

Brief to the Electoral Boundaries Commission of PEI

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Mr. Justice McQuaid, Mrs. Hubley, Mr. Mitchell and fellow Islanders.

After having listened to media reports and comments from the general public, I feel my Obligation as an Islander and voter is to respond to this commission with my concerns. I would like to start by thanking Mr. Justice McQuaid and his commission for their time and effort into these hearings and reports. The Commission has had a large number of recommendations made to them. I feel we are trying to go to far too quickly. We must slow this process in reason of fairness to rural PEI. The two largest centers are already well represented with large municipal councils and a large percentage of government services available with in a ten mile radius. Why do they need an extra MLA? As it stands at the present time MLA's are out of their district a large amount of the time for meetings , government and party affairs. For an MLA from western PEI to attend a meeting in Charlottetown they would be out of the district four hours alone just for travel. A Charlottetown MLA would be less than ten minutes travel. Cabinet Ministers spend even less time in their districts.

The traditional strength of the Island economy is in farming and fishing. To sustain the work force for these industries we must be well represented in rural PEI. If the commission goes ahead with its recommendations Rural PEI will diminish and Prince Edward Island already a have not Province will only accelerate.

The number one concern I have is living in a democratic country we have seen lower voter turn out the past several elections. Voter turn out will most likely continue to

decrease. If this happens we will no longer be in accurate democratic society because less than 50% of people will be making decisions for the majority.

I think we are putting too much emphasis on the 25% variance. The variance was put in place to give rural PEI maximum representation possible in the legislative assembly. I feel the commission has not recognized the importance of this variance and the reason it was established. In closing the Electoral commission should respect communities of interests and follow the school act. The consolidated school districts were established after many years of study and consultation. These should be respected.

Thank very much for reading this submission. PEI consists of all communities from North Cape to East Point Lot 1 was in North Cape and why are we trying to change the mapping District one should be North Cape. I would hope the commission keeps this in mind for their final recommendations.

Respectfully submitted ,

Emmerson McMillan

