Written Submission

on the 2025 Electoral Boundaries Commission Interim Report

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Submission/Message

Adding more Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) isn't just about increasing numbers it's about strengthening representation and collaboration across the NWT. There is nothing wrong with having more people working on behalf of NWT residents. In fact, expanding the Assembly directly challenges the narrow idea that an MLA can and should "only" serve their own constituency. More voices mean broader perspectives, stronger partnerships, and better solutions for all communities. Let's not pretend that there isn't a legitimate concern that constituencies with very few residents would be impacted but I believe there are ways to mitigate that and without change the NWT is going to face a pretty bleak future.

The challenges we face today, climate change, economic uncertainty, and global instability don't respect constituency boundaries. They demand cooperation. Strengthening the connections between communities makes us more resilient. This doesn't mean every community needs or gets the same resources or support; it means that by understanding each other, we can respond more humanely to the needs of people living in the NWT.

We've already seen this in action. The 2023 evacuations taught us hard lessons about communication, supply chain vulnerabilities, and the importance of supporting one another. Despite the stress and hardship, those evacuations revealed who we are as a territory: interconnected and interdependent. Adding MLAs builds on that strength by ensuring more voices are at the table to help us navigate challenges together.
Of course, the fundamental principles of democracy support this change but beyond that, why wouldn't we want more people working to help us all? More MLAs mean more capacity, and potentially more collaboration (depends on the MLA of course), personally I would rather live somewhere that was trying harder instead of repeating the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result.