

Written Submission

on the 2025 Electoral Boundaries Commission Interim Report

Name/Nom Robert Hawkins, MLA Yellowknife Centre

Date January 7, 2026

Submission/Message

Greetings & Salutations

I wanted to take a moment to comment on a few matters of observation.

INGRAHAM TRAIL ALIGNMENT.

Although your work thus far has not been easy, I would note, from conversations that I've had over the Christmas break, this has been the most contentious issue raised.

The residents of those areas have mentioned a concern that they feel better aligned in the Yellowknife districts, largely because of the types of issues and concerns they have which would be significantly different than community issues, and as such there is a high likelihood that those views and issues will often be at odds.

Therefore I ask that further thought be given to a homogeneous population balance and look to see if there are ways to bring that area into the proposed districts, Yellowknife 1 or 8, as they drafted are currently drafted.

CONSTITUENCY NAMES:

Where possible in riding districts which remain largely unchanged, whereby the lines may have moved slightly or have shrunk through population alignment, but the core of the district riding is still intact, I would recommend that those riding names remain the same (unchanged) as they currently are for consistency and practical reasons.

As to ridings that have largely split or viewed as new, I think this is a great opportunity to propose some suggestions to allow the conversation to move forward, and allow these new district names to better reflect and align with our community values whilst balancing considerations towards reconciliation.

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Under Option Numbers: 1, 2, 3

The four ridings I recommend the district names go unchanged

- Yellowknife 2 = Range Lake
- Yellowknife 3 = Yellowknife South
- Yellowknife 4 = Kam Lake
- Yellowknife 7 = Yellowknife Centre

The four ridings I recommend updating the district names:

- Yellowknife 1 = New Name
- Yellowknife 5 = New Name
- Yellowknife 6 = New Name
- Yellowknife 8 = New Name

Furthermore, when considering Option Number 4:

The five ridings I recommend the district names go unchanged:

- Yellowknife 2 = Range Lake
- Yellowknife 3 = Yellowknife South
- Yellowknife 4 = Kam Lake
- Yellowknife 5 = Frame Lake
- Yellowknife 7 = Yellowknife Centre

The four ridings I recommend updating the district names:

- Yellowknife 1 = New Name
- Yellowknife 6 = New Name
- Yellowknife 8 = New Name
- Yellowknife 9 = New Name

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MINOR OBSERVATION WITH RESPECT TO SOME OF THE CURRENT INPUT RECEIVED TO DATE:

Lastly, there have been a few outlier suggestions in this process, through submissions, that Yellowknife MLA's should be elected at large similar to how the city elects councillors. From my understanding, this does not fall within your mandate to address.

That said, as well intended as the suggestion may be, I felt it worthwhile to offer a brief comment and observation from someone who has served in four different Assemblies.

My immediate concern then becomes equitable balance of workload as a very glaring issue, and at the same time, the essence of resources to help address those demands. Furthermore, not all ridings in any particular Assembly are equal, however it would be very unfair that one or two MLAs ended up shouldering well beyond their fair share of the work. I could say much more, but I will leave it there.

Therefore, my recommendation would be that the commission be silent on this matter.

Thank you for your time, your hard work to date, as well as your consideration towards the comments I've made.