and used the average for the remaining 48 constituencies. This produced an adjusted seat entitlement. Those seat entitlements falling between .75 and 1.25 would meet the variance test.

The following tables contain the data which underpin the Commission's deliberations.

Table 1: 2001 and 2011 Constituency Population and Constituency Seat Entitlements for Existing Electoral Constituencies

This table presents the population data for the existing electoral constituencies showing changes in population and respective seat entitlements between 2001 and 2011.

Existing Constituency	2001 Population*	2001 Seat Entitlement*	2011 Population**	2011 Seat entitlement***
Annapolis	18,441	1.06	17,791	1.00
Antigonish	19,578	1.12	19,589	1.11
Argyle	8,688	0.50	8,229	0.46
Bedford – Birch Cove	21,239	1.22	27,748	1.57
Cape Centre Centre	15,759	0.90	14,065	0.79
Cape Breton North	17,822	1.02	16,019	0.90
Cape Breton Nova	14,512	0.83	12,736	0.72
Cape Breton South	18,628	1.07	20,002	1.13
Cape Breton West	19,437	1.11	18,894	1.07
Chester – St. Margaret's	18,848	1.08	20,306	1.15
Clare	9,067	0.52	8,287	0.47
Colchester – Musquodoboit Valley	18,304	1.05	17,949	1.01
Colchester North	17,592	1.01	18,144	1.02
Cole Harbour	21,122	1.21	20,033	1.13
Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage	16,281	0.93	17,817	1.01
Cumberland North	17,662	1.01	18,262	1.03
Cumberland South	14,943	0.86	13,089	0.74
Dartmouth East	20,362	1.17	19,248	1.09
Dartmouth North	20,196	1.16	19,268	1.09
Dartmouth South–Portland Valley	20,184	1.16	24,592	1.39
Digby-Annapolis	13,813	0.79	12,701	0.72
Eastern Shore	14,056	0.80	15,716	0.89
Glace Bay	17,090	0.98	15,500	0.87
Guysborough-Sheet Harbour	13,286	0.76	11,170	0.63
Halifax Atlantic	20,688	1.18	21,277	1.20
Halifax Chebucto	19,155	1.10	18,821	1.06
Halifax Citadel-Sable Island	19,639	1.12	20,617	1.16
Halifax Clayton Park	19,631	1.12	26,962	1.52
Halifax Fairview	19,322	1.11	19,843	1.12
Halifax Needham	19,852	1.14	20,819	1.17
Hammonds Plains-Upper Sackville	20,124	1.15	25,550	1.44
Hants East	21,753	1.25	23,256	1.31

Existing Constituency	2001 Population*	2001 Seat Entitlement*	2011 Population**	2011 Seat entitlement***
Hants West	18,760	1.07	19,052	1.08
Inverness	19,937	1.14	17,960	1.01
Kings North	19,498	1.12	19,884	1.12
Kings South	19,204	1.10	21,089	1.19
Kings West	20,164	1.15	19,611	1.11
Lunenburg	17,377	1.00	17,221	0.97
Lunenburg West	17,623	1.01	17,923	1.01
Pictou Centre	17,039	0.98	16,600	0.94
Pictou East	15,613	0.89	15,176	0.86
Pictou West	14,313	0.82	13,864	0.78
Preston	10,249	0.59	10,063	0.57
Queens	13,279	0.76	12,278	0.69
Richmond	10,225	0.59	9,282	0.52
Sackville-Cobequid	20,556	1.18	19,316	1.09
Shelburne	16,231	0.93	14,492	0.82
Timberlea-Prospect	21,015	1.20	22,292	1.26
Truro-Bible Hill	19,258	1.10	20,230	1.14
Victoria-The Lakes	14,044	0.80	11,500	0.65
Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank	18,395	1.05	22,368	1.26
Yarmouth	18,155	1.04	17,025	0.96
Total	908,009	52.00	921,526	52.00
Average population per constituency	17,462		17,722	

* The 2001 population estimates and the 2001 seat entitlements are taken from the 2002 Report of the Provincial Electoral Boundaries Commission.

** The 2011 population figures are the population counts for existing provincial electoral constituencies, based on most recent Statistics Canada data.

*** The 2011 seat entitlements are calculated by dividing each constituency's population by the provincial population average based on 52 constituencies ($921,526/52 = 17,722$).

Table 2: 2011 Electors and Seat Entitlements for Existing Electoral Constituencies

This table presents the Elector data for the existing electoral constituencies showing respective seat entitlements for 2011.

Constituency	Electors 2011*	2011 Seat Entitlement***	2011 Adjusted Seat Entitlement***
Annapolis	13,925	1.02	0.98
Antigonish	14,769	1.08	1.04
Argyle	6,419	0.47	–
Bedford-Birch Cove	21,133	1.54	1.48
Cape Breton Centre	11,203	0.82	0.79
Cape Breton North	12,612	0.92	0.89
Cape Breton Nova	10,045	0.73	0.71
Cape Breton South	15,444	1.13	1.08
Cape Breton West	14,399	1.05	1.01
Chester-St. Margaret's	15,977	1.17	1.12
Clare	6,531	0.48	–
Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley	13,640	1.00	0.96
Colchester North	13,879	1.01	0.97
Cole Harbour	15,084	1.10	1.06
Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage	12,710	0.93	0.89
Cumberland North	14,013	1.02	0.98
Cumberland South	10,233	0.75	0.72
Dartmouth East	14,608	1.07	1.03
Dartmouth North	15,512	1.13	1.09
Dartmouth South-Portland Valley	19,172	1.40	1.35
Digby-Annapolis	10,004	0.73	0.70
Eastern Shore	12,086	0.88	0.85
Glace Bay	12,236	0.89	0.86
Guysborough-Sheet Harbour	9,100	0.67	0.64
Halifax Atlantic	16,289	1.19	1.14
Halifax Chebucto	14,999	1.10	1.05
Halifax Citadel-Sable Island	16,593	1.21	1.16
Halifax Clayton Park	21,886	1.60	1.54
Halifax Fairview	15,865	1.16	1.11
Halifax Needham	17,057	1.25	1.20
Hammonds Plains-Upper Sackville	18,122	1.32	1.27
Hants East	17,300	1.26	1.21

Constituency	Electors 2011*	2011 Seat Entitlement***	2011 Adjusted Seat Entitlement***
Hants West	14,650	1.07	1.03
Inverness	13,641	1.00	0.96
Kings North	15,096	1.10	1.06
Kings South	16,099	1.18	1.13
Kings West	14,614	1.07	1.03
Lunenburg	13,720	1.00	0.96
Lunenburg West	14,380	1.05	1.01
Pictou Centre	12,860	0.94	0.90
Pictou East	11,803	0.86	0.83
Pictou West	10,886	0.80	0.76
Preston	7,593	0.55	–
Queens	9,706	0.71	0.68
Richmond	7,192	0.53	–
Sackville-Cobequid	14,803	1.08	1.04
Shelburne	11,210	0.82	0.79
Timberlea-Prospect	16,662	1.22	1.17
Truro-Bible Hill	15,656	1.14	1.10
Victoria-The Lakes	8,930	0.65	0.63
Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank	16,312	1.19	1.15
Yarmouth	12,900	0.94	0.91
Total	711,558	52	48
Average	13,684		
Adjusted Total of Electors**	683,823		
Adjusted Average	14,246		

* Electors are defined as Canadian citizens 18 years of age and older, based on 2011 Census data.

** The protected ridings of Argyle, Clare, Preston and Richmond have been excluded from the Adjusted Seat Entitlement and from the Adjusted Total of Electors.

*** The 2011 Seat Entitlements based on Electors are calculated by dividing each constituency's number of electors by the provincial average of electors per constituency based on 52 seats ($711,557/52=13,684$). The 2011 Adjusted Seat Entitlements are calculated by dividing each constituency's number of electors by the adjusted provincial average of electors per constituency based on 48 seats ($683,822/48=14,246$).

Table 3: Actual and Proposed Seats per Region

This table presents the elector data for the actual and proposed seats per region.

Region*	Counties included in each region	Electors in each region	Percentage of Electors	Existing number of seats **	Proposed number of seats	Existing percentage of Seats per region	Proposed percentage of seats per region
Halifax	Halifax	278,893	40.78%	17	19	35.42%	39.58%
Cape Breton	Cape Breton, Victoria and Inverness	98,510	14.41%	8	7	16.67%	14.58%
South Shore	Lunenburg Queens and Shelburne	64,993	9.50%	5	5	10.42%	10.42%
Annapolis Valley/ South West Nova	Hants West, Kings, Annapolis, Digby and Yarmouth	97,288	14.23%	7	7	14.58%	14.58%
Fundy Northeast	Hants East, Colchester and Cumberland	84,721	12.39%	6	6	12.50%	12.50%
Central Nova	Pictou, Antigonish and Guysborough	59,418	8.69%	5	4	10.42%	8.33%
Total		683,823		48	48		
Average Electors per constituency		14,246					

* List of Constituencies by Region (excluding the 'protected constituencies') is located in Appendix K.

** Excludes the 'protected constituencies' of Argyle, Clare, Preston and Richmond.

Entitlement calculations will vary depending on whether the measure applied is in terms of population or number of electors. Consistent with past practice, the Commission has used number of electors as the basis for its distribution calculations and recommendations.

Elections Nova Scotia provided technical support to the Commission, particularly through the availability of their GIS computer program to calculate voter numbers in the numerous redistribution scenarios that were evaluated for the purpose of eliminating and narrowing entitlement gaps. See Appendix E for Elaboration on Data Sources.

The Public Consultation Process

As directed by the Select Committee, and consistent with the process followed by the previous two Commissions, a series of public consultation meetings took place to inform and to hear from Nova Scotians about the work of the Commission (see Appendix A for Public Meetings Schedule First Round). To promote public awareness, the Commission initially established an information website (<http://www.nselectoralboundaries.ca/>). A total of 14 public meetings were held across the province over a five week period. As well, submissions were received via the Commission's website, through posted mail and personal delivery (see Appendix B for List of Presenters, and Appendix C for List of Written Submissions in Order of Receipt). Transcripts of the public meetings were made available on the Commission's website. To assist in focusing attention on key issues, a set of questions was circulated for public comment. French interpretation services were provided at the public meetings in Halifax, Louisdale, Tusket and Church Point/Point l'Église. Public comments and advice, in the form of written and verbal submissions, have been summarized in point form and grouped under five headings, and are located in Appendix D. Additionally, the Commission has provided an Assessment of other Approaches to Representation that were Presented to the Commission in Appendix J.

Elaboration of Commission Positions

Following are descriptions of some key issues considered by the Commission in the course of its deliberations.

Some Challenges of Electoral Redistribution in Nova Scotia

The process of redrawing electoral boundaries in Nova Scotia recurs every ten years and is meant to ensure that provincial constituencies continue to reflect the constitutional right of all citizens to fair and effective representation in the legislature. Relative parity of voting power is not the only factor which government may take into account in ensuring fair and effective representation. Quoting from the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in the Carter case (1991) to review how the courts have dealt with the factors to consider:

“Notwithstanding the fact that the value of a citizen’s vote should not be unduly diluted, it is a practical fact that effective representation often cannot be achieved without taking into account countervailing factors. First, absolute parity is impossible. It is impossible to draw boundary lines which guarantee exactly the same number of voters in each district ... Secondly, such relative parity as may be possible of achievement may prove undesirable because it has the effect of detracting from the primary goal of effective representation. Factors like geography, community history, community interests and minority representation may need to be taken into account to ensure that our legislative assemblies effectively represent the diversity of our social mosaic. These are but examples of considerations which may justify departure from absolute voter parity in the pursuit of more effective representation; the list is not closed ... Respect for individual dignity and social equality mandate that citizens’ votes not be unduly debased or diluted. But the need to recognize cultural and group identity and to enhance the participation of individuals in the electoral process and society requires that other concerns also be accommodated ...” (excerpted from pages 8-17 of the Supreme Court’s Carter decision, re Provincial Electoral Boundaries (Sask.), [1991] 2 S.C.R. 158)

The electoral redistribution process, undertaken in Nova Scotia by two independent Electoral Boundary Commissions since 1992, is one fraught with challenges, some of which are unique to Nova Scotia while others are of a more general nature.

The geography of the province is one challenging factor, as is the particular dispersion of its population. Nova Scotia is a peninsular province with a major island at its northeastern extension. As a result, it has a long coastline along which most of the population resides. It has long expanses of coastline that are relatively unpopulated combined with large areas of the interior of the province, particularly in its southwestern and northeastern portions, that are similarly unpopulated. Most rural areas of the province have experienced population decline over the past several decades, as has Cape Breton Regional Municipality. However, significant population growth has occurred in the greater Halifax area.

Community history and interest is another important factor in the redistribution process. Nova Scotia communities have deep historical roots, most dating to the 18th and early 19th centuries. Community identities are reinforced by immigration and settlement patterns that often had a distinctive ethno-religious dimension, and for most of the province, relatively little by way of more recent waves of immigration. The strong sense of distinctive community identity and interest was compounded by the relative geographic isolation of many rural locales, and the resource-based nature of the economy. These communities have a long and robust tradition of autonomous local government at the county and municipal level.

Ensuring fair and effective representation while accommodating a concern for cultural diversity and minority representation is another important consideration for the boundary redrawing exercise, one made more difficult by the territorial dispersal of minority populations in the context of the simple plurality electoral system that groups electors into single-member constituencies. Nova Scotia's French-speaking Acadian population is concentrated mainly in several rural communities located at the geographic extremities of the province. Its African-Nova Scotian community is also widely dispersed, though there is a concentration of population in and around the area of the Prestons, on the Dartmouth side of Halifax harbor.

In short, while relative parity of voting power remains of paramount importance, other factors impinge upon the right of all citizens to fair and effective representation, and these combine to form the background and broader context for the electoral redistribution process.

‘Protected Constituencies’

The Commission decided to retain the ‘protected constituencies’ of Argyle, Clare, Preston, and Richmond. It proposes no changes to the boundaries of these four electoral districts.

A detailed rationale and justification for Maintaining the ‘Protected Constituencies’ is included in Appendix G. For the Dissenting Opinion Regarding the Commission’s Interpretation of the Terms of Reference, see Appendix H.

Retaining 52 Seats in the House of Assembly

The Commission considered whether, and to what extent, a reduction in seats would be practical from a political, administrative and geographic perspective. It was cognizant of the central importance of effective political representation and mindful of the demands of the Westminster parliamentary system in terms of providing sufficient numbers of members to draw upon in order to make possible the formation of a capable government and an adequate opposition. It also took into account that significant seat reduction would see some rural constituencies becoming more unwieldy in terms of geographic size and raise concerns about fair and effective representation. In short, the Commission is of the view that the House of Assembly should continue to be comprised of 52 seats.

The Commission is recommending boundary changes that will ensure that Nova Scotia’s electoral districts continue to adhere to the principle that relative parity of voting power must be achieved through constituencies of equal electoral population to the extent possible as described in the Commission’s Terms of Reference.

Pursuit of Voter Parity

After setting aside the four ‘protected constituencies’, the Commission applied the ± 25 per cent variance rule to the remaining 48 constituencies in keeping with the Terms of Reference. Despite the challenges posed by Nova Scotia’s geography and population distribution, all geographic regions fall within a ± 10 per cent variance (see below Table 4 ‘Electoral Parity per Region’). Elector populations in 37 constituencies fall within $\pm 15\%$ variance and 29 fall within $\pm 10\%$ variance. Achieving this degree of voter parity required in some instances the crossing of municipal and county boundary lines.

Table 4: Existing and Proposed Average Seat Entitlement per Region

This table presents data on the proposed changes to electoral boundaries in terms of the average seat entitlement by region compared with the number of seats proposed for each region.

Region*	Electors in each region	Existing number of seats	Average electors	Present parity per region	Proposed seat allocation	Revised Electors per region	Proposed parity per region**
Halifax Regional Municipality	278,893	17	16,405	1.15	19	14,679	1.03
Cape Breton	98,510	8	12,314	0.86	7	14,073	0.99
South Shore	64,993	5	12,999	0.91	5	12,999	0.91
Annapolis Valley/ Southwest Nova	97,288	7	13,898	0.98	7	13,898	0.98
Fundy Northeast	84,721	6	14,120	0.99	6	14,120	0.99
Central Nova	59,418	5	11,884	0.83	4	14,855	1.04
Total***	683,823	48	14,246	0	48		

* List of Constituencies by Region (excluding the “protected constituencies”) is located in Appendix K.

** All regions within $\pm 10\%$ (excluding the ‘protected constituencies’ of Argyle, Clare, Preston and Richmond).

*** Excludes the ‘protected constituencies’ of Argyle, Clare, Preston and Richmond.

The Proposed Electoral Redistribution

The preceding tables, covering population shifts, number of electors, and seat entitlements, have provided a basis for determining where redistribution is warranted. To reiterate its overall approach to redistribution, the Commission has determined that:

- a. there should continue to be 52 members in the House of Assembly;
- b. the four 'protected constituencies' should be retained;
- c. one constituency should be removed from urban Cape Breton and another from mainland Nova Scotia;
- d. two new constituencies are recommended for the Halifax area to accommodate growth in the number of electors on the western side of the harbor; boundary adjustments in the remaining constituencies be guided by the goal of relative voter parity to the extent possible; and
- e. while it was not bound by county or municipal boundaries in the redistribution process, it has used these where feasible; it has been diligent in working with, and accommodating, existing polling districts as well as land features such as highways and water bodies that provide natural and workable separation of population areas.

The Commission recommends that:

- The boundaries of the following constituencies remain unchanged: Argyle; Clare; Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley; Cumberland North; Dartmouth North; Glace Bay; Hants West; Inverness; Kings North; Kings South; Kings West; Lunenburg; Preston; Richmond; Shelburne; Truro-Bible Hill; and Yarmouth;
- Constituency boundaries within the CBRM be adjusted to create a new Sydney constituency; Cape Breton Nova be redistributed among adjacent constituencies, primarily to the proposed constituency of Sydney; the Westmount area be combined with Cape Breton North to create the constituency of Northside-Westmount; and the Coxheath area be moved to the constituency of Cape Breton West;
- Victoria-The Lakes be expanded to include the remaining portion of Boulardarie Island, as well as the communities of Eskasoni and Northside East Bay;
- The Guysborough county portion of the constituency of Guysborough-Sheet Harbour be merged with the eastern portion of the constituency of Antigonish to create the new constituency of Guysborough-Antigonish East;
- The western portion of the constituency of Antigonish be combined with most of Pictou East to create the new constituency of Antigonish-Pictou East;

- The boundaries of Pictou Centre and Pictou West be modified to better reflect relative parity of voting power;
- Cumberland South be expanded to include more of the Parrsboro shore area (from Colchester North) to create the new constituency of Cumberland-Fundy Shore;
- Digby-Annapolis be expanded into Annapolis;
- Queens be further expanded into Lunenburg West to create the new constituency of Queens-Lunenburg West. The remainder of Lunenburg West to be renamed Lunenburg Centre;
- Queens be expanded into Digby-Annapolis to take in communities that are adjacent to interior communities of Queens;
- The boundaries of Bedford-Birch Cove be adjusted in the south with the proposed southern boundary of Bedford running through Hemlock Ravine Park. The other boundaries be maintained as previously defined. This adjustment would remove part (but not all) of Birch Cove from the previous constituency;
- A portion of the western side of St Margaret's Bay now part of Chester-St. Margaret's be added to the new constituency of Timberlea-Prospect-St. Margaret's;
- A new constituency be established for Clayton Park. The area to the west of Dunbrack Street and within the 102 Bicentennial Highway would be the new constituency of Clayton Park West;
- The area of South Woodside and Imperoyal south of the Circumferential Highway be added to Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage;
- Three polls (14012-14) be moved from Cole Harbour to Dartmouth East. The area from the Circumferential Highway west and from Portland Street south (i.e., Russell Lake, Portland Estates and Portland Hills) be included in the new constituency of Cole Harbour-Portland Valley;
- The constituency of Eastern Shore be expanded northeast to the Halifax Guysborough county line;
- The new constituency of Fairview-Clayton Park be created to include the Bedford Highway, Connaught Avenue, Bayers Road, Bicentennial Drive, Dunbrack Street, to Farnham Gate Road, where it turns towards Halifax Harbour, running along Tremont Drive;
- The former constituency of Halifax Fairview be divided. The new constituency of Halifax Armdale would contain the former Halifax Fairview area south of Highway 102. It would also contain part of the Spryfield area and Purcells Cove area, as well as part of Bayers Lake;
- The northern boundary of Halifax Atlantic be adjusted to reduce the number of electors. The new boundary would cut through the Frog Pond on Purcell's Cove Road;

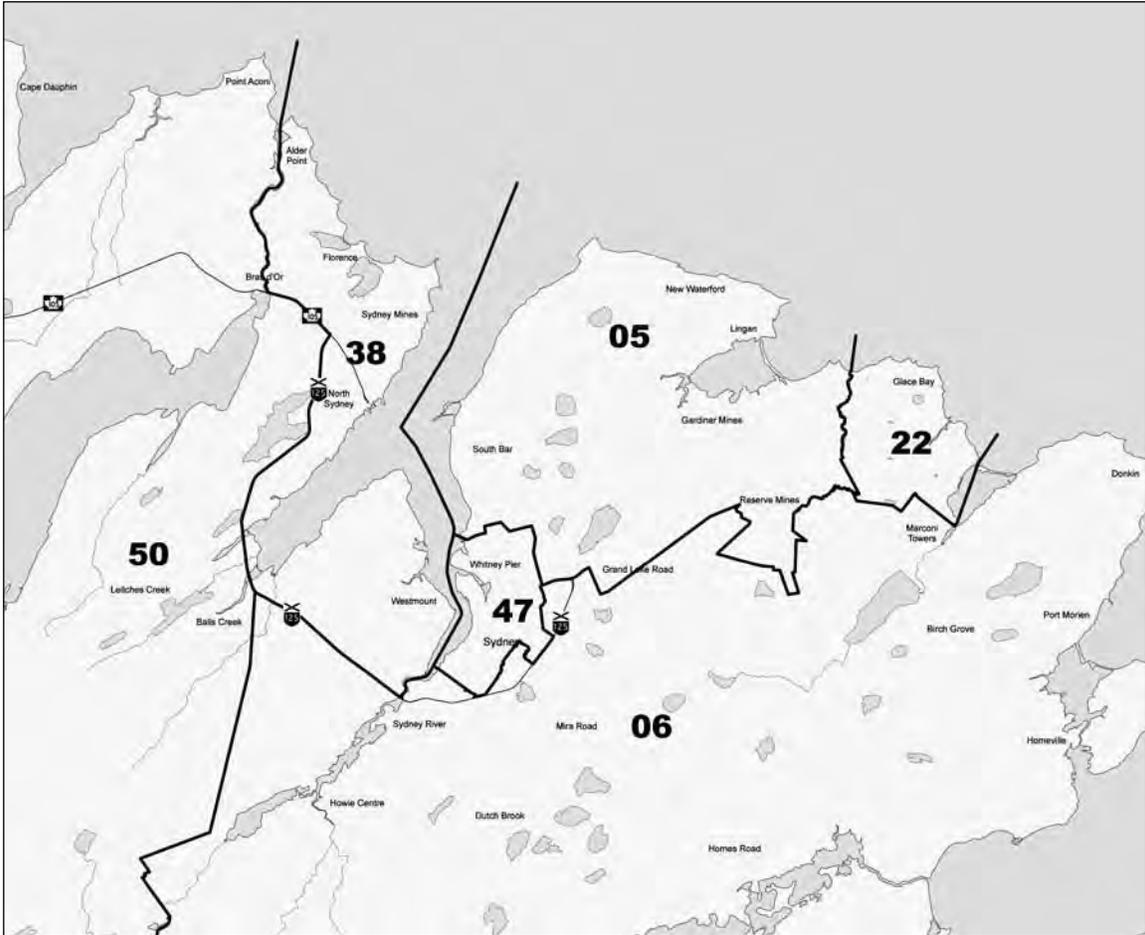
- The southern boundary of Halifax Chebucto be moved southward to Coburg Road. The northern boundary be moved southward to Bayers Road;
- The northern boundary of Halifax Citadel-Sable Island be moved southward to Coburg Road;
- The western boundary of Halifax Needham be adjusted to Connaught Avenue;
- Hammonds Plains-Upper Sackville be divided to create the constituency of Hammonds Plains–Lucasville–Mount Uniacke and the constituency of Sackville and Hammonds Plains–Lucasville–Mount Uniacke would include the area bounded by Herbert River in the north, and Highway 101 to the east. It also includes the Lewis Lake, Stillwater Lake and Hublely areas from Timberlea-Prospect, as well as Sandy Lake and Kearney Lake areas from Bedford-Birch Cove;
- Hants East be redrawn to lose the area south of Herbert River;
- Sackville constituency includes Upper and Middle Sackville formerly included in Hammonds Plains-Upper Sackville and an area formerly in neighbouring constituency of Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank, bounded by Beaver Bank Road in the west, Galloway Drive, Mill Brook River in the north, and cutting between Rivendale Drive and Capilano Drive in the east;
- A small area of Sackville-Cobequid, north of Grennan Drive and Sampson Drive east of Beaver Bank Road and south of Windgate Drive, be reallocated to the riding of Sackville;
- The north boundaries of Timberlea-Prospect-St. Margaret's be adjusted to give up Lewis Lake, Stillwater Lake and Hublely areas to Hammonds Plains-Lucasville-Mount Uniacke, and gain Suzie Lake, Quarrie Lake and part of Bayers Lake areas from former Halifax-Clayton Park. To the west the coastal communities on the east coast of St Margaret's Bay would be added; and
- Polls 51029-31 of Waverley–Fall River–Beaver Bank be moved to Dartmouth East with Polls 51005-8 and 15 moved to Sackville.

Table 5: Proposed Electoral Constituencies

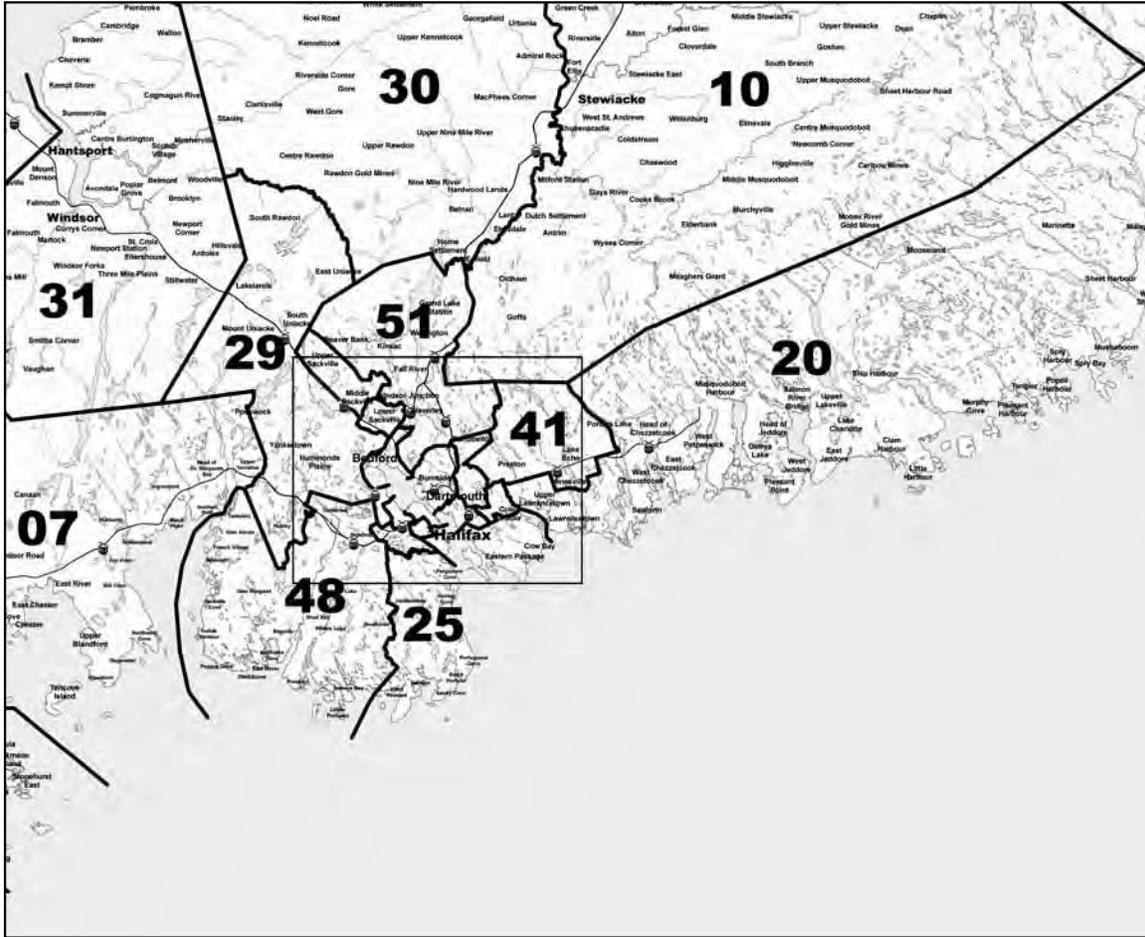
Constituencies	Constituencies
01 Annapolis	27 Halifax Citadel-Sable Island
02 Antigonish-Pictou East	28 Halifax Needham
03 Argyle	29 Hammonds Plains-Lucasville-Mount Uniacke
04 Bedford	30 Hants East
05 Cape Breton Centre	31 Hants West
06 Cape Breton West	32 Inverness
07 Chester-St. Margaret's	33 Kings North
08 Clare	34 Kings South
09 Clayton Park West	35 Kings West
10 Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley	36 Lunenburg Centre
11 Colchester North	37 Lunenburg East
12 Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage	38 Northside-Westmount
13 Cole Harbour-Portland Valley	39 Pictou Centre
14 Cumberland-Fundy Shore	40 Pictou West
15 Cumberland North	41 Preston
16 Dartmouth East	42 Queens-Lunenburg West
17 Dartmouth North	43 Richmond
18 Dartmouth South	44 Sackville
19 Digby-Annapolis	45 Sackville-Cobequid
20 Eastern Shore	46 Shelburne
21 Fairview-Clayton Park	47 Sydney
22 Glace Bay	48 Timberlea-Prospect-St. Margaret's
23 Guysborough-Antigonish East	49 Truro-Bible Hill
24 Halifax Armdale	50 Victoria-The Lakes
25 Halifax Atlantic	51 Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank
26 Halifax Chebucto	52 Yarmouth

Maps

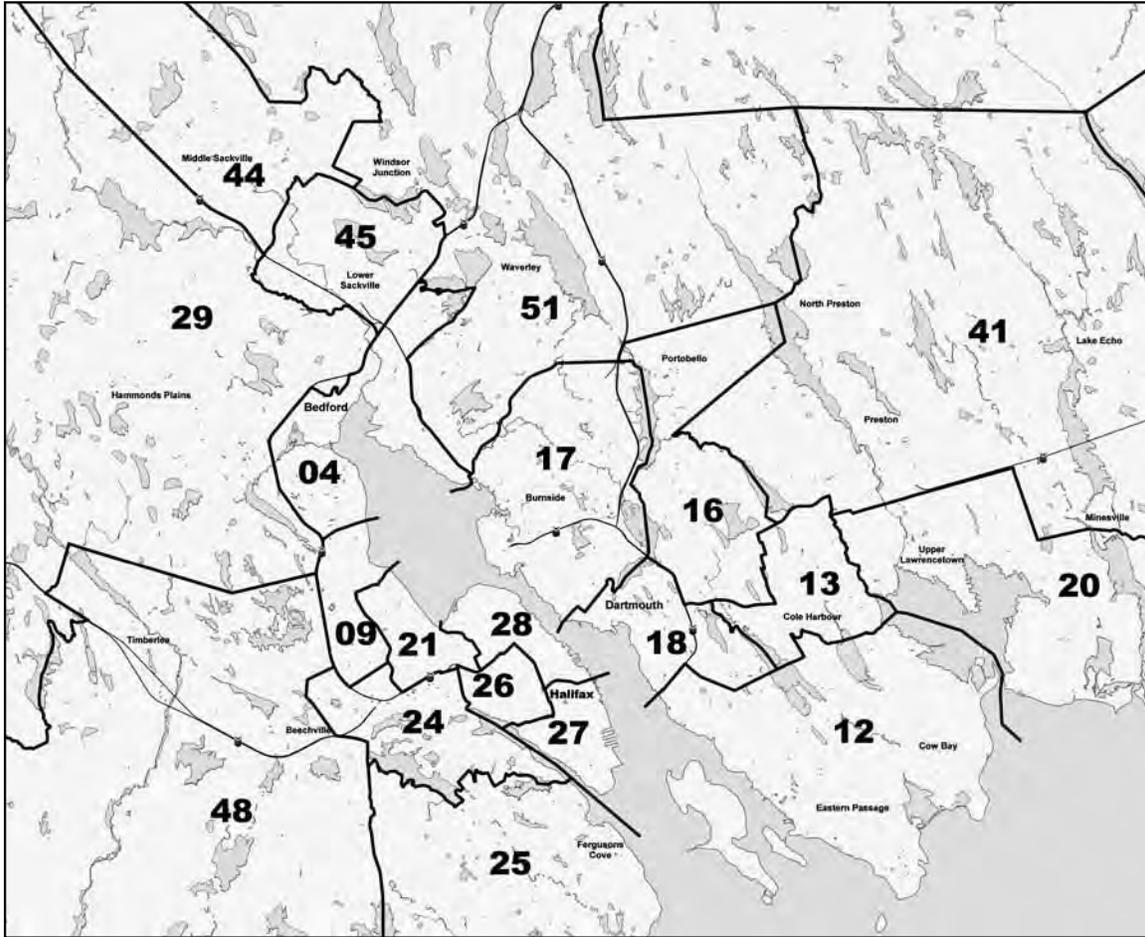
Cape Breton Area



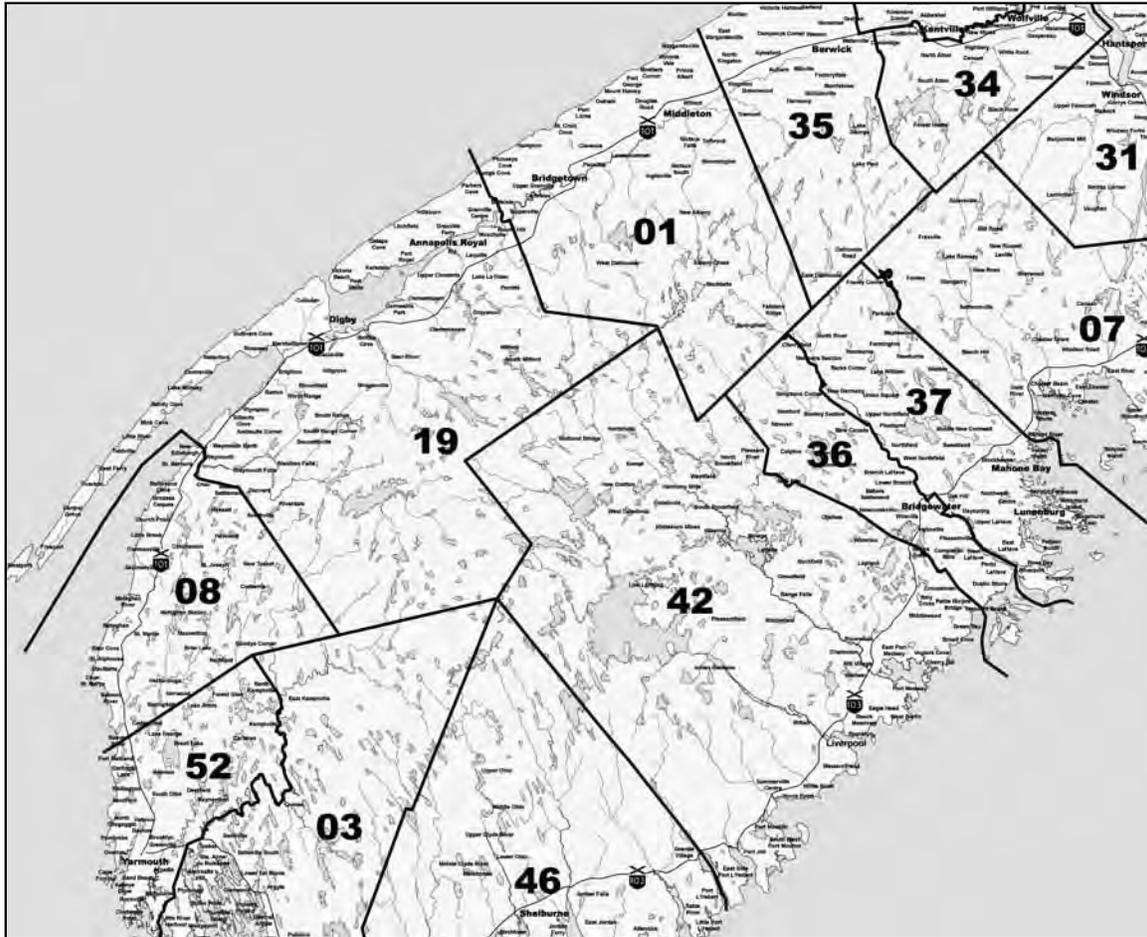
Halifax Regional Municipality Area



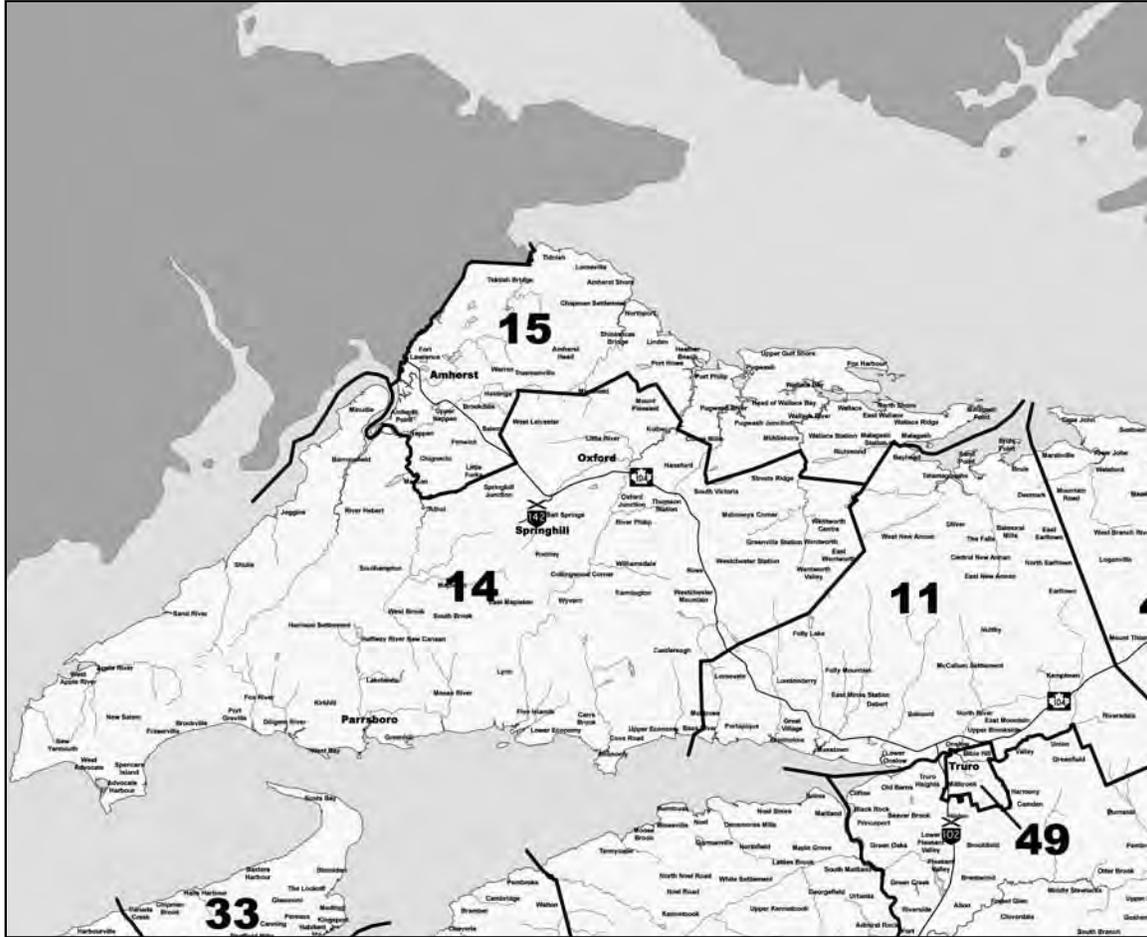
Halifax Regional Municipality Area Inset



Southwest Nova Area



Cumberland Area



Guysborough-Eastern Shore-Antigonish-Pictou Area

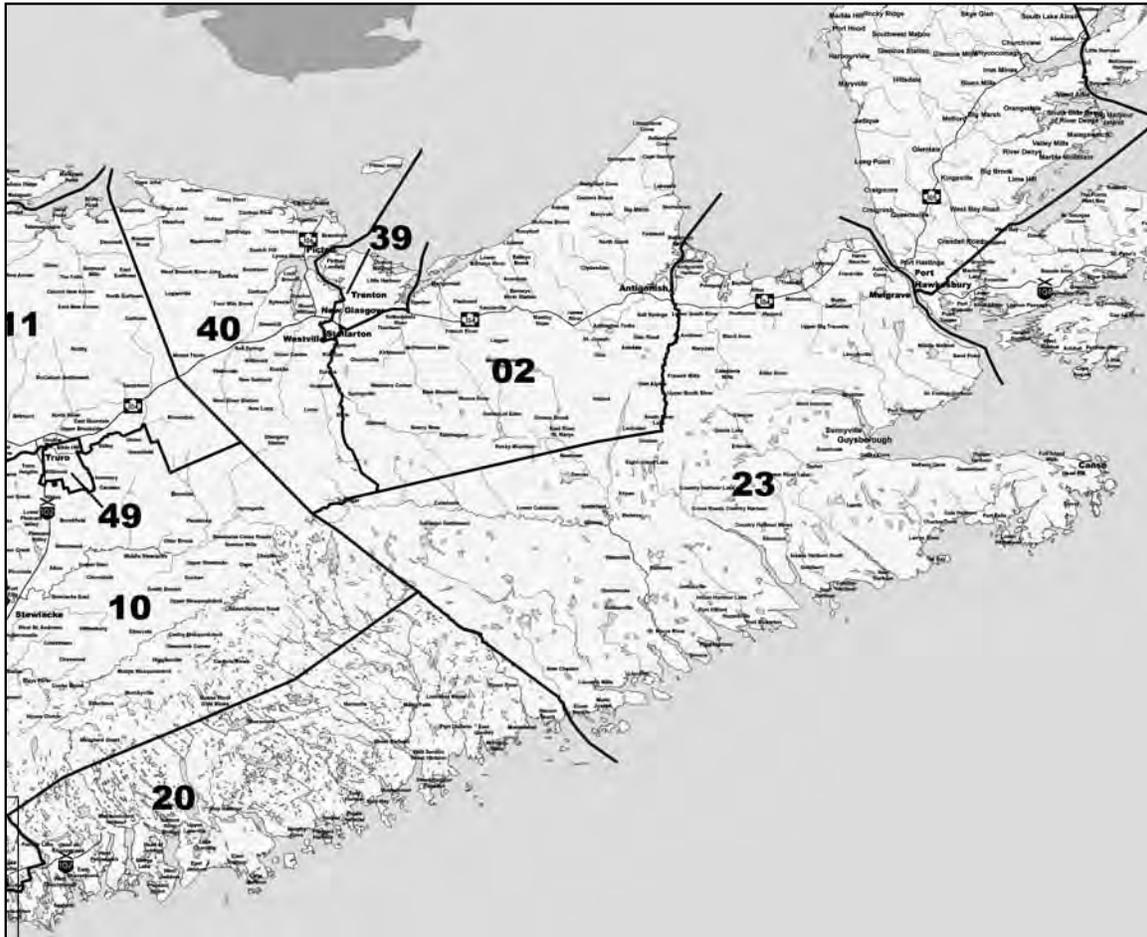


Table 6: Proposed Provincial Electoral Constituencies: Electors and Seat Entitlements

This table presents data for the proposed electoral constituencies indicating number of electors for each proposed constituency, seat entitlement and adjusted seat entitlement.

Proposed Constituency	Electors 2011*	2011 Seat Entitlement***	Adjusted Seat Entitlement***
Annapolis	11,165	0.82	0.78
Antigonish-Pictou East	14,307	1.05	1.00
Argyle	6,419	0.47	–
Bedford	16,224	1.19	1.14
Cape Centre Centre	13,953	1.02	0.98
Cape Breton West	15,575	1.14	1.09
Chester-St. Margaret's	12,806	0.94	0.90
Clare	6,531	0.48	–
Clayton Park West	16,492	1.21	1.16
Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley	13,640	1.00	0.96
Colchester North	12,942	0.95	0.91
Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage	13,735	1.00	0.96
Cole Harbour-Portland Valley	16,961	1.24	1.19
Cumberland-Fundy Shore	11,170	0.82	0.78
Cumberland North	14,013	1.02	0.98
Dartmouth East	16,466	1.20	1.16
Dartmouth North	15,512	1.13	1.09
Dartmouth South	15,490	1.13	1.09
Digby-Annapolis	12,659	0.93	0.89
Eastern Shore	14,561	1.06	1.02
Fairview-Clayton Park	16,401	1.20	1.15
Glace Bay	12,236	0.89	0.86
Guysborough-Antigonish East	11,574	0.85	0.81
Halifax Armdale	13,481	0.99	0.95
Halifax Atlantic	13,097	0.96	0.92
Halifax Chebucto	16,372	1.20	1.15
Halifax Citadel-Sable Island	14,816	1.08	1.04
Halifax Needham	15,648	1.14	1.10
Hammonds Plains-Lucasville-Mount Uniacke	16,418	1.20	1.15
Hants East	14,271	1.04	1.00
Hants West	14,650	1.07	1.03

Proposed Constituency	Electors 2011*	2011 Seat Entitlement***	Adjusted Seat Entitlement***
Inverness	13,641	1.00	0.96
Kings North	15,096	1.10	1.06
Kings South	16,099	1.18	1.13
Kings West	14,614	1.07	1.03
Lunenburg Centre	12,735	0.93	0.89
Lunenburg East	13,720	1.00	0.96
Northside-Westmount	15,642	1.14	1.10
Pictou Centre	15,944	1.17	1.12
Pictou West	15,118	1.10	1.06
Preston	7,593	0.55	–
Queens-Lunenburg West	11,456	0.84	0.80
Richmond	7,192	0.53	–
Sackville	13,150	0.96	0.92
Sackville-Cobequid	13,732	1.00	0.96
Shelburne	11,210	0.82	0.79
Sydney	15,663	1.14	1.10
Timberlea-Prospect-St. Margaret's	15,669	1.15	1.10
Truro-Bible Hill	15,656	1.14	1.10
Victoria-The Lakes	11,800	0.86	0.83
Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank	13,342	0.98	0.94
Yarmouth	12,900	0.94	0.91
Total	711,557	52	48
Average	13,684		
Adjusted Total **	683,822		
Adjusted Average	14,246		

* Electors are defined as Canadian citizens 18 years of age and older, based on 2011 Census data.

** The 'protected constituencies' of Argyle, Clare, Preston and Richmond have been excluded from the Adjusted Total.

*** The 2011 Seat Entitlements based on Electors are calculated by dividing each constituency's number of electors by the provincial average of electors per constituency based on 52 seats ($711,557/52=13,684$). The 2011 Adjusted Seat Entitlements based on Electors are calculated by dividing each constituency's number of electors by the adjusted provincial average of electors per constituency based on the 48 unprotected seats ($683,822/48=14,246$).

Overview of Proposed Changes to the Current Electoral Boundaries

The following list of constituencies uses the current constituency numbers and names as adopted in 2002 and as outlined in the current House of Assembly Act.

This overview briefly outlines the broad changes being proposed to current provincial electoral boundaries – it does not provide legal descriptions of the new constituencies.

If it is indicated that there has been no change to an existing constituency, then its current legal description can be found in the House of Assembly Act.

1. **Annapolis:** Loses Northwestern section, including Annapolis Royal and Granville Ferry to Digby-Annapolis.
2. **Antigonish:** Expands westward towards New Glasgow to include the area of Pictou east of the East River and south of Highway 104. This constituency to be renamed Antigonish-Pictou East. Loses the area east of the South River to the proposed constituency of Guysborough-East Antigonish.
3. **Argyle:** No Change
4. **Bedford-Birch Cove:** Loses Sandy Lake and Kearney Lake areas to Hammonds Plains-Upper Sackville. Loses the majority of the Birch Cove area to Halifax-Clayton Park. This constituency could be renamed Bedford.
5. **Cape Breton Centre:** Expands southwest toward Sydney, to include South Bar, Lingan Road and part of Grand Lake Road areas from Cape Breton Nova.
6. **Cape Breton North:** Loses the area west of the Little Bras d'Or, which includes Point Aconi, to Victoria-The Lakes. Expands southward to include the area north of Highway 125, including the Westmount area from Cape Breton South. The constituency to be renamed to Northside-Westmount.
7. **Cape Breton Nova:** This constituency has been reallocated to Cape Breton Centre, Cape Breton West and the new constituency of Sydney.
8. **Cape Breton South:** Expands northward to include Whitney Pier area of Cape Breton Nova. In the south, loses the Sydney River and Prime Brook areas to Cape Breton West. In the East, loses the Mira Road area to Cape Breton West. West of Sydney Harbour and Sydney River, loses Westmount area to Cape Breton North, and the Coxheath area to Cape Breton West. The constituency to be renamed Sydney.
9. **Cape Breton West:** Gains Mira Road, Sydney River, Prime Brook and Coxheath areas from Cape Breton South, as well as a section of Grand Lake Road area from Cape Breton Nova. Loses the area northwest of East Bay to Victoria-The Lakes.

10. **Chester-St. Margaret's:** Loses the area east of St Margaret's Bay and south of St. Margaret's Bay Road to Timberlea-Prospect.
11. **Clare:** No Change
12. **Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley:** No Change
13. **Colchester North:** Loses section of Colchester County, from Bass River westward.
14. **Cole Harbour:** Loses a small section in the northwestern tip to Dartmouth East. Gains the Portland Hills area from Dartmouth South-Portland Valley. This constituency to be renamed Cole Harbour-Portland Valley.
15. **Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage:** Expands westward to gain the area south of Russell Lake, and east of Highway 111 from Dartmouth South-Portland Valley.
16. **Cumberland North:** No Change
17. **Cumberland South:** Expands eastward into Colchester County, to include Bass River and west (from Colchester North). This constituency to be renamed Cumberland-Fundy Shore.
18. **Dartmouth East:** Expands northward to gain the Portobello area from Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank. Gains a small section from the northwest tip of Cole Harbour.
19. **Dartmouth North:** No Change
20. **Dartmouth South-Portland Valley:** Loses the Portland Hills area to Cole Harbour, and loses the area south of Russell Lake, and east of Highway 111 to Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage. This constituency to be renamed Dartmouth South.
21. **Digby-Annapolis:** Expands eastward to include northwestern section of Annapolis, including Annapolis Royal and Granville Ferry. Loses southeastern section, including Maitland Bridge area to Queens.
22. **Eastern Shore:** Expands northeast to the Halifax – Guysborough county line.
23. **Glace Bay:** No Change
24. **Guysborough-Sheet Harbour:** Expands northward to include the area east of South River (from Antigonish). Loses section within Halifax Regional Municipality to Eastern Shore. This constituency to be renamed Guysborough-Antigonish East.

25. **Halifax Atlantic:** Loses part of Spryfield and Purcells Cove area to the proposed constituency of Halifax Armdale.
26. **Halifax Chebucto:** Expanded slightly northeast into Halifax Needham, to include the area south of Robie Street and east of Young Street. Expanded slightly southward into Halifax Citadel-Sable Island to include the area west of Robie Street, and north of Coburg Road. Loses the area north of Bayers Road and east of Connolly Street and Connaught Avenue to Halifax Needham. Loses the area north of Bayers Road and west of Connolly Street and Connaught Avenue to the new constituency of Fairview-Clayton Park.
27. **Halifax Citadel-Sable Island:** Loses the area west of Robie Street, and north of Coburg Road to Halifax Chebucto.
28. **Halifax Clayton Park:** Gains Birch Cove area from Bedford-Birch Cove. Loses Suzie Lake, Quarrie Lake and part of Bayers Lake to Timberlea-Prospect. Loses the area east of Dunbrack Street, towards the Halifax Harbour to the proposed new constituency of Fairview-Clayton Park. Loses the southern section, including part of Bayers Lake to Halifax Fairview. This constituency to be renamed Clayton Park West.
29. **Halifax Fairview:** Gains southern section of Halifax Clayton Park including part of Bayers Lake. Gains part of Spryfield and Purcells Cove area from Halifax Atlantic. Loses the area north of Highway 102, and east of Dunbrack Street to the proposed new constituency of Fairview-Clayton Park. Part of the constituency is proposed to be in Fairview-Clayton Park and part in Halifax Armdale.
30. **Halifax Needham:** Loses the area south of Robie Street and east of Young Street to Halifax Chebucto. Gains the area north of Bayers Road and east of Connolly Street and Connaught Avenue from Halifax Chebucto.
31. **Hammonds Plains-Upper Sackville:** Expands into Hants County, to include Mount Uniacke area from Hants East. Loses the area east of Highway 101, including the Upper Sackville area to the proposed constituency of Sackville. Gains Lewis Lake, Stillwater Lake, Hubley areas from Timberlea-Prospect. Gains Sandy Lake and Kearney Lake areas from Bedford-Birch Cove. This constituency to be renamed Hammonds Plains-Lucasville-Mount Uniacke.
32. **Hants East:** Loses the Mount Uniacke area to proposed Hammonds Plains-Lucasville-Mount Uniacke.
33. **Hants West:** No Change
34. **Inverness:** No Change
35. **Kings North:** No Change
36. **Kings South:** No Change

37. **Kings West:** No Change
38. **Lunenburg:** No change in boundaries, but the constituency to be renamed Lunenburg East.
39. **Lunenburg West:** Loses an area on its western boundary to Queens. This constituency to be renamed Lunenburg Centre.
40. **Pictou Centre:** Expands northeast to include the area north of Highway 104 (from Pictou East).
41. **Pictou East:** Electors in this constituency have been reallocated to Pictou Centre, Pictou West, and Antigonish.
42. **Pictou West:** Expands eastward to include the area west of the East River and the West Branch East River area (from Pictou East).
43. **Preston:** No Change
44. **Queens:** Expands northward into Annapolis County to include the Maitland Bridge area from Digby-Annapolis. Expands eastward into Lunenburg County to include an area along the western boundary of Lunenburg West. This constituency to be renamed Queens-Lunenburg West.
45. **Richmond:** No Change
46. **Sackville-Cobequid:** Loses a small area along its northern boundary to the proposed new constituency of Sackville.
47. **Shelburne:** No Change
48. **Timberlea-Prospect:** Loses Lewis Lake, Stillwater Lake, Hubley areas to the renamed constituency of Hammonds Plains-Lucasville-Mount Uniacke. Expands westward to include the area east of St Margaret's Bay and south of St. Margaret's Bay Road. Gains Suzie Lake, Quarrie Lake and part of Bayers Lake areas from Halifax-Clayton Park. This constituency to be renamed Timberlea-Prospect-St. Margaret's.
49. **Truro-Bible Hill:** No Change
50. **Victoria-The Lakes:** Gains the area northwest of East Bay (from Cape Breton West), and the area west of Little Bras d'Or (from Cape Breton North).
51. **Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank:** Loses the southern portion of Beaver Bank to the proposed constituency of Sackville. Loses the Portobello area to Dartmouth East.
52. **Yarmouth:** No Change

Descriptions for Proposed Boundaries

Please note: The following boundary descriptions are not designed to be official legal descriptions for the revised electoral boundaries. The Commission is particularly interested in hearing the public's advice on where the exact boundary revisions should be drawn.

1. **Annapolis:** On the east, it is bounded by the Annapolis and Kings county line, running from the coast of the Bay of Fundy south to the Lunenburg county line. On the south, it is bounded as follows: from the intersection of the Annapolis, Kings, and Lunenburg county line it runs southwest along the Annapolis and Lunenburg county line to a point on the western shore of Round Lake, where the county line intersects the lake shoreline. The western boundary then runs northwest to a point near the northern shore of Kelly Lake. Turning west, the line runs to the point where Ten Mile Brook flows out of Dargie Lake. It then goes slightly northwest, intersecting the eastern shores of Lower and Upper Wrights Lake's to a point on the southern shoreline of the Annapolis River. Crossing to the northern shore of the Annapolis River, the line follows the river west to a point just south of Young Mountain Road. Extending from the river to Young Mountain Road, it then follows Young Mountain Road to the intersection of Shore Road West and extends to the shore of the Bay of Fundy. On the north, it's bounded by the Bay of Fundy.
2. **Antigonish-Pictou East:** At the intersection of the East River of Pictou and Highway 104, the northern boundary follows Highway 104 to Merigomish Harbour at the mouth of Sutherland River. It then follows the Northumberland shoreline to the mouth of the South River in Antigonish Harbour. On the east, it follows the South River to the intersection of South River and the Antigonish and Guysborough county line. It follows the county line west to the Trafalgar community boundary, then turns northwest and runs to the southeastern tip of Grant Lake, following the eastern lakeshore and extending to the East River of Pictou. It then follows the East River of Pictou north to Highway 104.
3. **Argyle:** No Change
4. **Bedford:** It wraps around the Bedford Basin. On the south it is bounded by Hemlock Ravine Park. On the west, it follows Highway 102 until it reaches Mitchell Court. It follows Mitchell Court east to Sunrise Hill to Shoreview Drive to Rutledge Street to Frederick Street to Highway 102, which it follows until it reaches Rocky Lake. On the north, it cuts through Rocky Lake until it reaches Rocky Lake Drive. On the east, it follows Rocky Lake Drive south to the Bedford Bypass to Windmill Road until it reaches the Dartmouth North District boundary.
5. **Cape Breton Centre:** It is bound on the west by Sydney Harbour starting at a point northwest of the end of Sparr Road, then following the coastline north out and around Low Point to the Glace Bay community boundary near the end of Davidson Street. It then runs from the coast, south to the west of Row Street, to the intersection of Phalen Road and Reserve Street, and then southeast to Renwick Brook. Heading west it follows the Sydney International Airport property line southwest to a point south of the Highway 4 and Airport Road intersection, runs parallel to Highway 4 in a southwestern

direction to a point approximately 1200 meters southeast of Highway 4 and Garth Wilson Avenue, where it turns northwest to connect with Highway 4. It runs west along Highway 4 (Grand Lake Road) to a point east of Reeves Street, where it turns north and runs approximately 2500 meters, then heads west for approximately 1000 meters, then northwest for approximately 500 meters. It turns west and connects to Catherine Street at the intersection with Gibbons Street, to Victoria Road, then turns south to Matilda Street and continues west to a point north of the end of Sparr Road. It then heads northwest to the shoreline of Sydney Harbour.

6. **Cape Breton West:** It is bound on the south by the Cape Breton and Richmond county line starting on the east coast of the Atlantic Ocean and running northwest to the shores of the Bras d'Or Lakes. It is bound on the west by the eastern shoreline of the Bras d'Or lakes from the Cape Breton and Richmond county line to the intersection of Highway 4 and Highway 216. It turns northwest and follows the Portage community boundary to the Blacketts Lake community boundary, turning northwest for approximately 700 meters, then turns northeast and intersects Coxheath Road north of the where Portage Brook merges with the Sydney River. The boundary turns north and runs to the intersection of Highway 125 and Frenchvale Road, then follows Highway 125 northeast to Sydney River, where it turns north and follows the shoreline to the Sydney community boundary. It follows the Sydney community boundary east to the Membertou community boundary, then northwest along the Membertou community boundary and back to the Sydney community boundary. It follows the Sydney community boundary to exit 8 of Highway 125, and then follows Highway 125 to a point south of Cossitt Heights Drive, where it turns northwest and north to Prince Street near the intersection with Centennial Drive. Following Prince Street to Reeves Street, it runs north to Grand Lake Road, where it follows Grand Lake Road to the intersection of Highway 125 and Highway 4. Heading northeast on Highway 4 to a point just past Garth Wilson Avenue, it turns southeast for approximately 1200 meters, then turns northeast running parallel to Highway 4 until the property line of the Sydney International Airport. Following the airport property to the northeastern boundary, it runs east and connects to the Glace Bay community boundary, where it then follows the boundary to the intersection of Birch Grove Road and Highway 255. It then follows Highway 255 to the shoreline of Big Glace Bay. From this point, the boundary follows the coastline east and south to the point where Cape Breton and Richmond county line intersects.
7. **Chester-St. Margaret's:** On the west, it is bounded by the Municipality of the District of Chester boundary line. On the North it is bounded by the Lunenburg County line. On the east it follows the Lunenburg County line, south, until it intersects with the Halifax County line which it follows until Pockwock Lake. It then runs along the western shore of Pockwock Lake, south through Cooper Lake, through Stillwater Lake to Hammonds Plains Road which it follows until it intersects with St. Margaret's Bay Road. It then follows St. Margaret's Bay Road west and extends to the northern tip of St. Margaret's Bay.

8. **Clare:** No Change
9. **Clayton Park West:** On the north, from Highway 102 until the Halifax Harbour, it is bounded by Hemlock Ravine Park. It is bounded on the east by the Halifax Harbour. It runs along Tremont Ave until it reaches Dunbrack Street. It runs south along Dunbrack Street until south of the Halifax Mainland Common Park. Along the south, it runs between the Halifax Mainland Common Park and Main Avenue until it reaches Highway 102. It is bounded on the west by Highway 102 and runs north until the Hemlock Ravine Park.
10. **Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley:** No Change
11. **Colchester North:** It is bound on the west by the Colchester and Pictou county line to a point west of Round Lake. It turns southwest to a point north of Deyarmont Lake, and then runs northwest to a point east of where Half Moon Brook joins Salmon River. The boundary follows Salmon River west to the community boundary of Bible Hill, continuing along the northern border west to Salmon River to Cobequid Bay. It follows the shoreline of the Minas Basin to a point just west of Five Houses Road. It then runs northeast and intersects Highway 2 just west of Five Houses Road, where it then runs north following the Cumberland and Colchester county line to the shores of the Northumberland Strait.
12. **Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage:** On the west the boundary runs from the Halifax Harbour along Highway 111. It then runs east, parallel to the south of Mount Hope Avenue until it reaches the western boundary of the Shearwater airport. It runs northeast, along the outside of the airport, through Morris Lake until it reaches Caldwell Road. It follows Caldwell Road north to Deerbrooke Drive, to Colby Drive until Greenwich Drive. It then runs through Bissett Lake until it reaches Cole Harbour (body of water). It is bounded on the east by the Atlantic Ocean and on the south by the Halifax Harbour. This district includes McNabs Island and Lawlor Island.
13. **Cole Harbour-Portland Valley:** On the west, it runs through Morris Lake, parallel to Diana Grace Avenue until it reaches Portland Estates Boulevard West. It then follows Eisner Boulevard to Portland Street to just beyond Dorothea Drive. It runs parallel to Dorothea Drive, through Settle Lake, to LaPierre Cresent, to Edmond Drive, and then extends until Main Street. On the north it is bounded by Main Street, to Highway 7. The boundary then runs south along the Preston district boundary to a brook which it follows until Cole Harbour Road and Cole Harbour (body of water) intersect. On the south, it follows the Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage district boundary, through Bissett Lake to the Greenwich Drive, Colby Drive intersection. It then follows Colby Drive to Deerbrooke Drive to Caldwell Drive, and then runs southwest through Morris Lake.

14. **Cumberland-Fundy Shore:** It is bounded on the west by Chignecto Bay and on the south by the Minas Channel and Minas Basin to point on the shore near the end of Five Houses Road. It then runs northeast and intersects Highway 2 just west of Five Houses Road, where it then runs north towards the Cumberland and Colchester county line southeast of Sutherland Lake. From this point, it follows the county line northeast to the Cumberland North district boundary, following this boundary west to the banks of Maccan River and into Chignecto Bay.
15. **Cumberland North:** No Change
16. **Dartmouth East:** On the north it is bounded from Highway 118, south of Spider Lake to Lake Major. It then follows the Preston district boundary south, parallel to Forest Hills Extension, through Loon Lake to Main Street. It follows Main Street west until it turns south and runs along Edmond Drive to LaPierre Crescent, through Settle Lake along the Cole Harbour community boundary to Cole Harbour Road. The southern boundary runs from Cole Harbour Road to Portland Street to Highway 111. On the west it is bounded by Highway 111 to Lake Micmac, through Lake Micmac, through Lake Charles to Highway 118.
17. **Dartmouth North:** No Change
18. **Dartmouth South:** Along the south, it is bounded by Halifax Harbour. On the west, it is bounded by the Angus L MacDonald Bridge to Wyse Road to Thistle Street to Crichton Park Road to Crichton Avenue to Hawthorne Street. It then runs through Lake Banook until it reaches Highway 111. Along the north and east it is bounded by Highway 111 to Portland Street to Eisner Boulevard to Portland Estates Boulevard West through Morris Lake. Along the south it runs along the outside of the Shearwater airport, turns northwest and runs parallel to the south of Mount Hope Avenue to Highway 111 to the Halifax Harbour.
19. **Digby-Annapolis:** On the east, starting at a point on the coast of the Bay of Fundy just north of the intersection of Young Mountain Road and Shore Road West, it follows Young Mountain Road south. At the intersection of Young Mountain Road and Highway 1, the boundary extends to the northern shore of the Annapolis River. Running along the river to the east, the line crosses the river to a point just north of Spurr Road and runs south, intersecting the eastern shores of Lower and Upper Wrights Lakes, to a point where Ten Mile Brook flows out of Dargie Lake. Turning southeast, it runs to a point just north of Kelly Lake. The southern boundary then runs southwest to the Annapolis and Digby county line, where it follows the line southeast to the intersection of the Annapolis, Digby and Queens county lines. It runs southeast to the intersection of the Digby, Queens, Shelburne and Yarmouth county lines. The boundary continues along the Digby and Yarmouth county line to the municipal boundary line of the Municipality of the District of Clare. It then follows the municipal boundary line to St. Mary's Bay. Following the shoreline of St. Mary's Bay northeast, including Brier and Long Island to Digby Gut. Following the shoreline around the Annapolis Basin, running south then east, it continues along the coast to a point north of the intersection of Young Mountain Road and Shore Road West.

20. **Eastern Shore:** On the east, it is bounded by the Guysborough county line. On the south, it is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean. On the west, from the northwestern point of Cole Harbour (body of water), it follows a brook, north, to the southern point of Robert Lane. From this point it runs east, parallel to Highway 7 until it passes Shepherds Lane. It then runs south running parallel to Shepherds Lane and Glenn Drive. It then turns east, through Gammon Lake, across the northern tip of Lawrencetown Lake, in between Goose Lake and Duck Lake, turns east towards the north shore of Caribou Lake, and then north through the western shore of Grand Lake. It then turns east, and runs to Porters Lake, which it follows north. Along the north, it follows the Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley district boundary northwest through the northern point of the White Lake Wilderness Area, through the north shore of Ship Harbour Long Lake, through the north shore of Scraggy Lake, through the south shore of Lower Beaver Lake, and onto the Guysborough county line.
21. **Fairview-Clayton Park:** On the north it is bounded by Halifax Harbour. Along the west it runs along Tremont Avenue until it reaches Dunbrack Street. On the south, it is bounded by Dunbrack Street until Highway 102, which it follows to Abbot Drive to Mailing Street to Bayers Road to Connaught Avenue along MacDougall Street to Connolly Street to Windsor Street. On the north, it follows Windsor Street to the Bedford Highway to the Halifax Harbour.
22. **Glace Bay:** No Change
23. **Guysborough-Antigonish East:** On the north, it is bounded by St Georges Bay. On the east, it is bounded by the Strait of Canso, and Chedabucto Bay. On the south it is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean. On the west, it is bounded by the Halifax County line until it intersects with the Pictou County line. It then follows the Pictou County line until the South River, which it follows north until Antigonish Harbour.
24. **Halifax Armdale:** On the east it is bounded by Northwest Arm through the Armdale Rotary to Chebucto Road, then follows the railroad tracks until the end of Pennington Street. On the north it runs parallel to Abbot Drive to Highway 102 until it intersects with Northwest Arm Drive. It follows Northwest Arm Drive north until it passes Mandaville Court where it turns west and runs between the Halifax Mainland Common Park and Main Avenue until it reaches Highway 102. It runs north until a point on Highway 102 where it turns west then south along Black Duck Ponds extending to Highway 103. From a point on Highway 103 it runs east until St. Margaret's Bay Road, then south along the southern shore of Long Lake. On the south, from Long Lake it follows Northwest Arm Drive to a point where it turns northeast and runs towards Punch Bowl Drive, turns southeast and runs between Punch Bowl Drive and Mont Street to Herring Cove Road. It follows Herring Cove Road to Cherry Lane, runs north, parallel to Herring Cove Road, along Seaview Avenue until the end of Inverness Avenue. It then runs southeast to Ravenscraig Drive, runs parallel to Williams Lake Road, runs north and parallel to Ballantrae Lane and Forward Avenue until Purcells Cove Road. It then runs east along Purcells Cove Road, where it turns southeast between Litchfield Crescent and Wenlock Grove, through Williams Lake and out to the Halifax Harbour.

25. **Halifax Atlantic:** On the north, it runs along the southern shore of Long Lake. From Long Lake it follows Northwest Arm Drive to a point where it turns northeast and runs towards Punch Bowl Drive, turns southeast and runs between Punch Bowl Drive and Mont Street to Herring Cove Road. It then follows Herring Cove Road to Cherry Lane, runs north, parallel to Herring Cove Road, along Seaview Avenue until the end of Inverness Avenue. It then runs southeast to Ravenscraig Drive, runs parallel to Williams Lake Road, runs north and parallel to Ballantrae Lane and Forward Ave until Purcells Cove Road. It runs east along Purcells Cove Road, where it turns southeast between Litchfield Crescent and Wenlock Grove, through Williams Lake and out to the Halifax Harbour. On the east and south it is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean. On the west, from the Atlantic Ocean it runs from the western edge of West Pennant, to the east shore of Ragged Lake, through The Two Lakes, through Moody Lake, follows a river along the north shore of Run Lake, through Sheas Lake, through Spruce Hill Lake, through Long Lake Provincial Park until the south shore of Long Lake.
26. **Halifax Chebucto:** On the south, from the Northwest Arm it follows Coburg Road to Robie Street. On the east it is bounded by Robie Street until it intersects Young Street. On the north it follows Young Street to Windsor Street to Bayers Road to the railroad tracks. In the west it is bounded by the railroad tracks to Chebucto Road through the Armdale roundabout to the Northwest Arm.
27. **Halifax Citadel-Sable Island:** On the east and south it is bounded by the Halifax Harbour. On the west it is bounded by the Northwest Arm. On the north, from the Northwest Arm it follows Coburg Road to Robie Street to Cogswell Street to Rainnie Drive to Duke Street until the Halifax Harbour. This district also includes Sable Island.
28. **Halifax Needham:** It is bounded along the north and east by the Halifax Harbour. On the south it follows Duke Street to Rainnie Drive to Cogswell Street to Robie Street. In the west, it is bounded by Robie Street to Young Street to Windsor Street to Bayers Road to Connaught Avenue. It then follows along MacDougall Street to Connolly Street to Windsor Street. It then follows Windsor Street and the Bedford Highway until the Halifax Harbour.
29. **Hammonds Plains-Lucasville-Mount Uniacke:** On the north, the boundary runs parallel to Highway 14 to Herbert River. It follows Herbert River to Highway 354 to Beaverbank Road until it reaches the Hants County line. On the east, it is bounded by the Hants County line to Highway 101 to where it intersects with Beaver Bank Road. Extending from Beaver Bank Road, south, it follows the Sackville River running parallel to, and then intersecting Highway 101, which it follows until Highway 102. From there it proceeds south following Highway 102 to Frederick Street to Shoreview Drive to Sunrise Hill to Mitchell Court, and back to Highway 102 until Washmill Lake. On the south, it runs west through Washmill Lake, across the southern tip of Ash Lake. From Ash Lake it proceeds west, and turns south to run in between Maple Lake and Frasers Lake until it reaches Highway 103. From this point, it runs southeast along Highway 103 until it passes Cranberry Lake, where it turns west and runs through Cranberry Lake to an unnamed brook, which it follows to the southern tip

of Black Point Lake, through Frederick Lake, through Upper Five Bridge Lake, through Middle Five Bridge Lake to the northern tip of Big Five Bridge Lake. From this point it runs west along the Glen Margaret community boundary, and then turns northwest and runs to the northeast point of Long Lake and onto where St. Margaret's Bay Road and Hammonds Plains Road intersect. It then runs northeast, following Hammonds Plains Road to Stillwater Lake, through Stillwater Lake, north through Cooper Lake, along the western shore of Pockwock Lake until the Hants County line. It follows the Hants County line west to the Municipality of the District of East Hants boundary. It then follows this boundary north.

30. **Hants East:** On the north it is bound by the Bay of Fundy. On the east and south it is bound by the Hants County line. On the west it follows Beaverbank Road to Highway 354, north to Herbert River. It follows this river northwest until Highway 14 to which it follows until the edge of the community boundary of Greenfield. The boundary then runs north along the Municipality of the District of East Hants boundary until Walton River, which it follows to the Bay of Fundy.
31. **Hants West:** No Change
32. **Inverness:** No Change
33. **Kings North:** No Change
34. **Kings South:** No Change
35. **Kings West:** No Change
36. **Lunenburg Centre:** It is bound on the north by the Annapolis and Lunenburg county line, starting at the intersection of the Annapolis, Lunenburg and Queens county line and running northeast to the CN rail line. It follows the CN rail line southeast to New Germany Lake, then west of LaHave River until the intersection of Osborne Road and Veinot Road. It then follows the LaHave River and includes the Town of Bridgewater, following the eastern town boundary back to the river and following the west shore of the river to the Atlantic coast. It then follows the Atlantic coast southwest to a point just south of Crescent Beach Road. The district includes all the LaHave islands. From this point, it heads northwest towards Kaulbacks Peninsula on Fancy Lake, where it passes through the middle of Milipsigate Lake to the southeastern tip of Fire Lake. Continuing on a northwestern line, it passes through the middle of Horseshoe and Oickle Lakes to the northwestern tip of Shingle Lake, then follows the Lunenburg and Queens county line to the intersection of the Annapolis, Lunenburg and Queens county line.
37. **Lunenburg East:** The former constituency of Lunenburg would be renamed, but no changes are proposed to its boundaries.

38. **Northside-Westmount:** The northern boundary starts at Alder Point and follows the coastline east into Sydney Harbour until it intersects with Highway 125. It then follows Highway 125 northwest until it intersects with Highway 105. Following Highway 105 west until it reaches the Little Bras d'Or, then turns north along the Little Bras d'Or to Alder Point.
39. **Pictou Centre:** It is bound on the north by the Northumberland Strait running along the shoreline from Pictou Harbour to Back Harbour. At Sutherlands River, it follows Highway 104 west to the banks of the East River of Pictou. Running south, it follows the Town of Stellarton's boundaries to the intersection of the Town of Stellarton and New Glasgow boundary, where it then follows the Town of New Glasgow's boundary to the East River of Pictou at the intersection of the Town of New Glasgow and the Town of Trenton. The boundary continues along the eastern shoreline of Pictou Harbour back up to the Northumberland Strait.
40. **Pictou West:** It is bound on the north by the Northumberland Strait from the Colchester and Pictou county lines to the mouth of Pictou Harbour. It is bound on the west by the Colchester and Pictou county line running from the shoreline of the Northumberland Strait south to intersection of the Colchester, Pictou, and Halifax county lines. It is bound on the south by the Pictou and Halifax county lines until a point south of Tim Lake. It runs in a northerly direction to the bank of the East River of Pictou just north of Grant Lake. It then follows the East River of Pictou north to the Town of Stellarton, where it then follows the town boundary west and north until it meets with the Town of New Glasgow boundary. It follows the Town of New Glasgow's western boundary back to the East River of Pictou, where it then continues along the western shore of Pictou Harbour to the shores of the Northumberland Strait.
41. **Preston:** No Change
42. **Queens-Lunenburg West:** It is bound on the east by the Atlantic coast starting at a point south of Crescent Beach Road and following the coast to the Queens and Shelburne county line. It is bound on the south by the Queens and Shelburne county line to the intersection of the Queen's, Shelburne, Digby and Yarmouth county line. The northern boundary follows the Digby and Queens county line to the Annapolis and Digby county line, where it turns northwest and follows the county line to a point near Horseshoe Lake. It turns northeast in a straight line to a point just north of Kelly Lake. Turning southeast, it follows a straight line and intersects the Annapolis and Lunenburg County line at a point on the western shore of Round Lake, then turns northeast to the Lunenburg county line. It then follows the county line southeast to the northwestern tip of Shingle Lake, where it continues on a southeastern route through the middle of the lake, then passing through the middle of Oickle Lake, Horseshoe Lake and to the southeastern tip of Fire Lake. From here, it follows a southeastern line through the middle of Milipsigate Lake to Kaulbacks Peninsula on Fancy Lake, then southeast to a point south of Crescent Beach Road.

43. **Richmond:** No Change
44. **Sackville:** Along the east it runs southeast along the railroad where it turns west to where Sidhu Drive and Beaverbank Road intersect. From this point it follows Beaverbank Road to Galloway Drive to Chalet Lane where it turns northeast to Box Mill Brook which it follows to the northwest point of Beaver Pond. From this point it turns west, then southwest and runs parallel to Briancrest Road to Windgate Drive, which it follows east until Second Lake. From this point, it turns south, and then west at the eastern tip of the lake, running parallel to the railroad until it turns southwest to follow Sampson Drive to Stokil Drive to Grennan Drive to Beaver Bank Road until it intersects with Highway 101. On the west, it is bounded by Highway 101. On the north, it is bounded by the Hants County line.
45. **Sackville-Cobequid:** On the east, it is bounded by Highway 102 until it intersects Highway 101. On the south, it is bounded by Highway 101 to the Sackville River to Beaver Bank Road. On the west, it is bounded by Beaver Bank Road to Glenora Drive to Stokil Drive to Sampson Drive. Along the north, it runs parallel to the railroad, through Second Lake to the railroad, which it follows south to Cobequid Road to Lakeview Road to Highway 102.
46. **Shelburne:** No Change
47. **Sydney:** It is bound on the west by the eastern shore of Sydney Harbour starting at the Sydney community boundary running along the shore to a point near the end of Sparr Road. It runs southeast towards the end of Sparr Road, then northeast to follow Matilda Street to Victoria Road. Heading north along Victoria Road, it turns east at Catherine Street and extending past towards Lingan Road. The boundary turns south east approximately 200 meters from the end of Catherine Street, crossing Lingan Road for approximately 500 meters, then turns east for approximately 1000 meters. It runs south for approximately 2500 meters, intersecting the Sydney Port Access Road southeast of the end of Frederic Street and ends at Grand Lake Road east of the intersection with Reeves Street. Turning west to Reeves Street, it runs south along Reeves Street to Prince Street, southwest along Prince Street just past the intersection with Centennial Drive, where it turns south and southeast, connecting to Highway 125 at a point south of Cossitt Heights Drive. It follows Highway 125 south to exit 8, turns northwest and follows the Sydney community boundary to the Membertou community boundary to the southwestern point where the Sydney and Membertou community boundaries intersect. Heading northwest, it follows the southern extent of the Sydney community boundary to the shoreline of Sydney Harbour.
48. **Timberlea-Prospect-St. Margaret's:** On the west it is bounded by St. Margaret's Bay, and on the south it is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean. On the east, from the Atlantic ocean it runs from the western edge of West Pennant, to the east shore of Ragged Lake, through the Two Lakes, through Moody Lake, follows a river along the north shore of Run Lake, through Sheas Lake, through Spruce Hill Lake, through Long Lake Provincial Park by the western shore of Long Lake to St Margaret's Bay Road to Highway 103. From this point it runs parallel to Horseshoe Lake Drive, along Black

Duck Ponds where it turns northeast and then east to run parallel to Oland Crescent until it intersects Highway 102. It then follows Highway 102 until Washmill Lake, where it turns west and runs across the southern tip of Ash Lake. From Ash Lake it proceeds west, and turns south to run in between Maple Lake and Frasers Lake until it reaches Highway 103. From this point, it runs southeast along Highway 103 until it passes Cranberry Lake, where it turns west and runs through Cranberry Lake to an unnamed brook, which it follows to the southern tip of Black Point Lake, through Frederick Lake, through Upper Five Bridge Lake, through Middle Five Bridge Lake to the northern tip of Big Five Bridge Lake. From this point it runs west along the Glen Margaret community boundary, and then turns northwest and runs to the northeast point of Long Lake and onto where St. Margaret's Bay Road and Hammonds Plains Road intersect. It then extends into St. Margaret's Bay.

49. **Truro-Bible Hill:** No Change

50. **Victoria-The Lakes:** It is bound on the west by the Inverness and Victoria county line, starting in the south at Little Narrows on the Bras d'Or Lakes and heading north to Meat Cove. It is bound on the north from Meat Cove and following the shoreline southeast to the mouth of St. Andrew's Channel at Point Aconi. The boundary then heads south following the west side of St. Andrew's Channel to where it intersects with Highway 105, then following Highway 105 east to Highway 125. It follows Highway 125 to where it intersects with Frenchvale Road, turning south and runs to a point on Coxheath Road north of where Portage Brook merges with Sydney River. The boundary then turns southwest to a point on the Blacketts Lake community boundary approximately 700 meters northwest of the boundary between Gillis Lake and Blacketts Lake communities, turning southeast to the Portage community line. It follows the Portage community line southwest to the intersection of Highway 4 and Highway 216, then follows the shoreline of the Bras d'Or lakes south and west to where the Inverness and Victoria county line intersects with the lake shoreline near Little Narrows.

51. **Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank:** On the north, it is bounded by the Hants county line. On the east, it is bounded by Highway 102 until it intersects Aerotech Drive, where it follows Johnson River, runs through Soldier Lake, turns east and runs to Three Mile Lake, turns south and runs through Ernst Lake and Long Duck Lake, through East Lake, and west through Lake Major to where Waverley Road and Highway 118 intersect. Turns west off Highway 118 at the northern tip of Lake Charles to the railroad to Windmill Rd. On the west, it is bounded by Windmill Road to the Bedford Bypass to the railroad to Rocky Lake Drive, through Rocky Lake until Highway 102. From this point it follows Highway 102 northeast to Lakeview Road to Cobequid Road to the railroad, through Second Lake, north to Windgate Drive parallel to Briancrest Road to the northwest point of Beaver Pond. From here it follows Box Mill Brook northwest until it runs parallel to Galloway Drive to Beaverbank Road until it intersects with Sidhu Drive. It then turns west to the railroad and runs north to the Hants county line.

52. **Yarmouth:** No Change

Appendices

Appendix A: Public Meetings Schedule (First Round)

Lower Sackville:	Thursday, March 15, 7–9 p.m. Location: Sackville Fire Hall, 1 Metropolitan Ave.
Dartmouth:	Friday, March 16, 6–8 p.m. Location: Cole Harbour Place, 51 Forest Hills Parkway
Halifax:	Saturday, March 17, 1–3 p.m. Location: Quality Inn and Suites, 980 Parkland Dr.
Cherry Brook:	Saturday, March 17, 6–8 p.m. Location: Black Cultural Centre, 10 Cherry Brook Rd.
Middleton:	Saturday, March 24, 1–3 p.m. Location: Nova Scotia Community College, Annapolis Valley, Campus, 295 Commercial St.
Amherst:	Saturday, March 31, 1–3 p.m. Location: Wandlyn Inn, Highway 104, Exit 3
Stellarton:	Saturday, March 31, 7–9 p.m. Location: Holiday Inn Express, 86 Lawrence Blvd.
Halifax:	Thursday, April 12, 7-9 p.m. Location: Old Ashburn Golf Club
Louisdale:	Friday, April 13, 6–8 p.m. Location: Louisdale & District Fire Hall, Grand Anse
Sydney:	Saturday, April 14, 1–3 p.m. Location: Membertou Trade and Convention Centre, 50 Maillard St.
Baddeck:	Saturday, April 14, 6– 8 p.m. Location: Inverary Resort, 368 Shore Rd.
Tusket:	Thursday, April 19, 6–8 p.m. Location: Salle Père-Maurice-LeBlanc in Centre communautaire de Par-en-Bas , 4258, Route 308
Church Point/Pointe de l'Église:	Friday, April 20, 6–8 p.m. Location: Université Sainte Anne, 1695, Route 1
Bridgewater:	Saturday, April 21, 1–3 p.m. Location: NSCC, Lunenburg Campus, 75 High St.

Appendix B: Presenters

Lower Sackville, Thursday, March 15

The Honourable Percy Paris, Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism, M.L.A. for
Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank

Mike Cormier

Stephen Taylor

Anthony Benson

Patrick Doyle

Mat Whyntott, M.L.A., Hammonds Plains-Upper Sackville

Steve Craig

Anthony Martin

Paul Russell

Dartmouth, Friday, March 14, 2012

Becky Kent, M.L.A., Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage

Mike Trider

Robert Harpelle

Doug Williams

Barry Alexander

Dianne Geddes

Jim Geddes

Halifax, Saturday, March 17, 2012

Claude Renard, President, Conseil Communautaire du Grand-Harve

Jules Chiasson, Executive Director, Conseil Communautaire du Grand-Harve

Mary Ann McGrath

Howard Epstein, M.L.A., Halifax Chebucto

Peter Christie

Joan Christie

Kevin Lacey, Atlantic Director, Canadian Taxpayers Federation

Colin O'Neil

Michael Kennedy

Diana Whalen, M.L.A., Halifax-Clayton Park

Peter Bragg

Cherry Brook, Saturday, March 17, 2012

Connor Smithersmapp
Yvonne Atwell, East Preston Ratepayers Association
Conrad Grosse
Alma Johnston
Dolly Williams
Pastor Wayne Desmond

Middleton, Saturday, March 24, 2012

D. Kent Robinson
Linda Gregory
Darrell Hannam
The Honourable Ramona Jennex, Minister of Education, M.L.A. for Kings South
The Honourable Stephen R. McNeil, Leader of the Official Opposition, M.L.A., Annapolis

Amherst, Saturday, March 31, 2012

Gary Miller
Paul Giroux

Stellarton, Saturday, March 31, 2012

Wayne Pierce, President, Pictou West Constituency Association, New Democratic Party
Maurice (Moe) Smith, M.L.A., Antigonish

Halifax, Thursday, April 12, 2012

David Finlayson, Bedford-Birch Cove Progressive Conservative Association
Stephen Caines
Elaine Loney

Louisdale, Friday, April 13, 2012

Jacklyn Samson

Marie Brunelle and Michel de Noncourt

Joel Lefort

Victor David, Deputy Warden, the Municipality of the County of Richmond

Frank Comeau

Gabrielle Samson

Steve Samson, Councillor, the Municipality of the County of Richmond

Michel Samson, M.L.A., Richmond

Sydney, Saturday, April 14, 2012

John Shaw

Earle O. Tubrett

Heather Paterson, Treasurer, Cape Breton South New Democratic Party Association and John Evans, President, Cape Breton Nova New Democratic Party Association

Ron MacDonald, President, Cape Breton North Progressive Conservative Association

Hugh Kennedy, President, Cape Breton West Progressive Conservative Association

Baddeck, Saturday, April 14, 2012

Stephen MacAskill, President, Victoria-The Lakes Liberal Association

Sandy Hudson, Chief Administrative Officer, Municipality of the County of Victoria

Bob Greer

Jim Morrow

Joan O'Liari, Victoria-The Lakes New Democratic Party Association

Keith Bain, M.L.A., Victoria-The Lakes

Tusket, Thursday, April 19, 2012

Réal Boudreau, président, Chambre de commerce d'Argyle Chamber of Commerce and Peter Boudreau

Clinton Saulnier, President, Argyle Progressive Conservative Association

Therese Boucher, Société historique et généalogique d'Argyle

Clyde deViller and Norbert LeBlanc, Président, Conseil acadien de Par-en-Bas

Maurice leBlanc, Président du Conseil des arts de Par-en-Bas

Allain Muise, Chief Administrative Officer and Warden Aldric d'Entremont, Municipalité d'Argyle

Coral A. d'Entremont, secrétaire du Réveil de Pombcoup

Bernice d'Entremont, Responsable du Musée des Acadiens des Pubnicos

Cécile d'Entremont Bourque, Association des Acadiennes de la région d'Argyle

Jean d'Entremont, Présidente du comité régional d'Argyle du Regroupement des aînés de la Nouvelle-Écosse

Noe Bourque, président du Comité jeunesse de Par-en-Bas

Joshua Shaw, président du conseil étudiant de École secondaire de Par-en-Bas

Ghislain Boudreau, président de la Fédération culturelle acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse

Chris d'Entremont, M.L.A., Argyle

Désiré Boudreau, président de la Chorale acadienne du sud-ouest

Natalie Ibbott-Smith, présidente Argyle Farmers' Market

Ghislaine d'Eon, directrice générale de l'Équipe alphabétisation Nouvelle-Écosse

Lisa Landry-Shaw, directrice du Jardin des petits

Calvin d'Entremont, Village historique acadien de la Nouvelle-Écosse

Donald W. Jacquard, Association du Musée de Wedgeport

Louis d'Entremont, Association du parti libéral d'Argyle

Briar Swinney and Nicole Thimot, jeunes de École secondaire de Clare

Leland Anthony, Warden, Municipality of Yarmouth

Byron Boudreau, Deputy Mayor, Town of Yarmouth

Church Point, Friday, April 20, 2012

Jean Melanson, Warden, Municipality of the District of Clare

Paul Comeau, President, and Kristanne Chandler, Clare Civic Association

Ronald Robichaud, Président and Jean Léger, Directeur général, Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse (FANE)

Wayne Gaudet, M.L.A., Clare

Kenneth Deveau, Université Sainte-Anne, on behalf of President and Vice-Chancellor Allister Surette

Diane Besner, présidente, and Elaine Thimot, directrice générale, La Société acadienne de Clare

Lori-Lynn Comeau, Conseil Jeunesse provincial (CJP) and Jonah Guillmond, student from École secondaire de Clare (ESDC)

Charles MacDougall, Sara Sabry and Néomie Losier, students from École Rose des Vents - Greenwood

Ghislaine LeBlanc, présidente, Festival acadien de Clare

Guy J. Le Blanc

Ghislaine LeBlanc and Janice LeBlanc

Joline LeBlanc and Clyde Deveau, Foyer "Maison Jérôme"

Daniel Robichaud

Anne LeBlanc

Angeline Thimot

Marc Boudreau, Clare Progressive Conservative Association

Suzanne Saulnier, directrice, and Patricia Theriault (board member), Centre provincial de ressources préscolaires (CPRPS)

Marcel Cottreau

James Crombie, Ph.D, professor at Université Sainte-Anne

Colette Deveau King

Bridgewater, Saturday, April 21, 2012

Karen Reinhardt

Edward (Ted) Bulley

Gary Ramey, M.L.A., Lunenburg West

Pam Birdsall, M.L.A., Lunenburg

William Cox

Keith Sullivan

David Young

Carolyn Bolivar-Getson

Appendix C: List of Written Submissions in Order of Receipt

His Worship Mayor Don Downe, Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
Deputy Warden Victor David, Municipality of the County of Richmond
John Shaw
Gregory Veevers
Warden Jean Melanson, Municipality of the District of Clare
Kelly Regan, M.L.A, Bedford-Birch Cove
Wayne Comeau
Rod MacArthur, Q.C.
Donna Lugar
Joseph G. Jarvis
The Honourable Percy Paris, Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism, M.L.A. for
Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank
Peter Christie
Susan O'Boyle
Mary Garnier
Richard Wood
Elaine A. Loney
Gregory Wilkie
Mary Ann McGrath
Margaret H. Embree
Ann MacVicar
Arnold and Janet Jones
Justin Bumstead
Michael Cormier
Michael Trider
Becky Kent, M.L.A, Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage
Robert Harpelle
Claude Renard, Président, le Conseil communautaire du Grand-Havre
Jules Chaisson, Executive Director, le Conseil communautaire du Grand-Havre
Joan Christie
Howard Epstein, M.L.A, Halifax Chebucto
Peter Sheehan
Duncan Kelly
Barry Alexander, P.Eng., CQMC
Warden Aldric d'Entremont and Alain D. Muise, CA, Chief Administrative Officer, Municipality of the
District of Argyle
Doug Williams

D. Kent Robinson
Stephen MacAskill
A.W. (Sandy) Hudson
David Finlayson
Lucille Maillet, Administratrice, Villa Acadienne
Gordon Hammond
Anthony Weagle
Wayne Pierce, President of Riding Association, Pictou West, New Democratic Party
Paul Emile LeBlanc, Président, La Chambre de commerce de Clare
Lynne Isnor
Joel LeFort
Gérard Thériault
Lyssa Clack
Maurice Smith
Doug Raymond, Secretary, Kings North Progressive Conservative Association
Tim Boudreau
Gary Miller
David Finlayson, Bedford Birch Cove Progressive Conservative Association
Ron MacDonald, Cape Breton
North Progressive Conservative Association
Steve Caines
Allan MacMaster, M.L.A., Inverness
Michel de Noncourt & Marie Brunelle
Heather Patterson, Treasurer, Cape Breton South New Democratic Party Constituency Association and
John Evans, President, Cape Breton Nova New Democratic Party Constituency Association
Hugh Kennedy
Earle O. Tubrett
Stephen MacAskill, President, Victoria-The Lakes Liberal Association
Sandy Hudson, Chief Administrative Officer, Municipality of the County of Victoria
Bob Greer
Keith Bain, M.L.A, Victoria-The Lakes
Joan O'Liari
Trevor Cunningham
Glenda Doucet-Boudreau, Présidente, L'Association Madelaine LeBlanc
Jacqueline Samson, directrice générale, La Picasse, centre communautaire culturel
Gabrielle Samson
Micheline Savoury
Paul Comeau, President, Clare Civic Association and Kristanne Chandler, Director, Clare Civic Association
Daniel Rodgers
Christopher A. Cook, President, Guysborough-Sheet Harbour New Democratic Party Association
Jean-Jacques and Louise Martin

Lucien Comeau
Eddie Orrell
Gerry Gerrits
Warden Leland Anthony, Municipality of Yarmouth
Caroline Cameron, Coordinator, Comhairle na Gàidhlig
Brenda Wall, RCT
James Crombie, PhD., Professor at Université Sainte-Anne
Angeline Thimot
Marc Boudreau, Clare Progressive Conservative Association
Suzanna Saulnier, directrice, and Patricia Theriault (board member), Centre provincial de ressources
préscolaires (CPRPS)
Edward (Ted) Bulley, Provincial Returning Officer, District of Queens
Karen Reinhardt
Marthanne Williamson
Gary Ramey, M.L.A., Lunenburg West
David I. Young
John Evans
Carol Buchanan, President, Bedford-Birch Cove New Democratic Party Riding Association
Michael Kennedy
Alain LeBlanc
Real Boudreau, Président, Chambre de commerce d'Argyle
Maurice LeBlanc, Président du Conseil des arts de Par-en-Bas
Clyde de Viller and Norbert LeBlanc, Président, le Conseil acadien de Par-en-Bas
Coral A. d'Entremont, secrétaire du Réveil de Pombcoup
Bernice d'Entremont, Head, Musée des acadiens des Pubnicos
Cécile d'Entremont Bourque, l'Association des acadiennes de la region d'Argyle
Jean d'Entremont, Présidente du comité régional d'Argyle du Regroupement des aînés de la Nouvelle-
Écosse
Joshua Shaw, Président du conseil Étudiant de École secondaire de Par-en-Bas
Ghislain Boudreau, présidente de la Fédération culturelle acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse (FÉCANE)
Lisa Landry-Shaw, directrice, Le Jardin des Petits
Donald W. Jacquard, l'Association du Musée de la pêche sportive au thon de Wedgeport
Byron Boudreau, Deputy Mayor, Town of Yarmouth
Guy J. LeBlanc, Board of Directors, Festival acadien de Clare
Jeannine Belliveau, Regroupement des ainées et aînés de la Nouvelle-Écosse
Ghislaine LeBlanc, présidente, Festival acadien de Clare
Marcel Cottreau
Anne LeBlanc
Diane Besner, présidente and Elaine Thimot, directrice générale, La Société acadienne de Clare
M. Kenneth Gaudet, Président du Conseil scolaire acadien provincial and Guy J. LeBlanc

Wayne Gaudet, M.L.A, Clare

Ronald Robichaud, Président and Jean Léger, Directeur général, Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse

Natalie Ibbott-Smith

Father Albenie d'Entremont, Stella-Maris Parish, Meteghan

Paul-Emile Comeau, Président, la Fédération régionale des arts et du patrimoine

Yvon Comeau, l'Association le Moulin de la Baie Sainte-Marie

Colette Deveau King

Cyrille LeBlanc

Raymond LeBlanc

Nicole Thimot

Edgar Card

Everett Titus, Marine Superintendent, A.F. Theriault and Son Limited

Noël Després, Gérant général, Comeau's Sea Foods Limited

Trudy Bengivenni

Lorie-Lynn Comeau (Conseil Jeunesse provincial – CJP) and Jonah Guimond, both students from Ecole secondaire de Clare (ESDC)

Kenneth Deveau, PhD., Vice President, Academic and Research, Université Sainte-Anne

Phyllis Comeau

Claire Comeau

Carol Norman

Appendix D: Summary of Comments from the Public

Public comments and advice, in the form of written and verbal submissions, are summarized in point form and grouped under five headings. Full Hansard transcripts of what was said at the Public Meetings are available on the Commission's website.

Number and size of electoral constituencies

- Stay within the existing 52 seats (as savings from minor seat reduction would be small and the level of representation in Nova Scotia is not abnormal within Canada)
- Reduce to 27 seats; 52 seats or a slight reduction is okay; three provincial ridings for each federal riding to produce 33 seats; 45 seat legislature is reasonable to provide government, cabinet and opposition
- Reduce to 42 seats to bring costs in line with provincial GDP; if Commission does not agree, hold a voter plebiscite on the topic
- Use the redrawn HRM municipal electoral districts and average number of electors as a basis for redrawing districts across the province: would give 42 seats in the Legislature; could make work easier for elected representatives and community groups
- Consider reducing the number of seats to achieve cost savings
- Apply additional support staff and current information technologies
- Communications technologies to assist rural Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and their widely dispersed constituents
- Work with county and municipal boundaries to the extent possible
- Recognize that urban constituents are easier to represent due to geographic/population compactness and fewer and different demands on MLAs
- Respect longstanding municipal and county boundaries
- Respect established and natural communities of interest as determined by various factors, which include: transportation routes; shopping patterns; infrastructure and facilities; employment; and recreation, etc. This would mean adjusting boundaries where community of interest has been compromised in the past and ensuring that new or expanded districts respect long-standing communities

Voter Parity

- Use the ± 25 per cent variance as an absolute maximum
- Aim for a ± 10 per cent variance; aim for a ± 10 to 15% variance as maximum
- “One person, one vote” – no special status or protection for anyone
- Representation by population only one of the factors to consider
- Use the ± 25 per cent variance as a guideline only, weighing it against factors such as history, geography, culture, communities of interest and language and against the goal of fair and effective representation for all
- Consider a population benchmark or standard lower than $\pm 25\%$ for constituencies in rural Nova Scotia; consider different standards for rural and urban areas
- Take into account that the rural voter turnout is larger than urban

Boundary Adjustments

- Harmonize provincial poll boundaries with federal poll boundaries
- Use rear property lines rather than streets as boundaries where this could avoid confusion
- Maintain the status quo in Pictou, Antigonish, and Kings; Cape Breton has enough voters to sustain the status quo
- Move boundaries in Cape Breton so as to meet the population requirement and thereby justify and maintain the current number of seats
- Maintain the current number of seats in Cape Breton in appreciation that a reduction would add to the economic and out-migration problems on the Island
- Expand Victoria-The Lakes to include more rural population (from Cape Breton North or West, e.g. Mill Creek-Point Aconi area)
- Combine the Inverness and Victoria-The Lakes highlands; move Polls 1-20 from Inverness to Victoria-The Lakes; polls 27-32 from Victoria-The Lakes to Cape Breton North
- Maintain the status quo in Victoria-The Lakes (rather than expand it), given its geography and unwieldy size
- Add some north-end polls in Sydney to Cape Breton Nova (Whitney Pier)

- Move four polls from Cape Breton Centre into the Glace Bay Constituency
- Restore the coastal area of Lunenburg County to Lunenburg West out of respect for its Bridgewater orientation and long-standing community of interest
- Maintain the Queens constituency by incorporating more of central Nova Scotia (Maitland Bridge area) as well as Lunenburg West (north of current coastal section); change name to Queens – West Lunenburg
- Leave New Germany in Lunenburg West
- Add population/voters to Cumberland South by taking in Nappan, Maccan, Fenwick, Chignecto, Five Islands to Glengarry
- Cumberland South will soon slip outside permissible range: look at long term growth projections
- Address the under-population of Eastern Shore by moving the southern boundary (only)
- Address the under-population of Guysborough by taking polls from Antigonish;
- Guysborough travel and communication oriented to Antigonish and Pictou rather than Halifax; make Guysborough County a constituency, or keep status quo, but if that is not possible recognize functional issues in creating new area by going into Eastern Shore
- Separate Clayton Park from Timberlea
- Consider merging Birch Cove area into a new or expanded constituency such as Clayton Park; move polls 1-14 and 46-48 out of Bedford.
- Treat Rockingham, Cresthaven, Grosvenor Park, Kearney Lake and Wedgewood neighbourhoods in HRM as a community of interest
- Could keep Bedford – Birch Cove intact or separate Birch Cove. Avoid narrow constituencies going out from Bedford Basin
- Fairview has no community of interest with the mainland; Fairview could be returned to its historic connection to Armdale
- To create 6 constituencies in Central Halifax (from current 5), consider a new Halifax-Northwest Arm Constituency and some adjustments to other affected constituencies
- Voter dilution currently a problem in Halifax and suburbs; up to five constituencies may need to shift from outside HRM mainland; could adjust boundaries between Halifax Chebucto and Halifax Needham from Windsor to Robie Street (extended to North Street)

- Create a Bedford constituency based on original town boundaries, new municipal electoral districts, and in conjunction with the creation of new HRM constituencies or re-alignment of existing ones in the vicinity
- Include Colby Village in Cole Harbour- Eastern Passage consistent with municipal boundaries
- Take Colby Village out of Cole Harbour–Eastern Passage and put with Dartmouth East; no community of interest with Eastern Passage
- Extend the boundaries of Cole Harbour- Eastern Passage into Dartmouth South so as to absorb South Woodside
- Extend Dartmouth East northward to take in streets off the Waverley Road that are now oriented to Dartmouth (up to highway overpass)
- Move the Lakelands – Mt Uniacke communities into the West Hants constituency
- Move the Upper Sackville segment of Hammonds Plains into the greater Sackville constituency so as to provide for the growth in Hammonds Plains
- Align the current communities of Middle and Upper Sackville, Lucasville, and Mount Uniacke; include “Lucasville” in the constituency name
- Move Beaverbank into the Sackville constituency
- Recognize as a general principle that public sector service “regions” across the province demonstrate little consistency from a boundary standpoint, thus creating confusion for both citizens and service providers

‘Protected Constituencies’

- Continue protection of the existing four protected seats given that the Acadian or African-Nova Scotian minorities confront dilution of voter influence and, in the case of the former, ultimate assimilation into the mainstream population
- Acadian MLAs perform a dual role, representing Acadian interests across the province
- The gains made by Acadians in language and culture have been possible due to the collective strength of MLA representation;
- Eliminating or merging ridings would be a step backwards; merging ridings would create rivalries; reducing numbers would weaken Acadian political power

- Recognize that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and judicial decisions now protect minorities, including their right to effective representation in legislatures
- Recognize that Charter protection reduces the need and justification for special treatment of minorities as voters
- Appeals to higher courts would be likely if protected constituencies were to be eliminated
- There is no merit to the claims that the terms of reference are unconstitutional
- Avoid splitting up minority communities in re-alignments within a 25 percent variance; avoid gerrymandering
- “Tighten” the boundaries around the Preston area community to further ensure that an African Nova Scotian candidate would take the seat
- Consider innovations such as “administrative districts”, and “members at large” who could represent the named minorities regardless of where they live; the Gaelic community has sufficient numbers to warrant consideration
- Consider creating a dispersed constituency that would include various Acadian communities in different parts of the province.
- Consider proportional representation to replace the currently employed ‘First-past-the-Post’ electoral system.
- Consider low cost alternatives to expensive MLA ridings to address needs of the communities.
- Representation only by or for a particular group goes against democracy; special seats go against common sense; no groups should have reserved seats; where will it end; should be one person one vote; could lead to other constituencies based on people’s backgrounds.

Appendix E: Elaboration on Data Sources

The terms of reference set for the Commission specify that the most recent census and other available population data, as well as demographic data relating to age, language, and cultural diversity are to be used for delineating the proposed provincial electoral boundaries. Population count of electors, that is Canadian citizens who are 18 years of age and older, and living in Nova Scotia, is to be considered by the Commission.

On February 8, 2012, Statistics Canada released the population and dwelling counts as the result of the national enumeration conducted in 2011 with the reference day of May 10, 2011. These basic counts were reported on the level of the Dissemination Block (DB), the smallest census geographic area. But the more relevant demographic counts needed to respond to the terms of reference and determine the population of electors is not yet available; so while the age and language counts are expected to be released on May 29, 2012 and October 24, 2012 respectively, the release date of citizenship and other demographics is not specified.

To obtain this demographic information and be able to calculate the population of electors for the 2012 delineation of the provincial electoral boundaries, the 2006 census information and geography had to be used as the base.

Elections Canada worked closely with Statistics Canada in obtaining this demographic information for the 2012 delineation of the federal electoral boundaries. To derive demographic data for the 2011 Dissemination Areas (DAs), a geographic unit composed of more than one DB, Statistics Canada transposed the dissemination blocks of 2011 and 2006 census geography and re-summed the 2006 demographic data counts of each DB into the 2011 DAs. However, Statistics Canada suppressed some data for confidentiality reasons on the level of the dissemination blocks before providing the demographic counts for a number of geographical units to Elections Canada.

To overcome the impact of the suppressed data, and provide demographic information at the DB and DA levels, Elections Canada worked further on these 2006 Census demographics, now redistributed according to the census geography of 2011, and applied imputation methods to substitute the value for geographic units with missing or zero population in 2006. Elections Canada completed this work for all of Canada including Nova Scotia's census geographic units.

On February 16, 2012, Elections Canada provided Elections Nova Scotia (ENS) with the above derived and adjusted demographic data for the province. In particular, derived counts for Canadian citizens who are 18 years of age or older were provided on the level of the DA. The sum of this demographic count established the total number of electors in Nova Scotia used to derive the average number of electors in an electoral district.

ENS has developed an electronic Electoral Boundaries Tool (EBT) which is a fully functional redistribution application offering the commission, with the support of the ENS GIS Specialist, the capability to prepare various boundary scenarios including elector's demographic information.

Using the 2011 census DA geography and the elector demographic counts provided by Elections Canada for each DA, the tool is able to provide, in minutes, the number of electors within any specific boundary. It sums up the counts of all DAs that are enclosed within the boundary and wherever a DA is traversed by the boundary and split into two parts, the EBT tool uses the proportional distribution of registered electors within the DA for calculating the elector count of its parts. The proportional distribution of electors is derived from the spatial distribution of the residential civic addresses and the electors registered in the Register of Electors as living there as of February 2012. The Register of Electors containing both the addresses and the electors is continuously maintained up-to-date by ENS.

Appendix F: Composition of the Provincial Electoral Boundaries Commission

To promote fairness and impartiality, the Select Committee agreed that current or former candidates or members of federal or provincial legislatures or municipal councils or individuals closely associated with partisan politics would not be appointed to serve on the Commission.

The Select Committee further agreed that the Commission would broadly represent the population of the province.

The Select Committee agreed to appoint members to the Commission based on their experience, skill and commitment to ensuring, to the greatest degree possible, Nova Scotia's electoral boundaries result in effective representation for all its citizens.

Based on this understanding, the following individuals are appointed to the Provincial Electoral Boundaries Commission.

Dr. Teresa MacNeil, Chair, Johnstown, Richmond County

Dr. J. Colin Dodds, Vice-chair, Halifax

Dr. Jill L. Grant, Dartmouth

Dr. James P. Bickerton, Antigonish

Mr. Douglas Peach, Marion Bridge, Cape Breton

Mr. Paul Gaudet, Saulnierville

Mr. Rustum Southwell, Bedford

Ms. Barbara Feeney, Mahone Bay

Special Circumstances

In the event a member of the Provincial Boundaries Commission cannot complete his or her duties, the Select Committee will name a replacement. The Select Committee may also reconvene to address any operational issues that may arise.

Appendix G: Maintaining ‘Protected Constituencies’

Canada is known throughout the world for the recognition and accommodation of minority rights within its democratic and parliamentary institutions. Indeed, the Supreme Court identified this as one of the defining features of the Canadian constitutional order (see Reference re Secession of Quebec, 1998). Nova Scotia has its own relatively recent history of recognizing and accommodating its distinctive Acadian and African Nova Scotian communities. Since 1991, the province of Nova Scotia has done this by extending special ‘protection’ to four electoral districts. The form of protection granted was the creation and maintenance of constituency boundaries that advantaged the Acadian and African Nova Scotian communities within them, either by making them a local majority (as with the constituency of Clare) or by increasing their voting strength to a level sufficient to make significant political influence over the district’s elected representative possible (as with Argyle, Richmond and Preston). This occurs because the “weight” of a vote in a relatively small district is larger than the weight of one in a large constituency, so to the extent that a minority is concentrated in a less populous district, its voting strength is increased. The creation and maintenance of such electoral districts represents a choice – acknowledged or not – about how well to represent a minority group. Ensuring ‘effective representation’ in the House of Assembly for all Nova Scotians (which is their constitutional right and the primary purpose of the electoral redistribution exercise) requires that relative parity of voting power be balanced against other considerations, and the balance struck will vary depending upon a range of factors and circumstances. In the judgment of the Commission, retaining the four protected constituencies for Acadians and African Nova Scotians continues to be the appropriate balance between relative voter parity and other considerations in order to best ensure that these groups receive effective representation in the Nova Scotia legislature.

The protected districts in Nova Scotia were designated as such because they have a special historical significance for the province, as well as major significance for the Acadian and African Nova Scotian minorities whose political representation within the legislature they are intended to protect. Three of the four are ridings where the Acadian population is either dominant or numerically important: Clare, Argyle, and Richmond. The fourth is the riding of Preston, where African Nova Scotians comprise a key component of the voting population. This special protection was conferred as a means of avoiding the inevitable political dilution of these minority communities within the surrounding majority (even though their overall provincial numbers would otherwise justify proportionate representation in the legislature). While this particular mode of accommodating these specific minority groups is not without its problems (see below), it remains both a politically important and culturally significant gesture, recognizing as it does the unique place and role of these minority groups in the province’s history, and within its present cultural diversity.

Like the Mi’kmaq people, the Acadian and African Nova Scotian communities have a particular cultural uniqueness and territorial basis in Nova Scotia that supports the argument for retaining a form of ‘special status’ in the electoral redistribution process. This status follows from the fact that they

constitute minority cultural communities that are indigenous to Nova Scotia, and further can be said to have fairly well-defined territorial ‘homelands’ in this province that have been continuously occupied for hundreds of years. Their distinctiveness derives from their long evolution as ethno-linguistic (Acadian) or racial (African Nova Scotian) minorities within an English-speaking majority of predominantly British heritage, but also, just as importantly, from their unique indigenous cultures that have developed over centuries of relative isolation as coherent communities (due to remote rural locale and/or social exclusion). In short, these minority cultures are both distinctively Nova Scotian and deeply rooted in specific, territorially-based communities within the province.

Nova Scotians of Acadian and African heritage now reside throughout the province. However, this does not diminish the importance of the historic territorial communities that nurtured and sustained their cultural distinctiveness, nor the ongoing role that these communities play in preserving these minority cultures. This speaks to the importance for indigenous minority cultures – whether Mi’kmaq, Acadian, or African Nova Scotian – of the traditional, territorially-based communities that provided the physical, social and cultural context for their initial formation and development, and to the extent that these communities persist and endure in present-day Nova Scotia, by their ongoing cultural adaptation to the challenges posed by an ever-changing modernity.

In effect, the elected representatives from the protected ridings in Nova Scotia have a mandate and a responsibility to perform a dual role both within and outside the legislature: they have a duty to be constituency representatives like other members of the legislature, but they also act as political representatives for the extended cultural community they represent. Thus, Acadians across the province, whether they live in the three protected ridings or not, depend on these protected political districts and the elected representatives they send to the legislature to play an important role in safeguarding the interests and identities associated with the Acadian language, culture and tradition. The same can be said for the riding of Preston, which, whether it elects an African Nova Scotian to the legislature or not (an outcome dependent in large part upon decisions made by political parties through their candidate nomination processes), still expects its elected MLA to play this dual role – a mandate which they are able to impart through the strong African Nova Scotian voter presence within the boundaries of the protected constituency of Preston. (It should be noted that this fits the classic political definition of an influence district, where political candidates need to court support from a minority group to ensure their election, though the extent of minority influence will vary depending on local circumstances, and even from election to election). There is an additional consideration to take into account. This is the importance of symbolic recognition to minority communities. Such recognition constitutes a positive message of affirmation to minorities regarding acknowledgement by the majority of their existence, their historical significance and their continued distinctiveness. Revoking the protected status of the four designated constituencies would revoke this recognition; it would send a strong negative message about their place and status within the larger provincial community.

The Commission also notes that there are a number of legal, constitutional and political factors that have relevance for the question of protected constituencies. It is worth recalling the status of French as one of Canada's official languages. Nationally, this is given effect by the Official Languages Act (1969), amongst other laws and programs. Constitutional protection for minority language rights is entrenched in Sections 16-23 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Provincially, the French Language Services Act and the creation of the Acadian school board are measures that have been taken to preserve and promote the linguistic rights of French-speaking Nova Scotians. The protection offered to the three Acadian constituencies should be seen as a further measure taken to recognize and protect the French-speaking minority in the province, but beyond this the unique and indigenous Acadian communities from whence the vast majority of Nova Scotia's French-speaking population derives. The Constitution also explicitly acknowledges – in section 15(2) protecting the constitutionality of affirmative action programs – that equality for minorities needs to be understood as something other than 'sameness' of treatment; different treatment is sometimes necessary to achieve a form of equality that equates more closely with fairness for minorities, especially those that have been subject to historical discrimination. Finally, and directly pertinent to the electoral redistribution process, is the Supreme Court decision in *Reference re Provincial Electoral Boundaries* (1991), where the Court held that the right to vote guaranteed by section 3 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms does not include the right to votes of equal 'weight' in the sense that constituencies must be of equal population size.

Appendix H: Dissenting Opinion Regarding the Commission's Interpretation of the Terms of Reference

Dr. Jill L Grant

The majority of members of the Commission determined that they did not view the Terms of Reference (TOR) provided by the government as mandatory. I disagree with this interpretation and decision. While the Commission has the independence to conduct its work at arm's length from government, the scope of the Commission's independence is necessarily defined and constrained by the TOR which the Legislature provided to guide the process. As the democratically elected body with the mandate to articulate the will of the people, only the Legislature has the authority to specify the principles and values which should guide the Commission in redrawing electoral boundaries. The Commission exceeds its authority in substituting alternative principles to those provided by the government of the province.

The TOR urged the Commission to be guided by “the constitutional right of Nova Scotians to fair and effective representation” and indicated that the Commission should achieve “relative parity of voting power ... through constituencies of equal population to the extent possible”. While we were enjoined to consider concerns related to geography (particularly the difficulty of representing large areas), community history and interests, and Nova Scotia's linguistic and cultural diversity (in particular the province's Acadian and African Nova Scotian population), clause 2(d) of the TOR imposed a limit ($\pm 25\%$) on the extent of deviance from the provincial average number of electors which we could apply in redistribution. The Legislature set out a clear hierarchy of principles within the TOR: it directed the Commission to give paramount importance to relative parity of voting power while limiting the scope of deviations from the average to consider geography, community history and interests, and cultural and linguistic diversity. Application of the TOR as written would produce constituencies which come closer to relative parity of voting power than do those described in our interim report. The principles articulated in the TOR seek to produce fair and effective representation for all regions of the province by reducing differences in voting power among constituencies. The proposed redistribution presented employs the Commission's interpretation of the TOR. It leaves one region with many constituencies on the high end of the deviation from parity while other parts of the province have several constituencies on the low end of the deviation. The Commission decided to use the notion of “regional parity” (see Table 4), adapting the areas which Elections Nova Scotia uses for reporting electoral results. Averaging the number of electors within nominal regions does not address the requirement in the TOR that the Commission consider “relative parity of voting power ... through constituencies of equal population to the extent possible”. Since the number of constituencies varies by region, a regional average can obscure the entitlement of electors to fair and effective representation. (For instance, a region with 10 constituencies producing an average entitlement of 1.1 would be entitled to 11 seats if all constituencies were brought to parity or 1.0.) Adherence to the TOR would of necessity provide a different electoral map. To fulfil the intent of the TOR the Commission could adopt a working definition of relative parity in line with those

used in some other jurisdictions where either $\pm 10\%$ or $\pm 15\%$ of the average number of electors is selected as an acceptable range, with deviations beyond that require specific justification.

The majority on the Commission decided not to accept clause 2(d), especially in relation to four ridings (Argyle, Clare, Preston, and Richmond) which fell substantially below the threshold of number of electors entitled to a representative in the Legislature. In Appendix G the Commission presents arguments to justify the recommendation to keep these ridings as they are. I respect the deeply held views of other Commission members and share the concern that the interests of Acadian, African Nova Scotian, and Mi'kmaq electors be safeguarded in the democratic process. However, because of the complex social and political questions related to safeguarding rights in Nova Scotia, I believe that the Legislature is the appropriate body to debate the relative merits and implications of strategies for effectively representing minority populations. Members of the Commission have neither the expertise nor the delegated authority to set public policy in this matter. If the Legislature wishes to provide targeted representation of Acadian and African Nova Scotian electors it may, for instance, wish to consider alternative strategies (such as administrative districts or non-contiguous constituencies) that could better accommodate the geographic distribution of the communities involved while securing fair and effective representation for all Nova Scotians.

The Legislature could assist future electoral boundary commissions by providing rules and regulations for redistribution through legislation rather than in the form of a TOR from a Select Committee.

Appendix I: Implications for Redistribution Using a Literal Interpretation of the Terms of Reference

If the Commission had accepted clause 2(d) of the Terms of Reference provided by the Select Committee on Establishing an Electoral Boundaries Commission, then several elements would differ in the recommendations of this preliminary report.

The ‘protected constituencies’

The four “protected constituencies” could not survive redistribution with their earlier boundaries intact. With the adjusted entitlement values used by the Commission, Argyle is entitled to 0.45 of a seat; Clare to 0.46; Preston to 0.53; Richmond to 0.5. These ridings hold a small fraction of the electors of the most populous constituencies in the province. For each elector in the smallest constituency there are more than two electors in the largest proposed constituencies. If relative parity of voting power were to receive paramount importance with no deviations beyond $\pm 25\%$ of the average, then adjustments would be required to Argyle, Clare, Preston, and Richmond.

It can be argued that only in southwestern Nova Scotia is the Acadian community present in sufficient numbers to apply the Terms of Reference in such a way as to create a constituency with an Acadian majority which meets the test of relative parity with other constituencies.

Accordingly, if the Commission applied clause 2(d), the following adjustments would likely be included as recommendations in this Preliminary Report:

- A new constituency of Clare-Argyle could be created in south-western Nova Scotia to provide a constituency with an Acadian majority. Such a constituency would be ungainly in geography, would combine communities with distinct histories, and would prevent adjustments to the boundaries of the Yarmouth constituency. The new constituency would, however, come close to the target of voter parity in number of electors and would likely elect an Acadian representative on a consistent basis to represent Acadian interests.
- Preston could be linked with other areas of Dartmouth. The proportion of African-Nova Scotians in the constituency, already a minority, would be further reduced. “Preston” should continue to appear in the new riding name and boundaries should be sensitive to community concerns. (Such redistribution would make it possible to address the excessive entitlement-- that is, surplus of electors -- on the Dartmouth side of Halifax harbour under the proposed revised boundaries.)
- Richmond could be adjusted to be combined with neighbouring areas. The proportion of Acadian electors in this riding is already low, and would be further diluted. “Richmond” should continue to

appear as a revised riding name. (Redistribution of Cape Breton would require readjustment from what the Commission has currently proposed to get constituencies closer to parity. The average entitlement of constituencies in Cape Breton would remain below 1.0.)

The geography of rural Nova Scotia

The scenario presented herein leaves some rural constituencies more than 15% below parity while creating some urban constituencies more than 15% over parity. The proposed redistribution removes one riding in urban Cape Breton and one in north-east mainland Nova Scotia, but otherwise redistributes population amongst existing constituencies. This generates some rural regions with average seat entitlements below parity. The urban growth corridor has added two new constituencies, but several constituencies remain above parity.

One large region retains more seats than its entitlement merits. The southern part of the province (from Annapolis and Lunenburg constituencies down to Yarmouth) has enough electors for a seat entitlement of 6.93 (rounded to seven seats): the proposed redistribution herein leaves it with nine (9) constituencies (see table below). Even if the Legislature agrees with the Commission's interim recommendation to retain Argyle and Clare with their low numbers of electors, to achieve relative parity of voting power the southern part of the province could be adjusted to remove one constituency in that region.

Table showing adjusted entitlements of proposed constituencies in southern Nova Scotia

Constituency	Electors	Adjusted Seat entitlement
Annapolis	11165	0.78
Argyle	6419	0.45
Clare	6531	0.46
Digby-Annapolis	12659	0.89
Lunenburg East	13720	0.96
Lunenburg Centre	12735	0.89
Queens-Lunenburg West	11456	0.80
Shelburne	11210	0.79
Yarmouth	12900	0.91

The number of constituencies

If the principles articulated in the Terms of Reference were applied rigorously, with all entitlements at close to 1.0, it may be possible that the number of seats in the Legislature could be reduced below 52.

- The redistribution suggested by the Commission proposes to remove two seats: one from urban Cape Breton and one from north-east Nova Scotia.
- If the excluded ridings were included in redistribution, then one further seat would be removed as Clare and Argyle were combined.
- Given the number of electors in the ridings in the urban growth corridor, another constituency could be created in the Halifax – Hants area (because the area has enough electors to entitle another seat). The challenge of such redistribution would be to accommodate the major boundary shifts which would occur (because the “surplus” voters are distributed widely).
- If other constituencies in the southern part of the province were brought to the average number of electors, then one further seat would be removed there. This seat could be “surplus” and not replaced. (This could leave the Legislature with 51 seats.)

Rigorous application of the voter parity principle to bring all constituencies very close to 1.0 would require further adjustments in some parts of the province. It would mean creating larger geographic areas for constituencies in rural Nova Scotia and shifting boundaries within urban areas to create new configurations. The extensive redistribution which would result could present an electoral map that may not easily accommodate considerations of community history and interest. If redistribution creates larger constituencies in rural areas the Legislature may need to provide additional resources to help MLAs provide effective representation in areas which by the nature of population shifts have to become larger.

Appendix J: Assessment of Other Approaches to Representation that were Presented to the Commission

Administrative Districts

One innovative means suggested to the Commission as a way to ensure representation in the legislature for the Acadian and African Nova Scotian minorities was the idea of several ‘at large’ seats to be determined by ballots cast from separate voter lists, in a process similar to that used by the Acadian school board. Acadian and African Nova Scotian voters would have a choice between casting their ballot for a constituency representative or alternatively voting for a candidate contesting one of the designated ‘at large’ seats. This would require the compilation of additional voter lists, one for each of these designated seats, to be compiled through voluntary subscription.

After considering this suggestion, the Commission decided not to recommend it for several reasons. First, the compilation of several alternative voter lists, the voluntary nature of voter subscription to these lists, and the need to ensure no overlap between each of these lists again between constituency voter lists and each of these lists, would present a considerable administrative burden and challenge. Second, the voluntary nature of the lists and the voter option to instead remain on constituency voter lists would likely mean very small electorates for these seats relative to the voter average, even compared to the number of electors in the four ‘protected’ ridings. Third, the Nova Scotians represented by the designated seats would enjoy double representation in the legislature, since they would also reside in constituencies represented in the legislature. Finally, the Commission was not convinced that a departure from the long parliamentary tradition of territorially-based representation in the legislature in favour of group-based representation was in the best interests of an effectively functioning democracy. It would raise questions about the legitimacy of the designated seat-holders to speak on behalf of the communities they claim to represent. It also would give rise to other groups not so favoured, that they too should have their specific group represented in the legislature. Representative democracy as practiced for centuries in the parliamentary tradition is based on the principle that elected members of the legislative assembly are charged with the mandate and responsibility to represent to the best of their ability all of their constituents, without bias or prejudice based on a constituent’s physical, political, cultural, or other differentiating characteristic. While the territorial form of political representation has not been without flaws in its operation (as surely no system would be), in the opinion of the Commission, it should remain the basis of political representation in the legislative assembly.

Proportional Representation

Proportional Representation (PR) in its purist form is a system where voters choose parties rather than candidates, and seats are allocated on the basis of the parties' share of the popular vote. Arguably, this would result in the elected body being more representative of voter preferences and thus achieve a fairer distribution of support by party. Smaller parties and minority groups would tend to gain more seats and there would be less regional concentration of voter support. And, the dynamics of the system would promote accommodation amongst parties in terms of the legislative agenda.

On the one hand, critics point to the risk of instability and the reality of fluid party alliances which establish and destroy coalition governments and tend to preclude majority governments. It could also mean that the elected members' personal and direct relationship with the electorate (which is so important to Nova Scotians) will be constrained or absent.

Without delving into the use of mixed PR systems as they try to retain some of the advantages of existing single-member constituencies, the Commission is of the view that PR represents a fairly radical shift in how to elect representatives and therefore would require examination and collaboration with other governments in Canada. In the short term, serious consideration of PR and electoral systems in general would be beyond the mandate of this Commission.

Using the recently redrawn boundaries for the Halifax Regional Municipality as the basis for reconsidering provincial electoral boundaries

The realignment of voting districts in Halifax Regional Municipality by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (UARB) has created 16 municipal districts (down from 23 previously). Proponents of an option based on the HRM boundaries noted that the UARB recently completed a comprehensive realignment exercise with public consultation; they argued that it makes sense to use the same boundaries for all levels of government and that provincial MLAs should not represent fewer electors than municipal councillors would.

The average number of electors in the HRM municipal districts is 18778. If the province used that number of electors as the average for all constituencies, the total number of provincial electoral constituencies would become 43 (a reduction of 9 seats from the current 52).

After evaluating the implications, the Commission determined that the option would not be desirable for the following reasons:

1. In order to eliminate 6 ridings outside HRM while adhering to the \pm 25% of the provincial average number of electors rule, the province would have to create several constituencies covering very large geographic areas and combining disparate communities.

2. In addition to eliminating the 3 seats in HRM (down to 16 from 19) it would appear necessary to eliminate two seats in southern Nova Scotia, two in Cape Breton, and two in central Nova Scotia. The political reaction to such drastic realignments is likely to be negative.
3. In order to run a Westminster style parliamentary system it is necessary to ensure a sufficient number of elected representatives to form a government with cabinet and an opposition with enough participants to manage the responsibilities involved.

Appendix K: List of Constituencies by Region (excluding the 'protected constituencies')

Cape Breton	
Cape Breton Centre	11,203
Cape Breton North	12,612
Cape Breton Nova	10,045
Cape Breton South	15,444
Cape Breton West	14,399
Glace Bay	12,236
Inverness	13,641
Victoria-The Lakes	8,930
Total	98,510

Fundy Northeast	
Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley	13,640
Colchester North	13,879
Cumberland North	14,013
Cumberland South	10,233
Hants East	17,300
Truro-Bible Hill	15,656
Total	84,721

South Shore	
Chester-St. Margaret's	15,977
Lunenburg	13,720
Lunenburg West	14,380
Queens	9,706
Shelburne	11,210
Total	64,993

Central Nova	
Antigonish	14,769
Guysborough-Sheet Harbour	9,100
Pictou Centre	12,860
Pictou East	11,803
Pictou West	10,886
Total	59,418

Annapolis Valley – Southwest Nova	
Annapolis	13,925
Digby-Annapolis	10,004
Hants West	14,650
Kings North	15,096
Kings South	16,099
Kings West	14,614
Yarmouth	12,900
Total	97,288

Halifax Regional Municipality	
Bedford-Birch Cove	21,133
Cole Harbour	15,084
Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage	12,710
Dartmouth East	14,608
Dartmouth North	15,512
Dartmouth South-Portland Valley	19,172
Eastern Shore	12,086
Halifax Atlantic	16,289
Halifax Chebucto	14,999
Halifax Citadel	16,593
Halifax Clayton Park	21,886
Halifax Fairview	15,865
Halifax Needham	17,057
Hammonds Plains-Upper Sackville	18,122
Sackville-Cobequid	14,803
Timberlea-Prospect	16,662
Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank	16,312
Total	278,893