

The cover features a green and white geometric design. A large green rectangle occupies the top half, with a white curved line separating it from a white rectangular area below. On the left side, a vertical green strip contains a white map of New Zealand. The title is printed in green text in the bottom right corner.

# Electoral Boundaries Commission Report 2006



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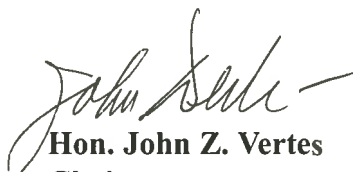
# Electoral Boundaries Commission


**March 31, 2006**

**Hon. Paul Delorey  
Speaker  
Legislative Assembly  
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories**

**Dear Speaker:**

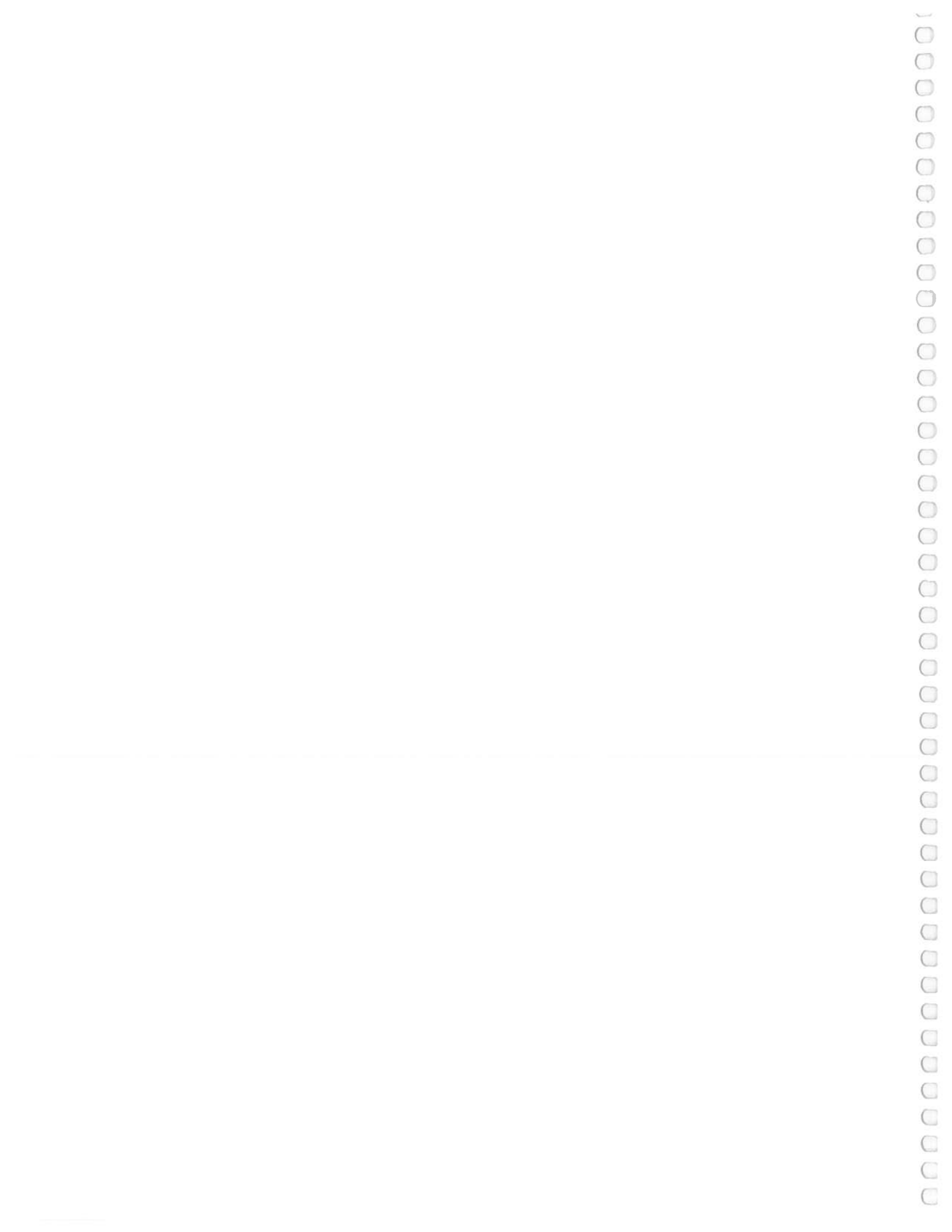
**On October 24, 2005, the Legislative Assembly established the Electoral Boundaries Commission. As required by s.10 of the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*, we are pleased to provide our report outlining our unanimous recommendations.**

  
**Hon. John Z. Vertes  
Chairperson**

  
**Eddie Erasmus  
Member**

  
**Rod O'Brien  
Member**







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# REPORT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION – 2006

## INTRODUCTION

The *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* of the Northwest Territories, enacted in 2003, stipulates that an electoral boundaries commission must be established within two years after the 2003 general election. Accordingly, on October 24, 2005, the Legislative Assembly passed a motion establishing this Commission, composed of Justice John Z. Vertes, a judge of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories, as chairperson, and Mr. Eddie Erasmus and Mr. Rod O'Brien as members.

The Commission was required to complete a report within six months of its establishment. This report is prepared in accordance with that obligation. The recommendations contained herein are offered for the consideration of the Legislative Assembly. They are the unanimous recommendations of this Commission.

## MANDATE

The Commission is mandated to review the area, boundaries, name and representation of the existing electoral districts of the Northwest Territories and to provide recommendations on changes, if any, to the Legislative Assembly. In this the Commission is carrying out a role that is common in all Canadian jurisdictions. Changes in population from time to time, and from place to place, necessitate the periodic review of the number of seats in a legislature and their distribution.

Electoral boundaries commissions are established to be independent of the legislature or executive branches of government. They are advisory only and the Legislative Assembly must decide which, if any, recommendations to accept. In carrying out its advisory role, however, a commission consults with people throughout the jurisdiction. It is a consultative process whereby the voters have a say in the structure of the political institutions that will govern them.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

The Commission established a programme of advertising and public consultation soon after its establishment.

Notices were published in all newspapers in the Northwest Territories announcing the creation of the Commission, explaining its function, and informing the public about its schedule of hearings and contact information. The Commission also created a website with information and a questionnaire for completion electronically.

The Commission's schedule of public hearings is set out in Appendix "A". There were 21 hearings scheduled in 19 different communities over the period of January 30 to March 7, 2006. A special hearing was held on February 6, 2006 at the Legislative Assembly to accommodate those members who wished to make a presentation but could not otherwise attend a hearing in their community. Four members of the Assembly attended.

Attendance at the public hearings varied. In most cases, there was a good cross-section of local leaders (community councilors, Band council members, etc.) and general public. In a few cases the Commission was disappointed to find, upon arrival and after receiving information that people were interested in talking to us, that no one attended. No one attended, for example, at the first hearing scheduled in Yellowknife, despite advertising in the local media. In the final public hearing, also in Yellowknife, only three people attended.

It is difficult to discern why the Commission had such low turnouts for its public hearings in the larger centres, particularly Yellowknife, Hay River and Inuvik. It is always dangerous to assume that a lack of interest means either contentment or utter disregard. If anything, it may be indicative of something that will be noted later in this report, that being confusion as between the roles of the Legislative Assembly and all the other institutions of governance that affect people's lives in the Northwest Territories.

The fact that on some occasions our public hearings were sparsely attended does not, however, dissuade us from the firm conviction that it was necessary to at least go to the communities and give people an opportunity to be heard. If we did not, then this report would have no credibility with the public.

The Commission also received a number of written submissions and responses to questionnaires. Appendix "B" lists those who provided us with their opinions in writing.



Tlicho Grand Chief George Mackenzie addresses the Commission in Behchoko.



## RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

The *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* stipulates various criteria that the Commission must take into consideration. These are:

- 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 Act*;
- D. geographic factors, including the accessibility, size or shape of any area;
- E. community boundaries and boundaries established under lands, resources and self-government agreements, including land claim and treaty land entitlement agreements;
- F. facilities for and patterns of transportation and communication within and between different areas;
- G. language, culture and any other special community or diversity of interests of the residents of any part of the Northwest Territories;
- H. special circumstances relating to any existing electoral districts;
- I. public input;
- J. the minimum and maximum number of members of the Legislative Assembly authorized by the *Northwest Territories Act*;
- K. any guidelines or criteria proposed for the consideration of the Commission by resolution of the Legislative Assembly; and
- L. any other similar relevant factors that the Commission considers appropriate.

The Assembly's resolution appointing this Commission did not specify any special guidelines or criteria for consideration. The Commission, however, also gave consideration to the body of jurisprudence and other writings over the recent years concerning electoral boundaries.

It is important to note that there have been five electoral boundaries commissions since 1978 and many of the same themes have been played out at each one. Generally speaking, every previous commission heard comments about (a) how many smaller communities feel neglected in their representation and therefore require their own MLA; or, (b) how Yellowknife does not need so many seats because of its ready access to, and perceived control of, the benefits of government; or, (c) how major changes should be deferred until all land claims and regional self-government arrangements have been completed. We heard these same comments as well.

Many people emphasized the unique nature of the Northwest Territories, in its diversity of cultures, language and regional interests. We recognize that as well. But we also recognize the fundamental fact that the Legislative Assembly is an institution of public government. Therefore we must also pay careful attention to the principles that have been developed within the Canadian framework regarding political and voting rights.

## THE RIGHT TO VOTE

The Legislative Assembly, as a public democratic institution, is based on a representative model. By that is meant that its members are elected from single-member districts. Therefore, electoral boundaries become important in how the legislature is constituted. As a general proposition, equality of voting power by population is the single most important factor to be considered in determining electoral boundaries. However, as reflected in the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*, population is not the only factor. Deviations from population norms are permissible, based on geographic or regional concerns, if such deviations contribute to better government.

The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* states, in section 3, that every citizen of Canada has the right to vote in an election for members of a legislative assembly. This means more than merely casting a ballot. It is a right to participate meaningfully in the democratic process. Each person must have a genuine opportunity to participate equally in their government through the election of their representatives.



The Supreme Court of Canada in its 1991 decision entitled *Reference re Saskatchewan Provincial Electoral Boundaries*, and the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories, in its 1999 decision entitled *Friends of Democracy v. Commissioner of the Northwest Territories*, established what is meant by the right to vote.

The constitutional right to vote is the right to “effective representation”. Each citizen is entitled to be represented in government. What are the conditions of effective representation? The Supreme Court of Canada noted that the first is relative parity of voting power. A system which dilutes one citizen’s vote unduly as compared with another citizen’s vote runs the risk of providing inadequate and unequal representation to the citizen whose vote is diluted. But absolute parity of voting is impossible to achieve. It would be impossible to draw boundary lines that guarantee exactly the same number of voters in each district.

Also, parity of voting power is not the only factor to consider. Factors like geography, community history, regional interest and minority representation also need to be taken into account. Generally, every jurisdiction in Canada accepts some diversion from the principle of absolute parity of voting power so as to ensure that widely-scattered and more remote regions are represented. The Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories, in its 1999 judgment, recognized that the factors of geography, community interests, language differences, difficulties in communication with remote communities, difficulties in access to the capital and the interests of minority representation justify the over-representation of electoral districts whose populations vary below the average. Generally speaking, most jurisdictions in Canada accept a deviation of plus or minus 25% from the average population for each district.

There is, however, a significant difference between being over-represented (as the less populated regions of the Northwest Territories are currently) and being under-represented (as are the more populated districts, such as those found in Yellowknife). No argument for effective representation for one group justifies under-representation for another group. If one group, because of its large area or small population, is over-represented, that does not mean that people living in an urban area should be under-represented.

One may debate what is the most efficient size for the Legislative Assembly. The Commission heard many representations to the effect that we should not change the current size of 19 members. Anything more, it was said, would be too large for a territory with such a small population. No doubt a Legislative Assembly could be too large. But it could also be too small. And that could be because of the gross under-representation of certain areas.



Public Hearing in Fort Resolution.

The general principles which this Commission followed, therefore, can be summarized as follows. Where possible, voter parity should be achieved. Where that is not practically possible, and other significant factors are present, deviations from voter parity are justified so long as the citizen’s right to effective representation is not jeopardized. Those other significant factors include geography, population distributions in small communities, commonality of interests through culture, language and history, and the presence of land claim and regional self-government arrangements, all as contemplated by the terms of the governing statute. The paramount principle in our view is better government for the people as a whole.

## WHAT WE HEARD – SOME OBSERVATIONS

The Commission heard a variety of submissions but two points were repeated and became topics of concern for us.

First, it was readily apparent that there is a great deal of confusion about the role of the Legislative Assembly in the context of all the different levels and types of institutions of government in the Northwest Territories. This was particularly evident in the smaller communities. People had problems in differentiating between the territorial government and land claim arrangements, between electoral boundaries and land claim boundaries, between the legislature and the territorial government bureaucracy, and between institutions of public government and institutions of aboriginal government.

It is the respectful opinion of this Commission that the MLA’s themselves must do a better job of explaining to their constituents the difference between the different types of governments. The Northwest Territories, for a small population, has layers of governing bodies. The Legislative Assembly is at risk of losing its identity and role in people’s interest if this confusion continues.

Second, we heard many comments on the “quality” of the work being done by individual MLA’s. This again was most prevalent in the smaller communities. There were complaints about lack of communication and contact with the MLA. These complaints were made of MLA’s who were not from the community and as well about those who were from the community.

It is not a part of our mandate to comment on whether these complaints are justified. We report them here only to show that there is a perception in the smaller outlying communities that they do not receive sufficient attention from their MLA’s.

We note these two points not as criticism of the Legislative Assembly or its members. These perceptions and confusion may be more



apparent than real. But they were points that we, as the Commission, heard repeated throughout the Territories. It caused us concern. The Legislative Assembly is the only territorial-wide institution of public government that represents all of the people. If the people are confused about the role of the legislature, if they do not view it and the work of its members as relevant and helpful to their lives, then the Assembly risks losing its credibility as that primary institution of public government.

## WHAT WE HEARD – SUBMISSIONS

We can put the submissions into four broad categories.

First, the size of the Legislative Assembly should be kept at 19 members, if possible, but there should be respect for the principle of voter parity. We heard this in particular from MLA's in several of the Yellowknife ridings, the City of Yellowknife and those few citizens of Yellowknife who came to our meetings. The point, as we understood it, was that if voter parity requires Yellowknife to have more seats than at present then such seats should be created but within the context of a 19-seat legislature.

Second, numerous smaller communities pressed for their own ridings. This was most pronounced in Lutselk'e, Fort Good Hope and Aklavik. The justification for creating new ridings for these communities was essentially the same. Each community felt that it was sufficiently different than its neighbours and each community felt as if it was being neglected in favour of other larger centres in its riding.

Third, we heard from all communities outside of Yellowknife that there should be no redistribution that will enhance the representation of that city in the legislature. This argument was no different than that heard repeatedly by electoral boundaries commissions in the past. The citizens in Yellowknife have greater access to their MLA's and government services. Those MLA's from Yellowknife do not have the barriers that other MLA's have in staying in touch with their constituents, such as the high cost of travel between communities.

Finally, we heard some representations to the effect that it would be premature to make any significant changes now. Land claims and regional self-government arrangements are still evolving in parts of the Territories and things may be quite different a few years from now. The current distribution of 19 seats was a political compromise that has struck an appropriate balance and should not be changed in the interest of greater voter parity.

This last point is a significant one. The Commission acknowledges the steps that were taken in 1999 when the 13th Assembly adopted the current arrangement. There is much to be said for waiting to see how things evolve in the future. However, this Commission is mandated to review the electoral boundaries now and we cannot abdicate our responsibility by simply deferring things to await some uncertain future events.

## THE CURRENT ARRANGEMENT

Appendix "C" sets out the current distribution of seats in the Legislative Assembly with the population of each and that population's variance from the average. It must be emphasized that all population figures are taken from the 2004 population estimates provided by the NWT Bureau of Statistics.

The average population of the current 19-seat arrangement is 2253 per riding. As can be seen, the variations from the average range from minus 59% (in the Tu Nedhe riding) to plus 38% (in the Kam Lake riding). That represents a difference of 2191 people. In other words, the 935 people in the Tu Nedhe riding have as much voting power as the 3126 people in the Kam Lake riding. Thus, the people in Tu Nedhe are over-represented and the people in Kam Lake are under-represented.

The 13th Assembly, when it approved the current arrangement in 1999, had as one of its goals, that no electoral district be under-represented by more than 25% from the territorial average. As can be seen from Appendix "C", three ridings (all in Yellowknife) exceed that variation and one (Monfwi) is under-represented by exactly 25%. In all, seven ridings exceed a plus or minus 25% variance from the average.

Also, the total of Yellowknife ridings (seven including Weledeh) represents 37% of the total number of ridings, while the population of Yellowknife represents 44.5% of the total territorial population (19,055 out of 42,810).

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Before describing our recommendations on a riding-by-riding basis, it is necessary to explain certain conclusions that became apparent to the Commission members in their deliberations.



It would be a practical and political impossibility to try to divide the Northwest Territories so as to achieve absolute voter parity between the ridings. If we were to apply the principle of absolute voter parity then that would necessarily result in the creation of more ridings in Yellowknife and the elimination of some ridings outside of Yellowknife. At a minimum, it would necessitate a drastic reconfiguration of many ridings that would over-ride historic cultural, language and economic ties as well as derogating from current land claims and treaty arrangements. We believe such a result would neither be acceptable or justifiable.

It also became apparent to us that some discrepancies were simply too great to continue. In particular, the population of Yellowknife has continued to grow so that all but one of its seven ridings has populations that result in significant under-representation. Simply re-arranging the boundaries of the Yellowknife ridings would not do anything to solve the under-representation vis-à-vis the rest of the Territories.

At the same time, however, we recognize the advantages that the Yellowknife citizens and their MLA's have in comparison to large ridings with far-flung communities. Some disparity is justifiable in the circumstances. Therefore, there is no necessity to maintain an absolute equivalence between populations and the number of seats held by Yellowknife ridings as a percentage of the legislature as a whole. Nevertheless, it was the Commission's considered opinion that if the legislature were to be expanded by the addition of a new seat anywhere outside of Yellowknife, than an additional seat must also be created in Yellowknife.

Finally, as will be explained below, the Commission is convinced that there is good reason to create a new seat in what is now the Monfwi riding. And, as previously noted, we think that therefore there is good reason to create an additional seat in Yellowknife. This would bring the total number of seats in the Assembly to 21. We think that such a number can be justified and it is well within the parameters of the number of seats set by the *Northwest Territories Act*.

With these general comments, we now provide our recommendations on a riding-by-riding basis.

## DEH CHO

This riding is composed of the Hay River Reserve, Enterprise, Fort Providence and Kakisa. While the population of these communities is relatively small, they are connected as part of the larger Deh Cho regional arrangement. We saw no reason to change this riding since any alternative would create difficulty elsewhere. We recommend no change to this riding.

## HAY RIVER

Hay River is divided into two ridings: Hay River North (population of 1667) and Hay River South (population of 2209). We see no reason why there should be this disparity in population which can easily be resolved by moving the boundary between the two ridings further south. We therefore recommend that the boundary of Hay River North be extended south to include all of Riverview Drive, and then west to Woodland Drive, and then north to Nahanni Road, and then west to the Mackenzie Highway, and then south to Poplar Road, and then west to the end of Poplar Road. This should approximately equalize the populations as between the two ridings.



Public Hearing in Fort Good Hope.

## INUVIK

Inuvik is also divided into two ridings: Inuvik Boot Lake (population of 1721) and Inuvik Twin Lakes (population of 1865). We think this small population differential can be overcome with a small adjustment to the boundary between the two ridings. We therefore recommend that the western boundary of Inuvik Book Lake be extended south on Centennial Street past Inuit Road to Bonnetplume Road, and then east to Reliance Road, and then south to Kingmingya Road.

## MACKENZIE DELTA

This riding consists of Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic. The Commission received a strong submission from the residents of Aklavik who seek their own riding. They cited their unique demographic mix and their distinctiveness from the other communities in the riding. While many of the points made had merit, we conclude, considering the small populations of each community, that there is no practical sense in dividing the riding further. Nor do we see sense in an alternate submission we heard, that being that Aklavik should be joined to one of the Inuvik ridings. In our opinion, the community of Aklavik has much more to be gained by remaining part of the Mackenzie Delta riding than it would in becoming part of a predominantly urban riding.



## MONFWI

The Commission received its strongest submission for a new riding from the riding of Monfwi. The Commission, at its public hearing in Behchoko, heard from the Grand Chief and all the sub-chiefs of the Tlicho Nation as well as the current and two past MLA's. Their submission was for a second riding to serve the interests of the smaller communities in the riding.

The submission made a number of points. The people of Monfwi have been requesting a second member for many years. The riding's population puts it at plus 25% of the average, meaning that it is significantly under-represented. The community of Behchoko is one that has steadily increased in population over the past 10 years. There are differences between Behchoko (which is on the highway) and the other communities (which are accessible only by air or ice roads) that result in different concerns for an MLA. The creation of the Tlicho Regional government has meant increased demands upon the MLA as a conduit between that level of government and the territorial government. Also, the Behchoko MLA receives a greater number of calls for assistance from outside of the riding because of the number of Tlicho people living in Yellowknife.

The Commission considers these reasons to be sufficient justification for the creation of a new riding.

We therefore recommend that the current riding of Monfwi be divided into two ridings. One riding, to be called Behchoko, would be comprised of what used to be called Fort Rae. The other riding, to be called Monfwi, would be comprised of the rest of the area and would include the communities known as Edzo, Wha'ti, Wekweeti and Gameti.

This recommendation would convert one riding that is at the outer limit of under-representation to two ridings that are admittedly over-represented by numbers (although not out of the range of other over-represented communities). In any event, in our collective opinion, there is more danger to the democratic process from gross under-representation than there is from having a collection of small communities in outlying areas being over-represented.

## NAHENDEH

The Nahendeh riding comprises one larger community, Fort Simpson, and a number of much smaller ones, Fort Liard, Nahanni Butte, Wrigley, Trout Lake and Jean Marie River. Under the current arrangement its population is just above the average.

The Commission did not hear any submissions for changes to this riding. All of the smaller communities have economic ties to Fort Simpson so there is sense in keeping them in the same riding. Also, they are all part of the larger Deh Cho regional arrangement.

Under the recommended proposal, this riding's population would put it at plus 13% of the average. This, in our opinion, is within the acceptable range of variation. We therefore recommend no change to this riding.

## NUNAKPUT

This riding comprises the communities of Tuktoyaktuk, Sachs Harbour, Holman (Ulukhaktok) and Paulatuk. It is over-represented currently because of its population. The Commission, however, sees no rationale for any changes since it would chop an already small riding into smaller ones. The Commission received a written note from the Hamlet of Sachs Harbour suggesting a split of the riding between Tuktoyaktuk and the other communities but this was not supported by anyone else. We recommend no change to this riding.

## SAHTU

The Sahtu riding comprises Norman Wells, Tulita, Fort Good Hope, Deline and Colville Lake. Together the population is in excess of 2500 but individually no community has a population in excess of 850. This demographic fact makes it impossible to justify dividing it in any sensible fashion, particularly since all of the communities are connected in the larger regional interests of the Sahtu area.

The Commission heard a strong submission in Fort Good Hope for the creation of a new riding for the people of Fort Good Hope and Colville Lake. The emphasis in the submission was on community control. While the Commission members sympathize with many of the concerns that were raised, it would be unfeasible to create a new riding for an estimated population of less than 700 people.

The Commission acknowledges that the arrangement contemplated by the recommendations of this report will place the Sahtu in a position similar to that of several Yellowknife ridings in being under-represented (that is to say, its population is above the average). But there is no sensible way of alleviating that without dividing up several ridings and putting some communities with others in disregard of a lack of historic, cultural or economic ties. Therefore it is our conclusion that the current situation is better than any alternative. We do not recommend any change to this riding.



## THEBACHA

The Thebacha riding consists essentially of the Town of Fort Smith. We see no reason to change the riding nor did we receive any submissions suggesting change.

## TU NEDHE

This riding, composed of Fort Resolution and Lutsek'e, presents the most significant over-representation. The Commission heard submissions from both communities that each should have its own MLA. That, in our respectful opinion, would be unrealistic considering the small population of both communities. Also, there was no desire to amalgamate this riding with parts of the Weledeh riding (Detah and Ndilo in particular). While we acknowledge that the Tu Nedhe riding represents an example of gross over-representation, we see no alternative but to recommend that it be maintained as is.

## YELLOWKNIFE

We think it best to address the situation of the Yellowknife ridings as a group.

First, when we speak of the Yellowknife ridings we include the riding of Weledeh. That riding consists of part of the City of Yellowknife but also Ndilo, Detah and the residents of the Ingraham Trail. The representations made to us were that if Ndilo and Detah could not be one riding, then the status quo would be preferable with those two communities remaining as part of the Weledeh riding. Considering the small population of those two communities, we recommend that they remain as part of Weledeh.

Second, we examined the situation of the City of Yellowknife. Currently, six of the seven ridings (all but Yellowknife Centre) are significantly under-represented. Three of them are above the tolerable plus 25% variance from the average in population. Our aim was therefore to try and alleviate where we can these gross disparities.

We recommend that the current seven ridings in the City of Yellowknife be re-drawn into eight ridings (as proposed on the map included as part of this report). The result would be eight ridings re-named as follows:

1. Weledeh (including Ndilo, Detah and the Ingraham Trail)
2. Niven Lake
3. Frame Lake
4. Range Lake
5. Fiddler's Lake — Yellowknife South
6. Kam Lake
7. Pud Lake — Yellowknife Stanton
8. Great Slave

Each of these ridings would have a population above the average (ranging in variance from plus 2% to plus 28%). This will still result in under-representation but not as severe as previously and for the most part, in our opinion, within tolerable limits. We point out that the least serious situation of under-representation is Weledeh at plus 2% (which in absolute numbers equals a difference of only 40 people.). This lower level is appropriate since Weledeh has the least urbanized parts of these ridings.

The total number of Yellowknife seats, 8 in a legislature of 21, will maintain the same proportion of representation as the current 7 seats out of 19.

## CONCLUSION ON RECOMMENDATIONS

Attached as Appendix "D" is a table showing the names and populations of our proposed ridings and the variance of each from that of the average population (taking into account 21 seats).

It is important to note that while there are still some ridings outside of the limits of plus or minus 25%, the number of such ridings is fewer and the discrepancies are significantly reduced.

Under the present arrangement, the most populous riding has 3126 people while the least has only 935. Under our recommended arrangement, the most populous riding would be 2607 people, while the least populous remains at 935. Under the present arrangement there are



Commission Members departing from Fort Liard.



7 out of 19 ridings outside of the plus or minus 25% range, with the extremes being minus 59% and plus 38%. Under our recommended arrangement, there would be only 6 (out of 21) ridings outside of the plus or minus 25% range, with the extremes being reduced to minus 54% and plus 28%. Therefore the number of people being under-represented has been reduced and the degree of under-representation has also been reduced.

We note that our recommendations follow a historical trend whereby gross anomalies in representation are being moderated. Prior to 1989, the Legislative Assembly of the then Northwest Territories had 24 seats, of which 16 were outside of the limits of plus or minus 25% variance. The variations ranged from plus 327% to minus 100%. Prior to 1999, the western Territories had 14 seats of which eight were outside of the range of plus or minus 25%. The extremes were plus 152% and minus 70%. Such significant anomalies can no longer be tolerated in a mature democratic environment.

The 1999 redistribution alleviated many of the discrepancies in representation. We suggest that our recommendations will take a further step in alleviating the most obvious existing discrepancies. The result should be a legislature that reflects an equal and fair participation by all citizens of the Northwest Territories.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In closing, the Commission wishes to thank its Commission Secretary, Ms. Gail Bennett, for her capable and efficient work on the Commission's behalf. We also thank Mr. Glen McLean, the Chief Electoral Officer, and Mr. Darrin Ouellette, Operations Assistant, Office of the Clerk, for their assistance.

All of which is respectfully submitted.



## SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Date	Community
January 30, 2006	Yellowknife
January 31, 2006	Detah
February 1, 2006	Behchoko
February 2, 2006	Lutselk'e
February 6, 2006	Yellowknife (Legislative Assembly)
February 13, 2006	Hay River
February 14, 2006	Fort Resolution
February 15, 2006	Hay River Reserve Enterprise Fort Providence
February 16, 2006	Fort Smith
February 20, 2006	Norman Wells
February 21, 2006	Fort Good Hope Deline
February 22, 2006	Fort Simpson
February 23, 2006	Fort Liard
February 27, 2006	Inuvik
February 28, 2006	Aklavik Fort McPherson
March 1, 2006	Tuktoyaktuk
March 7, 2006	Yellowknife



### LIST OF WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

Joseph L. Handley, MLA Weledeh

Bill Braden, MLA Great Slave

Robert Hawkins, MLA Yellowknife Centre

Floyd K. Roland, MLA Inuvik Boot Lake

Jackson Lafferty, MLA Monfwi

Mayor Gordon Van Tighem, City of Yellowknife

Charles Furlong, Chief, Aklavik Indian Band

Cappy Elkin and Larry Elkin, Yellowknife

David W. Wind, Yellowknife

Karl Mueller, Enterprise

Hamlet of Sachs Harbour

Jon Van Der Ven, Fort Simpson

Ron Cook, Hay River



COMPARISON BY POPULATION AND VARIATION FROM THE AVERAGE MEAN  
Current Representation

<u>Riding</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Variation</u>
Deh Cho	1258	-44%
Hay River North	1667	-26%
Hay River South	2209	- 2%
Inuvik Boot Lake	1721	-24%
Inuvik Twin Lake	1865	-17%
Mackenzie Delta	1639	-27%
Monfwi	2811	+25%
Nahendeh	2305	+ 2%
Nunakput	1863	-17%
Sahtu	2591	+15%
Thebacha	2514	+12%
Tu Nedhe	935	-59%
Frame Lake	2622	+16%
Great Slave	2804	+24%
Kam Lake	3126	+38%
Range Lake	3073	+36%
Weledeh*	2740	+22%
Yellowknife Centre	2205	- 2%
Yellowknife South	2862	+27%
TOTAL	42,810	
AVERAGE MEAN	2253	

+ More than the average mean and under-represented

- Less than the average mean and over-represented

Source: NWT Bureau of Statistics (Population Estimates as of July, 2004)

\* Weledeh includes Detah and the Ingraham Trail



## COMPARISON BY POPULATION AND VARIATION FROM THE AVERAGE MEAN Recommended Representation

Riding	Population	Variation
Deh Cho	1258	-38%
Hay River North	1917	- 6%
Hay River South	1959	- 4%
Inuvik Boot Lake	1791	-12%
Inuvik Twin Lake	1795	-12%
Mackenzie Delta	1639	-19%
Behchoko	1670	-18%
Monfwi	1141	-44%
Nahendeh	2305	+ 13%
Nunakput	1863	- 8%
Sahtu	2591	+27%
Thebacha	2514	+23%
Tu Nedhe	935	-54%
3 Frame Lake Yellowknife Centre	2589	+27%
8 Great Slave	2456	+20%
6 Kam Lake	2557	+25%
4 Range Lake ✓	2385	+17%
1 Weledeh*	2089	+ 2%
2 Niven Lake ✓	2341	+15%
5 Fiddler's Lake Yellowknife South	2607	+28%
7 Pud Lake Frame Lake	2408	+18%
TOTAL	42,810	
AVERAGE MEAN	2038	

+ More than the average mean and under-represented  
- Less than the average mean and over-represented

Source: NWT Bureau of Statistics (Population Estimates as of July, 2004)

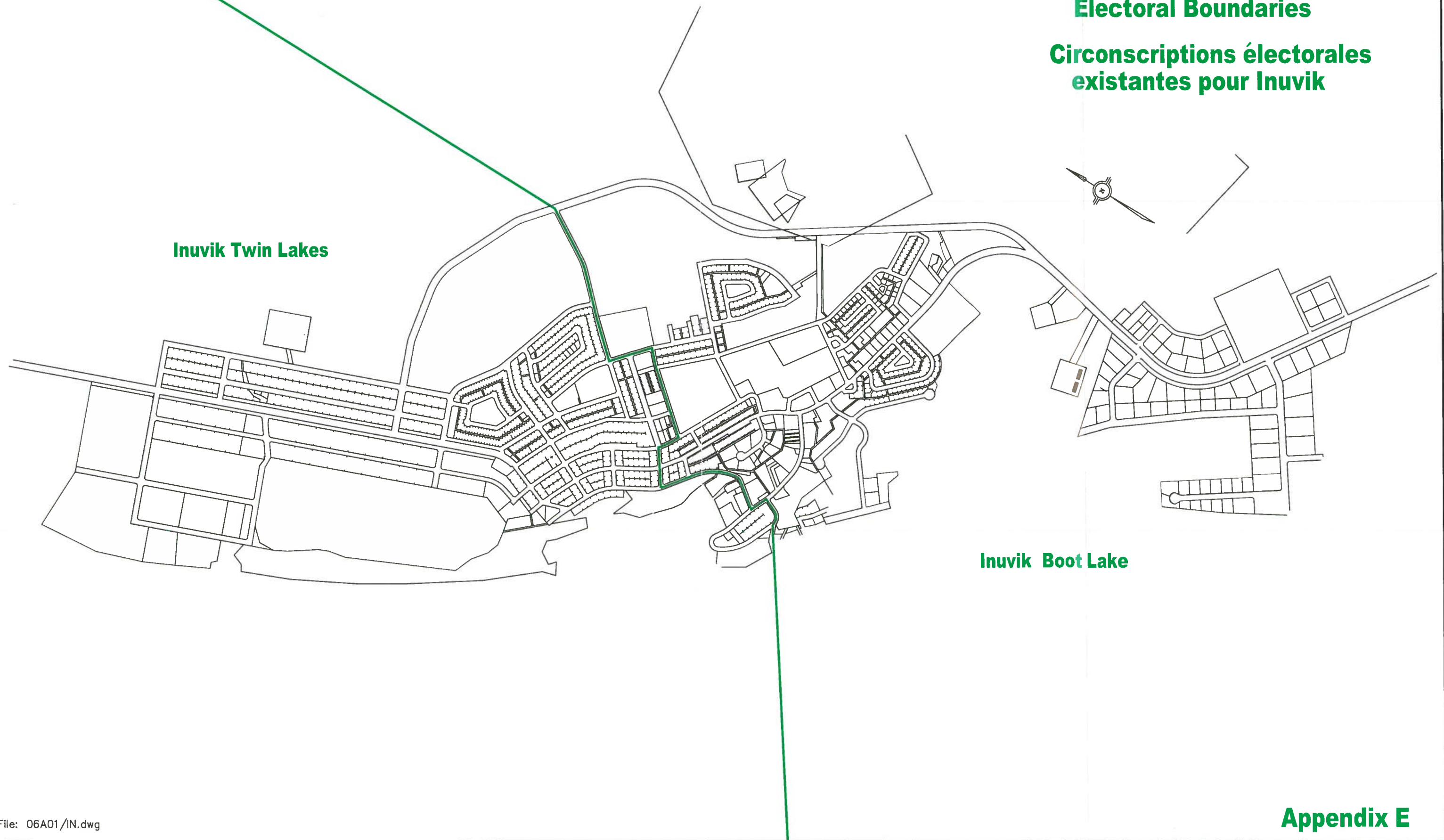
\* Weledeh includes Detah and the Ingraham Trail

*Yellowknife South  
Yellowknife Stanton*



**Inuvik Current  
Electoral Boundaries**

**Circonscriptions électorales  
existantes pour Inuvik**

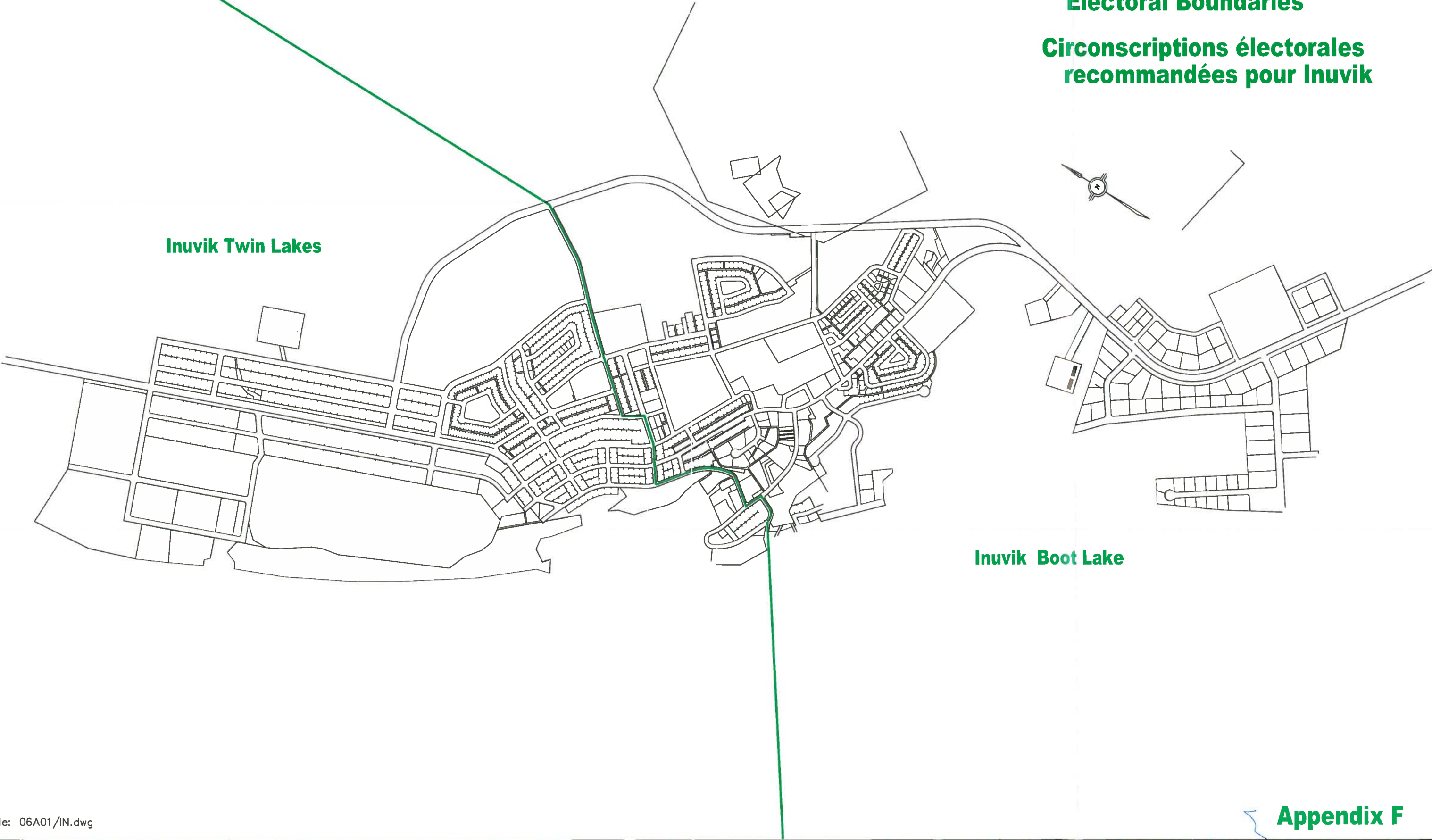


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**Appendix E**



**Inuvik Recommended  
Electoral Boundaries**  
**Circonscriptions électorales  
recommandées pour Inuvik**





**Hay River Current  
Electoral Boundaries**

**Circonscriptions électorales  
existantes pour Hay River**

**Hay R. South**

**Hay R. North**

**HAY RIVER**

**Appendix G**



## Hay River Recommended Electoral Boundaries

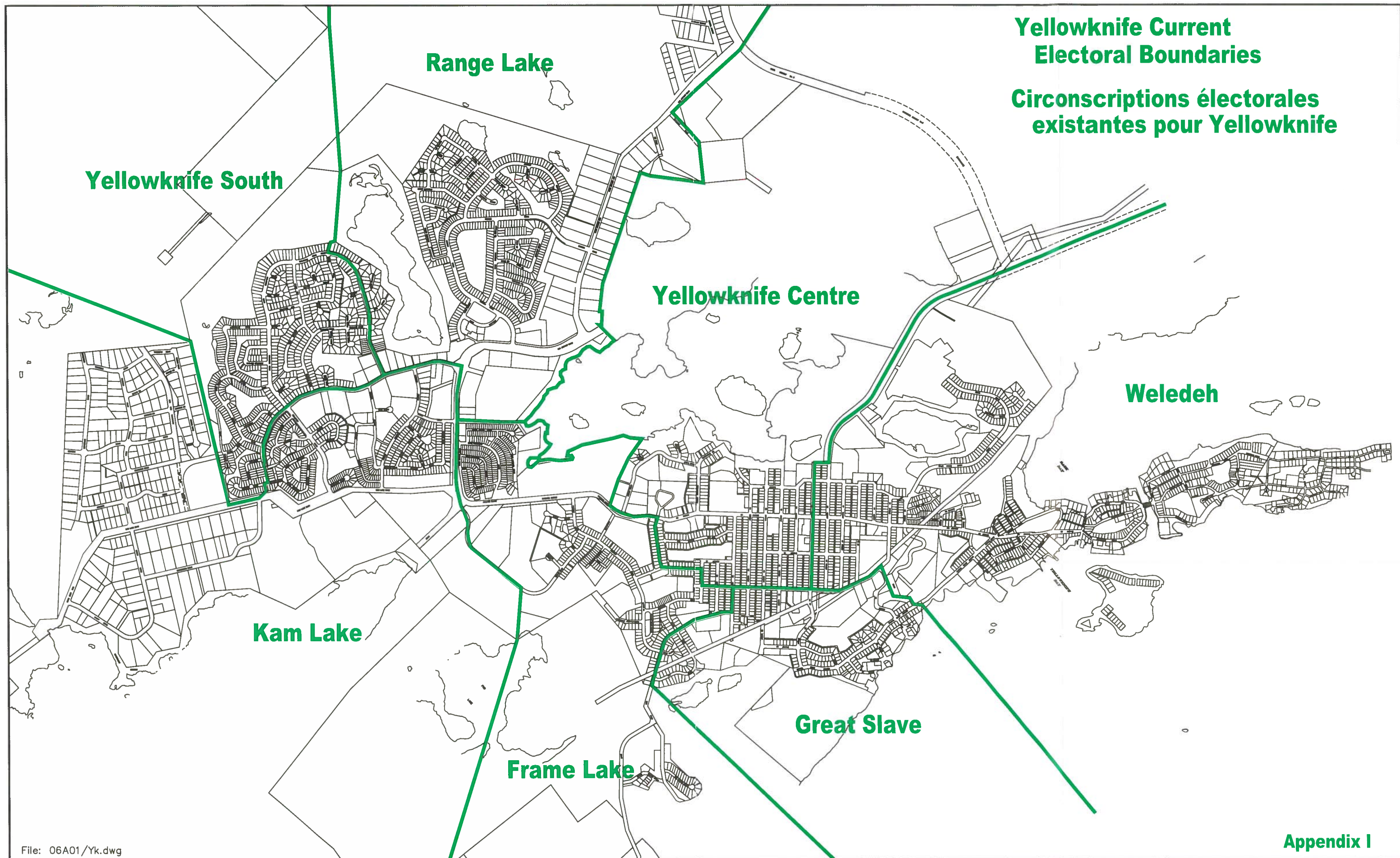
Circonscriptions électorales  
recommandées pour Hay River

Hay R. South

Hay R. North

HAY RIVER

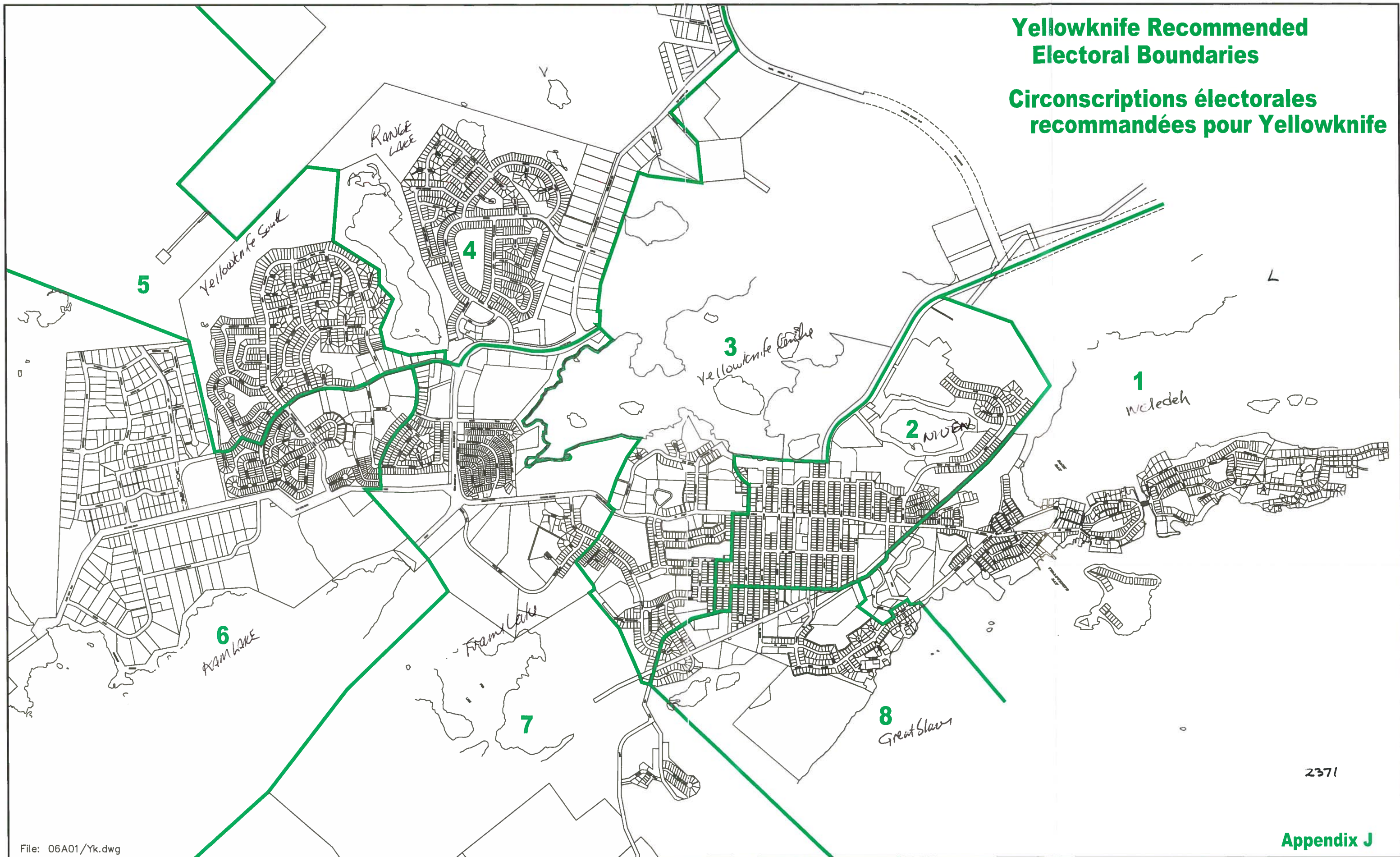






# Yellowknife Recommended Electoral Boundaries

## Circonscriptions électorales recommandées pour Yellowknife



2371

Appendix J