

September 5, 2004
R.R. # 1
Vernon River, PEI
C0A 2E0

ATTN.: Electoral Boundaries Commission
P.O. Box 774
Charlottetown, PEI
C1A 7L3

Dear Commission Members:

Thank you for allowing us another opportunity to express view points on electoral boundary changes.

Recognizing that yours is a narrow mandate two of the changes you are recommending have my cautious support: [1] the separation of urban districts from rural in that cities/towns now have more "representative democracy" according to centralized populations and [2] the simplified name changes of districts.

While some commentators have pointed out the advantages to political parties with the proposed changes I have to disagree for several reasons. At the risk of being idealistic I am concerned that our democratized society is putting too much emphasis on meeting the needs of political parties as Mr. Hans Connor seems to do in his opinion piece [Guardian, August 27th] wherein he believes the role of political parties is to "generate interest from voters".

Voters, all of us, should and mostly do, exercise our voting privilege for the general public good, that is policies and programs that benefit ourselves, our families and the greater community. We try to elect people from our community to provide these "goods". Political parties merely represent groupings of people who share similar philosophies and values. We gave these groupings organizational structure which allow us the added strength of "block" voting for want of a better term.

However, under the "first past the post" electoral process and the competitive and costly nature of this system our needs for "general public goods" governing is failing us. Other democratized countries have recognized this and use alternative electing systems including varying forms of proportional representation along with the standard "first past the post". Mr. Conner and other proponents of the status quo, in this case "first past the post", should not be so hasty in dismissing the "noisy and hasty" P.R. movement.

There are groupings of citizens, rural dwellers particularly farmers, fishers and other primary resource involved folks, aboriginals, women, and minority groups that have too little representation in governments under the present electoral system. Tinkering with district boundaries does not and cannot address these failings. My vote still does not have equal impact to that of many others.

Edith Perry [Millview] [651-2180]