

Written Submission

on the 2025 Electoral Boundaries Commission Interim Report

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Date January 7, 2026

Submission/Message

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on potential revisions to the territory's electoral boundaries, and I appreciate the work that has gone into the proposed options laid out in the Interim Report. Of the options presented, I believe Options 3 and 4 are the only reasonable possibilities, with Option 3 the most appropriate (with some amendments). Option 3 adds needed ridings in Yellowknife and the Tłı̨chǫ region while limiting disenfranchisement of smaller communities, as seen in Option 4 with a 2nd new Yellowknife riding, while also mostly avoiding merging smaller communities into the larger community ridings of Inuvik and Hay River. This should be avoided wherever possible due to the vastly different realities between the smaller communities and regional centres - it is important that smaller community ridings remain, regardless of the +/- 25% variance goal.

Within Option 3, I would suggest a few revisions to riding boundaries that, while they may impact the over/under-representation of certain ridings, would better align with community and regional context. For example, while a 2nd seat in the Tłı̨chǫ region is clearly needed, separating Edzo from the rest of Behchokǫ and including it with the other 3 Tłı̨chǫ communities purely to better align with the 25% goal seems misguided. Extending the Dehcho riding all the way from Fort Providence and KFN to Fort Liard also seems like a stretch, particularly when it results in the Nahendeh riding then falling outside the 25% variance target.

Finally, the increased number of MLA's should not be a concern. The Yukon has 21 MLA's and Nunavut 22, and a small increase in the NWT would have meaningful benefits for representation in the territory.