

18 January, 2013



To the Residents of the Northwest Territories:

In Canada, we live in a democracy where citizens elect their representatives.

Representation is fundamental to electoral democracy. Citizens elect their representatives from geographic constituencies. The shapes of these constituencies – known as electoral districts or ridings – are determined when electoral boundaries are drawn.

The Legislative Assembly appointed us to review the electoral boundaries of the Northwest Territories. This review is to ensure that all northerners are meaningfully represented in the Legislative Assembly.

The Legislative Assembly asked the Commission to recommend how the electoral boundaries should be drawn if there are 18, 19, or 21 electoral districts.

As part of the review of the electoral boundaries, we have prepared this Interim Report which contains a set of proposals for the electoral boundaries of the Northwest Territories.

The Commission wants to know what northerners think about the electoral boundaries proposed in this Interim Report. There are multiple ways for northerners to comment on these proposals.

Public Hearings: Speak at a public hearing between February 4th and March 13th in communities across the territory.

Online: Submit comment on-line at www.nwtboundaries.ca

Letters: Send a letter to the Commission (see page 28 for contact information).

Your input is an important part of this process, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Hon. Justice Shannon Smallwood

Chairperson

Mr. Charles Furlong

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Member

Mr. Ian McCrea

Member

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REASONS FOR REVIEW

Electoral boundaries are periodically reviewed in order to ensure that people are meaningfully represented in their legislature. This is one way for our political structure to keep up with changes in our society, especially changes in population.

The *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* requires the electoral boundaries of the Northwest Territories to be reviewed within two years after every second general election. The last review occurred in 2005 - 2006; two general elections have been held since that time (2007, 2011).

MANDATE

The Electoral Boundaries Commission is mandated to review the territory's electoral boundaries, conduct public hearings, and make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly.

The Commission is independent from government. It is composed of three citizens, including a judge who serves as the chairperson.

The Commission was appointed in October 2012 and will report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in May 2013.

The Legislative Assembly has asked the Commission to recommend electoral boundaries for 18, 19, or 21 electoral districts. This will help in determining how many electoral districts there should be as well as how the electoral boundaries should be drawn.

As part of its review, the Commission must hold public hearings. These public hearings will take place during February and March.

CONSIDERATIONS AND CONTEXT

In conducting its review, the Commission shall consider factors such as population, physical geography, land claims, history, transportation routes, and languages spoken.

One major factor that must be considered is that wherever possible, no electoral district should be over or under represented by more than 25 per cent from the average population. This is to ensure that everyone has a relatively equal say in our government.

However, population figures are not the only factor under consideration. The Commission will also weigh 'community of interest' considerations. These factors – such as languages spoken or treaty agreements – allow for persons who share certain characteristics to be grouped together in the same electoral district.

All of these factors must be balanced by the Commission to ensure the meaningful representation of all northerners.

POPULATION AND VARIANCE FOR CURRENT ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

The following electoral districts are listed with their corresponding map colour. The variance indicates the percentage of the population of an electoral district above or below the average number of persons per riding (the territorial mean). The plus (+) or minus (-) indicates that a variance is above (+) or below (-) the territorial mean.

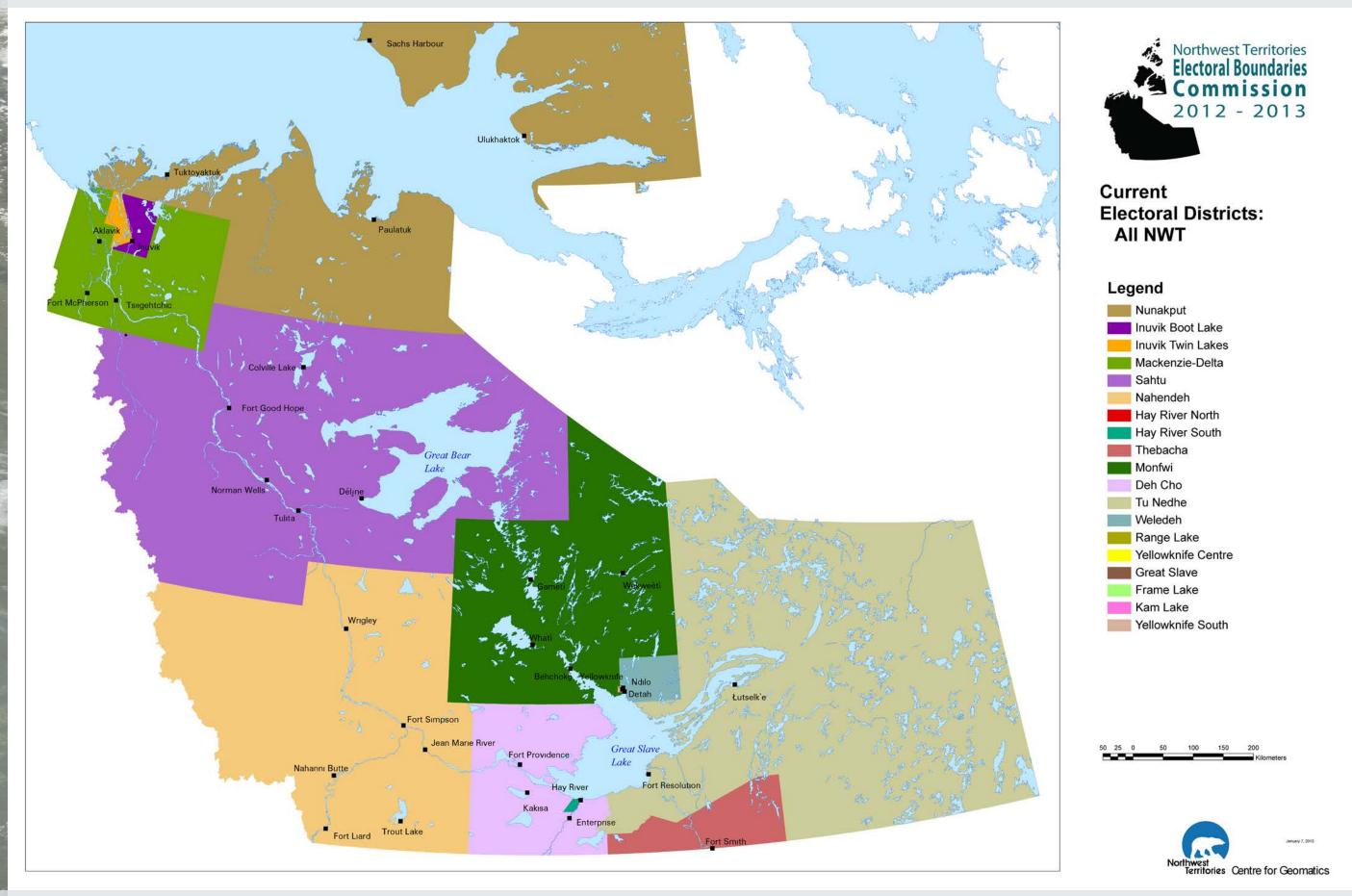
Electoral districts that are above the mean have a population that is under-represented, whereas electoral districts below the mean have a population that is over-represented.

POPULATION BY ELECTORAL DISTRICT CURRENT ELECTORAL DISTRICTS		2012 POPULATION ESTIMATES	VARIANCE (%)
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES		43,349	territorial mean = 2,282
Nunakput		1,889	-17.2
Inuvik Boot Lake		1,838	-19.5
Inuvik Twin Lakes		1,483	-35.0
Mackenzie Delta		1,564	-31.5
Sahtu		2,680	+17.4
Nahendeh		2,227	-2.4
Hay River North		1,937	-15.1
Hay River South		1,664	-27.1
Thebacha		2,450	+7.4
Monfwi		3,183	+39.5
Deh Cho		1,367	-40.1
Tu Nedhe		797	-65.1
Weledeh		3,254	+42.6
Range Lake		2,826	+23.8
Yellowknife Centre		2,835	+24.2
Great Slave		2,908	+27.4
Frame Lake		2,853	+25.0
Kam Lake		2,894	+26.8
Yellowknife South		2,700	+18.3

Source: Statistics Canada & NWT Bureau of Statistics

NWT Electoral Boundaries Commission Interim Report 2013

CURRENT ELECTORAL DISTRICTS: ALL NWT



SCENARIO FOR 18 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

OVERVIEW

Under this scenario there is one fewer electoral district than currently exist.

The average number of persons per riding (the territorial mean) is 2,408 persons.

The electoral districts of Nunakput, Mackenzie Delta, Sahtu, Nahendeh, and Thebacha are unchanged.

There are two electoral districts in each of Hay River and Inuvik. The population within each municipality is redistributed to achieve a more equal balance between the two ridings in each town. The riding of Hay River North now includes the Hay River Reserve (K'atl'odeeche First Nation).

The electoral district NWT 1 comprises the community of Behchoko (Rae and Edzo).

The electoral district NWT 2 (affecting the ridings formerly known as Deh Cho, Monfwi, and Tu Nedhe) comprises the communities of Fort Providence, Kakisa, Enterprise, Whati, Gameti, Wekweeti, Fort Resolution, and Lutselk'e, as well as a large geographic area where some people reside outside of community boundaries.

The riding of Tu Nedhe is eliminated.

There are seven electoral districts with constituents who reside in the City of Yellowknife. The population of each of these seven ridings is redistributed to achieve a more equal balance between them (NWT 4 - NWT 10).

POPULATION AND VARIANCE FOR 18 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

The following electoral districts are listed with their corresponding map colour. The variance indicates the percentage of the population of an electoral district above or below the average number of persons per riding (the territorial mean). The plus (+) or minus (-) indicates that a variance is above (+) or below (-) the territorial mean.

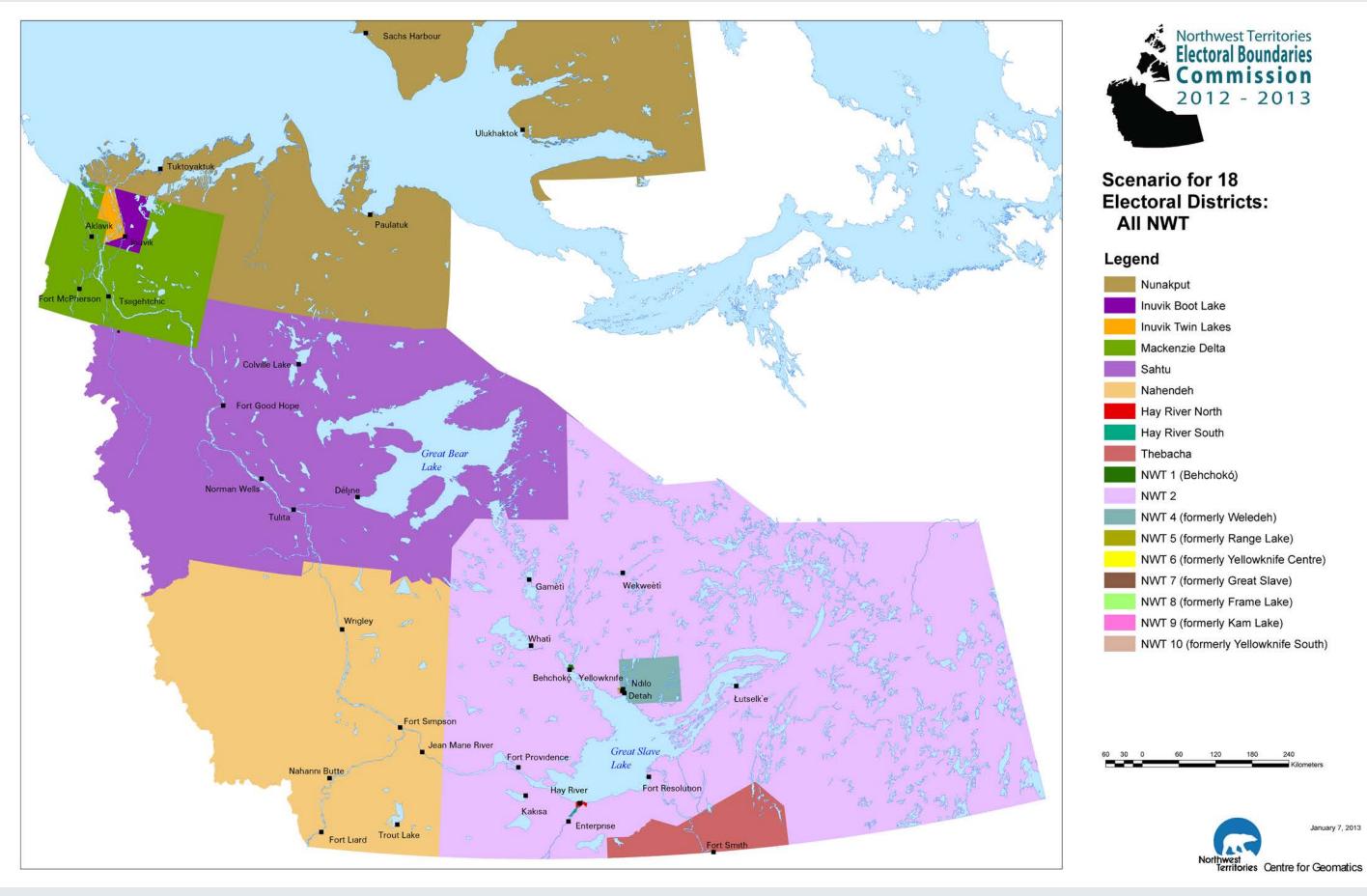
Electoral districts that are above the mean have a population that is under-represented, whereas electoral districts below the mean have a population that is over-represented.

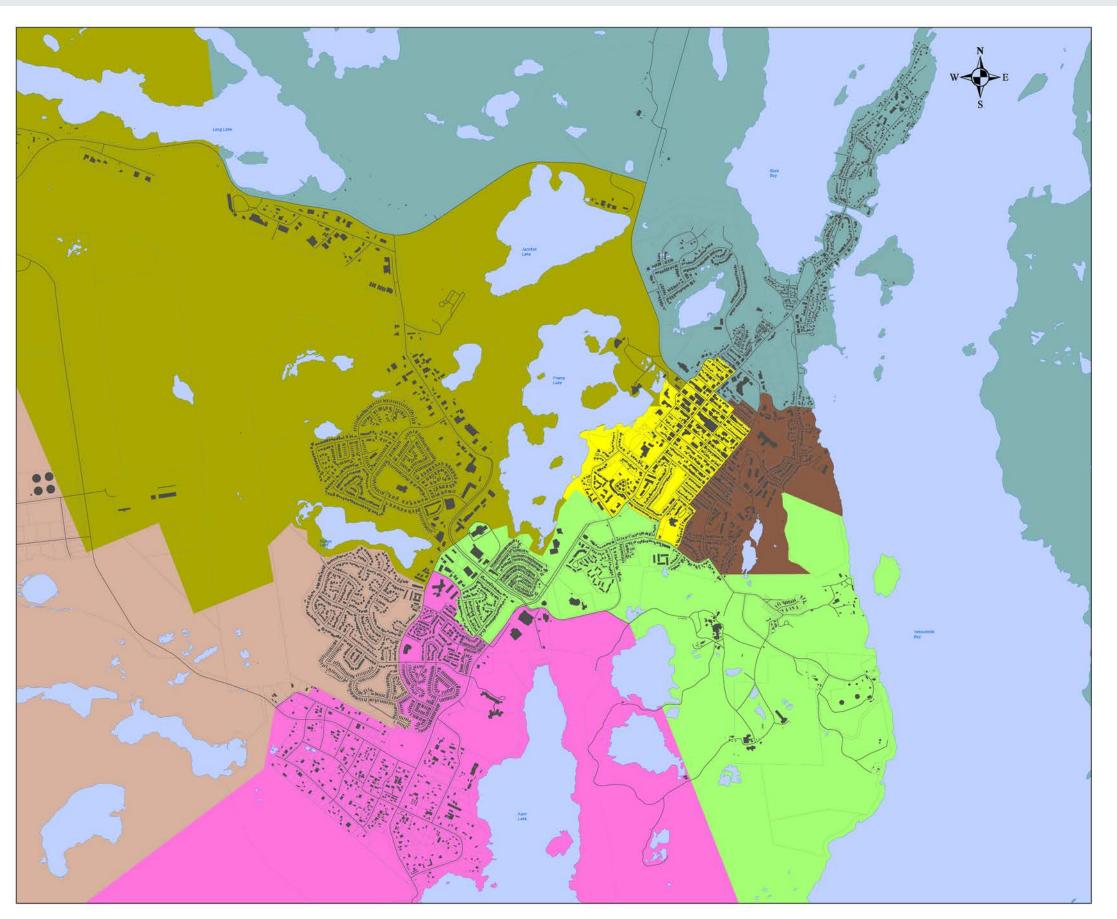
Where an existing electoral district has been substantially altered, it has been given a neutral name. The Commission welcomes suggestions for re-naming electoral districts.

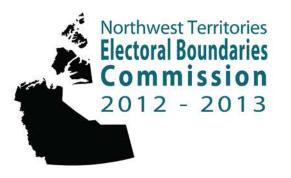
POPULATION BY ELECTORAL DISTRICT SCENARIO: 18 SEATS	-	2012 POPULATION ESTIMATES	VARIANCE (%)
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES		43,349	territorial mean = 2,408
Nunakput		1,889	-21.6
Inuvik Boot Lake		1,673	-30.5
Inuvik Twin Lakes		1,648	-31.6
Mackenzie Delta		1,564	-35.0
Sahtu		2,680	+11.3
Nahendeh		2,227	-7.5
Hay River North		1,980	-17.8
Hay River South		1,962	-18.5
Thebacha		2,450	+1.7
NWT 1 (Behchoko)		2,174	-9.7
NWT 2 (formerly Deh Cho)		2,832	+17.6
NWT 4 (formerly Weledeh)		3,108	+29.1
NWT 5 (formerly Range Lake)		2,807	+16.6
NWT 6 (formerly Yellowknife Centre)		2,942	+22.2
NWT 7 (formerly Great Slave)		2,947	+22.4
NWT 8 (formerly Frame Lake)		2,749	+14.2
NWT 9 (formerly Kam Lake)		2,894	+20.2
NWT 10 (formerly Yellowknife South)		2,823	+17.2

Source: Statistics Canada & NWT Bureau of Statistics

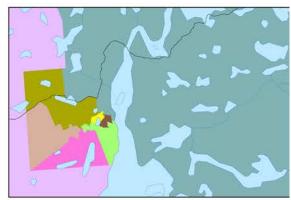
SCENARIO FOR 18 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS: ALL NWT



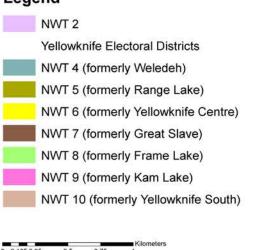




Scenario for 18 **Electoral Districts:** Yellowknife



Legend





SCENARIO FOR 19 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

OVERVIEW

This scenario depicts the same number of electoral districts as currently exist.

The average number of persons per riding (the territorial mean) is 2,282 persons.

The electoral districts of Nunakput, Mackenzie Delta, Sahtu, Nahendeh, and Thebacha are unchanged.

There are two electoral districts in each of Hay River and Inuvik. The population within each municipality is redistributed to achieve a more equal balance between the two ridings in each town. The riding of Hay River North now includes the Hay River Reserve (K'atl'odeeche First Nation).

The electoral district NWT 1 comprises the community of Behchoko (Rae and Edzo).

The electoral district NWT 2 (affecting the ridings formerly known as Deh Cho, Monfwi, and Tu Nedhe) comprises the communities of Fort Providence, Kakisa, Enterprise, Whati, Gameti, Wekweeti, Fort Resolution, and Lutselk'e, as well as a large geographic area where some people reside outside of community boundaries.

The riding of Tu Nedhe is eliminated.

There are eight electoral districts with constituents who reside in the City of Yellowknife. A new riding encompasses the Niven Lake subdivision as well as several of the residences that surround Frame Lake (NWT 11). As well, the overall population is redistributed across all eight ridings to achieve a more equal balance between these ridings (NWT 4 - NWT 10).

POPULATION AND VARIANCE FOR 19 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

The following electoral districts are listed with their corresponding map colour. The variance indicates the percentage of the population of an electoral district above or below the average number of persons per riding (the territorial mean). The plus (+) or minus (-) indicates that a variance is above (+) or below (-) the territorial mean.

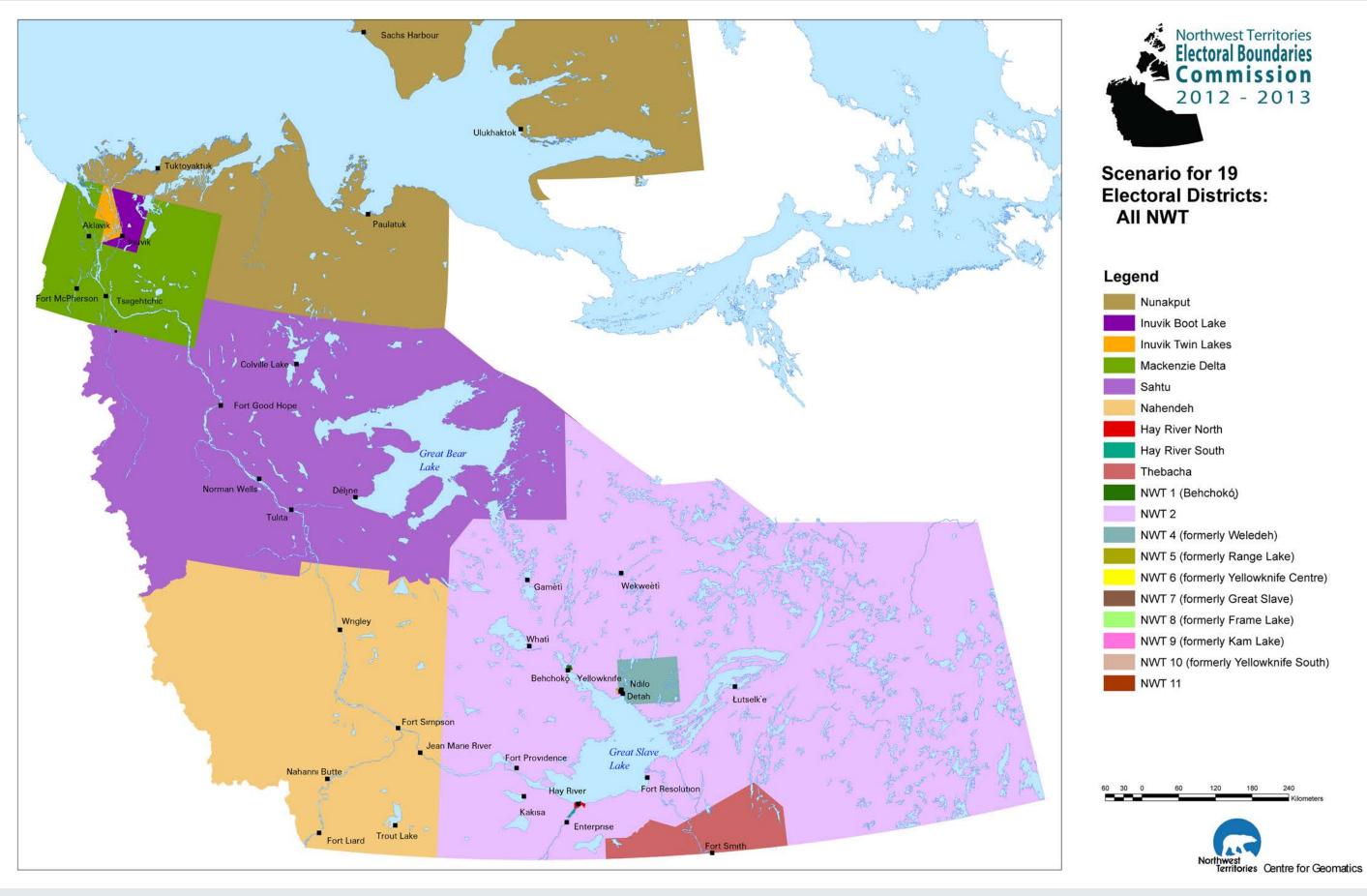
Electoral districts that are above the mean have a population that is under-represented, whereas electoral districts below the mean have a population that is over-represented.

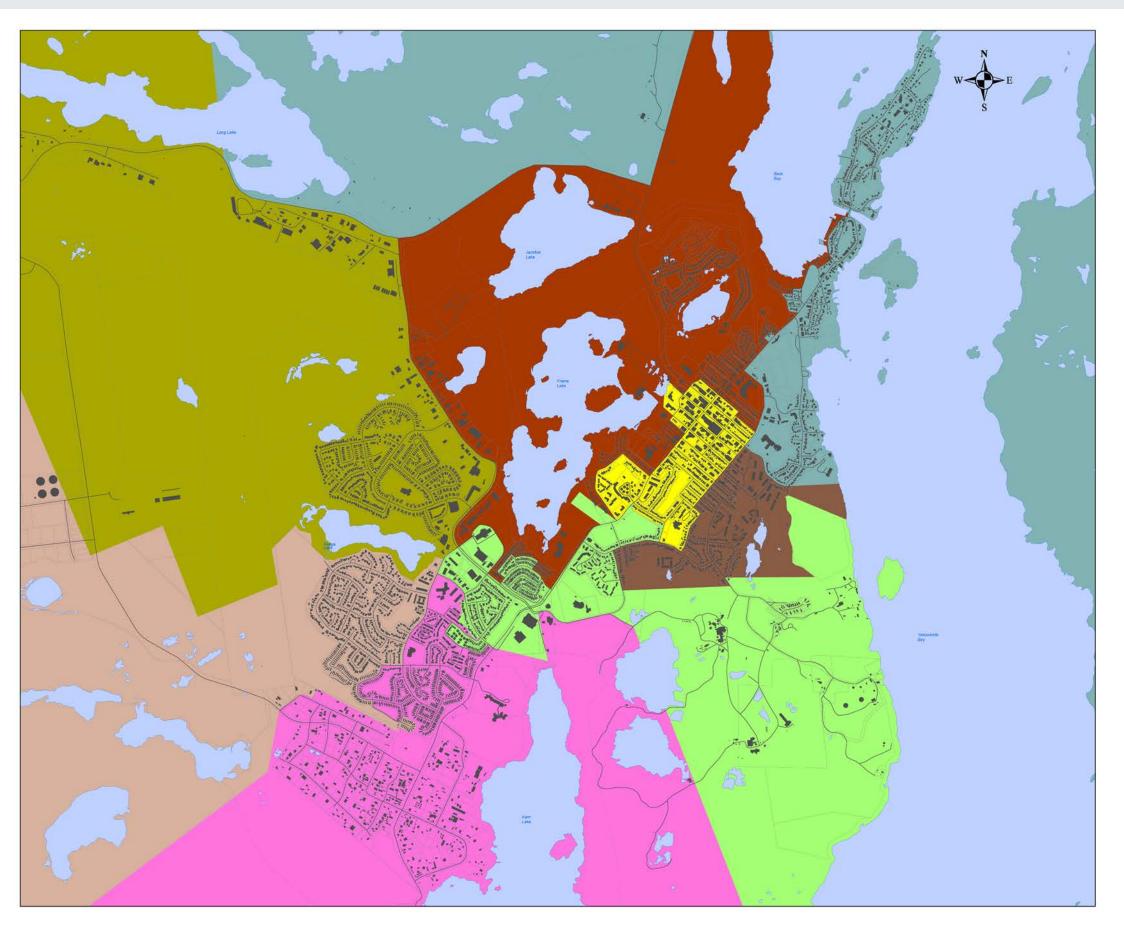
Where an existing electoral district has been substantially altered, it has been given a neutral name. The Commission welcomes suggestions for re-naming electoral districts.

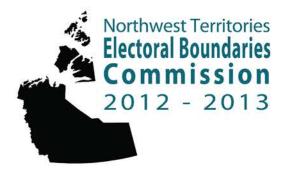
POPULATION BY ELECTORAL DISTRICT SCENARIO: 19 SEATS	2012 POPULATION ESTIMATES	VARIANCE (%)
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	43,349	territorial mean = 2,282
Nunakput	1,889	-17.2
Inuvik Boot Lake	1,673	-26.7
Inuvik Twin Lakes	1,648	-27.8
Mackenzie Delta	1,564	-31.5
Sahtu	2,680	+17.4
Nahendeh	2,227	-2.4
Hay River North	1,980	-13.2
Hay River South	1,962	-14.0
Thebacha	2,450	+7.4
NWT 1 (Behchoko)	2,174	-4.7
NWT 2 (formerly Deh Cho)	2,832	+24.1
NWT 4 (formerly Weledeh)	2,490	+9.1
NWT 5 (formerly Range Lake)	2,381	+4.3
NWT 6 (formerly Yellowknife Centre)	2,460	+7.8
NWT 7 (formerly Great Slave)	2,604	+14.1
NWT 8 (formerly Frame Lake)	2,419	+6.0
NWT 9 (formerly Kam Lake)	2,776	+21.6
NWT 10 (formerly Yellowknife South)	2,689	+17.8
NWT 11	2,451	+7.4

Source: Statistics Canada & NWT Bureau of Statistics

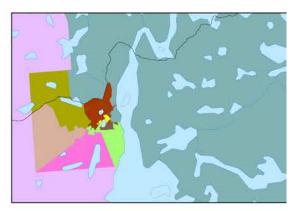
SCENARIO FOR 19 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS: ALL NWT







Scenario for 19 Electoral Districts: Yellowknife



Legend



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Northwest Territories Centre for Geomatics

18

SCENARIO FOR 21 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

OVERVIEW

Under this scenario there are two more electoral districts than currently exist.

The average number of persons per riding (the territorial mean) is 2,064 persons.

The electoral districts of Nunakput, Mackenzie Delta, Sahtu, Nahendeh, and Thebacha are unchanged.

There are two electoral districts in each of Hay River and Inuvik. The population within each municipality is redistributed to achieve a more equal balance between the two ridings in each town.

The electoral district NWT 1 comprises the community of Behchoko (Rae and Edzo).

The electoral district NWT 2 (affecting the ridings formerly known as Deh Cho and Monfwi) comprises the communities of Fort Providence, Kakisa, Enterprise, Hay River Reserve, Whati, Gameti, and Wekweeti.

The electoral district NWT 3 (the riding formerly known as Tu Nedhe) includes N'Dilo, Detah, Fort Resolution, and Lutselk'e, as well as a large geographic area where some people reside outside of community boundaries (e.g., along the Ingraham Trail beyond the Yellowknife River).

The electoral district NWT 4 (the riding formerly known as Weledeh) no longer includes the communities of Detah or N'Dilo, nor those persons residing beyond the Yellowknife River.

There are nine electoral districts with constituents who reside in the City of Yellowknife. The overall population is redistributed across all nine ridings to achieve a more equal balance between these ridings (NWT 5 - NWT 10). A new riding is created that encompasses the Niven Lake subdivision as well as several of the residences that surround Frame Lake (NWT 11). A new riding is also situated in an area that straddles Old Airport Road, and includes Northlands Trailer Park and Woolgar Avenue (NWT 12).

POPULATION AND VARIANCE FOR 21 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

The following electoral districts are listed with their corresponding map colour. The variance indicates the percentage of the population of an electoral district above or below the average number of persons per riding (the territorial mean). The plus (+) or minus (-) indicates that a variance is above (+) or below (-) the territorial mean.

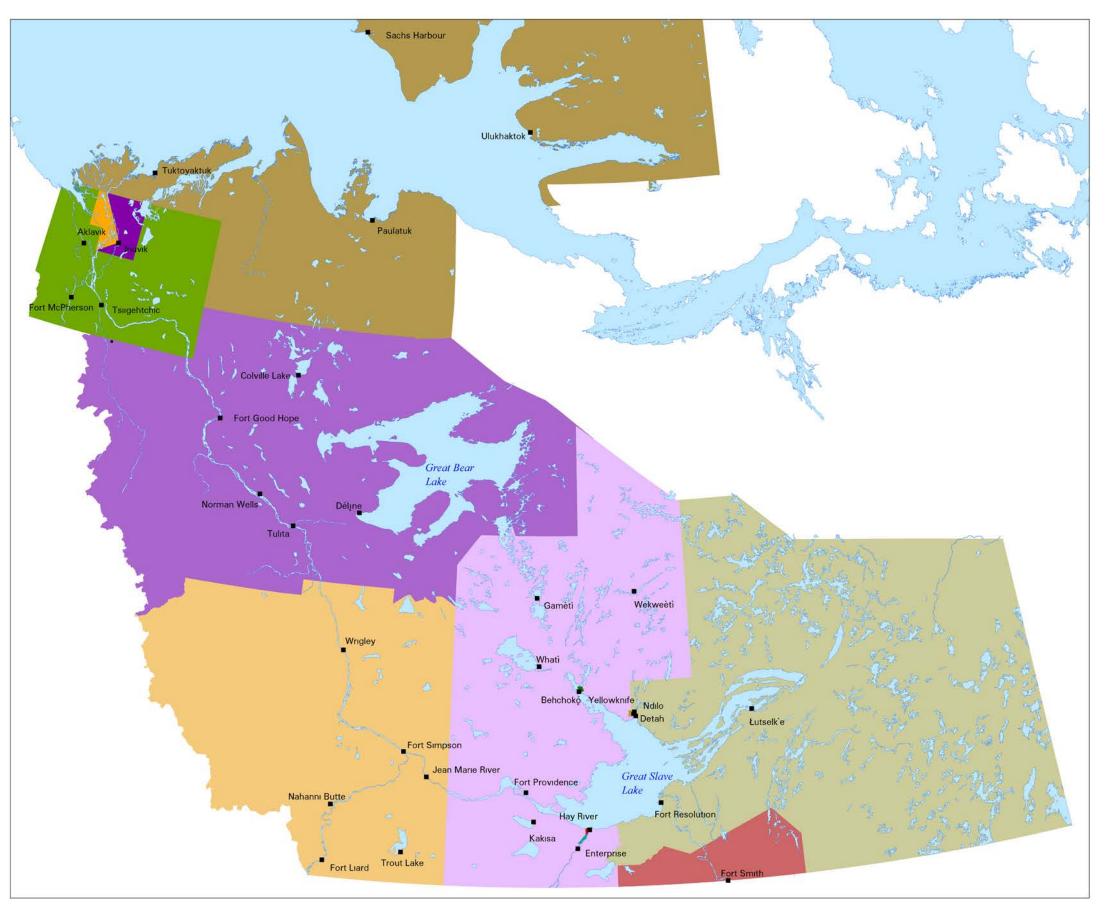
Electoral districts that are above the mean have a population that is under-represented, whereas electoral districts below the mean have a population that is over-represented.

Where an existing electoral district has been substantially altered, it has been given a neutral name. The Commission welcomes suggestions for re-naming electoral districts.

POPULATION BY ELECTORAL DISTRICT SCENARIO: 21 SEATS	2012 POPULATION ESTIMATES	VARIANCE (%)
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	43,349	territorial mean = 2,064
Nunakput	1,889	-8.5
Inuvik Boot Lake	1,673	-18.9
Inuvik Twin Lakes	1,648	-20.2
Mackenzie Delta	1,564	-24.2
Sahtu	2,680	+29.8
Nahendeh	2,227	+7.9
Hay River North	1,799	-12.8
Hay River South	1,802	-12.7
Thebacha	2,450	+18.7
NWT 1 (Behchoko)	2,174	+5.3
NWT 2 (formerly Deh Cho)	2,320	+12.4
NWT 3 (formerly Tu Nedhe)	1,731	-16.1
NWT 4 (formerly Weledeh)	2,292	+11.0
NWT 5 (formerly Range Lake)	2,387	+15.6
NWT 6 (formerly Yellowknife Centre)	1,846	-10.6
NWT 7 (formerly Great Slave)	1,865	-9.6
NWT 8 (formerly Frame Lake)	2,074	+0.5
NWT 9 (formerly Kam Lake)	2,227	+7.9
NWT 10 (formerly Yellowknife South)	2,226	+7.8
NWT 11	2,117	+2.6
NWT 12	2,358	+14.2

Source: Statistics Canada & NWT Bureau of Statistics

SCENARIO FOR 21 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS: ALL NWT

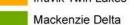




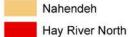
Scenario for 21 Electoral Districts: All NWT

Legend

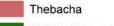


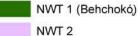














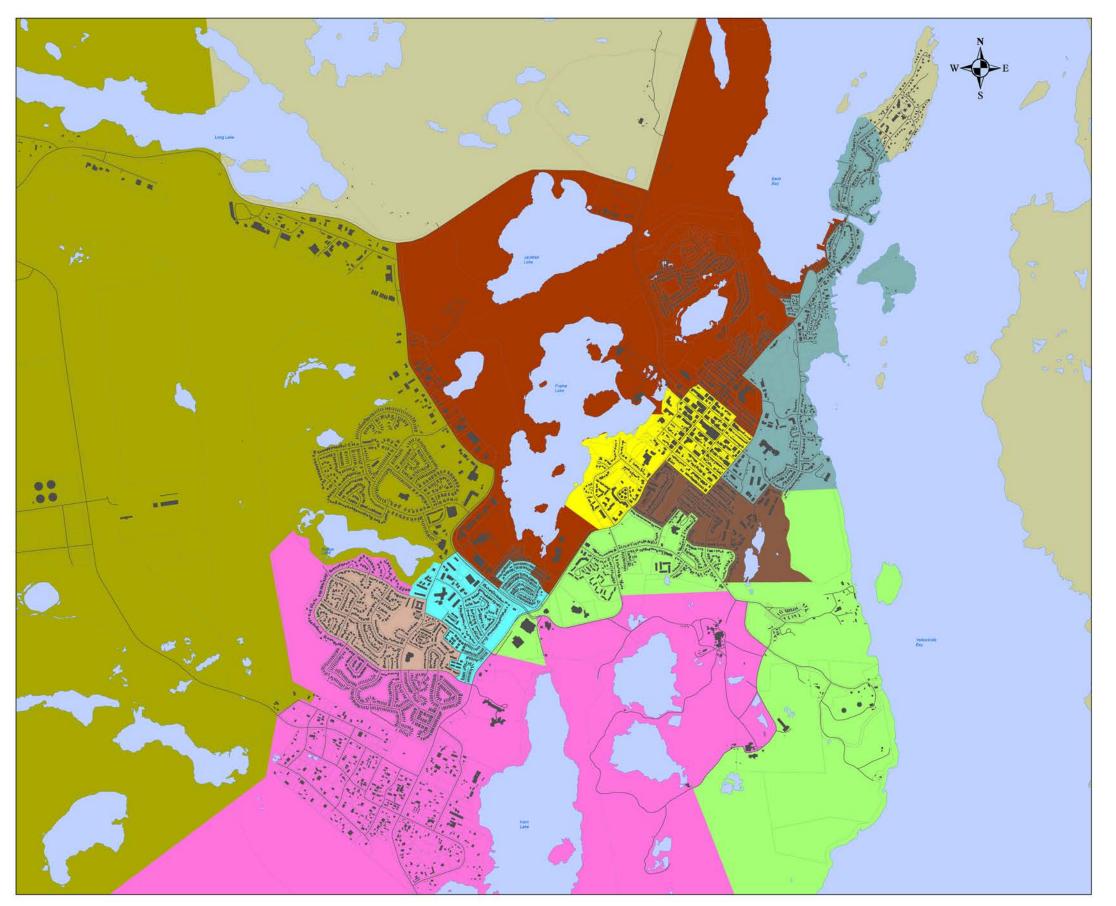


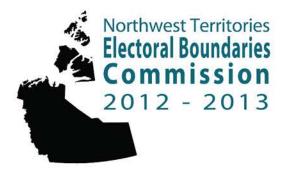






SCENARIO FOR 21 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS: YELLOWKNIFE





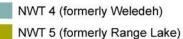
Scenario for 21 Electoral Districts: Yellowknife



Legend



Yellowknife Electoral Districts



NWT 6 (formerly Yellowknife Centre)



NWT 8 (formerly Frame Lake)

NWT 9 (formerly Kam Lake)

NWT 10 (formerly Yellowknife South)

NWT 11 NWT 12

0.25 0.125 0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Kilometers



SECTIONS OF THE ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION ACT

- 2. (1) An Electoral Boundaries Commission must be established, by resolution of the Legislative Assembly,
- (b) within two years after the day fixed for the return of the writs for each second succeeding general election.
- **8.** (1) The Commission shall review the area, boundaries, name and representation of the existing electoral districts and shall, on completion of that review, prepare a report containing recommendations respecting the area, boundaries, name and representation of the electoral districts proposed by the Commission.
- (2) The Commission shall, before completing its report, hold public hearings at the times and places in the Northwest Territories that it considers appropriate to hear representations respecting existing or proposed electoral districts.
- (3) The Commission may undertake such programs and measures as it considers appropriate to inform the public about the values and principles that underlie the determination of electoral boundaries and about the process that leads to that determination.
- **9.** The Commission, in preparing its report, shall take into consideration:
- (a) demographic factors, including the sparsity, density or rate of growth of the population of any area;
- (b) census data and other information pertaining to population;
- (c) information in the register of electors maintained under the Elections and Plebiscites Act;
- (d) geographic factors, including the accessibility, size or shape of any area;
- (e) community boundaries and boundaries established under lands, resources and self-government agreements, including land claim and treaty land entitlement agreements;
- (f) facilities for and patterns of transportation and communication within and between different areas;
- (g) language, culture and any other special community or diversity of interests of the residents of any part of the Northwest Territories;
- (h) special circumstances relating to any existing electoral districts;
- (i) public input obtained under subsection 8(2);
- (j) the minimum and maximum number of members of the Legislative Assembly authorized by the Northwest Territories Act;
- (k) any guidelines or criteria proposed for the consideration of the Commission by resolution of the Legislative Assembly; and
- (I) any other similar and relevant factors that the Commission considers appropriate. S.N.W.T. 2006,c.15,s.355.
- **10.** (2) The Commission shall submit its report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.
- (4) The Speaker shall, at the first opportunity, lay a copy of the Commission report before the Legislative Assembly.

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION GUIDELINES

Guidelines Electoral Boundaries Commission 2012 - 2013

Pursuant to section 9(k) of the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*, which enables the Legislative Assembly to establish guidelines or criteria that shall be taken into consideration by the Commission, the following guidelines are set down for the Commission.

- 1. The Commission shall review the existing electoral districts using the most recent and accurate census and other population data available.
- 2. In keeping with Canadian constitutional conventions and the notion of effective representation, the Commission shall make recommendations to achieve relative parity between electoral districts while balancing community of interest considerations.
- 3. For greater certainty, relative parity means that the percentage variation between the number of persons in a riding and the average mean should be within plus or minus 25 per cent, except where special circumstances warrant exceptional deviation.
- 4. The Commission shall recommend how electoral boundaries should be drawn if the Legislative Assembly comprises (a) eighteen members, or (b) nineteen members, or (c) twenty-one members.
- 5. The Commission shall prepare an interim report with proposed electoral district boundaries for review by the public and discussion at public hearings.
- 6. The Commission shall establish a website or other publically accessible mechanism(s), in addition to public hearings, to receive submissions on the existing and/or proposed boundaries.
- 7. All submissions to the Commission shall be considered public documents.
- 3. Simultaneous translation of official languages shall be available at public hearings where the use of an official language in a particular community or region is sizable enough to warrant the employ of translation services.
- 9. If the Commission is not in a position to accomplish its mandate within the existing budget allocated, it may return to the Legislative Assembly for additional funds.
- 10. The final report of the Commission, complete with recommendations, shall be submitted in English and in French to the Speaker and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly no later than seven months after the Commission is struck.
- 11. The Chief Electoral Officer shall serve as Secretary to the Commission.

CONTACT INFORMATION

An electronic copy of this report, as well as information on how to provide comments, is available on the NWT Electoral Boundaries Commission website.

To request additional copies of this report, please contact the Secretary to the NWT Electoral Boundaries Commission.

Mail: Secretary to the Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission

c/o the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer

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email: electionsnwt@gov.nt.ca

website: www.nwtboundaries.ca





If you would like this information in another official language, please call us.

Si vous désirez cette information dans une autre langue officielle, appelez-nous.

Kīspin ki nitawihtīn ā nīhīyawihk ōma ācimōwin, tipwēsinēn.

Tłįcho yati k'èè. Di wegodi newo dè, gots'o gonede.

?erıhtł' ís dëne súłiné yati t'a huts'ëlker xa beyéyati the?a ?at'e, nuwe ts'ën yółti.

Edi gondi dehgéh got'je zhatié k'éé edatl'éh enahddhe nide.

K'éhshó got'ıne xədə k'é hederi zedıhtl'é yeriniwé nídé dúle.

Jii gwandak izhii ginjìk vat'ar'ijąhch'uu zhìt yinohthan jì', diits'àt ginohknìi.

UVANITTUAQ ILITCHURISUKUPKU INUVIALUKTUN, QUQUAQLUTA.

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.

Toll free: 1-800-661-0796