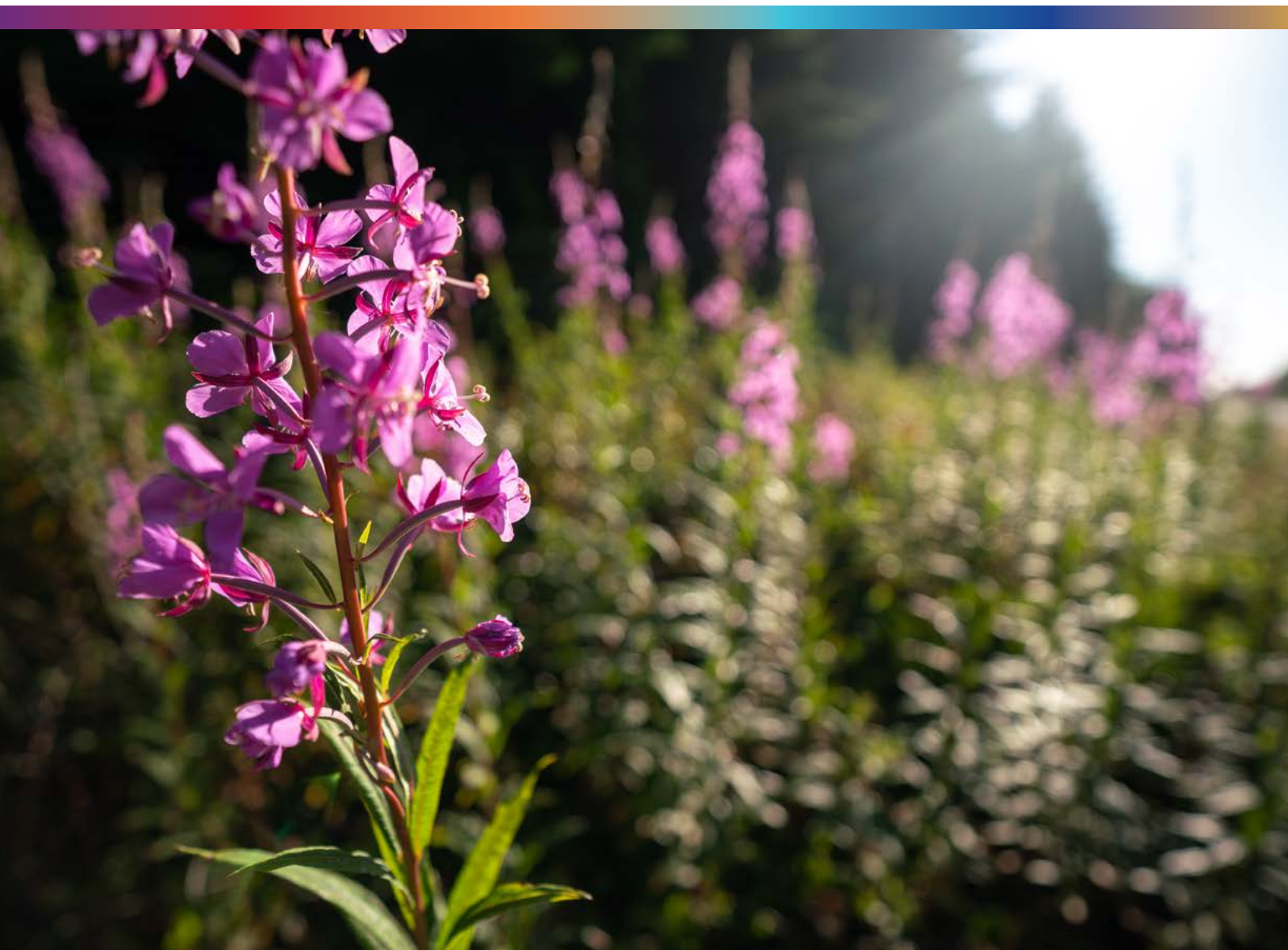




NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES
COMMISSION

2025 NWT Electoral Boundaries Commission INTERIM REPORT



November 3, 2025

To the Residents of the Northwest Territories:

In Canada, we live in a democracy where citizens elect their representatives. These representatives speak on behalf of all residents from their electoral district, including anyone who is unable to vote under the law due to age or citizenry.

Representation is fundamental to electoral democracy. Citizens elect their representatives from geographic constituencies. The shapes of these constituencies – known as electoral districts or ridings – are determined when electoral boundaries are drawn.

The Legislative Assembly appointed us to review the electoral boundaries of the Northwest Territories. This review is to ensure all northerners are meaningfully represented in the Legislative Assembly.

The Legislative Assembly asked the Commission to recommend how the electoral boundaries should be drawn if there are 19 electoral districts, and however many other recommendations the Commission felt should be looked at.

As part of the review of the electoral boundaries, we have prepared this interim report which contains a set of proposals for the electoral boundaries of the Northwest Territories for 19, 20, 21 or 22 electoral districts.

The Commission is not making a formal recommendation for any of these models in this report. This is an opportunity to have a discussion with northerners about the electoral boundaries proposed in this interim report. There are multiple ways for you to comment on these proposals.

Public Hearings: Come join us at a public hearing between **December 3rd** and **January 12th** in communities across the territory.

Online: Submit a comment online at www.nwtelectoralboundaries.ca/submission/ or send an email to the Commission (see page 39 for contact information).

Your input is an important part of this process, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Daryl Dolynny
Commissioner

Kevin O'Reilly
Commissioner

Hon. R.D. Gorin
Chair

Samuel Dyck
Commissioner

Georgina Rolt
Commissioner

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2025 NWT Electoral Boundaries Commission was appointed by the NWT Legislative Assembly to review the boundaries of the territorial electoral districts (also called ridings) in the NWT. The law requires that this review must happen at least every second territorial election. This is to help make sure that everyone in the NWT is well represented in the NWT Legislative Assembly.

Right now, there are 19 districts represented in the NWT Legislative Assembly. In looking at how everyone in the NWT could be better represented, the Commission considered four factors, in line with decisions made in the courts about how the laws about elections should be put into action:

- ▶ **Relative Parity:** electoral districts should be similar in population to each other.
- ▶ **Communities of Interest:** we should try and keep similar communities together.
- ▶ **Effective Representation:** electoral districts do not need to be perfectly equal in population but should not be more than or less than 25% of the average population unless there is an unusual situation.
- ▶ **Practicable Impossibility:** sometimes it may not be possible to meet all these guidelines without violating one of the other ones. In these unusual situations the Commission has made best efforts to come up with a reasonable solution.

These terms are defined in greater detail in the report.

Since the electoral boundaries were last changed in 2013, there has been a major growth in population in Behchokq and parts of Yellowknife. These areas are now not effectively represented. To make sure everyone is effectively represented, the Commission has proposed four different options:

- 19 electoral districts
- 20 electoral districts
- 21 electoral districts
- 22 electoral districts

Each of these options makes different choices to try and represent everyone in the NWT well. The Commission is putting these options forward for public consultation to guide its final report with formal recommendations.

The Commission is also interested in hearing about possible name changes to electoral districts (especially Great Slave) and the names for any new districts.

REASONS FOR REVIEW

Electoral boundaries are periodically reviewed to ensure people are effectively represented in their legislative assembly. This process allows our political institutions to adapt to changes in society, particularly shifts in population.

The *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* requires the electoral boundaries of the Northwest Territories to be reviewed after every second territorial election. The last review took place in 2021-22. The recommendations from that review were not accepted by the Legislative Assembly, which then directed a new Commission to be created following the 2023 territorial election.

The law requires a boundaries commission to first consider voter parity. We are allowed to deviate from exact voter parity to consider communities of interest if doing so will lead to more effective representation. However, we cannot deviate too far from voter parity when considering effective representation, and the courts have found a +/- 25% variance from the territorial average is presumptively constitutional. That said, overrepresentation of more than 25% may be justified where truly exceptional circumstances exist.

However, even variances of 25% or less can be deemed unconstitutional if they are unreasonable or based on inconsistent reasoning. We should aim for smaller variances between electoral districts than the maximum allowable variance. For instance, having nine electoral districts at -25% and ten districts at +25% would not provide effective representation or voter parity.

Applying these principles in the NWT, where there is a great diversity in communities, is challenging. Just as we must ensure the communities of Yellowknife, Hay River and Inuvik are effectively represented, we must also be sure communities like Colville Lake, Sachs Harbour, and Wrigley that are more distant from decision makers and government, are effectively represented. In making these options we utilized a consistent matrix throughout the process. The Commission will do its best to provide its reasons for balancing these factors in its final report after hearing from the public. This public input is crucial for ensuring reasonableness and balance in our decision-making.



SCAN THIS QR CODE for
a history of past Electoral
Boundaries Commissions

MANDATE

The Electoral Boundaries Commission is mandated to review the territory’s electoral boundaries, the names of electoral districts, to hold public hearings, and make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly on boundaries and names.

The Commission is independent from the government and the Legislative Assembly. It is composed of 5 citizens, including a judge who serves as chair. The members of the Commission were appointed by a motion and a vote of the Legislative Assembly.

Elections NWT staff acted as a secretariat for the Commission, the Commission also received support from the Bureau of Statistics and the Centre for Geomatics for population estimates and maps.

The Commission was appointed in May 2025 and will report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly at the end of February 2026.

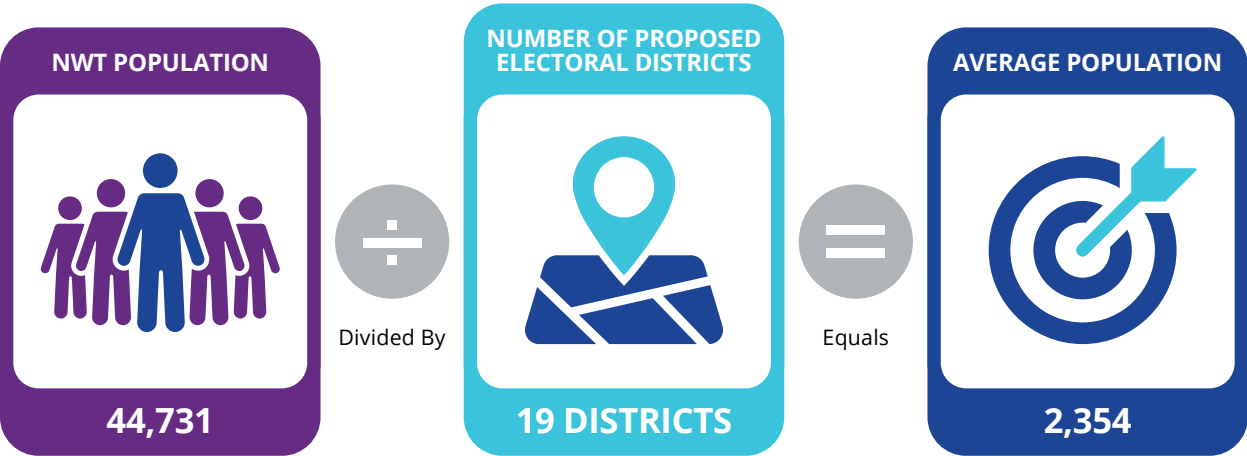
The Legislative Assembly has directed the Commission to provide an option with 19 electoral districts, and the Commission can consider additional options with more than 19 districts. We were not allowed under the terms of reference to consider less than 19 districts.

As part of its review, the Commission must hold public hearings. These public hearings will take place between **December 2025 and January 2026**. The Commission will also accept written submissions on our website from residents and interested parties until **January 9, 2026**.

KEY TERMS

Average Population

The average population is the number of residents in each electoral district if all electoral districts had the same number of people. This number changes as the population increases or decreases. It is calculated by dividing the total population of the Northwest Territories by the number of electoral districts. There are **44,731** residents in the NWT. This means the current average population is **2,354**.¹



Relative Parity

Relative voter parity means the weight of each citizen’s vote is nearly the same among all electoral districts.

Absolute voter parity is where each electoral district has the same number of residents. It is impossible to achieve because electoral district boundary lines cannot be drawn in a way that guarantees the same number of residents in each electoral district. The number of residents changes constantly as people move, are born, or die.

Relative parity is achieved when the number of residents in each electoral district is roughly the same as the average population. This means that the variations in the number of residents across different electoral districts should be kept as small as reasonably possible to achieve equitable representation. By striving for relative parity, the commission’s aim is to prevent disparities that could lead to some voters having more influence than others, thereby promoting fairness and integrity in our democratic process.

¹ All population estimates are using July 2024 numbers from the Bureau of Statistics.

Variation/Deviation

Variation, variance, or deviation is a measure reported as a percentage of the difference between the population of a district and the territorial average population. Ideally there should be equality of voting power throughout the Northwest Territories. However, a deviation of up to 25% from the average has been considered acceptable in Canada by the courts and is what we have been instructed to reach wherever possible.

As an example, with the current territorial average being **2,354**, an acceptable deviation would be within **589** people. This means the acceptable deviation is between **1,765** and **2,943**.

- **Zero Variance:** 0% - absolute parity – an electoral district with **2,354** residents has 0% variance.
- **Underrepresentation:** >25% - an electoral district with more than **2,943** residents.
- **Overrepresentation:** <25% - an electoral district with fewer than **1,765** residents.

Our Terms of Reference state “relative parity between electoral districts shall be sought, to the extent possible, except where special circumstances warrant exceptional deviation” (s. 2(b)).

“Relative parity” is then defined as a range of deviation of 25% above or below the average riding population: “For greater certainty, relative parity means that the percentage variation between the number of persons in a riding and the average mean should be within plus or minus 25 per cent” (s.2(c)).

The Supreme Court of Canada did not set a specific range of permissible deviation as required by s.3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in Reference re Provincial Electoral Boundaries (SK)*, though it did accept that some deviations were so excessive that they could not be justified.

In addition to being set out in the Terms of Reference, the 25% range is consistent with the federal *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act* (RSC 1985, c. E-3), some provincial statutes, and is supported in the case law in the Northwest Territories.²

² Friends of Democracy v. N.W.T. (Commissioner), 1999 CanLII 4256 (NWT SC); City of Yellowknife v. Northwest Territories (Commissioner), 2015 NWTSC 51 at paras 38-40)

Community of Interest

“Community” or “communities of interest” is an important concept in electoral district design. A community of interest is a group of people who share common bonds within a geographic area. These bonds can include language, culture, history, transportation links, economic interests, social networks, demographic characteristics, and shared political concerns.

There is no generally agreed upon definition of “community of interest” across Canadian electoral boundary legislation or established in the case law. In the Reference re Provincial Electoral Boundaries (SK), a majority of the Supreme Court of Canada held that s.3 of the Charter requires consideration of factors including “geography, community history, community interests and minority representation” so that “our legislative assemblies effectively represent the diversity of our social mosaic”.³

The Terms of Reference direct us to consider in s.2(h) “Language, culture and any other special community or diversity of interests of the residents of any part of the Northwest Territories.” The Terms of Reference also instruct us to consider other relevant aspects of community of interest, including in s.2: “Demographic factors” (a); “community boundaries” (f); and “Any other similar and relevant factors” (l) to those listed in s.2.

It is important to recognize that Indigenous peoples form various communities of interest. Our Terms of Reference instruct us to consider “self-government agreements, including land claim and treaty land entitlement agreements” (s.2(f)). The general requirements in s.2(f) of the Terms of Reference to consider “special circumstances” and in s.2(l) to weigh “Any other similar and relevant factors that the Commission considers appropriate” also provide authority to the Commission to consider the impact of proposed boundaries on Indigenous communities of interest.

Effective Representation

Effective representation relates to the ability of a member of a legislative assembly to represent the people in their electoral district. It is a legally defined concept arising from section 3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* that requires consideration first of the population in each electoral district to strive towards relative voter parity, or as close as possible to an equal number of voters in each electoral district, so each citizen’s vote has equal weight.

Deviations or variances from the average number of voters in each electoral district in many cases are desirable or necessary to help achieve effective representation because of factors such as geography, community history, community interests, language, culture, and minority representation that need to be considered. The accepted deviation in Canada from the average in electoral districts to achieve effective representation is +/- 25%.

³ (Reference re Provincial Electoral Boundaries (SK) at page 184; see also Reference re the Final Report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission, 2017 NSCA 10 at para. 65).

Practicable Impossibility

‘Practical impossibility’ is a relevant factor in electoral boundary design in Canada primarily because of our vast and varied geography. Our Terms of Reference require us to consider “Geographic factors, including the accessibility, size or shape of any area” (s.2(d)).

Some potential district boundaries are simply impractical because of the impact of geographic features such as remoteness, mountain ranges, lakes, and so on. Practical impossibility may also arise in the absence of direct transportation routes, where there is no road or air route connecting communities that could otherwise be in a single district. Technology does assist to some extent in overcoming the challenges posed by geography and transport.

Given the vast geography of the NWT, practical impossibility is an important factor, especially in considering what constitute “special circumstances” which “warrant exceptional deviation,” to use the language of our Terms of Reference (s.2(b)).

Practical impossibility may also be relevant where communities which share common features, such as a language or identity, are separated geographically. In such instances, it may not be practical to design electoral boundaries to include these communities within the same district, despite their similarities, given the geographic distances or barriers involved. For instance, relative parity cannot be achieved by including part of Yellowknife with Nunakput, even if the boundary could be drawn in such a way that allowed for it.

OUR PROCESS

When beginning its review, the Commission started by reviewing the reports of previous Commissions, the most up-to-date population data available, profiles and demographics of each community and region.

The Commission retained and received advice from an outside legal expert, Dr. Michael Pal of the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, on electoral boundaries and case law.

To develop this report and the options for public review, the Commission held a three day in-person working session in Yellowknife in June 2025. The Commission developed a process where it considered how the principles of relative parity, effective representation, communities of interest and practicable impossibility are balanced in each possible electoral map.

As a starting point, the Commission used a consistent framework to review each existing electoral district, which included the current population of the district, the variance of the district under a 19, 20, 21 and 22 district legislature, and communities of interest in each electoral district; which included languages spoken, land claim and self-government agreements, historical ties between communities, the cultures in that district and transportation links between the communities of the district. Wherever possible, the Commission strove to keep communities that share these communities of interest connections grouped together in the same electoral district.

From this process, the Commission developed four models (19 districts, 20 districts, 21 districts and 22 districts) that are presented in this report for public comment.

One major factor that we considered is absent exceptional circumstances, it is very important that no electoral district should be over or underrepresented by more than 25% of the population average. This is to ensure everyone has relatively equal say in our government.

All these factors must be balanced by the Commission to ensure the effective representation of all northerners.

We understand that there may be some public concern about the costs of adding districts to the Legislative Assembly. While cost is a legitimate concern, it is not one of the factors we were mandated to consider in our Terms of Reference, nor is it one of the factors required to be considered under the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

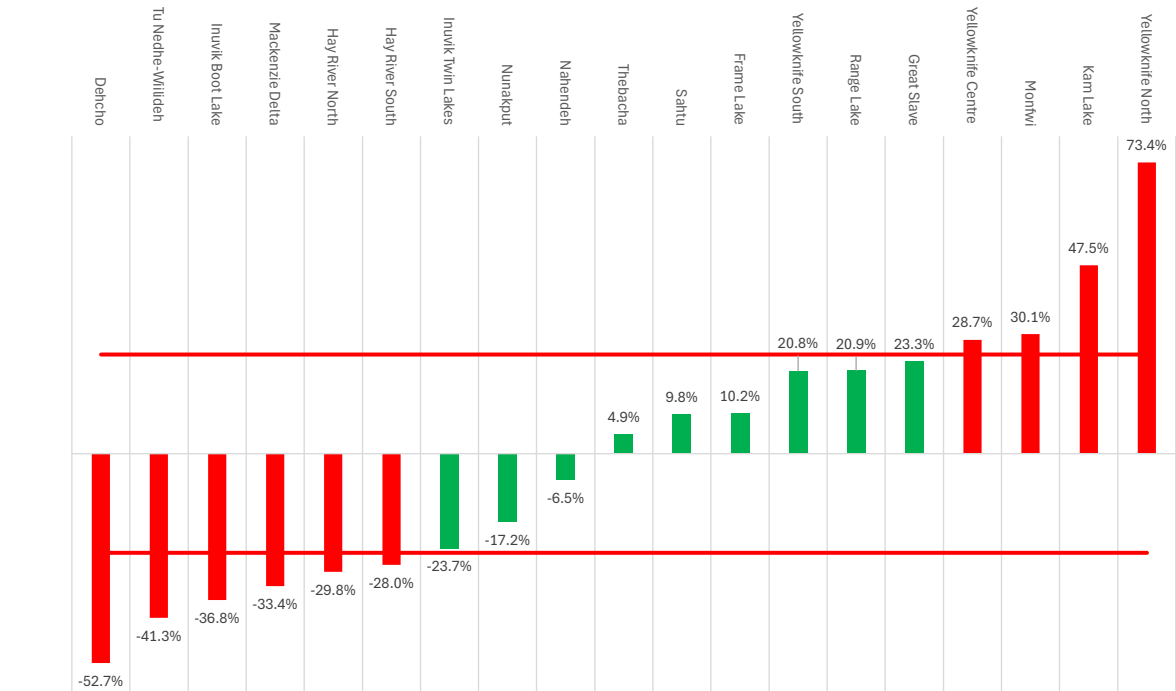
Since the 19-district Legislative Assembly was established in 1999, the population of the NWT has grown by 12.7%.⁴ We also note that the other territories have more than 19 electoral districts. Yukon, with a similar population to the NWT, has adopted 21 districts for their October 2025 election, while Nunavut, with a lower population than the NWT, has 22 districts.

⁴ The 1998 Election Boundaries Report lists the territorial population as 39,672. The population in 2024 of 44,731 represents an increase of 5,059 residents, or 12.7% since 1998.

CURRENT ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

The Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly has had 19 electoral districts since 1999. These districts have remained largely the same since that time, with minor adjustments to boundaries occurring in 2006 and 2014. The boundaries have remained the same since 2014.

Currently, 10 of the 19 electoral districts in the Northwest Territories have a variance of greater than 25%. These range from a -52.7% variance in Dehcho to a +73.4% variance in Yellowknife North. In other words, the residents of Dehcho have approximately 4 times the voting power as the residents of Yellowknife North, and nearly 3 times that of a resident in Behchokò, Whatì, Gamètì or Wekweètì.



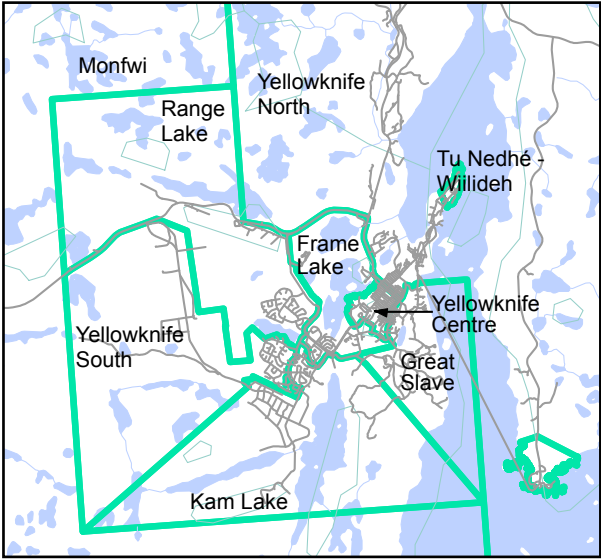
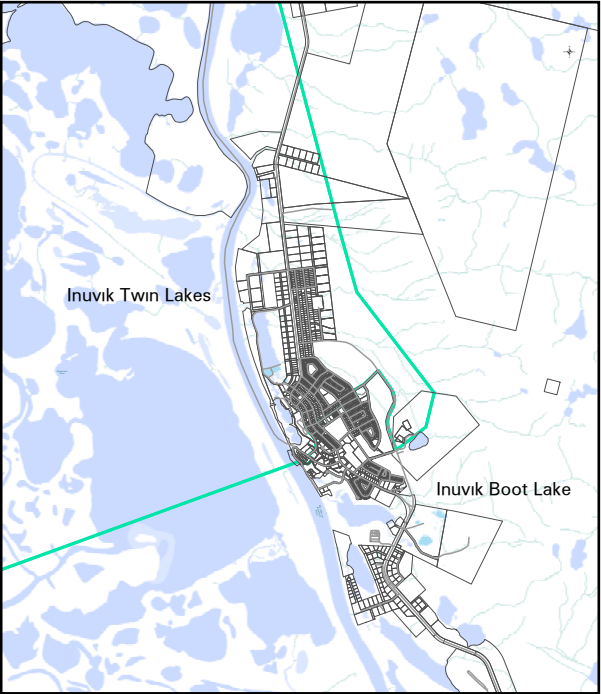
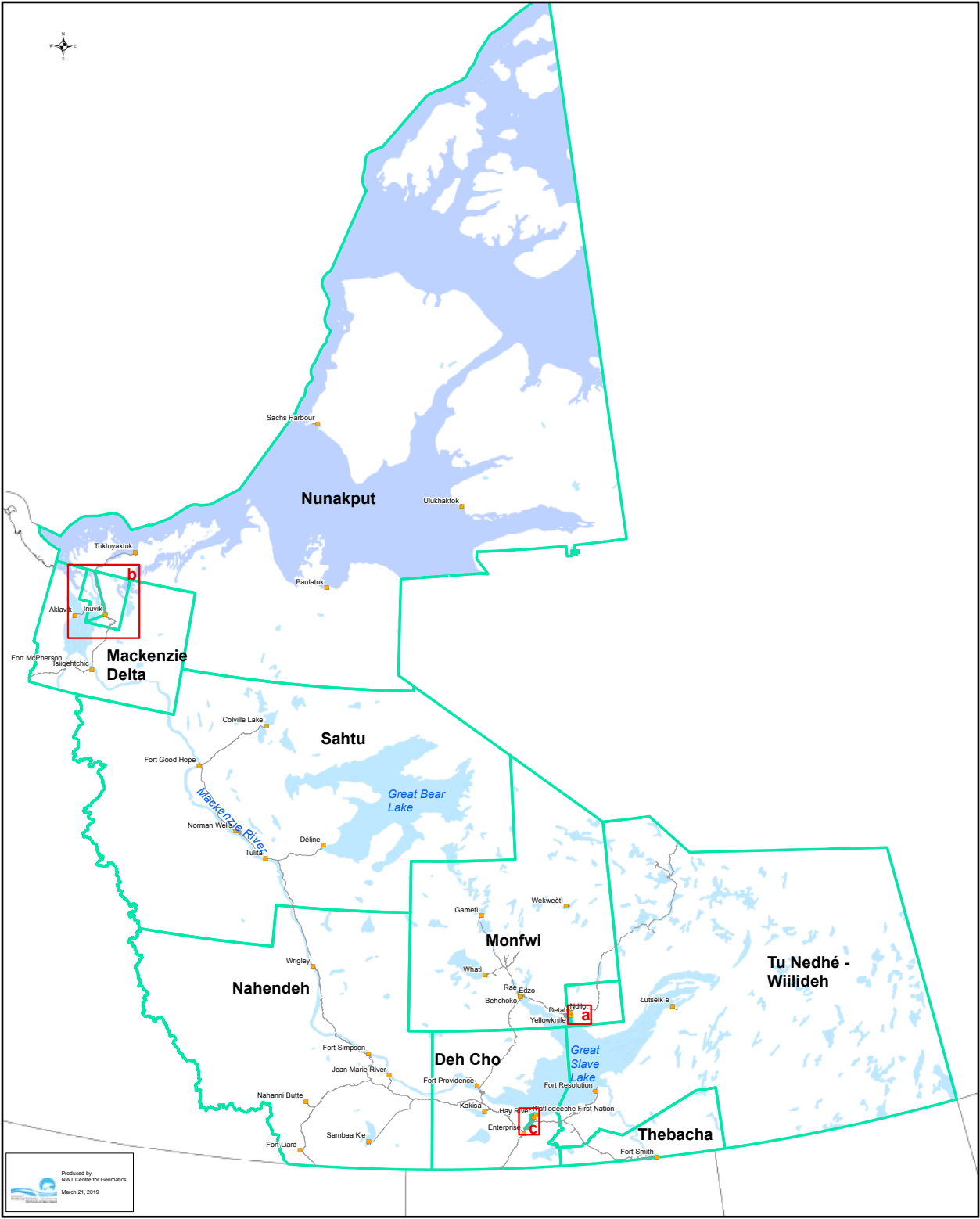
The Commission considered whether it was feasible to rebalance the population among the existing electoral districts to achieve more equitable representation. However, even if one could perfectly balance the Hay River, Inuvik, and Yellowknife districts, it would not resolve the overall representative imbalance. This approach would further shift every Yellowknife district out of variance, as well as Inuvik Boot Lake, and it fails to address the underrepresentation of Monfwi residents.

POPULATION STATISTICS

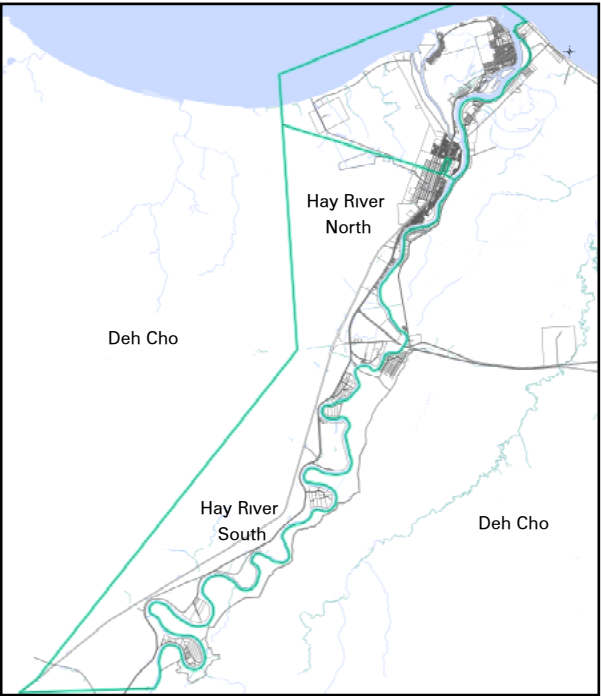
POPULATION BY ELECTORAL DISTRICT CURRENT ELECTORAL DISTRICTS	2024 POPULATION ESTIMATES	VARIANCE (%)
Northwest Territories	44,731	2,354
Nunakput	1,950	-17.2
Inuvik Boot Lake	1,795	-23.7
Inuvik Twin Lakes	1,487	-36.8
Mackenzie Delta	1,568	-33.4
Sahtu	2,585	+9.8
Nahendeh	2,201	-6.5
Dehcho	1,113	-52.7
Hay River North	1,696	-27.9
Hay River South	1,653	-29.8
Thebacha	2,469	+4.9
Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh	1,381	-41.3
Monfwi	3,063	+30.1
Frame Lake	2,595	+10.3
Great Slave	2,903	+23.3
Kam Lake	3,473	+47.5
Range Lake	2,846	+20.9
Yellowknife Centre	3,029	+28.7
Yellowknife North	4,081	+73.4
Yellowknife South	2,843	+20.8

Please note that these are the 2024 population estimates as provided by the NWT Bureau of Statistics. The 2025 estimates were not available in time for this interim report, but we expect to be able to use the 2025 numbers in making the recommendations in the final report.

CURRENT NWT ELECTORAL DISTRICTS



Scan this QR code
for a map of the current
electoral districts.



OPTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION

After extensive review, the Commission developed four options. However, the commission cannot endorse any option at this interim stage until we gather public feedback. We are providing Options 1 to 4 to demonstrate due diligence and to ensure that the public has a comprehensive range of options to consider. Public feedback is essential to enable the Commission to continue our work on a final recommendation to the Legislative Assembly.

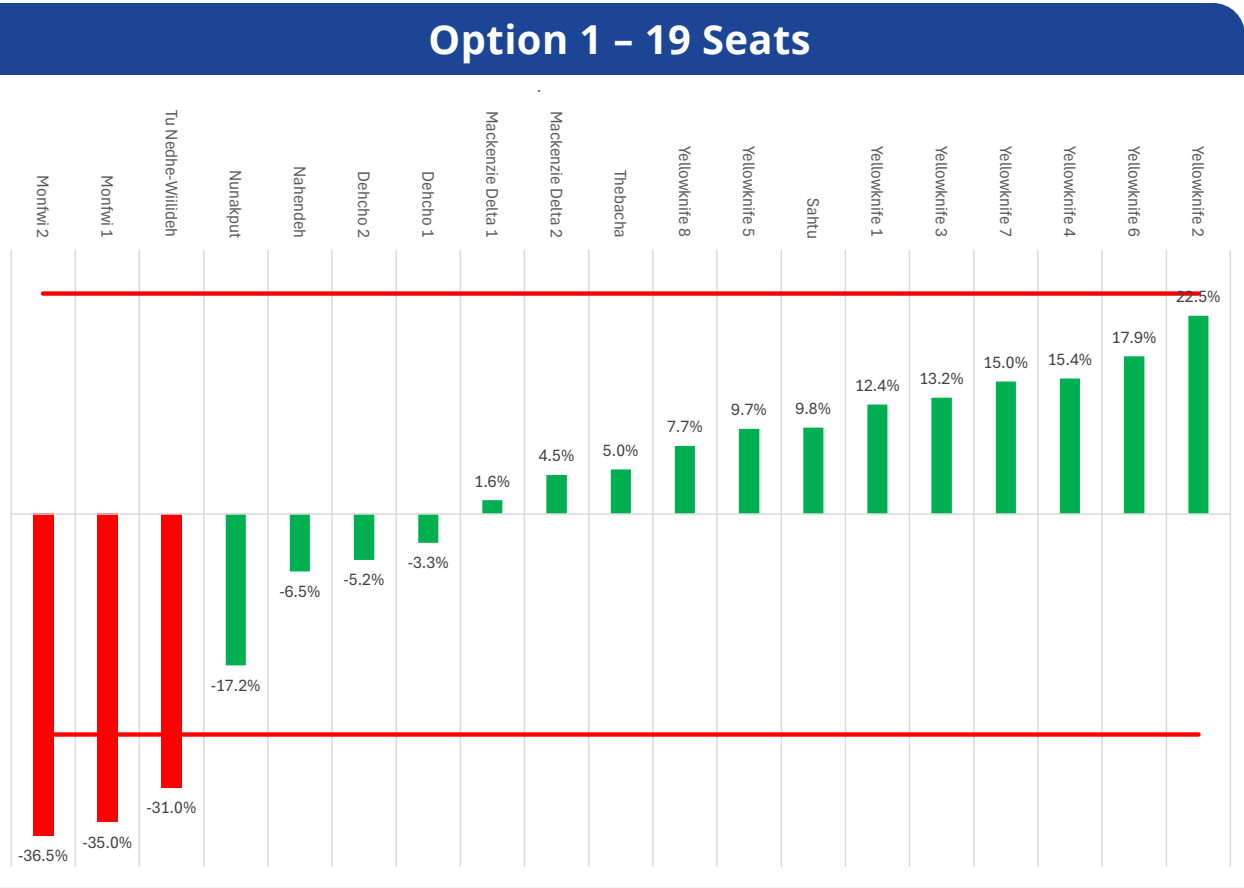
Option 1 – 19 District Model

As we highlighted above, the Commission concluded rebalancing the population of the existing districts was not workable. The Commission was still required by its mandate to produce a 19-district model. The Commission worked to develop a model where no district was underrepresented by more than 25%. This required difficult decisions and major changes to how some smaller communities are represented.

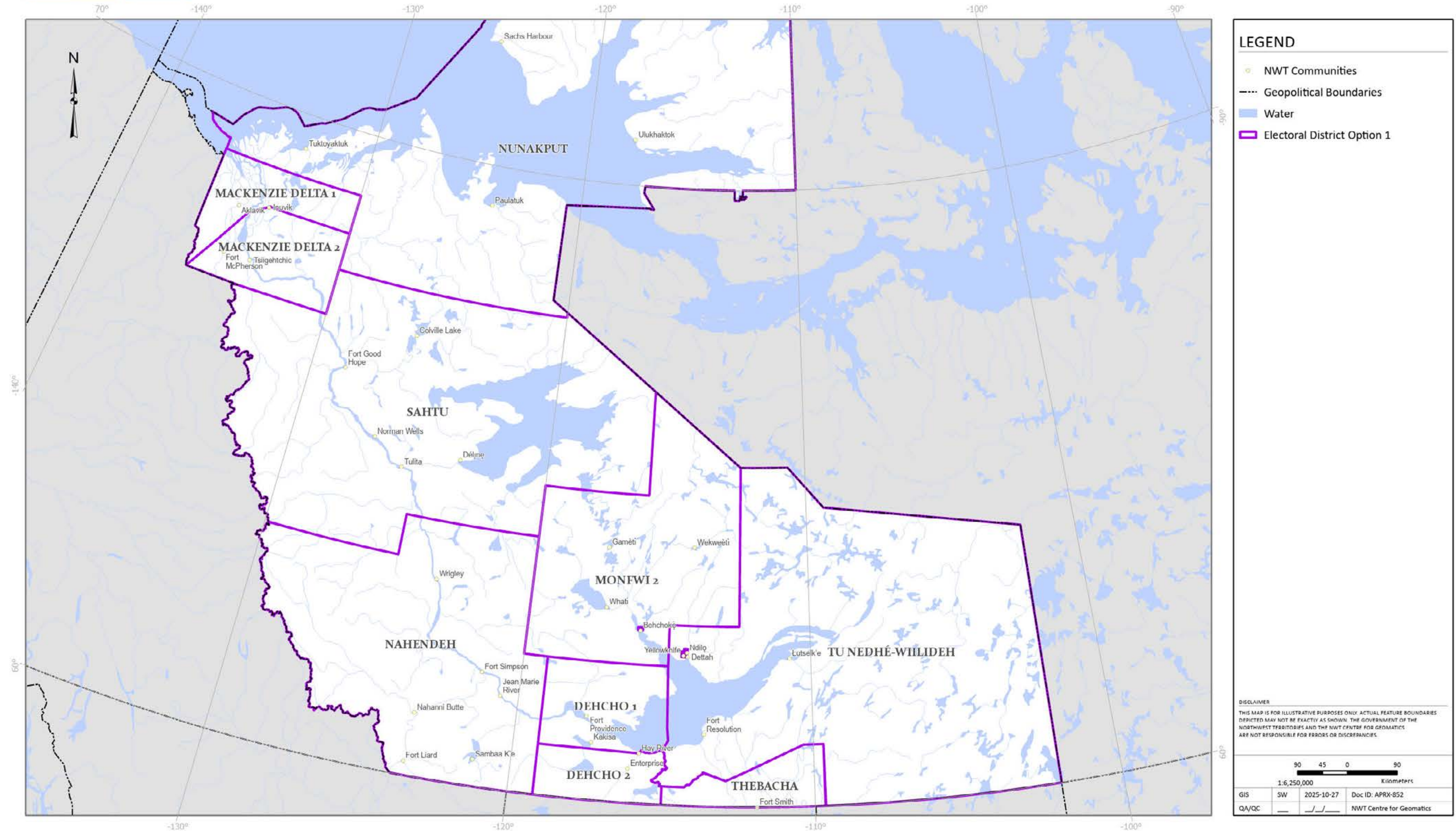
This 19-district model would add an additional district to Yellowknife, while re-drawing the internal district boundaries to recognize the exceptional growth in Yellowknife North since 2013, and splits the current Monfwi district: with the core area of Behchokò in one district, and a second district comprising Edzo, Frank Channel, Whatì, Gamètì, Wekweètì and Highway 3 east to Boundary Creek.

To keep the number of districts at 19, the Mackenzie Delta district would be merged with the two Inuvik districts, and the Dehcho district merged with the two Hay River districts. The Commission considered several alternatives, including dissolving Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, and merging Dehcho and Nahendeh, but determined these were the options that best achieved relative parity. While Hay River and Inuvik are both larger regional centres, they have close ties with the communities of Dehcho and Mackenzie Delta, respectively, with many people belonging to similar communities of interest.

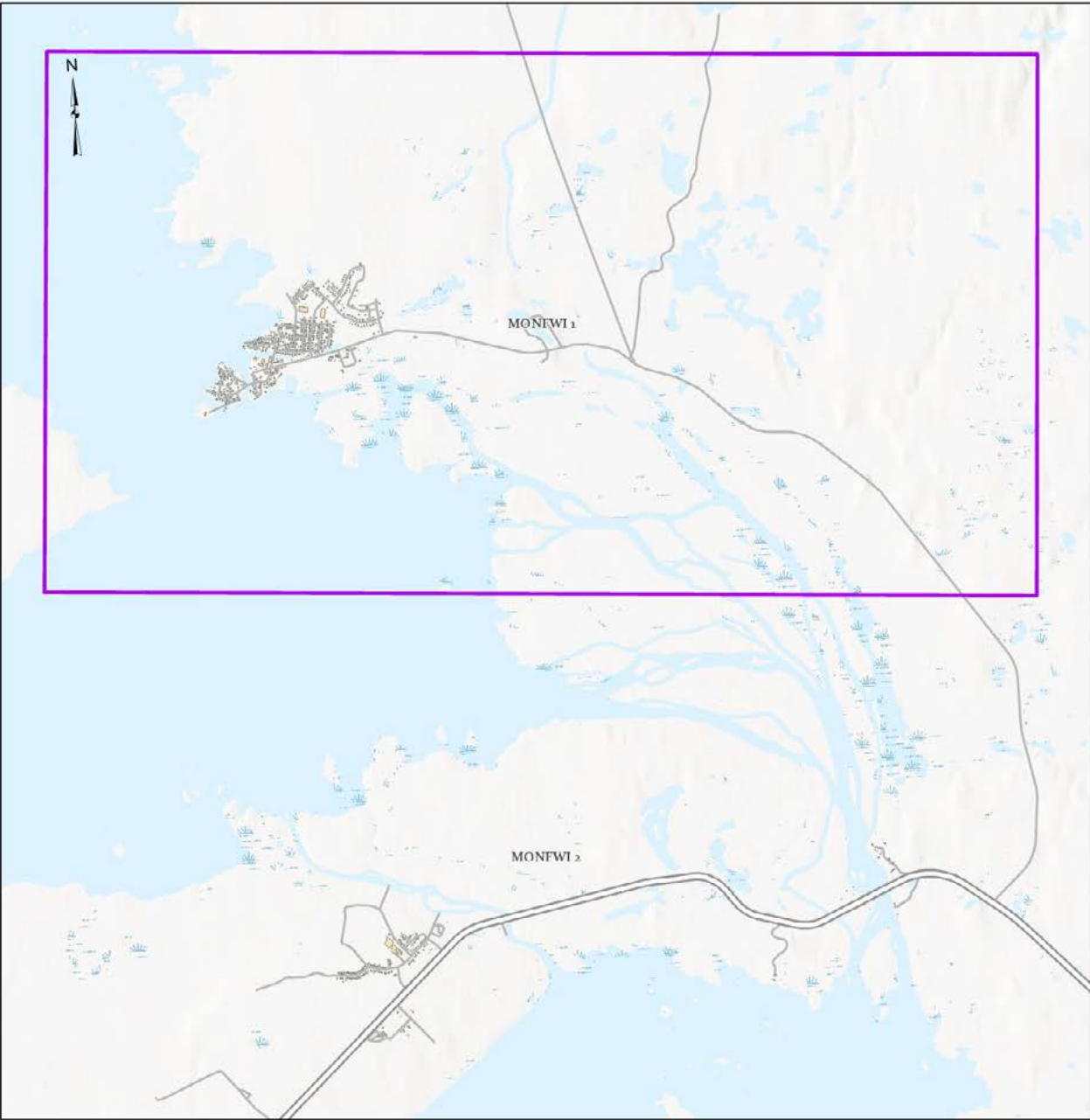
The Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh boundaries are expanded to include the Ingraham Trail, the Dettah Access Road, and the part of Highway 3 east of Boundary Creek, given that many of the permanent residents of those areas are members of Yellowknives Dene First Nation, particularly along with Dettah access road.



Territory - Electoral District Option 1



Behchokò - Electoral District Option 1



LEGEND

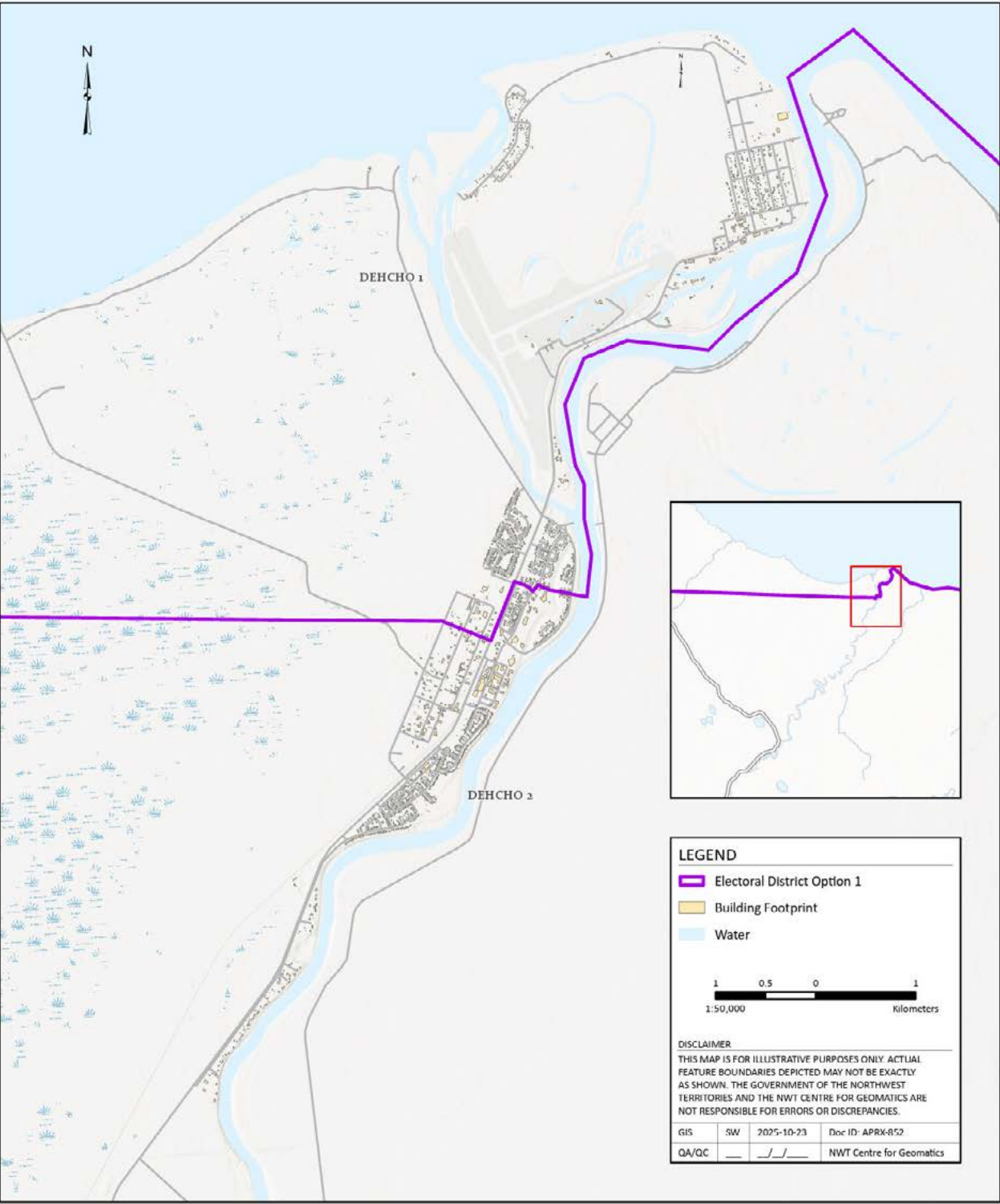
- Electoral District Option 1
- Building Footprint
- Water

DISCLAIMER

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Hay River - Electoral District Option 1



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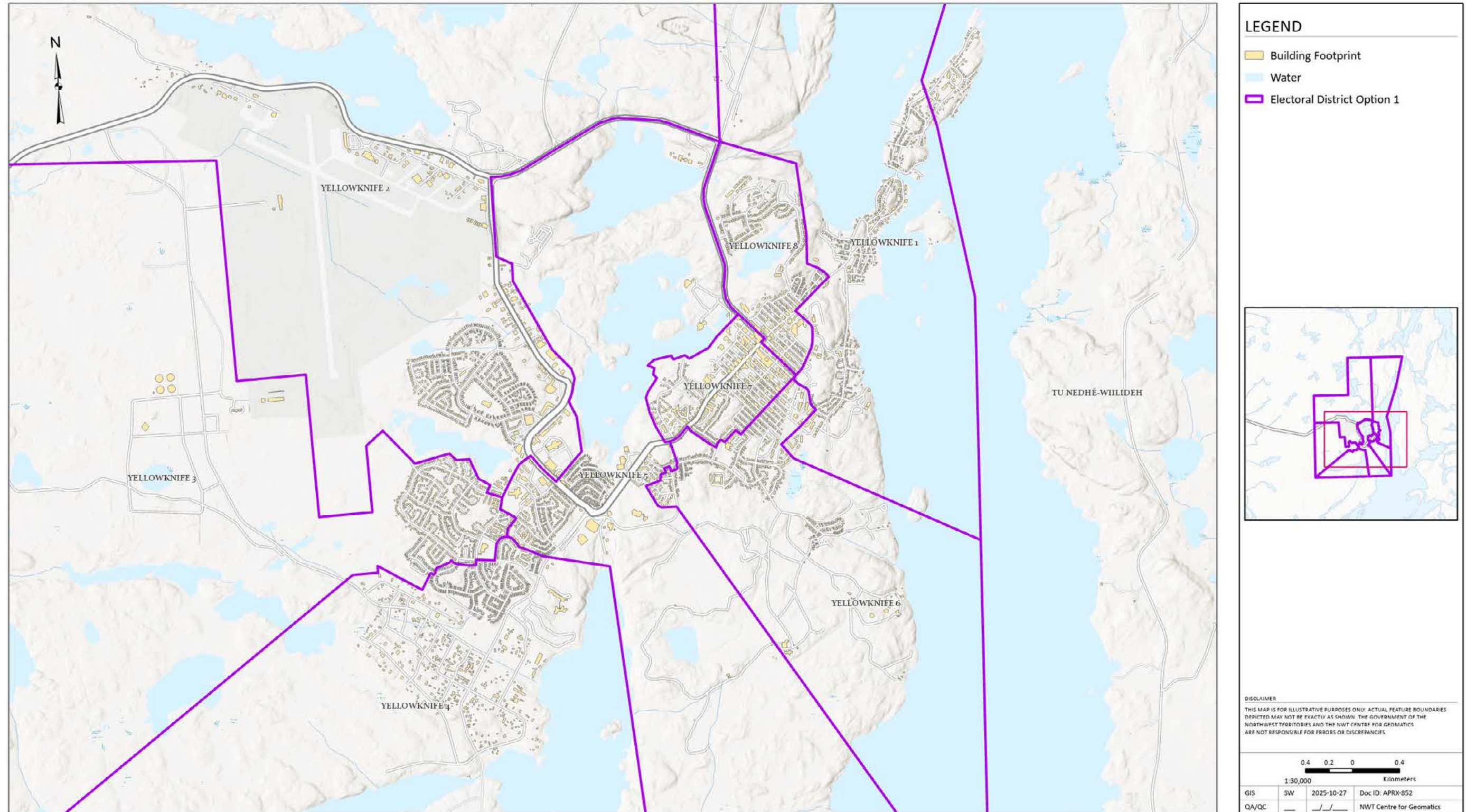
- Electoral District Option 1
- Building Footprint
- Water

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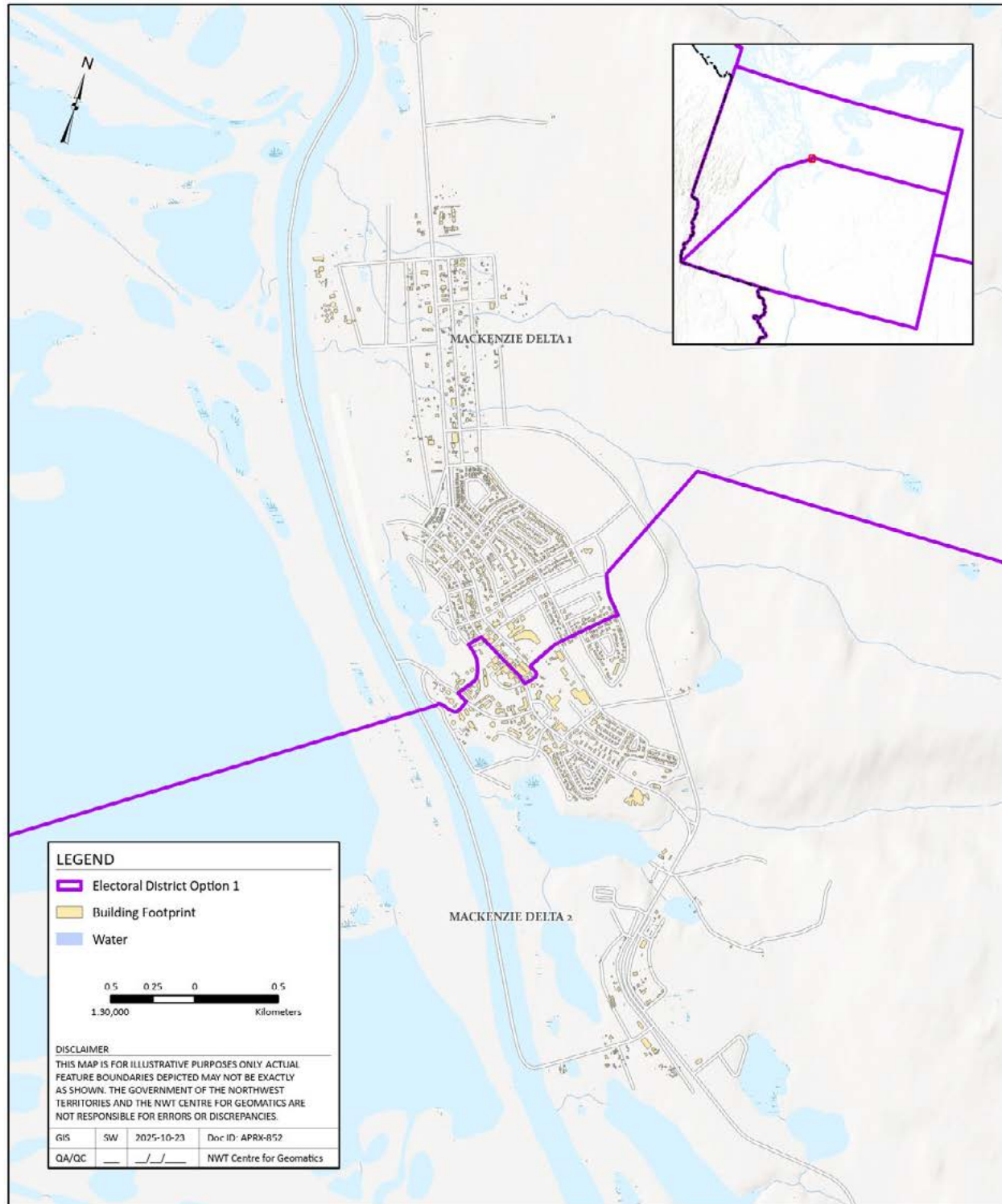
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Yellowknife – Electoral District Option 1



Inuvik - Electoral District Option 1



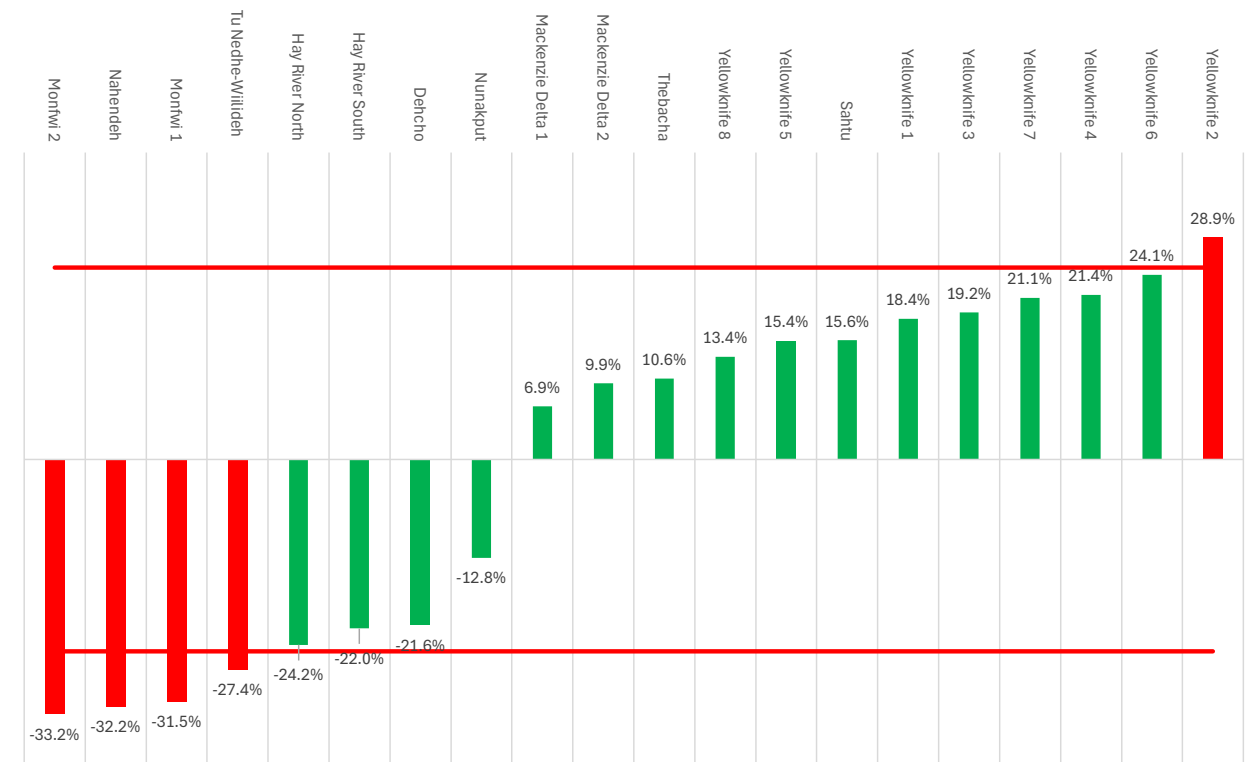
Option 2 - 20 District Model

A 20-district model has one district under-represented by more than 25%, which is what is currently the Range Lake district. This highlights the difficulties in dividing the population of the city evenly, and this was the closest parity the Commission could achieve without dividing down mid-points of streets or splitting apartment complexes between two districts.

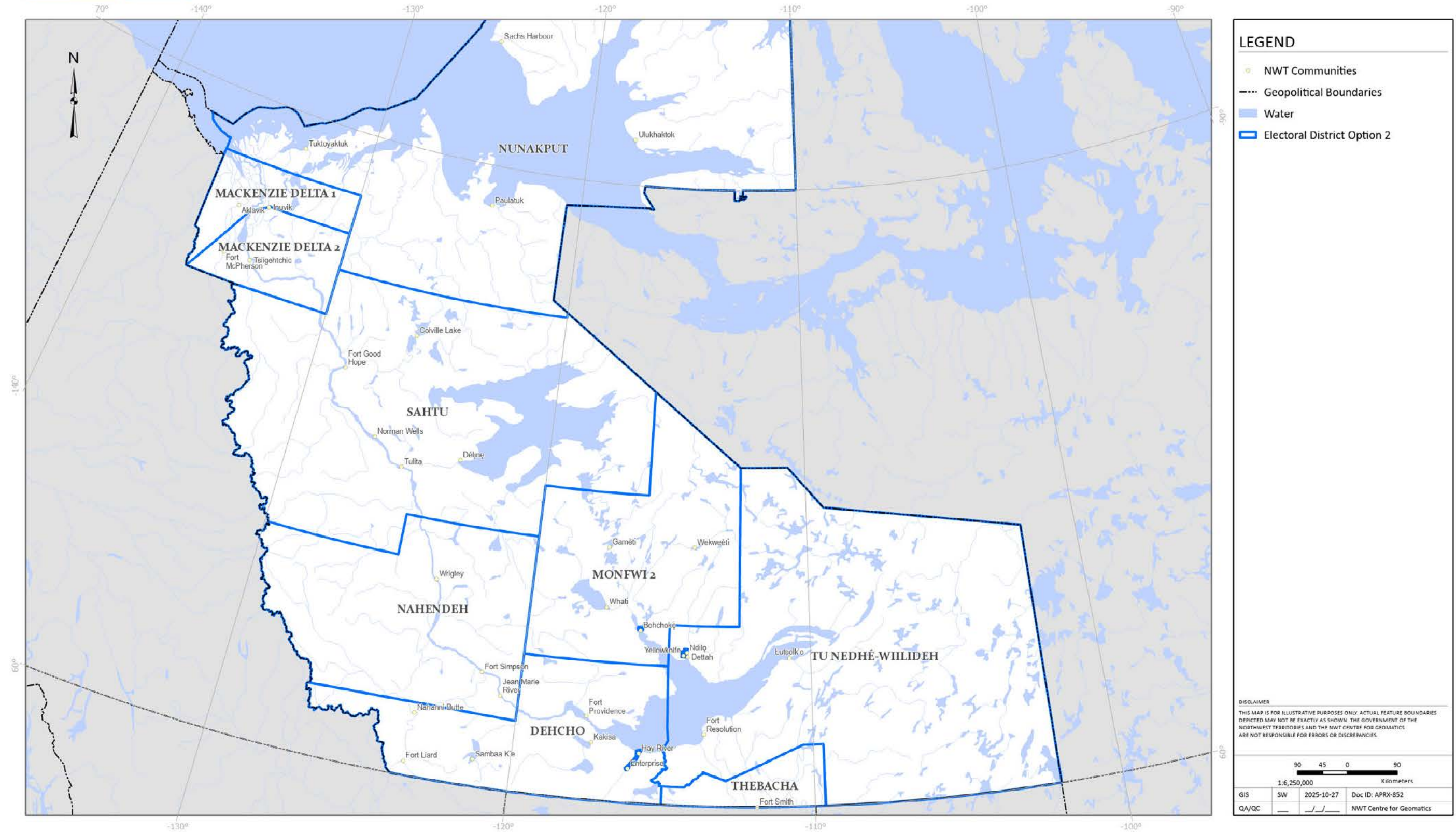
This 20-district model adds an additional district to Yellowknife and splits the current Monfwi district, with the same boundaries as the 19-district option. Mackenzie Delta is merged with the two Inuvik districts and the Tu Nedhé-Wilideh boundaries are adjusted using the same boundaries as the 19-district model.

Unlike the 19-district model, the Dehcho district is expanded to include Fort Liard, Sambaa K'e and Nahanni Butte from Nahendeh to achieve greater parity. Enterprise is included with Hay River, and the boundaries between Hay River North and South are adjusted.

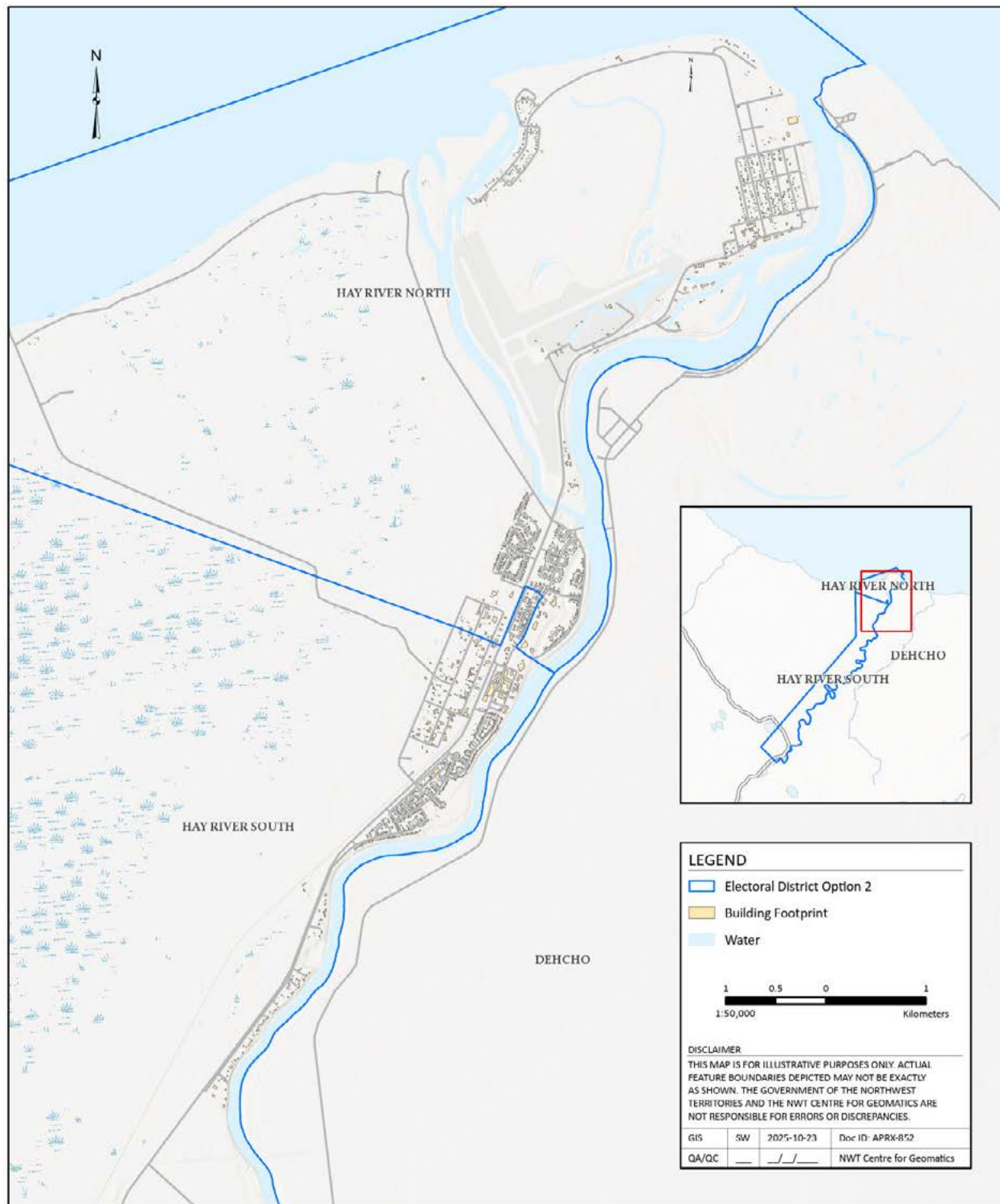
Option 2 - 20 Seats



Territory - Electoral District Option 2



Hay River - Electoral District Option 2



Option 3 - 21 District Model

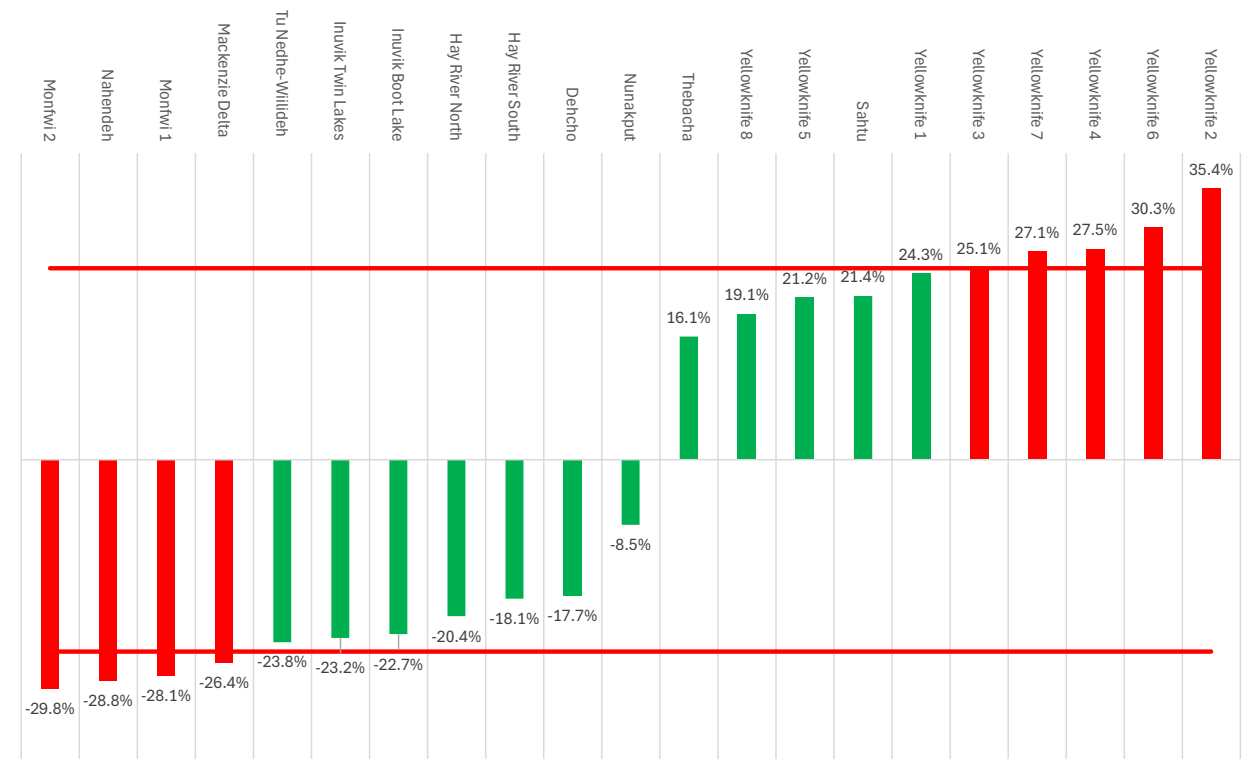
The 21-district model is identical to the 20-district model except it keeps the Mackenzie Delta district instead of merging it with Inuvik. Like the previous models, it includes an 8th district in Yellowknife and splits the current Monfwi district and adjusts the Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh boundaries using the same boundaries as the 19 and 20-district models. Enterprise is added to Hay River South, with population in Hay River redistributed.

The boundaries of the two Inuvik districts are adjusted. This model means five of the eight Yellowknife districts are under-represented by more than 25% with the remaining three being close to the maximum allowable threshold.

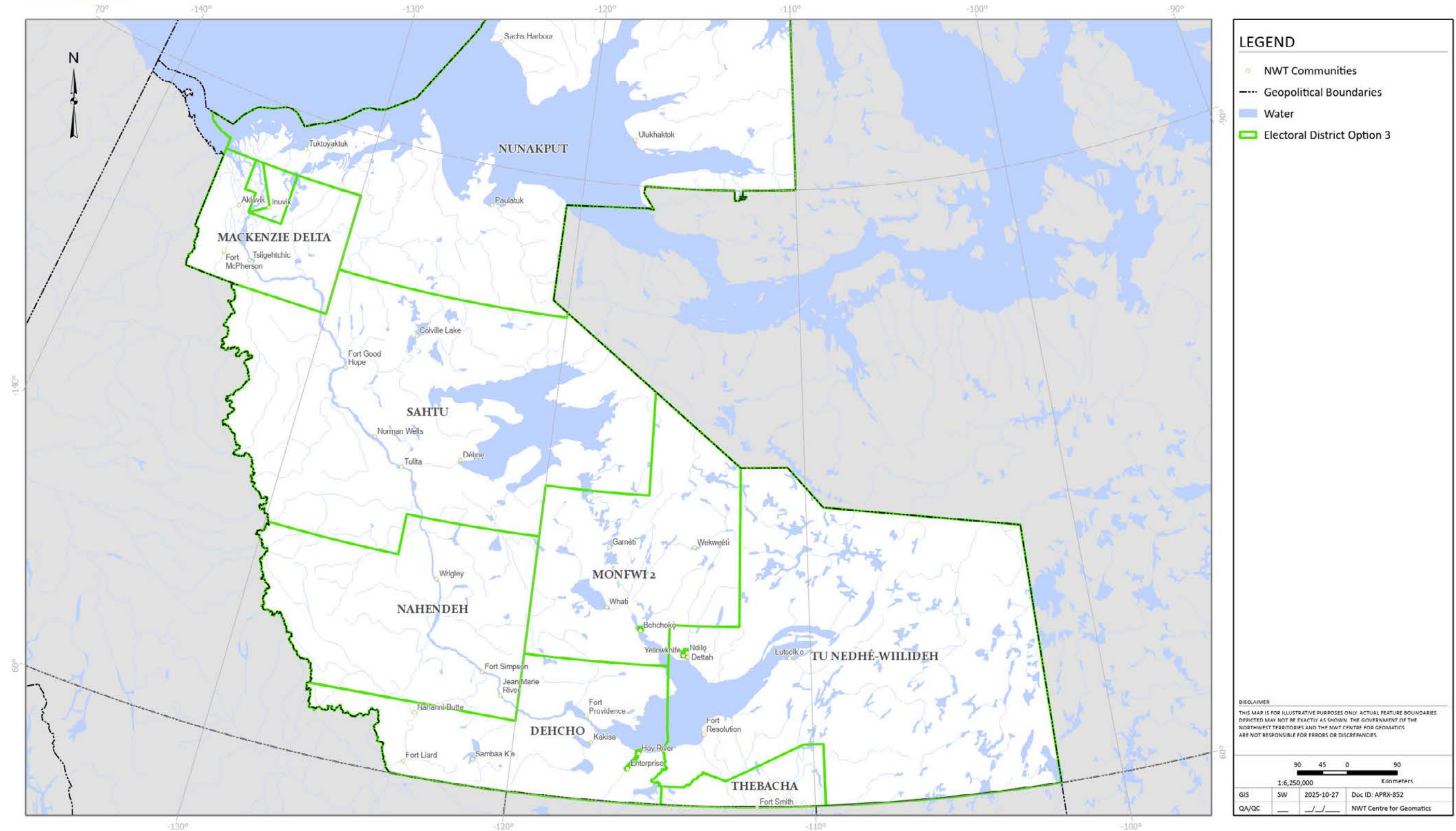
The Courts have determined that a maximum under-representation of 25% is justifiable, while under-representation exceeding 25% is only justifiable in exceptional circumstances. This standard applies not only to Yellowknife but throughout the NWT.

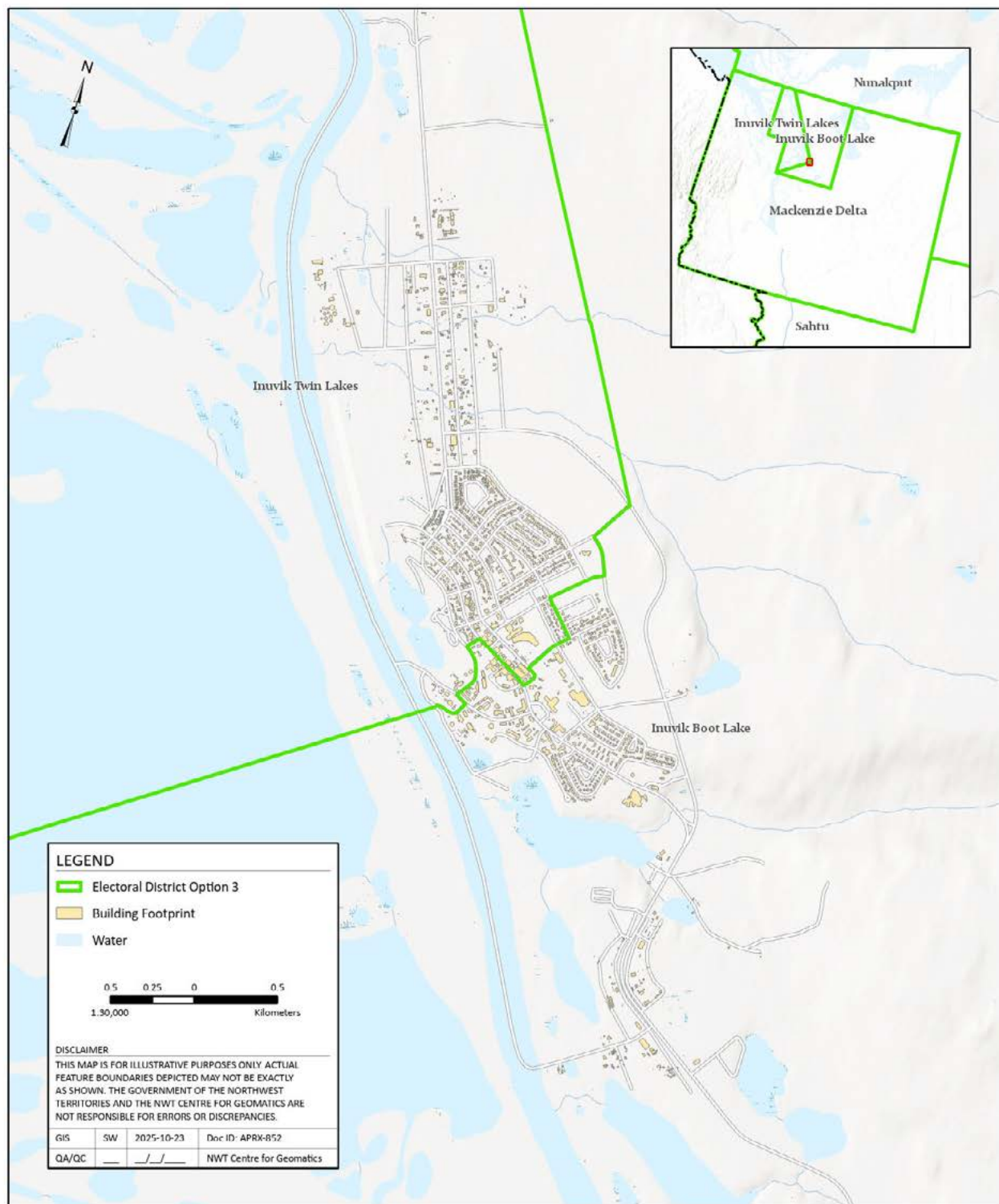
The Legislative Assembly has acknowledged this by incorporating the $\pm 25\%$ threshold into the Commission mandate, with efforts to minimize variances within this acceptable range. The 21-district model has an effective range of over 65%, from -29.8% in Monfwi 2, to +35.4% in Yellowknife 2.

Option 3 - 21 Seats



Territory - Electoral District Option 3





Option 4 - 22 District Model

A 22-district model takes the 21-district model and adds an additional 9th district to Yellowknife. This means Yellowknife gets two new districts, while Monfwi would be split as above, for a total of three new districts. Adjustments to Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, the Hay River districts, and the Inuvik districts remain the same from the 21-district model.

This model brings all districts within the +/-25% variation from the average that is the standard for effective representation except for three: Sahtu, which is slightly under-represented; Nahendeh and Monfwi 2 comprising Edzo, Frank Channel, Whati, Gamèti, Wekweèti and Highway 3 east to Boundary Creek are slightly over-represented.

The Commission believes these situations are exceptional circumstances and are justifiable.

The under-representation of Sahtu is unfortunate, however the five communities of the Sahtu are linked by a common land claim, culture, and transportation links. It would not be appropriate to combine them with communities from Mackenzie Delta, Monfwi, Nahendeh, or Nunakput. The Sahtu district also cannot be split without creating distortions in other parts of the NWT.

Monfwi 2 is similar in that it cannot reasonably be combined with Nunakput, Sahtu, Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, or any of the Yellowknife districts, and not dividing Monfwi would mean a much larger under-representation. The Commission decided to avoid dividing the core area of Behchokǫ in this option because it would cause confusion for voters.

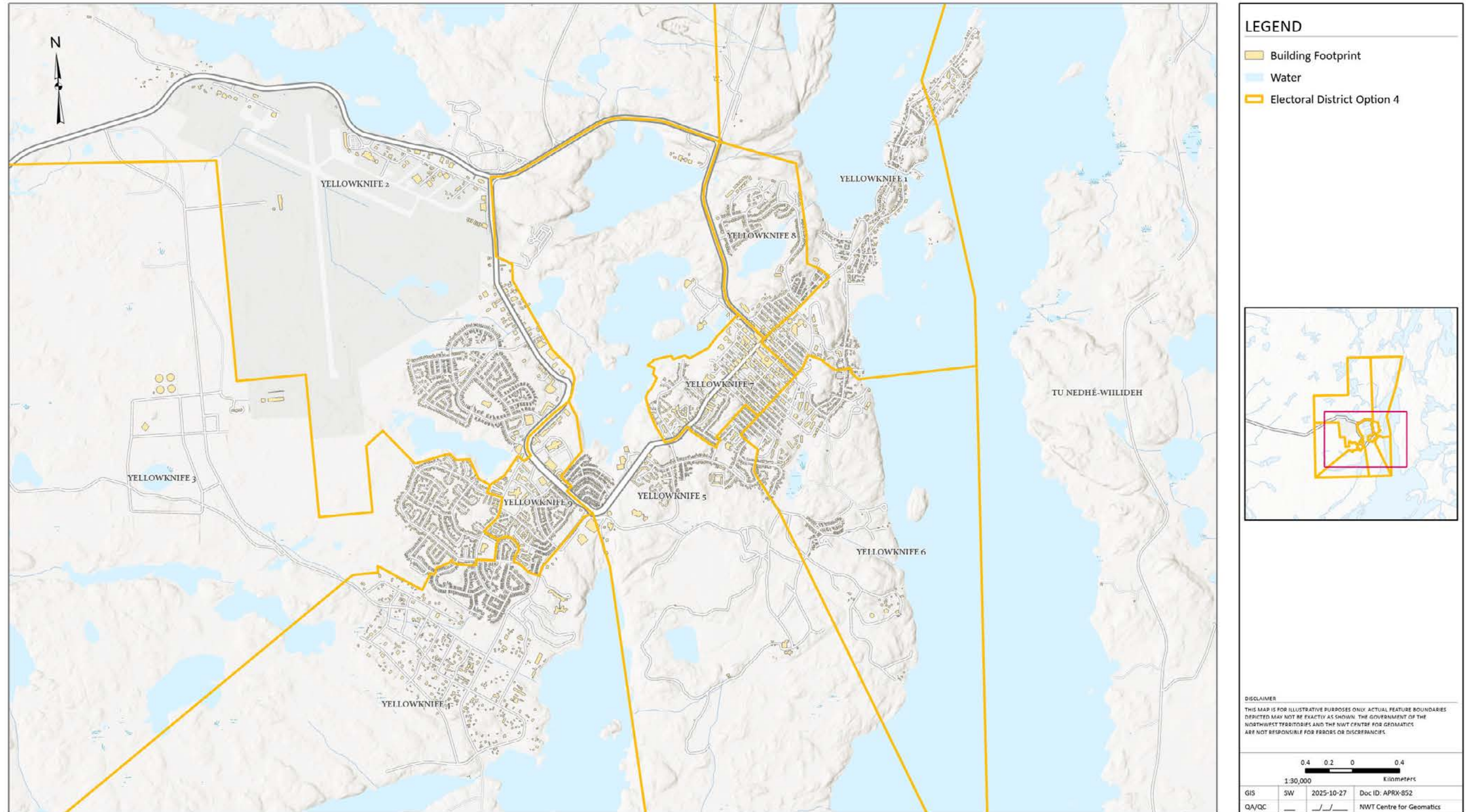
Whati has also been growing, and an increase of 31 people to this district would bring it into variance.

Nahendeh is out of variance in this model by 8 people. The Commission will use the 2025 community population estimates to make our final recommendations.

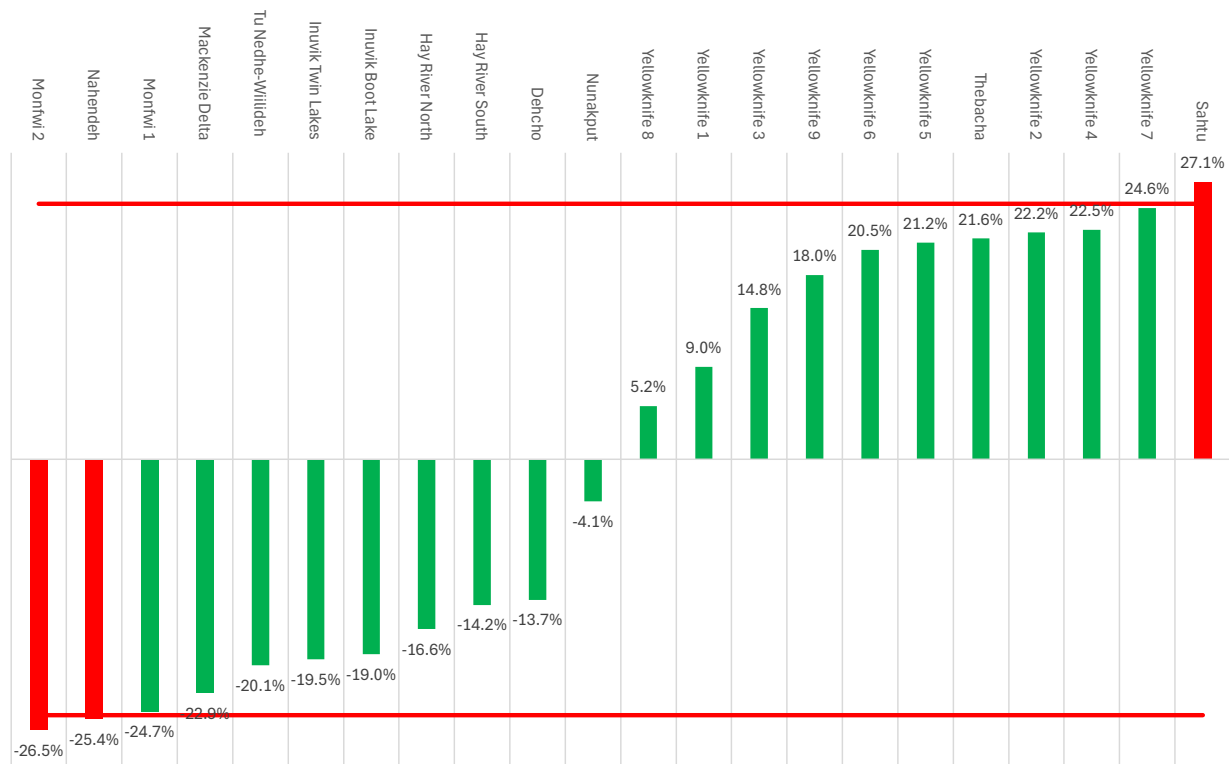
Territory - Electoral District Option 4



Yellowknife – Electoral District Option 4



Option 4 - 22 Seats



Electoral District Names

In addition to reviewing boundaries, the Commission is also tasked with considering the names assigned to each electoral district. Consistent with a general reconciliation approach, the Commission would like to hear whether some or all names should be changed along the following lines:

- ▶ Adopting names using words in the local Indigenous languages and correct diacritics.
- ▶ Avoiding or replacing outdated or inappropriate names (e.g., Great Slave or Mackenzie Delta).
- ▶ Appropriate names for any new electoral districts that may be created; and
- ▶ Using geographically consistent names (e.g., avoiding confusion between Nahendeh and Dehcho).

In developing its models, the Commission used generic names for Yellowknife districts, and any new or substantially changed district. The Commission's final report will include recommended names, and the Commission invites recommendations from individuals and communities on any suggested names.

There has been considerable interest in changing the name of the current Great Slave district. One option proposed in 2022 was Tinde'e, the Wilideh name for the lake. If a suitable Indigenous language name cannot be identified, the Commission suggests a generic name such as "Yellowknife Bay" should be considered.

The split of the Monfwi district would create a new district that needs a name. Past commissions have suggested the district encompassing Behchokò retain the name Monfwi, while the remainder of the current district be known as Wek'èezhii.

There are two existing districts whose names do not use diacritics that are commonly used in the spelling of those names: Monfwi, and Sahtu. The Commission welcomes any recommendations from those communities on how best to spell these names.

This report uses generic numbered names for districts that have been merged. We welcome any suggestions on appropriate names for Mackenzie Delta districts that include Inuvik and Dehcho districts that include Hay River.

NEXT STEPS

Public Engagement

The Commission will be travelling to many communities in December 2025 to hear directly from residents.

Schedule

Please consult our website <https://nwtelectoralboundaries.ca/> for the most up to date schedule and the communities we will be visiting.

How to Make Written Submissions

Online: <https://nwtelectoralboundaries.ca/submission/>

By Mail: Secretary to the Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission
c/o the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer
3rd floor, YK Centre East
#7, 4915 – 48th Street
Yellowknife NT X1A 3S4

By Email: info@electionsnwt.ca

Please note that with the uncertainty over mail delivery with Canada Post, the Commission recommends making written submissions using our website or by email.

CONTACT INFORMATION

An electronic copy of this report, as well as information on how to provide comments, is available on the NWT Electoral Boundaries Commission website.

To request additional copies of this report, please contact the Secretary to the NWT Electoral Boundaries Commission.

Mail: **Secretary to the Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission**
c/o the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer
3rd floor, YK Centre East
#7, 4915 – 48th Street
Yellowknife NT X1A 3S4

Telephone: (867) 767-9100
Toll-Free: 1 (844) 767-9100

Email: info@electionsnwt.ca

Website: <https://nwtelectoralboundaries.ca/>



SCAN THIS QR CODE to make a submission to the Electoral Boundaries Commissions

Electoral Boundaries Commission 2025

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Purpose

The Commission shall review the area, boundaries, name and representation of the existing electoral districts and shall, on completion of that review, prepare a report containing recommendations respecting the area, boundaries, name and representation of the electoral districts proposed by the Commission.

2. Guidelines

- The Legislative Assembly requires the commission the following guidelines:
- a. The Commission shall review the existing electoral districts using the most recent and accurate census and other population data available.
 - b. In keeping with Canadian constitutional conventions, relative parity between electoral districts shall be sought, to the extent possible, except where special circumstances warrant exceptional deviation.
 - c. For greater certainty, relative parity means that the percentage variation between the number of persons in a riding and the average mean should be within plus or minus 25 per cent.
 - d. In addition to whatever recommendations the Commission may propose for more than 19 districts, the Commission shall recommend how the electoral boundaries should be drawn if the Legislative Assembly were composed of 19 districts.
 - e. The Commission shall prepare an interim report with proposed electoral district boundaries for review by the public and discussion at public hearings.
 - f. The Commission shall establish a website or other publicly accessible mechanism(s), in addition to public hearings, to receive submissions on the existing and/or proposed boundaries.
 - g. All submission to the Commission shall be considered public documents.
 - h. Simultaneous interpretation of official languages shall be available at public hearings where the use of an official language in that region or community warrants the use of interpreters.
 - i. If the Commission is not able to fulfill its mandate within the budget allocated, it may return to the Legislative Assembly to request additional funds.

3. Composition

The Commission shall be composed of a chairperson and four additional members. They are appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly. The Chairperson must be a current or retired judge of the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeal, or someone who meets the qualifications to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeal.

4. Considerations

- The *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* requires the Commission, in preparing its report, the Commission shall consider:
- a. Demographic factors, including the sparsity, density or rate of growth of the population of any area;
 - b. Census data and other information pertaining to population;
 - c. Information in the register of electors maintained under the *Elections and Plebiscites Act*;
 - d. Geographic factors, including the accessibility, size or shape of any area;
 - e. Traditional names for geographical features, populated places and regions;
 - f. Community boundaries and boundaries established under land, resources and self-government agreements, including land claim and treaty land entitlement agreements;
 - g. Facilities for and patterns of transportation and communication within and between different areas;
 - h. Language, culture and any other special community or diversity of interests of the residents of any part of the Northwest Territories;
 - i. Special circumstances relating to any existing electoral districts;
 - j. Public input obtained by the Commission;
 - k. Any guidelines or criteria proposed for the consideration of the Commission by resolution of the Legislative Assembly; and
 - l. Any other similar and relevant factors that the Commission considers appropriate.

5. Report

The final report of the Commission complete with recommendations, shall be submitted in English and French to the Speaker and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, no later than nine months after the Commission is struck.

6. Finance and Administration

The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, in consultation with the Commission, shall identify a Secretary to the Commission. Pursuant to s. 6 of the Act, the Commission may engage the services of any persons necessary to assist in the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties under the Act.

The Speaker, on the recommendation of the Board of Management, will approve funding for the Commission. The Commission will ensure expenditures do not exceed the allotted funds. Total Allotment (remuneration and expenditures): \$150,000.00.

7. Remuneration

A Member of the Commission, including a Chair if they were appointed under s. 2(3)(b), (c) or (d), is entitled to remuneration for their services at rates determined by the Board of Management.

8. Termination

A Commission dissolves 60 days after its report is laid before the Legislative Assembly.



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES
COMMISSION

nwtelectoralboundaries.ca

