

## **Presentation to The Prince Edward Island Electoral Boundaries Commission**



Heidi Mountain  
Kensington

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As a concerned citizen of the general public, I have reviewed the information published by the Prince Edward Island Electoral Boundaries Commission on the Internet. Section 17 of the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act requires the commission to consider:

The Charter of Rights and Freedoms  
Enumeration data from the most recent election  
Polling divisions from the most recent election  
Geographical features  
Population patterns  
Community of interest  
Municipal boundaries, and  
Other factors the Commission regards as relevant.

This Act also states that the limit of electors in each district shall not be more than 25% above or 25% below the average number of electors for the entire province.

The enumeration data published by the Commission for the recent general election of September 29, 2003, states that Kensington-Malpeque (District 20) had 4,520 electors while the average electors in the province stands at 3,599, making Kensington-Malpeque above the variance at 25.6%. Therefore, the boundaries need to be changed in order to adjust the variance.

The boundaries of the district should be adjusted to reflect an entirely rural voting district. By doing these necessary changes, the neighbouring districts of Wilmot-Summerside, St. Eleanor's-Summerside, and Evangeline-Miscouche, would also be affected by these changes in accordance to their boundaries. District boundaries should never be divided by counties or township lots; they should only be divided by roads and municipal boundaries.

My personal recommendations are as follows: the polling divisions of Read's Corner, Small Ave, and Hillside Ave; which are currently in Kensington-Malpeque; should be moved into the neighbouring district of Wilmot-Summerside. The boundaries should also be adjusted so that the City of Summerside boundaries are excluded altogether from Kensington-Malpeque.

In order to make all of these boundaries work, Wilmot-Summerside should represent eastern Summerside, the south-eastern part of Sherbrooke, and the former communities of Read's Corner and Wilmot. St. Eleanor's-Summerside should represent western Summerside, the south-western part of Sherbrooke, and the former communities of St. Eleanor's, Slemon Park, and North St. Eleanor's. A new district, that I would recommend the name of Sherbrooke-Summerside should represent the central and downtown areas of Summerside along with the south-central part of Sherbrooke. Evangeline-Miscouche should represent the community of Linkletter as part of the change. The existing polling stations would have to be adjusted also in order to make this change.

Another change that I would make to Kensington-Malpeque is to re-adjust the polling station boundaries. I had the opportunity to volunteer on election day by working at the polling station that represents my area and I was encountered by much confusion among the voters; a lot of the voters didn't know what poll that they were supposed to vote in because of confusing polling station boundaries. Again, the polling stations should be re-aligned so that they are divided by roads instead of township lots. By making the changes that I have recommended above would make election days go more smoothly for the voters instead of having all of the confusion that I have encountered on this past election day.

Thank you for inviting my comments on the provincial electoral boundaries. I, along with other concerned residents of the Town of Kensington and of the remaining parts of Kensington-Malpeque, would like to have an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed boundaries after the Commission has made some preliminary determination of what the new boundaries will be and before the Commission issues its' final report.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi Mountain  
Kensington  
March 3, 2004