



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

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The Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs has the honour to present its

FIFTY-EIGHTH REPORT

Your Committee, which is responsible for all matters relating to the election of Members of the House of Commons, pursuant to Standing Order 108(3)(a)(vi), has considered the objections filed in respect of the *Report of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of British Columbia*, in accordance with section 22 of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. E-3, and is pleased to report as follows:

After each decennial census, the number of Members of the House of Commons and the representation of each province is adjusted in accordance with the rules prescribed by section 51 and 51A of the *Constitution Act, 1867*. An independent three-member electoral boundaries commission is then established for each province with the mandate to consider and report on the division of the province into electoral districts, the description of the boundaries and the name of each electoral district.

The *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act* provides the rules governing the division of a province into electoral districts. The population of each electoral district must be as close as possible to the electoral quota for the province, that is, the population of the province divided by the number of Members of the House of Commons allocated to the province in accordance with the Constitution. Each commission shall also consider the community of interest, community of identity or the historical pattern of an electoral district in the province; as well as the manageable geographic size of electoral districts, in cases of sparsely populated, rural or northern regions. A commission may depart from the provincial electoral quota by plus or minus 25% in order to respect the community of interest, community of identity, or the historical pattern of an electoral district, or to maintain the manageable geographic size of sparsely populated districts. In circumstances that are viewed as extraordinary by a commission, the variance from the electoral quota may be greater than 25%.

A commission is required to hold at least one public sitting on proposed electoral districts' boundaries and names to hear representations by interested persons. After the completion of the public hearings, each commission prepares a report on the boundaries and names of the electoral districts of the province. These reports are tabled in the House of Commons, and referred to the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs. Members of the House of Commons have

then 30 calendar days to file objections to the proposals contained in a report. An objection must be in writing and in the form of a motion. It must specify the provisions of the report objected to, and the reasons for those objections. An objection must be signed by not less than 10 Members of the House of Commons.

After the expiration of the period for filing objections, the Committee has 30 sittings days, or any greater period as may be approved by the House, to consider the objections. The report of the commission is then referred back to the commission, along with the objections, and the minutes of the proceedings and the evidence heard by the Committee. The commission has then 30 calendar days to consider the matter, dispose of any objection, and finalise its report with or without amendment depending on its disposition of the objections.

Once all the commission reports have been finalized, the Chief Electoral Officer prepares a draft representation order setting out the boundaries and names of the new electoral districts. This is sent to the Governor in Council, who shall, within five days, proclaim the new representation order to be in force and effective for any general election that is called seven months after the proclamation is issued.

Objections

The *Report of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of British Columbia* was tabled in the House of Commons, and referred to the Committee on January 28, 2012. By the end of the 30-day period, the Clerk of the Committee had received 24 objections.

General Comments

The Committee wishes to recognize the challenges that the Commission faced in readjusting the electoral boundaries of the province of British Columbia. It is a province with dense pockets of population and vast unpopulated expanses; it is a topographically diverse province of mountains, rivers, valleys, inlets, bays and islands; the province also received six additional seats following the most recent decennial census, which necessarily meant changes would occur, small or wholesale, to the boundaries of the current ridings.

Throughout the electoral boundaries process, the Commission has demonstrated an admirable responsiveness to input from the public. Consistently, Members of Parliament (MPs) appearing before the Committee remarked that feedback provided at the public hearings was incorporated into the Commission's Report. Generally, MPs who filed objections to the Commission's report expressed overall satisfaction with the work accomplished by the Commission.

Due to the topographically diverse nature of the province, the Committee heard from MPs whose objections varied widely in terms of the boundary issues they sought to bring to the Committee's attention. In instances where the Committee was provided with objections which contained a unified proposal for a boundary readjustment that garnered the unanimous support of the MPs in neighbouring ridings, the Committee reported the proposal, adding comments about whether the proposal also received the Committee's support.

In instances where MPs presented objections which contained proposals that did not garner the support of MPs in neighbouring ridings, the Committee considered its duty to be to report as accurately as possible the objection of the M.P. but to refrain from adding commentary as to the proposal's merits.

In the latter cases, the Committee wishes to emphasize that it views its role as providing information to the Commission concerning the source and the substance of boundary issues as brought to the Committee's attention by MPs. It is the Committee's hope that, despite the absence of an agreed-upon, unified proposal on the part of MPs in that region, the Commission will nonetheless give due consideration to improving or mitigating the electoral boundary issues brought forward by the MP.

The Committee considers the proposals submitted to the Commission in this report as representative of an important reflection of the "on-the-ground" knowledge possessed by MPs. The Committee considers these proposals as not having been driven by any partisan interests but instead by a desire to assist the Commission in ensuring that the various rural and urban communities of British Columbia receive their fullest representation in the House of Commons.

In its report, the Committee exercised a certain degree of discretion as to which objections were included in the main body of its report. A number of MPs filed objections with the Committee in order to express their satisfaction with the Commission's Report, or to preserve their option of appearing, but which may not have contained a specific objection to any of the provisions of the Report. These MPs included: Mr. Ron Cannan, M.P. for Kelowna—Lake Country (who withdrew his objection), Mr. Don Davies, M.P. for Vancouver Kingsway (who withdrew his objection), Ms. Libby Davies, M.P. for Vancouver East (who withdrew her objection), Ms. Cathy McLeod, M.P. for Kamloops—Thompson—Cariboo; Mr. Murray Rankin, M.P. for Victoria; Mr. Andrew Saxton, M.P. for Vancouver North, and Ms. Jinny Jogindera Simms, M.P. for Newton—North Delta.

The Committee did, however, include the objections of Ms. Alice Wong, M.P. for Richmond, and Mr. Jasbir Sandhu, M.P. for Surrey North, in the main body of the report. Ms. Wong's objection contained an expression of satisfaction with the Commission's Report, and did not express an objection to any of the provisions of the Report, yet this objection had a direct bearing on the objection filed by Ms. Kerry-Lynne Findlay, M.P. for Delta—Richmond East. Mr. Sandhu's objection expressed satisfaction with the Commission's Report and is included in the body of the report in reference to the objection filed by Mr. Mark Warawa, M.P. for Langley, concerning the proposed electoral district of Fort Langley—Aldergrove.

The Committee would further like to call to the Commission's attention the proposal jointly submitted by four MPs (Mr. John Duncan, M.P. for Vancouver Island North, Mr. James Lunney, M.P. for Nanaimo—Alberni, Mr. Mark Strahl, M.P. for Chilliwack—Fraser Canyon and Mr. John Weston, M.P. for West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country). It is a proposal which has a domino effect which begins on Vancouver Island and ends in the Lower Mainland, affecting the following five proposed ridings: Vancouver Island North—Comox—Powell River, Courtenay—Alberni, Nanaimo—Ladysmith, West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country, and Mission—Matsqui—Fraser Canyon. The objections in this report are grouped

together according to the geographic groupings used by the Commission in its Report. As such, this joint proposal will be discussed in two places in the report: Mr. Duncan and Mr. Lunney's objections are found in the section for Vancouver Island, while Mr. Strahl and Mr. Weston's objections are found in the section for the Lower Mainland. These objections, nonetheless, operate in concert and should be considered by the Commission as constituting an indivisible package.

The Committee also notes that the statistics found in this report, in respect of estimated regional populations or deviations from the province's electoral quota resultant from an MP's proposal were, in all cases, provided by Elections Canada using current census data. These analyses represent approximations based on Elections Canada's understanding of the MP's proposal and need to be validated by Statistics Canada.

Name Changes

Vancouver Island

(a) Saanich—Juan de Fuca

Mr. Randall Garrison, M.P. for Esquimalt–Juan de Fuca filed an objection to the proposed name of Saanich—Juan de Fuca. According to Mr. Garrison's objection, the usage of Juan de Fuca as part of the riding name will cause confusion among the public. The Commission has placed a large piece of the provincial riding which also goes by the name Juan de Fuca into the federal riding Cowichan—Malahat—Langford. In other words, the provincial riding of Juan de Fuca is not located in the federal riding of Saanich–Juan de Fuca.

Mr. Garrison also explained that Juan de Fuca, as a body of water, actually borders two other ridings (Victoria and Saanich—Gulf Islands) but these other ridings do not carry its name. He indicated to the Committee that this too was a source of confusion.

Mr. Garrison indicated that no appropriate historical name could be found to connect the communities located in the proposed electoral district. In the absence of such a historical name, he proposed that, as the riding was triangle-shaped, the most equitable and logical approach would be to name the riding Esquimalt–Saanich–Sooke after the communities located at the points of the triangle. This proposed name further gave an immediate sense of location.

The Esquimalt Council submitted a unanimous resolution passed by the Township of Esquimalt in support of Mr. Garrison's proposal. This resolution also suggested that "Esquimalt" be retained in the name of the district for the purpose of consistency as it has served as the long-standing name for the district (since 1952).

Mr. Garrison indicated to the Committee that his proposed name change was deemed logical and satisfactory by the communities located in the riding, and that the proposal had the support of the current MPs of Victoria, Saanich—Gulf Island, and Nanaimo—Cowichan.

The Committee agrees with Mr. Garrison's arguments and supports his proposal.

The Lower Mainland

(a) Burnaby North—Seymour

Mr. Peter Julian, M.P. for Burnaby—New Westminster and Mr. Kennedy Stewart, M.P. for Burnaby—Douglas, filed separate but identical objections to the proposed electoral boundaries of Burnaby North—Seymour. Their objections contained a proposal which reconfigured the following of the Commission's proposed electoral boundaries: Burnaby—North Seymour; Port Moody—Coquitlam; Coquitlam—Port Coquitlam; New Westminster—Burnaby; Burnaby South; and North Vancouver.

Mr. Julian and Mr. Stewart presented to the Committee four reconfigured electoral boundaries. They proposed the following names for these reconfigured ridings: Port Moody—Burquitlam; New Westminster—Coquitlam; Burnaby—New Westminster; and Burnaby—Douglas. A map of this proposal is appended to the report for the Commission's reference.

For further discussion with respect to the electoral boundaries aspect of Mr. Julian and Mr. Stewart's proposal, please see the entry in this report entitled Burnaby North—Seymour under the section for the Lower Mainland.

(b) Richmond West

Ms. Alice Wong, M.P. for Richmond, filed an objection which contained a name change and an electoral boundary change. For further discussion with respect to the electoral boundaries aspect of Ms. Wong's proposal, please see the entry in this report entitled Richmond West under the section for the Lower Mainland.

In her objection, Ms. Wong proposed a name change for the electoral district of Richmond West. She proposed that it be renamed Richmond, as this name would maintain the historical continuity of the riding, which is currently named Richmond.

In the guidelines for the selection of federal electoral district names, it is stated that the name of a federal electoral district should only be retained from one redistribution to another if the name is suitable and the core of the new district remains essentially the same as that of the previous riding. The Committee considers the name Richmond suitable, as the geographic area it encompasses is that of the city of Richmond, including the city centre of Richmond. Further, the Committee considers that the core of the new district has remained essentially the same as that of the previous riding, as its boundaries have only undergone a minor readjustment.

The Committee, on the other hand, notes that Ms. Findlay, M.P. for Delta—Richmond East, the riding neighbouring Ms. Wong's riding, has proposed a different name change for the riding of Richmond West. The Committee refers Ms. Wong's proposal to the Commission for its consideration.

(c) Steveston—Richmond East

Ms. Kerry-Lynne Findlay, M.P. for Delta—Richmond East, filed an objection which contained a name change and an electoral boundary change. For further discussion with respect to the electoral boundaries aspect of Ms. Findlay's proposal, please see the entry in this report entitled Steveston—Richmond East under the section for the Lower Mainland.

In her objection, Ms. Findlay proposed a name change for the electoral district of Richmond West. She proposed that it be renamed Richmond Centre, based on the new boundaries that she has recommended. Ms. Findlay noted that changing the name of Richmond West to Richmond Centre would be consistent with Vancouver Centre. Vancouver Centre included parts of the communities of Kitsilano and Fairview which are located in the west of Vancouver, yet as the riding itself contained the city centre, it was named Vancouver Centre.

A renamed riding of Richmond Centre could therefore be named after its dominant geographic feature, a city centre, while nonetheless including communities located in the geographic west of the riding such as Sea Island, Thompson and Quilchena.

In making recommendations to the Commission, the Committee must remain consistent and coherent in its logic and reasoning. To this end, the Committee notes that Mr. Russ Hiebert, M.P. for South Surrey—White Rock—Cloverdale, has filed an objection which contained a name change. The reasons provided to the Committee in Mr. Hiebert's objection (namely that a riding which contains a city centre ought nonetheless be named for its geographic location) appear to run counter to those provided for in Ms. Findlay's objection (namely that the riding of Richmond West, located in the geographic west of the city of Richmond, be renamed Richmond Centre as it contains Richmond's city centre).

In addition, the Committee notes that Ms. Findlay and Ms. Wong, M.P. for Richmond, the riding neighbouring Ms. Findlay's riding, have both proposed two different names for the same riding.

Ms. Findlay's riding name change is tied to her electoral boundary change. In the event that the Commission agrees with Ms. Findlay's boundary change, then it should consider adopting her riding name change.

(d) Surrey Centre

Mr. Russ Hiebert, M.P. for South Surrey—White Rock—Cloverdale, filed an objection to the proposed name of Surrey Centre. He proposed the name be changed to Surrey North.

The city of Surrey is comprised of six town centres: Fleetwood, Whalley/City Centre, Guildford, Newton, Cloverdale, and South Surrey. Surrey is bounded to the north by the Fraser River, and, in part, by the Canada – United States border to its south.

The location of the city centre of Surrey is in the northwest area of the city of Surrey. The Commission has proposed that the riding which encompasses the city centre of Surrey be

named Surrey Centre. This name takes into account an important municipal element of the riding (namely the city centre of Surrey).

In making recommendations to the Commission, the Committee must remain consistent and coherent in its logic and reasoning. To this end, the Committee notes that Ms. Kerry-Lynne Findlay, M.P. for Delta—Richmond East, has filed an objection which contained a name change. The reasons provided to the Committee in Ms. Findlay's objection (namely that the riding of Richmond West, located in the geographic west of the city of Richmond, be renamed Richmond Centre as it contains Richmond's city centre) appear to run counter to those provided for in Mr. Hiebert's objection (namely that a riding which contains a city centre ought nonetheless be named for its geographic location). As such, the Committee refers Mr. Hiebert's proposal to the Commission for its consideration.

(e) Fort Langley – Aldergrove

Mr. Mark Warawa, M.P. for Langley, filed a motion with the Committee which set out three objections.

Mr. Warawa objected to the proposed name of the electoral district of Fort Langley—Aldergrove. He also objected to the proposed name of the electoral district of Cloverdale—Langley. Mr. Warawa's final objection dealt with an electoral boundary change. For further discussion in respect of the electoral boundary change, please see the entry in this report entitled Fort Langley—Aldergrove under the section for the Lower Mainland.

According to Mr. Warawa, Fort Langley comprised an important part of the proposed electoral district of Fort Langley—Aldergrove, but remained only a small part of it. The riding was composed primarily of the township of Langley. Mr. Warawa suggested the riding be renamed Langley—Aldergrove, as this name better represented the riding's composition and reflected the wishes of the communities located within the riding.

The Committee considers Mr. Warawa's objection to be logical and supports it, given that the riding is currently named Langley and the proposed electoral district of Fort Langley—Cloverdale essentially remains within the township of Langley. The Committee also considers Mr. Warawa's testimony regarding the desire of the communities within the township of Langley to be named Langley—Aldergrove as persuasive.

Mr. Warawa also suggested that the proposed electoral district of Cloverdale—Langley be renamed Cloverdale—West Langley. According to Mr. Warawa, the area located in the Cloverdale—Langley riding represented only a small portion of the township of Langley. Mr. Warawa suggested instead renaming the riding Cloverdale—West Langley, as it more accurately portrayed the composition of the riding and better reflected the wishes of the constituents in that portion of his current riding.

The Committee agrees with and supports Mr. Warawa's second name change suggestion. It adds geographic clarity to the location of the riding within the township of Langley, better captures the communities encompassed within this riding, and also reflects local sensitivities.

The North

(a) Prince George—Peace River

Mr. Rob Zimmer, M.P. for Prince George—Peace River, filed an objection to the proposed name for the electoral district of Prince George—Peace River. According to Mr. Zimmer's objection, the riding name ought to be changed to Prince George—Peace River—Northern Rockies.

Mr. Zimmer explained to the Committee that the non-inclusion of the Northern Rockies in this name would ignore an important regional municipality within the riding. He stated that his proposed name better represented the people and communities that lived within the proposed boundaries. In support of his proposal, Mr. Zimmer noted that the land area of the Northern Rockies regional district was 85,111 square kilometres, representing a significant portion of the proposed district.

Mr. Zimmer indicated to the Committee that his proposal had no opposition that he was aware of, and was actively supported by the mayors of the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, the District of Taylor, Fort Nelson, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, along with two regional councillors, as well as by his colleagues in neighbouring federal ridings.

The Committee agrees with Mr. Zimmer that the Northern Rockies regional district represents a significant and important geographical area within the proposed electoral district. As such, the Committee supports his proposal.

Electoral Boundary Changes

Vancouver Island

(a) Courtenay—Alberni and Vancouver Island North—Comox—Powell River

Mr. John Duncan, M.P. for Vancouver Island North, and Mr. James Lunney, M.P. for Nanaimo—Alberni, filed separate but complementary motions with the Committee. These motions contained the following objections: Mr. Duncan and Mr. Lunney objected to the separation of the communities of Courtenay and Comox into two proposed electoral divisions; they objected to the exclusion of the northwestern portion of the community of Nanaimo from the proposed electoral division of Courtenay—Alberni; and they objected to the removal of the community of Powell River from the proposed electoral district of West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country.

Mr. Duncan and Mr. Lunney's objections further worked in concert with those of Mr. Mark Strahl, M.P. for Chilliwack—Fraser Canyon, and Mr. John Weston, M.P. for West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country (for a discussion on the latter, please see the entry in this report entitled Mission—Matsqui—Fraser Canyon and West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country under the section for the Lower Mainland). These objections, though discussed in two places within this report, should be considered by the Commission to constitute an indivisible package.

According to both Mr. Duncan and Mr. Lunney, the division of Courtenay and Comox, as twin cities with a high level of integration and shared community interests and identities, would be unnatural and contrary to principles of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*. Both communities had expressed a desire to remain together in the same electoral riding.

Mr. Lunney further explained to the Committee that Nanaimo, as the second largest city on Vancouver Island, was considered the economic and transportation hub of the region. The natural flow of business and regional governance for most of the residents on the east side of the current riding of Nanaimo—Alberni was towards Nanaimo. Mr. Lunney noted that an MP's office has been situated in the north part of Nanaimo for the past 12 years as residents along the eastern coast of the Island were accustomed to travelling to north Nanaimo for their services.

Mr. Lunney suggested that the inclusion of Powell River into a riding on Vancouver Island created a significant displacement of voters as well as a significant change in their representation. Mr. Duncan indicated that Powell River considered itself as part of the Sunshine Coast, forming a far stronger community of interest and identity with the rest of the Sunshine Coast than with Vancouver Island. The government services, including agriculture; education; environment; forest lands and natural resources operations; health; jobs, tourism and skills training; justice and attorney general; transportation and infrastructure; and regional districts on the Sunshine Coast ran north-south along the coast, and not east-west from Powell River to Vancouver Island. Mr. Duncan further described the difficulties, in terms of travel, engendered by representing the geographically vast riding of Vancouver Island North as it currently contains a number of isolated communities and five ferry rides. He noted that the latter were subject to weather conditions and were often weathered out. Mr. Duncan considered adding an additional ferry ride from the Island to Powell River to be an unreasonable burden on the riding's elected representative. It was also noted by Mr. Duncan that boundaries proposed by the Commission removed his office from the riding. He indicated that the placement of this office was strategic, located in order to best represent a broad population.

On behalf of Mr. Lunney, Mr. Strahl and Mr. Weston, Mr. Duncan submitted to the Committee a detailed proposal which readjusts the boundaries for the proposed ridings of Vancouver Island North—Comox—Powell River, Courtenay—Alberni, Nanaimo—Ladysmith, West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country, and Mission—Matsqui—Fraser Canyon. This proposal included precise boundary descriptions and maps, which due to their complexity and length were not included within the body of the report, and are instead appended to the report for the Commission's reference.

In what concerns the electoral districts of Courtenay—Alberni, and Vancouver Island North—Comox—Powell River, the proposal places the communities of Courtenay and Comox into the riding of Vancouver Island North—Comox—Powell River, with a southern boundary for the latter riding roughly following the southern boundary of the city of Courtenay. The proposal places a portion of Nanaimo's northwest into the riding of Courtenay—Alberni. The relative populations of these two ridings are balanced by returning the community of Powell River to the riding of West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country (for further discussion in respect of this

electoral boundary adjustment, please see the entry in this report entitled West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country under the section for the Lower Mainland).

According to the analysis provided by Elections Canada, the net result of this proposal would have the following effect on the electoral quotients of the ridings involved: Vancouver Island North—Comox—Powell River (-1.25% to 3.44%), Courtenay—Alberni (5.37% to 2.45%), Nanaimo—Ladysmith (9.77% to -10.59%), West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country (7.74% to 11.35%), and Mission—Matsqui—Fraser Canyon (-13.26% to 1.73%). These deviations from the province's electoral quota remain comfortably within the limits provided for by section 15 of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*.

Mr. Duncan indicated to the Committee that he had presented similar arguments to the Commission during the public hearings. He noted, however, that in the Commission's initial Proposal Courtenay had been split in two and much of the public outcry centered on keeping Courtenay whole. Mr. Lunney indicated to the Committee that he had not presented this objection to the Commission during the public hearings as a comprehensive proposal to return Powell River to the riding of West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country required time for reflection.

The proposal put forward by Mr. Duncan was supported by all colleagues whose ridings were to be adjusted, as well as by the mayors of Courtenay and Powell River, and a provincial MLA. It was noted, however, that Ms. Jean Crowder, M.P. for Nanaimo—Cowichan, had not been consulted, nor had other MPs who represent the ridings of the southeast of Vancouver Island. Mr. Lunney indicated to the Committee that such consultation had not occurred because the domino effect of their proposal would not impact the electoral boundaries of those southeastern ridings.

As was noted by Mr. Strahl during his appearance before the Committee, this proposal is not the perfect solution. However, the proposal manages to keep intact a variety of communities of interest and identity which have themselves expressed support for the adjustments that the proposal sets out, and the variance from the province's electoral quota in each riding affected by the proposal remained within the accepted variance as set out in section 15 of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*. The Committee refers this proposal to the Commission for its consideration.

The Lower Mainland

(a) Burnaby North – Seymour

Mr. Peter Julian, M.P. for Burnaby—New Westminster and Mr. Kennedy Stewart, M.P. for Burnaby—Douglas, filed separate but identical objections to the proposed electoral boundaries of Burnaby North—Seymour. In appearing before the Committee, Mr. Stewart presented the objection to the Commission's Report while Mr. Julian presented the proposal to readjust the boundaries of the four ridings encompassing the communities which include Burnaby, Burquitlam, Coquitlam, New Westminster, Port Moody and Port Coquitlam (map is appended to the report).

Mr. Julian and Mr. Stewart's objection is based on communities of interest created by the geographical boundary of the Burrard Inlet. Mr. Stewart explained to the Committee that North Vancouver and North Burnaby, separated by the Burrard Inlet, represent two distinct communities

with little in common and should not be placed together as two halves of one riding. He indicated that North Burnaby was a middle class community with a high percentage of new Canadians, while North Vancouver had a low percentage of new Canadians and a much higher average income. Very few links existed between the service providers in either community and their respective municipalities. Indeed each community had its own health authority.

The lone geographical link connecting North Vancouver and North Burnaby is a single bridge (Ironworkers Memorial Bridge) located in an adjacent riding. Mr. Stewart indicated that due to high rental costs in either community, the M.P. for that riding would be only able to maintain one constituency office. He explained that constituents travelling from one community to the other would face long travel times. For those constituents reliant on public transportation, the commute across the Burrard Inlet represented a formidable barrier to the accessibility of their M.P., as transit service across the bridge was infrequent and time-consuming.

The Committee also notes that the proposed electoral boundaries of Burnaby—North Seymour met with strong, near unanimous, opposition during the Commission’s public hearings. Mr. Stewart provided the Committee with a census survey commissioned by his office in September 2012 of all the households affected by the proposed electoral district of Burnaby—North Seymour. Of the 7,775 residents who were contacted and who held an opinion on the matter, in North Vancouver, 79% were opposed to the boundaries, while in North Burnaby, 80% were opposed.

It was further noted by Mr. Stewart that during the 2002-2003 boundaries readjustment, the Commission initially proposed a riding similar to Burnaby—North Seymour that spanned the Burrard Inlet. Similar to the general public opposition of today, the 2002-2003 proposal was strongly objected to by the affected communities. The Commission acknowledged the validity of the public’s concerns and reconsidered its proposal, creating the current riding configurations which separate North Burnaby and North Vancouver into different ridings.

During their appearance before the Committee, Mr. Julian and Mr. Stewart indicated that they had put forward this same proposal during the public hearings. To that end, it was noted by both MPs that a member of the Commission had made a publicly reported comment early in the boundary readjustment process to the effect that a riding which contained a portion of North Vancouver and a portion of North Burnaby would be proposed and implemented by the Commission regardless of any feedback received during the public hearings or objections filed by MPs. The Committee trusts that any such comment was perhaps taken out of context or its substance misconstrued, as it trusts that the Commission continues to regard the spirit of openness to feedback, which lies at the heart of the boundaries readjustment process, as vital to achieving consensus and compromise between the elements and factors set out in section 15 of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*.

Mr. Julian presented the Committee with maps which set out boundaries for four proposed electoral ridings. The proposed names for these ridings are: Port Moody—Burquitlam, New Westminister—Coquitlam, Burnaby—New Westminister, and Burnaby—Douglas. As a description in words of these reconfigured electoral boundaries would be lengthy and complex, a map of this proposal is instead appended to the report for the Commission’s reference.

The proposal put forward by Mr. Julian and Mr. Stewart reconfigured the following electoral districts proposed by the Commission: Burnaby—North Seymour, Port Moody—Coquitlam, Coquitlam—Port Coquitlam, New Westminster—Burnaby, Burnaby South, and North Vancouver.

Mr. Julian provided the following explanation to the Committee in respect of their proposed reconfiguration of electoral boundaries:

- Burnaby—Douglas (which would replace the proposed Burnaby North—Seymour riding): their proposal reduced the size of the riding and preserved the communities of interest existent in North Burnaby, based on their demographic similarity. It also recognized the primary regional transportation corridors of in that area (Willingdon Avenue and Hastings Street).
- Burnaby—New Westminster (which would replace the proposed Burnaby South riding): their proposal reduced the size of the riding; preserved the community of interest existent between South Burnaby and the western portion of New Westminster, which is based on demographic similarities and institutional links (including, for instance, local schools).
- New Westminster—Coquitlam (which would replace the proposed New Westminster—Burnaby riding): their proposal preserved the community of interest between the eastern portion of New Westminster (including Sapperton), and Coquitlam and the Mallardville area.
- Port Moody—Burquitlam (which would replace the proposed Port Moody—Coquitlam riding): their proposal preserved a community of interest based on demographic similarity. It also captured the interactions which occur across North Road, including business activity between Burnaby and Coquitlam.

The net result of Mr. Julian and Mr. Stewart's proposal would alter the deviations from the province's electoral quota for the six proposed electoral districts as follows: Burnaby North—Seymour (or the proposed Burnaby—Douglas riding) (-3.94% to -3.37%); Port Moody—Coquitlam (or the proposed Port Moody—Burquitlam riding) (3.40% to 10.07%); Coquitlam—Port Coquitlam (5.26% to -17.01%); New Westminster—Burnaby (or the proposed New Westminster—Coquitlam riding) (3.71% to 7.54%); Burnaby South (or the proposed Burnaby—New Westminster riding) (0.26% to -12.61%); and North Vancouver (4.65% to 28.64%).

Both Mr. Julian and Mr. Stewart indicated that their proposal had garnered broad support across the communities of Burnaby, New Westminster and Coquitlam, including specifically written submissions supporting their proposal from the mayor of Burnaby, and a city official from the City of Burnaby. Their proposal was further supported by Ms. Libby Davies, M.P. for Vancouver East and Mr. Fin Donnelly, M.P. for New Westminster—Coquitlam. It was noted that the opinion of Mr. Andrew Saxton, M.P. for Vancouver North, who was aware of their proposal but had not commented on it, remained unknown.

For his part, Mr. James Moore, M.P. for Port Moody—Westwood—Port Coquitlam provided a written submission to the Committee upon being made aware that Mr. Julian and Mr. Stewart’s proposal would have an effect on the proposed electoral district of Port Moody–Coquitlam.

In his submission, Mr. Moore made it clear that he does not agree with the reconfigured electoral boundaries as proposed by Mr. Julian and Mr. Stewart. Mr. Moore instead agreed with the boundaries proposed by the Commission for the Port Moody, Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam region. The removal and isolation of the communities of Anmore and Belcarra from Port Moody in Mr. Julian and Mr. Stewart’s proposal was of concern to Mr. Moore. In Mr. Moore’s view, these communities shared significant social, economic, educational, and recreational ties. He further indicated that the historical trend at the provincial and federal level had been to not place Port Moody and Coquitlam in the same as riding as Burnaby and/or New Westminster. Port Moody, Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam, in Mr. Moore’s view, formed a community of interest based on a shared school district, police service, chamber of commerce, local newspapers and community events. He did not agree with extending the boundaries of these communities to link them with parts of Burnaby or New Westminster, as this would run counter to the community identity of Port Moody, Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam.

Mr. Moore also indicated that neither he, nor the community he represents, had been consulted by either Mr. Julian or Mr. Stewart in the preparation of their proposal. As such, he doubted that their proposal was supported by his community.

The matter of the provision of electoral representation for an expanding population base, subdivided among varying communities of interest and bound by the geographical impediments of the Burrard Inlet and the Fraser River, presents a difficult situation to an Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Commission.

From the evidence it has heard, the Committee foremostly finds the reasons for not having a riding which spans the Burrard Inlet to tie together two dissimilar communities, to be compelling. North Vancouver and North Burnaby appear to the Committee to be two communities which share few common services or exchanges. The communities themselves also appear to have little desire, if any, to be tied in one electoral district. That these communities are linked, physically, by just one bridge only strengthens the argument against placing them in the same riding.

The Committee cannot, however, recommend the proposal set out by Mr. Julian and Mr. Stewart in its entirety. In putting forward their proposal to the Committee, Mr. Julian and Mr. Stewart indicated that all areas residing beyond the boundaries of their four proposed ridings would have their population assigned to the current electoral boundaries. The effect of not assigning approximately 28,000 people into their proposal has had a domino effect in two neighbouring ridings, substantially increasing their deviations from the provincial electoral quota (in Coquitlam—Port Coquitlam and North Vancouver). Indeed, Mr. Julian and Mr. Stewart’s proposal provides for a deviation from the electoral quota of 28.64% in North Vancouver, which exceeds the limit for deviations, in ordinary circumstances, as set out in section 15 of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*.

Further, Mr. Julian and Mr. Stewart's proposal adjusts a portion of the boundaries of two other ridings: Port Moody—Westwood—Port Coquitlam, currently represented by Mr. Moore, and North Vancouver, currently represented by Mr. Andrew Saxton. Mr. Moore has indicated to the Committee that he does not approve of certain aspects of this proposal. Mr. Saxton has been made aware of the proposal in question but his views on it have not been ascertained by the Committee.

The Committee, as such, refers Mr. Julian and Mr. Stewart's proposal to the Commission for its consideration.

(b) Port Moody—Coquitlam

Mr. Fin Donnelly, M.P. for New Westminster—Coquitlam, filed an objection to the proposed electoral boundaries of Burnaby North—Seymour. Mr. Donnelly's current riding sits adjacent to an eastern portion of the proposed Burnaby North—Seymour riding.

In his motion, Mr. Donnelly explained to the Committee that the boundary changes proposed by the Commission for Burnaby North—Seymour would have a negative domino effect on that riding's neighbouring ridings. In his view, the riding as proposed created undue barriers for its constituents and their ability to receive adequate representation.

Mr. Donnelly stated, as did Mr. Julian and Mr. Stewart, that traffic congestion and inadequate transit infrastructure in the area act as formidable barriers to constituents seeking to meet with their M.P., and vice-versa. He noted also that the proposed Burnaby North—Seymour riding was overwhelmingly objected to at public hearings. Mr. Donnelly asked that the Commission revisit its decision to create a riding which spans the Burrard Inlet.

As noted in its discussion of the Burnaby North—Seymour, the Committee agrees with and supports the principle of the objection set forth by Mr. Donnelly, along with Mr. Julian and Mr. Stewart. The Committee requests that the Commission revisit the proposed riding of North Burnaby—Seymour with the view of achieving a workable alternative to placing the communities of North Burnaby and North Vancouver in the same riding.

(c) Steveston—Richmond East

Ms. Kerry-Lynne Findlay, M.P. for Delta—Richmond East, filed an objection to the proposed electoral districts of Richmond West and Steveston—Richmond East. According to Ms. Findlay's objection, the location of the electoral boundary proposed between the ridings of Richmond West and Steveston—Richmond East splits two communities of interest and identity into separate ridings.

Ms. Findlay's objection explained that the community of Steveston was established by the earliest settlers to the area. Its ties as such were historic, built on shared economic interests and activities. Steveston remained a unique community that has worked to preserve and maintain its various heritage sites for education and tourism.

Ms. Findlay indicated that Steveston was only split electorally at the federal level in 1997. The Commission's initial Proposal had included the whole community of Steveston in one electoral district. Ms. Findlay stated that this proposal was warmly received and accepted. In its subsequent Report, however, the Commission moved the boundary to revert to its current location, once again splitting Steveston between two federal ridings. Ms. Findlay indicated that the mayor, councillors and leaders within the community of Steveston did not register objections at the public consultations because they supported the boundaries as proposed in the Commission's initial Proposal.

Further, Ms. Findlay objected to the division of Richmond's city centre into two ridings. Her objection explained that Richmond Centre formed a community of interest, as an evolving high density area with its own unique business, residential, and recreational interests.

In its initial Proposal, the Commission had placed the city centre of Richmond in the electoral district of Richmond West. In its Report, however, the Commission divided the city centre into the two electoral districts of Richmond West and Steveston—Richmond East.

Ms. Findlay proposed that the community of Steveston be included in the electoral district of Steveston—Richmond East, and that the city centre of Richmond be included in the electoral district of Richmond West. Specifically, her recommendation for the electoral boundary between Richmond West and Steveston—Richmond East was as follows: beginning at the northerly limits of Richmond, the boundary follows highway 99 (Fraser-Delta Thruway) to Cambie road in a south-eastern direction; west along Cambie Road to No. 4 Road; south along No. 4 Road to Blundell Road; west along Blundell Road to No. 3 Road; south along No. 3 Road to Francis Road; and west along Francis Road until reaching the western limits of Richmond.

According to the analysis provided by Elections Canada, the resulting population effect for the two ridings would be as follows: Richmond West (-10.40 to -12.29%); and Steveston—Richmond East (-7.78% to -5.90%). These deviations from the province's electoral quota remain comfortably within the limits provided for by section 15 of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*.

In support of her objection, Ms. Findlay provided eight letters from local elected officials, and individuals, including the mayor of the city of Richmond, a Richmond councillor, and a number of community leaders. She further noted that her proposal was supported by Ms. Jinny Jogindera Simms, M.P. for Newton—North Delta, but was not supported by Ms. Alice Wong, M.P. for Richmond.

The Committee feels that it is its duty to report Ms. Findlay's objection to the Commission without offering any further commentary on the merits for or against such a proposal, as it conflicts with the objection filed by Ms. Wong.

(d) Richmond

Ms. Alice Wong, M.P. for Richmond, filed an objection with the Committee which expressed her strong support for the restoration, in the Commission's Report, of the southern boundary between

the proposed electoral districts of Richmond West and Steveston—Richmond East, as being the Steveston Highway.

According to Ms. Wong's objection, the Steveston Highway was the logical division for the electoral districts. In her view, as a southern boundary it correctly balanced the communities of interest and identity of the area, as well as the historical patterns of the electoral districts, in accordance with section 15 of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*. Ms. Wong provided the Committee with two maps of Steveston – one historical, one contemporary – which employ the Steveston Highway as the northern boundary of Steveston.

Ms. Wong's objection also indicated that the Commission's initial Proposal, which set the boundary between electoral districts in Richmond as Francis Road, was modified in response to public feedback and consultations.

The Committee feels that it is its duty to report Ms. Wong's objection to the Commission without offering any further commentary on the merits for or against such a proposal, as it conflicts with the objection filed by Ms. Kerry-Lynne Findlay, M.P. for Delta—Richmond East.

(e) Fort Langley—Aldergrove

Mr. Warawa, M.P. for Langley, filed an objection to the removal of 35 polls in the Willoughby area from the proposed electoral district of Fort Langley—Aldergrove.

Mr. Warawa's objection is based on community of interest and identity. According to Mr. Warawa, the area of Willoughby east of 196 Street is culturally connected with the entire township of Langley. It contains the Langley Events Centre, and a large population of Korean-Canadians. The Events Centre plays host to celebrations of cultural diversity and its separation from the township of Langley would be, symbolically, detrimental of the ethnic communities of identity who employ the Centre as an important cultural meeting place.

Mr. Warawa indicated that it was the strong preference of the communities and community leaders located within the current Langley riding to retain its current electoral boundaries. He emphasized that the township of Langley, including the city of Langley, forms a unique community with close ties, as witnessed by the high levels of volunteerism, community involvement and community events, which occur within the township.

Mr. Warawa, nonetheless, conceded that the Commission did not appear disposed to accede to this desire to retain the electoral boundaries for the riding currently known as Langley. Therefore, Mr. Warawa proposed that a portion of the western boundary of the proposed riding of Fort Langley—Aldergrove be shifted west from 208 Street to 196 Street in order to capture the 35 polls located in the Willoughby area and relocate these into the Fort Langley—Aldergrove riding.

Mr. Warawa's proposal would change the deviation of the proposed electoral district of Fort Langley—Aldergrove from -9.43% to 11.30% and that of Cloverdale—Langley from 3.59% to -17.14%. Mr. Warawa's proposal enlarges the deviations from the province's electoral quota for the two ridings affected, but these deviations remain within the limits provided for by section 15 of the

Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act. The Commission's efforts to maintain reasonably low deviations from the province's electoral quota are laudable. The flexibility provided for in the Act, however, exists to balance voter parity with communities of interest and identity.

Mr. Warawa's proposal was supported by the mayor and the council of the township of Langley, the President of the Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Warawa indicated to the Committee that he had consulted with and received the support of his colleagues and of the communities affected.

It was noted during his appearance before the Committee that Mr. Warawa had put forward roughly the same proposal for the Commission's consideration during the public hearings. Mr. Warawa noted that the proposal he was making to the Committee differed from his earlier proposal in that it did not create a domino effect beyond the ridings of Fort Langley—Aldergrove and Cloverdale Langley.

The Committee supports Mr. Warawa's proposal; it considers this proposal as having achieved a reasonable balance between representation by population and the maintenance of historically established communities of identity and interest. The effect on population of this proposal also remains within the allowable deviation from the province's electoral quotient as provided for under section 15 of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*.

(f) Surrey

Mr. Jasbir Sandhu, M.P. for Surrey North, filed an objection with the Committee in which he explained that the Commission's Report had addressed certain concerns expressed by the town centres located in Surrey following the Commission's initial Proposal.

Mr. Sandhu appeared before the Committee to indicate that these town centres were pleased with the boundaries proposed in the Commission's Report and did not desire to see any subsequent changes made to them.

With Mr. Sandhu's objection in mind, the Committee recommends Mr. Warawa's proposal on the basis that the Commission can accomplish its objective without creating a domino effect which would alter any of the boundaries of the ridings of Surrey.

(g) Mission—Matsqui—Fraser Canyon and West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country

Mr. Mark Strahl, M.P. for Chilliwack—Fraser Canyon and Mr. John Weston, M.P. for West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country, filed separate but complementary motions with the Committee. These motions contained the following objection: Mr. Strahl and Mr. Weston proposed that Powell River be included into the proposed electoral district of West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country.

Of note, Mr. Strahl and Mr. Weston's objections further worked in concert with those of Mr. John Duncan, M.P. for Vancouver Island North, and Mr. James Lunney, M.P. for Nanaimo—Alberni

(for a discussion on the latter, please see the entry in this report entitled Courtenay—Alberni and Vancouver Island North—Comox—Powell River under the section for Vancouver Island). These objections, though discussed in two places within this report, should be considered by the Commission to constitute an indivisible package.

Both Mr. Strahl and Mr. Weston indicated firstly that they felt the Commission had done an admirable job in identifying and maintaining the different communities of interest throughout the province. They noted, however, that Powell River and Sunshine Coast formed a community of interest and identity and that both communities had expressed a strong interest in staying together in the same riding. Mr. Weston further submitted that it would be a strong preference of his to see Powell River returned to the West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country riding.

The re-inclusion of Powell River to the West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country riding would increase that riding's population beyond the acceptable limits as provided for by section 15 of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*. Mr. Strahl indicated to the Committee that since his election to the House of Commons, the division of the communities of Pemberton and Whistler into separate ridings had concerned him. He stated that Pemberton and Whistler were clear communities of interest. A further affinity existed between these two communities and Lillooet, a community experiencing burgeoning tourist and wine-growing activities. Lillooet was actively working to establish itself more strongly as a community linked with the Whistler region. In Mr. Strahl's view, Whistler, Pemberton, SLRD area C and Lillooet formed a regional community of interest. Their placement into the same riding, that of Mission—Matsqui—Fraser Canyon, would be positive for these communities.

For his part, Mr. Weston indicated that a community of interest also existed between Whistler and Sea to Sky. He also noted the strong expression of interest from the people of Powell River and the Sunshine Coast to be represented together in the same federal electoral riding. Mr. Weston stated that his preference would be for both Whistler and Powell River to be included together in one riding, but acknowledged the difficulty of such an arrangement given that the population of such a riding would likely exceed the deviation from the provincial electoral quota permitted by the law. In this respect, Mr. Weston indicated that as the re-inclusion of Powell River into the riding of West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country, and the coupling of Pemberton and Whistler with Lillooet, were in the best interests of these communities, he would support a proposal that would see these communities placed in the same ridings.

On behalf of Mr. Strahl, Mr. Weston and Mr. Lunney, Mr. Duncan submitted to the Committee a detailed overarching proposal which readjusts the boundaries for the proposed ridings of Vancouver Island North—Comox—Powell River, Courtenay—Alberni, Nanaimo—Ladysmith, West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country, and Mission—Matsqui—Fraser Canyon. This proposal, including precise boundary descriptions and maps are appended to the report for the Commission's reference.

According to the analysis provided by Elections Canada, this net result of this proposal would have the following effect on the electoral quotients of the ridings involved: Vancouver Island North—Comox—Powell River (-1.25% to 3.44%), Courtenay—Alberni (5.37% to 2.45%), Nanaimo—Ladysmith (9.77% to -10.59%), West Vancouver—Sunshine Coast—Sea to Sky Country (7.74% to

11.35%), and Mission—Matsqui—Fraser Canyon (-13.26% to 1.73%). These deviations from the province's electoral quota remain comfortably within the limits provided for by section 15 of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*.

The proposal put forward by Mr. Duncan was supported by all colleagues whose ridings would be adjusted, as well as by the mayors of Courtenay and Powell River. No mention was as to whether such a proposal had been put forward by either Mr. Strahl or Mr. Weston during the public hearings.

As was noted by Mr. Strahl during his appearance before the Committee, this proposal is not the perfect solution. However, the proposal manages to keep intact a variety of communities of interest and identity who have themselves expressed support for the adjustments that the proposal sets out, and the variance from the province's electoral quota in each riding affected by the proposal remained within the accepted variance as set out in section 15 of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*. The Committee refers this proposal to the Commission for its consideration.

The Interior

(a) Central Okanagan—Similkameen—Nicola

Mr. Dan Albas, M.P. for Okanagan—Coquihalla, filed an objection to the boundary readjustments for the proposed electoral districts of Kelowna—Lake Country, Central Okanagan—Similkameen—Nicola, South Okanagan—West Kootenay, and Kootenay—Columbia. According to Mr. Albas' objection, in proposing these ridings, the Commission has created urban ridings which encompass a small geographic area and contain low populations, and rural ridings which encompass large geographic areas and contain large populations.

In Mr. Albas' view, the Commission ought to have adopted an opposite approach: increase the population of urban-based ridings to allow population gains to be better absorbed and represented more efficiently by urban ridings, while reducing the population centres of geographically disperse rural ridings in order to alleviate accessibility challenges that exist for MPs and constituents in such ridings.

Mr. Albas proposed that the Commission endeavor to re-balance the population within this region with the view of ensuring that large urban-based ridings have a larger share of the population, which will in turn result in more manageable rural ridings.

The Committee considers the logic behind Mr. Albas' objection to be, as compared to its opposite, the more conducive to proper electoral representation for the region. Mr. Albas, however, did not provide to the Committee any specific recommendations as to the realization of the proposal contained in his objection. The Committee does not consider its role to be to offer such direction to the Commission in Mr. Albas' stead; it instead reports Mr. Albas' objection, while noting that it considers the logic of the objection to hold merit.

(b) Kootenay—Columbia

Mr. David Wilks, M.P. for Kootenay—Columbia, filed an objection to a portion of the western boundary of the proposed electoral district of Kootenay—Columbia. According to Mr. Wilks' objection, the non-inclusion of Nakusp and New Denver in this riding severs the connectivity and continuity between communities sharing a common transportation route. Their addition to the riding made practical sense, from the perspective of the M.P. for that riding who could service these communities while travelling between Revelstoke and Kaslo.

The proposed electoral district of Kootenay—Columbia contains Revelstoke in its northwestern reaches. In its Report, the Commission removed Nakusp from the riding but added Kaslo, Nelson and Salmo. Mr. Wilks explained that an M.P. travelling from Revelstoke to Kaslo must drive through Nakusp and New Denver in order to reach Kaslo. The drive would entail heading south along highway 23 from Galena to Nakusp. In order to reach Kaslo from Nakusp, an M.P. must travel through New Denver along the lone transportation route connecting Kaslo and Nakusp (highway 6 into New Denver and highway 31a into Kaslo). Upon reaching Kaslo, a highway heading south connects that community to Nelson, Salmo and Creston.

Mr. Wilks proposed that the western boundary of the proposed electoral district of Kootenay—Columbia, which begins approximately at Mt. Cranberry, be shifted south to include the communities of Fauquier and Needles. This boundary would run roughly straight east to Kaslo (taking in the communities along highway 6 between Nakusp and Fauquier, and Nakusp and New Denver, as well as the communities located along highway 31a between New Denver and Kaslo).

The net result of Mr. Wilks' proposal would alter the Kootenay—Columbia riding's deviation from the province's electoral quota, along with that of South Okanagan—West Kootenay, as follows: Kootenay—Columbia: 2.70% to 6.58%; and South Okanagan—West Kootenay: 7.39% to 3.53%. This deviation remains well below the maximum deviation provided for by section 15 of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*.

Mr. Wilks noted that his proposal had the support of the mayor of Nakusp. He noted, however, that the mayor of New Denver had indicated a preference to remain in the proposed electoral district of South Okanagan—West Kootenay. No mention was made as to whether such a proposal had been put forward by Mr. Wilks during the public hearings.

The Committee considers Mr. Wilks' proposal would create only minimal disruption in terms of a "domino effect" between adjacent ridings. The effect on population of this proposal also remains well within the allowable deviation from the province's electoral quotient as provided for under section 15 of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*. The Committee also notes, however, that this proposal is not compatible with the proposal put forward by Mr. Atamanenko, M.P. for British Columbia Southern Interior, and it is only supported by one of the two affected communities. As such, the Committee refers Mr. Wilks' proposal to the Commission for its consideration.

(c) British Columbia Southern Interior

Mr. Alex Atamanenko, M.P. for British Columbia Southern Interior, filed an objection to the proposed electoral boundaries of South Okanagan—West Kootenay. There were several aspects to Mr. Atamanenko's objection: he objected to the placement of Nelson into a riding separate from Trail and Castlegar. He also objected to the inclusion of Penticton into South Okanagan—West Kootenay, along with the separation of Penticton and Summerland into two separate ridings.

Mr. Atamanenko's objection to the separation of Nelson from Trail and Castlegar into two separate ridings was based on community of interest created by geography and historical patterns of representation. He explained that these three West Kootenay communities considered themselves a "tri-city," with strong economic, social and cultural links. They shared a regional hospital, an airport, a college and a government centre. They worked together to host the B.C. Summer Games and the World Junior Hockey Championship. Mr. Atamanenko estimated that these communities had been together in the same federal electoral riding for approximately 100 years.

Mr. Atamanenko also objected to the placement of Penticton in the proposed electoral district of South Okanagan—West Kootenay. This objection was based on the desire expressed by rural communities in the current riding to remain in a riding which was rural in character, and separate from larger urban centers which would dominate the riding. Mr. Atamanenko stated that Penticton, as the urban centre of the region, shared little in common with the other small rural communities included in South Okanagan—West Kootenay, and if placed together would make a "bad mix."

Mr. Atamanenko added that should Penticton be made part of the South Okanagan—West Kootenay riding, that would be where the M.P.'s constituency office would be located. Due to budgetary constraints, it would be unlikely that a second constituency office could be opened to serve the eastern portion of the riding. As such, constituents would be forced to travel a great distance, traversing two mountain passes, to get from the West Kootenays to Penticton. This lack of accessibility of an M.P. to his or her constituents would, in Mr. Atamanenko's view, adversely affect the representation and service to the communities in the eastern portion of the proposed electoral district.

Mr. Atamanenko further objected to the proposed separation of Penticton from Summerland into two different ridings. He noted that these two communities, approximately 18 km apart, have expressed a strong desire to remain together in the same riding. Penticton and Summerland share common interests, services and regional concerns. By contrast, Penticton and the communities in the West Kootenays have unrelated interests, identities and concerns.

Mr. Atamanenko explained to the Committee that a proposal similar to the Commission's proposed electoral boundaries for South Okanagan—West Kootenay was put forward in 2002-2003 by the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for British Columbia. The communities affected by the proposal (the Kaslo and Slocan valleys, and Penticton), along with a number of sitting MPs, at that time, argued strongly against the proposal, for virtually the same reasons as Mr. Atamanenko and the communities located in the Kaslo and Slocan valleys object to the Commission's current proposal. The Commission, ten years ago, acknowledged the validity of the arguments put forward against its proposal and revisited the configuration for the ridings in B.C.'s southern interior.

The alternative they produced, which met with the approval of the objectors, was the current riding of British Columbia Southern Interior.

Mr. Atamanenko proposed that the current riding configuration for British Columbia Southern Interior, as much as possible, be retained. He indicated that should the Commission consider it necessary to increase the population of this riding, communities could be carved off of the proposed North Okanagan—Shuswap (this proposed riding, according to Mr. Atamanenko, is the largest by population in Canada) and placed in the South Okanagan—West Kootenay riding. To that end, he proposed the community of Sicamous be added to the Kootenay—Columbia riding, while removing from that riding the communities of Nelson and Kaslo. The latter communities would be added to the proposed riding of South Okanagan—West Kootenay, along with the communities of Princeton and Keremeos, while the community of Penticton would be removed from the riding. Mr. Atamanenko did not, however, provide the Committee with a suggestion as to which riding the community Penticton would be placed.

No mention was made as to whether such a proposal had been put forward by Mr. Atamanenko during the public hearings.

The net result of Mr. Atamenko's proposal would alter the South Okanagan—West Kootenay riding's deviation from the province's electoral quota, along with its neighbouring ridings, as follows: South Okanagan—West Kootenay: 7.39% to -6.33%; Kootenay—Columbia: 2.70% to -5.79%; North Okanagan—Shuswap: 15.56% to 11.95%; and Central Okanagan—Similkameen—Nicola: -0.35% to 25.47%.

Mr. Atamanenko indicated that a solid majority of the over 50 submissions, oral and written, that the Commission received were in support of his objection. His objection also received support from two current provincial MLAs, a former provincial MLA, eight mayors, a regional council, and a regional official.

The Committee notes that while certain of the ridings readjusted according to Mr. Atamanenko's proposal remain within the allowable deviation from the province's electoral quotient as provided for under section 15 of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*, the removal of Penticton from South Okanagan—West Kootenay riding into any neighbouring riding creates a problematic domino effect, which Mr. Atamanenko did not address in his objection. Assigning Penticton to Central Okanagan—Similkameen—Nicola, for example, creates a deviation from the province's electoral quota beyond the limits provided for, in ordinary circumstances, under section 15 of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*.

Further, Mr. Atamanenko's objection proposes to establish a different electoral boundary to the one proposed by Mr. Wilks, M.P. for Kootenay—Columbia. Mr. Atamanenko indicated that Mr. Wilks did not support his objection. He also stated that he had been in communication with two other current MPs from neighbouring ridings but did not indicate whether or not these MPs supported his objection or not. The Committee refers Mr. Atamanenko's objection to the Commission for its consideration.

Conclusion

In accordance with subsections 22(3) and 23(1) of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*, the *Report of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of British Columbia*, the objections, the minutes of proceedings and evidence of the Committee will be returned and referred back to the Commission for its consideration of the matter of the objections.

A copy of the relevant *Minutes of Proceedings* ([Meetings Nos 62, 63, 65, 66, 72, 77, 78 and 80](#)) is tabled

Respectfully submitted,

JOE PRESTON
Chair

APPENDIX 1

Proposed Boundary Descriptions

Vancouver Island North

Consisting of:

- a. The regional districts of Mount Waddington and Strathcona;
- b. That part of the Central Coast Regional District lying southerly and easterly of a line described as follows: commencing at the westernmost intersection of the easterly limit of said regional district with 52°00'N latitude; thence west along said latitude to Fisher Channel; thence generally southerly along said channel, Fitz Hugh Sound, the South Passage and Queen Charlotte Sound to the southerly limit of said regional district; and
- c. Those parts of the Comox Valley Regional District comprised of:
 - i. The Town of Comox
 - ii. The City of Courtenay
 - iii. Subdivisions B (Lazo North) and C (Puntledge – Black Creek)
 - iv. Pentledge Indian Reserve No. 2 and Comox Indian Reserve No. 1
 - v. That part of subdivision A lying northerly of the line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the City of Courtenay boundary and the Comox Valley Parkway, thence southwesterly along the Comox Valley Parkway to where it intersects boundary of the Village of Cumberland.
 - vi. That part of the Village of Cumberland lying northerly of the line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the Comox Valley Parkway and the boundary of the Village of Cumberland, thence southerly and westerly to the intersection of the Comox Valley Parkway and Inland Island Highway, thence westerly to Comox Lake

Nanaimo – Alberni

Consisting of:

- a. The Regional District of Alberni – Clayquot;
- b. Those parts of the Comox Valley Regional District comprised of:
 - i. That part of subdivision A lying southerly of the line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the City of Courtenay boundary and the Comox Valley Parkway, thence southwesterly along the Comox Valley Parkway to where it intersects boundary of the Village of Cumberland.
 - ii. That part of the Village of Cumberland lying southerly of the line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the Comox Valley Parkway and the boundary of the Village of Cumberland, thence southerly and westerly to the intersection of the Comox Valley Parkway and Inland Island Highway, thence westerly to Comox Lake

- c. That part of the Regional District of Nanaimo lying northerly and westerly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the southerly limit of the Regional District of Nanaimo with the westerly limit of the Land District of Douglas; thence northerly along said district and the Land District of Mountain to the southern boundary of the District Municipality of Lantzville; thence following the boundary of Lantzville north and east to where it intersects Aulds Road; thence easterly to the intersection of Highway 19 (Nanaimo Parkway); thence southerly to the intersection of Mostar Road; thence northerly and easterly to the intersection of Island Highway and Rutherford Road; thence easterly and northerly along Rutherford Road to Hammond Bay Road; thence easterly along Hammond Bay Road to the ocean at a point half way between Neck Point Park and Piper's Lagoon Park.
- d. That part of the Powell River Regional District comprised of subdivision E

Nanaimo – Ladysmith

Consisting of:

- a. Those parts of the Regional District of Cowichan Valley comprised of:
 - i. The Town of Ladysmith;
 - ii. Subdivision H;
 - iii. Chemainus Indian Reserve No. 13 and Oyster Bay Indian Reserve No, 12;
 - iv. Subdivision G, excepting Dayman Island, Hudson Island, Leech Island, Miami Islet, Penelakut Island, Ragged Islets, Reid Island, Rose Islets, Scott Island, Tent Island and Thetis Island; and
- b. That part of the Regional District of Nanaimo lying southerly and easterly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the southerly limit of the Regional District of Nanaimo with the westerly limit of the Land District of Douglas; thence northerly along said district and the Land District of Mountain to the southern boundary of the District Municipality of Lantzville; thence following the boundary of Lantzville north and east to where it intersects Aulds Road; thence easterly to the intersection of Highway 19 (Nanaimo Parkway); thence southerly to the intersection of Mostar Road; thence northerly and easterly to the intersection of Island Highway and Rutherford Road; thence easterly and northerly along Rutherford Road to Hammond Bay Road; thence easterly along Hammond Bay Road to the ocean at a point half way between Neck Point Park and Piper's Lagoon Park.

West Vancouver – Sunshine Coast

Consisting of:

- a. The Powell River Regional District, excepting Subdivision E;
- b. The Sunshine Coast Regional District;

- c. That part of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District comprised of the District Municipality of Squamish and Area D; and
- d. That part of the Greater Vancouver Regional District lying westerly and northerly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the northerly limit of said regional district with the Capilano River; thence generally southerly along said river to the northerly limit of the District Municipality of West Vancouver; thence easterly and generally southerly along the northerly and easterly limits of said district municipality to the northerly boundary of Capilano Indian Reserve No. 5; thence generally easterly and southwesterly along the northerly and easterly boundaries of said Indian reserve to the northerly limit of the City of Vancouver; thence generally westerly and southerly along the limit of said city to the northerly limit of said city in English Bay; thence westerly along said limit and its production to the southwesterly limit of said regional district.

Mission – Matsqui – Fraser Canyon

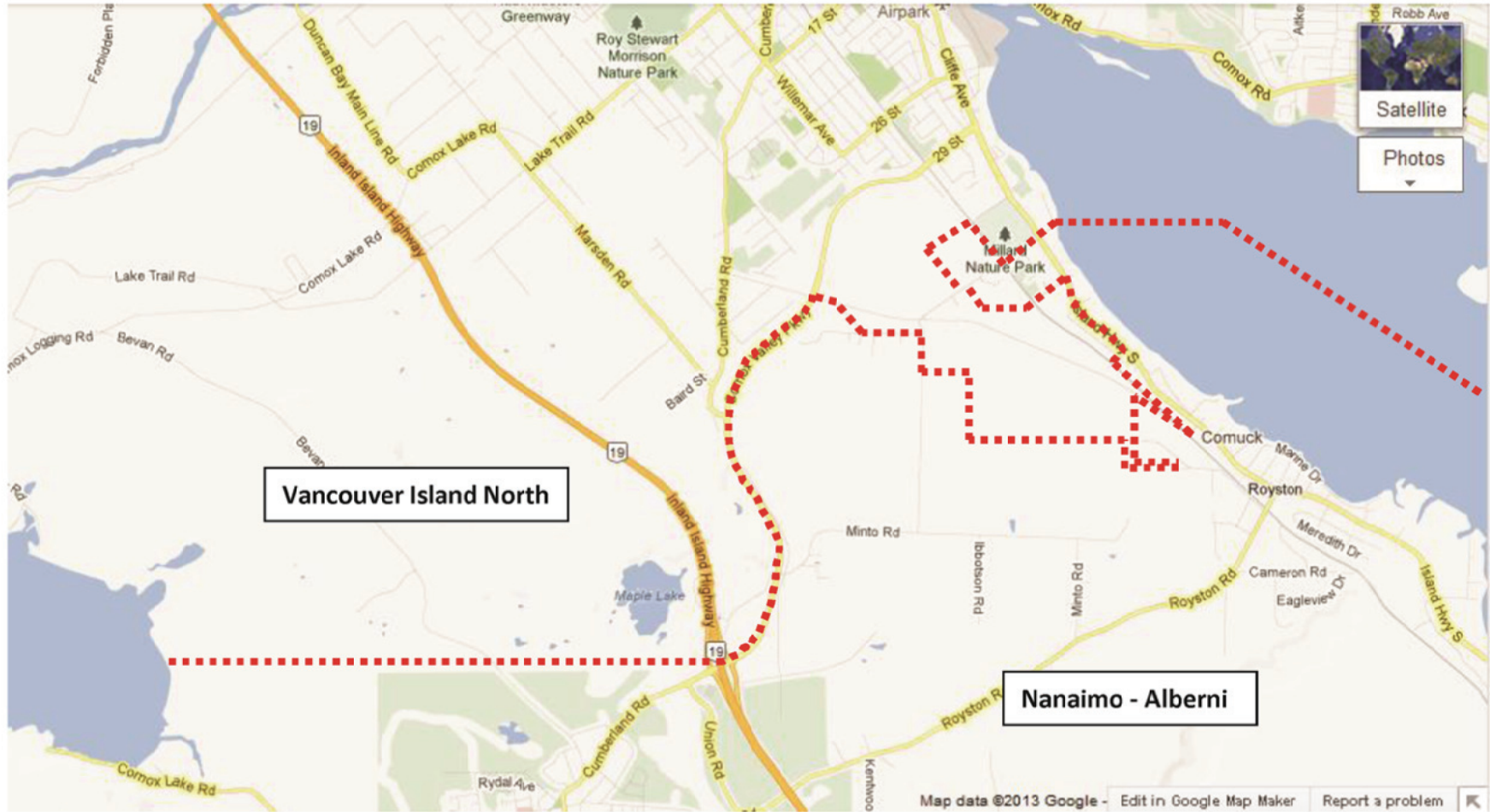
Consisting of:

- a. those parts of the Fraser Valley Regional District comprised of:
 - i. the district municipalities of Mission and Kent;
 - ii. the Village of Harrison Hot Springs;
 - iii. subdivisions A, C and G;
 - iv. that part of Subdivision B lying westerly and northerly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the northerly limit of said subdivision with Coquihalla Highway (Highway No. 5); thence generally southwesterly along said highway to Othello Road; thence generally southerly and westerly along said road to the easterly limit of the District Municipality of Hope; thence generally northwesterly and southwesterly along the easterly, northerly and westerly limits of said district municipality to the Fraser River; thence southwesterly along said river to the easterly limit of the District Municipality of Kent;
 - v. that part of Subdivision F lying southerly and easterly of a line described as follows: commencing at the easterly limit of said subdivision at approximate latitude 49°27'22"N and longitude 122°08'46"W; thence westerly in a straight line to the northern shoreline of Stave Lake at approximate latitude 49°27'34"N and longitude 122°13'09"W; thence generally southerly along said lake to the northeasterly corner of the District Municipality of Mission;
 - vi. that part of the City of Abbotsford lying northerly and easterly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the easterly limit of said city with the Sumas River; thence generally southwesterly along said river to the Trans-Canada Highway (Highway No. 1); thence southwesterly along said highway to the easterly boundary of Upper Sumas Indian Reserve No. 6; thence generally northerly and westerly along the easterly and northerly boundaries of said Indian reserve to Sumas Mountain Road; thence northerly along said road to McKee Road; thence generally southwesterly along

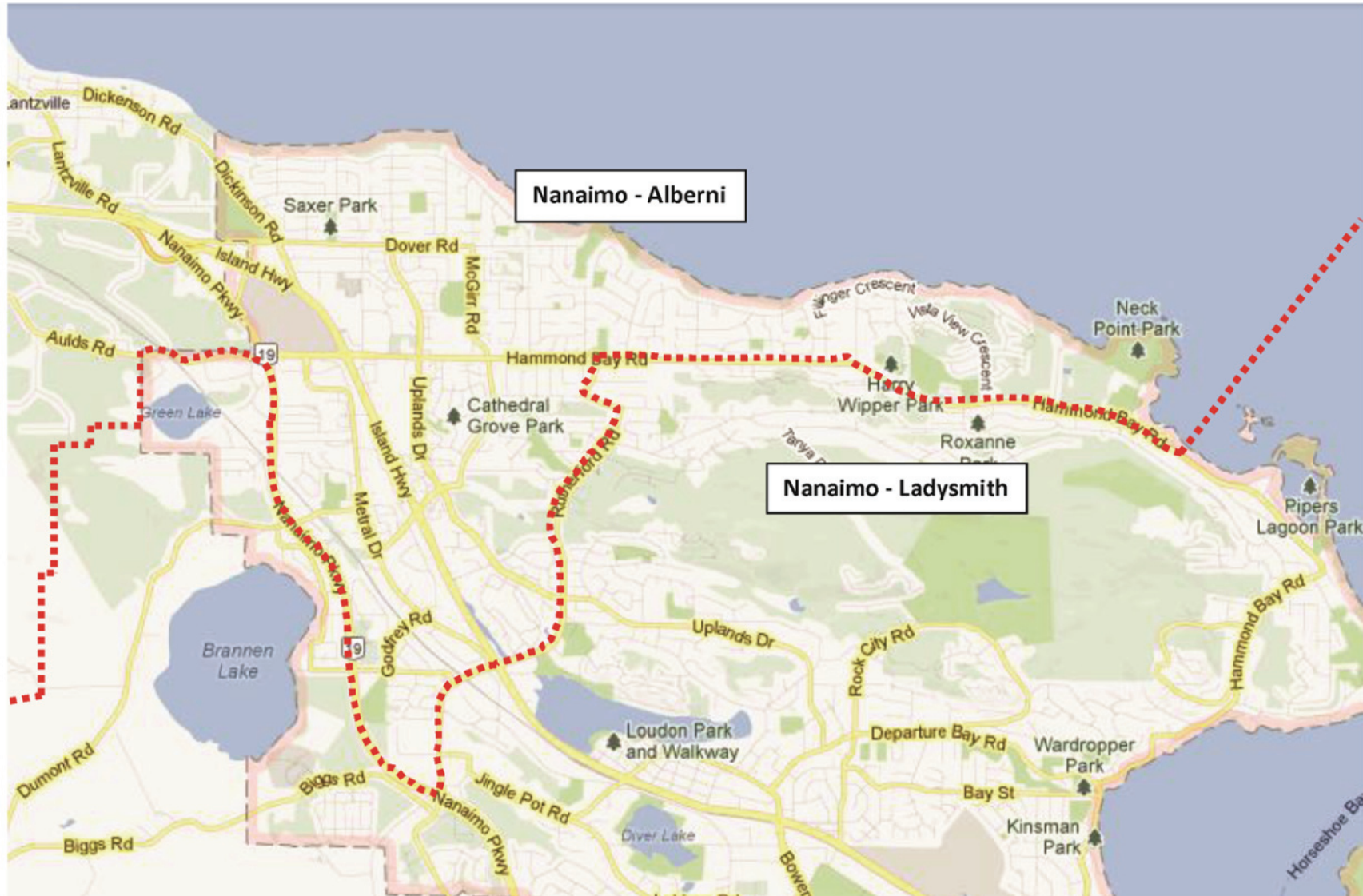
said road to the easterly limit of the Ledgeview Golf Course; thence westerly and northerly along the southerly and westerly limits of said golf course to a point at approximate latitude 49°04'26"N and longitude 122°14'09"W; thence northwesterly in a straight line to a point on Straiton Road at approximate latitude 49°04'41"N and longitude 122°14'21"W; thence generally northwesterly along said road to Clayburn Road; thence westerly along said road to Wright Street; thence southerly along said street to Bateman Road; thence westerly along said road to Abbotsford-Mission Highway (Highway No. 11); thence southerly along said highway to McCallum Road; thence generally southwesterly along said road to Maclure Road; thence westerly along said road to the easterly production of Upper Maclure Road; thence westerly along said production and Upper Maclure Road to the easterly production of Sandpiper Drive; thence generally westerly along said production and Sandpiper Drive to Mount Lehman Road; thence southerly along said road to the Trans-Canada Highway (Highway No. 1); thence northwesterly along said highway to Bradner Road; thence generally northerly along said road to River Road; thence northerly in a straight line to the southeast corner of the District Municipality of Maple Ridge;

- b. that part of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District comprised of: the villages of Ashcroft, Lytton and Cache Creek; Subdivision I, excepting Nooaitch Indian Reserve No. 10 and Skeetchestn Indian Reserve; and
- c. that part of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District comprised of: the Resort Municipality of Whistler; the Village of Pemberton; subdivisions A, B and C; and the District Municipality of Lillooet.

Map/Carte 2: Courtenay



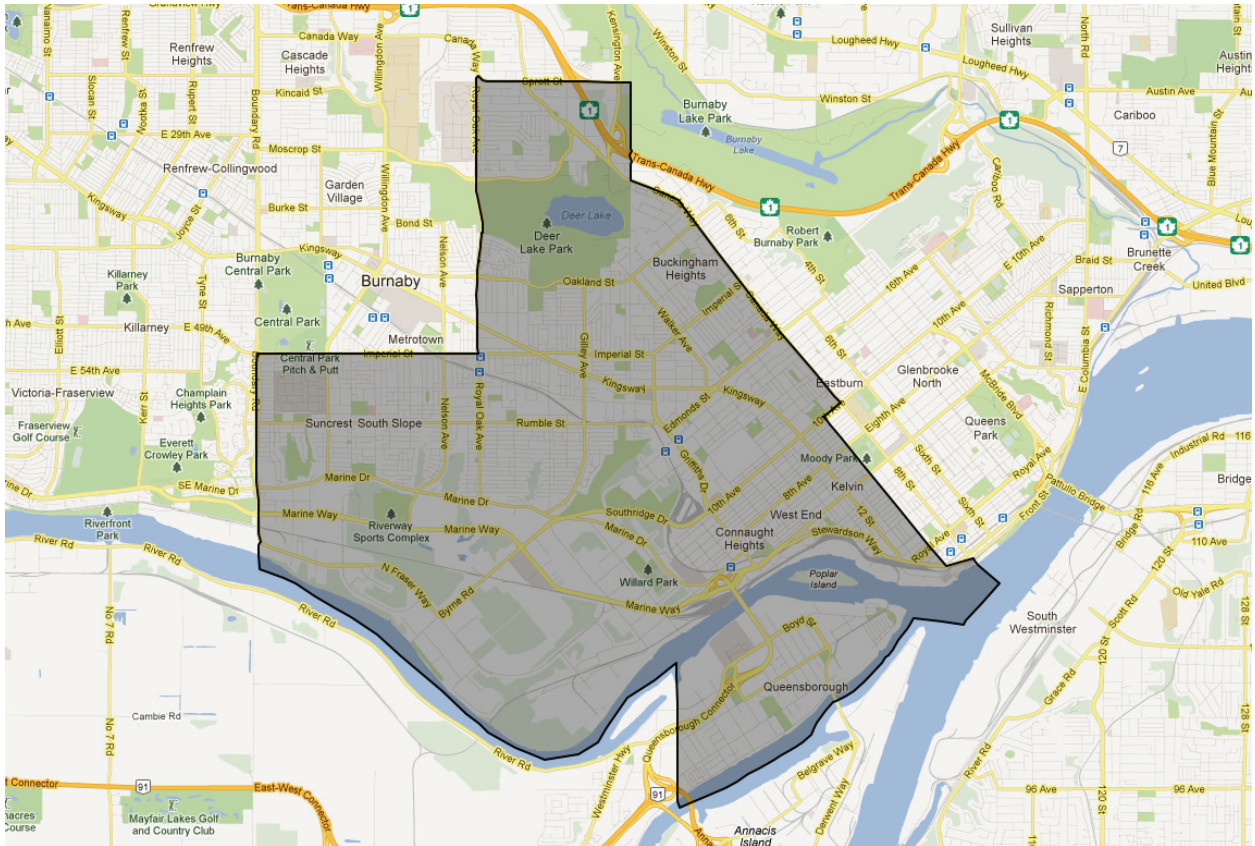
Map/Carte 3: Nanaimo



APPENDIX 2

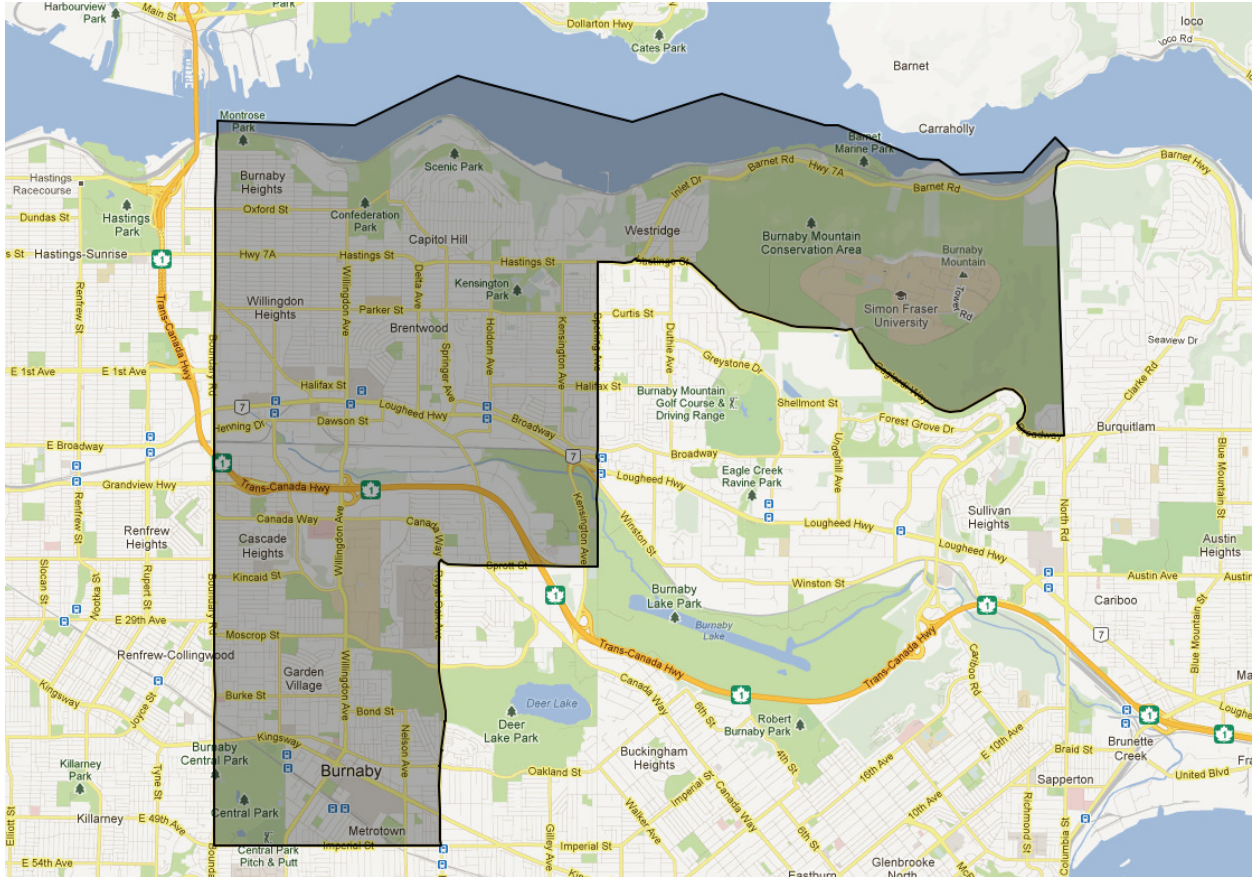
BURNABY SOUTH

Proposal from P. Julian and K. Stewart: Burnaby — New Westminster



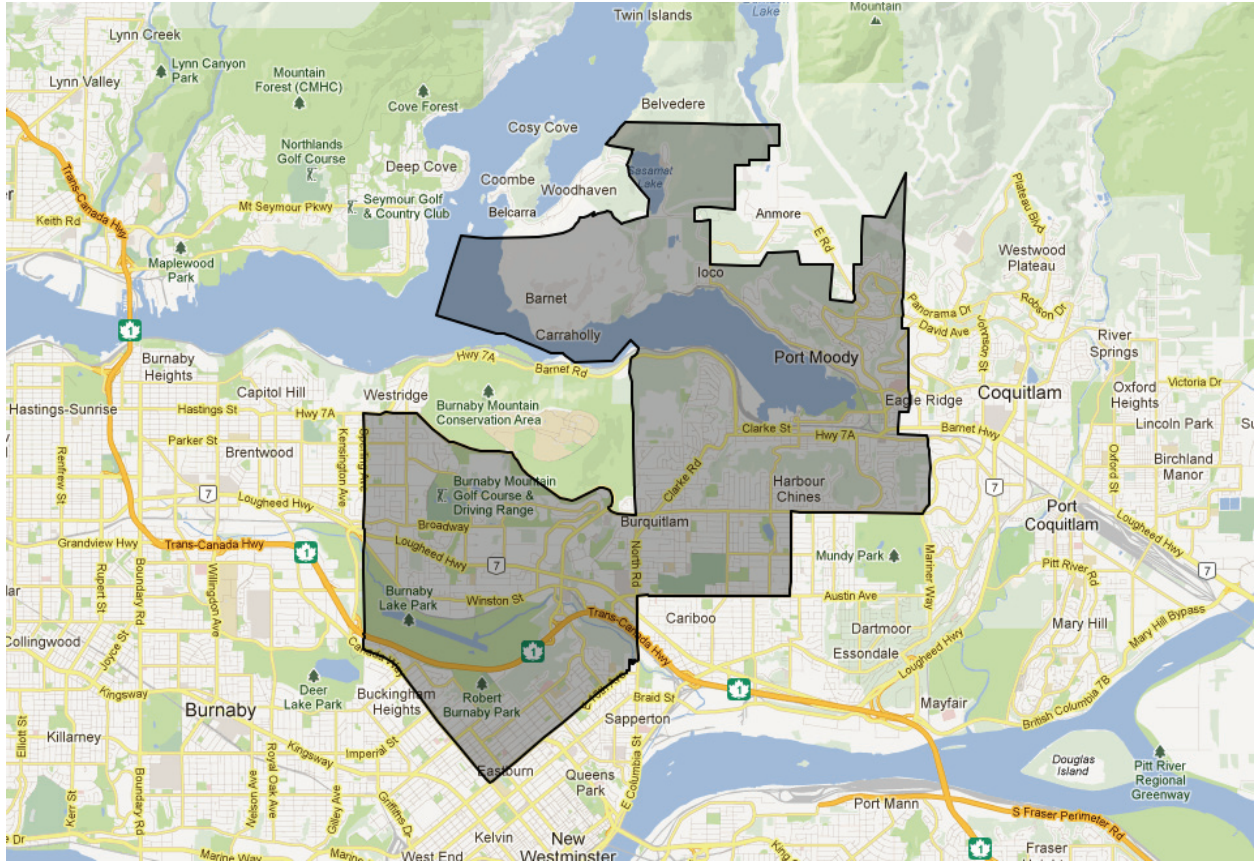
BURNABY NORTH — SEYMOUR

Proposal from P. Julian and K. Stewart: Burnaby — Douglas



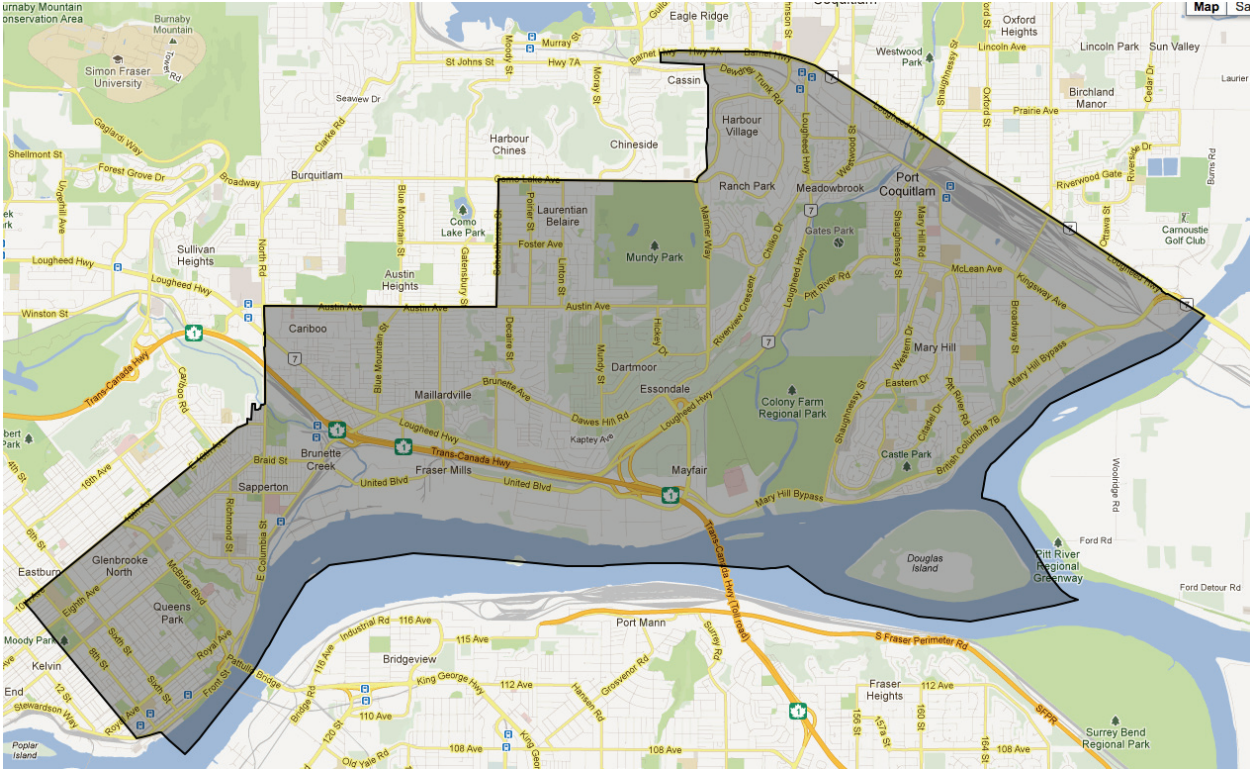
PORT MOODY – COQUITLAM

Proposal from P. Julian and K. Stewart: Port Moody — Burquitlam

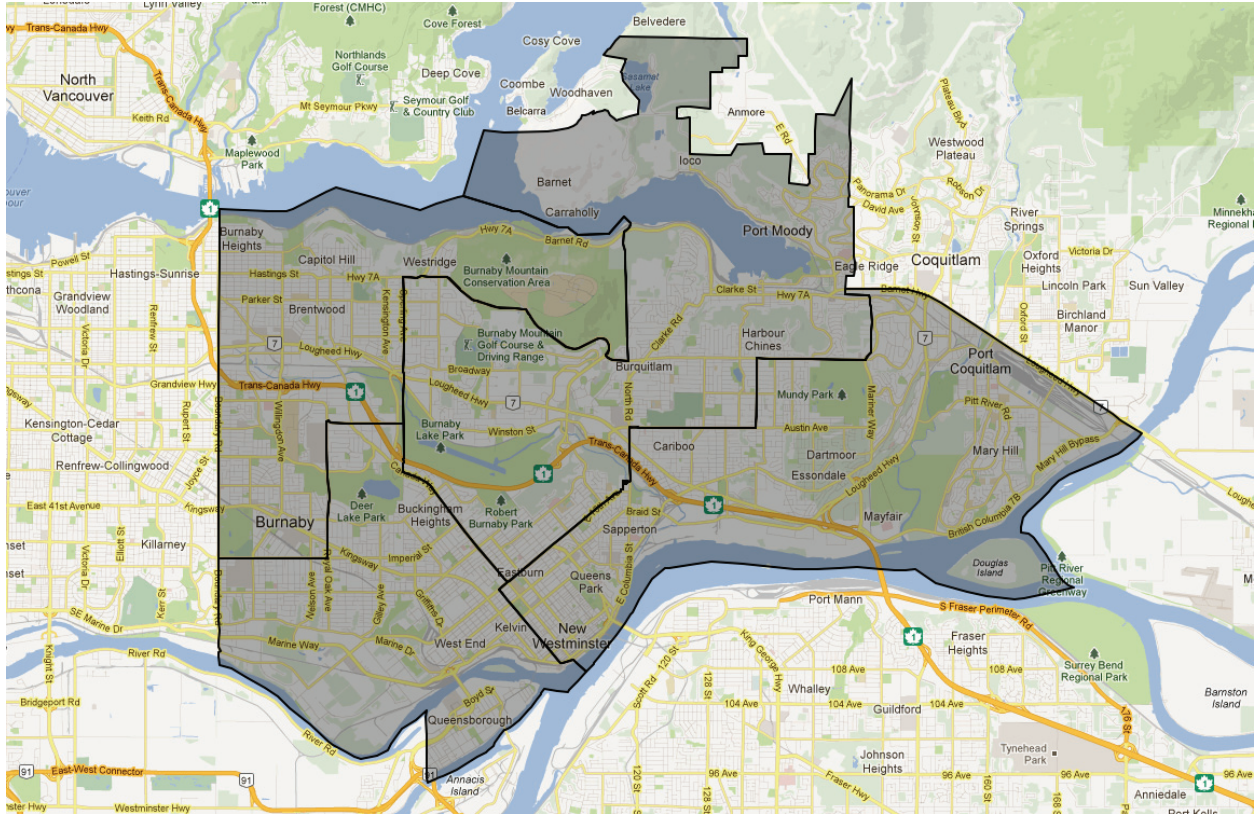


NEW WESTMINSTER – BURNABY

Proposal from P. Julian and K. Stewart: New Westminster — Coquitlam



COMPLETE PROPOSAL FROM P. JULIAN AND K. STEWART



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