

Written Submission

on the 2025 Electoral Boundaries Commission Interim Report

Name/Nom Tłı̨chǫ Government

Date January 9, 2026

Submission/Message

This submission is further to the two engagements with Tłı̨chǫ that the Commission had in Behchokǫ and Whatì before Christmas and to the comments provided by Tłı̨chǫ Government at those engagements. Firstly, thank you for the hard work the Commission put into the Interim Report and for putting on those engagements so Tłı̨chǫ people could provide input and hear about the work done so far.

The Electoral Boundaries Commission is mandated to review the territory's electoral boundaries, the names of electoral districts, to hold public hearings, and make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly on boundaries and their names. You recommend to the NWT Legislative Assembly how the electoral boundaries of the Northwest Territories should be drawn both for 19 electoral districts and those that are newly considered by this Commission.

In reviewing the Interim Report, we note that of the four factors the Commission considers in its Interim Report, as it concerns the Monfwi Riding options, Tłı̨chǫ Government notes that among those 4 factors, two factors have been specifically addressed by Tłı̨chǫ Government in the past when there is consideration of the Monfwi riding: 1) Community of Interest and 2) Effective Representation.

Community of Interest

In terms of the Community of Interest factor, one needs to try to keep similar communities together and in the past, that has been a matter for the Monfwi riding. The Tłı̨chǫ are one people. That is our unity. That is in our Tłı̨chǫ Agreement and in our Tłı̨chǫ Constitution. Tłı̨chǫ Government would have concerns if any proposal would end up alienating one or more of our Tłı̨chǫ communities from the others by moving one or more communities into another riding or creating a new riding associated with non-Tlicho communities. We note that none of the options in the Interim Report seem to do that.

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Effective Representation

A second factor that is of importance in this process is Effective Representation. Electoral districts do not have to be perfectly equal in numbers, but courts have made determinations that if a riding has less than 25% of the average population, that riding is considered to be underrepresented and options can be considered. Noting that from the numbers produced in the Interim Report, the Monfwi Riding remains underrepresented by more than 25% of the average NWT riding, the 2025 NWT Electoral Boundaries Commission Interim Proposal is proposing in each of its options to split the current Monfwi district in the following way:

- o District 1: the core area of Behchokǫ; and
- o District 2: a second district comprising of Edzo, Frank Channel, Whatì, Gamètì, Wekweètì and Highway 3 east to Boundary Creek.

The Proposals

The proposals in the options appear to try to address the underrepresentation in the Monfwi riding by splitting it into two ridings, while keeping the two ridings associated with a combination of only Tłı̨chǫ based communities. The balance to be considered is one where Tłı̨chǫ would get the enhanced representation they are entitled to without affecting Tłı̨cho unity, which is the hallmark of our people and a central tenet of the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement. We thank the Commission for its attention to the two factors of Community of Interest and Effective Representation in its Interim Report and we support the efforts to meet the underrepresentation yet keep each proposed split riding associated with Tłı̨chǫ communities. Tłı̨chǫ Government would not support an effort to move a Tłı̨chǫ community to a non-Tłı̨chǫ riding as was considered in past reviews.

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Tłı̨chǫ Yatii

In the event of a decision to split the Monfwi riding, names of the new ridings will need to be considered. Tlicho Yatii (language) is a fundamental pillar of the Tłı̨chǫ cultural identity, our connection to the land, our governance and the transmission of Tlicho knowledge. In the event there is a decision to split the Monfwi riding, Tłı̨chǫ Government expects to be engaged in any renaming or new name consideration.

Once again, Tłı̨chǫ Government thanks the Commission for producing the Interim Report and for engaging with Tłı̨chǫ on it. We wish you all the best in your work.

This submission will be sent in letter form via email to: info@electionsnwt.ca

Masi, in Tłı̨chǫ Unity