

Written Submission

on the 2025 Electoral Boundaries Commission Interim Report

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Submission/Message

Clearly representation is heavily biased in favour of small communities, and has been for a long time. Some bias cannot be avoided due to the need to recognize geographic and cultural representation factors, yet the degree of bias that has been tolerated is unconscionable, and in my opinion, to the detriment of all residents (and communities).

There are obviously sound reasons for the guidelines on fair representation, and the most critical one has to be promoting good decisions for all. In my experience, including 8 years in the legislative assembly, all people of the NWT would be better off if we adhered more closely to the population representation guideline. I have found Yellowknife MLAs to be very supportive of political decisions that benefit small communities, but with our historical weighting of ridings, all people have not benefitted as they might have.

Thus I support a modified version of option 4. Ingraham Trail residents should remain in a combined Yellowknife riding. A pooled election from all Yellowknife candidates should be put in place. This would allow all residents regardless of their cultural or other affiliations, to be able to approach the representative with whom they are most comfortable (likely improving effective representation, something that is key given their underrepresentation in the Assembly. This might week be a useful approach in other area, such as in the proposed Tlicho and Mackenzie Delta ridings.

Thanks for your ongoing consideration of these issues, and the opportunity to comment.