

# *Community of O'Leary*

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Ladies and Gentlemen, as Chairperson of the Community of O'Leary, I would like to give a brief outline of the concerns we have in regards to the changes of the electoral boundaries as outlined in the Interim Report of the PEI Electoral Boundaries Commission.

Firstly, it will be the loss of one representative from Western PEI (from Tyne Valley West) in the PEI Legislature. We feel that even at the present time, our concerns and interests, with four MLA's, have minimal impact on decisions made by governments. This would be further negatively impacted with only three MLA's from West Prince.

Secondly, it appears that the commission formed the new boundaries on a numbers formula only with little regard on how communities would be affected. Two examples are: Knutsford would be in District 2 and O'Leary would be in District 3. The Community of O'Leary services Knutsford in regards to fire protection and schooling as two examples. Also if we are ever going to expand our boundaries, we would definitely

be looking to Knutsford as one possibility. The Community of O'Leary would then be included in two ridings. And yes this is the case in our two Island cities. But we must remember that our cities have large municipal governments with numerous full time employees who handle the vast majority of the business of these cities. Our small municipalities are managed by only a few of paid employees (in O'Leary, this is 3) with councils governed by volunteers who have other full time jobs. So in O'Leary we would be dealing with two MLA's instead of one in moving project forward. Also O'Leary would be in the same district as Tyne Valley whereas there is not the same strong community connection as we have with Bloomfield, West Point, Cape Wolfe at the present time. These communities would now be in the same district as the municipality of Alberton. They do not have the connection with Alberton as they do with O'Leary. We agree that some changes can be done on the present outlying areas to bring the numbers to a more even position without this total disruption to West Prince and without the loss of a representative.

We hope that our concerns will be considered in the final decisions made that we affect future generations.