



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES
COMMISSION

Commission de délimitation des
circonscriptions électorales des TNO de 2025

RAPPORT FINAL



27 février 2026

L'honorable Shane Thompson
Président de l'Assemblée législative des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

Monsieur le Président,

Le 27 mai 2025, l'Assemblée législative a créé la Commission de délimitation des circonscriptions électorales. Conformément à la Loi sur la Commission de délimitation des circonscriptions électorales et au mandat émis par l'Assemblée législative, nous sommes heureux de présenter notre rapport final qui expose nos recommandations unanimes concernant la délimitation de 19 ou de 22 circonscriptions électorales aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

Mr. Daryl Dolynny
Commissaire

Ms. Georgina Rolt
Commissaire

L'honorable Robert Gorin
Commissaire et président

Mr. Samuel Dyck
Commissaire

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly
Commissaire

Contenu

Introduction	2
Mandat	2
Contexte	4
Termes clés.	5
Aperçu du processus public	8
Synthèse des commentaires du public	10
Route Ingraham Trail	10
Réduction du nombre de circonscriptions électorales	10
Circonscriptions plurinominales.	12
Nouvelles circonscriptions.	13
Changements aux circonscription de Dehcho et de Nahendeh	14
Questions soulevées en dehors du mandat de la Commission.	15
Évolution démographique de 1998 à 2025	16
Options et recommandations	18
Statu quo	18
Modèle à 19 circonscriptions.	22
Modèle à 20 circonscriptions.	24
Modèle à 21 circonscriptions.	25
Modèle à 22 circonscriptions.	26
Noms.	29
Annexes (Anglais seulement)	30
Annexe A - cartes	
Annexe B - mandat	
Annexe C - résumés des audiences publiques	
Annexe D - soumissions écrites	

Introduction

La *Loi sur la Commission de délimitation des circonscriptions électorales* (la Loi) exige que les limites des circonscriptions électorales des Territoires du Nord-Ouest fassent l'objet d'une révision dans les deux ans suivant les élections territoriales de 2023. Le 27 mai 2025, l'Assemblée législative a adopté une motion visant à créer la Commission de délimitation des circonscriptions électorales. La Commission est composée du juge Robert Gorin, juge de la cour territoriale, qui en est le président, et de M. Daryl Dolynny, de M. Samuel Dyck, de M. Kevin O'Reilly et de M^{me} Georgina Rolt, qui en sont les membres.

La Commission a été chargée de publier un rapport provisoire proposant 19 circonscriptions électorales ainsi que toute autre option qu'elle jugerait pertinente. Nous avons publié le rapport provisoire le 3 novembre 2025. Ce rapport a servi de fondement au processus des échanges avec le public et de collecte de commentaires. Tout au long de ce rapport, nous avons inclus des propos ou des impressions issus de nos échanges avec le public. Nous avons utilisé ces citations pour illustrer les commentaires du public, mais elles ne reflètent pas nécessairement notre point de vue.

La Commission a été chargée de rédiger un rapport final dans les neuf mois suivant sa création. Le présent rapport final remplit les obligations de la Commission.

Mandat

Les commissions de délimitation des circonscriptions électorales sont des instances indépendantes créées en vertu de la loi afin d'examiner les limites des circonscriptions électorales dans les provinces et les territoires canadiens et de formuler des recommandations à l'intention des législatures. Les changements démographiques et sociaux font en sorte qu'il faut procéder à des révisions périodiques des circonscriptions électorales afin de garantir que les électeurs sont représentés de manière efficace. Dans le passé, des membres du public ont contesté devant les tribunaux ce qu'ils percevaient comme une sous-représentation.

Aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest, la Commission a pour mandat d'examiner la superficie, les limites, le nom et la représentation des circonscriptions électorales en place et de présenter à l'Assemblée législative des recommandations sur les modifications proposées afin d'assurer une meilleure représentation de la population. La Commission est tenue de tenir des audiences publiques dans tout le territoire afin de recueillir directement les commentaires du public sur les circonscriptions en place et celles proposées.

Le rôle de la Commission consiste à présenter des recommandations à l'Assemblée législative en tenant compte des commentaires du public. Les députés de l'Assemblée législative décident quelles recommandations, le cas échéant, accepter.

Pour la présente Commission, l'Assemblée législative a fourni un mandat exigeant qu'elle prépare un rapport provisoire pour examen public, avec un modèle comportant 19

circonscriptions électorales et tout autre modèle jugé pertinent comportant plus de 19 circonscriptions. Le mandat est inclus à l'annexe A.

Aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest, la Commission doit veiller à ce que ces changements reflètent la diversité de la population. Il faut donc trouver un équilibre entre le nombre d'habitants et des facteurs tels que les identités culturelles, les communautés d'intérêts, les revendications territoriales, la dynamique entre les centres régionaux et les petites collectivités, les différentes langues parlées et les lieux où les résidents font du commerce.

Nous avons procédé à un examen approfondi des travaux des commissions de délimitation des circonscriptions électorales depuis 1998 ainsi que des discussions tenues par les députés de l'Assemblée législative au cours de ces périodes d'examen. Nous avons également examiné la jurisprudence canadienne et sollicité des avis juridiques afin d'étayer les méthodologies adoptées pour le rapport provisoire. Comme nous l'avons souligné lors de nos échanges avec le public, notre tâche s'apparente à l'assemblage d'un puzzle de 45 000 pièces dont le but est d'assurer une représentation efficace de tous les électeurs des Territoires du Nord-Ouest aujourd'hui et pour les huit prochaines années.

Le rapport provisoire de la Commission, publié le 3 novembre 2025, contenait des propositions pour 19, 20, 21 et 22 circonscriptions électorales.

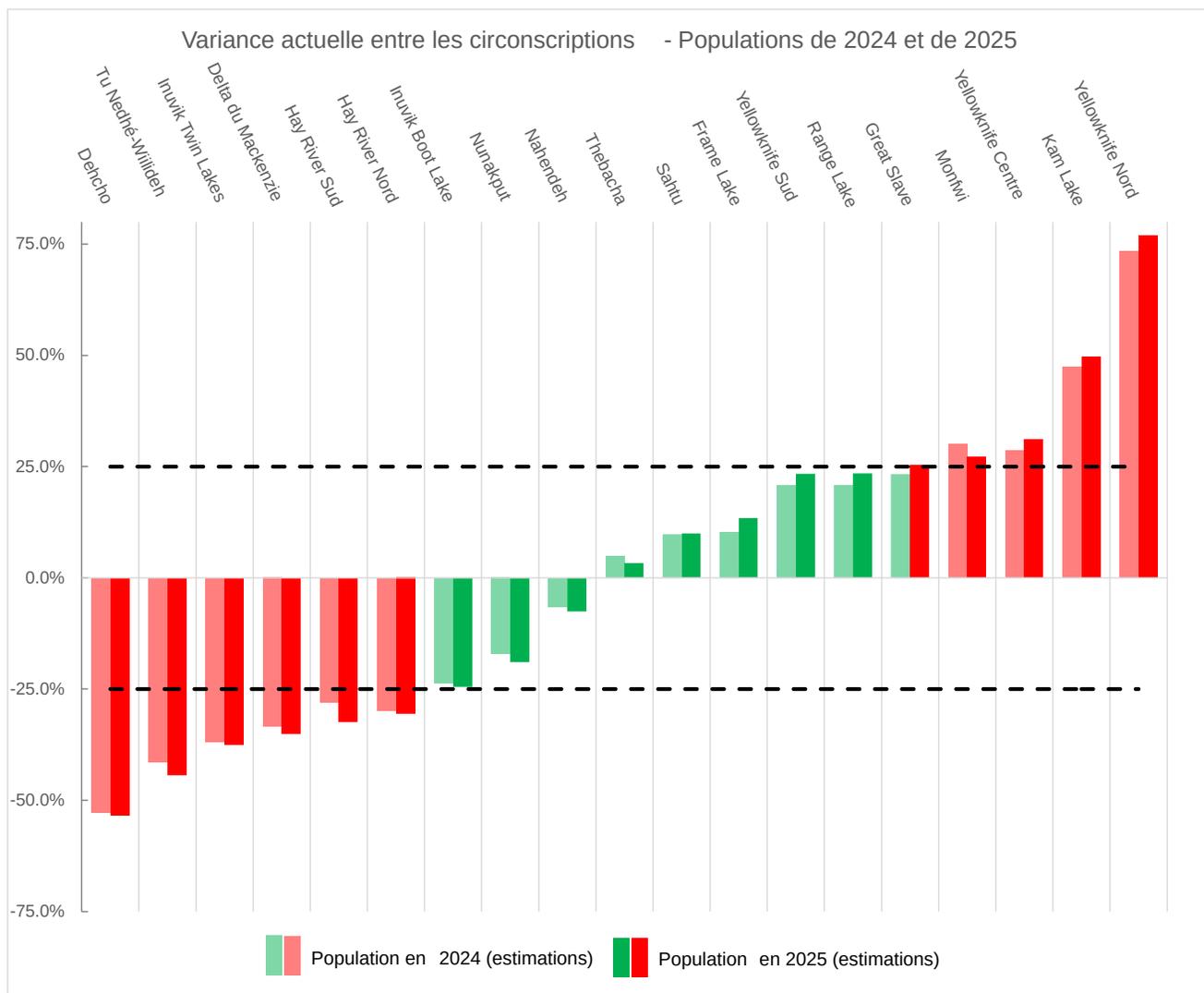


De gauche à droite : Daryl Dolynny, Georgina Rolt, le juge R.D. Gorin, Sam Dyck, Kevin O'Reilly

Contexte

Notre rapport provisoire reposait sur les estimations démographiques de 2024. Les chiffres de la population des collectivités en 2025 ont été rendus publics après la publication du rapport provisoire de la Commission. Nous avons commencé chaque audience publique en précisant que nous utiliserions les chiffres actualisés pour notre rapport final. Les estimations démographiques pour 2025 fournies par le Bureau de la statistique des TNO ont eu une grande incidence sur le rapport final et les recommandations de la Commission. L'effet que les changements démographiques ont eu sur notre rapport souligne la nature dynamique de notre population et l'importance de disposer de données à jour pour délimiter les circonscriptions électorales.

Nous présentons ici ces chiffres (couleur plus foncée) ainsi que les différences par rapport aux chiffres de 2024 (couleurs plus claires) que nous avons utilisés dans le rapport provisoire. La population des TNO a augmenté de plus de 1 200 personnes entre les projections de 2024 et de 2025, ce qui a également une incidence sur le calcul de la population moyenne.



Termes clés

Certains termes clés sont utilisés tout au long du présent rapport. Bien que nous les ayons déjà définis dans le rapport provisoire, nous le faisons à nouveau ici pour faciliter la lecture.

Population moyenne

La population moyenne correspond au nombre de résidents dans chaque circonscription électorale si toutes les circonscriptions électorales comptaient le même nombre de personnes. Ce nombre varie en fonction de l'augmentation ou de la diminution de la population du territoire.

En juillet 2025, les TNO comptaient **45 950** résidents. Cela signifie qu'avec 19 circonscriptions électorales, la population moyenne était alors de **2 418** résidents.

Parité relative

La parité relative des électeurs signifie que le poids du vote de chaque citoyen est presque le même dans toutes les circonscriptions électorales.

La parité absolue des électeurs signifie que chaque circonscription électorale compte le même nombre de citoyens. Cette parité ne peut être atteinte, car il est impossible de tracer les limites des circonscriptions électorales de manière à obtenir le même nombre de résidents dans chacune d'elles. Le nombre de résidents change constamment en raison des déménagements, des naissances et des décès.

La parité relative est atteinte lorsque le nombre de résidents dans chaque circonscription électorale est à peu près égal à la population moyenne. La parité relative exige que les variations du nombre de résidents entre les différentes circonscriptions électorales restent

Circonscriptions électorales	Population en 2025 (estimations)	Écart
Territoires du Nord-Ouest	45950	2418
Nunakput	1960	-19.0%
Inuvik Boot Lake	1825	-24.5%
Inuvik Twin Lakes	1512	-37.5%
Delta du Mackenzie	1573	-35.0%
Sahtu	2659	9.9%
Nahendeh	2236	-7.5%
Dehcho	1127	-53.4%
Hay River Nord	1680	-30.5%
Hay River Sud	1637	-32.3%
Thebacha	2498	3.3%
Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh	1349	-44.2%
Monfwi	3078	27.3%
Frame Lake	2744	13.5%
Great Slave	3031	25.3%
Kam Lake	3622	49.8%
Range Lake	2986	23.5%
Yellowknife Centre	3171	31.1%
Yellowknife Nord	4279	76.9%
Yellowknife Sud	2983	23.3%

aussi faibles que possible afin d'assurer une représentation équitable. En s'efforçant d'atteindre la parité relative, la Commission veut éviter les disparités qui pourraient donner à certains électeurs plus d'influence qu'à d'autres, et ainsi favoriser l'équité et l'intégrité de notre processus démocratique.

Variation/Dérogation

Par variation, variance ou dérogation, on entend un pourcentage de la différence entre la population d'une circonscription et la population moyenne du territoire. Idéalement, le pouvoir électoral de vote devrait être égal dans l'ensemble des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Toutefois, lorsque des dérogations sont justifiées par les données et des facteurs juridiques, la fourchette de dérogation acceptable devrait rester entre +/- 25 % afin de garantir une parité relative.

À titre d'exemple, la moyenne du territoire actuelle étant de **2 418** personnes, la dérogation acceptable serait de +/- **605** personnes. Cela signifie que la dérogation acceptable se situe entre **1 814** et **3 023** personnes.

Notre mandat prévoit « qu'il faut respecter la parité relative entre les circonscriptions électorales dans la mesure du possible, sauf dans l'éventualité où des circonstances exceptionnelles exigeraient une dérogation »

La « parité relative » est alors définie comme un écart de 25 % au-dessus ou en dessous de la population moyenne de la circonscription : « il demeure entendu que la parité relative signifie que la variation en pourcentage entre le nombre de personnes dans une circonscription et la moyenne ne devrait pas dépasser 25 % »

En résumé, les termes ci-dessus peuvent être définis comme suit :

- *Variance zéro* : 0 % — parité absolue — une circonscription de 2 418 résidents présente une variance de 0 %.
- *Sous-représentation* : > 25 % — circonscription de plus de 3 023 résidents.
- *Surreprésentation* : < 25 % — circonscription comptant moins de 1 814 résidents.

Représentation effective

L'article 3 de la Charte canadienne des droits et libertés et les décisions applicables de la Cour suprême du Canada exigent que la « représentation effective » des électeurs soit l'objectif ultime poursuivi par cette commission, comme l'exige la jurisprudence. La représentation effective correspond à la capacité de chaque membre d'une assemblée législative de représenter adéquatement les citoyens de sa circonscription électorale.

Pour assurer une représentation effective, la Commission doit s'efforcer de parvenir à une parité relative entre les électeurs. Autrement dit, nous devons tenter de faire en sorte que chaque circonscription électorale compte un nombre d'électeurs aussi égal que possible afin que le vote de chaque citoyen ait à peu près le même poids. Cela dit, une représentation effective exige également que nous nous efforcions de tenir compte, dans toute la mesure du possible, des « communautés d'intérêts » et de la diversité de la population des TNO.

Les Gwich'in luttent pour leur autodétermination. Quel message la réduction de leur représentation envoie-t-elle?

Participant d'Inuvik

En bref, afin d'assurer une représentation effective, la Commission doit trouver un équilibre entre les objectifs de parité relative des électeurs et de représentation des communautés d'intérêts lorsqu'ils ne sont pas entièrement compatibles.

Communauté d'intérêts

Le concept de « communauté d'intérêts » est important dans le découpage des limites des circonscriptions électorales.

Une communauté d'intérêts est un groupe de personnes qui partagent des liens communs au sein d'une zone géographique. Ces liens peuvent inclure la langue, la culture, l'histoire, des liens de transport, des intérêts économiques, des réseaux sociaux, des caractéristiques démographiques et des préoccupations politiques communes.

À l'heure actuelle, il n'existe aucune définition généralement acceptée de ce qu'est une « communauté d'intérêts » dans la législation électorale canadienne ou dans la jurisprudence.

Le mandat nous invite à tenir compte « de la langue, de la culture et des autres similitudes ou de la diversité des intérêts des résidents d'une région des Territoires du Nord-Ouest ». Le mandat nous invite également à tenir compte d'autres aspects pertinents de la communauté d'intérêts, notamment les « facteurs démographiques » et les « limites des collectivités ».

Il est important de reconnaître que les peuples autochtones forment diverses « communautés d'intérêts ».

Notre mandat nous demande également de tenir compte des « accords d'autonomie gouvernementale, y compris les accords sur les revendications territoriales et les droits fonciers issus de traités ». Les exigences générales du mandat, qui consistent à tenir compte des « circonstances particulières » et à évaluer « tout autre facteur similaire et pertinent que la Commission juge approprié », exigent également que la Commission examine les répercussions des limites proposées sur les communautés d'intérêts autochtones.

Impossibilité pratique

L'« impossibilité pratique » est un facteur dont il faut tenir compte dans l'établissement des limites des circonscriptions électorales au Canada, en particulier aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest, non seulement en raison de la diversité de nos communautés d'intérêts, mais aussi de notre géographie vaste et variée. Notre mandat nous oblige à tenir compte des « facteurs géographiques, y compris l'accessibilité, la taille ou la forme de toute région ».

Certaines limites de circonscriptions potentielles sont tout simplement inapplicables en raison de l'incidence de caractéristiques géographiques telles que l'éloignement, les chaînes de montagnes et les lacs, entre autres. L'impossibilité pratique peut également être due à l'absence de voies de transport directes, lorsqu'il n'y a pas de route ou de voie aérienne reliant des collectivités qui pourraient autrement faire partie d'une même circonscription.

La technologie aide dans une certaine mesure à surmonter les contraintes liées à la géographie et au transport. Compte tenu de la vaste superficie des TNO, l'impossibilité pratique est un facteur important, en particulier lorsqu'il s'agit de déterminer ce qui constitue des « circonstances particulières » qui « justifient une dérogation exceptionnelle », pour reprendre les termes de notre mandat.

L'impossibilité pratique peut également être pertinente lorsque des collectivités qui partagent des caractéristiques communes, telles qu'une langue ou une identité, sont séparées géographiquement. Dans de tels cas, il peut ne pas être pratique de délimiter les circonscriptions électorales de manière à inclure ces collectivités dans la même circonscription, malgré leurs similitudes, compte tenu des distances géographiques ou des obstacles qui les séparent. Par exemple, nous ne pourrions pas atteindre une parité relative en incluant les résidents inuvialuits de Yellowknife avec Nunakput, même si nous pouvions tracer les limites de manière à le permettre.

Aperçu du processus public

La Commission a créé un site Web pour héberger le rapport provisoire, a donné au public la possibilité de soumettre des observations par écrit et a inclus le calendrier des échanges avec le public. L'objectif était de stimuler la participation du public en organisant des audiences et en invitant les gens à soumettre leurs observations par écrit.

La Commission a publié un communiqué de presse annonçant la publication de son rapport provisoire. Le président a accordé des entrevues aux médias dans les jours qui ont suivi la publication du rapport provisoire. La Commission a écrit au directeur général de chaque collectivité des Territoires du Nord-Ouest pour l'informer de la publication du rapport provisoire et, dans le cas des collectivités où des audiences publiques étaient prévues, pour lui communiquer les détails concernant le lieu et la date de ces audiences. La Commission a également informé tous les membres de l'Assemblée législative des audiences qui se tiendraient dans leur circonscription ou leur collectivité et les a invités à y assister.

La Commission a tenu une audience publique dans chaque circonscription où elle proposait d'éventuels changements. Dans les circonscriptions où les changements étaient importants, la Commission s'est efforcée de tenir des audiences dans au moins deux collectivités. La Commission a fait appel à des interprètes dans les collectivités où une autre langue officielle était couramment parlée, et les commissaires ont pris la parole à la radio locale avec des interprètes dans certaines collectivités afin de faire connaître notre travail.



À la radio à Fort Providence avec l'interprète Berna Matto

La Commission a tenu 12 audiences publiques dans 11 collectivités entre le 3 décembre 2025 et le 12 janvier 2026. Malheureusement, une audience qui devait avoir lieu à Fort Liard a dû être annulée en raison des conditions météorologiques. La participation aux audiences publiques a varié, allant d'un maximum de 15 personnes à Dettah à 2 personnes à Behchokò. Au total, 70 personnes ont participé aux audiences. Lors de certaines audiences, des demandes de réunion de suivi avec la Commission ont été formulées en raison de la faible participation ou de l'absence des dirigeants locaux. La Commission n'a pas été en mesure de fixer de nouvelles dates pour les audiences publiques, mais a proposé de tenir des réunions virtuelles si une collectivité en faisait la demande. Aucune collectivité n'a finalement demandé d'audience virtuelle. Les collectivités et les résidents ont été invités à présenter des observations écrites à la Commission s'ils ne pouvaient pas assister à une audience publique.

La Commission ne considère pas que la faible participation d'une collectivité signifie qu'il n'y a pas de préoccupations au sujet de la représentation. Lors de chaque audience publique, des membres du public ont pris la parole et ont fourni des informations précieuses que la Commission a grandement appréciées. La Commission a préparé des résumés de chaque audience publique et les a publiés sur son site Web. Les résumés sont inclus à l'annexe C.

La Commission s'est réjouie que 77 observations écrites aient été soumises par des membres du public. L'avis du public est un élément essentiel de notre processus, et la Commission a été impressionnée par la qualité des observations, tant écrites qu'orales.

Il y a la représentation, et puis il y a l'accès.

Participant d'Inuvik

Collectivité	Commentaires
Aklavik	3
Behchoko	1
Edzo	1
Enterprise	2
Fort Simpson	2
Fort Smith	1
Hay River	1
Inuvik	2
Nahanni Butte	1
Norman Wells	1
Sachs Harbour	1
Tulita	1
Ulukhaktok	2
Yellowknife	37
Ingraham Trail	20
Inconnu	1
Total	77

Synthèse des commentaires du public

Le contenu de bon nombre des observations écrites et des commentaires formulés lors de nos audiences publiques a fait ressortir plusieurs thèmes communs. Ceux-ci sont résumés ci-dessous, accompagnés de la réponse de la Commission.

Route Ingraham Trail

Les commentaires soumis par le public à la Commission concernant notre proposition initiale de fusionner la route Ingraham Trail avec Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh plutôt qu'avec une circonscription de Yellowknife ont été massivement défavorables à cette idée. La Commission a proposé ce changement afin d'augmenter la population totale de Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, qui est la deuxième circonscription électorale la moins peuplée. Nous avons également considéré que la nature rurale et non organisée de la route pourrait convenir aux collectivités de Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, car elle se trouve géographiquement dans la zone de négociation d'Akaiicho. Lors de l'audience publique que nous avons tenue à Dettah, les dirigeants de la Première Nation des Dénés Yellowknives ont indiqué qu'ils s'opposaient à ce changement et ne le soutenaient pas.

Réponse de la Commission

Étant donné que les résidents de la route Ingraham Trail ont clairement indiqué qu'ils souhaitent continuer à être représentés en tant que partie intégrante de Yellowknife, et que les dirigeants des Dénés Yellowknives s'opposent à l'inclusion d'une population majoritairement non autochtone dans un district à majorité autochtone, la Commission a décidé de recommander que la route Ingraham Trail soit incluse dans une circonscription de Yellowknife. Toutefois, la Commission recommande que la route d'accès à Dettah, qui relie la route 4 à la collectivité, soit incluse dans une circonscription de Yellowknife, car ses résidents sont principalement des citoyens de la Première Nation des Dénés Yellowknives, et que la portion de la route 3 qui s'étend de la limite ouest de la ville à Boundary Creek soit transférée à la circonscription de Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh.

Réduction du nombre de circonscriptions électorales

La Commission a reçu plusieurs observations recommandant de réduire le nombre total de circonscriptions électorales à moins de 19. Les raisons invoquées étaient les suivantes :

- les coûts de la représentation;
- l'idée que la population est en déclin;
- l'incertitude économique;
- le nombre plutôt faible de résidents actuellement représentés par chaque député;
- le rôle accru joué par les gouvernements autochtones;
- le nombre déjà suffisant de politiciens;
- l'accès facile aux députés qui n'a pas besoin d'être simplifié davantage;
- nous n'avons pas besoin que davantage de députés territoriaux nous répètent qu'il y a un déficit en matière de logement, de soins de santé et d'infrastructures aux TNO;
- un nombre accru de circonscriptions ne profite qu'à Yellowknife.

Coût de la représentation démocratique

La Commission a également reçu plusieurs observations en faveur d'une augmentation du nombre de circonscriptions :

- toutes les circonscriptions devraient respecter la variance autorisée afin d'assurer une représentation équitable;
- l'ajout de circonscriptions permet aux petites collectivités de conserver leur représentant;
- l'ajout de députés renforce la représentation et permet à davantage de voix de s'exprimer, ce qui apporte des perspectives plus vastes;
- la proximité avec le gouvernement ne devrait pas signifier une moindre représentation au sein de ce gouvernement;
- une représentation équitable n'est pas un luxe, c'est une obligation constitutionnelle. Le coût modeste des circonscriptions supplémentaires est justifié;
- une Assemblée plus grande a une plus grande capacité.

Réponse de la Commission

Le mandat confié à la Commission par l'Assemblée législative nous demandait clairement d'examiner un modèle à 19 circonscriptions ainsi que tout autre modèle comportant plus de 19 circonscriptions que nous jugions pertinent.

Même dans le cadre d'une Assemblée législative comptant moins de 19 circonscriptions, la population de Yellowknife justifierait probablement la création d'une circonscription supplémentaire. Le modèle à 19 circonscriptions présenté dans le présent rapport comporte des choix qui, de l'avis de la Commission, nuisent à la représentation des collectivités touchées. Ces problèmes ne feraient que s'amplifier si d'autres circonscriptions étaient supprimées.

La Commission a pris en considération le coût de l'ajout de députés au budget du GTNO. Elle a

Poste de dépenses	Coût (par député à Yellowknife)	Coût (par député en dehors de Yellowknife)
Salaire des députés territoriaux	122 000 \$	122 000 \$
Pension et avantages sociaux	15 000 \$	15 000 \$
Allocation de dépenses	8 786 \$	8 786 \$
Allocation de vie dans le Nord	3 700 \$	5 332 \$ à 20 768 \$
Allocation liée au travail de circonscription	96 000 \$	101 000 \$ à 113 000 \$
Allocation de logement	0 \$	32 000 \$
Total	245 486 \$	311 554 \$

Salaire et allocations des députés territoriaux tirés du rapport annuel 2024-2025 de l'Assemblée législative du Territoire du Nord. Les prestations de retraite et avantages sociaux sont une contribution du gouvernement et sont estimées en pourcentage du salaire. <https://www.ntlegislativeassembly.ca/file/2024-25-legislative-assembly-annual-report>

estimé le coût de chacun de ces députés à environ 250 000 dollars par année pour un député résidant à Yellowknife et à 315 000 dollars pour un député ne résidant pas à Yellowknife. Dans le cadre du modèle à 22 circonscriptions que nous recommandons, cela représenterait une augmentation du budget territorial d'un peu moins de 900 000 dollars, pour un budget de fonctionnement de plus de 2,39 milliards de dollars. Trois députés supplémentaires représentent une augmentation de 0,038 % du budget du territoire. Nous estimons que la démocratie vaut cet investissement.

Circonscriptions plurinominales

Plusieurs personnes se sont prononcées en faveur ou contre les circonscriptions plurinominales (également appelées « listes » par certains). Ceux qui se sont prononcés en faveur des circonscriptions plurinominales ont déclaré qu'elles :

- offraient plus de choix aux électeurs de Yellowknife;
- étaient similaires au modèle municipal et électoral;
- ne créaient pas de divisions artificielles dans la Ville pour créer des circonscriptions distinctes.

Les opposants aux circonscriptions plurinominales ont quant à eux fait valoir :

- qu'il pourrait y avoir une confusion quant à la personne à contacter pour les questions relatives à la circonscription;
- qu'il pourrait être difficile d'équilibrer la charge de travail des députés territoriaux;
- qu'il n'est pas certain que ce modèle soit bien accueilli à Hay River ou à Inuvik;
- que des quartiers minoritaires pourraient être ignorés.

Réponse de la Commission

Au Canada, les circonscriptions plurinominales ont été utilisées dans plusieurs provinces et territoires dans le passé, y compris au Parlement jusqu'en 1968. La Colombie-Britannique a utilisé des circonscriptions à deux sièges à Vancouver jusqu'en 1991. L'Île-du-Prince-Édouard a utilisé exclusivement des circonscriptions à deux sièges de 1873 à 1996. En 1997, un référendum a été organisé dans le territoire non encore établi du Nunavut afin de déterminer si chaque circonscription électorale devait élire un député et une députée. Le référendum a été rejeté, 57 % des votants s'y étant opposés.

Depuis 1996, l'ensemble des gouvernements du Canada appliquent le système des circonscriptions uninominales pour les élections fédérales, provinciales et territoriales.

La Commission a obtenu un avis juridique afin de déterminer si elle avait le pouvoir de recommander des circonscriptions plurinominales et si celles-ci seraient conformes à l'article 3 de la Charte des droits et libertés.

Bien que nous puissions probablement recommander le recours à des circonscriptions plurinominales en vertu de notre mandat, la mise en place de telles circonscriptions nécessiterait des modifications législatives, notamment à la Loi sur l'Assemblée législative et le Conseil exécutif et à la Loi sur les élections et les référendums. Il faudrait également mener une

importante campagne d'information auprès du public. En l'absence d'une directive claire de l'Assemblée législative nous enjoignant de mener une vaste consultation sur le passage de circonscriptions uninominales à des circonscriptions plurinominales dans les municipalités comptant plus d'une circonscription, nous avons décidé de ne pas recommander ce modèle.

L'équité devient injuste si personne ne parle en notre nom.

Participant d'Aklavik

Nouvelles circonscriptions

La Commission a reçu des propositions à propos de nouvelles circonscriptions électorales, notamment une circonscription autonome pour Aklavik et une nouvelle circonscription englobant Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour et Ulukhaktok.

Réponse de la Commission

Dans ces deux cas, les propositions visaient à séparer une ou plusieurs petites collectivités d'une circonscription plus grande pour faire en sorte que leurs besoins soient mieux représentés.

Il convient de noter que la création d'une nouvelle circonscription de Nunakput, avec une circonscription distincte pour Tuktoyaktuk, aurait pour conséquence la création des deux circonscriptions électorales les moins peuplées des Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

Circonscription électorale	Population	Variance (%) (20 circonscriptions)	Variance (%) (23 circonscriptions)
Tuktoyaktuk	1 026	-55.34%	-48.64%
Nunakput	934	-59.35%	-53.25%

La division de la circonscription de Delta du Mackenzie entraînerait la création de circonscriptions encore plus petites.

Circonscription électorale	Population	Variance (%) (20 circonscriptions)	Variance (%) (23 circonscriptions)
Aklavik	648	-71.80%	-67.56%
Fort McPherson & Tsiigehtchic	925	-59.74%	-53.70%

Dans ces deux cas, en l'absence de toute modification proposée dans le présent rapport, la création des circonscriptions proposées aurait pour conséquence que Monfwi et toutes les circonscriptions de Yellowknife se trouveraient bien au-delà de la variance admissible et seraient très sous-représentées. Même en adoptant le modèle à 22 circonscriptions

recommandé dans le présent rapport et en ajoutant l'une ou l'autre de ces circonscriptions supplémentaires, les circonscriptions proposées seraient massivement surreprésentées. L'ajout de l'une de ces circonscriptions signifierait également que les circonscriptions de Sahtu, de Thebacha et les 9 circonscriptions de Yellowknife se trouveraient toutes en dehors de la marge de variation de +25 % et seraient indûment sous-représentées.

Même si la Commission a entendu des arguments convaincants expliquant en quoi une communauté donnée était unique, même par rapport aux communautés voisines, nous craignons que le fait de favoriser une communauté au détriment des autres ne soit compatible avec notre objectif global d'une représentation efficace pour tous. Pour atteindre cet objectif, nous devons tenir compte de la parité ainsi que des communautés d'intérêts. L'ajout d'un district pour une petite collectivité ou un groupe de petites collectivités peut donner à ces collectivités le sentiment d'être mieux représentées, mais cela se fait au détriment de tous les autres résidents du territoire, dont la représentation serait alors affaiblie.

Pour diviser Nunakput en deux circonscriptions sans que cela ait d'incidence négative sur la représentation des autres résidents du territoire, il faudrait 33 circonscriptions dans le territoire. Pour qu'Aklavik ait sa propre circonscription, il faudrait qu'il y ait au moins 37 circonscriptions électorales.

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Changements aux circonscriptions de Dehcho et de Nahendeh

Dans son rapport provisoire, la Commission avait proposé la possibilité d'apporter des changements importants aux circonscriptions de Dehcho et de Nahendeh au moyen de diverses options. Il s'agissait notamment de fusionner la circonscription de Dehcho avec celle de Hay River et, dans les autres options, d'inclure les collectivités de Nahendeh de Fort Liard, de Nahanni Butte et de Samba K'e dans la circonscription de Dehcho. La Commission a pris connaissance, dans des observations écrites et lors d'audiences publiques, du souhait des résidents des six collectivités de la circonscription de Nahendeh de rester ensemble. Fort Simpson est le centre de transport de Samba K'e et le centre de services de la région. La plupart des commentaires indiquaient que les liens avec Fort Providence étaient limités, voire inexistant.

Pour être correctement représentée, la collectivité a besoin de quelqu'un qui la comprend. La fusion de petites collectivités avec des centres régionaux les rend sous-représentées.

Participant de Hay River

Réponse de la Commission

À la suite des échanges tenus avec le public, la Commission ne recommande aucune modification à l'actuelle circonscription de Nahendeh.

La Commission a entendu les commentaires des résidents de Fort Providence, d'Enterprise et de la Première Nation Kát'odeeche sur les options que nous avons présentées dans le rapport provisoire. Les observations d'Enterprise étaient favorables au maintien dans le district de Dehcho et contre l'intégration au district de Hay River. La Commission a reçu et examiné un autre modèle pour les 19 circonscriptions. Cependant, nous avons finalement été confrontés aux mêmes problèmes que ceux que nous abordons plus loin dans le présent rapport, où nous traitons du modèle à 19 circonscriptions que l'Assemblée législative nous a demandé de proposer. Les observations que nous avons reçues des collectivités de Dehcho et de Hay River exprimaient de manière générale une opposition à la fusion de ces circonscriptions électorales.

Bien que cela ne soit pas directement lié aux modifications proposées par la Commission pour Dehcho et Nahendeh, nous avons également constaté une grande confusion entre le nom de la circonscription de Dehcho et les négociations avec les Premières Nations du Dehcho et les collectivités participant à ce processus.

Questions soulevées en dehors du mandat de la Commission

La Commission a entendu certaines préoccupations qui ne relevaient pas de son mandat, et nous ne sommes donc pas en mesure de les commenter. Parmi ces préoccupations, mentionnons :

- Les régions administratives ne correspondent pas aux circonscriptions électorales. Cela a notamment entraîné une confusion quant à la relation entre la représentation politique et l'allocation budgétaire aux régions administratives.
- La composition du Cabinet ou du Conseil exécutif.
- Les accords sur l'autonomie gouvernementale.
- La charge de travail des députés territoriaux entre les circonscriptions urbaines et rurales et entre les simples députés et les membres du Conseil exécutif.
- On accorde trop d'importance à la parité plutôt qu'à la représentation par collectivité.
- Les conséquences possibles d'un plus grand nombre de circonscriptions à Yellowknife sur le transfert de pouvoirs vers l'autonomie gouvernementale et, de manière plus générale, sur la décentralisation.
- « Yellowknife bénéficie déjà de nombreux avantages. L'ajout de nouvelles circonscriptions leur en apportera encore davantage » (pour paraphraser de nombreux participants à la réunion publique).

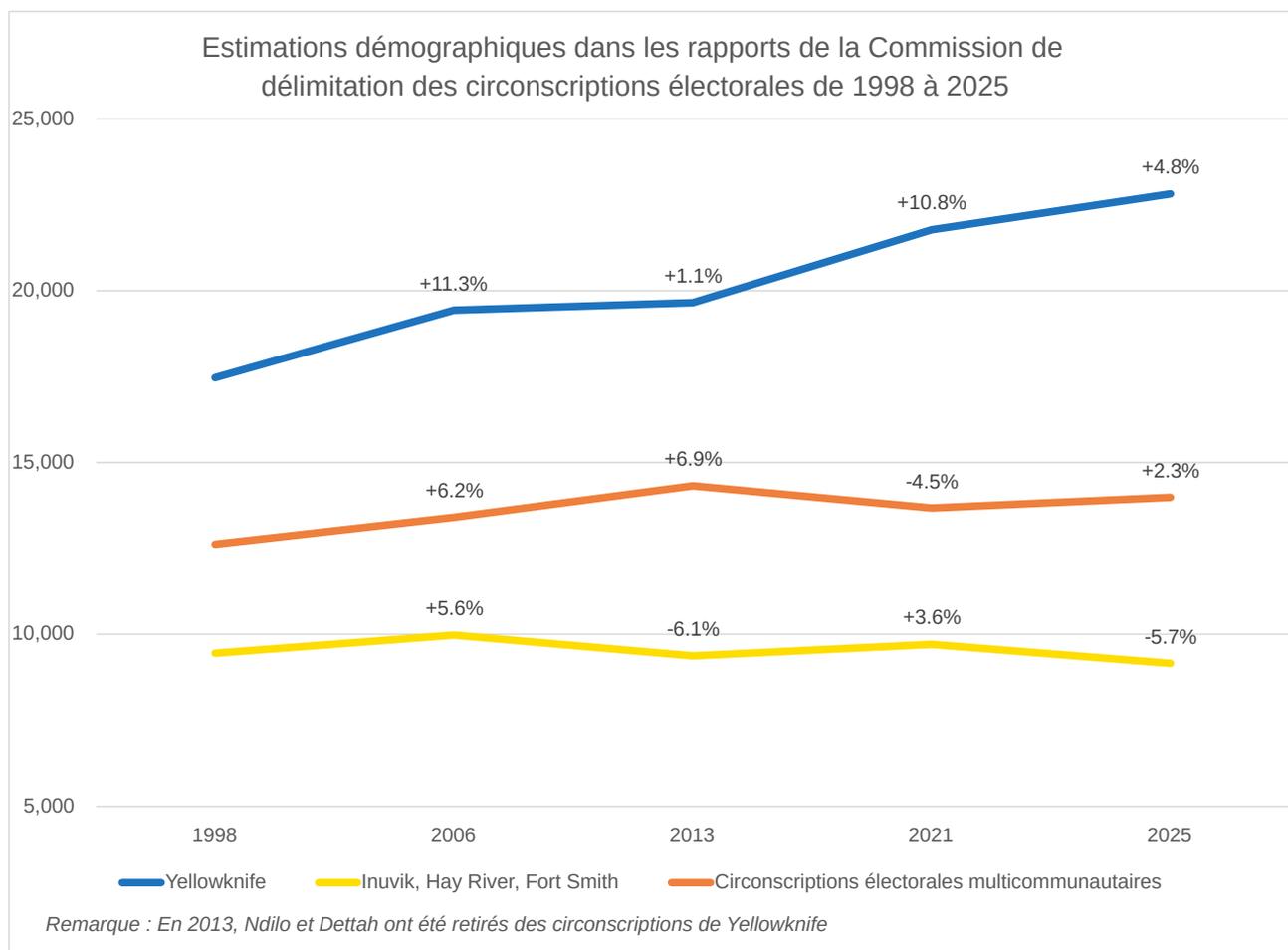
Pourquoi la représentation par personne est-elle plus importante que les besoins?

Participant de Fort Providence

Évolution démographique de 1998 à 2025

La Commission estime que nous devrions répondre à une série de questions communes. Nous avons entendu dans de nombreuses collectivités et dans de nombreuses observations écrites que la population est en déclin et que, par conséquent, aucun changement n'était nécessaire.

Notre principale source d'estimations démographiques est le Bureau de la statistique des TNO, qui a également fourni des estimations démographiques aux commissions précédentes. L'utilisation des populations des collectivités indiquées dans chaque rapport nous permet de représenter sous forme de graphique les changements démographiques survenus aux TNO depuis 1998 :



¹ Tous les rapports précédents de la Commission de délimitation des circonscriptions électorales sont disponibles sur le site Web d'Élections TNO : <https://www.electionsnwt.ca/en/elections-and-administration>

La fermeture imminente des mines de diamants soulève des questions quant à l'évolution de la croissance démographique de Yellowknife et des collectivités qui ont bénéficié des emplois et de la croissance économique générés par les mines. Certains résidents ont confié à la Commission qu'ils pensaient que la fermeture des mines entraînerait un déclin démographique soutenu. Cependant, à Whatì, la Commission a entendu dire que les gens pourraient déménager dans des collectivités plus petites, maintenant qu'ils n'auront plus à se rendre sur les sites miniers, et que les autorités locales prévoient de nouveaux lotissements.

La Commission n'a pas de boule de cristal. Nous ne savons pas ce que l'avenir nous réserve. Nous devons formuler nos recommandations en nous appuyant sur les meilleures informations disponibles. Le Bureau de la statistique des TNO dispose de projections démographiques pour les collectivités pour la période allant de 2024 à 2044². Nous notons que ces projections prévoient une croissance démographique lente dans le territoire jusqu'en 2034. Cependant, il convient de noter que même cette estimation a été dépassée par les nouveaux chiffres sur la population pour 2025. La migration internationale est devenue l'une des principales sources de croissance démographique aux TNO. Bien que la migration internationale ait diminué de moitié en 2025 par rapport à 2024³, probablement en raison des changements apportés par le gouvernement fédéral, le plafond précédent de 300 postes a été rétabli en novembre 2025 et a été rapidement atteint⁴. Compte tenu de ces données, la Commission estime que la population des TNO devrait continuer à croître de manière modérée. Cette croissance démographique ne sera pas répartie de manière uniforme au sein des TNO. Certaines collectivités devraient connaître une croissance démographique, tandis que d'autres devraient enregistrer un déclin.

La Commission a également été informée que certaines collectivités, notamment Inuvik, Whatì, Hay River et Dettah, prévoient d'importants projets immobiliers. Les dirigeants des administrations locales ont fait part à la Commission des difficultés qu'ils éprouvent à recruter et à retenir des employés en raison de la pénurie de logements. Ils ont ajouté qu'en mettant des terrains à disposition pour des projets immobiliers, leurs collectivités se préparaient à connaître une croissance démographique.

² https://www.statsnwt.ca/population/community-projections/Proj_Comm_24.xlsx

³ Entre janvier et septembre 2025, on a constaté une augmentation de 256 résidents en raison de la migration internationale. Au cours de la même période en 2024, on a constaté une augmentation de 514 résidents.

⁴ <https://www.gov.nt.ca/en/newsroom/nwt-nominee-program-2025-intake-now-closed#:~:text=The%20Northwest%20Territories%20Nominee%20Program,candidates%20are%20not%20always%20available.>

Options et recommandations

La Commission a conclu que, pour respecter la parité relative des électeurs, la représentation politique doit être redistribuée vers les zones de croissance démographique, soit :

- A.** en regroupant les circonscriptions électorales à faible population; **soit**
- B.** en créant des circonscriptions électorales supplémentaires.

Pour les raisons exposées ci-après, nous avons déterminé que l'ajout de circonscriptions à l'Assemblée législative était l'option à privilégier et que la version modifiée du modèle à 22 circonscriptions que nous avons présenté dans notre rapport provisoire était le seul modèle que nous recommanderions.

Statu quo

Le rapport de 1998 de la Commission de délimitation des circonscriptions électorales indiquait que la population du territoire après la division était de 39 535 habitants. L'estimation de la population pour 2025 fournie à la présente Commission par le Bureau de la statistique des TNO est de 45 950 habitants. Autrement dit, la population du territoire a augmenté d'environ 16 % au cours des 27 dernières années.

La comparaison des estimations démographiques du rapport de 1998 et de celles de 2025 montre que la croissance démographique n'a pas été répartie de manière uniforme sur l'ensemble du territoire. La région des Tłı̨ch̨o a connu une croissance d'environ 20 %, et celle de Nunakput de 9 %. Yellowknife a connu la plus forte croissance démographique, avec environ 23 %. Cela équivaut à un peu plus de deux circonscriptions électorales, la moyenne actuelle étant de 2 418 résidents par circonscription électorale.

En raison de cette croissance, la redistribution au sein des 7 circonscriptions actuelles n'est pas possible dans les limites des variances autorisées. Comme l'a fait remarquer à la Commission Michael Pal, Ph. D., professeur de droit à l'Université d'Ottawa :

//

Une circonscription peut être sous-représentée de plus de +25 % en raison de la surreprésentation d'autres circonscriptions, ce qui constitue une circonstance particulière justifiant des dérogations supérieures à -25 %. Ce type de dérogation sera le plus difficile à justifier. La circonscription défavorisée est sous-représentée afin d'aider une autre circonscription, plutôt que parce que la collectivité accepte qu'il est dans son intérêt d'avoir une circonscription sous-représentée, mais cohésive.

//

La Commission a entendu le gouvernement Tłı̨ch̨o et la Ville de Yellowknife ainsi que les résidents de ces régions, lesquels ont tous déclaré que cette sous-représentation était inacceptable.

Les Tłıchǫ forment un seul peuple. Je serais préoccupé par toute proposition visant à regrouper une collectivité Tłıchǫ avec des collectivités non Tłıchǫ.

Participant de Behchokò

Ce n'est pas un problème nouveau. Depuis 2006, les commissions ont recommandé une représentation supplémentaire pour Yellowknife. La sous-représentation de Yellowknife à l'Assemblée législative du territoire a été contestée à deux reprises devant les tribunaux, avec succès en 1998, mais sans succès en 2015. En 2015, le juge

Charbonneau, dans le litige opposant la Ville de Yellowknife et coll. au commissaire des TNO et coll., 2015 NWTSC 51 (à partir du paragraphe 56), a déclaré :

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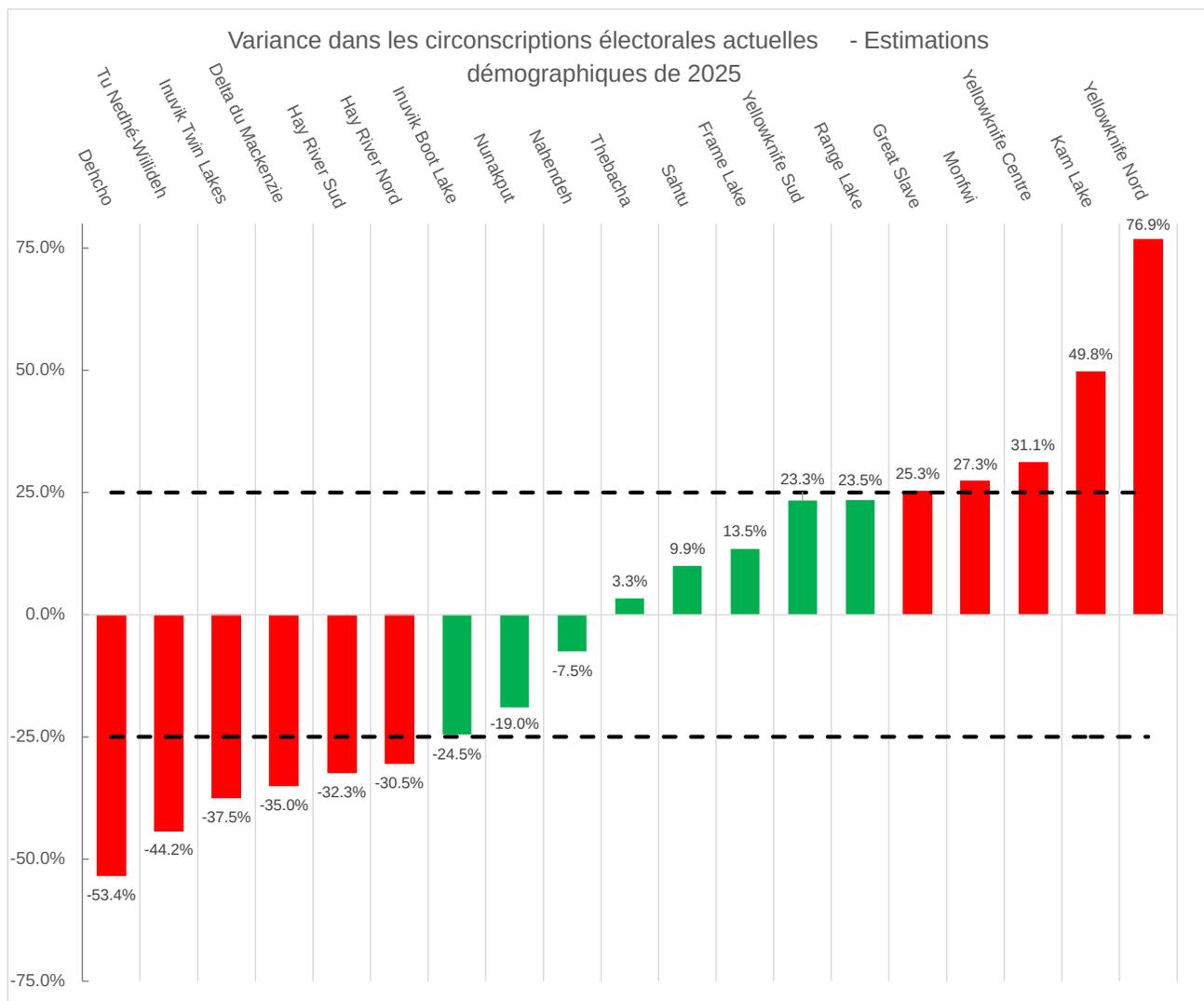
Dans l'affaire Friends of Democracy c. Territoires du Nord-Ouest (Procureur général), les limites des circonscriptions électorales ont également été contestées en raison de la sous-représentation des électeurs de Yellowknife, et la Cour a conclu que son intervention était justifiée. Mais la situation était alors radicalement différente : les limites des circonscriptions électorales contestées dans cette affaire auraient entraîné une sous-représentation de 152 % pour l'une des circonscriptions de Yellowknife et de 49 % pour une autre. Deux des circonscriptions électorales situées à l'extérieur de Yellowknife étaient surreprésentées de 63 et de 70 % respectivement.

Le projet de loi 18 crée des limites électorales qui entraînent une sous-représentation des circonscriptions de Yellowknife, mais pas dans la même mesure. Au vu de l'ensemble des éléments de preuve, je conclus qu'il existe une justification à ce niveau de sous-représentation, en prenant en considération tous les éléments, en gardant à l'esprit le principe fondamental selon lequel l'objectif ultime est une représentation globale effective.

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Pour rappel, en 2015, le projet de loi 18 proposait des limites électorales qui faisaient varier les sept circonscriptions de Yellowknife entre +21,3 % et +24,3 % par rapport à la moyenne territoriale. Cependant, il est très important de noter que ces limites n'ont pas été ajustées depuis et que les circonscriptions de Yellowknife se situent désormais entre +13,5 % et +76,9 % au-dessus de la moyenne.

Circonscription	Population en 2015	Population en 2025
Frame Lake	2,767	2,744
Great Slave	2,836	3,031
Kam Lake	2,668	3,622
Range Lake	2,826	2,986
Yellowknife Centre	2,832	3,171
Yellowknife Nord	2,800	4,279
Yellowknife Sud	2,926	2,983



Compte tenu des variances actuelles de population entre les circonscriptions électorales, un électeur de Dehcho dispose d'un poids électoral près de quatre fois supérieur à celui d'un électeur de Yellowknife Nord. Même si les circonscriptions de Yellowknife pouvaient être représentées de manière égale, chacune des sept circonscriptions serait supérieure de 34,8 % à la moyenne territoriale. En termes de poids électoral, il faudrait trois votes à Yellowknife pour égaler un seul vote dans la circonscription de Dehcho.⁵

Nous ne voulons pas minimiser les enjeux auxquels font face les petites collectivités éloignées. Leurs représentants ont un travail difficile et doivent s'éloigner de leur foyer chaque fois que les travaux de l'Assemblée législative les appellent à Yellowknife. Des députés actuels et anciens nous ont dit que les électeurs appellent souvent d'abord leur député pour obtenir de l'aide afin de s'y retrouver dans les questions gouvernementales.

⁵ Les calculs relatifs au poids des votes sont fondés sur la formule figurant dans « Is Every Ballot Equal? » (Tous les bulletins de vote ont-ils la même valeur?).

<https://irpp.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/research/strengthening-canadian-democracy/is-every-ballot-equal/vol13no1.pdf>

Nous avons également entendu des députés actuels et anciens de Yellowknife, qui n'ont pas à se déplacer aussi souvent, mais qui sont confrontés à des problèmes complexes pour leurs électeurs qui peuvent concerner plusieurs administrations et impliquer des origines et des langues très diverses. C'est particulièrement le cas lorsqu'il s'agit de questions liées à la résidence permanente, aux permis de travail, à la citoyenneté et aux soins de santé. De plus, une population plus importante signifie un plus grand nombre de résidents. Les résidents de Yellowknife vivent peut-être à proximité géographique de leur député, mais cela ne signifie pas nécessairement qu'ils y ont plus facilement accès.

Nous nous sommes efforcés de remplir notre mandat fondamental en essayant d'assurer une représentation effective, en équilibrant les communautés d'intérêts et la parité des droits de vote, tout en tenant compte de l'accès au gouvernement. En fin de compte, nous nous sommes inspirés des propos de la juge Beverley McLachlin de la Cour suprême du Canada dans l'affaire *Reference re Provincial Boundaries (Sask.)* [1991] 2 S.C.R. 158, p. 184 :

”

Quelles sont les conditions d'une représentation effective? La première est la parité relative du poids électoral. Un système qui dilue indûment le vote d'un citoyen par rapport à celui d'un autre citoyen risque de ne pas représenter adéquatement le citoyen dont le vote est dilué. Le pouvoir législatif du citoyen dont le vote est dilué sera réduit, tout comme l'accès à son représentant et l'aide de celui-ci. Il en résultera une représentation inégale et injuste.

Mais la parité du poids électoral, bien que primordiale, n'est pas le seul facteur dont il faut tenir compte pour garantir une représentation effective... Même si la valeur du vote d'un citoyen ne doit pas être indûment diluée, il est évident dans la pratique qu'une représentation effective ne peut souvent être obtenue sans tenir compte de facteurs compensatoires.

Premièrement, l'atteinte de la parité absolue est impossible. Il est impossible de tracer des limites garantissant exactement le même nombre d'électeurs dans chaque circonscription. Les électeurs meurent, les électeurs déménagent. Même avec l'aide de recensements fréquents, il est impossible d'assurer la parité électorale.

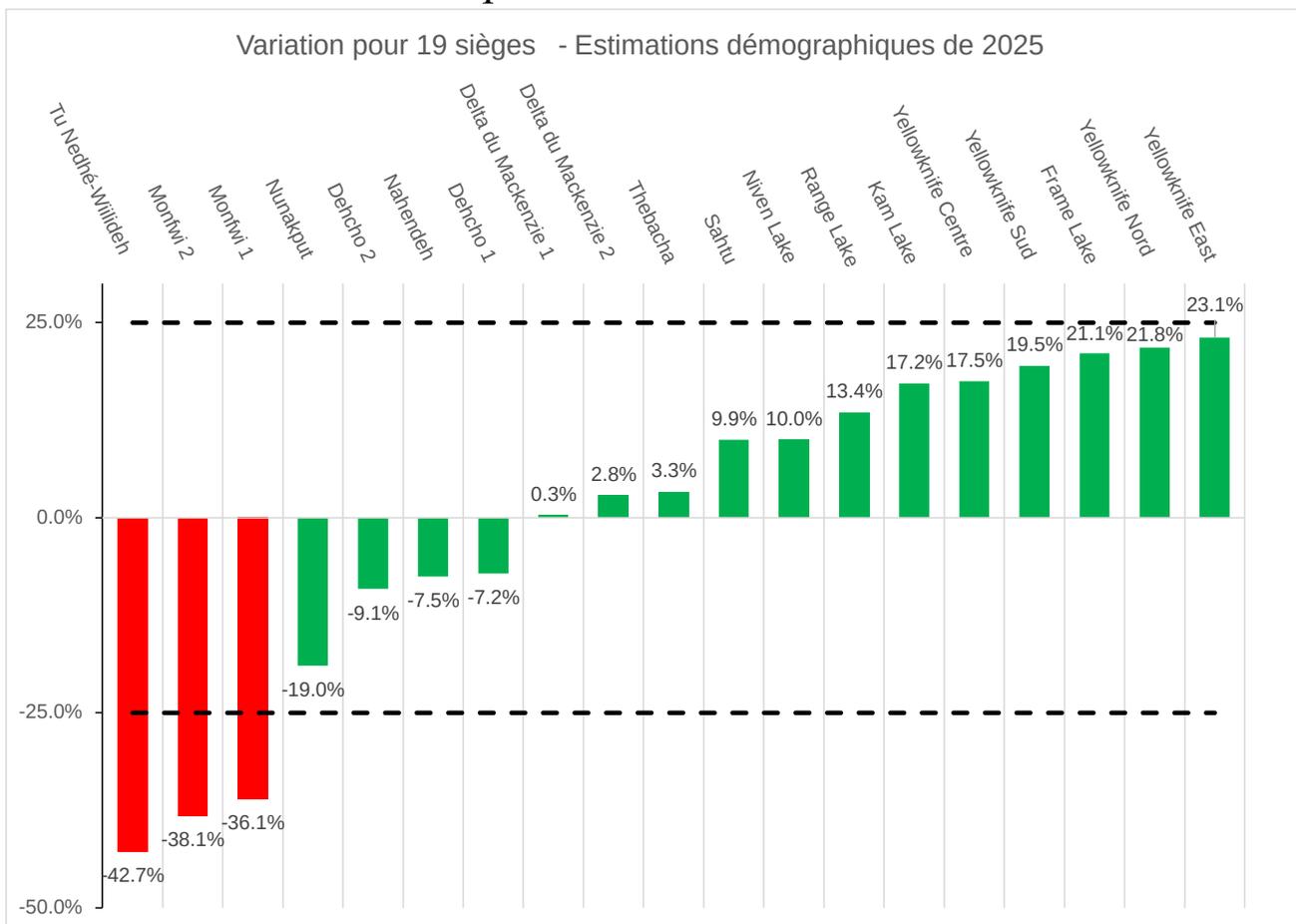
Deuxièmement, la parité relative qui pourrait être atteinte peut ne pas être souhaitable, car elle a pour effet de nuire à l'objectif premier d'une représentation effective. Des facteurs tels que la géographie, l'histoire de la collectivité, les intérêts de la collectivité et la représentation des minorités peuvent devoir être pris en considération si nous voulons faire en sorte que nos assemblées législatives représentent efficacement la diversité de notre mosaïque sociale. Ce ne sont là que des exemples de considérations qui peuvent justifier de s'écarter de la parité électorale absolue dans la recherche d'une représentation plus effective; la liste ne s'arrête pas là.

Il apparaît donc que les dérogations à la parité électorale absolue peuvent être justifiées par des raisons d'impossibilité pratique ou par la nécessité d'assurer une représentation plus effective. Au-delà de cela, la dilution du vote d'un citoyen par rapport à celui d'un autre ne devrait pas être tolérée. //

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Nous recommandons vivement et unanimement de ne pas maintenir le statu quo.

Modèle à 19 circonscriptions



La Commission devait proposer une option à 19 circonscriptions. Il s'agit du meilleur modèle que la Commission ait pu concevoir en prenant en considération tous les facteurs, mais en fin de compte, nous ne sommes pas favorables au modèle à 19 circonscriptions et nous le déconseillons.

Si l'on veut respecter les communautés d'intérêts, il ne suffit pas de déplacer des limites.

Au cours de notre processus décisionnel, nous avons recueilli des commentaires au moyen d'observations écrites et nous avons discuté avec les gens en personne. Les commentaires étaient clairs et sans équivoque : de nombreux résidents tiennent beaucoup à ce que les petites collectivités continuent d'être représentées. Afin d'orienter notre analyse, nous avons créé un cadre décisionnel particulier pour nous aider à évaluer différents modèles. L'une des idées clés sur lesquelles nous nous sommes concentrés consistait à regrouper les petites collectivités avec les centres régionaux. Ces pôles régionaux sont essentiels pour le commerce, les échanges et les déplacements, car ils relient les petites collectivités à la région dans son ensemble. Cependant, tant les gens des petites collectivités que ceux des centres régionaux nous ont dit qu'ils voulaient garder leur propre voix à l'Assemblée législative.

Tout au long de nos discussions, nous avons cherché à trouver un équilibre qui respecte les liens entre les petites collectivités et leurs homologues urbaines. Même si le modèle à 19 circonscriptions était clairement au centre de nos préoccupations, les commentaires des collectivités et nos principes directeurs nous ont amenés à conclure que ce n'était pas une option viable. Il est essentiel de respecter la diversité des cultures et des collectivités des TNO.

Les TNO comptent de nombreuses cultures autochtones différentes. Il est impératif que ces cultures soient respectées en tant que communautés d'intérêts. C'est pourquoi nous ne pouvons pas effectivement retirer ces zones pour ramener Yellowknife dans la fourchette de variance admissible.

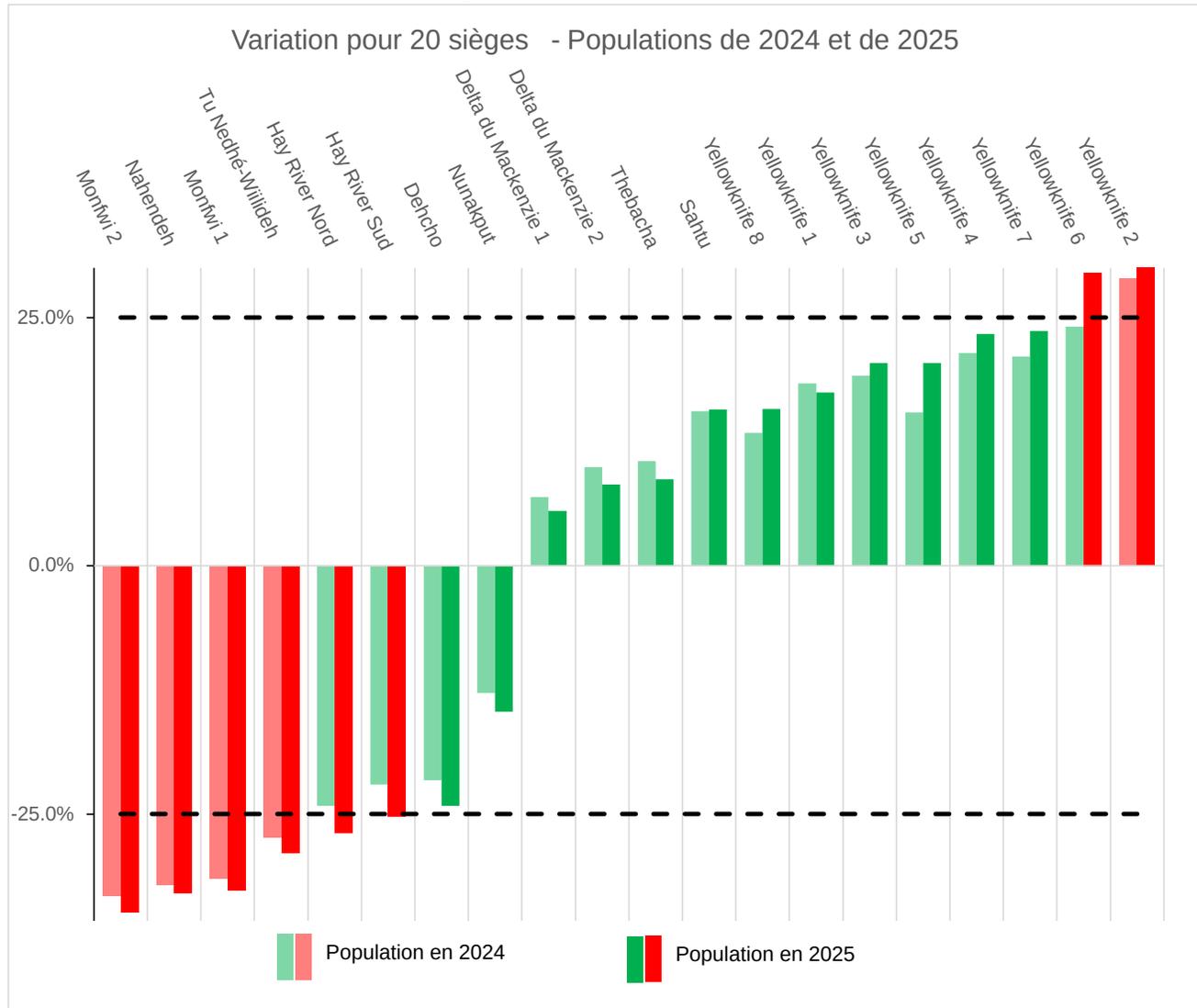
Les cartes du modèle à 19 circonscriptions se trouvent à l'annexe A.

Nous recommandons fortement et à l'unanimité que le modèle à 19 circonscriptions que l'on nous a demandé de proposer NE SOIT PAS adopté. À notre avis, un modèle à 19 circonscriptions ne peut tout simplement pas assurer une représentation adéquate de tous les résidents des Territoires du Nord-Ouest.



Les membres de la Commission examinent les différentes façons de diviser Yellowknife en circonscriptions.

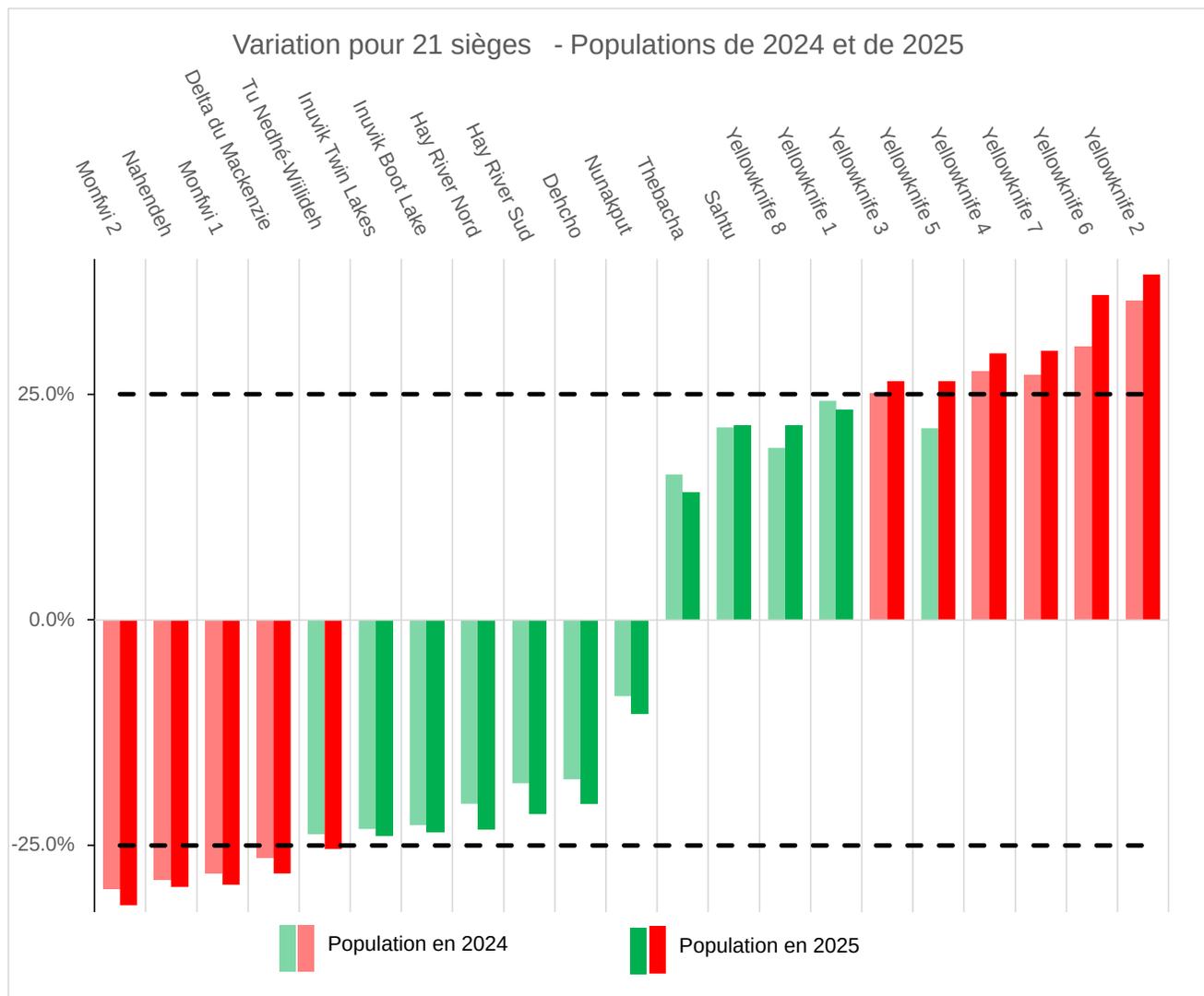
Modèle à 20 circonscriptions



La Commission n'a constaté aucun soutien en faveur de cette option lors de ses audiences publiques ou dans les observations qui lui ont été présentées. Ce modèle présente les mêmes lacunes que le modèle à 19 circonscriptions en matière de représentation des communautés d'intérêts, même s'il pourrait y avoir moins de problèmes dans le sud des TNO, où les collectivités de Dehcho conserveraient leurs circonscriptions ou leur représentation distincte. Les estimations démographiques pour 2025 montrent également que six des circonscriptions seraient surreprésentées. Si les circonscriptions de Yellowknife pouvaient être réparties de manière égale, elles seraient chacune à +24,1 % ou très proches d'être en dehors de la variance.

Nous estimons que ce modèle ne permet pas d'assurer une représentation efficace ni la parité du poids des votes, c'est pourquoi nous ne le recommandons pas.

Modèle à 21 circonscriptions



Nous serions sous-représentés si nous faisons partie d'Inuvik. Tout est géré depuis le centre. Nos collectivités perdront leur représentation.

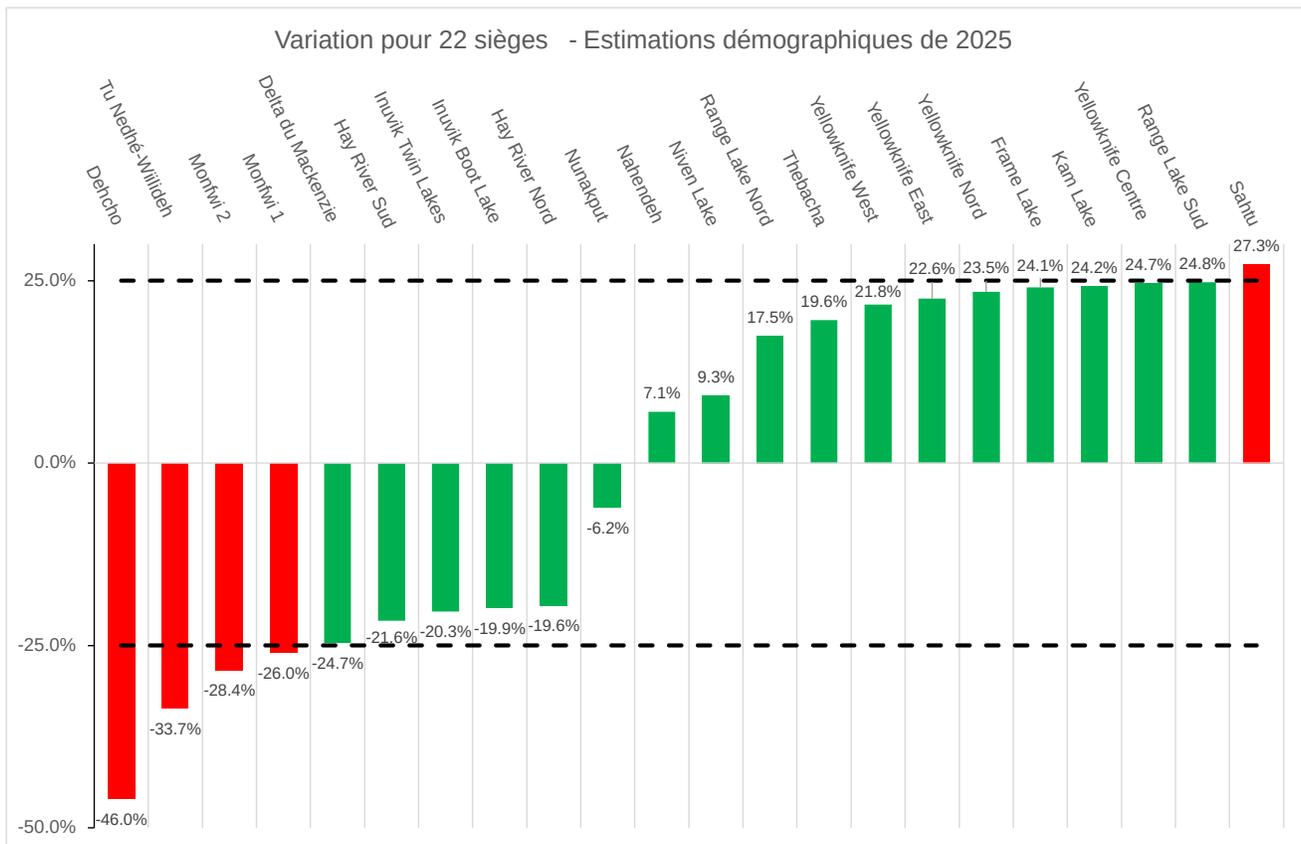
Participant de Fort McPherson

La Commission a remarqué que cette option ne recueillait que peu de soutien, et même celui-ci était tempéré par le fait qu'il s'agissait de la deuxième option la moins contestable après le modèle à 22 circonscriptions.

Onze des circonscriptions sont hors variance une fois que nous avons appliqué les estimations démographiques de 2025. Si nous parvenions à répartir uniformément la population des 8 circonscriptions de Yellowknife, celles-ci se situeraient chacune à +30,3% au-dessus de la moyenne territoriale et hors variance.

Nous estimons que ce modèle ne permet pas d'assurer une représentation efficace ni la parité du poids des votes, c'est pourquoi nous ne le recommandons pas.

Modèle à 22 circonscriptions



Ce modèle n'apporte aucune modification aux circonscriptions électorales actuelles de Nunakput, de Delta du Mackenzie, de Sahtu, de Nahendeh, de Dehcho ou de Thebacha.

Les modifications apportées sont les suivantes :

Inuvik - la ligne de démarcation entre Boot Lake et Twin Lakes est ajustée afin de mieux équilibrer la population entre les circonscriptions.

Hay River - la ligne de démarcation entre le nord et le sud est ajustée afin de mieux équilibrer la population entre les circonscriptions.

Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh - les limites sont ajustées pour inclure la route d'accès à Dettah et la route 3, de la limite ouest de Yellowknife à Boundary Creek. Ces ajustements permettent de créer une circonscription contiguë sans avoir à créer d'enclaves.

Yellowknife - 9 circonscriptions - les limites entre les circonscriptions sont modifiées afin de mieux équilibrer la population et de créer deux nouvelles circonscriptions. La circonscription de Niven Lake est maintenue à une population inférieure afin de tenir compte des aménagements en cours sur son territoire qui, selon nos prévisions, rapprocheront la population de Niven de celle des autres circonscriptions de Yellowknife au cours des prochaines années.

Quatre circonscriptions seront surreprésentées d'au moins 25 %.

- Dehcho
- Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh
- Monfwi 1 et 2

Nous avons examiné de nombreuses façons de rapprocher la population de Dehcho et de Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh de la moyenne territoriale. Chacune de ces options présentait des inconvénients qui l'emportaient sur les avantages liés à l'augmentation de la population. Le transfert d'une ou de deux petites collectivités vers le Dehcho ne permettra pas de ramener la circonscription dans les limites de la variance. Il n'existe aucun autre centre urbain distinct plus important qui pourrait être déplacé dans la circonscription afin d'augmenter la population.

Il en va de même pour Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh. Les quatre collectivités de la circonscription sont éloignées les unes des autres. Il n'existe aucune collectivité comparable dans les environs de la circonscription qui pourrait être ajoutée. Notre proposition d'inclure les résidents de la route Ingraham Trail a été largement rejetée. La Commission a appris de Dettah qu'un lotissement est prévu, ce qui pourrait augmenter la population de la collectivité.

Nous estimons qu'il est pratiquement impossible de modifier ces deux circonscriptions.

La création d'une deuxième circonscription à partir de Monfwi entraîne une surreprésentation des deux nouvelles circonscriptions. La Commission estime que cela est acceptable pour deux raisons. Premièrement, nous ne pouvons remédier à la sous-représentation de Monfwi qu'en divisant la circonscription en deux. Le transfert d'une collectivité de Tłı̨ch̨q̨ vers le Dehcho ou Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh n'est pas une option à notre avis, car cela ne respecte pas le fait que les Tłı̨ch̨q̨ forment un seul peuple — c'est-à-dire une communauté d'intérêts — et ont clairement exprimé le souhait que leurs circonscriptions électorales restent ensemble. Deuxièmement, la région des Tłı̨ch̨q̨ connaît une croissance démographique soutenue. Behchok̨ò et Whatì, en particulier, sont en pleine croissance et devraient continuer à s'agrandir. Si cette croissance démographique se poursuit, nous prévoyons que les deux circonscriptions se situeront dans la fourchette de variation admissible d'ici quelques années.

Le modèle à 22 circonscriptions que nous avons proposé entraînera une sous-représentation du Sahtu. La Commission a examiné diverses options pour éviter cela, mais nous les avons toutes rejetées car elles étaient irréalisables. Pour que le Sahtu ne soit pas sous-représenté, il faudrait soit déplacer une collectivité vers une autre circonscription — Tulita vers Nahendeh, par exemple —, soit diviser la circonscription. Nous estimons que le transfert d'une collectivité vers une autre circonscription perturberait la communauté d'intérêts que forment les collectivités de Sahtu, car ces cinq collectivités parlent le déné kədá et relèvent de l'Entente sur la revendication territoriale globale des Dénés et Métis du Sahtú. Cependant, la division de la circonscription donnerait lieu à deux circonscriptions très surreprésentées et obligerait Yellowknife et Fort Smith à créer chacune une circonscription supplémentaire. Les projections démographiques pour les collectivités de Sahtu varient, certaines prévoyant une croissance, tandis que d'autres prévoient un déclin. Dans l'ensemble, la population de la région devrait rester assez stable. La Commission estime qu'il est pratiquement impossible de remédier à la

sous-représentation de Sahtu à l'heure actuelle et que, si la population générale des TNO continue de croître, le Sahtu pourrait bien entrer dans la variance à mesure que la moyenne territoriale augmente.

Pour qu'aucune circonscription ne soit sous-représentée d'au moins 25 %, il faudrait 29 circonscriptions, ce qui est tout simplement intenable selon la Commission. Selon ce scénario, deux circonscriptions seraient toujours surreprésentées.

Malgré notre examen approfondi de modèles comprenant jusqu'à 53 circonscriptions, nous n'avons pas réussi à trouver une option qui permette à toutes les circonscriptions de se situer dans les limites de la variance. Nous notons avec prudence que, même dans le modèle à 22 circonscriptions, les neuf circonscriptions de Yellowknife (représentant plus de 40,9 % du total des circonscriptions et 49,7 % de la population des Territoires du Nord-Ouest) restent nettement sous-représentées, avec une variance moyenne proche de la limite de 25 % par rapport à la moyenne territoriale. Bien que la Commission soit convaincue que ce modèle à 22 circonscriptions est conforme aux normes juridiques actuelles et à notre mandat, il est important de noter que la croissance actuelle et future des centres urbains comme Yellowknife pourrait faire passer la population au-delà du seuil légal actuel de représentation lors de la prochaine commission de délimitation des circonscriptions.

Nous sommes finalement d'avis que le modèle à 22 circonscriptions est également le plus conforme à l'objectif de réconciliation, c.-à-d. lutter contre le colonialisme et forger et maintenir de meilleures relations entre les peuples autochtones et le gouvernement ainsi que la société en général. Le modèle à 22 circonscriptions s'efforce de traiter de manière adéquate la question de la parité sans éliminer la représentation distincte des communautés autochtones d'intérêt plus petites, mais importantes des TNO. Il remédie à la sous-représentation des collectivités t̄łch̄q dans ce qui est aujourd'hui la circonscription électorale unique de Monfwi. Il garantit également un degré acceptable de parité pour Yellowknife, une collectivité qui compte une population autochtone nettement plus importante que toute autre collectivité des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Nous notons également que Yellowknife abrite d'importantes populations de minorités visibles qui ont également besoin d'une représentation effective.

Nous avons finalement conclu que le modèle à 22 circonscriptions que nous avons proposé permettrait d'équilibrer le plus efficacement possible la parité électorale et les communautés d'intérêts, et donc de réaliser au mieux l'atteinte de l'objectif ultime d'une représentation effective de tous les résidents des Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

Les cartes du modèle à 22 circonscriptions se trouvent à l'annexe A.

Nous recommandons fortement et à l'unanimité le modèle à 22 circonscriptions. À notre avis, il constitue la meilleure option pour aller de l'avant, car il répond le mieux aux besoins de tous les résidents de nos collectivités diversifiées tout en visant une représentation électorale équitable jusqu'à la prochaine commission qui reprendra l'exercice dans huit ans.

Noms

La Commission est également chargée de formuler des recommandations sur les noms des circonscriptions proposées ou actuelles. Au cours de nos audiences publiques, la Commission a invité les participants à proposer de nouveaux noms.

Pour ce qui est des circonscriptions proposées dans la région des Tłı̨chǫ, la Commission recommande à l'Assemblée législative d'écrire au gouvernement des Tłı̨chǫ pour l'inviter à proposer des noms.

Pour les circonscriptions de Yellowknife, la Commission a pris connaissance d'observations selon lesquelles, dans la mesure du possible, la continuité devrait être maintenue afin de permettre aux électeurs de s'y reconnaître facilement.

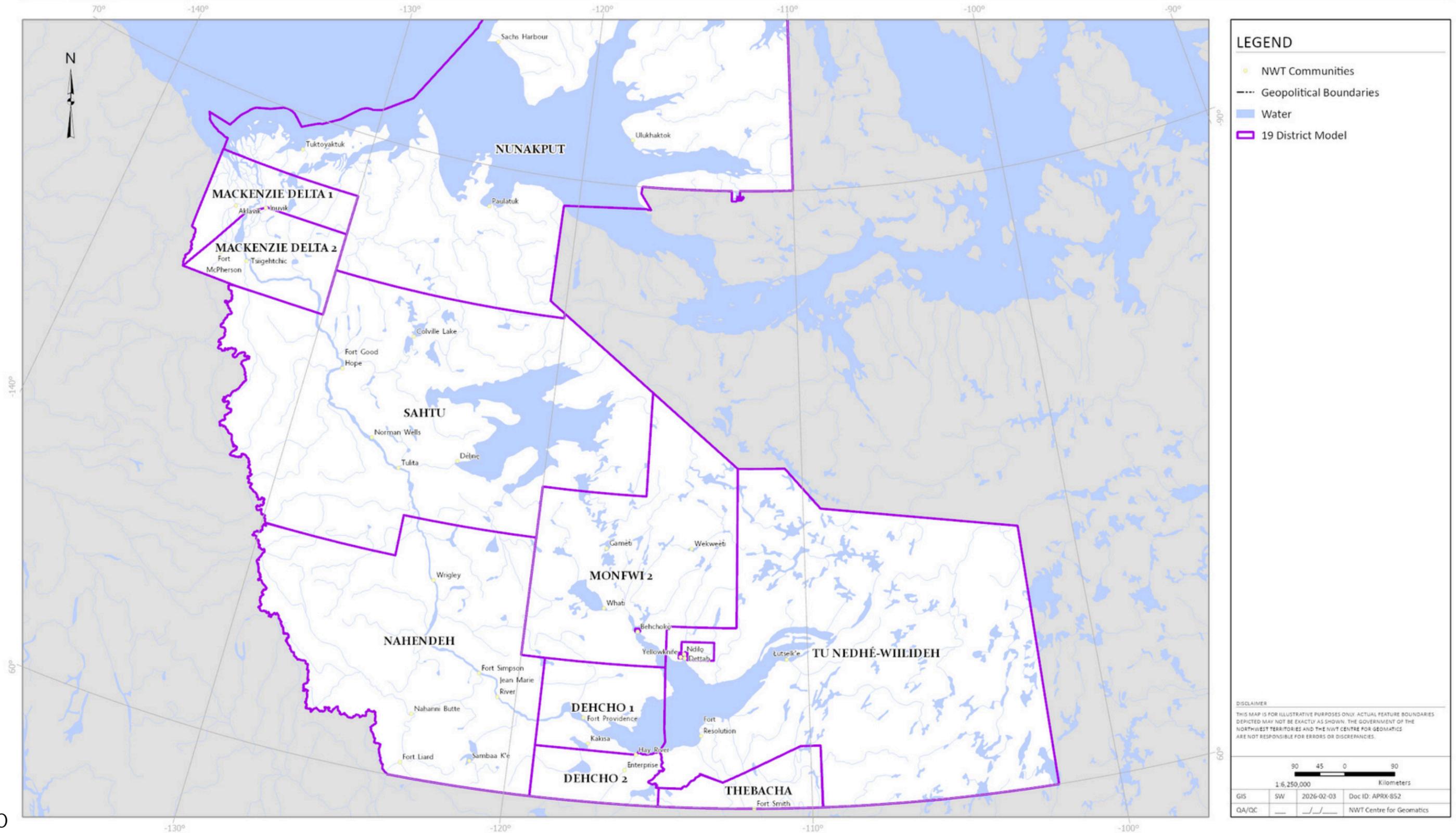
La Commission note que Yellowknife Sud ne représente plus la partie sud de la ville, car Kam Lake, Frame Lake et Yellowknife Est s'étendent toutes plus au sud. Yellowknife Ouest serait plus précis sur le plan géographique.

En ce qui concerne la création d'une 9^e circonscription, la Commission propose d'utiliser Yellowknife Ouest pour la nouvelle circonscription à l'ouest de Yellowknife Centre et Frame Lake, d'utiliser Range Lake comme principale caractéristique géographique entre les circonscriptions 2 et 3, et d'utiliser Range Lake Nord (correspondant approximativement à l'actuelle circonscription de Range Lake) et Range Lake Sud (correspondant approximativement à l'actuelle circonscription de Yellowknife Sud).

Nous recommandons vivement et à l'unanimité que le nom « Great Slave » soit supprimé pour toute circonscription électorale actuelle ou future, compte tenu de son caractère dégradant et discutable.



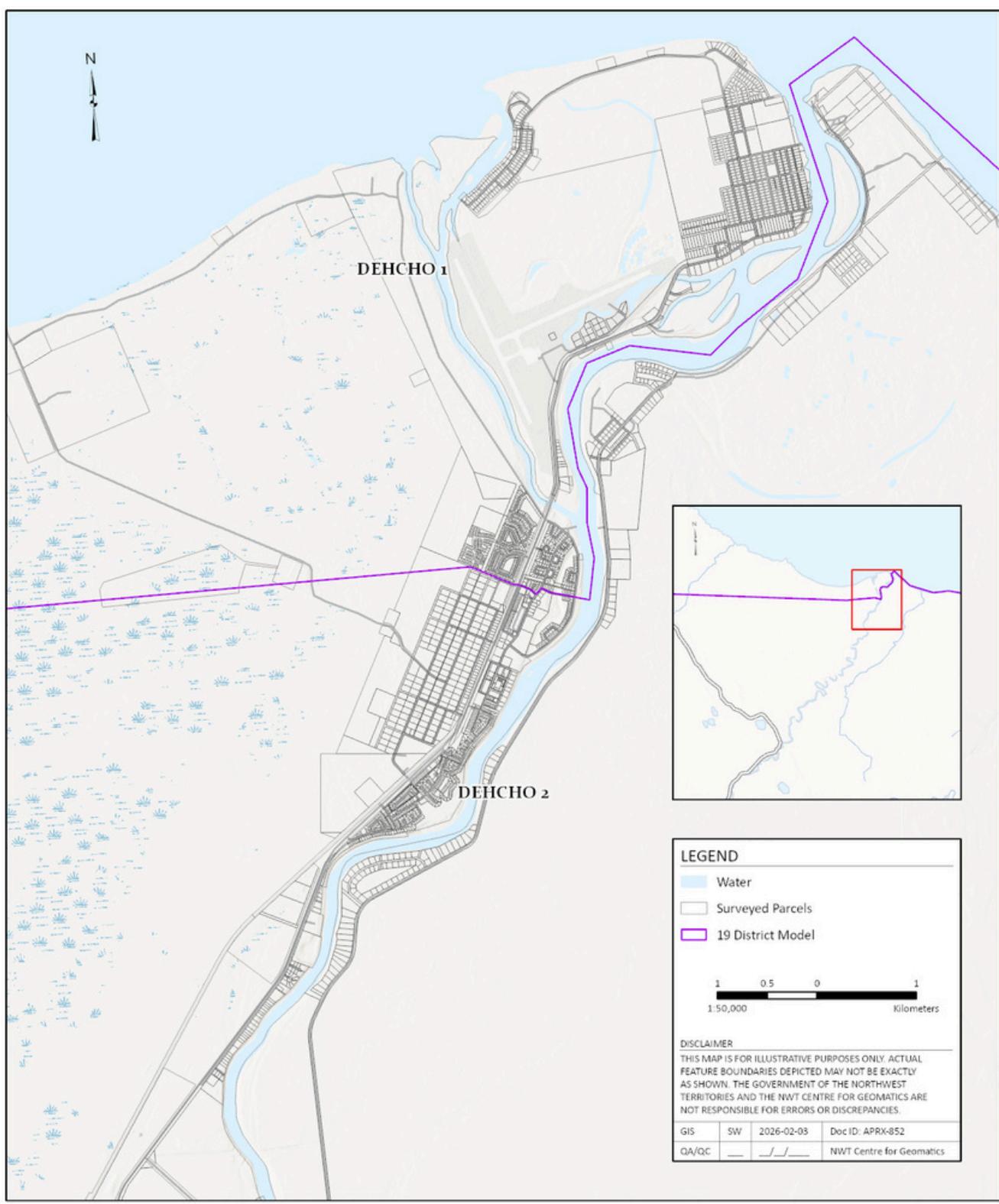
Territory - 19 District Model



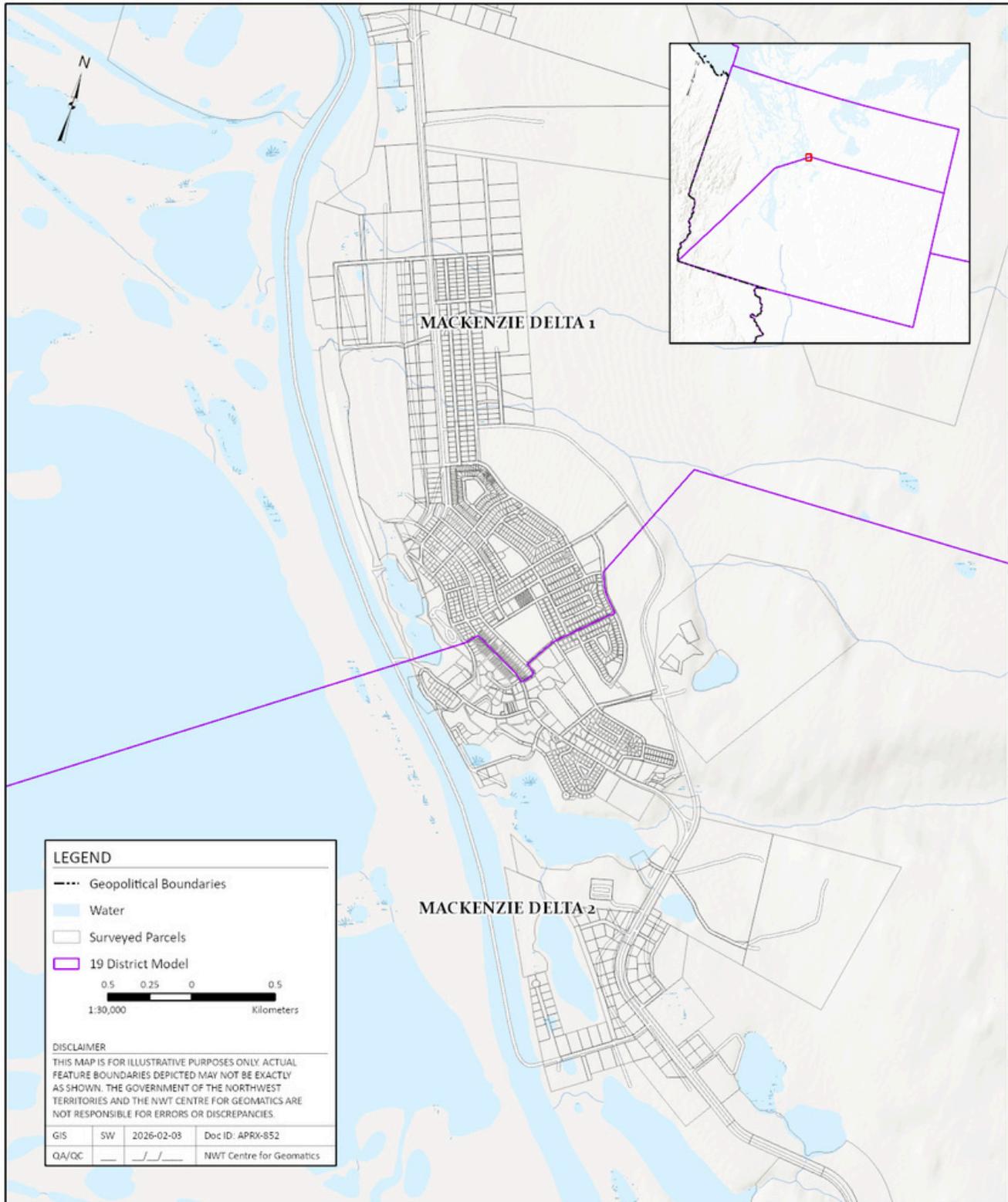
19 District Model Estimated Population

Electoral District	2025 Estimated Population	Variance
Dehcho 1	2,245	-7.2%
Dehcho 2	2,198	-9.1%
Mackenzie Delta 1	2,425	0.3%
Mackenzie Delta 2	2,486	2.8%
Monfwi 1	1,546	-36.1%
Monfwi 2	1,496	-38.1%
Nahendeh	2,236	-7.5%
Nunakput	1,960	-19.0%
Sahtu	2,659	9.9%
Thebacha	2,498	3.3%
Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh	1,385	-42.7%
Frame Lake	2,928	21.1%
Kam Lake	2,834	17.2%
Niven Lake	2,660	10.0%
Range Lake	2,743	13.4%
Yellowknife Centre	2,841	17.5%
Yellowknife East	2,976	23.1%
Yellowknife North	2,945	21.8%
Yellowknife South	2,889	19.5%

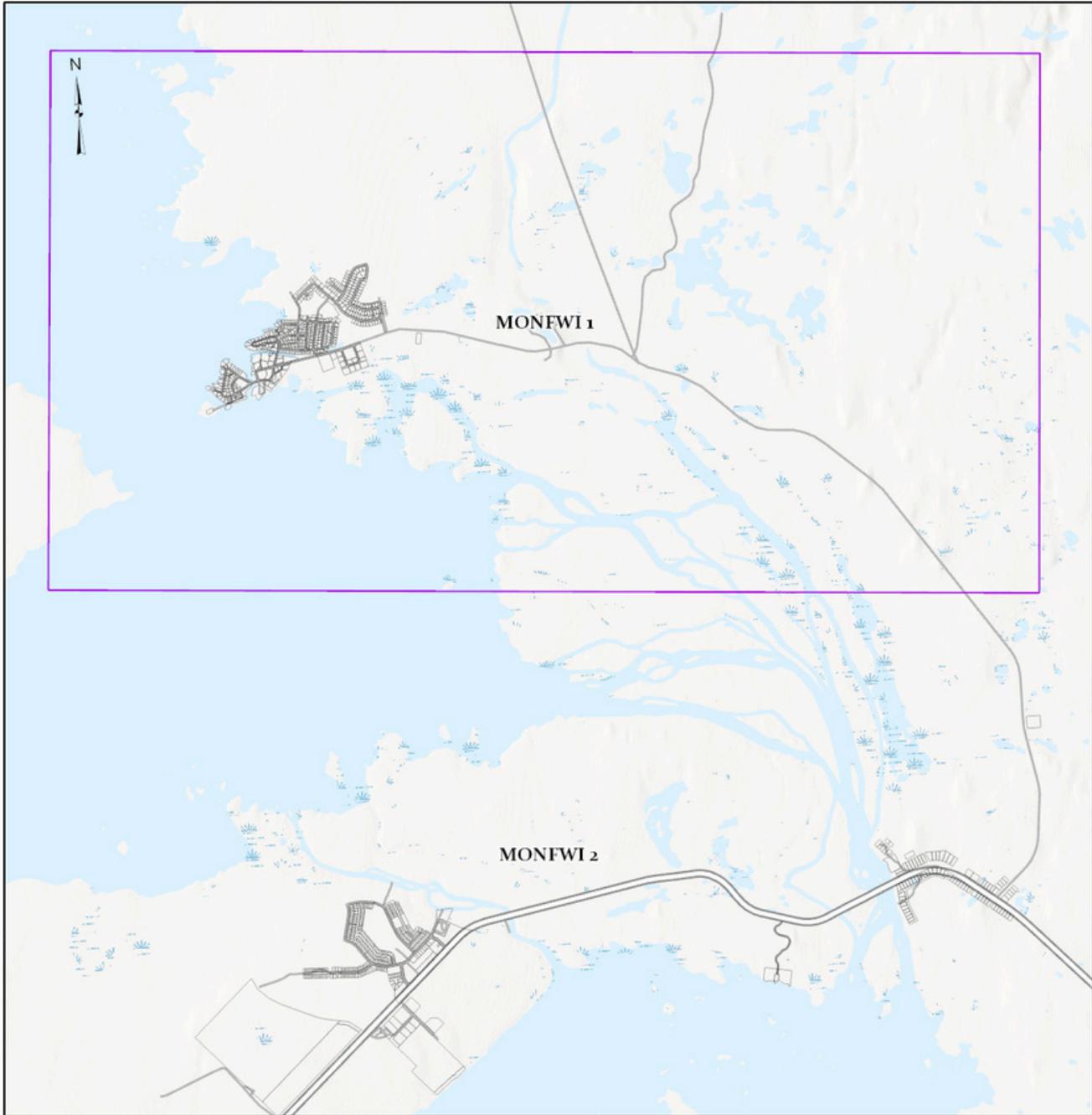
Hay River - 19 District Model



Inuvik - 19 District Model



Behchokò - 19 District Model

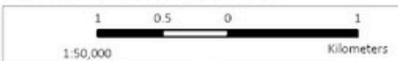


LEGEND

-  Water
-  Surveyed Parcels
-  19 District Model

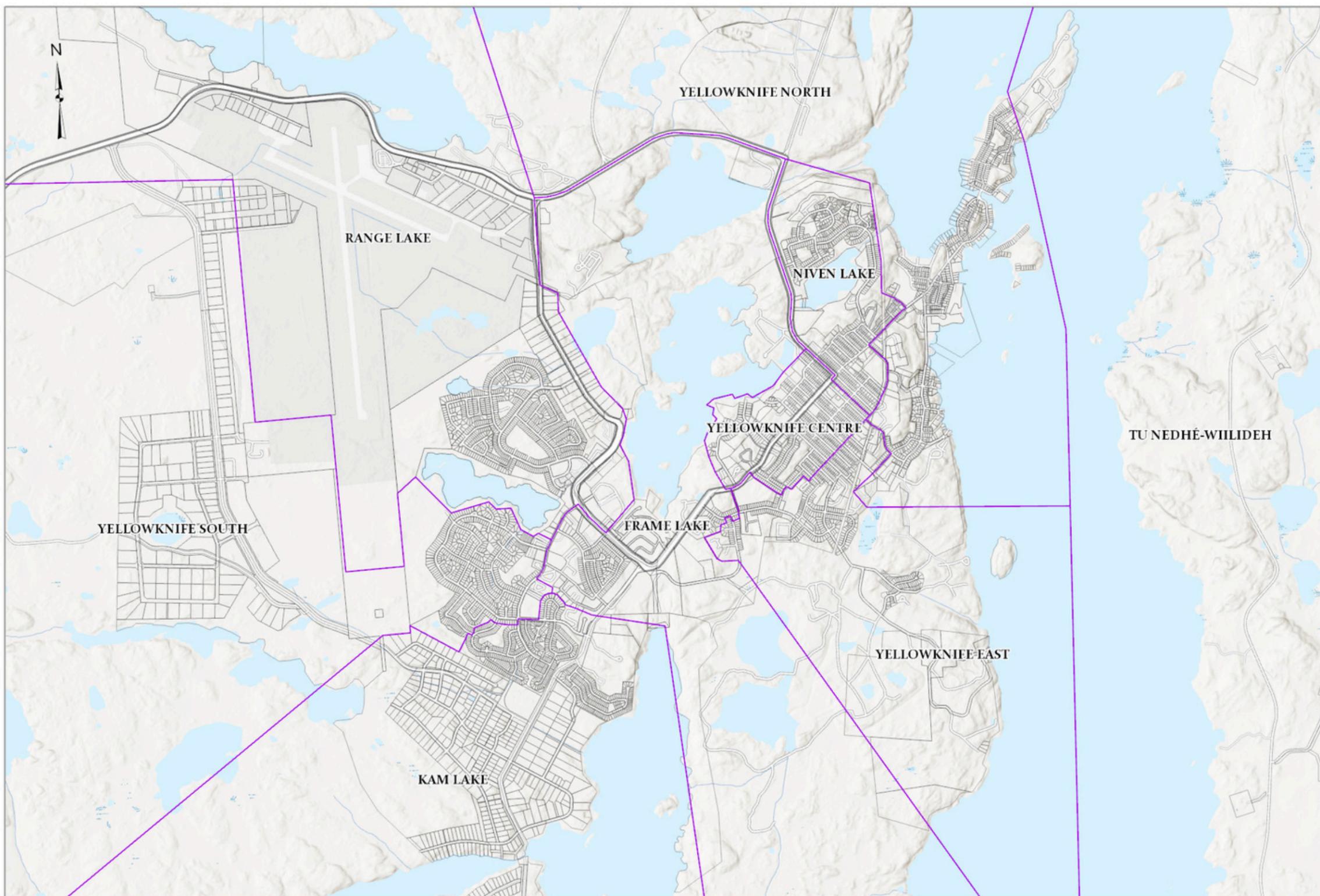
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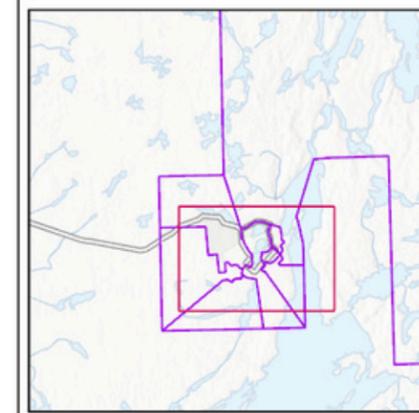
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Yellowknife - 19 District Model



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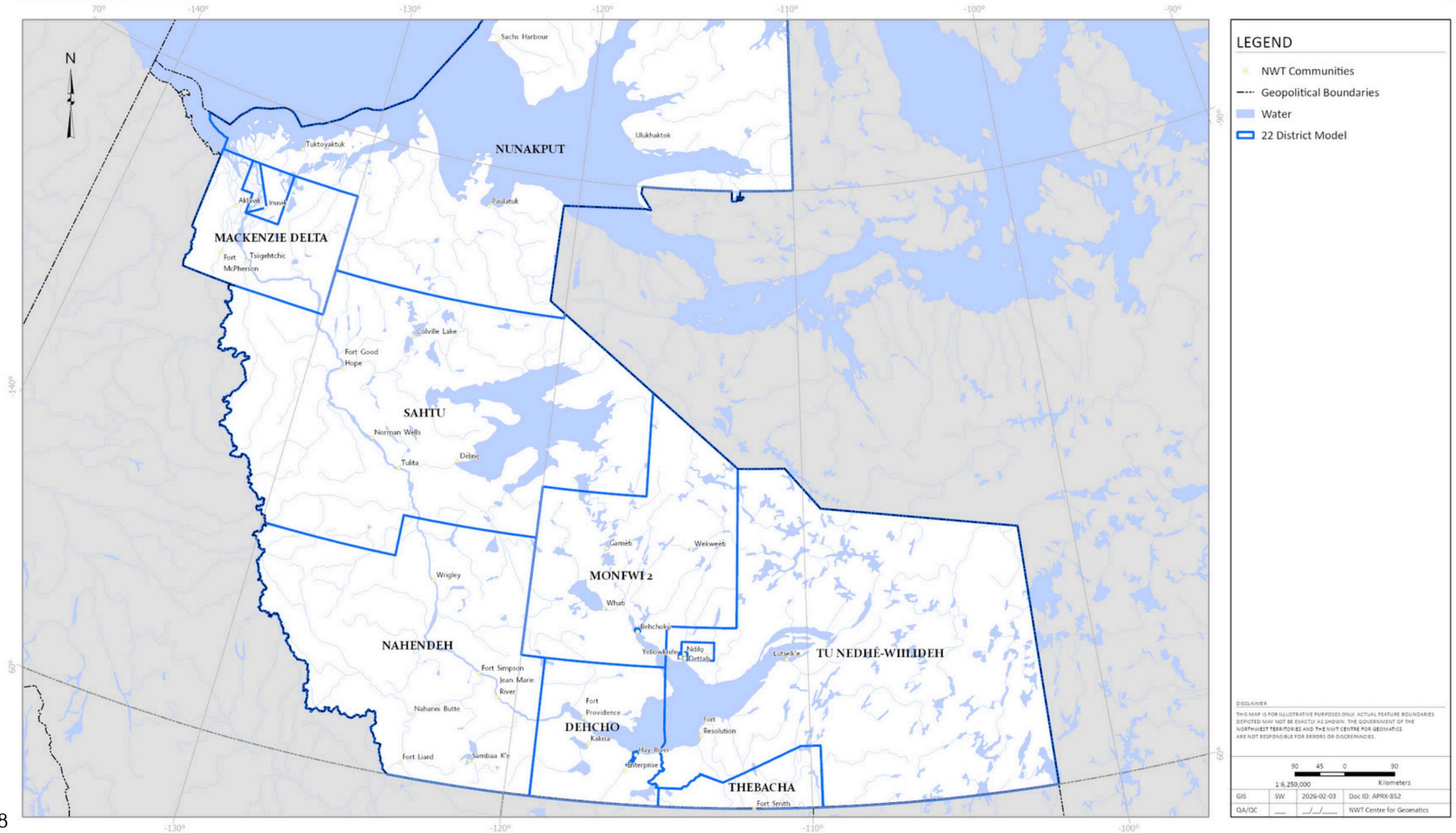
- Water
- Surveyed Parcels
- 19 District Model



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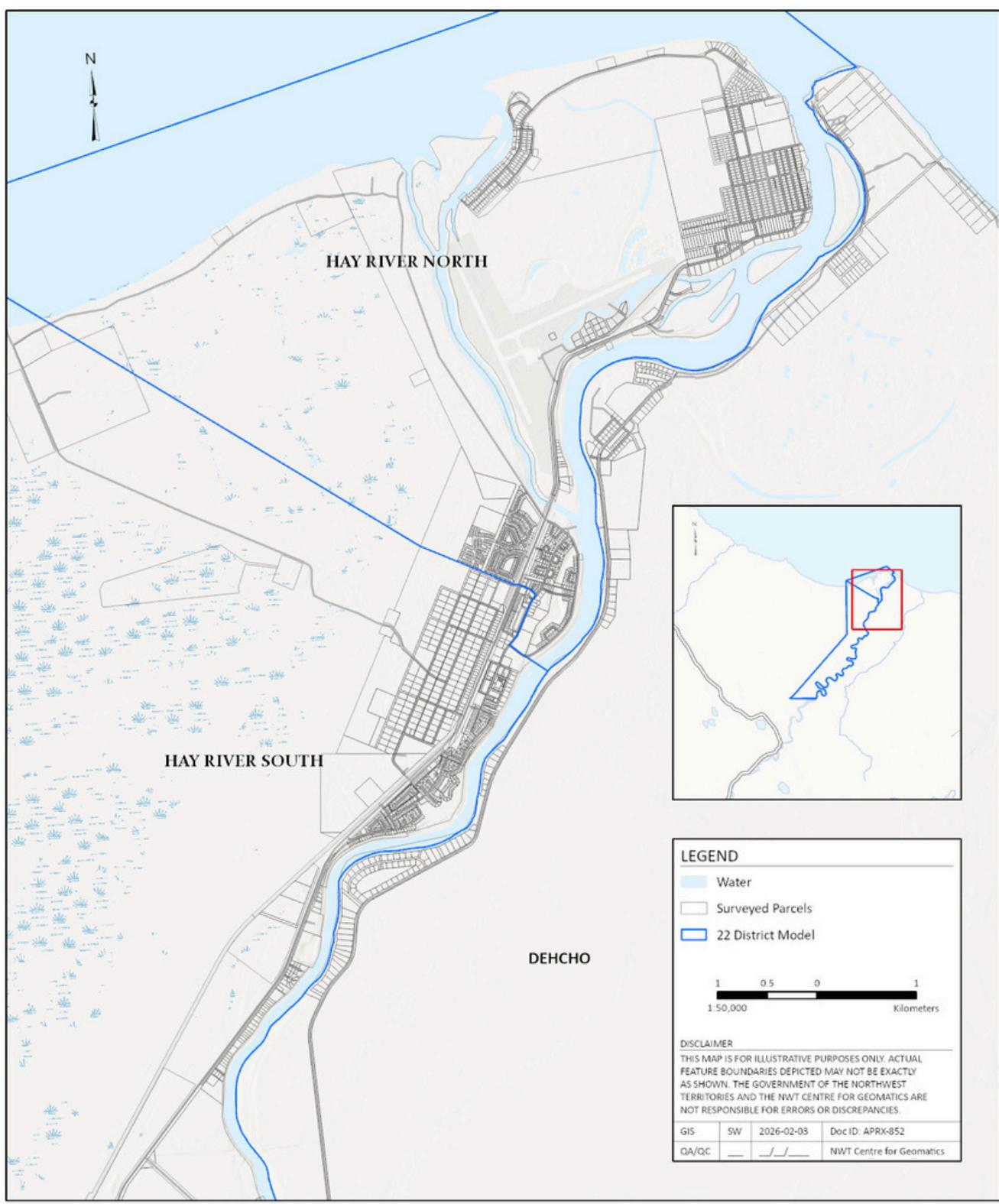
Territory - 22 District Model



22 District Model Estimated Population

Electoral District	2025 Estimated Population	Variance
Dehcho	1,127	-46.0%
Hay River North	1,680	-19.6%
Hay River South	1,637	-21.6%
Inuvik Boot Lake	1,673	-19.9%
Inuvik Twin Lakes	1,664	-20.3%
Mackenzie Delta	1,573	-24.7%
Monfwi 1	1,546	-26.0%
Monfwi 2	1,496	-28.4%
Nahendeh	2,236	7.1%
Nunakput	1,960	-6.2%
Sahtu	2,659	27.3%
Thebacha	2,498	19.6%
Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh	1,385	-33.7%
Frame Lake	2,592	24.1%
Kam Lake	2,594	24.2%
Niven Lake	2,283	9.3%
Range Lake North	2,454	17.5%
Range Lake South	2,607	24.8%
Yellowknife Centre	2,605	24.7%
Yellowknife East	2,560	22.6%
Yellowknife North	2,579	23.5%
Yellowknife West	2,543	21.8%

Hay River - 22 District Model



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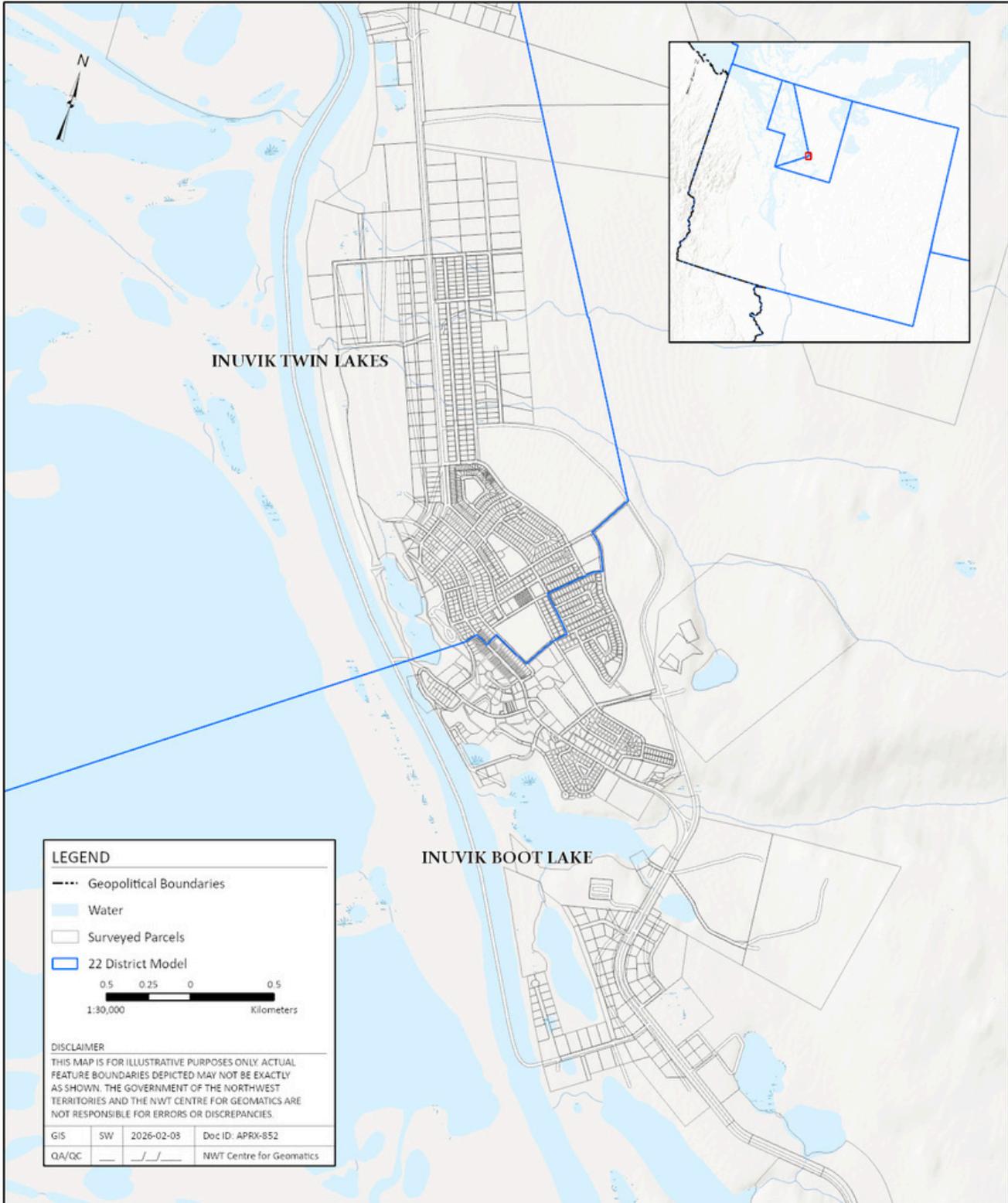
-  Water
-  Surveyed Parcels
-  22 District Model

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Inuvik - 22 District Model



Behchokò - 22 District Model

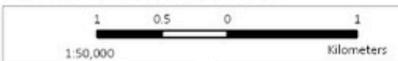


LEGEND

- Water
- Surveyed Parcels
- 22 District Model

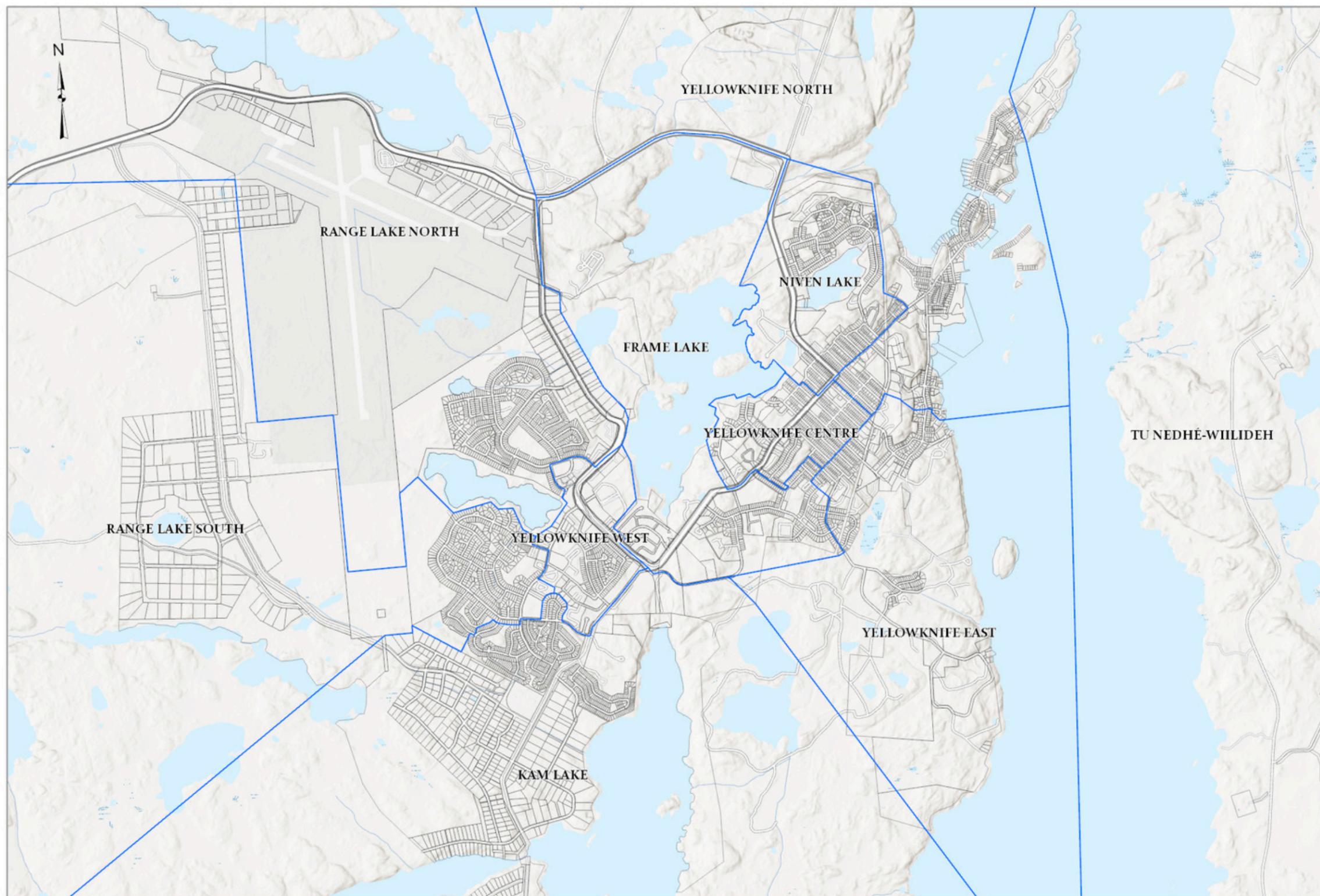
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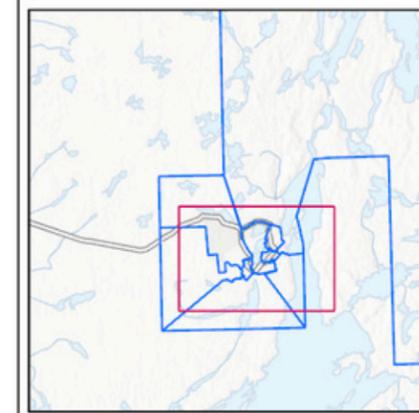
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Yellowknife - 22 District Model



LEGEND

- Water
- Surveyed Parcels
- 22 District Model



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Electoral Boundaries Commission Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

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. Guidelines

The Legislative Assembly requires the commission the following guidelines:

- a) The Commission shall review the existing electoral districts using the most recent and accurate census and other population data available.
- b) In keeping with Canadian constitutional conventions, relative parity between electoral districts shall be sought, to the extent possible, except where special circumstances warrant exceptional deviation.
- c) 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.
- d) In addition to whatever recommendations the Commission may propose for more than 19 seats, the Commission shall recommend how the electoral boundaries should be drawn if the Legislative Assembly were composed of 19 seats.
- e) The Commission shall prepare an interim report with proposed electoral district boundaries for review by the public and discussion at public hearings.
- f) The Commission shall establish a website or other publicly accessible mechanism(s), in addition to public hearings, to receive submissions on the existing and/or proposed boundaries.
- g) All submission to the Commission shall be considered public documents.
- h) Simultaneous interpretation of official languages shall be available at public hearings where the use of an official language in that region or community warrants the use of interpreters.
- i) If the Commission is not able to fulfill its mandate within the budget allocated, it may return to the Legislative Assembly to request additional funds.

3. Composition

The Commission shall be composed of a chairperson and four additional members. They are appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly. The Chairperson must be a current or retired judge of the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeal, or someone who meets the qualifications to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeal.

4. Considerations

The Electoral Boundaries Commission Act requires the Commission, in preparing its report, the Commission shall consider:

- 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) Traditional names for geographical features, populated places and regions;
- f) Community boundaries and boundaries established under land, resources and self-government agreements, including land claim and treaty land entitlement agreements;
- g) Facilities for and patterns of transportation and communication within and between different areas;
- h) Language, culture and any other special community or diversity of interests of the residents of any part of the Northwest Territories;
- i) Special circumstances relating to any existing electoral districts;
- j) Public input obtained by the Commission;
- k) Any guidelines or criteria proposed for the consideration of the Commission by resolution of the Legislative Assembly; and
- l) Any other similar and relevant factors that the Commission considers appropriate.

5. Report

The final report of the Commission complete with recommendations, shall be submitted in English and French to the Speaker and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, no later than nine months after the Commission is struck.

6. Finance and Administration

The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, in consultation with the Commission, shall identify a Secretary to the Commission. Pursuant to s. 6 of the Act, the Commission may engage the services of any persons necessary to assist in the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties under the Act.

The Speaker, on the recommendation of the Board of Management, will approve funding for the Commission. The Commission will ensure expenditures do not exceed the allotted funds.

Total Allotment (remuneration and expenditures): \$150,000.00

7. Remuneration

A Member of the Commission, including a Chair if they were appointed under s. 2(3)(b), (c) or (d), is entitled to remuneration for their services at rates determined by the Board of Management.

8. Termination

A Commission dissolves 60 days after its report is laid before the Legislative Assembly.

Yellowknife - Great Hall, Legislative Assembly - Wednesday 3 December

Attendees: 6

Summary of Public Comments

With the EBC making reference to new population numbers, some attendees said that may change how they feel about the recommendations and may result in different submissions being made.

There were questions over why all Yellowknife districts saw significant boundary changes, when some were not out of variance under existing boundaries. It was explained that bringing the other districts into variance required moving all boundaries within the city.

Half the attendees spoke in favour of 22 districts. Some felt that this would better serve the small communities which would otherwise be merged with regional centres. Others felt that adding 2 seats to Yellowknife is justified with its population growth and share of the overall population.

The Monfwi MLA voiced support for that district being split. Preferred Behchokò to retain the name Monfwi, indicated that Wek'èezhìi would be an acceptable name for the second district. It was recommended that the views of Tłı̨chq̓ leadership and elders should be sought.

It was suggested that Yellowknife should become a multi-member district where the top candidates get voted in by a city-wide election.

Comments outside of the Commission mandate:

One MLA said that having the Legislative Assembly vote on the recommendations put them in a difficult position and some thought should be put into making the Commission recommendations binding. It was noted that this was a decision for the Legislative Assembly.

Adding MLAs may raise questions about the size and composition of Cabinet but the Commission noted this was outside their mandate.

Behchokò - Community Youth Centre - Friday 5 December

Attendees: 2

Summary of Public Comments

A representative of the Tłı̨chq̓ Government presented.

The Tłı̨chq̓ are one people and the Tłı̨chq̓ government would be concerned about any proposal that moved Tłı̨chq̓ communities into a district with non-Tłı̨chq̓ communities.

Monfwi is currently underrepresented, and the options provided by the Boundaries Commission address this underrepresentation in each option.

The Tłı̨chq̓ Government is planning a written submission prior to the deadline.

Any names for new districts should involve the communities.

Fort Simpson - Community Hall - Sunday 7 December

Attendees: 3

Summary of Public Comments

The 19-district model keeps the Nahendeh communities together, which is preferable. Fort Simpson acts as the hub for the other 5 communities.

There was a discussion about adding other Dehcho communities but noted that would add additional responsibilities on the MLA. Attendees felt it would be preferable to add communities to Nahendeh than to remove any of the existing communities from the district. It was noted that Nahendeh as a term for the region is only used during the election, otherwise it is not used by the public.

Attendees generally felt there was little connection between Nahendeh communities and Fort Providence or Kakisa, outside of the Dehcho Process.

Concerns were raised over Yellowknife having additional seats and potentially dominating the Assembly.

Attendees suggested reviewing Yukon's Vuntut Gwitchin district and what makes it unique in that territory.

Comments outside of the Commission mandate:

Options for fewer than 19 seats should have been developed but the Commission noted this was outside their mandate.

More MLAs will likely mean changes to Cabinet although the Commission noted this was outside its mandate.

Fort Liard - Community Hall - Monday 8 December

Attendees: N/A

Summary of Public Comments

The Fort Liard public hearing did not occur due to weather preventing travel to the community.

The Commission offered to schedule a virtual hearing with community leadership.

Kátt'odeeche First Nation - Chief Lamalice Complex - Tuesday 9 December

Attendees: 3

Summary of Public Comments

Questions were asked about the engagement process and whether the Commission would come back for further discussion. A concern was raised that not enough community members were present for proper consultation. The Commission indicated it would consider an invitation to appear before the KFN Council as part of a virtual meeting.

Attendees felt that the Dehcho region was underrepresented and not engaged enough by the territorial government. It was felt that larger population centres receive more representation and funding. Being a reserve under federal legislation also complicates matters, resulting in poor representation by the territorial government.

The Kátt'odeeche First Nation would prefer to be part of a majority Indigenous community electoral district, and not part of Hay River. Remaining with other Dehcho communities are preferred.

Hay River - Community Hall, Recreation Centre - Tuesday 9 December

Attendees: 3

Summary of Public Comments

Attendees asked where the +/- 25% variance requirement came from. Felt that it was potentially unfair for the community of Yellowknife to have 8-9 representatives when the community of Hay River would only have 2. It was felt that Yellowknife members have a lighter workload due to not having to travel, and fewer constituency requests. This could result in Yellowknife members having greater influence on government policy and legislation, resulting in Yellowknife voters having greater influence on the government.

Attendees felt that including Fort Providence with Hay River was not ideal, adding Enterprise and Kátt'odeeche may make more sense. It was felt that Fort Resolution may have greater ties to Hay River than Fort Providence but should remain with other Akaitcho communities.

Attendees spoke to the options provided. It was felt that options 1 and 2 disadvantaged small communities, option 3 likely was a good balance, and option 4 gave too much weight to Yellowknife, and results in the Sahtu being underrepresented, when additional growth in that region is expected.

Fort Providence, Snowshoe Inn - Wednesday 10 December

Attendees: 8

Summary of Public Comments

Attendees spoke about the difficulty small communities have in getting budget allocations when Yellowknife has more MLAs who can speak to the issues facing that community. Small communities are in districts where the MLA has to advocate for several communities simultaneously, which can lead to less effective representation in budget discussions. Attendees also spoke about the power of proximity, where Yellowknife voters can have a quick meeting with their MLA or government and not need to take time off work, whereas Fort Providence has to drive a 6-hour round trip for the same meeting. The question was asked about why per capita representation was more important than need.

When looking at the proposed options, attendees asked whether land and resource negotiations were considered as part of the process. Attendees questioned whether their voice would be lost if merged with Hay River, given that the population difference is significant. One attendee talked about historically when Fort Simpson was part of the electoral district, the MLA was always from that community. It wasn't until Dehcho was created that Fort Providence started electing someone local.

Attendees asked whether the Commission looked at moving parts of Yellowknife into neighbouring districts. Attendees also questioned why change was needed at all.

Following the public hearing, a Commission member and an interpreter went on the local radio station to discuss the work of the Commission and to encourage submissions.

Whatì - Cultural Centre
Wednesday 10 December
Attendees: 7

Summary of Public Comments

Attendees agreed with the second district for the Tłıchǫ region. Some felt that Edzo was better suited to remain with Behchokǫ. Whatì, Gamètì and Wekweètì have more in common with each other. Questions were asked as to whether funding for the Tlıcho region and its communities would increase with two MLAs.

It was recommended that any proposed name could come from the annual Tłıchǫ Assembly in the summer, which would allow for the greatest amount of input from elders and residents.

With the new road to Whatì, the potential Arctic Security Corridor and Fortune Mine, attendees thought the population would continue to grow in Whatì, including the completion of a new housing development plan for 40 new housing units in the community.

Inuvik - Midnight Sun Recreation Complex Community Lounge - Monday 15 December
Attendees: 3

Summary of Public Comments

Attendees asked questions on whether the recommendations were binding, or if the Legislative Assembly could accept some and reject others. Attendees noted that the proposed boundaries could be adjusted to be straighter lines as they currently move around commercial buildings that have no residents.

Attendees noted that there is a distinction between representation and access. Members of the Legislative Assembly from the Beaufort Delta are required to be away from their home communities for 4 months of the year. Residents in Yellowknife have access to their MLAs year-round.

Attendees spoke of forthcoming economic developments that may drive a sustained growth in population. A representative of the town noted that over 60 residential lots were sold for development in the last year, adding additional housing to the community. It was noted that

lack of housing has contributed to stagnant population growth, as potential employees have not been able to find housing and have turned down job offers.

Attendees spoke in favour of maintaining representation of small communities as distinct electoral districts. No strong objections were raised about Yellowknife receiving another district, but attendees felt any additional seats should not come at the expense of small communities losing their district.

Some attendees felt option 3 was the most equitable, as it maintained small community representation distinct from Inuvik, and did not overweight Yellowknife representation compared to the rest of the territory.

The Commission encouraged the Town of Inuvik to make a written submission.

Fort McPherson - Community Hall - Tuesday 16 December**Attendees: 7****Summary of Public Comments**

Attendees spoke in favour of maintaining a distinct electoral district from Inuvik. It was felt that communities would lose their voice in the Assembly as Inuvik-based candidates would win any election. Concerns were raised about how much weight would be given to Fort McPherson related issues if the majority of the voting power was in Inuvik.

Attendees spoke about the work being done to revive the Gwich'in language and culture, and were concerned about losing that voice in the Legislative Assembly.

Attendees felt the name "Mackenzie Delta" could be changed to something that better reflects the culture of the district, as opposed to a geographic area. It was noted that this could be challenging given the cultural makeup of the communities – using one language would not reflect the other cultures.

Comments outside of the Commission mandate:

Some attendees spoke in favour of maintaining a north-south-Yellowknife balance in the Legislative Assembly and on cabinet. The Commission noted that regional balance in the Assembly and on cabinet is outside of their mandate.

Aklavik - Sittichinli Recreation Complex - Tuesday 16 December**Attendees: 7****Summary of Public Comments**

Attendees noted that Aklavik has not had a resident MLA since the 1970s. All Members elected since then have lived in Fort McPherson or Tsiigehtchic. Most attendees spoke in favour of each community should have their own MLA to advocate for community-specific issues.

It was noted that Aklavik is culturally distinct from the other Mackenzie Delta communities, with a mix of Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and Métis cultures. One attendee spoke in favour of being part of an Inuvik district if Aklavik could not have its own representative, as family ties are closer to Inuvik.

Concerns were expressed regarding the tight timelines for submissions and the work of the Commission.

Comments outside of the Commission mandate:

Some attendees raised concerns about GNWT budgeting and how that may be connected to representation in the Legislative Assembly.

Dettah - Chief Drygeese Centre - Monday 12 January 2026

Attendees: 15

Summary of Public Comments

Attendees asked questions over whether the population estimates were based on total population or on voters. Attendees also asked how the communities for public consultation meetings were chosen.

Attendees raised that Dettah is working to expand its community boundary along the Dettah Access Road and is planning a new subdivision of 20 lots.

Attendees noted that the existing district comprises four communities that are part of the Akaitcho process. They do not support diluting their voice to add residents from the Ingraham Trail. Those residents have expressed a desire to remain in a Yellowknife district, and that is where they should remain. Attendees felt expanding the Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh boundary to include the Dettah Access Road, and that portion of Highway 3 from the city boundary to Boundary Creek was acceptable.

Comments outside of the Commission mandate:

How will settled land claims be dealt with in future boundaries and in the composition of the Legislative Assembly? What will the public government look like once Indigenous Governments start to draw down powers?

Attendees asked about whether the GNWT would be revising or modernizing the administrative regions for departments. Questions were asked about how electoral boundaries affect funding, including for healthcare.

Yellowknife - Great Hall, Legislative Assembly - Monday 12 January

Attendees: 6

Summary of Public Comments

Attendees spoke in favour of keeping the Ingraham Trail in a Yellowknife district, noting that to move it to Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh strains the principles of representation noted in the report. One attendee noted that the Yellowknives Dene have been a minority in their own land for almost a century, and that we should all be working together for a better future.

Attendees asked about comments heard in other communities, including the Mackenzie Delta.

Attendees asked what problems would be solved by adopting a multi-member district for the city, and flagged that municipal constituent issues differ greatly from issues raised by constituents at the territorial level. Attendees asked what would motivate a multi-member district MLA from helping small groups if there weren't geographic boundaries making that group, like the Ingraham Trail, their explicit responsibility to represent.

Attendees asked whether the 2025 population numbers would greatly affect the final report.

Written Submissions

Community	Name	Submission/Message
Aklavik	Aklavik Indian Band	<p>The Aklavik Indian Band Chief and Council support the Hamlet of Aklavik having its own Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). Since the creation of electoral districts and the appointment of MLAs, our community has never been adequately represented nor have we had the right to equal, fair, and effective representation.</p> <p>Aklavik is a unique community, made up of Métis, Gwich'in, Inuvialuit, and non-indigenous residents. Placing Aklavik within the Mackenzie Delta riding – Where the majority population is Gwich'in from Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic - was a flawed decision from its inception, beginning with the tenure of Richard Nerysoo as the first MLA for the Mackenzie Delta.</p> <p>Following the relocation of many Aklavik residents to Inuvik in the 1960s, a significant number of families now reside in Inuvik. Given these historical and social connections, it would be more appropriate for Aklavik to be included in an Inuvik-based riding if having our own MLA is not possible, rather than remaining in the Mackenzie Delta riding.</p>
Aklavik	Hamlet of Aklavik	<p>The Hamlet of Aklavik is submitting request to having its own Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). Since the creation of electoral districts and the appointment of MLAs, our community has never been adequately represented, nor have we had the right to equal, fair, and effective representation. A good example is out gravel access road has never been registered with the legislature as an approved project which many passed MLA's have promised Aklavik that they would bring it to the legislature which did not ever take place or brought forward.</p> <p>Aklavik is a unique community, made up of Métis, Gwich'in, Inuvialuit, and non-indigenous residents. Placing Aklavik within the Mackenzie Delta riding – Where the majority population is Gwich'in from Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic - was a flawed decision from its inception, beginning with the tenure of Richard Nerysoo as the first MLA for the Mackenzie Delta.</p> <p>Following the relocation of many Aklavik residents to Inuvik in the 1960s, a significant number of families now reside in Inuvik. Given these historical and social connections, it would be more appropriate for Aklavik to be included in an Inuvik-based riding if having our own MLA is not possible, rather than remaining in the Mackenzie Delta riding.</p>

		For the Economic, social, Health and Wellness Benefits for all Residents of Aklavik it would be better to have our own MLA to Represent Aklavik.
Aklavik	Rita Arey	<p>As a constituent member of the Mackenzie Delta I believe it is long over due for the people of Aklavik to have our own MLA we have been suppressed with no adequate representation nor have we had the right to equal, fair, and effective representation. When the government decided to create electoral districts such as the Mackenzie Delta riding they did us a huge injustice we are a proud community of Metis, Gwichin, Inuvialuit and Non indigenous people who deserve proper representation. The decision to lump us in the mackenzie riding with a majority Gwichin population with Fort McPherson and Tsiigetichic was a flawed decision from its inception beginning with the first MLA in 1979.</p> <p>Many of our families relocated in the 1960's to Inuvik due to all the flooding in our community. It would make better sense to have us in an Inuvik Riding if we cannot have our own MLA here in Aklavik. Our motto is Never Say Die and it is our time to finally have equal representation having an MLA for Aklavik!!!</p> <p>For forty six (46) years we have fought for what we have in Aklavik with no Mackenzie Delta MLA to assist us, it has been senseless writing letters, making phone calls, making presentations at public meetings, making submissions we have done majority of things on our own by our local leadership and our community organizations. Losing our Elders facility along with our 16 positions of trained home care workers, manager, having to send our elders away from home, losing positions such as two social workers, lacking road infrastructure, housing, a struggles we continue to deal with and with that being said we definitely need our own MLA to improve our community.</p>
Edzo	Daniel Tanner	I am in favour of the changes for the most part. I think more representation is a net good for the public and allows constituents to have more of a voice. The only change which I think is not great is splitting Rae and Edzo. Edzo is intertwined with Rae more so than any other Tlicho community. To the point that they are the same community. The thing that would make the most sense in the change is have Rae-Edzo as a district instead of splitting Rae off on it's own.
Enterprise	Barb Hart	<p>As residents of Enterprise, in the Deh Cho riding, we are firmly opposed to being amalgamated into the Hay River district.</p> <p>We are presently served by our MLA Sheryl Yakaleya and are very happy with how we are being represented. We feel that we would be completely ignored by Hay River if this were to happen.</p>

		<p>Enterprise is a small community that has very few voters. Being part of the Deh Cho gives us a voice, as this district has a number of smaller communities which gives each community a voice. The candidate who runs this in district can win or lose the election by the margin of votes Enterprise currently has.</p> <p>If Enterprise was part of the much larger Hay River south district, we would have little or no impact on outcomes or representation.</p> <p>This committee was tasked with giving NWT residents representation. Moving the Hamlet of Enterprise with 30 voters into the much larger district would take away our representation.</p> <p>As one the communities affected by this change, I feel it is very important that the committee hold a public meeting in Enterprise.</p>
Enterprise	Patrick and Evellyn Coleman	<p>As residents of Enterprise, which is presently in the Deh Cho riding, we are firmly opposed to being amalgamated into the Hay River district. We are presently served by our MLA Cheryl Yakaleya and are quite happy with where we're at. We feel that we would be completely ignored by Hay River if this were to happen.</p> <p>Enterprise is a small community that has very few voters. Being part of the Deh Cho gives us a voice, as this district has a number of smaller communities which gives each community a voice. The candidate who runs this in district can win or lose the election by the margin of votes Enterprise currently has.</p> <p>If Enterprise was part of the much larger Hay River south district, we would have little or no impact on outcomes or representation.</p> <p>This committee was tasked with giving NWT residents representation. Moving the Hamlet of Enterprise with 30 voters into the much larger district would take away our representation.</p>
Fort Simpson	Crystal Marshall	<p>I vote for option 1. I was the returning officer for the Nahendeh district last year and I know that in a lot of the outlying communities, the community members would either like to have their own district or stay the same. This is especially true for Fort Liard. They really want their own district and do not want to be grouped with another community. None of the options would benefit them.</p>
Fort Smith	Melissa Johns	<p>I write as a resident of Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, a parent, community volunteer, and someone deeply invested in the future of our region. My goal is to offer constructive input as you consider the Interim Report and the re-alignment of electoral boundaries.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Representation of Indigenous communities & remote regions Our region includes Métis, First Nations and non-Indigenous residents; each must see their voices heard. It is vital that any boundary changes maintain effective representation for small and remote communities — not

		<p>simply by population size, but by ensuring cultural, geographic and logistical realities are respected.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Preserving community of interest and place Boundaries should reflect natural, social and cultural connections. In Fort Smith and surrounding areas, people’s lives span hunting, trapping, seasonal work, strong ties to Indigenous governance and Métis heritage, and to the land itself. Arbitrary lines that split these communities risk diluting representation and reducing the efficacy of elected members. 3. Accessibility and equitable engagement Given large geographic distances and transportation/weather constraints, the elected representative must be able to engage meaningfully with constituents. Zoom alone is not enough. Boundaries should be drawn in a way that travel and interpersonal accessibility remain realistic. 4. Supporting future growth and demographic change As we see changes in population — migration, youth returning, economic shifts (including tourism, festivals, festivals like the one I help organise) — your boundary decisions must be forward-looking. Today’s stable population may not reflect tomorrow’s opportunities or challenges. 5. Recommendation • Ensure any proposed boundary maintains Fort Smith and its hinterland as a distinct electoral area, preserving shared interests and local governance linkages. • Avoid combining vastly different geographic regions with little in common (e.g., remote fly-in only communities plus major highway-accessible towns) unless there is clear community connection. • Commit to regular review of boundaries more frequently than every ten years where rapid change or unique geography demands it. • Establish mechanisms for ongoing community consultation beyond the submission period—particularly in Indigenous communities, where trust and relationship-building matter. <p>I thank you for your important work and consideration of this submission. I trust that the outcome will strengthen democracy in the Northwest Territories by ensuring fair, effective and accessible representation for all residents.</p>
Hay River South	MLA, Vince McKay	<p>The Northwest Territories has a population of 44,731, which is significantly smaller than the average population per riding for MLAs in other parts of Canada (40,000–100,000 people). While the Commission has proposed increasing the number of electoral districts to address representation disparities, it is important to consider the economic implications of adding more districts and a declining population. As a small territory with an unstable economy, increasing the number of districts may lead to higher administrative costs, including salaries for additional MLAs, operational expenses,</p>

		<p>staffing and infrastructure needs. This could place a significant financial strain on the territory’s limited resources.</p> <p>Maintaining the current 19 district model would be more practical and cost effective. This approach would help balance the need for effective representation while avoiding unnecessary financial burdens.</p> <p>Additionally, the Commission has proposed renaming some districts to better reflect Indigenous languages, culture, and geography. While this is a meaningful gesture, it is important to consider the costs associated with renaming districts, such as updating maps, signage, official documents, and communication materials. Keeping the current names of districts would save money and ensure a smoother transition to any new boundaries, avoiding confusion among residents and reducing administrative expenses. Changing district names can also be very challenging because some boundaries are not clearly defined. Indigenous languages and dialects vary across regions, and names can have different meanings. One example of this complexity is the ongoing discussion around changing the name of Great Slave Lake. Reaching agreement on appropriate names could be a long and difficult process.</p> <p>In conclusion, given the small population and economic challenges of the Northwest Territories, it may be more practical to retain the current number of districts and their names, while making minor adjustments to boundaries to address representation disparities maybe in Yellowknife. This approach would be more cost effective and ensure that resources are allocated to other pressing needs in the territory. I recommend no changes at this time, as I believe all ridings, including Yellowknife and Ingraham Trail, are currently represented fairly and appropriately.</p>
<p>Inuvik</p>	<p>Town of Inuvik</p>	<p>The Town of Inuvik has reviewed the proposed Electoral District Boundary options provided with your interim report. We appreciate the Commission’s efforts to ensure fair representation from populations across the entire Territory</p> <p>We understand that to ensure everyone has equal say in Government, objectively, the Commission considers that wherever possible, no electoral district should be over- or under-represented by more than 25% of the average population.</p> <p>After our review of your Interim Report, and the proposed boundary options, we have the following feedback:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Electoral ridings shouldn't just be about numbers of constituents in a riding. It should also consider access to the MLAs. Those ridings that are outside of Yellowknife or are comprised of several small communities have considerably

		<p>less access to their MLA given the amount of time the MLA's have to spend in Yellowknife for sessions and committee meetings and associated travel time. Further, combining Inuvik and the Mackenzie Delta ridings would be a huge disservice to the smaller communities as they have different needs than constituents in Inuvik.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Regarding the census, we believe that Inuvik is underrepresented. These numbers may be impacted by the "hidden" population that result from: employers have difficulty finding permanent housing for employees, the underhoused, those who may be "couch surfing", the multi-generational (and inadequate) housing, or those who simply declined to be included in the census. To give you a more realistic indication of Inuvik's population, we have reviewed our Certified Assessment Roll. We have 799 developed residential properties. Of these properties, 18 are large multi-unit dwellings. A conservative estimate on the number of people per dwelling (2-6 persons) would indicate that we are 5-10% above the census. 3. The future development of Inuvik should also be considered, as it will have an impact on population growth. We anticipate over 255 additional dwelling units to be developed in the future. This includes 155 undeveloped residential properties already listed in our Certified Assessment Roll, as well as the single family and multi-unit dwellings that the Gwich'in, Inuvialuit and Territorial governments are building. In summary, the Town of Inuvik is requesting that the Commission recommend that there be no attempt to amalgamate the electoral boundaries in the Beaufort Delta and that they remain in the status quo. <p>Thank you for your efforts to engage us in the discussion and your consideration of our input.</p>
Inuvik	Sheila Nasogaluak	<p>The two ridings in Inuvik are sufficient for the number of residents the MLAs represent. The community of Aklavik Tsiigehtchic or Fort McPherson should not be absorbed in to either of these ridings. In my opinion, Aklavik and Tuk should have their own MLAs.</p>
Monfwi	Tłıchq Government	<p>This submission is further to the two engagements with Tłıchq that the Commission had in Behchokq and Whatı before Christmas and to the comments provided by Tłıchq Government at those engagements. Firstly, thank you for the hard work the Commission put into the Interim Report and for putting on those engagements so Tłıchq people could provide input and hear about the work done so far.</p> <p>The Electoral Boundaries Commission is mandated to review the territory's electoral boundaries, the names of electoral districts, to hold public hearings, and make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly on boundaries and their names. You recommend to the</p>

	<p>NWT Legislative Assembly how the electoral boundaries of the Northwest Territories should be drawn both for 19 electoral districts and those that are newly considered by this Commission.</p> <p>In reviewing the Interim Report, we note that of the four factors the Commission considers in its Interim Report, as it concerns the Monfwi Riding options, Tłıchq Government notes that among those 4 factors, two factors have been specifically addressed by Tłıchq Government in the past when there is consideration of the Monfwi riding: 1) Community of Interest and 2) Effective Representation.</p> <p>Community of Interest</p> <p>In terms of the Community of Interest factor, one needs to try to keep similar communities together and in the past, that has been a matter for the Monfwi riding. The Tłıchq are one people. That is our unity. That is in our Tłıchq Agreement and in our Tłıchq Constitution. Tłıchq Government would have concerns if any proposal would end up alienating one or more of our Tłıchq communities from the others by moving one or more communities into another riding or creating a new riding associated with nonTlıcho communities. We note that none of the options in the Interim Report seem to do that.</p> <p>Effective Representation</p> <p>A second factor that is of importance in this process is Effective Representation. Electoral districts do not have to be perfectly equal in numbers, but courts have made determinations that if a riding has less than 25% of the average population, that riding is considered to be underrepresented and options can be considered. Noting that from the numbers produced in the Interim Report, the Monfwi Riding remains underrepresented by more than 25% of the average NWT riding, the 2025 NWT Electoral Boundaries Commission Interim Proposal is proposing in each of its options to split the current Monfwi district in the following way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o District 1: the core area of Behchokq; and o District 2: a second district comprising of Edzo, Frank Channel, Whatı, Gametı, Wekweetı and Highway 3 east to Boundary Creek. <p>The Proposals</p> <p>The proposals in the options appear to try to address the underrepresentation in the Monfwi riding by splitting it into two ridings, while keeping the two ridings associated with a combination of only Tłıchq based communities. The balance to be considered is one where Tłıchq would get the enhanced representation they are entitled to without affecting Tłıcho unity, which is the hallmark of our people and a central tenet of the Tłıchq Agreement. We thank the</p>
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		<p>Commission for its attention to the two factors of Community of Interest and Effective Representation in its Interim Report and we support the efforts to meet the underrepresentation yet keep each proposed split riding associated with Tłıchq communities. Tłıchq Government would not support an effort to move a Tłıchq community to a non-Tłıchq riding as was considered in past reviews.</p> <p>Tłıchq Yatıı</p> <p>In the event of a decision to split the Monfwi riding, names of the new ridings will need to be considered. Tlıcho Yatıı (language) is a fundamental pillar of the Tłıchq cultural identity, our connection to the land, our governance and the transmission of Tlıcho knowledge. In the event there is a decision to split the Monfwi riding, Tłıchq Government expects to be engaged in any renaming or new name consideration.</p> <p>Once again, Tłıchq Government thanks the Commission for producing the Interim Report and for engaging with Tłıchq on it. We wish you all the best in your work.</p>
<p>Nahanni Butte</p>	<p>Nahąą Dehé Dene Band</p>	<p>Nahanni Butte would like to continue being part of Nahendeh District and would prefer "Territory - Electoral District Option 1". Even if other options are considered, Nahanni Butte would still want to be a part of Nahendeh District. The name "Nahendeh" comes from traditional name of Nahanni Butte, and in any case, bottom-line is that the community of Nahanni Butte would like to continue to be a part of the "Nahendeh District".</p>
<p>Nahendeh</p>	<p>MLA, Shane Thompson</p>	<p>Thank you for your responsiveness and for sharing the interim report of the Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission. With your permission, I have ensured that this important information is shared with local Leadership and has been posted to our community platforms.</p> <p>After careful review of the four options presented in the attached interim report, I wish to express strong support for Option 1, provided that certain adjustments are made to best reflect the needs and realities of our region. My recommendations are grounded in the Commission’s core criteria, including demographic and geographic factors, community boundaries, transportation access, and the social and cultural interests of residents.</p> <p>Specifically, I propose realigning the Dehcho, Hay River, Inuvik, and certain Yellowknife ridings within Option 1 to better reflect existing community and cultural ties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dehcho riding would encompass Kátł’odeeche First Nation, West Point, Hay River Old Town, Paradise Gardens, Enterprise, Kakisa, and Fort Providence—connecting communities with shared

		<p>cultural backgrounds and supporting West Point’s involvement in the Dehcho Process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hay River riding would include the New Town (including 553), extending to mile 17, keeping urban and suburban areas unified. • Mackenzie Delta would include Aklavik, Fort MacPherson, Tsiigehtchic, and part of Inuvik Boot Lake, with the remainder of Inuvik forming its own riding. • Within Yellowknife, selective realignment of YK 1, YK 2, YK 5, and YK 6 ridings, alongside Tu Nedhe-Willideh, would help achieve population balance without increasing the number of ridings. <p>Crucially, these suggestions keep the Assembly at 19 ridings, ensuring effective representation without further budgetary burden. I am concerned that Options 2 through 4—while proposing more seats—would impose additional costs and create new barriers for communities such as Nahanni Butte, Sambaa K’e, and Fort Liard. These options would make it more difficult for these residents to access their MLA or for MLAs to reach their constituents, disrupting important links with Fort Simpson for essential services.</p> <p>Option 1, especially with the proposed realignments, allows our electoral map to recognize both the logistical realities and the enduring cultural connections that bind our communities, while maintaining fair, effective, and accessible representation.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of this feedback. I look forward to participating in the upcoming consultation sessions (in Fort Simpson and maybe Fort Liard) and continuing to support a process that reflects the voices and needs of all Nahendeh residents.</p>
Norman Wells	Madison M	<p>Against all 4 options purposing that additional seats be added for new MLA positions. There is no logical nor any financial benefit from this. Other than those 4 will get a huge pay rise. While the public continues to drown in the economy as it continues to sink exponentially. Today’s youth cannot get jobs. Nor get housing, due to the simple reason of lack of jobs, housing and immigration which is the responsibility of the government to manage.</p>
Sachs Harbour	Deborah Raddi	<p>On behalf of the communities of Paulatuk, Ulukhaktok and Sachs Harbour and as previously noted at NWT Association of Communities and passed in a resolution. The communities are still interested in setting new boundaries for the above communities. I have attached the resolution that was noted for the record.</p>
Tulita	Danny Lennie	<p>Statement Opposing Proposed Redistribution of MLA Seats in the NWT Preserving Equitable Representation for All Communities</p> <p>The recent proposal by the Government of the Northwest Territories (NWT) to redistribute MLA seats, likely based on population, raises significant concerns regarding fair and equitable representation for all communities within the territory. While adjusting seat distribution may appear logical from a purely demographic standpoint, it risks</p>

		<p>undermining the fundamental principles of consensus government that define the NWT’s unique political system.</p> <p>The suggested addition of another seat for Yellowknife, the capital, would increase the city’s influence in the Legislative Assembly. This change would inevitably dilute the representation of smaller, more remote communities—communities whose voices have historically required protection against the dominance of larger urban centers. The strength of the NWT's consensus government lies in its commitment to ensuring that every region, regardless of population size, has an effective voice in the decisions that shape our collective future.</p> <p>Adopting a redistribution model like the federal system, where densely populated regions such as the Greater Toronto Area wield disproportionate power, would be a step backward for the NWT. Our territory’s consensus model was designed specifically to avoid such imbalances by fostering collaboration and ensuring that the unique perspectives and needs of smaller communities are not overshadowed by urban interests.</p> <p>I strongly oppose the proposed redistribution of MLA seats. Instead, I urge the Government of the NWT to uphold the spirit of consensus government by prioritizing equitable representation over strict population-based seat allocation. The voices of smaller communities’ matter and must remain central to our legislative process.</p>
<p>Frame Lake</p>	<p>MLA, Julian Morse</p>	<p>Thank you for taking on the difficult task of re-drawing electoral boundaries to ensure representative fairness in our Territory. Please consider this my formal submission on the Commission’s Interim Report. As the current representative for the Frame Lake riding, my personal experience and understanding of this riding and my home community of Yellowknife is greatest, so my comments concern this riding primarily, and changes to several other neighbouring Yellowknife ridings.</p> <p>I note in all the proposed options, significant changes are proposed to the Frame Lake riding. In all options it is losing an entire neighbourhood and gaining residents from other ridings. I was surprised to see this considering Frame Lake is one of the few ridings in the NWT which sits well within the acceptable relative variance. I note this may in part be due to proposed changes to the current Yellowknife North riding which removes the Ingraham Trail, thus creating a cascade of changes across several Yellowknife ridings to achieve balance. I agree with other commenters that the Ingraham Trail, which primarily shares a community of interest with Yellowknife, should remain connected to a Yellowknife Riding. This will likely help reduce the need for resultant changes in neighboring ridings which benefit from familiarity and existing balance.</p>

		<p>I encourage the Commission to consider where practical to retain continuity in existing ridings, which will help reduce confusion and upheaval as much as possible. The Frame Lake riding is demographically diverse, containing a mix of low-cost, public, and higher-end housing, and is already representatively balanced. If those characteristics could be maintained in an already-familiar riding I think it would be a positive outcome. I note that demographic balance would be most affected by the changes proposed in Options 1-3 and particularly encourage a re-thinking of the boundaries put forward in those options.</p> <p>As noted by many commenters already, I think the increased costs associated with adding MLAs are difficult to justify considering the population of the Territory has remained stable. As such, I am more in favour of an option which maintains 19 members or increases by as few as possible to achieve relative parity.</p>
<p>Great Slave</p>	<p>MLA, Kate Reid</p>	<p>Thank you for your letter of November 3, 2025, seeking submissions to the Commission on its 2025 interim report four proposed options for change to the composition of the electoral districts, and proposed changes to district names.</p> <p>With regards to the district I represent, Great Slave, I agree that there must be a name change. As there is already one district named after the lake (Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh), and to be consistent with other Yellowknife districts, I would propose the name Yellowknife East, which is accurate for both iterations of boundaries that you have provided for Yellowknife districts, as well as for the current boundaries of the district.</p> <p>As for the boundaries in Yellowknife, I do not feel that either option will be seen with warmth by the Assembly. Popular opinion continues to hold in the Northwest Territories that Yellowknife does not need to increase the number of MLAs that represent the capital, despite the Commission’s desire to equitably address the two of the four factors guiding its recommendations, that of relative parity and effective representation.</p> <p>I am of course biased in terms of the boundaries of my district, and pride myself on door knocking throughout my term as well as during the writ. I expect many of my colleagues feel similarly, and as such, do not agree with the boundaries provided in Option 1, which sees School Draw leave the district entirely to move to Yellowknife North, and to be replaced by a large part of the current Frame Lake district (Forrest Drive). I am more amenable to Option 4’s boundaries of “Yellowknife 6” for this reason.</p> <p>It should be noted, and I am certain that many of the residents would agree, that retaining residents on the Ingraham Trail within</p>

		<p>Yellowknife North may alleviate the need to make several cascading changes to several Yellowknife districts. If the addition of (a) new Yellowknife MLA(s) continues to be contemplated, addition of an MLA for the Niven subdivision and the northern edge of downtown Yellowknife makes the most sense to me. I am relatively agnostic on the proposed boundaries of “Yellowknife 9” and would defer to those who currently represent those residents’ opinion on the matter.</p> <p>I wish to also note that I do not support the elimination/merging of the Mackenzie Delta or Dehcho districts – due to your own factor of communities of interest. This change would diminish residents current voice in the legislature. I do support a second MLA for Monfwi based on population.</p> <p>I wish to also provide an overarching note for your deliberations for Yellowknife and regional centres: I am proud to represent people from all economic and cultural backgrounds. I hope that when you review district boundaries in Yellowknife, that the commission ensures all districts have a mix of public and private housing, renters and homeowners. My current district is very diverse, and I feel it makes me a better representative.</p>
<p>Range Lake</p>	<p>MLA, Kieron Testart</p>	<p>I would like to commend the Electoral Boundaries Commission on its thorough interim report and strong evidence-based proposals for changes to electoral districts in the NWT. I believe strongly in the need for robust democratic rights and institutions as we witness the breakdown of order and the rise of authoritarianism around the world. Northerners deserve an electoral system that guarantees their voices are heard and their will is effectively acted upon.</p> <p>Although I have the distinct honour of serving as an elected member of the Legislative Assembly, I write to you in my capacity as a citizen and not as the MLA for Range Lake. To that end, I believe strongly that Northerners would be best served by Option 4— 22 District Model.</p> <p>1. Democratic and Political Rights For more than a decade the electoral boundaries of the NWT have remained unchanged. This state of affairs has effectively ensured thousands of Northerners and their communities have not received effective representation in the Legislative Assembly over the same period. As the Commission notes in its report, "Since the electoral boundaries were last changed in 2013, there has been a major growth in population in Behchokò , and parts of Yellowknife. These areas are now not effectively represented." Some of these deficiencies have been present for far longer. For example, the need for an additional district in Yellowknife has been identified going back at least to 2008. Not only are there serious charter rights issues that arise with the current degree of</p>

		<p>underrepresentation, but it further impacts the work of the legislative assembly in discharging its duties to the public through legislation functions and administering the public government. Each elected member brings with them experience, ability, and representation that enriches and enhances the work of government and lawmakers.</p> <p>A larger assembly is one with more capacity to deliver results to the electorate, ensure that the needs of the public are met, and equally ensure good value for money for the spending of taxpayer dollars.</p> <p>2. Comparative Legislatures</p> <p>The other small jurisdictions in Northern Canada both have districts exceeding the current number in the NWT, with Nunavut at 22 and Yukon at 21, after the former increased their seats prior to their 2025 election. Statistics Canada 2005 Q4 data pegs the populations of the three territories at 41,919 for Nunavut, 48,261 for Yukon, and 45,848 for the NWT. With comparable geographies and population sizes, these examples offer compelling evidence for the need to expand the number of districts. Option 4 is therefore not out of line with Canada's Territories, and failing to move to 22 (or 21 seats minimum) would see the NWT fall behind.</p> <p>3. Regional Balance and Indigenous Representation</p> <p>The immense geography and cultural diversity of the NWT present a unique challenge to ensure communities are adequately represented. This is another reason to consider 22 districts as a superior option, as it will ensure a legislature that ensures representation of all peoples, geographic regions, and cultural communities. Ensuring that each Indigenous Nation in the NWT has appropriate and distinct representation is of paramount importance in this regard.</p> <p>I will note under this section that whatever option that the Commission ultimately decides, the Ingraham Trail should not be included in the Tu Nedhe—Willideh electoral district. While this area falls within Akaitcho traditional territory, that of the Yellowknives Dene, most residents in the area form a community of interest with the greater Yellowknife area.</p> <p>4. Futureproofing</p> <p>This is a prudent investment in the future of our democracy for the reasons previously mentioned, and it is long overdue. As the Commission is aware, it has proven extremely difficult to ensure</p>
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		<p>electoral districts accurately reflect the population of the NWT in the regions where it is growing.</p> <p>There are good reasons for politicians in previous assemblies to have been protective of the regional balance between electoral districts, but pushing the boundaries to the legal limits is a short-term measure that must now be addressed. The 2020 commission process and the subsequent failure of the 19th Legislative Assembly to act on its recommendations is another example of the difficult political circumstances of boundary redistribution. By putting in place Option 4 now, we ensure fair representation under the charter today and allow for those boundaries to grow with the population in the years ahead. Barring a catastrophic population collapse or serendipitous growth boom, 22 districts will ensure these issues are not repeated, at least for some time or until a new process is adopted by lawmakers.</p> <p>5. District Naming</p> <p>Finally, as to the Commission's consideration of the names of electoral districts, I recommend retaining the existing names for Yellowknife ridings that do not receive significant changes to their boundaries, notwithstanding the problematic nature of "Great Slave," which the Commission has made excellent observations on and should be changed to something that is culturally appropriate and relevant to Indigenous peoples. These longstanding district names are well-known to their residents, which benefits the public in understanding where they should vote, which candidates are seeking their support, and who ultimately is the MLA representing their interests. New names should be considered with caution to avoid erosion of these benefits to public awareness of the democratic process wherever possible.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of this letter and your service to the people of the Northwest Territories.</p>
Ingraham Trail	Brad Heath	<p>I am writing to strongly oppose the movement of the Ingraham Trail residents out of the Yellowknife North riding and into a riding which has very little, if any, connection to the people of the Ingraham Trail. Removing the Ingraham Trail from Yellowknife North may help the Electoral Boundaries Commission balance their numbers - but such a move will surely disfranchise the people along the Ingraham Trail.</p>
Ingraham Trail	Bruce Stuart	<p>I am writing to formally contest the proposed change that would move the Ingraham Trail from the Yellowknife North electoral district to Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh.</p> <p>In my opinion, the MLA representing Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh already serves four distinct geographic areas, each with its own unique</p>

		<p>communities, priorities, and challenges. Adding the Ingraham Trail to this district would stretch representation even further and risk diluting the voices of residents—both within Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh and along the Ingraham Trail.</p> <p>Residents along the trail share strong social, economic, and service ties with Yellowknife. Moving the area into Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh would disconnect it from the community systems and political representation that best reflect its daily realities. Effective representation depends on maintaining logical and practical boundaries that align with community identity and access to services.</p> <p>For these reasons, I urge the Commission to keep the Ingraham Trail within the Yellowknife North electoral district.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my perspective.</p>
Ingraham Trail	Cara Amy Maund	<p>I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed change that would move Ingraham Trail from the Yellowknife North electoral district to Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh. This change would group Ingraham Trail with communities that have very different interests, priorities, and needs. As a commercial lease holder and recreational lease holder of the Ingraham trail my family and business is closely connected to Yellowknife — it is where we shop, access services, and send our child to school. Our daily activities are tied to the services of Yellowknife, not to the more remote communities within the Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh district. I am also concerned about how effectively our voices would be represented under this proposed change. For these reasons, I urge the Commission to keep Ingraham Trail within the Yellowknife North electoral district, where our interests and community connections are best aligned. There are currently close to 200 people living along the Ingraham Trail (hwy 4) as well as hundreds of recreation lease holders that have cabins and hunting a fishing leases here. I would estimate that all of these people use Yellowknife as their source of groceries, and services.</p>
Ingraham Trail	Darlene and Albert Lebrun	<p>I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed change to move Ingraham Trail from the Yellowknife North electoral district to Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh.</p> <p>Our current MLA is highly accessible and regularly arranges quarterly meetings with Ingraham Trail residents. I do not believe this level of engagement would continue under the proposed change, as the Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh MLA may not be as readily available or familiar with our unique priorities.</p> <p>We currently live on Ingraham Trail and strongly feel that this change would not serve the best interests of our community. We have distinct priorities and needs compared to Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh. For example, I work in Yellowknife and commute daily on roads</p>

		<p>maintained by the Department of Transportation (GNWT), which is based in Yellowknife. My husband and I also purchase all of our goods and services in Yellowknife.</p> <p>We currently live permanently on Ingraham Trail and intend to do so until we are no longer fit to maintain our off-grid lifestyle. This is our home, and continuity of representation is essential for our well-being and ability to address local concerns.</p> <p>The current Yellowknife North MLA's accessibility and commitment to quarterly meetings allow us to voice concerns and address issues effectively. This connection is vital for our community.</p> <p>For these reasons, I strongly urge the Commission to keep Ingraham Trail within the Yellowknife North electoral district. Maintaining this alignment ensures that our community continues to receive the representation and support it needs.</p>
Ingraham Trail	Gerald Nesbitt	<p>As a resident of the Ingram Trail, I see that sometimes a change can be beneficial to the whole, but in the case of our area and the proposed amalgamation to a few communities that stretch across all eastern territorial area. Given the population of the Ingraham trail and the diversity of people I feel that this proposal for this area is in error And should remain with Yellowknife north where the true representation of its people and interest lie. When it comes to being properly represented for various interest and reasons, this is best served by being a part of your life as most of the people living out here are either recreational and live in Yellowknife or our permanent residence here.</p> <p>As a note, there has always been an ongoing push to allow for these residents to become fee simple title in some cases as this is scattered between Cassidy point , Pre lude main and a few other places. For this reason, especially this area should stay tied to Yellowknife north.</p>
Ingraham Trail	Irene Vucko	<p>Please keep Ingraham Trail within the Yellowknife North district. The majority works in Yellowknife, and we spend our money in Yellowknife (clothes, food, entertainment, etc..) We would be best served by the district that gets our money.</p>
Ingraham Trail	Janice Mckenna	<p>Electoral Boundary Changes: I am writing to voice my opposition to moving Ingraham Trail residents out of the Yellowknife North riding.</p>
Ingraham Trail	Jeff Round	<p>I am concerned with the proposed re-alignment of the Ingraham Trail area from the Yellowknife North riding to the Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh riding. I am concerned that as a fulltime resident of the Ingraham Trail my needs and interests and those of my neighbours will not be best represented by the proposed realignment.</p> <p>Residents of the Ingraham Trail rely heavily on the businesses and services of Yellowknife, the City of Yellowknife and the GNWT</p>

		<p>offered in Yellowknife. We work there, we shop there, we dine there, we play in sports leagues and are members of guilds, clubs and societies there, and children go to school there. There is no link, to the Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh region for government services, businesses or any real proximity to any of the communities in the Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh riding. Given the reliance on and relationship with Yellowknife, the Ingraham Trail should be viewed as a part of the same Community of Interest as Yellowknife, whether in the Yellowknife North riding or another. As a small, unincorporated area, the Ingraham Trail does not share the same needs as Lutsel K'e, Fort Resolution or the areas being considered for realignment from the Monfwi riding.</p> <p>For these reasons, I do not believe that any of the options meet the stated goals of effective representation, maintaining communities of interest and addressing issues of practicable impossibility with regard to the Ingraham Trail.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the report does not provide a number of residents for the area being considered for realignment. In the absence of that information, I would suggest that the area could remain in one or more of the Yellowknife ridings in any of the 4 options without pushing them outside of the acceptable variance, particularly since all models include a new Yellowknife riding. The relative low numbers along the Ingraham Trail may assist in creating parity without the need to divide down mid-points of streets or splitting apartment complexes.</p>
Ingraham Trail	Jennifer Waugh	<p>I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed change that would move Ingraham Trail from the Yellowknife North electoral district to Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh. This change would group Ingraham Trail with communities that have very different interests, priorities, and needs.</p> <p>As residents of Ingraham Trail, we are closely connected to Yellowknife — it is where we work, shop, access services, and send our children to school. Our community's day-today life and concerns are strongly tied to Yellowknife, not to the more remote communities within the Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh district. I am also concerned about how effectively our voices would be represented under this proposed change.</p> <p>For these reasons, I urge the Commission to keep Ingraham Trail within the Yellowknife North electoral district, where our interests and community connections are best aligned.</p> <p>In addition, a fifth option should be considered which examines reducing the total number of districts, which may present a simpler path to achieving balanced representation while maintaining the</p>

		Ingraham Trail as part of a Yellowknife North electoral district. Thank you for providing an opportunity to provide feedback,
Ingraham Trail	Johanna Tiemessen	I was just informed there are 4 proposals to change existing districts. In all 4 the Ingraham Trail moves from Yellowknife North to Tu Nedhè-Wiilideh which makes absolutely no sense. Residents and users of the ingraham trail work and live (primarily) in Yellowknife and this is the they are directly connected to. I can guess the change is to connect with dettah because of proximity but the people living on and using the ingraham trail are primarily settlers with much different political needs than those in dettah, ndilo, lutsel k’e and fort resolution. Do not dilute their needs and challenges with those the ingraham trail residents and users have. That is not fair to those northern indigenous communities.
Ingraham Trail	Julie Green	Thank you for taking on the unenviable task of revising electoral boundaries. I live on the Ingraham Trail and I am satisfied with being part of Yellowknife North. This is my community, dispersed as it is. I have almost nothing in common with the communities to the south and west of me that comprise Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh - language, culture, priorities. My concern is that the small Ingraham Trail community will disappear politically as a minority in a larger riding of unlike communities. Our ties are with Yellowknife and especially Old Town. I urge you to not include the Ingraham Trail with Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.
Ingraham Trail	Kate Hearn and Elwood Stone	<p>As residents of the Ingraham Trail for 37 years, we appreciate the Commission's invitation for public input on its Interim Report on electoral boundaries. We write to offer our perspectives on the proposal, in all four options, to transfer the Ingraham Trail (and other unincorporated areas near Yellowknife) from Yellowknife districts to Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh. We believe the Commission’s thoughtful proposal may inadvertently create significant representation challenges for unincorporated area residents.</p> <p>1.0. Understanding Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh's Geographic Complexity</p> <p>Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh already represents diverse communities with distinct needs: Ndilq and Dettah (proximal to Yellowknife), Fort Resolution (630 km by road), and Łútsël K’é (190 km by air, accessible only by seasonal winter road). Adding the Ingraham Trail to Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh would create a constituency spanning urban-adjacent Indigenous communities, remote fly-in communities, and rural populations—each with fundamentally different governance structures and service delivery models. We respectfully suggest this may stretch effective representation beyond what can reasonably be accomplished.</p> <p>2.0. Community of Interest: Geography and Daily Reality</p> <p>The Supreme Court in Reference re Provincial Electoral Boundaries (Sask.) requires consideration of "geography, community history, community interests and minority representation." The Commission</p>

		<p>justifies including unincorporated areas such as the Ingraham Trail in Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh by stating that "many of the permanent residents of those areas are members of Yellowknives Dene First Nation" (page 17 of the Commission's Interim Report).</p> <p>Without access to the underlying demographic data that the Commission used to support the statement, we can only share our lived experience: we reside within Chief Drygeese Territory and the Môwhì Gogha Dè Nîitâèè boundary of the Tłı̨chǫ Land Claim. We have observed a diverse population among the people residing on the Trail. Our daily reality connects us entirely to Yellowknife—shopping, healthcare, all services, emergency response (ambulance, RCMP), employment, schools and social networks. We're 30 minutes from Yellowknife versus 630 km from Fort Resolution with no road connection to Łútsël K'ée.</p> <p>An MLA, if based in communities remote from Yellowknife, would face significant travel challenges meeting Ingraham Trail constituents when the Legislature isn't sitting. We don't presume to speak for the wishes of Indigenous communities, but we deeply respect the importance of their wishes which may include a desire for strong representation from their MLA that is focussed exclusively on their specific interests. We question whether adding the Ingraham Trail to geographically distant unincorporated populations serves anyone's interests well.</p> <p>3.0 The Challenge of Competing Advocacy Priorities</p> <p>We speculate that capacity funding for band councils and self-government, infrastructure, health care, Treaty rights support, and Indigenous community-based program delivery through Indigenous governments may be crucial priorities of those constituencies, that require an MLA's full attention and expertise. Our concern is that simultaneously advocating for an unincorporated area, such as the Ingraham Trail's needs, creates unavoidable tensions. From the perspective of a Trail resident, our needs are direct territorial service delivery (because we have no local government), highway maintenance, emergency services coordination, program eligibility resolution, and civic addressing advocacy. These compete for the same limited territorial resources and attention as small communities and require fundamentally different policy approaches.</p> <p>This isn't about whether one community or community of interest matters more than another—it's whether any MLA can effectively advocate for such potentially divergent, or at the very least, broad-ranging priorities simultaneously.</p>
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	<p>Remaining within a Yellowknife riding avoids this conflict. Yellowknife's tax-based municipal revenue reduces competition for territorial funds between urban and unincorporated constituents. If the day comes when the long-standing irritant to the City of Yellowknife, of Ingraham Trail residents accessing some City services becomes a matter of negotiation between, not individual residents of the Ingraham Trail and the City, but the City and GNWT and it will be important to have an MLA with an understanding of both constituencies. Remaining in a Yellowknife district ensures we retain that informed voice through any such negotiations—something we would worry would if placed in Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh.</p> <p>4.0. The Invisibility of the Ingraham Trail to the GNWT</p> <p>Numerous territorial programs base eligibility on "residence in a community" or "local government boundaries," systematically excluding unincorporated community residents. We require an MLA that is positioned to provide dedicated advocacy to address this issue. For example, we're ineligible for NWT Housing Corporation programs including Seniors Aging in Place, Seniors Home Repair, and Preventative Maintenance funding because these require residence within municipal boundaries. As seniors, we, and our neighbours, cannot access supports that are available to territorial residents living 30 minutes away. The 2018 NWT Emergency Plan contained specific provisions outlining GNWT responsibilities for unincorporated areas. The 2024 update deleted these references. Meanwhile, Yellowknife withdrew structural fire protection services, leaving residents with no organized fire response. We lack civic addresses, complicating emergency response, mail delivery, and access to services requiring formal addresses. We are subject to property taxation in the General Taxation Area yet receive very limited services.</p> <p>As seniors aging in place on the Ingraham Trail, these exclusions have very real consequences. After more than 30 years contributing to the NWT economy and paying territorial taxes, we're ineligible for programs designed to help seniors remain safely in their homes. The irony is stark: we're "residents of the NWT" for taxation but "nonresidents" for program eligibility.</p> <p>Nowadays, there seem to be more seniors aging in place on the Ingraham Trail—many of us stayed here rather than retiring in cheaper Southern jurisdictions, because we are committed to, and passionate about, the North and we also love the rural lifestyle offered by the Trail—we need an MLA who is not struggling to reconcile a wide range of diverse issues, but one that can prioritize his or her advocacy for policy changes that recognize our existence and contributions, while still being able to effectively support other groups in their riding.</p>
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	<p>5.0. Data Quality Concerns</p> <p>All current estimates build on the 2021 Census—conducted before the 2023 wildfires (evacuating 70% of territorial population), the Diavik closure announcement (March 2026), and during pandemic recovery. Statistics Canada documented 8.04% net undercoverage in the NWT's 2021 Census—approximately 1 in 12 residents miscounted. Territorial modeling updates the statistics annually, but we question the robustness of the models when the NWT has been subject to such sweeping and unprecedented events that could have a significant impact on population.</p> <p>For unincorporated areas, these challenges compound: Without civic addresses or local government records, census enumerators struggle to locate residences. In our experience, many of us, valuing privacy, have historically declined surveys. Some of us who appreciate the importance of participating have been missed out entirely under census processes. We understand that the NWT Community Survey doesn't survey Ingraham Trail residents at all—meaning no statistical basis exists for estimating our population, growth trends, or demographics.</p> <p>We know, anecdotally, that the Trail population has grown significantly but cannot prove this with data. When the Commission attempts mathematical precision "by 8 people" using data with known 8% uncertainty collected before unprecedented disruptions, we respectfully suggest this risks prioritizing arithmetic over the “community of interest” factors the Supreme Court emphasized. When data is uncertain, tangible daily connections—work, shopping, services, community—become even more important guideposts.</p> <p>6.0. A Modest Proposal Worth Considering</p> <p>Given the challenges of representing an unincorporated populations' distinct needs, we wonder whether the Commission might consider an electoral district for voters residing in unincorporated communities (for example, Ingraham Trail, Highway 3, Dettah Road, Lindbergh Landing, Checkpoint etc.) throughout the NWT. This would acknowledge that scattered unincorporated populations share common governance challenges regardless of geography and representation issues. We believe the NWT might be unique in Canada, as we have two Indigenous communities that were carved out of the electoral district surrounding them and placed in Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh electoral district which is non-contiguous to community boundaries. Therefore, it appears that the NWT has already set a precedent of having non-contiguous areas forming an electoral district. An MLA representing unincorporated</p>
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	<p>areas specifically could focus on the unique policy challenges— program eligibility, emergency services, civic infrastructure, challenges of living “off grid”, direct territorial service delivery, giving a stronger voice to voters who live in areas where they have no voice at the local government level.</p> <p>7.0 Cost</p> <p>We offer this tentatively, recognizing it may present challenges under the Commission’s Terms of Reference, but believe it merits consideration. While we understand cost cannot be the Commission’s primary consideration, effective representation requires government capacity to respond to constituent needs. The GNWT operates close to its borrowing limit while pursuing annual savings to restore fiscal balance. We estimate each new MLA represents approximately \$350,000-400,000 in permanent, inflationindexed expenses. When government lacks fiscal capacity to implement what representatives advocate for, residents’ voting power becomes diminished and somewhat hollow. Therefore we strongly oppose any changes that increase the number of electoral districts.</p> <p>8.0. Our Recommendation</p> <p>We respectfully urge the Commission to maintain the Ingraham Trail, within Yellowknife electoral districts. This approach: • Respects our actual community of interest connections based on daily reality • Avoids creating impossible advocacy conflicts for MLAs • Ensures unincorporated community residents have dedicated representation for unique governance challenges, and • Acknowledges that effective representation requires stable boundaries grounded in demonstrated community connections If population adjustments require redistricting which of the Yellowknife districts include us, we’re comfortable with that outcome. Our concern is specifically the placement in Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, where our distinct needs as unincorporated community residents may risk being overshadowed by the legitimate and important priorities of the GNWT in moving toward Reconciliation.</p> <p>9.0 Conclusion</p> <p>The Commission’s mandate is effective representation for all northerners. For Ingraham Trail residents, this means representation by an MLA who shares our geographic proximity, economic connections, service delivery region, and understanding of unincorporated area challenges—not an MLA whose focus may end up being split between supporting remote Indigenous communities with entirely different governance structures and advocacy priorities.</p>
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		<p>We offer these comments in the spirit of collaborative problem-solving, hoping they assist the Commission in finalizing recommendations that will have the support of the Legislative Assembly and serve all NWT residents well.</p>
Ingraham Trail	Kevin Rattray	<p>I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed change that would move Ingraham Trail from the Yellowknife North electoral district to Tu Nedhé-Willideh. This change would group Ingraham Trail with communities that have very different interests, priorities, and needs.</p> <p>As residents of Ingraham Trail, we are closely connected to Yellowknife — it is where we work, shop, access services, and send our children to school. Our community’s day-today life and concerns are strongly tied to Yellowknife, not to the more remote communities within the Tu Nedhé-Willideh district. I am also concerned about how effectively our voices would be represented under this proposed change.</p> <p>For these reasons, I urge the Commission to keep Ingraham Trail within the Yellowknife North electoral district, where our interests and community connections are best aligned.</p> <p>In addition, a fifth option should be considered which examines reducing the total number of districts, which may present a simpler path to achieving balanced representation while maintain the Ingraham Trail as part of a Yellowknife North electoral district.</p>
Ingraham Trail	Leslie Wakelyn	<p>Regarding proposed options for changes to NWT electoral boundaries:</p> <p>I strongly disagree with any option that would remove the Ingraham Trail area from the Yellowknife North electoral district. The reasons for my view include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents and recreational users of the Ingraham Trail area are geographically, functionally and economically linked to Yellowknife. Most work, shop, and use recreational and other facilities and services provided in the city. As a result, many of their issues, priorities and requests are similar to those of residents of the city, especially the Old Town area. - Residential “subdivisions” and individual homes and cabins in the Ingraham Trail area form a diverse, unincorporated, loose association of people with no local government to represent them or address their needs. They are primarily dependent on Yellowknife, and are best represented by a Yellowknife-based MLA. - Ingraham Trail issues are often different from priorities of Ndilo, Dettah, Lutsel K’e and Fort Resolution, and therefore it would be

		<p>very difficult for one MLA to capably represent residents of the communities plus the Ingraham Trail area.</p> <p>- Combining the Ingraham Trail in the same district as the Indigenous communities would not facilitate representation for any of these groups of people, and would complicate and perhaps dilute attention to Indigenous community's needs.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment and all the best with your work.</p>
Ingraham Trail	Lorraine Curren	<p>I support Option 1 because I believe maintaining 19 electoral districts strikes a reasonable balance between representation and efficiency. Adding more MLAs may not necessarily improve representation and could increase costs without clear benefits.</p> <p>I continue to support Option 1 (no additional MLA's). However, I strongly believe that residents along the Ingraham Trail should remain part of the Yellowknife North constituency. I do not agree with the proposal in all four options to move the Ingraham Trail into the Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh riding.</p> <p>Residents of the Ingraham Trail identify closely with Yellowknife. We send our children to school in the city, shop and recreate there and many of us commute to work in Yellowknife. Our mailing addresses even state "Yellowknife". It does not make sense to separate these residents from Yellowknife representation.</p> <p>The unique needs of Ingraham Trail residents differ significantly from those communities in the Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh district. Combining them could detract from the focus on those communities' priorities. Personally, I have been very satisfied with the representation provided when the Trail has been a part of Yellowknife North and I believe this arrangement should continue.</p>
Ingraham Trail	Lynda J Yonge	<p>As a resident of the Ingraham Trail, I am writing to urge the Commission to reconsider their intent to move the residents of the Ingraham Trail from Yellowknife North to Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh. The Commission is tasked with designing electoral boundaries that ensure that everyone is well represented and that, to the extent possible, keep communities of interest together. A community of interest is defined as a group of people that share common bonds, whether they be bonds of language, culture, history, transportation links, economic interests, social networks or demographic characteristics. In all of these areas, the residents of the Ingraham Trail, the majority of which are non-Indigenous people who depend on Yellowknife for employment, education, recreational facilities and basic human needs (groceries, health care etc.) share common bonds with Yellowknife. There is no connection or common bond with the Indigenous communities that comprise Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh. Removing the Ingraham Trail from Yellowknife North would do a</p>

		disservice to Ingraham Trail residents by removing their voice and representation with respect to the issues that directly affect them.
Ingraham Trail	Marianne Wasylycia	Regarding Electoral Boundary Changes: Writing to voice my opposition to moving Ingraham Trail residents out of the Yellowknife North riding. I would ask we stay in the YK North riding.
Ingraham Trail	Michelle Demeule-Sproule	After reviewing the 4 proposals, I do not believe any of them meet the needs of the Ingraham Trail (and Dettah) residents. By moving the boundary of Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh to include the Ingraham Trail, you are essentially removing our access to a LOCAL MLA. We rely solely on Yellowknife to provide all the goods & services we require. Highway maintenance for the Ingraham Trail is operated by the GNWT from Yellowknife. We shop in Yellowknife. We WORK in Yellowknife. How does moving the electoral boundary for our residence improve our quality of life and access to representation? It does not. I do not support any of these proposals, nor do any of my Ingraham Trail neighbours. It is clear from these proposals that nobody bothered to review what our needs are and where they are best served and answered.
Ingraham Trail	Nicole	I have reviewed all 4 proposals. I am a resident of the Ingraham Trail . I do not support any of these proposals for myself or my neighbors. I do not believe any of these proposals meet the needs of the Ingraham Trail residents. Our local representation will be taken away from us in each of these proposals. Most Ingraham Trail residents, work, shop and commute to Yellowknife on a daily basis. The Ingraham Trail does not share the same issues as the other regions that you propose to lump us in with. Our needs are better served by maintaining our current representation. These proposals are very disappointing and did not take into consideration the needs of those living on the trail.
Ingraham Trail	Richard Andrew Zieba	I am a resident of the Ingraham Trail and I have lived at Pontoon Lake for 38 years. I strenuously object to the removal of the Trail from Yellowknife North. The proposal to include residents of the Trail into a predominately Indigenous riding contradicts the Commissions stated intent to organize ridings by communities of shared interest. Trail residents have very strong ties with Yellowknife. The large majority of Trail residents share common bonds of culture, language and economic interests with the city. We have significant differences from the Indigenous communities in the proposed riding in long term goals and aspirations, in particular the settlement of land claims. In fact, the aspirations of these communities regarding land claims could be substantially different from those of residents on the Trail. These communities also share a different relationship with the federal government which reflects a common bond not shared with Trail residents and is derived from their shared history and cultural background and political circumstances. I would expect that the MLA for the Tunedeh riding will be focused on issues affecting the Indigenous communities in the riding, to the detriment of Trail residents. It is imporant to note that the only political respresntation that Trail residents currently have is our MLA. The

		<p>other communities in Tunedeh also have hamlet and band governments which also advocate on behalf of their residents. We have no such political bodies and this absence greatly increases the importance of the role our MLA as an advocate for Trail issues.</p> <p>In summary, the proposal to subsume the Ingraham Trail into Tunedeh directly contradicts the stated goal of the Commission for ridings to reflect communities of common interest.</p>
Ingraham Trail	R.G.	<p>Joining with the many voices who have clearly left many reasons why the Ingraham Trail should not be removed from the Yellowknife North electoral district.</p>
Ingraham Trail	Sherri Aube	<p>The new electoral boundaries are not conducive to the lives of the constituents on the Ingraham Trail. We are far more closely aligned with our closest centre of Yellowknife and by plunking us into a more predominantly aboriginal riding, we will not have our voices heard. Leave boundaries where they are.</p>
Ingraham Trail	Sherry Stuart	<p>I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed change that would move Ingraham Trail from the Yellowknife North electoral district to Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh.</p> <p>This change would group Ingraham Trail with communities that have very different interests, priorities, and needs. As residents of Ingraham Trail, we are closely connected to Yellowknife — it is where we work, shop, access services, and send our children to school. Our community's day-to-day life and concerns are strongly tied to Yellowknife, not to the more remote communities within the Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh district.</p> <p>I am also concerned about how effectively our voices would be represented under this proposed change. The Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh district already encompasses four distinct geographic regions, and adding Ingraham Trail would further dilute the ability of our representative to effectively advocate for our specific needs.</p> <p>For these reasons, I urge the Commission to keep Ingraham Trail within the Yellowknife North electoral district, where our interests and community connections are best aligned. Thank you for considering this perspective.</p>
Ingraham Trail	Spencer Sproule	<p>Reading and listening to all of this info. Please be advised on all 4 recommendations, the ingrahm trail moves to a riding beside yellowknife and this includes us going to a south slave riding. This makes no sense as they will not have same priorities as we will have as well our Mla would not be as available as what we currently have. We would be put i to hardships to attend the quarterly mla meeting to us the people. As a residence of madeline lake . I would suspect our limited services would be even more kt a consideration to the new riding. I ask and request that you leave as in our current riding</p>

Yellowknife	Adrian Bell	<p>I understand that the courts have decided in the past that it's acceptable for residents of the NWT to be unrepresented by 25% relative to each other, but I suspect a judge would look differently at this if they could see that the Legislative Assembly has found a way for sixteen years to keep all Yellowknife ridings just ever-so-slightly below this threshold, while virtually everyone outside of Yellowknife is overrepresented. It's one thing for MLAs ignore the advice of an objective electoral boundaries commission and to impose this type of unfairness, but it's another matter entirely for the commission itself to make such recommendations.</p> <p>Clearly, the only reason you would separate the Ingraham Trail from Yellowknife North is to avoid having to give Yellowknife the level of representation its residents deserve. When N'Dilo's was split from Weledeh and joined with Tu Nedhe, it was justifiable because of cultural similarities, if not similarities in other day-to-day concerns that a resident of N'Dilo might have. But the same can't be said of joining residents of the Ingraham Trail with Tu Nedhe. It smacks of gerrymandering.</p> <p>Past electoral boundaries commissions have chosen not to do the right thing with respect to Yellowknife representation. It took a lawsuit by citizens to provide Yellowknife the seats it deserves. You can count on that happening again if need be. By all means, save some money and shrink the number of total seats, but it's past time to treat Yellowknife residents fairly.</p>
Yellowknife	Ahmed Elgazar	<p>I am writing in support of option 1, which prioritizes the rebalancing of the current representation level already in place.</p> <p>At this point of time, the NWT does not need the additional financial and administrative burdens that would come with expanding the size of the Legislative Assembly. The NWT is already facing significant fiscal pressures while struggling with delivering essential services and meeting infrastructure needs. Adding more MLA's would increase expenditures without a clear evidence of improved governance or better representation.</p> <p>Effective governance does not necessarily come from having more elected officials, but from ensuring that the current system operates efficiently, responsively, and equitably. Maintaining the current number of MLAs allows the government to focus its limited resources on strengthening service delivery, supporting economic growth, and addressing the pressing social and environmental challenges facing Northerners.</p>
Yellowknife	Charles Wyman	<p>I'd like to see you reduce the ridings to 1 MLA per 5000 population. 8/9 MLA's total. There are too many sous chefs in the kitchen and some of them are not even trying to become chefs they have almost got the job by accident.</p>

<p>Yellowknife</p>	<p>Chris Van Dyke</p>	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on potential revisions to the territory's electoral boundaries, and I appreciate the work that has gone into the proposed options laid out in the Interim Report. Of the options presented, I believe Options 3 and 4 are the only reasonable possibilities, with Option 3 the most appropriate (with some amendments). Option 3 adds needed ridings in Yellowknife and the Tłtchq region while limiting disenfranchisement of smaller communities, as seen in Option 4 with a 2nd new Yellowknife riding, while also mostly avoiding merging smaller communities into the larger community ridings of Inuvik and Hay River. This should be avoided wherever possible due to the vastly different realities between the smaller communities and regional centres - it is important that smaller community ridings remain, regardless of the +/- 25% variance goal.</p> <p>Within Option 3, I would suggest a few revisions to riding boundaries that, while they may impact the over/under-representation of certain ridings, would better align with community and regional context. For example, while a 2nd seat in the Tłtchq region is clearly needed, separating Edzo from the rest of Behchokq and including it with the other 3 Tłtchq communities purely to better align with the 25% goal seems misguided. Extending the Dehcho riding all the way from Fort Providence and KFN to Fort Liard also seems like a stretch, particularly when it results in the Nahendeh riding then falling outside the 25% variance target.</p> <p>Finally, the increased number of MLA's should not be a concern. The Yukon has 21 MLA's and Nunavut 22, and a small increase in the NWT would have meaningful benefits for representation in the territory.</p>
<p>Yellowknife</p>	<p>Dan Korver</p>	<p>A fifth option should be considered which examines reducing the total number of districts, which may present a simpler path to achieving balanced representation.</p> <p>Without this option, the report appears incomplete.</p>
<p>Yellowknife</p>	<p>David Wasylciw</p>	<p>I am writing to provide input on the 2025 Interim Report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission. The data presented in the report clearly demonstrate that current electoral boundaries produce significant inequities, particularly in urban districts, and warrant immediate and thoughtful adjustment.</p> <p>Population Disparities Demand Action</p> <p>The territorial population of 44,731 results in an average of approximately 2,354 residents per electoral district under the 19 seat model. However, several urban districts significantly exceed this average: Yellowknife North has 4,081 residents (+73.4%), Kam Lake has 3,473 (+47.5%), Yellowknife Centre has 3,029 (+28.7%), and Monfwi has 3,063 (+30.1%). In contrast, several rural districts</p>

		<p>are markedly underpopulated: Dehcho has 1,113 residents (– 52.7%), Tu Nedhé Wiilideh 1,381 (– 41.3%), Inuvik Twin Lakes 1,487 (–36.8%), and Mackenzie Delta 1,568 (–33.4%).</p> <p>These discrepancies are not minor. A resident of Yellowknife North has approximately 3.7 times less voting power than a resident of Dehcho. Such disparities directly challenge the principle of equitable representation and the effectiveness of our democratic institutions. As the Commission’s report notes, 10 of the current 19 electoral districts have a variance of greater than 25% (the threshold that courts have found to be presumptively constitutional).</p> <p>Assessment of the Commission’s Options</p> <p>I have reviewed each of the four options presented in the Interim Report. While all represent genuine efforts to address the representational imbalance, they differ substantially in how well they achieve voter parity.</p> <p>Option 4 (22 districts) comes closest to achieving the constitutional standard of effective representation. Under this model, all but three districts fall within the ±25% variance threshold, and even those exceptions (Sahtu, Nahendeh, and the proposed Monfwi 2) are justifiable based on the exceptional circumstances the Commission has identified, including geographic isolation, shared land claims, and cultural coherence. This option most faithfully honours the principle that every citizen’s vote should carry roughly equal weight.</p> <p>I recognize, however, that Option 4 may be politically unpalatable for MLAs. The Legislative Assembly has historically been reluctant to add seats, and adding three new districts represents a significant expansion. Yet, the Commission’s own analysis demonstrates that half measures will not resolve the underlying problem. Option 3 (21 districts), while preferable to the status quo, still leaves five of eight Yellowknife districts underrepresented by more than 25%, with an effective range of over 65% between the most and least populous districts.</p> <p>Options 1 and 2 require difficult trade-offs that diminish representation for some communities. Merging Mackenzie Delta with Inuvik, or Dehcho with Hay River, may achieve numerical parity but risks diluting the distinct voices of smaller communities within larger regional centres.</p> <p>My recommendation is that the Commission endorse Option 4 in its final report. If the Legislative Assembly ultimately rejects a 22 seat model, Option 3 represents an acceptable compromise, though it should be understood as a step toward, rather than a resolution of, the representational imbalance.</p>
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		<p>often set aside by the Legislature regardless of their scope. I would urge Commissioners to consider, in their final report, whether broadening the scope of your recommendations, or at least noting that alternative electoral models warrant future study, might serve the public interest. New ideas and new ways to improve governance always have a place, even if they cannot be implemented through this particular process.</p> <p>Respect for Community Integrity</p> <p>Whatever option the Commission recommends, I urge that all boundary adjustments respect the integrity of communities, including Indigenous governance structures, language regions, and patterns of social and economic interaction. The Commission’s attention to land claims, self-government agreements, and communities of interest is commendable and must remain central to the final recommendations. Effective representation is only meaningful if residents can engage with MLAs who understand and reflect the character and needs of their communities.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Based on the evidence presented in the 2025 Interim Report, I urge the Commission to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recommend Option 4 (22 seats) as the model that best achieves voter parity and effective representation, while acknowledging the political challenges it may face. 2. Identify Option 3 (21 seats) as an acceptable alternative if the Legislative Assembly is unwilling to adopt a 22 seat model. 3. Address cost concerns directly, noting comparisons with Yukon and Nunavut and the costs of continued constitutional vulnerability. 4. Consider noting in the final report that alternative electoral models, including multimember urban districts, warrant future study by the Legislative Assembly. 5. Ensure that all boundary adjustments respect community integrity and Indigenous governance structures. <p>Thank you for considering these views as you finalize your recommendations.</p>
Yellowknife	Fraser Fuite	<p>I would like to express my support fo Jessie Wilson’s proposal, which I read on Cabin Radio: I think it makes a lot of sense to have a slate of candidates for cities with many MLAs. We are used to using slates without ridings in our local elections, and it would reinforce that successful tradition. And it is clear to me that the main difference in interests in the NWT is between different communities--not neighbourhoods within communities. I will be very excited if this proposal turns out. Vive la démocratie!</p>
Yellowknife	Jan Larsson	<p>NWT has only 42,000 residents and is experiencing a population decline. For this reason, we no longer need any additional elected</p>

		MLAs to represent us. I'm against any changes to the number of elected MLAs.
Yellowknife	Jessie Wilson	<p>I am in favour of Yellowknife using the slate model where people who live within city boundaries elect the maximum number of MLAs (i.e. the same way Yellowknife city councilors are elected). The current electoral boundaries within the city as well as those that are being proposed are arbitrary and do not distinguish any unique demographic within the electoral system. I believe a slate model would lead to higher voter turn out as well as a greater degree of trust and competency in elected MLAs.</p> <p>As a Yellowknife resident, I believe that this is the best system for the city and could also be applied to municipalities with multiple ridings.</p>
Yellowknife	Julie Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1 We do not need additional MLAs for our population. Yellowknife is currently underrepresented.
Yellowknife	Katherine Robinson	<p>Adding more Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) isn't just about increasing numbers it's about strengthening representation and collaboration across the NWT. There is nothing wrong with having more people working on behalf of NWT residents. In fact, expanding the Assembly directly challenges the narrow idea that an MLA can and should "only" serve their own constituency. More voices mean broader perspectives, stronger partnerships, and better solutions for all communities. Let's not pretend that there isn't a legitimate concern that constituencies with very few residents would be impacted but I believe there are ways to mitigate that and without change the NWT is going to face a pretty bleak future.</p> <p>The challenges we face today, climate change, economic uncertainty, and global instability don't respect constituency boundaries. They demand cooperation. Strengthening the connections between communities makes us more resilient. This doesn't mean every community needs or gets the same resources or support; it means that by understanding each other, we can respond more humanely to the needs of people living in the NWT.</p> <p>We've already seen this in action. The 2023 evacuations taught us hard lessons about communication, supply chain vulnerabilities, and the importance of supporting one another. Despite the stress and hardship, those evacuations revealed who we are as a territory: interconnected and interdependent. Adding MLAs builds on that strength by ensuring more voices are at the table to help us navigate challenges together. Of course, the fundamental principles of democracy support this change but beyond that, why wouldn't we want more people working to help us all? More MLAs mean more capacity, and potentially more collaboration (depends on the MLA of course), personally I would rather live somewhere that was trying</p>

		harder instead of repeating the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result.
Yellowknife	Lee Ross	<p>I am writing to provide feedback on the Commission’s review of electoral boundaries and representation in the Northwest Territories. Specifically, I urge the Commission not to increase the number of Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and, if anything, to consider reducing the current number.</p> <p>The Northwest Territories currently has 19 MLAs serving a population of approximately 46,000 people, one of the lowest resident-to-representative ratios in Canada. This results in one of the highest costs per capita for legislative governance in the country. At a time when the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) faces significant fiscal challenges including wildfire recovery costs, health system pressures, and infrastructure deficits the priority should be cost containment and efficiency, not expansion.</p> <p>Adding more MLAs will increase expenditures on salaries, benefits, office operations, and administrative support. These funds could be better directed toward urgent needs such as housing, healthcare, and infrastructure. The GNWT’s own fiscal sustainability strategy emphasizes the need to reduce expenditure growth and improve efficiency to avoid breaching the federally imposed borrowing limit. Expanding the legislature would run counter to these objectives. Moreover, constituents currently have timely access to their MLAs, and legislative debates often see duplication of points rather than unique contributions. Increasing the number of MLAs would likely amplify redundancy rather than enhance representation.</p> <p>Finally, the unique governance context of the Northwest Territories, where Indigenous governments play a significant role in legislative development under protocols and the UNDRIP Implementation Act, already provides robust representation for nearly half of the population.</p> <p>Recommendation: We do not need more MLAs to echo that there is a housing, healthcare, and Infrastructure deficit in the NWT. Maintain the current number of MLAs at 19 or consider reducing, as previously proposed. This approach aligns with fiscal responsibility, efficiency, and equitable representation. Thank you for considering this submission.</p>
Yellowknife	Leon Milner	<p>I think great over/under-representation should be avoided. I don't understand what current "exceptional circumstances" would apply to violate this. I would like to see political parties explicitly allowed. The idea of allowing Yellowknifers to vote on a slate (as mentioned in Cabin Radio) is interesting. However, this opportunity would then need to apply to all NT citizens, which would then probably lead to great over-representation of Yellowknifers. ie: Why would some voters be allowed to vote for multiple candidates, but not others.</p>

<p>Yellowknife</p>	<p>Margaret Marshall</p>	<p>As a long term YK resident (now over 42 years) I am aware that this issue has been considered many times.</p> <p>I agree that there have been and still are deficiencies in the existing system of representation for the YK ridings. I support Option 1 – keeping the number to 19 with a redistribution.</p> <p>I was shocked to see that there is consideration of up to an increase to 22 persons. The cost of adding more MLAs as the method by which to fix this inequity is monstrous e.g. office space, furniture, salaries / benefits for the MLA and the support staff and that does not include the cost of modifying the furniture in the ‘house’.</p> <p>The dollars required for increasing even one MLA could better be used to fund programs / services for residents of the NWT.</p> <p>In addition, if the number of MLA’s increases what would that do to the balance of ministers / regular mlas. E.G. we have six ministers now with 13 regular MLAs. Would an increase result in an incremental number of ministers. I can only imagine the cost.</p> <p>I believe the consultants should be asked to provide a cost of implementing any of the options being proposed so that decisions can be truly ‘informed’.</p>
<p>Yellowknife</p>	<p>Meagan Wohlberg</p>	<p>I am strongly in favour of getting rid of Yellowknife ridings altogether and moving to a slate system, whereby we elect a maximum number of MLAs for the community based on our top choices, the way it is done for City Council. It doesn't make sense to have individual ridings in a community of our size, and I don't think such a change would have negative impacts on representation of the electorate. On the contrary, I think it would increase voter turnout and result in a set of MLAs that best represent the interests of the entire community.</p> <p>I am speaking as a resident of Yellowknife, but would also put forward this suggestion for all multi-MLA communities in the NWT. It seems unnecessary to draw geographic boundaries when equal representation could be achieved through a slate model.</p>
<p>Yellowknife</p>	<p>Meghan Schnurr</p>	<p>As raised by others to-date, I am in favour of Yellowknife removing electoral districts and instead using the slate model to elect an allocated number of MLAs to represent Yellowknife. I do not feel that the current arbitrary boundaries within our 20,000- person city are representative of populations with distinct demographics applicable to discussion of territorial-level issues. If electoral districts and distinct demographics have not been identified as necessary to discuss city-level issues, it is unclear why this is necessary at a territorial level. By removing the electoral districts, the elected Yellowknife MLAs would be rest representative of the city as a whole and would eliminate a system which encourages Yellowknife politicians to strategically consider which riding to run in.</p>

Yellowknife	Melanie Parisella	Je ne supporte pas ce changement de circonscription. Nous ne devons pas changer ce qui est déjà en place.
Yellowknife	N.L	<p>Before turning to the specific options outlined by the Commission, I would like to offer some initial comments for context and consideration.</p> <p>Concerns re: Electoral Boundaries Commission Terms of Reference</p> <p>I'm troubled by the Terms of Reference issued by the Members of the 20th Legislative Assembly in October 2024, which set restrictive parameters for the Electoral Boundaries Commission's review. Requiring proposals for no fewer than 19 seats was an unreasonable constraint – one that appears driven by self-interest rather than what is best for the NWT. This restriction prevented consideration of reducing the size of the Assembly, despite compelling reasons to do so.</p> <p>The Legislative Assembly has had 19 electoral districts since 1999, during which population growth has been minimal. Meanwhile, advances in communication – email, social media, videoconferencing, and cell phones – have made connecting with constituents easier than ever. Travel between communities is also less costly and more efficient than it once was. Even as a Yellowknife resident, I have never contacted an MLA except electronically. The need for regular in-person accessibility for effective representation in 2026 should not be overstated.</p>
Yellowknife	Nathan Round	I feel that option 4 in the report is most suitable considering the growth of the population of Yellowknife and the need for more representation for that population.
Yellowknife	Patrick Wrigglesworth	<p>I believe option four would best serve the NWT. This option has the least districts that will be underserved and overserved, and ensures "growing room" in all other districts. Which would allow the Commission and the Legislative Assembly time to sit, and operate, with 22 members for at least one or two governments. I believe with the growth we have seen in Behchoko, Yellowknife, and the projected growth of Hay River we will need the extra districts and the re-designing of existing ones to better suit their needs. I think having more representation is a good opportunity for the North to show it's maturity since devolution and separation with Nunavut.</p> <p>As for names, I cannot speak to possible names outside of my hometown of Yellowknife. Yellowknife 1 = Old Town//Yellowknife Back Bay as alternative; Yellowknife 2 = Range Lake North; Yellowknife 3 = Range Lake South; Yellowknife 4 = Kam Lake; Yellowknife 5 = Frame Lake; Yellowknife 6 = Negus-Con//Yellowknife Bay isn't bad; Yellowknife 7 = Yellowknife Centre; Yellowknife 8 = Niven Lake.</p>

		I think in the case of the Yellowknife districts picking names from the city's history would be just as appropriate as good generic names.
Yellowknife	Rob Foote	<p>After carefully reviewing the 2025 NWT Electoral Boundaries Commission Interim Report, I believe Option 4: the 22-district model, provides the greatest net benefit to the people of the Northwest Territories. This option achieves full compliance with the constitutionally accepted +/- 25% variance from average population across every proposed district, eliminating the need for any special justifications or exceptions that appear in the 19, 20, and 21-district models. With an average district population of approximately 2,033, it directly addresses the severe under-representation currently experienced in growing areas such as Yellowknife (where some districts exceed +73% variance) and the significant over-representation in smaller regions, thereby restoring true relative parity of voting power and upholding the principle of “one person, one vote.”</p> <p>At the same time, the 22-district model respects communities of interest, cultural and linguistic ties, land-claim agreements, and the practical geographic realities of our vast territory more effectively than the lower-number options, which require more disruptive mergers or continued imbalances. Compared to the current 19-district system, which the report shows is now constitutionally unsustainable in many ridings, Option 4 offers a fairer, more representative, and future-proof legislature without fragmenting small or remote communities.</p> <p>While I recognize the legitimate concern about the modest additional cost of three more MLAs (estimated at roughly 0.05% of the territorial operating budget), this investment is negligible when weighed against the democratic gains of genuine voter equality and effective representation for all northerners. Both Yukon (21 districts with a similar population) and Nunavut (22 districts with a smaller population) demonstrate that this scale of legislature is workable and appropriate for northern jurisdictions.</p> <p>I understand that cost pressures are very real in the current fiscal environment. For these reasons, I strongly recommend that the Commission adopt the 22-district model in its final report and, when releasing its recommendations, clearly communicate to the public that it carefully weighed fiscal concerns but concluded that the substantial and lasting benefits of voter parity and effective representation deliver a far greater net benefit to our democracy. Fair and equal representation is a cornerstone of our democracy, and Option 4 delivers it most completely.</p> <p>Please feel free to reach out if you require clarity on anything.</p>
Yellowknife	Robert G Bromley	Clearly representation is heavily biased in favour of small communities, and has been for a long time. Some bias cannot be

		<p>avoided due to the need to recognize geographic and cultural representation factors, yet the degree of bias that has been tolerated is unconscionable, and in my opinion, to the detriment of all residents (and communities).</p> <p>There are obviously sound reasons for the guidelines on fair representation, and the most critical one has to be promoting good decisions for all. In my experience, including 8 years in the legislative assembly, all people of the NWT would be better off if we adhered more closely to the population representation guideline. I have found Yellowknife MLAs to be very supportive of political decisions that benefit small communities, but with our historical weighting of ridings, all people have not benefitted as they might have.</p> <p>Thus I support a modified version of option 4. Ingraham Trail residents should remain in a combined Yellowknife riding. A pooled election from all Yellowknife candidates should be put in place. This would allow all residents regardless of their cultural or other affiliations, to be able to approach the representative with whom they are most comfortable (likely improving effective representation, something that is key given their underrepresentation in the Assembly. This might well be a useful approach in other area, such as in the proposed Tlicho and Mackenzie Delta ridings.</p> <p>Thanks for your ongoing consideration of these issues, and the opportunity to comment.</p>
Yellowknife	Rohan Brown	<p>Though not an option that is apparently under consideration, I encourage the Electoral Boundaries Commission to reduce the number of MLAs and ridings in the Northwest Territories from nineteen to sixteen or seventeen. The following are my reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Northwest Territories has one of lowest number of residents per MLA of any province or territory. The Northwest Territories also has one of the highest costs per resident of any province or territory of running our Legislative Assembly. Every dollar that goes towards running our Legislative Assembly is a dollar that is not available to be put towards any of the urgent needs in the Northwest Territories, such as housing, healthcare or public infrastructure. We should be aiming to bring both of the above figures closer to the Canadian average, not further from the average. 2. The population of the Northwest Territories has been increasing at a slow rate for over a decade, in contrast to other provinces and territories with a much higher rate of population growth in which the number of elected representatives has increased. Our low population increase does not warrant any additional MLAs.

		<p>3. A greater number of MLAs will not result in a proportionate or better improvement in political representation of residents. It seems apparent that MLAs are generally currently not overworked. Any constituent who has a concern is typically able to raise that concern with their MLA in a timely way. That MLA then has enough time available to raise the concern with the applicable department/minister, if they deem that to be appropriate, and to potentially raise the matter in the Legislative Assembly while typically working no more than the normal amount of hours per week. There are also frequent instances in which MLAs echo one another in the Legislative Assembly about a pressing issue. Adding more MLAs to further echo the same points will do nothing to bolster political representation.</p> <p>4. The greater role that Indigenous governments play in the Northwest Territories negates the need for more MLAs. Indigenous governments have a protocol in place with the GNWT and the Legislative Assembly regarding development of certain legislation. Further, the Northwest Territories has the UNDRIP Implementation Act, under which an implementation plan is being developed by Indigenous governments and the GNWT. The approximately half of the Northwest Territories residents who are Indigenous therefore have very robust political representation through their applicable Indigenous government in relation to both the GNWT and the Legislative Assembly. They will not obtain materially stronger political representation in the above regards through having fewer residents per MLA. Non-Indigenous residents also will not obtain stronger representation in the above regards through having fewer residents per MLA. This is because the enhanced role for Indigenous government in the Northwest Territories as compared to other provinces and territories in Canada has the effect of substantially reducing the ability of regular MLAs representing ridings in which the majority of residents are non-Indigenous to effect any change that Indigenous governments do not agree with.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of the above.</p>
Yellowknife	Ryan C Peters	<p>Reviews and assessments are important and contribute to effectiveness and efficiency...however is this being done in response to mandate and concerns from citizens. Is representation now an issue because it was raised or was it raised so as to become an issue.</p> <p>With current dwindling population numbers, a few years (at the very least) of uncertain economic landscape, it might not be what is required now.</p>

		<p>It is my understanding that with a consensus government, consensus is more important than number in matters of significance.....except in other significance such as voting for the Premier by the MLA's.</p> <p>What would be the scenarios if one contemplate reducing MLA's in areas we regard as being unfairly over represented? Since increasing might address the imbalance, appropriately decreasing will have the same outcome.</p> <p>Reduce to balance and have fair representation as oppose to increase to balance.</p>
Yellowknife	Ryan P.	<p>My feedback is less MLA's in general. I think for the population as a whole we have to many politicians at all levels of government. I think reducing the number would support fiscal responsibility in a time where it is needed. I suspect by trimming a few we could save hundreds of thousands of dollars and notice little change to service delivery.</p>
Yellowknife	Trent Peterson	<p>I feel that adding any additional MLAs to Yellowknife would created a disparity of representation of a single city over all regional areas. I would argue it makes more sense to reduce representation of Yellowknife so there is a fair balance of interest across the territory. The fact that Yellowknife has a higher population does not mean it needs more MLAs considering the interests within that boundary would be very similar. If reducing is not an option then I think keeping 19 is the best path and just adjusting boundaries to make up for area lacking representation. A leaner system of representation would be better.</p>
Yellowknife	City of Yellowknife	<p>On behalf of Yellowknife City Council, I appreciate the opportunity to provide this submission on the 2025 NWT Electoral Boundaries Commission Interim Report.</p> <p>Yellowknife is proud to serve as the capital city for all residents of the Northwest Territories. As the administrative, economic, and service centre of the territory, our city plays a unique role in supporting communities across the territory and into western Nunavut. This important position comes with responsibilities that extend beyond our municipal boundaries, and it underscores the importance of ensuring that Yellowknife is fairly represented in the Legislative Assembly.</p> <p>Yellowknife residents expect representation that reflects as much as possible both their population size and their contribution to the territory. While Yellowknifers recognize the challenges of balancing geographic and community interests with representation by population across the diversity of the NWT, we believe that any approach to electoral boundary changes must increase our city's overall representation in the legislative assembly. Yellowknife continues to increase its population as a proportion of the total NWT</p>

	<p>population and any changes must acknowledge that reality as much as possible.</p> <p>Yellowknife’s Role as a Capital City Yellowknife is home to approximately 22,800 residents, representing just under 50% of the total territorial population of roughly 46,0001 . This concentration of population highlights the city’s importance as the economic and governance center of the Northwest Territories.</p> <p>Yellowknife’s role as the capital city and largest community means that Yellowknifers have responsibilities that extend far beyond our local concerns. The city hosts the Legislative Assembly, territorial government offices, and services including but not limited to social and health services that benefit all communities. Many of the challenges and opportunities in Yellowknife also exist as a result of our role as the Capital. Our unique position in terms of population and as a service centre for the NWT should be considered when determining electoral boundaries. These realities reflect a broader community of interest that includes all Northerners beyond our municipal boundaries.</p> <p>Principles of Representation and Key Challenges</p> <p>The Commission’s four factors, as outlined in the interim report, are critical to this discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relative Parity: Electoral districts should be similar in population to each other. • Community of Interest: We should try and keep similar communities together. • Effective Representation: Electoral districts do not need to be perfectly equal in population but should not be more than or less than 25% of the average population unless there is an unusual situation. • Practicable Impossibility: Sometimes it may not be possible to meet all these guidelines without violating one of the other ones. In these unusual situations the Commission has made best efforts to come up with a reasonable solution. <p>Applying these factors in the Northwest Territories is challenging due to vast distances, small and dispersed communities, and diverse cultural identities. However, these challenges cannot overshadow the need to ensure that the capital and service centre of the territory has a meaningful voice within our legislative assembly. Yellowknife’s significant and continuous underrepresentation when compared to our population risks undermining the principle of voter parity and the confidence of residents in the democratic process.</p> <p>The interim report presents four options for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintaining 19 constituencies with adjustments; or increasing to
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 constituencies, with an additional seat for Yellowknife • 21 constituencies, with an additional seat for Yellowknife; or • 22 constituencies, with an additional 2 seats for Yellowknife. <p>While the Commission has not endorsed a specific option, Yellowknife City Council believes there are only two options that should be considered.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>Based on the factors identified by the Commission, as well as the importance noted in this letter of ensuring fair representation for Yellowknife, City Council recommends implementation of either Option 1 or Option 4.</p> <p>Option 1 and Option 4 both raise the representation of Yellowknife in the Legislative Assembly from ~36% to ~42% or ~40% respectively, while also ensuring that all Yellowknife constituencies are within the range of not more or less than 25% of the average constituency population.</p> <p>Option 2 and 3 of the report both miss the mark on one (Option 2) or both (Option 3) of these important metrics and do not have the support of Yellowknife City Council.</p> <p>If the Commission decides to recommend another option in their final report, or if the Legislative Assembly decides to amend these options, then the benefits of Option 1 and Option 4 still need to be maintained. It is not tenable for Yellowknife to have nearly 50% of the population in our Territory and less than 40% of representation in the Legislative Assembly. It is also not acceptable to have Yellowknife districts that are underrepresented by more than the 25% target identified by the Commission to ensure effective representation.</p> <p>Electoral District Names</p> <p>Regarding electoral district names, Yellowknife City Council does not have a recommendation on future naming. As part of a broader commitment to reconciliation it is important to work with Indigenous Governments and Indigenous peoples to establish new or amended constituency names that will be grounded in an official language(s) other than English.</p> <p>If this work toward reconciliation cannot be achieved before the end of this legislative assembly, then generic names are likely preferable. Work on appropriate naming or renaming decisions can then continue during the next legislative assembly.</p>
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		<p>Conclusion</p> <p>In closing, we urge the Commission to uphold the principles of fairness, equity, and effective representation in its final recommendations. Yellowknife residents expect representation that reflect both their population size and their contribution to the territory as a whole. Thank you for your dedication to this important process. We look forward to continued engagement as the review progresses. Should you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me by email: mayor@yellowknife.ca or by phone: (867) 920-5693.</p>
<p>Yellowknife Centre</p>	<p>MLA, Robert Hawkins</p>	<p>I wanted to take a moment to comment on a few matters of observation.</p> <p>INGRAHAM TRAIL ALIGNMENT.</p> <p>Although your work thus far has not been easy, I would note, from conversations that I've had over the Christmas break, this has been the most contentions issue raised.</p> <p>The residents of those areas have mentioned a concern that they feel better aligned in the Yellowknife districts, largely because of the types of issues and concerns they have which would be significantly different than community issues, and as such there is a high likelihood that those views and issues will often be at odds.</p> <p>Therefore I ask that further thought be given to a homogeneous population balance and look to see if there are ways to bring that area into the proposed districts, Yellowknife 1 or 8, as they drafted are currently drafted.</p> <p>CONSTITUENCY NAMES: Where possible in riding districts which remain largely unchanged, whereby the lines may have moved slightly or have shrunk through population alignment, but the core of the district riding is still intact, I would recommend that those riding names remain the same (unchanged) as they currently are for consistency and practical reasons.</p> <p>As to ridings that have largely split or viewed as new, I think this is a great opportunity to propose some suggestions to allow the conversation to move forward, and allow these new district names to better reflect and align with our community values whilst balancing considerations towards reconciliation.</p> <p>Under Option Numbers: 1, 2, 3 The four ridings I recommend the district names go unchanged</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowknife 2 = Range Lake • Yellowknife 3 = Yellowknife South

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowknife 4 = Kam Lake • Yellowknife 7 = Yellowknife Centre <p>The four ridings I recommend updating the district names:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowknife 1 = New Name • Yellowknife 5 = New Name • Yellowknife 6 = New Name • Yellowknife 8 = New Name <p>Furthermore, when considering Option Number 4:</p> <p>The five ridings I recommend the district names go unchanged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowknife 2 = Range Lake • Yellowknife 3 = Yellowknife South • Yellowknife 4 = Kam Lake • Yellowknife 5 = Frame Lake • Yellowknife 7 = Yellowknife Centre <p>The four ridings I recommend updating the district names:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowknife 1 = New Name • Yellowknife 6 = New Name • Yellowknife 8 = New Name • Yellowknife 9 = New Name <p>MINOR OBSERVATION WITH RESPECT TO SOME OF THE CURRENT INPUT RECEIVED TO DATE:</p> <p>Lastly, there have been a few outlier suggestions in this process, through submissions, that Yellowknife MLA's should be elected at large similar to how the city elects councillors. From my understanding, this does not fall within your mandate to address.</p> <p>That said, as well intended as the suggestion may be, I felt it worthwhile to offer a brief comment and observation from someone who has served in four different Assemblies.</p> <p>My immediate concern then becomes equitable balance of workload as a very glaring issue, and at the same time, the essence of resources to help address those demands. Furthermore, not all ridings in any particular Assembly are equal, however it would be very unfair that one or two MLAs ended up shouldering well beyond their fair share of the work. I could say much more, but I will leave it there.</p> <p>Therefore, my recommendation would be that the commission be silent on this matter.</p> <p>Thank you for you time, your hard work to date, as well as your consideration towards the comments I've made.</p>
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<p>Yellowknife North</p>	<p>MLA, Shauna Morgan</p>	<p>First, thank you for your efforts in service of our Territory to try to ensure our system of democratic representation is fair and meaningful. As the current representative for Yellowknife North, I wanted to raise a few points I understand to be particularly important to my constituents that I hope you consider in your final report.</p> <p>Those residing permanently in rural neighbourhoods along the Ingraham Trail (Highway 4) must continue to be included within one of the Yellowknife ridings. Contrary to the Commission’s assertion on page 16 of its Interim Report, the vast majority of Ingraham Trail residents are not members of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation; their cultural and community ties are primarily with Yellowknife. While no reliable statistics are available, this unincorporated group of rural residents includes an estimated 100 families with about 300 residents. It is unacceptable for these residents to be transferred to the Tu Nedhé-Willideh riding, as is proposed in all four options outlined in the Interim Report. I am happy to have this area remain with Yellowknife North, but if rebalancing of population amongst Yellowknife ridings necessitates a switch, then the Ingraham Trail should at least be included within one of the other Yellowknife ridings, even if the Trail is not geographically connected to that riding on the map.</p> <p>I note with great concern that the status quo means the vote of any citizen in Yellowknife North holds significantly less weight than a citizen in any other part of the NWT, including other parts of Yellowknife and other regional centres. YK North residents have approximately four times less voting power in the Assembly than some other parts of the territory such as the Dehcho, and less than half the voting power of at least eight other ridings, including all four Hay River and Inuvik ridings. While some may argue the status quo is justified as it appears to offer historically oppressed Indigenous voices more weight than non-Indigenous voices, the current system fails to protect the democratic rights of the over 4800 Indigenous citizens who live in Yellowknife. This argument also fails to take into account the systems of Indigenous self-government that now exist both in parallel to and in partnership with the GNWT, including the Council of Leaders and the Intergovernmental Council protocol for co-drafting legislation. In other words, offering residents of predominantly Indigenous communities four times the voting power of Yellowknifers in the Assembly does not seem to be either the necessary or appropriate way to ensure their interests are addressed. Democratic principles require boundaries to change, and change will be difficult for everyone, including myself, as I do feel attached to my current constituents. I love the wonderful diversity of YK North neighbourhoods, and would prefer to continue serving all of them.</p>
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		<p>was responsible for them. I am open to further discussions about this idea, but do not believe it is feasible for the current Commission to recommend.</p>
<p>Ulukahtok</p>	<p>Hamlet of Ulukhaktok</p>	<p>Council Resolution</p> <p>Resolution No.:#2026-01-09-01 Date: January 9, 2026</p> <p>Title: Review and Changes to the Nunakput Electoral Boundary – Creation of a New Electoral District for Ulukhaktok, Paulatuk, and Sachs Harbour</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Northwest Territories is comprised of diverse and geographically distinct communities, each with unique social, economic, cultural, and governance needs;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS, the communities of Ulukhaktok, Paulatuk, and Sachs Harbour are remote Inuvialuit communities with shared challenges related to isolation, limited transportation access, climate impacts, cost of living, and service delivery;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS, the current Nunakput Electoral District includes communities with significantly different geographic access and infrastructure conditions, including Tuktoyaktuk, which is connected to the all-weather road system and faces distinct development pressures.</p> <p>AND WHEREAS, the size, distance, and logistical challenges within the existing Nunakput Electoral District make it difficult to ensure equitable representation, effective constituency services, and meaningful engagement across all communities;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS, improved and more focused legislative representation would enhance advocacy, responsiveness, and policy attention to the specific needs and priorities of Ulukhaktok, Paulatuk, and Sachs Harbour;</p> <p>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hamlet of Ulukhaktok formally supports a review of the Nunakput Electoral Boundary with the intent of establishing a new electoral district comprised of Ulukhaktok, Paulatuk, and Sachs Harbour;</p> <p>AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hamlet of Ulukaktok supports the creation of a new Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) position to represent these three communities, ensuring fair, effective, and equitable representation;</p>

		<p>AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hamlet of Ulukhaktok requests that the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Electoral Boundaries Commission, and Elections NWT consider this request as part of any current or future electoral boundary review;</p> <p>AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hamlet of Ulukhaktok directs Administration to communicate this resolution to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioner of the Northwest Territories • Elections NWT • The Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories • The Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC) • The Hamlets of Paulatuk and Sachs Harbour
Ulukhaktok	Kimberly Joss	<p>I propose the creation of an additional MLA position for the Nunakput region. Tuktoyaktuk now represents more than half of the combined population of Ulukhaktok, Sachs Harbour, and Paulatuk. With such a significant portion of the population concentrated in one community, the current single-MLA structure no longer reflects an equitable balance of representation. Adding another MLA would ensure: Fair and proportional representation for all four communities Stronger advocacy for local priorities and infrastructure needs Improved responsiveness to community-specific issues A more balanced political voice within the Legislative Assembly Given the unique challenges and rapid changes across the region, expanding representation is both reasonable and necessary to support effective governance</p>
Unknown	J.K.	<p>Option 3 appears to be the sole option which protects the interests of the smaller communities. Under no circumstances should the Mackenzie Delta communities be merged with Inuvik. While Inuvik is an important hub for those communities, merging the districts has too great a risk to favour interests/investments in « the hub », further eroding the communities. As the commission notes, the Sahtú communities should not be separated. I do not find it acceptable that it would be the only district underrepresented as proposed in Option 4. Once again, this would only serve to further erode some of the smallest communities in the territory. While it may also be considered « unfortunate » for the Yellowknife districts to be underrepresented, there will still be multiple Yellowknife representatives who can work together to serve their residents alongside their municipal counterparts. Residents of the fly-in communities have lesser ease being represented by unified blocs or across levels of government. If this legislature and cabinet is serious about its commitment to all communities/regions in the territory, it needs to protect the representation of smaller communities.</p>



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
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