



Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission

Terms of Reference

October 2022

1. Purpose

- In accordance with subsection 16(2) of the *Nunavut Elections Act*, the Electoral Boundaries Commission is responsible for proposing to the Legislative Assembly the boundaries and names of the constituencies in Nunavut.

2. Guidelines

- The Electoral Boundaries Commission is required under section 21 of the *Nunavut Elections Act* to establish the boundaries of constituencies on the basis of the following factors:
 - (a) geographic and demographic considerations, including the density or rate of growth of the population of any part of Nunavut and the accessibility, size or shape of any part of Nunavut;
 - (b) the need for the populations of the constituencies to be of similar size;
 - (c) any special community or diversity of interests of the inhabitants of any part of Nunavut;
 - (d) the means of communication among various parts of Nunavut;
 - (e) the minimum number of Members of the Legislative Assembly authorized by the *Nunavut Act (Canada)*;
 - (f) Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit;
 - (g) any guidelines or criteria proposed for the consideration of the Commission by resolution of the Legislative Assembly;
 - (h) section 15 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*; and
 - (i) any other relevant factors that the Commission considers appropriate.

- In conducting its work, the Electoral Boundaries Commission shall also take into consideration the following guidelines:
 - 1) The Electoral Boundaries Commission shall review the existing electoral districts using the most recent and accurate census and other population data available.
 - 2) In keeping with Canadian constitutional conventions, relative parity between electoral districts shall be sought, to the extent possible, except where special circumstances warrant exceptional deviation. 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.
 - 3) In addition to any other recommendations that the Electoral Boundaries Commission may propose concerning the number of electoral districts, the Commission shall recommend how the electoral boundaries should be drawn for a Legislative Assembly comprised of 22 Members. In no case shall the Commission make recommendations for an Assembly that is comprised of more than 23 Members.
 - 4) For greater certainty, the Electoral Boundaries Commission's mandate is prescribed by the *Nunavut Elections Act* and does not include consideration of matters beyond the scope of the legislation, such as the voting system used in Nunavut to elect Members of the Legislative Assembly or the process to select the Premier and other office-holders.
 - 5) All formal written submissions provided to the Electoral Boundaries Commission shall be considered public documents and shall be included as appendices to the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission prepared under section 26 of the *Nunavut Elections Act*.
- The Electoral Boundaries Commission is required to submit its report to the Legislative Assembly within 250 days of its establishment. In accordance with subsection 26(1) of the *Nunavut Elections Act*, which provides that:

26. (1) After considering any submissions and representations made to it, a Boundaries Commission shall prepare a report that

- (a) specifies the number of constituencies;
- (b) divides Nunavut into constituencies;
- (c) includes a map of the boundaries of each constituency;
- (d) describes the boundaries of each constituency;

(e) estimates the population in each proposed constituency;

(f) gives the reasons justifying the new boundaries in the light of the factors upon which the boundaries are to be based; and

(g) proposes the name of each constituency and the reasons for any change to the name of a constituency.

3. Finance and Administration

- The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer and the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly shall provide all necessary administrative and secretariat support to the Electoral Boundaries Commission. The expenditures of the Electoral Boundaries Commission shall be funded through the general appropriations of the Office of the Legislative Assembly and shall be publicly disclosed through publication in its report prepared under section 26 of the *Nunavut Elections Act*.
- Members of the Electoral Boundaries Commission, other than its Presiding Officer, shall be entitled to remuneration as determined by the Management and Services Board in accordance with the provisions of the *Financial Administration Manual*.