

Good evening

My name is Gardiner MacNeill and I represent the Progressive Conservative Association of District 21, Wilmot -- Summerside. I would like to thank the Commission for this opportunity and commend you for your work on the difficult task ahead.

Our Association recognizes a need to reform the representation for the City of Summerside. At the present time, there are two MLA's representing a good portion but not the entire City. We would suggest that the Electoral Boundaries be redefined to have them come in line with the established municipal boundaries of the City of Summerside.



According to the mandate of the Commission this review is to consider:

1. Existing polling divisions;
2. Communities of interest;
3. Municipal boundaries;
4. The balance of voters such that the number of electors shall not be greater than 25% above or below the average number of electors, currently 3600;

According to the general Election Enumeration Data Sheet showing 1994 -- 2003 numbers the growth of District 21 over the past 10 years is 15.2%. Our District is currently the third highest above average District on the Island at +32%. Our neighboring

Districts of 20 and 22 are at +25% and +16% respectively.

According to Enumeration data for 2003, the majority of voters on Prince Edward Island live in the rural areas. Of the urban areas, Charlottetown with six (6) representatives has 24% of the Island electors and Summerside with two (2) representatives is the next with 11% of the Island electors.

Currently, the voting population of Summerside is 10,427 according to this same enumeration data of 2003. However the combined voting population of Districts 21 and 22 is 8942. By realigning the electoral boundaries with the established municipal boundaries of the City of Summerside, we would see

the addition of the 1240 residents of Lefuegy Subdivision, Reads Corner, Small Avenue, Meadow Heights and a small area of land located between West Drive, South Drive and Route #2. Bringing the total voting population to 10, 182 or an average of 3400 voters for each of three (3) MLA's, allowing room for future growth

Our suggestion is to have the City of Summerside representation expanded to three (3) MLA's. This extra seat would allow for better representation on Government committees, better consultation with residents within the City boundaries, and this extra seat would also allow one member to focus on the downtown area.

We believe that this realignment would:

1. Bring a better balance to Summerside's representation;
2. Slightly reducing the pressure on the voter population of District 20;
3. Help to eliminate voter confusion of which district they are in;
4. Help to eliminate duplication of municipal and provincial services, such as enumeration, thus saving taxpayer dollars.

In closing, on behalf of the Executive of District 21, I thank you for your time and consideration.

