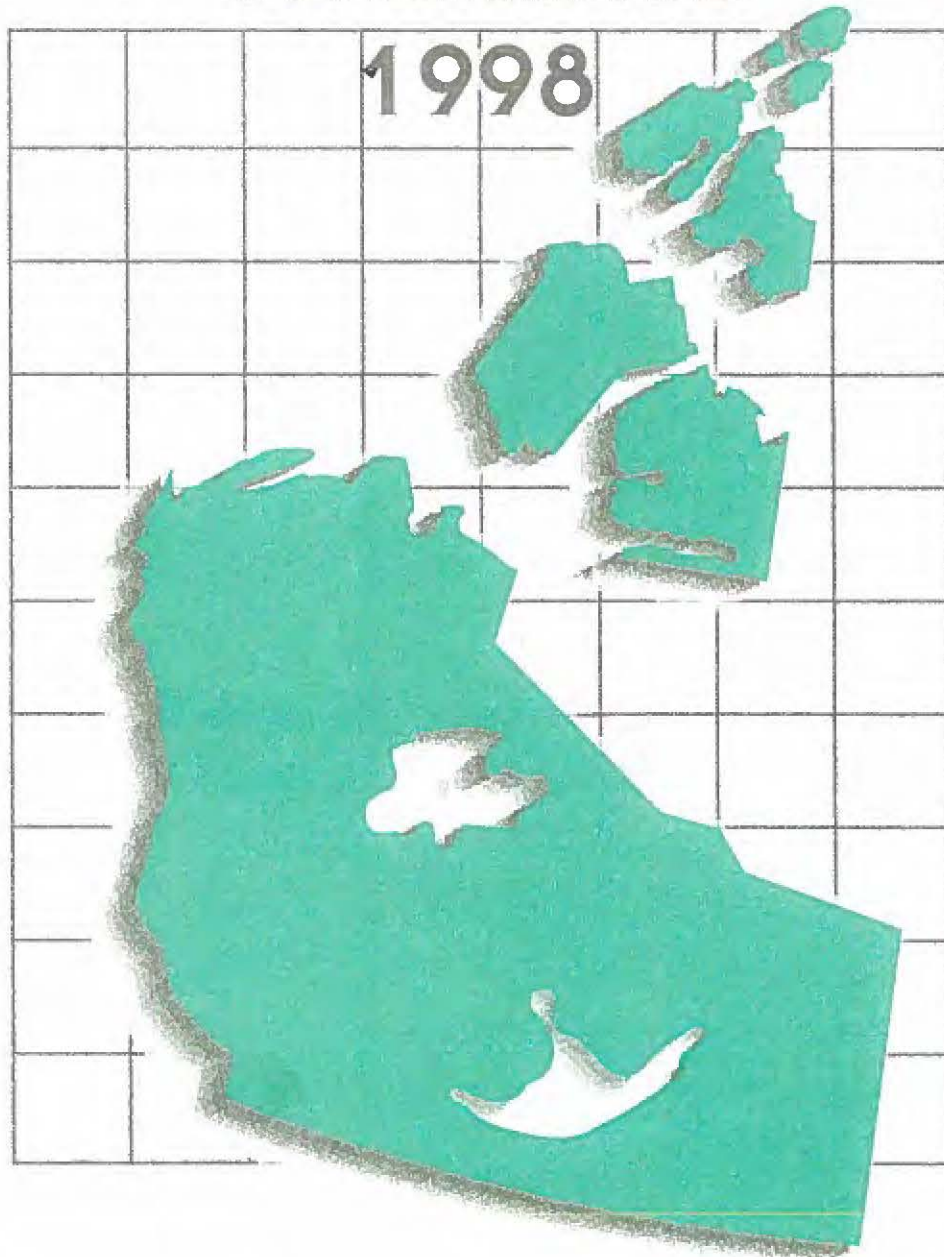


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# Report of the NWT Electoral Boundaries Commission

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*Kĩspin kɪ nitawih̄tĩn ē nihiyawihk ōma ācimōwin, tɪpwāsɪnān.*

*UVANITTUAQ ILITCHURISUKUPKU INUVIALUKTUN, QUQUAQLUTA.*

*ʔERIHTL'ÍS DĒNE SÚLINÉ YATI T'A HUTS'ELKĒR XA BEYÁYATI THEʔA ʔAT'E,  
NUWE TS'ĒN YÓL TI.*

*EDI GONDI DEHGÁH GOT'IE ZHATIÉ K'ĒĒ EDATL'ÉH ENAHHDHĒ NIDE.*

*K'ÁHSHÓ GOT'INE XƏDó K'É HEDERI ʔEDIHTL'É YERINIWE NÍDÉ DÚLE.*

*JII GEENJIT GWICH'IN ZHIT GAVISHINDAI' NIINDHAN JI'. NIKHWETS'ÀT  
GINÒHKHII.*

*TLĪCHQ YATI K'ĒĒ. DI WEGODI NEWQ D'E,  
GOTS'O GONEDE.*

*Office of the Clerk  
Legislative Assembly of the NWT  
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## Table of Contents

Mandate .....	1
Notice Given to the Public .....	2
What the Commission Heard from the Public – Common Themes.....	4
Summary of the Representations Heard by the Commission.....	4
Total Number of Seats in the Legislative Assembly .....	9
Recommendations .....	11
Minority Report .....	15
Appendices:	
A. Map – Present Electoral Districts .....	17
B. Schedule of Public Hearings .....	18
C. List of Written Presentations .....	19
D. List of Oral Presentations .....	21
E. Present Electoral Districts – Population .....	24
F. Map – Hay River and Deh Cho .....	25
G. Map – Majority Recommendation for Yellowknife Area .....	26
H. Map – Majority Recommendation for the City of Yellowknife .....	27
I. Majority Recommendation – Population .....	28
J. Map – Minority Recommendation for the City of Yellowknife ...	29
K. Map – Minority Recommendation for Yellowknife Area .....	30
L. Minority Recommendation – Population .....	31

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## **The Mandate of the Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission**

The creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999 will leave the Northwest Territories with the 14 electoral districts that presently exist in the west, as shown at Appendix "A" of this report. We understand that this was one of the considerations that led the Legislative Assembly to recommend the establishment of a boundaries commission. The members of the Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission were appointed by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories on recommendation of the Legislative Assembly effective June 10, 1998.

Pursuant to sections 8 and 9 of the *Electoral Boundaries Commissions Act*, the Commission's task is to review the area, boundaries, name and representation of the existing electoral districts and, on completion of that review, to prepare a report containing recommendations respecting the area, boundaries, name and representation of the new electoral districts proposed by the Commission.

Section 11 of the *Act* directs the Commission to take into consideration the following factors in preparing its report:

- a) geographic and demographic considerations, including the sparsity, density or rate of growth of the population of any part of the Territory and the accessibility, size or shape of any part of the Territory;
- b) any special community or diversity of interests of the inhabitants of any part of the Territory;
- c) the means of communication among various parts of the Territory;
- d) the minimum and maximum number of members of the Legislative Assembly authorized by the *Northwest Territories Act*;
- e) any guidelines or criteria proposed for the consideration of the Commission by resolution of the Legislative Assembly; and
- f) any other similar and relevant factors that the Commission considers appropriate.

The Legislative Assembly also directed that the Commission should strive to maintain a balance between urban and rural populations and should take into consideration the cultural and linguistic interests of the Territories and the present land claim boundaries when recommending the boundaries of constituencies.

The Commission was directed to submit its report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly by October 23, 1998.

## Notice Given to the Public

Notices were published in newspapers in the west in June of 1998 to announce the establishment of the Commission and to say that requests for public hearings in individual communities would be considered. We sent information tabloids and questionnaires to all communities in the west and the information tabloids were also distributed with local newspapers. The public hearing schedule was announced on radio and cable television as well as in the local newspapers. Some of the Commission members were interviewed on local radio in Inuvik and Yellowknife.

The Commission also created a website with information and a questionnaire for response by e-mail.

The Legislative Assembly requested that the Commission make every conceivable effort to conduct, at a minimum, hearings in at least one community or location in each of the existing western electoral districts. In order to obtain input, the Commission wrote to all municipal and band offices as well as community corporations and Metis locals, inviting them to indicate whether the Commission should hold a public hearing in their community. Public hearings were scheduled in all communities where interest was expressed, as well as those in which the Commission felt public hearings should be held in order to comply with the request from the Legislative Assembly to visit each existing electoral district. The result was the schedule of public hearings which is found at Appendix "B".

The only public hearing which did not go ahead was the one scheduled for Lutselk'e. The Commission was advised that the local authority had told the community that the hearing was cancelled due to the hospitalization of a respected elder. The Commission was also advised that many people had left the community. Accordingly, the Commission did not travel to Lutselk'e, but invited written submissions from the community. The Lutselk'e Dene Band sent a representative, Mr. James Marlowe, to Yellowknife and arrangements were made for him to make a presentation to the Commission on September 24, 1998 just prior to the Yellowknife hearing scheduled for that date.

The Commission also received a number of written submissions and responses to questionnaires. Appendix "C" lists those who provided us with their comments and opinions in writing. Appendix "D" lists those who made presentations at our public hearings.

During its travels, the Commission visited students at schools in Tuktoyaktuk and Fort Providence. The Commissioners explained their mandate and students were asked for their input on an informal basis. Some of the adult students in



Fort Providence attended the public hearing in that community and others completed questionnaires for us.

The Commission stressed at its public hearings that its mandate is very different from the mandate of the Constitutional Working Group. The Constitutional Working Group is looking at the overall structure of government for the entire western Territory. The mandate of the Commission is to review the existing electoral districts and make recommendations for changes in anticipation of a general election in the fall of 1999. It was not given the task of considering or proposing constitutional changes.

The Commission wishes to acknowledge and thank Kim Powless, Commission Secretary, and Brian Armstrong, Research Staff, for their able assistance with the work of the Commission.

We also wish to thank the Interpreters who provided assistance at the public hearings: Michael Neyelle in Déline, Frederick Lafferty in Fort Resolution, Phillip Constant in Fort Providence, Marie Korchea in Fort Liard, Betty Hardisty in Fort Simpson, Phillip Rabesca in Rae and Lena Drygeese in Detah.



*Public hearing in Fort McPherson*

## What the Commission Heard from the Public – Common Themes

There were a number of common themes heard at our public hearings and presented in written submissions, the most frequent being:

1. The electoral districts should be left the way they are, sometimes expressed as "if it's not broken, don't fix it";
2. The public does not want to see money spent on more members of the Legislative Assembly, but instead on services such as education, health and social services;
3. Deciding whether electoral districts should be changed while self-government and constitutional negotiations are under way is putting "the cart before the horse". One person in Fort Resolution told us that there is so much going on at this point in the political life of the western Territory, he found it difficult to know whether he should even be concerned about the issue of electoral boundaries;
4. There is substantial concern on the part of smaller communities about being "overwhelmed" by Yellowknife, combined with a conviction that Yellowknife residents have better access to government than those who do not reside in Yellowknife;
5. Except in the instances to which we will refer further on, those who provided us with input did not indicate an overwhelming desire for change to the existing electoral boundaries. It is our observation that people feel a cautious approach is in order because of the ongoing issues of land claims, aboriginal self-government and the constitutional process. Many view the latter process as the forum where major political changes will be made. In Yellowknife, while most of those who made representations to us wanted some change, the majority did not urge drastic change.

## Summary of the Representations Heard by the Commission

(All population figures referred to are based on 1996 census figures provided by the Northwest Territories Bureau of Statistics)

Attendance at our public hearings ranged from a minimum of eight to a maximum of approximately thirty people. We were pleased that many of those who participated at the hearings and provided written submissions had gone to a great deal of effort to study the issues and present their thoughts. We appreciate the work that was done by many groups and individuals to provide us with information and advice.





#### **Deh Cho**

(Fort Providence, Hay River Reserve, Kakisa)

We did not hear strong support at our public hearing in Fort Providence for change to this electoral district. A few individuals questioned whether the Hay River Reserve should be in this district since it is a Treaty 8 community whereas Fort Providence and Kakisa are not.

#### **Hay River**

(Hay River, Enterprise)

The only suggestions for change to this electoral district were heard in the community of Enterprise. The people who attended our public hearing in Enterprise were in favour of their community being placed in the Deh Cho electoral district. They said they have more in common with the smaller communities of the Deh Cho and told us that their goals and concerns sometimes conflict with those of the much larger community of Hay River. They pointed out that the population of Enterprise (86) will not result in major changes to either the Hay River or Deh Cho electoral districts if Enterprise is placed in the Deh Cho district.

#### **Inuvik**

(Inuvik)

We heard some proposals for additional representation for Inuvik, although other people told us that the money for a second representative in the Legislative Assembly would be better spent on services. The Mayor of Inuvik provided us with proposals for increased representation for the entire Nunakput, Mackenzie Delta and Inuvik region. Concern was expressed by a number of people that the north-south and rural-urban balance be maintained.

#### **Mackenzie Delta**

(Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic)

We did not receive any representations in support of change to this district. The presentations that were made to us were to the effect that the combination of communities in the Mackenzie Delta district makes sense based on geography, similarity of community interests and culture and the mix of Gwich'in and Inuvialuit people who live in the region. Although one person suggested that a Gwich'in name be given to this electoral district, another told us that the name should be left as it is because it is appropriately descriptive.

### Nahendeh

(Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Jean Marie River, Nahanni Butte, Wrigley, Trout Lake)

Although some concern was expressed about the cost of adding more members to the Legislative Assembly, there was strong support from the residents of Fort Liard and Fort Simpson for the creation of two electoral districts out of what is now Nahendeh. It was suggested that one of the new districts should be made up of Fort Liard, Nahanni Butte and Trout Lake and the other of Fort Simpson, Jean Marie River and Wrigley. These districts were proposed based on family connections, proximity of communities and economic activity. It was pointed out to us that Nahendeh as it now exists has the largest number of communities of all the electoral districts. The current Member for Nahendeh, the Honourable Jim Antoine, described for us the difficulties of travel in the region.

If Nahendeh was divided as suggested, the population of the two districts would be 655 and 1477, respectively.

Of the four smaller communities, Nahanni Butte, Trout Lake, Jean Marie River and Wrigley, we received input only from Nahanni Butte. Three individuals from that community responded to our questionnaire, saying that the electoral district of Nahendeh should stay as it is now.

### North Slave

(Rae-Edzo, Rae Lakes, Snare Lakes, Wha Ti)

The Hamlet of Rae-Edzo and the Dogrib Rae Band Council proposed that Rae-Edzo be given its own seat in the Legislative Assembly and that the remaining communities in what is now the electoral district of North Slave be given a separate seat. They pointed out to us that Rae-Edzo is the fifth largest community in the west, with a population of 1662. It has a developed infrastructure and sustains a number of local businesses. The remaining communities are still at the developmental stage and we were told that this sometimes results in conflicting demands on the Member for North Slave.

Division of the North Slave electoral district as proposed would result in two districts with populations of 1662 and 809, respectively.

We did not receive any input from Rae Lakes, Snare Lakes or Wha Ti on this issue.



### **Nunakput**

(Holman, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Tuktoyaktuk)

The Hamlet Council for Tuktoyaktuk proposed that the community be given its own seat in the Legislative Assembly on the basis of geographic location, population and local development as well as a need to maintain a north-south balance in the Legislative Assembly and provide adequate representation to the Inuvialuit as the only group of Inuit in the western Territory.

We heard that it is difficult for the Member for Nunakput to visit communities in his riding, particularly because there are no scheduled flights from any of the other communities in the riding to Holman. Creation of a Tuktoyaktuk riding might alleviate, but would not solve, this problem.

We note that the proposal for a separate seat for Tuktoyaktuk would result in an electoral district of 943 people in that community and a district of 835 consisting of Holman, Paulatuk and Sachs Harbour.

### **Sahtu**

(Colville Lake, Déline, Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells, Tulita)

At our public hearing in Norman Wells, we heard from some individuals that Norman Wells should have its own seat in the Legislative Assembly, mainly because of its unique economic situation in the region. There were indications that people would like to study the issue further and that the Town of Norman Wells might adopt a formal position and make a written submission to us.

In Déline, we heard some support for a separate seat for Déline by itself or with the community of Tulita. We were advised that the Band Council might provide us with a final submission on this.

We did not receive final submissions from the Town of Norman Wells or the community of Déline. We refer to this simply to emphasize that it appeared to us that there are different points of view in those communities and no confirmed or formal positions.

### **Thebacha**

(Fort Smith, Salt River Reserve)

At our public hearing in Fort Smith, no proposals were put forward for changes to the Thebacha electoral district. The opinion was expressed by some people that if a number of new seats were to be created across the western Territory, Fort Smith as the fourth largest community in the west should receive a second seat.

**Tu Nedhe**  
(Fort Resolution, Lutselk'e, Reliance)

The people who provided us with input about the electoral district of Tu Nedhe indicated that it makes sense for the communities of Fort Resolution, Lutselk'e and Reliance to be in one riding because of their Chipewyan language, cultural and treaty links. No proposals for change to this district were put forward.

**Yellowknife Frame Lake, Yellowknife Centre, Yellowknife South, Yellowknife North**

We heard two main submissions from the electoral districts in the City of Yellowknife.

From the residents of Detah, now in the electoral district of Yellowknife North, we heard that they and the residents of Ndilo need separate representation because, although close to the City of Yellowknife, their concerns are different from those of other residents. They told us that money for Yellowknife is not allocated to their part of the district and that they do not benefit from the status or attention given to other stand-alone communities. They proposed an electoral district which would be named "Weledeh" and which would consist of Ndilo, Detah, Enodah (a traditional fishing camp), the Ingraham Trail and traditional lands.

We also received a submission on behalf of Ingraham Trail residents indicating that the majority of them wish to remain within the present electoral district of Yellowknife North or, if changes are made, to be placed in a district that would include other city residents.

From the rest of Yellowknife, the majority of those who made presentations wanted to see the electoral districts changed to reflect the principle of "representation by population". It was pointed out to us that the electoral district of Yellowknife South, at 7105 people, has the largest population of any electoral district in the western Territory, more than eight times the size of the smallest electoral district, which is Tu Nedhe, with 842 people. Some people referred to the fact that Yellowknife has 44% of the population of the western Territory but only 29% of the seats in the Legislative Assembly. Most people were of the view that more seats should be allocated to Yellowknife, although some others urged us to exercise caution in light of the unique characteristics of the north and the need to compensate for inadequate representation of smaller, more isolated communities.

A number of different names were suggested to us for the existing and proposed Yellowknife districts.



## Total Number of Seats in the Legislative Assembly

Some of the submissions we heard at our public hearings across the western Territory focussed on the number of seats that will be needed in the Legislative Assembly so that the government is effective and its workload manageable for the members. The *Northwest Territories Act*, as amended by the *Nunavut Act*, provides for a minimum of 14 and maximum of 25 seats.

Some people voiced the concern that a Legislative Assembly made up of only 14 members or a number close to the minimum would not provide for an effective "opposition" if seven of those constitute the Cabinet and Speaker as is proposed by the Western Caucus for the period of April to October 1999. In contrast, we heard from one person in Fort Smith that we should encourage the traditional concept of consensus government rather than that of government versus opposition by not increasing the number of seats.

Some individuals, including some members of the Legislative Assembly, told us they expect that the workload will remain much the same as it is now despite the reduction in total population and land area after April 1, 1999. Others said that self-government arrangements will mean fewer responsibilities at the territorial government level and more at the community level.

Roy Erasmus, the Member for Yellowknife North, and Jake Ootes, the Member for Yellowknife Centre, expressed reservations about whether the Legislative Assembly's committee system can work properly with a minimal number of members.

As stated above, many people were of the opinion that the number of seats should not be increased because of the cost. They told us that the public would prefer to see dollars spent on services instead of more elected representatives.

It was also pointed out to us that in terms of population, constituencies in the western Territory are very small compared to the rest of Canada. On the other hand, we were made aware that distances, inadequate or difficult transportation links, weather problems and language difficulties can require extra time commitment from some representatives, for example, the members for Nahendeh and Nunakpur. These factors can have an impact on how effectively members are able to represent their constituents.

From time to time, and particularly in Yellowknife, people spoke to us of the fundamental principle of "one person, one vote". A number of those who spoke in Yellowknife quoted from the 1991 decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in *Reference re: Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*. In that case, Madam Justice McLachlin concluded that the purpose of the right to vote enshrined in section 3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* is not

equality of voting power *per se* but the right of each citizen to effective representation in government. One of the conditions of effective representation is relative parity or equality of voting power. This means representation by population. If Citizen X's vote is diluted as compared to Citizen Y's vote, because Citizen X is one of 7000 voters in his electoral district whereas Citizen Y is one of 700 voters in his electoral district, that may mean that Citizen X is not adequately represented in that his legislative power and access to his government representative may be reduced.

However, the goal of effective representation may require consideration of factors which justify departure from absolute voter parity. In the *Reference* case, Madam Justice McLachlin said:

*"First, absolute parity is impossible. It is impossible to draw boundary lines which guarantee exactly the same number of voters in each district. Voters die, voters move. Even with the aid of frequent censuses, voter parity is impossible.*

*Second, 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 the considerations which may justify departure from absolute voter parity in the pursuit of more effective representation; the list is not closed."*

A number of people who made representations to us referred to the rule which has been accepted elsewhere in Canada that in order to achieve equality of voting power, the population of each district should not deviate beyond 25% of the average population for all districts in a given province or territory. This means that no one electoral district should have a population of either 25% more or 25% less than the average.

A number of people urged us to consider that there are factors in the north which may justify departure from the 25% rule.

Appendix "E" shows the deviation from average for each of the 14 existing electoral districts.

Finally, a small number of individuals asked us to consider dual or multi-member constituencies.



## Recommendations

The Committee has carefully considered all of the submissions and representations made to it. The geographic, population and cultural characteristics of the western Territory present unique challenges to a boundaries commission, as does the current political situation. While it would be within our mandate to recommend an increase in the electoral districts up to a maximum of 25 or other wide-ranging changes, we have resisted a broad approach and have decided to recommend minimal changes at this time.

A process is under way to deal with the effects of division and constitutional change for a new government for the western Territory. Many aboriginal claimant groups are negotiating land claims and self-government provisions at this time, which may have an effect on the present system of government.

The political history of the Northwest Territories is unique and requires that we be conscious of the struggle of northerners for responsible government as well as the desire and right of aboriginal peoples to attain and play a meaningful role in the Legislative Assembly. It has been a political and social process of 'give and take' and adoption and blending of democratic ideals, practices, and systems of government. While significant advances have been made by northerners since the early days of the Territorial Council with its federally appointed officials and elected residents, the Legislative Assembly is still undergoing change and is working to meet the ideals and aspirations of all northerners.

Applying a simple mathematical approach of dividing the western Territory into electoral districts of equal populations will not answer the desire of northerners for a fair and effective government. The task is more complex and must take into consideration geographic, historical, cultural and language factors, land claims areas and negotiations, self-government talks and the need for a balance between urban and rural areas.

The Northwest Territories is very different from the provinces of Canada. It is difficult to conclude that the same conditions that will provide effective representation for southern Saskatchewan or for Prince Edward Island will also provide effective representation for Holman or Fort Smith or Yellowknife. The needs and demands of the larger centres may be heard more easily and be addressed more effectively simply because of the size of the population. A small and isolated community has the same basic need for services but because of its size and location may find its voice is lost unless effective representation means something more than equal numbers.

The political landscape of the western Territory is changing. It is not possible for us to predict exactly what changes will be made and we have not approached our task by trying to anticipate the structure of the government that will eventually be in place. We interpret our mandate to seek recommendations based on the structure of the government as it now exists. Chief Don Balsillie of Fort Resolution made a good point when he said to us that in a couple of years, "when the smoke clears", we will all have a better idea of what the territorial government's responsibilities will be. We cannot know whether it will be only a couple of years, but we do think that the uncertainty is a good reason to be cautious in our approach.

Notwithstanding our concern that a simple mathematical approach is not adequate to address the principle of effective representation in the north, we did spend some time considering various ways of re-drawing the existing electoral boundaries. We found that to bring all districts within 25% of the average would require significant changes to some of the districts. We feel that if significant changes are to be considered, they should wait until the current processes have resulted in a constitutional framework and structure of government which can be expected to last for some time. We recognize and indeed we recommend that a further boundaries commission should be established when that government is in place. That commission will be able to assess the situation as it exists at that time – a more realistic and useful exercise than trying to anticipate now what that situation will be.

We do not think that it would be wise at this time to create a number of new electoral districts with small populations, which would be the result of most of the changes that were suggested to us. Dividing what are now the electoral districts of Nahendeh, North Slave and Nunakpur would have this effect. We therefore recommend that those districts remain as they are.

We have the same concern about the Sahtu area, where the support for change was tentative, and therefore we do not recommend any changes to it.

We also considered whether additional seats should be allocated to Inuvik or Hay River. Again, this would create new electoral districts of relatively small populations and we do not believe that is a wise step in this time of uncertainty.

For similar reasons, we have not considered the creation of dual or multi-member constituencies or constituencies based on anything other than residence.





To include Enterprise in the Deh Cho electoral district will not result in a significant change to the population of either the Deh Cho or the Hay River district, but will place the community of Enterprise with communities which share similar interests and concerns. We recommend that this change be made and that the boundary between the Deh Cho and Hay River electoral districts be re-drawn to accomplish this as shown on the drawing at Appendix "F" of this report.

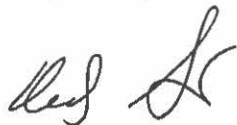
We take the view that the population of Yellowknife and the principle of effective representation require additional seats for the city and therefore a re-drawing of the electoral boundaries. We recommend that two electoral districts be added to the City of Yellowknife as follows:

1. One electoral district to include Detah, Ndilo (including Enodah), the Ingraham Trail and Latham Island. This electoral district should be called "Weledeh" and is shown on the drawing at Appendix "G" of this report. Although the population will be relatively small, we believe other factors such as the unique character and the needs of Detah and Ndilo, which are not presently being met by the municipal and territorial governments, justify the creation of this electoral district;
2. A second electoral district to be made up of residents of the City of Yellowknife. This district should be created by changing the present electoral boundaries within the city as shown on the drawing at Appendix "H" of this report. The names we suggest for the resulting districts, corresponding to the numbers on Appendix "H" are as follows:
  1. Weledeh
  2. Yellowknife Bay
  3. Frame Lake
  4. Range Lake North
  5. Range Lake South
  6. Kam Lake

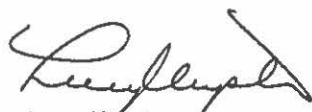
Appendix "I" shows the populations and deviation from average of the resulting electoral districts.

We believe that the addition of these two seats will also address the concerns raised about the size of the Legislative Assembly as a whole and that the political ingenuity and skills of the members will ensure that the Assembly works effectively.

Respectfully submitted,



Nick Sibbeston



Lucy Kuprana



*Public hearing in Tuktoyaktuk*



## Minority Report

I agree with the observations made by my colleagues and the approach they have taken. I also agree with their recommendation that Enterprise be placed in the electoral district of Deh Cho. I find, however, that I am unable to agree with their recommendation respecting Weledeh and the remaining districts in the City of Yellowknife.

The proposal put forward by the Yellowknives Dene First Nation was that the riding of Weledeh be created to include Derah, Ndilo, Enodah and the Ingraham Trail as well as their traditional lands, large portions of which are in the North Slave electoral district.

We were advised that the Yellowknives Dene First Nation is in negotiations with the federal government for the establishment of Akaircho Territory and with the City of Yellowknife and the Ministry of Municipal and Community Affairs, Government of the Northwest Territories, to recognize the Akaircho Community (Derah, Ndilo and Enodah) as part of Akaircho Territory. The results of these negotiations may better address the goals of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation than new electoral boundaries can.

With the greatest of respect for my colleagues' desire to address the concerns raised by the residents of Derah and Ndilo, I am not sure that those concerns will be any more effectively addressed in an electoral district that still represents a comparatively significant number of non-residents of Derah and Ndilo than they are in the present Yellowknife North riding. At the same time, my colleagues' proposal creates an electoral district with a very small population and therefore an imbalance in the Yellowknife electoral districts as a whole.

I recommend that Yellowknife be divided into six electoral districts, each of relatively equal population, as shown on the drawing at Appendix "J". The district which would include Derah, Ndilo, Enodah and the Ingraham Trail, as well as other city residents, shown more clearly on the drawing at Appendix "K", is somewhat smaller than the existing Yellowknife North riding but not as small as the Weledeh riding proposed by my fellow Commissioners. I also recommend that it be given the name Weledeh.

The names I recommend for the six electoral districts, corresponding to the numbers marked on the drawing at Appendix "J", are as follows:

1. Weledeh
2. Yellowknife Bay
3. Frame Lake
4. Range Lake
5. Great Slave
6. Kam Lake

Appendix "L" shows the populations and deviations from average of the electoral districts resulting from my recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

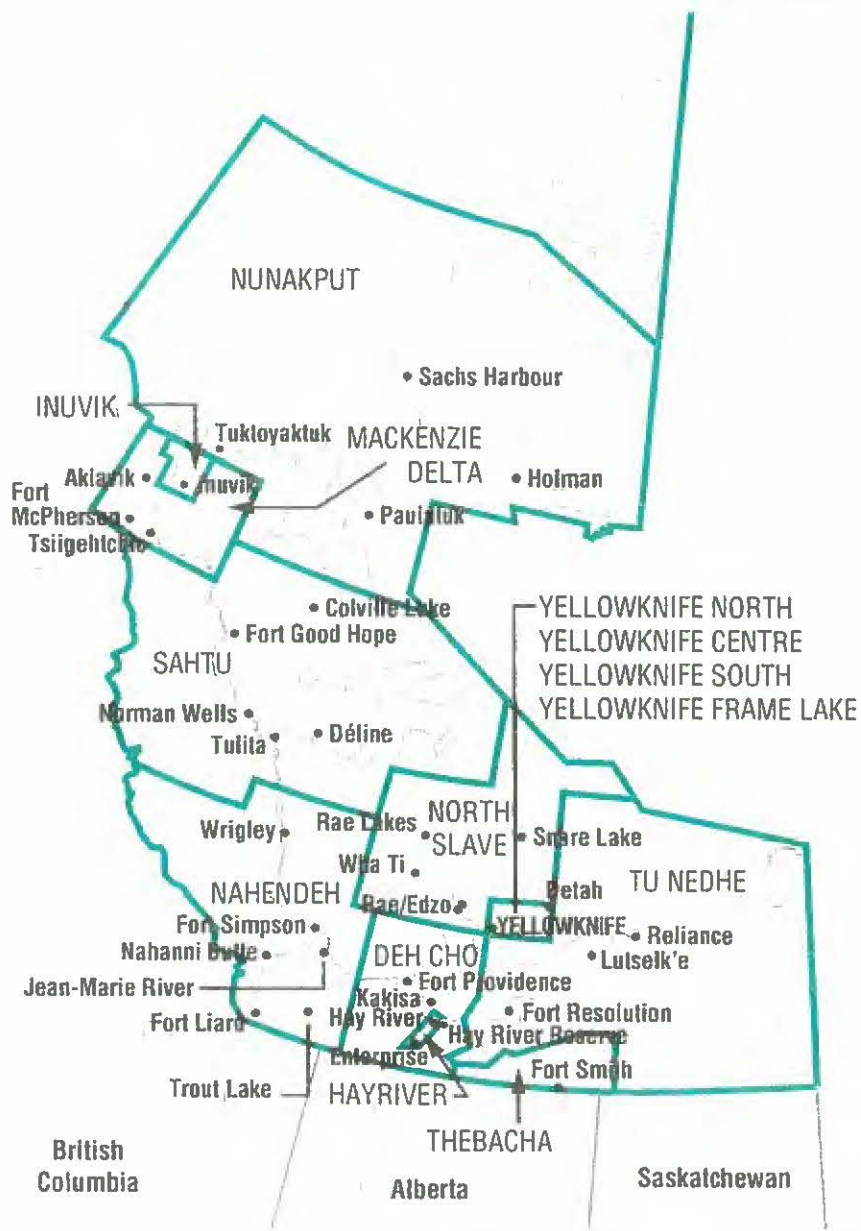


Hon. Justice Virginia A. Schuler  
Chairperson



*Elder Judy Charlo spoke to the Commission in Derah*





**Schedule of Public Hearings**

Inuvik	August 10, 1998
Tsilgehtchic	August 11, 1998
Fort McPherson	August 11, 1998
Tuktoyaktuk	August 12, 1998
Fort Smith	August 24, 1998
Enterprise	August 25, 1998
Hay River	August 25, 1998
Déline	August 26, 1998
Norman Wells	August 27, 1998
Lutselk'e	September 8, 1998
Fort Resolution	September 8, 1998
Fort Providence	September 9, 1998
Fort Liard	September 10, 1998
Fort Simpson	September 10, 1998
Rae	September 21, 1998
Derah	September 22, 1998
Yellowknife Centre & Yellowknife North	September 23, 1998
Yellowknife Frame Lake & Yellowknife South	September 24, 1998



## List of Written Presentations

Henry Beaulieu, Derah	Norman Hodgson, Norman Wells
Genevieve Clarke, Enterprise	C. Tourangeau, Norman Wells
Winnie Cadieux, Enterprise	Rick Muires, Norman Wells
Anne Leskiw, Enterprise	Joe LeBlanc, Norman Wells
Karl Mueller, Enterprise	Lyle Neis, Norman Wells
Fort Liard Meris Development Corporation Ltd.	Tony Grandjambe, Norman Wells
John Irsi, Fort McPherson	Jim Brown, Norman Wells
Rosalie Ross, Fort McPherson	Julie R. Brown, Norman Wells
Perer Ross, Fort McPherson	Richard Popko, Norman Wells
Philip Constant, Fort Providence	Alasdair Veitch, Norman Wells
Aline, Zhahti Kue (Fort Providence)	Mary Buist, Norman Wells
Diane, Fort Resolution	Katherlne Thiesenharsen, Norman Wells
Don Balsillie, Fort Resolution	Hamlet of Rae-Edzo & the Dogrib Rae Band Council
Ginger Lester, Hay River	Michael Miltenberger, MLA, Thebacha
Jack Rowe, Hay River	Ernest Taylor Pokiak, Tuktoyaktuk
John Laycock, Ingraham Trail	Molly Nogasak, Tuktoyaktuk
Yvonne Carpenter, Inuvik	Unknown, Tu Nedhe
Derek Lindsay, Inuvik	Sandy Holmes, Yellowknife
Martha Bernard, Inuvik	Bob MacQuarrie, Yellowknife
John Holland, Inuvik	Michael A. Mann, Yellowknife
George Roach, Mayor, Inuvik	Bruce McLaughlin, Yellowknife
James Marlowe for Lursei'ë Dene Band	David McCann, Yellowknife
Isadore Ekoha, Nahanni Butte	David Lovell, Yellowknife
Perer Marcellais, Nahanni Butte	Robert Charpentier, Yellowknife
Pauline Campbell, Nahanni Butte	Carl Bird, Yellowknife
Darrell Beaulieu, Ndilo	Unknown, Yellowknife
Martina Tseleie, Norman Wells	Ken Chamberlin, Yellowknife
Kathleen Bjornson, Norman Wells	D. Nicklen, Yellowknife
M. LeBlue, Norman Wells	

Sheila Dunn, Yellowknife  
Charlotte Babicki, Yellowknife  
Bob McKinnon, Yellowknife  
Mike Aumond, Yellowknife  
Fred Sangris, Yellowknife  
Leslie Green, Yellowknife  
Garth L. Wallbridge, Yellowknife  
Roberr Slaven, Yellowknife  
Fraser Weir, Yellowknife  
Bob Brooks, Yellowknife  
Lawrence Norbert, Yellowknife  
John & Pamela Murray,  
Yellowknife  
Jake Oores, MLA, Yellowknife  
Centre  
Charles Dent, MLA, Yellowknife  
Frame Lake  
Seamus Henry, MLA, Yellowknife  
South  
Yellowknives Dene First Nation  
Bill Erasmus, Co-Chair & Gary  
Bohner, Co-Chair, The Western  
NWT Aboriginal Summit





**List of Oral Presentations****Inuvik**

Floyd Roland, MLA  
 Dev Sharma  
 Derek Lindsay

George Roach, Mayor  
 Mary Beckett  
 Cece MacCauley

**Tsiigehtchic**

Grace Blake, Mayor  
 Peter Ross  
 David Krutko, MLA

Trevor Gates  
 John Norbert

**Fort McPherson**

John Itsi  
 James Wilson

Phillip Blake, Mayor

**Tuktoyaktuk**

Russell Newmark, Deputy Mayor  
 William Nasogaluak  
 Vince Sreen, MLA

John Sreen  
 Calvin Pokiak  
 Frank Cockney

**Fort Resolution**

Chief Don Balsillie  
 Diane Giroux  
 Patrick Simon  
 Lloyd Cardinal  
 Laurie Edjericon

Don Morin, MLA  
 Leonard Beaulieu  
 Maurice Boucher  
 Robert Sayine

**Fort Providence**

Chief Greg Nyuli  
 James Christie  
 Albert Laffery

James Thom, Mayor  
 Margarer Thom  
 Victor Constant

**Fort Liard**

Joanne Deneron, Mayor  
 Jim Anroine, MLA

Lenny Hill, Principal

**Fort Simpson**

Norm Prevost  
 Tom Wilson  
 Jonas Anroine  
 Percy Hardisty

Rita Cazon  
 Jim Anroine, MLA  
 Bert Tserso  
 Betty Hardisty

**Fort Smith**

Michael Milrenberger, MLA  
 Tim Heron  
 Henry Deaver  
 Jake Heron

Perer Martselos, Mayor  
 Don Jacque  
 Bill Wyness, Union of  
 Northern Workers

**Enterprise**

Winnie Cadieux  
 Genevieve Clarke

Anne Leskiw  
 Sam Gargan, MLA

**Hay River**

Jack Rowe, Mayor  
 Bob McMeekin  
 Ginger Lester

Bruce Sutherland  
 Dean McMeekin  
 Elizabeth Lawrence

**Déline**

John Andrew Kenny  
 Pab Cheltz

Pauline Roach  
 Michael Neyelle

**Norman Wells**

Frank Pope, Mayor  
 Jim Brown  
 John Madgwick  
 Hiedi Ehrenreich

Rick Muyres  
 Larry Tourangeau  
 Elizabeth Danielsen  
 Steve Armstrong

**Rae**

Dan Marlon, Mayor

Chief Joe Rabesca

**Detah**

Chief Jonas Sangris  
 Michel Paper  
 Isadore Tsetta  
 Richard Edjericon  
 Peter Liske

Chief Fred Sangris  
 Judy Charlo  
 Bill Erasmus  
 Darryl Beaulieu  
 Rachel Crapeau



Yellowknife Centre and Yellowknife North

David Lovell, Mayor

Jake Oores, MLA, Yellowknife Centre

John Murray

Bill Enge, Yellowknife Meris Local 66

Kevin O'Reilly

Roy Erasmus, MLA,

Yellowknife North

Sandy Holmes

John Laycock

Pamela Murray

Larry Pontus

Yellowknife Frame Lake and Yellowknife South

Seamus Henry, MLA,

Yellowknife South

Haigh Carthew

Robert Slaven

Fraser Weir

Lawrence Norbert

Jessie Sloan

Peggy Near

Charles Dent, MLA,

Yellowknife Frame Lake

Garth L. Wallbridge

Dave McCann, Yellowknife

Chamber of Commerce

Bob Brooks

Bill Braden

Betty Harnum



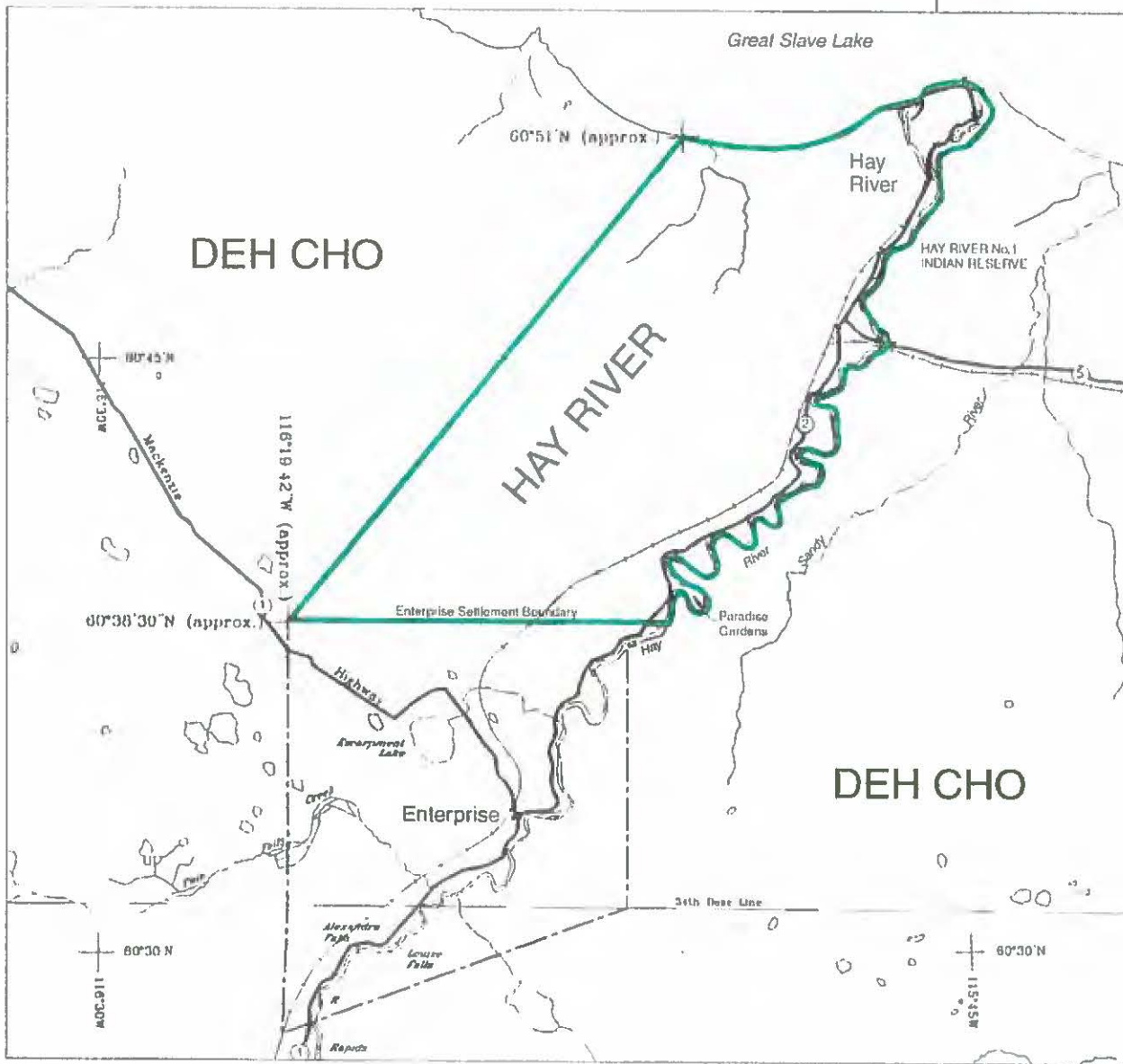
*Mangiluluk School, Tuktoyaktuk*

**Present Electoral Districts – Population**

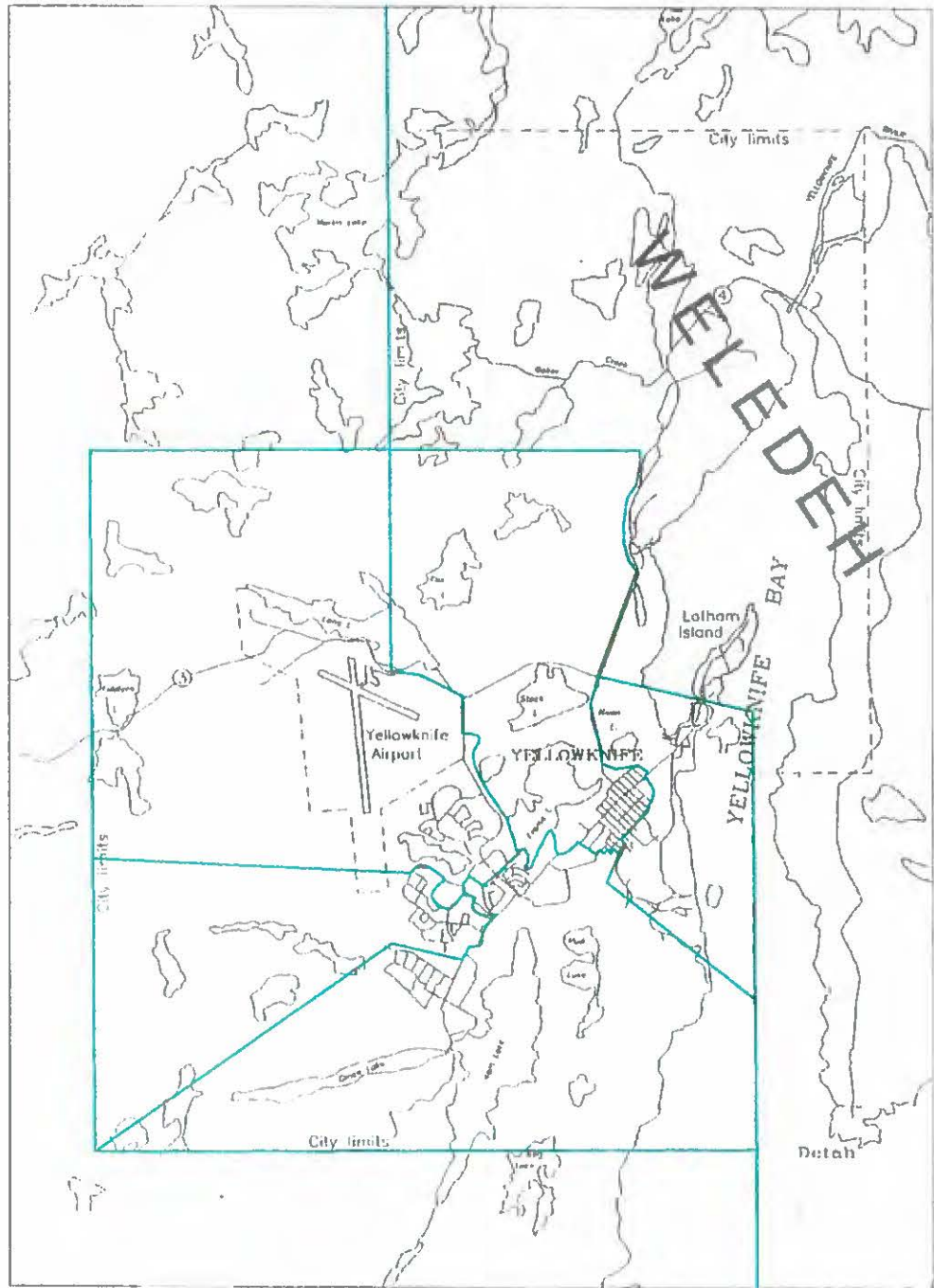
Present Electoral Districts	1996 Census Figure	Percentage Variance from Average
Nunakpur	1,778	-37%
Inuvik	3,296	+17%
Mackenzie Delta	1,767	-37%
Sahru	2,598	-8%
Nahendeh	2,132	-25%
Deh Cho	1,037	-63%
North Slave	2,471	-13%
Hay River	3,697	+31%
Thebacha	2,452	-13%
Tu Nedhe	842	-70%
YK North	4,207	+49%
YK Centre	3,369	+19%
YK South	7,105	+152%
YK Frame Lake	2,784	-1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,535*</b>	
<b>Average</b>	<b>2,824</b>	

\*total of 39,535 does not include 137 persons in unorganized areas who cannot be allocated to any particular electoral district





Map – Majority Recommendation for Yellowknife Area



Map – Majority Recommendation for the City of Yellowknife



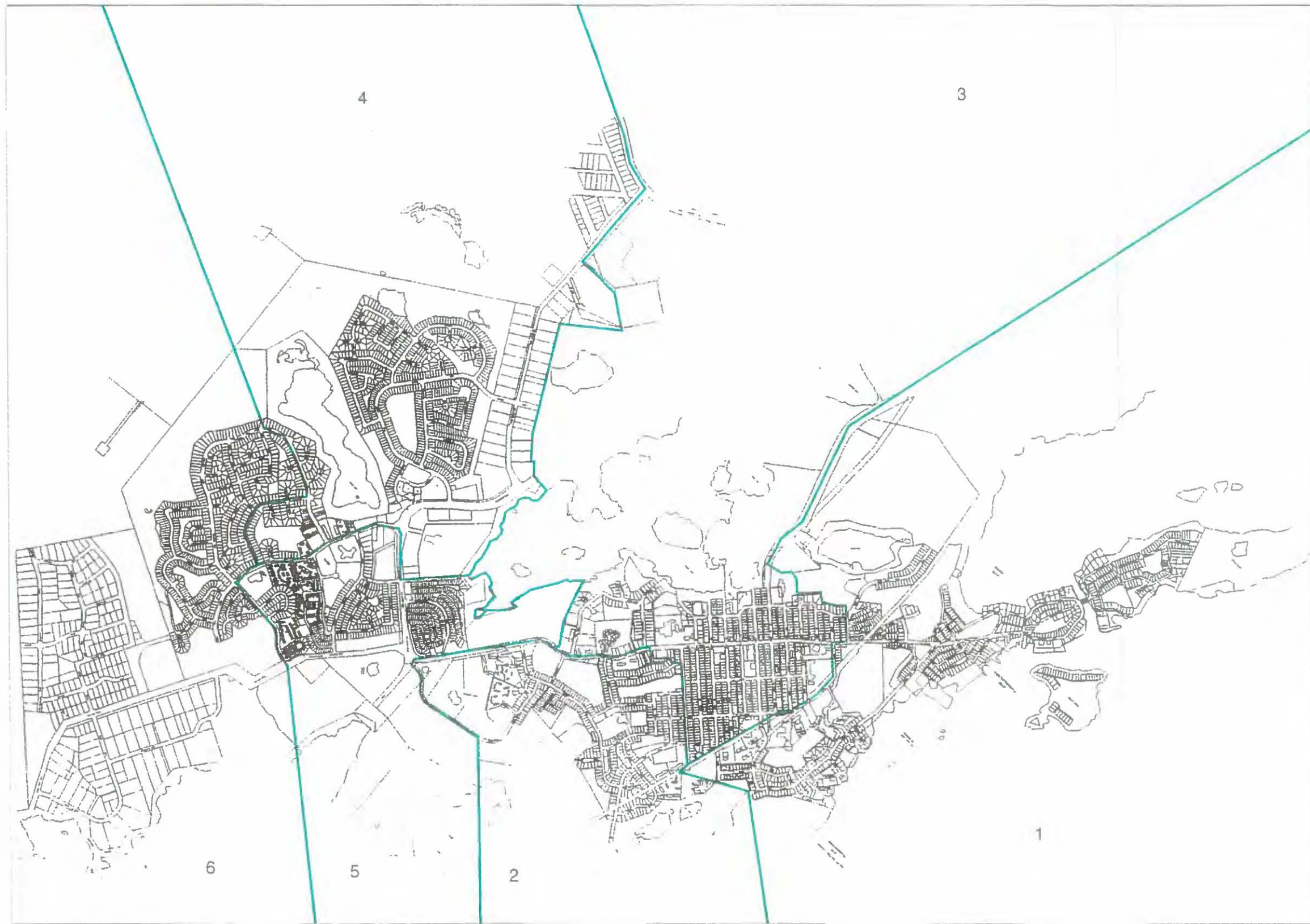
**Majority Recommendation – Population**

Proposed Electoral Districts	1996 Census Figure	Percentage Variance from Average
Nunakpur	1,778	-28%
Inuvik	3,296	+33%
Mackenzie Delta	1,767	-28%
Sahru	2,598	+5%
Nahendeh	2,132	-14%
Deh Cho	1,123	-55%
North Slave	2,471	0%
Hay River	3,611	+46%
Thebacha	2,452	-1%
Tu Nedhe	842	-66%
Range Lake North	2,928	+18%
Range Lake South	3,321	+34%
Kam Lake	3,368	+36%
Frame Lake	3,369	+36%
Yellowknife Bay	3,417	+38%
Weledeh	1,062	-57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,535*</b>	
<b>Average</b>	<b>2,471</b>	

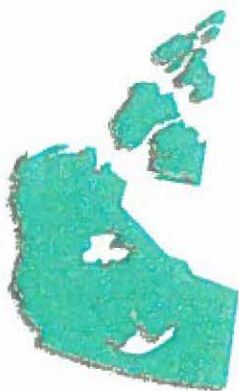
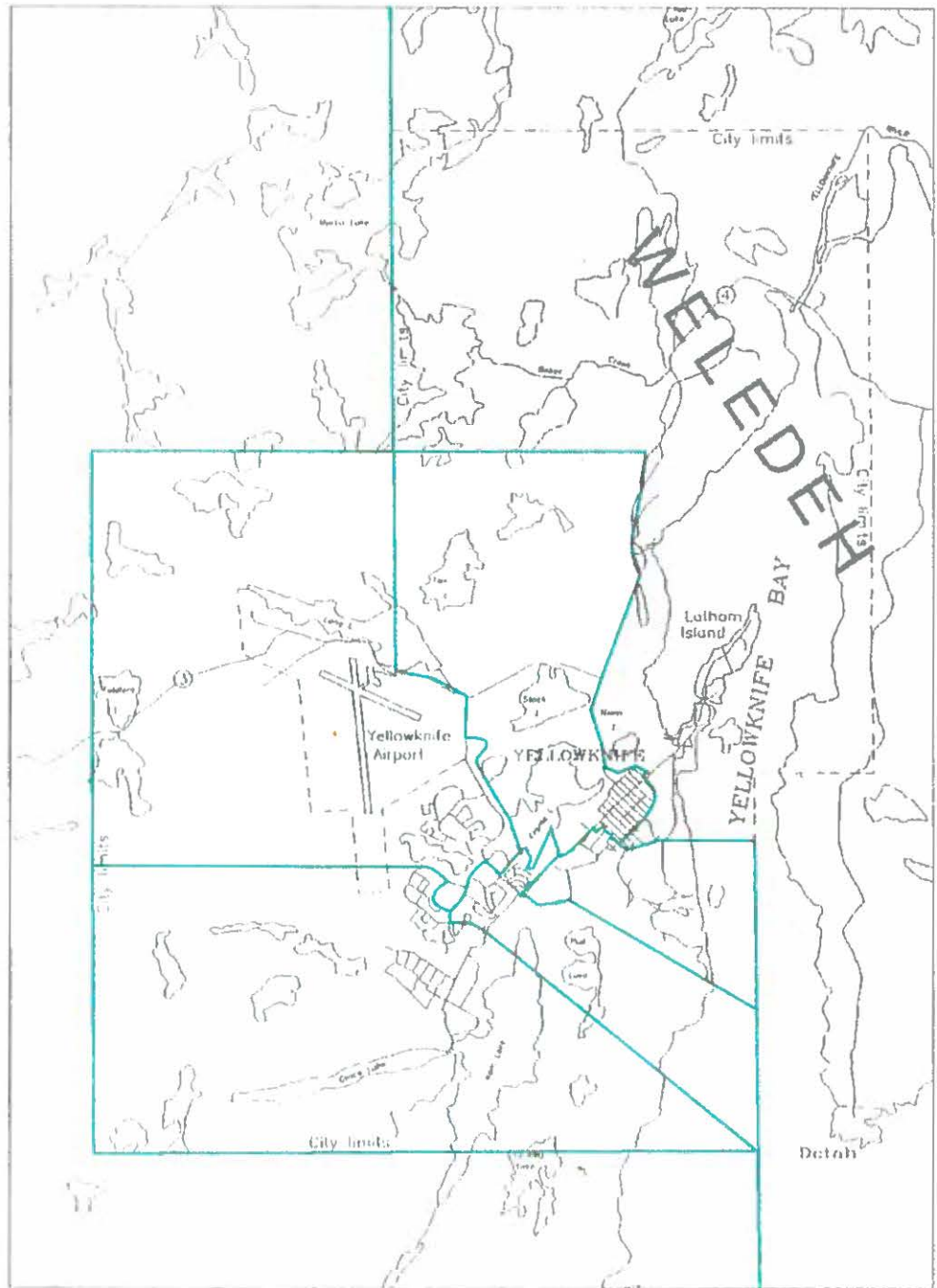
\*total of 39,535 does not include 137 persons in unorganized areas who cannot be allocated to any particular electoral district







Map – Minority Recommendation for Yellowknife Area



**Minority Recommendation – Population**

Proposed Electoral Districts	1996 Census Figure	Percentage Variance from Average
Nunakpur	1,778	-28%
Inuvik	3,296	+33%
Mackenzie Delta	1,767	-28%
Sahru	2,598	+5%
Nahendeh	2,132	-14%
Deh Cho	1,123	-55%
North Slave	2,471	0%
Hay River	3,611	+46%
Thebacha	2,452	-1%
Tu Nedhe	842	-66%
Range Lake	2,928	+18%
Kam Lake	2,724	+10%
Great Slave	2,722	+10%
Yellowknife Bay	3,017	+22%
Frame Lake	3,072	+24%
Weledeh	3,002	+21%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,535*</b>	
<b>Average</b>	<b>2,471</b>	

\*total of 39,535 does not include 137 persons in unorganized areas who cannot be allocated to any particular electoral district