

Written Submission

on the 2025 Electoral Boundaries Commission Interim Report

Name/Nom Richard Andrew Zieba

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Submission/Message

I am a resident of the Ingraham Trail and I have lived at Pontoon Lake for 38 years. I strenuously object to the removal of the Trail from Yellowknife North. The proposal to include residents of the Trail into a predominately Indigenous riding contradicts the Commissions stated intent to organize ridings by communities of shared interest. Trail residents have very strong ties with Yellowknife. The large majority of Trail residents share common bonds of culture, language and economic interests with the city. We have significant differences from the Indigenous communities in the proposed riding in long term goals and aspirations, in particular the settlement of land claims. In fact, the aspirations of these communities regarding land claims could be substantially different from those of residents on the Trail. These communities also share a different relationship with the federal government which reflects a common bond not shared with Trail residents and is derived from their shared history and cultural background and political circumstances. I would expect that the MLA for the Tunedeh riding will be focused on issues affecting the Indigenous communities in the riding, to the detriment of Trail residents. It is important to note that the only political representation that Trail residents currently have is our MLA. The other communities in Tunedeh also have hamlet and band governments which also advocate on behalf of their residents. We have no such political bodies and this absence greatly increases the importance of the role our MLA as an advocate for Trail issues.

In summary, the proposal to subsume the Ingraham Trail into Tunedeh directly contradicts the stated goal of the Commission for ridings to reflect communities of common interest.