

December 2, 2010

New electoral boundaries reflect Alberta's growing population

Edmonton... Alberta's electoral boundaries and the names of electoral divisions have been updated.

The *Electoral Divisions Act*, passed by the Alberta Legislature on Dec. 1, updates Alberta's electoral boundaries to reflect recommendations made by the arm's-length Electoral Boundaries Commission as well as changes made by the Legislative Assembly.

The new boundaries will come into effect when the next provincial election is called. Information about division boundaries and polling locations will be available from the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer at that time.

In 2009, amendments were made to the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* to establish a Commission and direct it to prepare recommendations to divide Alberta into 87 proposed provincial electoral divisions, an increase of four divisions. Alberta's population has increased by more than one-million people since 1986, the last time the number of electoral divisions was changed.

The Commission reviewed existing boundaries and population densities with a view to ensuring that representation in Alberta keeps pace with population growth. It had a year to conduct public hearings and do its research, and then provide a report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly with recommendations for the placement of electoral boundaries and names of electoral divisions.

The Commission completed this work in June of 2010, and its report included recommendations to update the placement of Alberta's electoral boundaries so they more effectively reflect the current population of each electoral division. The Commission's report also included proposed names for each of the 87 electoral divisions.

In June 2010, the Electoral Boundaries Commission's report was presented to the Assembly. On October 26, 2010, the Assembly debated the Commission's recommendations and approved the report but with changes to the recommended names of four electoral divisions. Bill 28 reflects the Commission's report as amended by the Assembly.

The *Electoral Divisions Act* repeals and replaces the existing act of the same name. A map of the electoral boundaries can be viewed at http://www.altaebc.ab.ca/FinalMaps/ALBERTA_11X17.pdf. Please note that during the passing of this Act, Dunvegan-Central Peace was changed to Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley. This change has not been reflected on this map.

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