

This submission will comment on

- A) 25% variance
- B) communities of interest
- C) rural representation

On the issue of 25% variance, it is my understanding that this was adopted in the first place because P.E.I. has many small communities and rural areas. Your proposal goes too far on the variance factor. There was only a small number of districts over and under the acceptable variance. I would suggest that when you rewrite your report, you make more minor changes to those districts which need adjustment.

Frequent changes to electoral boundaries will confuse voters and discourage them from voting.

If in 10 years time, minor changes need to be made again, so be it. Let the variance factor do what it was intended to do. We cannot predict exactly where growth in population will occur. Many baby boomers of retirement age are relocating back home. This is becoming a trend. Many of these are moving to rural P.E.I. and I think this trend will grow significantly over the next 10 years as the boomers age.

### Communities of Interest:

Your proposal has chopped up communities of interest. For example in West Prince, we have 4 centers of commerce, Tignish, Alberton, O'Leary and Tyne Valley. The current districts for the most part include rural areas to their center of commerce.

People in St. Lawrence do not do business in Tignish, they don't go to church there, don't shop there, don't use the arena there, etc.

The same applies for West Point residents, they are attached to O'Leary, not Alberton. It would be very difficult to meet the needs of a district.

The Tignish area has a large Acadian population which is not the case in Miminegash, St. Lawrence, etc.

### Rural Representation:

Your proposal used the variance factor to weaken rural representation in government. For example, Western Prince County has 5 arenas and Summerside has 1 facility. If all MLA's were lobbying to upgrade their facilities, your proposal would have 4 MLA's lobbying for 5 arenas and 3 MLA's in Summerside all lobbying for 1 arena..

Let's not forget that our main industries of farming, fishing and a very large part of the tourism product takes place in the rural areas of this province.

A large part of rural P.E.I. also does not have municipal gov't and therefore becomes the responsibility of the MLA for all services.

Another distinct difference in rural P.E.I. is that the local MLA is the first contact with government for all services and inquiries.

In conclusion, I urge you to change your draft report to more accurately reflect the needs of rural P.E.I. The many small villages and towns dotting this province are what make this Island so inviting and beautiful. Their importance on the political map should not be downplayed or lessened. We drive much of the Islands economy and deserve fair representation.



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