

# Written Submission

on the 2025 Electoral Boundaries Commission Interim Report

**Name/Nom** Rob Foote

**Date** December 3, 2025

## **Submission/Message**

After carefully reviewing the 2025 NWT Electoral Boundaries Commission Interim Report, I believe Option 4: the 22-district model, provides the greatest net benefit to the people of the Northwest Territories. This option achieves full compliance with the constitutionally accepted +/- 25% variance from average population across every proposed district, eliminating the need for any special justifications or exceptions that appear in the 19, 20, and 21-district models. With an average district population of approximately 2,033, it directly addresses the severe under-representation currently experienced in growing areas such as Yellowknife (where some districts exceed +73% variance) and the significant over-representation in smaller regions, thereby restoring true relative parity of voting power and upholding the principle of "one person, one vote."

At the same time, the 22-district model respects communities of interest, cultural and linguistic ties, land-claim agreements, and the practical geographic realities of our vast territory more effectively than the lower-number options, which require more disruptive mergers or continued imbalances. Compared to the current 19-district system, which the report shows is now constitutionally unsustainable in many ridings, Option 4 offers a fairer, more representative, and future-proof legislature without fragmenting small or remote communities.

While I recognize the legitimate concern about the modest additional cost of three more MLAs (estimated at roughly 0.05% of the territorial operating budget), this investment is negligible when weighed against the democratic gains of genuine voter equality and effective representation for all northerners. Both Yukon (21 districts with a similar population) and Nunavut (22 districts with a smaller population) demonstrate that this scale of legislature is workable and appropriate for northern jurisdictions.

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## on the 2025 Electoral Boundaries Commission Interim Report

I understand that cost pressures are very real in the current fiscal environment. For these reasons, I strongly recommend that the Commission adopt the 22-district model in its final report and, when releasing its recommendations, clearly communicate to the public that it carefully weighed fiscal concerns but concluded that the substantial and lasting benefits of voter parity and effective representation deliver a far greater net benefit to our democracy. Fair and equal representation is a cornerstone of our democracy, and Option 4 delivers it most completely.

Please feel free to reach out if you require clarity on anything.

Rob Foote  
Councillor, City of Yellowknife.