

# Electoral Boundaries Commission of Prince Edward Island

O'Leary Lions Club Hall  
9 September 2004

Presentation by:

District 25 PC Association  
Mr. Dale Howard

## West Point - Bloomfield

District 25 PC Association would like to recommend that the Electoral Reform Commission secure current, accurate, up-to-date population figures so they can consider what impact district boundary changes due to population shifts may have for rural communities in this Province re: Page 72 of the Electoral Reform Commission report. This was part of their mandate that hasn't been completed.

We have information to support that the electors for District 25 are not accurate.

District 25 PC Association also recommends that the deviation quotient of 25 be able to be used to the maximum based on the past ten-year history. Eleven provinces of Canada use this as a deviation.

This will allow communities of interest to stay connected in rural parts of Prince Edward Island, see maps re: communities of interest - O'Leary Fire District, O'Leary Elementary and Bloomfield School district. These communities all access services in the Village of O'Leary - see Page 4 of the Interim Report #15. At least 15 communities are not connected in any way to the community where they access all their services if the proposed changes are accepted. It is equally important that these communities stay connected as well as the ones in the four large urban centres which already have strong organisations that are already established within those same boundaries (i.e.) mayor's and councillors. These fifteen communities have no one except their elected representative.

The majority of people in rural PEI have no one other than their government representative to lobby on their behalf.

District 25 is made up of industries that are major economic drivers in the Province i.e. farming, fishing and tourism.

In District 25 there are 300 km's of highway, which the local MLA tries to insure, those priorities are met and constantly follow up on requests by the local residents. In the urban centres the town does all this.

District 25 PC Association would like to also recommend that the district name and number stay the same.

We feel that the West prince districts can be adjusted and stay within the deviation as according to figures taken from the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Statistical Review which shows that Prince County has not shown a great deal of growth (re) page 75 of the Electoral Reform Commission Report.

Electors enumerated from 1996 to 2003 have only increased by 340 for all of Prince County. This information is listed on page #75 of the Electoral Reform Commission Report dated December 2003.

In 1994, the highest plus - minus +21.10 and -19.92. During the ten-year period only four of the twenty-seven districts were outside the -25. Three of these districts were out by less than 1 % with one being over by 2.67 %.

Five districts were over the +25 with one being less than 1 % and four over by 4.42% to 13.26%.

We are recommending that West Prince does not lose a representative by now reducing the deviation from as low as  $-.42$  to  $-2.61$  way outside the acceptable deviation across Canada of  $-25$ .

We would like to recommend that the West Prince Districts recommendations be incorporated into your recommendations so the communities of interest can be connected to the larger community (i.e.) like O'Leary, Alberton, Tignish, Tyne Valley and Wellington. This recommendation coincides with your guidelines on page 4 of the report #15.

It is very important that these communities of interest to stay connected.

Major industries and constituents will have a much stronger voice to present their concerns, which are vital to their existence.

Districts 23, 24, 26 and 27 are all well within the accepted range which was set in 1994 and have never went over the variance in the past ten years. According to appendix they all showed growth.

District 25 according to the information we have from the 2003 election is showing a  $-25.7\%$  less than one percent over the variance.

We feel people are just starting to get used to the new districts, voter turnout is high and changing the districts so drastically would have a very negative impact on West Prince.

**We recommend that only minimal adjustments be made to the boundaries taking into consideration the recommendations of the adjoining districts.**

Thank you for the time to present our recommendations.

Sincerely

Dale Howard

Member of District 25 Progressive Conservative Assoc.

**CHAPTER 7**  
**IMPACT OF**  
**DISTRICT BOUNDARY CHANGES**  
**ON**  
**RURAL COMMUNITIES**  
**DUE TO**  
**POPULATION SHIFTS**

The Commission was also mandated to consider what impact district boundary changes due to population shifts may have for rural communities in this Province. It is very difficult to make this assessment without current, accurate, up-to-date population figures. The 2001 Census figures shows a Prince Edward Island population of 135,294 and is already out of date.

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Statistical Review 2002 for the Province of Prince Edward Island as prepared by Economics, Statistics and Federal Fiscal Relations Division, Department of the Provincial Treasury, Province of Prince Edward Island, June 2003, states that the preliminary figure for the population of the Province as on July 1, 2002, was 139,913. Statistics Canada released revised population estimates on September 25, 2003, which show that on July 1, 2003, the population of the Province was 137,781. It does appear that the July 1, 2002 figure of 139,913, may be high and the July 1, 2003 figure released by Statistics Canada showing a population of 137,781 may be a more realistic figure. The problem with this figure is that at the time of preparing this Report, Statistics Canada had not released any breakdown figures associated with this population figure.

The figures in the following chart illustrate that the population of Prince Edward Island has not varied a great deal over the past eight years. These figures are taken from the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Statistical Review 2002 with the exception of the 2003 July 1 figure which comes from Statistics Canada.

**CHAPTER 6**  
**STATUTE REVIEW**

The Commission has, in the previous chapter, dealt with the area of Electoral Reform and the Charter in some detail. This was necessary as the Commission was mandated, among other things, to review all the statutes and associated regulations respecting the manner in which members of the Legislative Assembly are elected in this Province. It has also been asked to consider what impact (district boundary changes) due to population shifts may have for rural communities.

*never done*

*Summarized in the Peterson Report*

**ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES ACT**

One of these statutes is the Electoral Boundaries Act, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. E-2.1. This statute was enacted in 1994. It provides for the 27 provincial electoral districts that now exist in the Province and their individual boundaries. It also provides for the establishment of an Electoral Boundaries Commission after every third general election to review the electoral districts of the Province. The Commission is required to make a report to the Legislative Assembly setting out its recommendations as to the areas, boundaries, and names of the districts. However, the Act does not contain any provision setting forth what the Legislative Assembly must do with the Commission's Report. Presumably the Legislative Assembly may decide not to do anything with the Report. This does not present itself as a logical solution. Some direction should be provided whereby it is clear as to what is supposed to happen to the Report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission after it has been submitted to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and laid before the Legislative Assembly. There should, at least, be a debate on the Report and a clear explanation provided to the electorate of this Province as to why the Legislature took whatever action it did take.

It is important to note the wording of sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Act which

DEVIATION QUOTIENT	
JURISDICTION	QUOTIENT
Newfoundland and Labrador	± 10%
New Brunswick	± 25%
Nova Scotia	± 25%
Prince Edward Island	± 25%
Quebec	± 25%
Ontario	± 25%
Manitoba	± 5% South of 53 <sup>rd</sup> parallel ± 25% North of 53 <sup>rd</sup> parallel
Saskatchewan	± 5 South of dividing line Nil North of dividing line
Alberta	± 25%
British Columbia	± 25%
Yukon	± 25% *
Northwest Territories	± 25% *
Nunavut	± 25% *
Canada	± 25%

*provision with ± 25%*  
 //  
*Canada ± 25%*  
 - 25%

\* ± 25% is basically used in these jurisdictions but it does not appear to be legislated as such.

The Commission also points out that the boundaries of two of the present twenty-seven electoral districts do not conform to the statutory requirements, which stipulate that each county is or shall be divided into so many districts per county, as District Murray



# BLOOMFIELD ZONE

*Elementary School*







Province of P.E.I., Department of Provincial Treasury, Geomatics Information Centre

While this map may not be free from error or omission, care has been taken to ensure the best possible quality. This map is a graphical representation of Civic Address Locations. It is not a survey and not intended to be used for legal descriptions or to delineate exact dimensions or area.





WEST PRINCE

Tignish Elementary - Grades 1-6  
Tignish, St. Felix, Sea Cow Pond, Norway, Tignish Shore, Harper Road, Anglo Tignish, St. Roch, Nail Pond, St. Peters and St. Paul, Christopher Cross

St. Louis Elementary - Grades 1-6  
St. Louis, Palmer Road North, Cartier, St. Edwards, Ebbfleet, Skinner's Pond, Peterville, Palmer Road South, Waterford, Pleasant View

Alberton Elementary - Grades 1-6  
Alberton, Elmsdale, Alma, Kildare Cape, Cascumpon, Alberton South, Elmsdale West, Montrose, Kildare Central, Brooklyn, Rosebank, Greenmount, Union

Bloomfield Elementary - Grades 1-6  
Bloomfield Station, St. Lawrence, Burton, Fortune Cove, Glengarry, Bloomfield Corner, Roseville, Duvar, Mill River, Cape Wolfe, Brockton, Campbellton, Forest View, Roxbury

*There are  
not in 25*

O'Leary Elementary - Grades 1-6  
O'Leary, Derby, West Point, Mount Royal, Brae, West Cape, Coleman, Glenwood, Unionvale, Hebron, West Devon, Springfield West, Knutsford, Milo, Milburn, Woodstock, Alaska, Cartleton Lot 6, Howlan, Dunblane, Haliburton

Ellerslie Elementary - Grades 1-6  
Arlington, Northam, Victoria West, Mount Pleasant, East Bideford, Conway, Murray Road, Birch Hill, Foxley River, Harmony, Inverness, North Enmore, Freeland, Port Hill, Tyne Valley, Enmore, Poplar Grove, Spring Hill, Ellerslie-Bideford

M.E. Colleton Junior High - Grades 7-9  
Alberton, Alberton South, Alma, Anglo Tignish, Cartier, Christopher Cross, Ebbfleet, Elmsdale, Elmsdale West, Greenmount, Harper Road, Kildare Cape, Kildare Central, Montrose, Nail Pond, Norway, Palmer Road North, Palmer Road South, Peterville, Pleasant View, Sea Cow Pond, Skinner's Pond, St. Edward, St. Felix, St. Lawrence, St. Louis, St. Peter and St. Paul, St. Roch, Tignish, Tignish Shore, Union, Waterford

Hernwood Junior High - Grades 7-9  
Alaska, Arlington, Birch Hill, Bloomfield Station, Bloomfield Corner, Brae, Brockton, Brooklyn, Burton, Campbellton, Cape Wolfe, Cartleton Lot 6, Cascumpon, Coleman, Conway, Derby, Dunblane, Duvar, East Bideford, Ellerslie-Bideford, Enmore, Forest View, Fortune Cove, Foxley River, Freeland, Glengarry, Glenwood, Haliburton, Harmony, Hebron, Howlan, Inverness, Knutsford, Mac Neils Mills, Milburn, Mill River, Milo, Mount Pleasant, Mount Royal, Murray Road, Northam, North Enmore, O'Leary, Poplar Grove, Port Hill, Rosebank, Roseville, Roxbury, Springhill, Springfield West, Tyne Valley, Unionvale, Victoria West, West Cape, West Devon, West Point, Woodstock

West's Composite High - Grades 10-12  
Shall serve as the former school districts in West Prince

Another source of statistics for the purpose of this analysis is the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Prince Edward Island for the Provincial Elections. These Reports for the Provincial General Elections for the years 1996 and 2000 give the number of electors enumerated and the number confirmed for 2003.

ELECTORS ENUMERATED				
	COUNTIES			
ELECTION YEAR	KINGS	QUEENS	PRINCE	TOTAL
1996	13,810	48,966	31,239	94,015
2000	13,932	48,928	31,237	94,087
2003	13,855	51,726	31,579	97,180

31,579  
31,237  
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340

Once again, these figures do not show much change. Both Prince County and Kings County have remained relatively the same for the past three elections while Queens County has shown modest growth. It is curious as to why there was an increase of 3,093 electors in the 2003 election over the 2000 election when the 1996 and the 2000 elections both had about the same number of electors despite the fact the population figures showed an increase of 2,163 people in 2000 over the 1996 figures while the population figure for July 1, 2003 shows a decrease of 560 people from the year 2000. The following chart helps illustrate these figures.

YEAR	POPULATION	ELECTORS
1996	136,188	94,015
2000	138,341	94,087
2003 July 1	137,781	97,180