



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES
COMMISSION

2025-26 Electoral Boundaries Commission

FINAL REPORT



February 27, 2026

Honourable Shane Thompson
Speaker
Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly

Dear Mr. Speaker

On May 27, 2025, the Legislative Assembly established an Electoral Boundaries Commission. As required by the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act and the Terms of Reference issued by the Legislative Assembly, we are pleased to provide our Final Report outlining our unanimous recommendations for electoral boundaries in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Daryl Dolynny
Commissioner

Ms. Georgina Rolt
Commissioner

Hon. Robert Gorin
Commissioner & Chair

Mr. Samuel Dyck
Commissioner

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly
Commissioner

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Introduction

The Electoral Boundaries Commission Act (the Act) requires the electoral boundaries of the Northwest Territories be reviewed within two years of the 2023 territorial election. The Legislative Assembly passed a motion on May 27, 2025, to establish an Electoral Boundaries Commission. The Commission is composed of Judge Robert Gorin, a judge of the territorial court, as chair, with Mr. Daryl Dolynny, Mr. Samuel Dyck, Mr. Kevin O'Reilly and Ms. Georgina Rolt as members.

The Commission was directed to issue an interim report with an option of 19 electoral districts, as well as any other options the Commission felt warranted. We released the interim report on November 3, 2025. The interim report was the basis for public engagement and comment. Throughout this report, we have included words or sentiments from our public engagement. We have used these quotes to illustrate public feedback, but they do not necessarily reflect our views.

The Commission was directed to complete a final report within nine months of being established. This final report fulfills the Commission's obligations.

Mandate

Electoral boundaries commissions are independent commissions established according to legislation to review electoral boundaries in Canadian jurisdictions and to make recommendations to legislatures. Changes in population and society make it necessary to conduct periodic reviews of electoral districts to ensure that voters are effectively represented. Members of the public have challenged perceived underrepresentation through the courts in the past.

In the Northwest Territories, the Commission is mandated to review the area, boundaries, name and representation of existing electoral districts, and to provide the Legislative Assembly with recommendations on proposed changes to better reflect the population. The Commission is required to hold public hearings throughout the territory to hear directly from the public on existing and proposed districts.

The role of the Commission is to make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly, taking into consideration public feedback. The Members of the Legislative Assembly decide which recommendations, if any, to accept.

For this Commission, the Legislative Assembly provided terms of reference which required the Commission to prepare an interim report for public review, with one model having 19 electoral districts, and any other models with greater than 19 districts that the Commission felt warranted. The terms of reference are included as appendix A.

In the Northwest Territories, the Commission is must ensure these changes reflect the diverse

fabric of our population. This requires a balancing of population numbers with factors such as cultural identities, communities of interest, land claims, the dynamics between regional centers and small communities, the various languages spoken, and the places where residents engage in commerce.

We conducted a thorough review of previous electoral boundaries commissions dating back to 1998, as well as the discussions held by Members of the Legislative Assembly throughout those review periods. We also examined legal precedents across Canada and sought legal advice to inform our methodologies for the interim report. As noted during our public engagement, our task resembles assembling a 45,000-piece puzzle, to create effective representation for all the voters of the Northwest Territories today and for the next eight years.

The Commission's interim report was released on November 3, 2025, and contained proposals for 19, 20, 21 and 22 electoral districts.

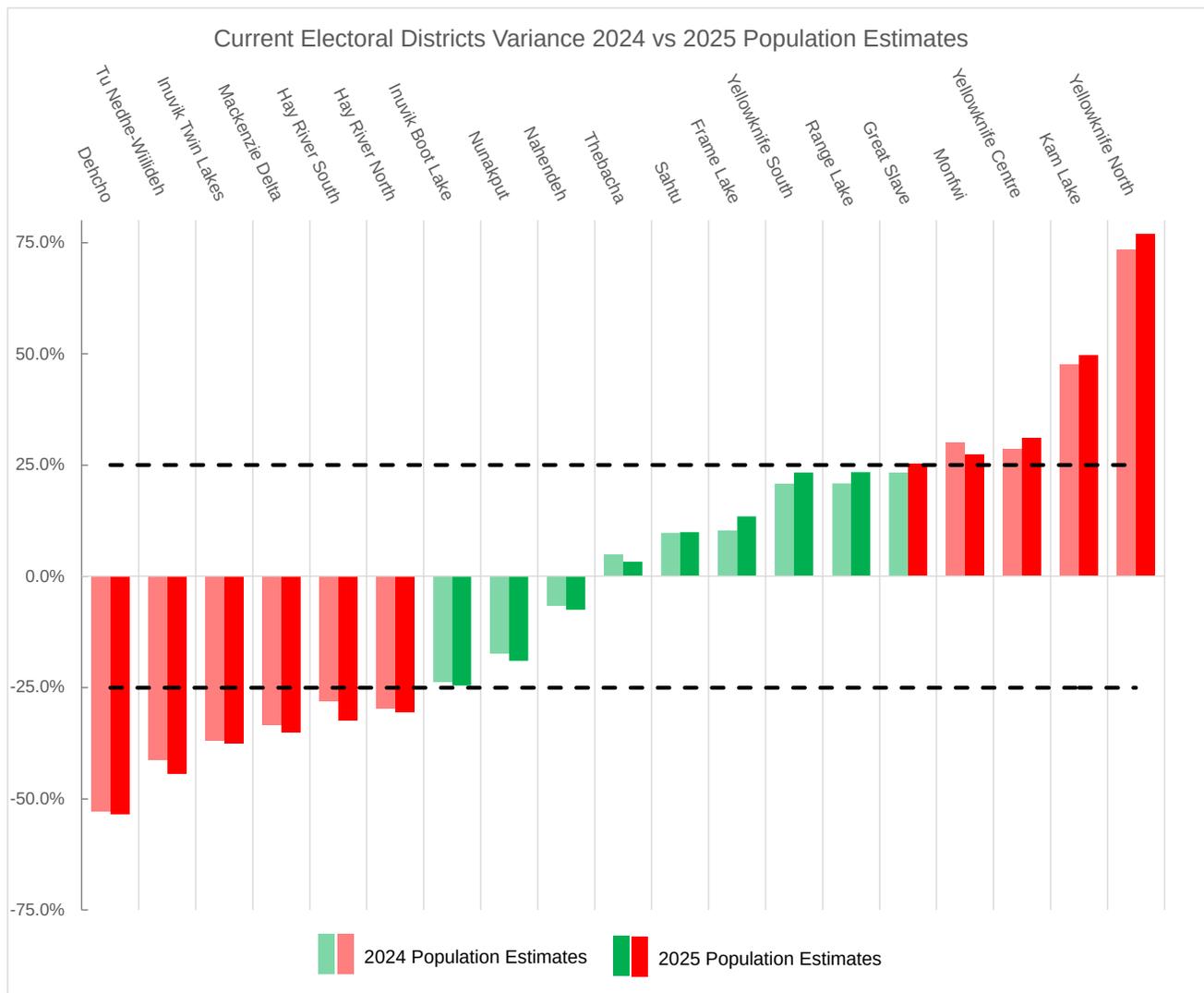


From left: Daryl Dolynny, Georgina Rolt, Judge R.D. Gorin, Sam Dyck, Kevin O'Reilly

Context

Our interim report used the 2024 population estimates. The 2025 community population numbers became available after the Commission had released the interim report. We started every public hearing noting we would use the updated numbers for our final report. The 2025 population estimates from the NWT Bureau of Statistics have significantly influenced both the final report and the Commission's recommendations. The effect of the population changes on our report underscores the dynamic nature of our population and the importance of timely data in shaping electoral boundaries.

We present those numbers here (darker colour), along with what the differences from the 2024 numbers (lighter colours) we have used in the interim report. The population of the NWT increased by over 1,200 people between the 2024 and 2025 projections, which also impacts the average population calculation.



Key Terms

There are key terms we use throughout this report. While we have defined them in the interim report, we do so again now for ease of reference.

Average Population

The average population is the number of residents in each electoral district if all electoral districts had the same number of people. The number changes as the territorial population increases or decreases.

There are **45,950** residents in the NWT as of July 2025. That means with **19** electoral districts, the current average population is **2,418**.

Relative Parity

Relative voter parity means the weight of each citizen's vote is nearly the same among all electoral districts.

Absolute voter parity means each electoral district has the same number of residents. It is impossible to achieve because electoral district boundary lines cannot be drawn in a way that guarantees the same number of residents in each electoral district. The number of residents changes constantly as people move, are born, or die.

Relative parity is achieved when the number of residents in each electoral district is roughly the same as the average population. Relative parity requires that the variations in the number of residents across different electoral districts should be kept as small as reasonably possible to achieve equitable representation. In striving for relative parity, the Commission's aim is to prevent disparities that could lead to some voters having more influence than others, thereby promoting fairness and integrity in our democratic process.

Electoral Districts	2025 Population Estimates	Variance
Northwest Territories	45950	2418
Nunakput	1960	-19.0%
Inuvik Boot Lake	1825	-24.5%
Inuvik Twin Lakes	1512	-37.5%
Mackenzie Delta	1573	-35.0%
Sahtu	2659	9.9%
Nahendeh	2236	-7.5%
Dehcho	1127	-53.4%
Hay River North	1680	-30.5%
Hay River South	1637	-32.3%
Thebacha	2498	3.3%
Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh	1349	-44.2%
Monfwi	3078	27.3%
Frame Lake	2744	13.5%
Great Slave	3031	25.3%
Kam Lake	3622	49.8%
Range Lake	2986	23.5%
Yellowknife Centre	3171	31.1%
Yellowknife North	4279	76.9%
Yellowknife South	2983	23.3%

Variation/Deviation

Variation, variance, or deviation is a measure reported as a percentage of the difference between the population of a district and the territorial average population. Ideally there should be equality of voting power throughout the Northwest Territories, however, where deviations are justified according to the data and the legal factors, the acceptable range of deviations should stay within +/- 25% to ensure relative parity.

As an example, with the current territorial average being **2,418**, an acceptable deviation would be within +/- **605** people. This means the acceptable deviation is between **1,814** and **3,023**.

Our Terms of Reference state “relative parity between electoral districts shall be sought, to the extent possible, except where special circumstances warrant exceptional deviation”.

“Relative parity” is then defined as a range of deviation of 25% above or below the average riding population: “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”.

In summary, the foregoing terms can be defined as follows:

- *Zero Variance*: 0% - absolute parity – an electoral district with 2418 residents has 0% variance.
- *Underrepresentation*: >25% - an electoral district with more than 3,023 residents.
- *Overrepresentation*: <25% - an electoral district with fewer than 1,814 residents.

Effective Representation

Section 3 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and applicable cases from the Supreme Court of Canada require that “effective representation” of voters must be the ultimate goal of this commission as required by the case. Effective representation corresponds to the ability of each member of a legislative assembly to adequately represent the people in their electoral district.

The goal of effective representation requires the Commission endeavor to achieve relative voter parity. In other words, we must attempt to ensure as closely as possible an equal number of voters in each electoral district, so each citizen’s vote has roughly equal weight. That said, effective representation also requires we attempt to ensure that “communities of interest” and the diversity of the NWT’s population are represented to the fullest extent possible.

In short, in order to achieve effective representation, the Commission must balance the goals of relative voter parity and representation of communities of interest with each other where they are not fully compatible.

“The Gwich’in are striving for self-determination. What message does reducing their representation send?”

Inuvik attendee

Community of Interest

The concept of a “community of interest” is important in electoral district design.

A community of interest is a group of people who share common bonds within a geographic area. These bonds can include language, culture, history, transportation links, economic interests, social networks, demographic characteristics, and shared political concerns.

At this time, there is no generally agreed upon definition of “community of interest” provided in Canadian electoral boundary legislation or in case law.

The Terms of Reference direct us to consider in “Language, culture and any other special community or diversity of interests of the residents of any part of the Northwest Territories.” The Terms of Reference also instruct us to consider other relevant aspects of community of interest, including “Demographic factors” and “community boundaries”.

It is important to recognize Indigenous peoples form various communities of interest.

Our Terms of Reference also instruct us to consider “self-government agreements, including land claim and treaty land entitlement agreements”. The general requirements in the Terms of Reference to consider “special circumstances” and to weigh “any other similar and relevant factors that the Commission considers appropriate” also require the Commission to consider the impact of proposed boundaries on Indigenous communities of interest.

Practicable Impossibility

‘Practicable impossibility’ is a relevant factor in electoral boundary design in Canada and in particular in the Northwest Territories, not only due to our various communities of interest, but also our vast and varied geography. Our Terms of Reference require us to consider “Geographic factors, including the accessibility, size or shape of any area”.

Some potential district boundaries are simply impractical because of the impact of geographic features such as remoteness, mountain ranges, lakes, and so on. Practical impossibility may also arise in the absence of direct transportation routes, where there is no road or air route connecting communities that could otherwise be in a single district.

Technology does assist to some extent in overcoming the challenges posed by geography and transport. Given the vast geography of the NWT, practical impossibility is an important factor, especially in considering what constitutes “special circumstances” which “warrant exceptional deviation,” to use the language of our Terms of Reference.

Practical impossibility may also be relevant where communities which share common features, such as a language or identity, are separated geographically. In such instances, it may not be

practical to design electoral boundaries to include these communities within the same district, despite their similarities, given the geographic distances or barriers involved. For instance, we could not achieve relative parity by including Inuvialuit residents in Yellowknife with Nunakput, even if we could draw the boundary in such a way that allowed for it.

Overview of the Public Process

The Commission website hosted the interim report, provided members of the public with the ability to make a written submission, and included the schedule for public engagement. The objective was to encourage public participation through hearings and written submissions.

The Commission issued a news release announcing our interim report. The Chair conducted media interviews in the days following our release of the interim report. The Commission wrote to the Senior Administrative Officer of every community in the Northwest Territories advising them of the interim report, and for those communities where public hearings were scheduled, the details of where and when the hearing would be held. The Commission also advised all Members of the Legislative Assembly of the hearings in their districts or communities and invited them to attend.

The Commission had a public hearing in every district where we were proposing possible changes. In districts with significant changes, the Commission endeavored to hold hearings in at least two communities. The Commission had interpreters available in communities where another official language was commonly spoken, and Commissioners spoke on local radio with interpreters in some communities to raise awareness of our work.



On the radio in Fort Providence with interpreter Berna Matto

The Commission held 12 public hearings in 11 communities between December 3, 2025, and January 12, 2026. Unfortunately, one scheduled hearing in Fort Liard had to be cancelled due to weather. Attendance at public hearings varied from a high of 15 in Dettah to 2 in Behchokò. In total, 70 people participated in the hearings. At some hearings, there were requests for a follow-up meeting with the Commission due to low attendance or because local community leaders had not attended the hearing. The Commission was unable to reschedule public hearings but did offer to meet virtually should a community make the request. Ultimately no community requested a virtual hearing. Communities and residents were encouraged to make written submissions to the Commission if they were unable to attend a public hearing.

The Commission does not feel that low attendance in a community means there are no concerns with representation. Every public hearing had members of the public speak and provide valuable insights the Commission greatly appreciated. The Commission prepared summaries of each public hearing and posted them to our website. The summaries are included as Appendix B.

The Commission was very pleased that members of the public made 77 written submissions. Public feedback is an essential part of our process, and the quality of the submissions, both written and in person, impressed the Commission.

“There’s representation, and then there’s access.”
Inuvik attendee

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

Summary of Public Comments

Comments made in many of the written submissions and during our public hearings presented several common themes. These are summarized, with the Commission's response.

The Ingraham Trail

The submissions the public provided to the Commission on our initial proposal to merge the Ingraham Trail with Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh rather than a Yellowknife district were overwhelmingly opposed to the idea. The Commission proposed this change to increase the total population of Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, which has the second lowest population of any electoral district. We had also considered that the rural, municipally-unorganized nature of the trail might fit with the communities of Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, as it is geographically within the Akaitcho negotiation process area. When we held a public hearing in Dettah, leadership with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation indicated they were opposed and not supportive of this change.

Commission Response

Given that residents of Ingraham Trail provided a clear response to remain represented as part of Yellowknife, and the Yellowknives Dene leadership opposes including a predominantly non-Indigenous population in a majority Indigenous district, the Commission has decided to recommend the Ingraham Trail be included in a Yellowknife district. However, the Commission recommends the Dettah Access Road from Highway 4 to the community as those residents are primarily Yellowknives Dene First Nation citizens, and that portion of Highway 3 from the western city border to Boundary Creek be moved to the Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh district.

Reducing the number of electoral districts

The Commission heard several submissions recommending the total number of electoral districts should be reduced from 19. Rationale included:

- the cost of representation;
- a belief that the population is declining;
- economic uncertainty;
- the number of residents currently represented by each MLA being fairly low;
- a greater role being played by Indigenous governments;
- there are enough politicians already;
- access to MLAs is easy and doesn't need to be easier;
- we do not need more MLAs to echo that there is a housing, healthcare, and Infrastructure deficit in the NWT; and
- more districts only benefit Yellowknife.

Cost of Democratic Representation

The Commission also heard several submissions arguing for increasing the number of districts:

- All districts should be within variance for fair representation;
- Adding districts allows for small communities to maintain their own representative;
- Adding MLAs strengthens representation and allows for more voices bringing broader perspectives;
- Proximity to government should not mean less representation in that government;
- Fair representation is not a luxury; it is a constitutional obligation. Modest cost of additional districts is justified; and
- A larger Assembly has greater capacity.

Commission Response

The Commission's terms of reference the Legislative Assembly clearly directed us to consider a 19-district model, and any other model with over 19 districts that we felt warranted.

Yellowknife's population, even in a smaller-than-19-district Legislative Assembly, would likely still warrant an additional district. There are choices made in the 19-district model in this report that, in the Commission's opinion, are detrimental to the representation of the impacted communities. These problems would only be magnified should further districts be eliminated.

The Commission did consider the cost of adding additional Members to the GNWT budget. The Commission estimated the cost of each additional Member as approximately \$250,000 per year for a Yellowknife-based Member, and \$315,000 for a non-Yellowknife Member. Under our recommended 22-district model, this would be an increase to the territorial budget of a little less than \$900,000, on an operational budget of more than \$2.39 billion. Three additional Members represents a 0.038% increase to the territorial budget. It is our view that democracy is worth this investment.

Item	Cost (YK)	Cost (non-YK)
MLA Salary	\$122,000	\$122,000
Pension & Benefits	\$15,000	\$15,000
Expense allowance	\$8,786	\$8,786
Northern Allowance	\$3,700	\$5,332-\$20,768
Constituency Allowance	\$96,000	\$101,000-\$113,000
Accommodation Allowance	\$0	\$32,000
Total	\$245,486	\$311,554

MLA salary and allowances from the NT Legislative Assembly Annual Report 2024-25. Pension is estimated as a percentage of pay <https://www.ntlegislativeassembly.ca/file/2024-25-legislative-assembly-annual-report>

Multi-Member Districts

Several people provided submissions in favour and against multi-member districts (also referred to by some as “slates”). Those arguing in favour of multi-member districts stated that they:

- Allow for more choice amongst Yellowknife voters;
- Are similar to the municipal government and election model; and
- Do not create artificial divisions in the city to create separate districts.

Those against multi-members districts stated:

- There could be confusion over who to contact for constituency issues;
- There could be difficulty in balancing MLA workloads;
- It is unclear if this model would be welcomed in Hay River or Inuvik; and
- Minority neighbourhoods could be ignored.

Commission Response

Multi-member districts have been used in many Canadian jurisdictions in the past, including in Parliament until 1968. British Columbia used dual-member districts in Vancouver until 1991. Prince Edward Island exclusively used dual-member districts from 1873 until 1996. A plebiscite was held in 1997 for the not-yet established territory of Nunavut to determine whether each electoral district should elect a male and female member. The plebiscite was rejected with 57% opposed.

Since 1996, all Canadian jurisdictions have used single member districts for federal, provincial and territorial legislatures.

The Commission obtained legal advice on whether we had the authority to recommend multi-member districts, and whether a multi-member district would comply with section 3 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

While we likely could recommend multi-member districts under the terms of reference, allowing for a multi-member district would involve changes to legislation, including the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, and the *Elections and Plebiscites Act*. Significant public education would also need to take place. Absent the Legislative Assembly clearly directing us to broadly consult on changing from single-member districts to multi-member districts in municipalities with more than one district, we have decided to not recommend this model.

New Districts

The Commission received proposals for new electoral districts, including a standalone Aklavik district and a new district encompassing Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, and Ulukhaktok.

Commission Response

In both these cases, the proposals were to separate a smaller community or communities from a larger district, to better represent their needs.

It should be noted creating a new Nunakput district, with a separate district for Tuktoyaktuk, would result in the two least populated electoral districts in the Northwest Territories:

Electoral District	Population	Variance (%) (20 seats)	Variance (%) (23 seats)
Tuktoyaktuk	1,026	-55.34%	-48.64%
Nunakput	934	-59.35%	-53.25%

Splitting Mackenzie Delta would result in even smaller districts:

Electoral District	Population	Variance (%) (20 seats)	Variance (%) (23 seats)
Aklavik	648	-71.80%	-67.56%
Fort McPherson & Tsiigehtchic	925	-59.74%	-53.70%

In both these cases, absent any changes proposed in this report, creating the proposed districts would result in Monfwi and every Yellowknife district being well outside the allowable variance, and very underrepresented. Even taking the 22-district model recommended in this report and adding either of these additional districts results in these proposed districts being massively over-represented. Adding one of these districts also means the Sahtu, Thebacha and the 9 Yellowknife districts would all be outside +25% variance, and unduly under-represented.

While the Commission heard impassioned arguments for why the given community was unique even compared to neighbouring communities, we are concerned that favouring one community at the expense of others is consistent with our overarching goal of effective representation for everyone. In arriving at that goal, we must take into account parity as well as communities of interest. Adding a district for a small community or group of small communities may give those communities a sense they are better represented, but it comes at the expense of everyone else in the territory having their representation diluted.

To split Nunakput into two districts without having a negative impact on the representation of other territorial residents, there would need to be 33 districts in the territory. For Aklavik to have its own district, there would need to be a minimum of 37 electoral districts.

“Fairness becomes unfair if no one is speaking for us.”

Aklavik attendee

The Commission did examine the possibility of adding Aklavik to an Inuvik district. There was little support expressed for the 19-district model that proposed merging the Mackenzie Delta district with Inuvik's two districts. Under the 22-district model, Inuvik could be rebalanced to accommodate the 648 residents of Aklavik. However, this would result in the remaining district of Mackenzie Delta having just 925 people.

Changes in Dehcho and Nahendeh

In the interim report, the Commission had proposed the possibility of significant changes to the Dehcho and Nahendeh districts in various options. This included merging the Dehcho district with Hay River, and in other options, including the Nahendeh communities of Fort Liard, Nahanni Butte and Samba K'e in the Dehcho district. The Commission heard from residents in both written submissions and in person that the six communities of the Nahendeh district wish to remain together. Fort Simpson is the transportation hub for Samba K'e, and the service centre for the region. Most comments indicated there was limited, if any, connection to Fort Providence.

Commission Response

The Commission is not recommending any changes to the existing Nahendeh district following our public consultations.

The Commission heard from residents in Fort Providence, Enterprise and the Kát'odeeche First Nation on the options we presented in the interim report. Submissions from Enterprise were in favour of remaining in the Dehcho district and not being part of a Hay River district. The Commission received an alternate model for the 19-districts, which we considered. However, we ultimately faced the same issues we address later in this report where we deal with the 19-district model that the Legislative Assembly required us to provide. The submissions we received from the Dehcho communities and Hay River generally opposed merging those electoral ridings with each other.

“Proper representation needs someone who understands that community. Merging small communities with regional centres leaves them underrepresented.”

Hay River attendee

While not directly in response to the Commission's proposed changes to Dehcho and Nahendeh, we also heard considerable confusion between the Dehcho district name and the Dehcho First Nations negotiations and the communities involved in that process.

Issues Raised Outside of the Commission's Mandate

The Commission heard some concerns that fell outside of our mandate, and we are therefore unable to comment on them. These concerns included:

- Administrative regions not aligning with electoral districts. This included confusion about the relationship between political representation and budget allocation to administrative regions;

- The composition of Cabinet or the Executive Council;
- Self-government agreements;
- MLA workloads between urban and rural districts and between regular MLAs and Cabinet members;
- Too much weight being given to parity instead of representation per community;
- The possible impact of more Yellowknife districts on the drawing down of powers through self-government, and more generally how this might impact decentralization; and
- “Yellowknife already has a great deal, adding more districts will lead to them getting even more” (paraphrasing many public meeting attendees).

“Why is per capita representation more important than need?”

Fort Providence attendee



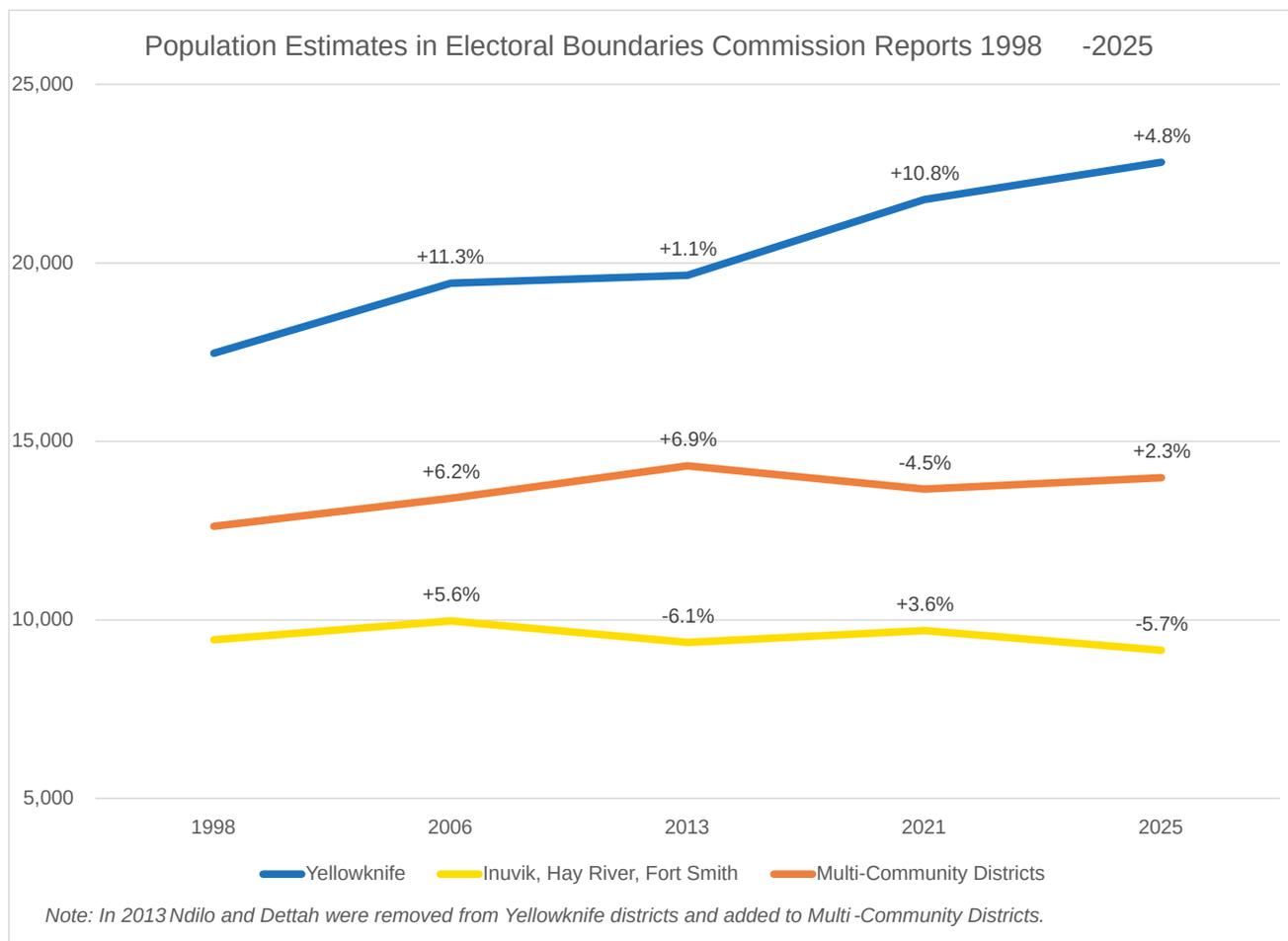
Fort McPherson public meeting

Population Changes 1998-2025

The Commission feels we should respond to a common line of questioning - we heard in many communities and through many written submissions that the population is in decline, and therefore no changes were needed.

Our primary source for population estimates is the NWT Bureau of Statistics, which also provided our predecessor Commissions with population estimates. Using the community populations listed in each report allows us to graph population changes across the NWT since 1998¹

[1]



¹ All previous Electoral Boundaries Commissions reports are available on the Elections NWT website: <https://www.electionsnwt.ca/en/elections-and-administration>

The impending closure of the diamond mines raises questions over what will happen to population growth in Yellowknife and the communities that have benefitted from jobs and economic growth driven by the mines. Some residents advised the commission they felt mine closures will lead to a sustained population decline. However, in Whatì the Commission heard people might move home to smaller communities, now that they will not have to commute to the mine sites, and that community is planning a new subdivision.

The Commission does not have a crystal ball. We do not know what the future holds. We must make our recommendations using the best available information. The NWT Bureau of Statistics has community population projections for 2024-2044.² We note those projections expect the territory's population to grow at a slow rate through to 2034. However, it must be noted even that estimate has been surpassed by the new 2025 population numbers. International migration has become one of the primary sources of population growth in the NWT. While international migration was halved in 2025 compared to 2024³, likely due to changes made by the federal government, the previous cap of 300 positions was restored in November 2025 and was quickly filled.⁴ Using this data, the Commission believes it is likely the NWT population will continue to modestly grow. This population growth will not be evenly spread across the NWT, and it is anticipated that some communities will experience population growth while others will see decline.

The Commission also heard from communities that are planning major property developments, including in Inuvik, Whatì, Hay River and Dettah. Community government leaders advised the Commission about difficulties in recruiting and retaining employees when housing is scarce. They further advised by making land available for development, their communities are planning for population growth.

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

³ Jan-Sept 2025 saw an increase of 256 people due to international migration. The same period in 2024 saw an increase of 514 people.

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

Options and Recommendations

This Commission has concluded if relative voter parity is to be respected, political representation needs to be redistributed to areas of population growth by either:

- A.** consolidating electoral districts with smaller populations; **or**
- B.** creating additional electoral districts.

For the reasons that follow, we have determined adding more districts to the Legislative Assembly is the preferable option and a modified version of the 22-district model we presented in our interim report is the only model we are recommending.

The Status Quo

The 1998 Electoral Boundaries Commission report listed the territorial population post-division at 39,535. The 2025 population estimate provided to this Commission from the NWT Bureau of Statistics is 45,950. Put another way, the territory's population has grown by approximately 16% in the last 27 years.

Comparing the population estimates from the 1998 report and the 2025 population estimates shows that population growth has not been spread evenly across the territory. The Tłıchq region has grown by approximately 20%, and Nunakput by 9%. Yellowknife has seen the greatest population growth of around 23%. This is the equivalent of a little more than two electoral districts, with the current average of 2,418 residents per electoral district.

Due to this growth, redistribution within the existing 7 districts is not possible within the allowable variances. As University of Ottawa Law Professor Dr. Michael Pal noted to the Commission:

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A district may be under-represented by more than +25% as a result of other districts being over-represented as special circumstances justifying deviations beyond -25%. This type of deviation will be the hardest to justify. The disadvantaged district is under-represented in the service of aiding another district, rather than because the community accepts that having an under-represented but cohesive riding is to its own benefit.

The Commission has heard from both the Tłıchq Government and the City of Yellowknife, as well as from residents of those areas, that they do not believe the underrepresentation is acceptable.

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"Tłıchq are one people. I would be concerned with any proposal that moves a Tłıchq community in with non-Tłıchq communities."

Behchokò attendee

This is not a new issue. Commissions since 2006 have recommended additional representation for Yellowknife. Yellowknife’s underrepresentation in the territorial legislature has been challenged twice in court - successfully in 1998, and unsuccessfully in 2015. In 2015 Justice Charbonneau in *City of Yellowknife et al v Commissioner of NWT et al*, 2015 NWTSC 51 (beginning at para 56.) stated:

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In *Friends of Democracy v. Northwest Territories (Attorney General)*, the electoral boundaries were also challenged on the basis of the under-representation of Yellowknife voters, and this Court concluded that its intervention was warranted. But the situation was dramatically different then: the electoral boundaries that were being challenged in that case would have resulted in the under-representation of one of the Yellowknife districts by 152%, and of another by 49%. Two of the electoral districts outside of Yellowknife were over-represented by 63% and 70%.

Bill 18 creates electoral boundaries that result in the under-representation for the Yellowknife districts, but not to the same degree. On the whole of the evidence, I conclude that there exists a justification for this level of under-representation, all things considered, keeping in mind the overarching principle that the ultimate goal is overall effective representation.

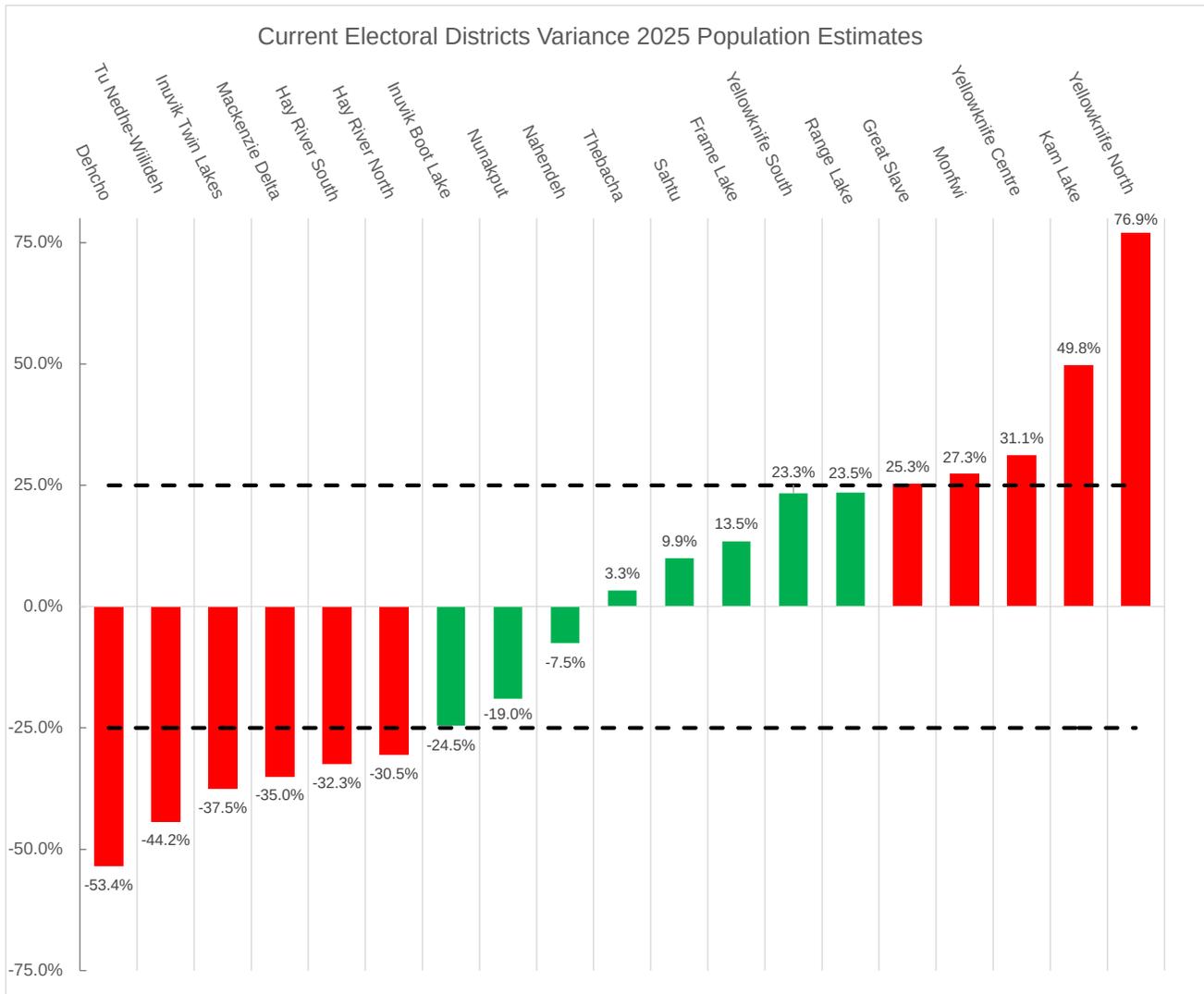
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By way of background, in 2015, Bill 18 followed the courts directive with proposed boundaries resulting in the seven Yellowknife districts varying from the territorial average between +21.3% and +24.3%. However, it is very important to note those boundaries have not been adjusted since, and Yellowknife districts now sit between +13.5% and +76.9% above the average.

With the current variances in population by electoral district, a voter in Dehcho has nearly 4 times the voting power of a voter in Yellowknife North. Even if the Yellowknife districts could be evenly represented, each of the 7 districts would be +34.8% above the territorial average. In voting power, you would need three Yellowknife votes to match a single vote in Dehcho.⁵

Electoral District	2015 Population	2025 Population
Frame Lake	2,767	2,744
Great Slave	2,836	3,031
Kam Lake	2,668	3,622
Range Lake	2,826	2,986
Yellowknife Centre	2,832	3,171
Yellowknife North	2,800	4,279
Yellowknife South	2,926	2,983

⁵ Calculations on voting power are based on the formula found in “Is Every Ballot Equal?” <https://irpp.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/research/strengthening-canadian-democracy/is-every-ballot-equal/vol13no1.pdf>



We do not wish to downplay the challenges faced in smaller, more remote communities. Their representatives have difficult jobs and are required to be away from their homes whenever the work of the Legislative Assembly calls for them to be in Yellowknife. We heard from current and former Members of how constituents would often call the MLA first for assistance in navigating government issues.

We also heard from current and former Yellowknife Members, who do not have to travel as frequently, but do face challenging constituent issues, which can overlap governments and can involve many different backgrounds and languages. This is especially so when dealing with permanent residency, work permits, citizenship and healthcare challenges and a larger population base means more constituents. The residents of Yellowknife may live in geographic proximity to their Member, but that does not necessarily mean they have greater access to that representative.

We have wrestled with our core mandate, trying to achieve effective representation by balancing communities of interest with parity of voting power taking into account access to

government. In the end, we are guided by the words of Justice Beverley McLachlin of the Supreme Court of Canada in *Reference re Provincial Boundaries (Sask.)* [1991] 2 S.C.R. 158, p.184:

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What are the conditions of effective representation? 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 representation to the citizen whose vote is diluted. The legislative power of the citizen whose vote is diluted will be reduced, as may be access to and assistance from his or her representative. The result will be uneven and unfair representation.

But parity of voting power, though of prime importance, is not the only factor to be taken into account in ensuring effective representation...Notwithstanding the fact that the value of a citizen's vote should not be unduly diluted, it is a practical fact that effective representation often cannot be achieved without taking into account countervailing factors.

First, absolute parity is impossible. It is impossible to draw boundary lines which guarantee exactly the same number of voters in each district. Voters die; voters move. Even with the aid of frequent censuses, voter parity is impossible.

Secondly, such relative parity as may be possible of achievement may prove undesirable because it has the effect of detracting from the primary goal of effective representation. Factors like geography, community history, community interests and minority representation may need to be taken into account to ensure that our legislative assemblies effectively represent the diversity of our social mosaic. These are but examples of considerations which may justify departure from absolute voter parity in the pursuit of more effective representation; the list is not closed.

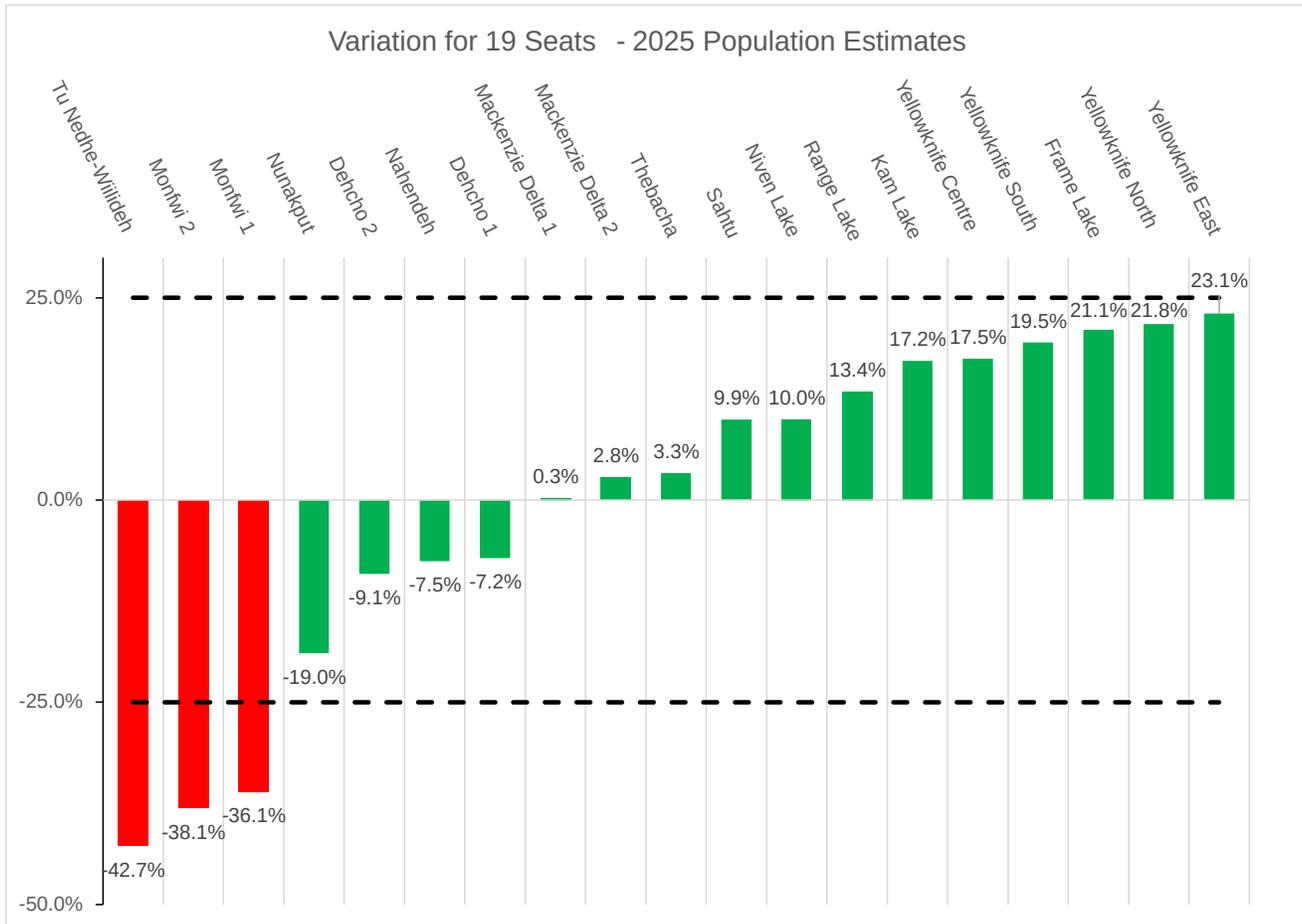
It emerges therefore that deviations from absolute voter parity may be justified on the grounds of practical impossibility or the provision of more effective representation. Beyond this, dilution of one citizen's vote as compared with another's should not be countenanced.

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We do not endorse the 19-district model we were required to produce. In our view it diminishes effective representation for residents in small communities in the current Dehcho and Mackenzie Delta districts. However, maintaining the distinct representation of those communities should not come at the expense of continued and chronic underrepresentation of Yellowknife.

We strongly and unanimously recommend against maintaining the status quo.

19-District Model



The Commission was required to propose a 19-district option. This is the best model the Commission could devise considering all factors, but ultimately, we are not in favour of the 19-district model and recommend against it.

If communities of interest are to be respected, it is not just a matter of moving lines around.

In our decision-making process, we gathered input through written submissions and talked to people face-to-face. The feedback was loud and clear: many residents feel strongly about keeping representation for smaller communities. To help guide our analysis we created a specific decision-making framework to help us evaluate different models. One of the key ideas we focused on was blending smaller communities with regional centers. These regional hubs are crucial for commerce, trade, and travel, connecting smaller communities to the larger region. However, what we heard from both small communities and the regional centres is that they wanted to keep their distinct voices in the Legislative Assembly.

Throughout our discussions, we aimed to find a balance that respected the connections between smaller communities and their urban counterparts. While the 19-district model was certainly a focal point for us, the community input and our guiding principles led the Commission to see that it just isn't a viable option. It's crucial to honor the diverse cultures and

communities in the NWT.

There are many different Indigenous cultures in the NWT. It is imperative those cultures be respected as communities of interest. This is why we cannot effectively take away from those areas to bring Yellowknife into the permissible range of variance.

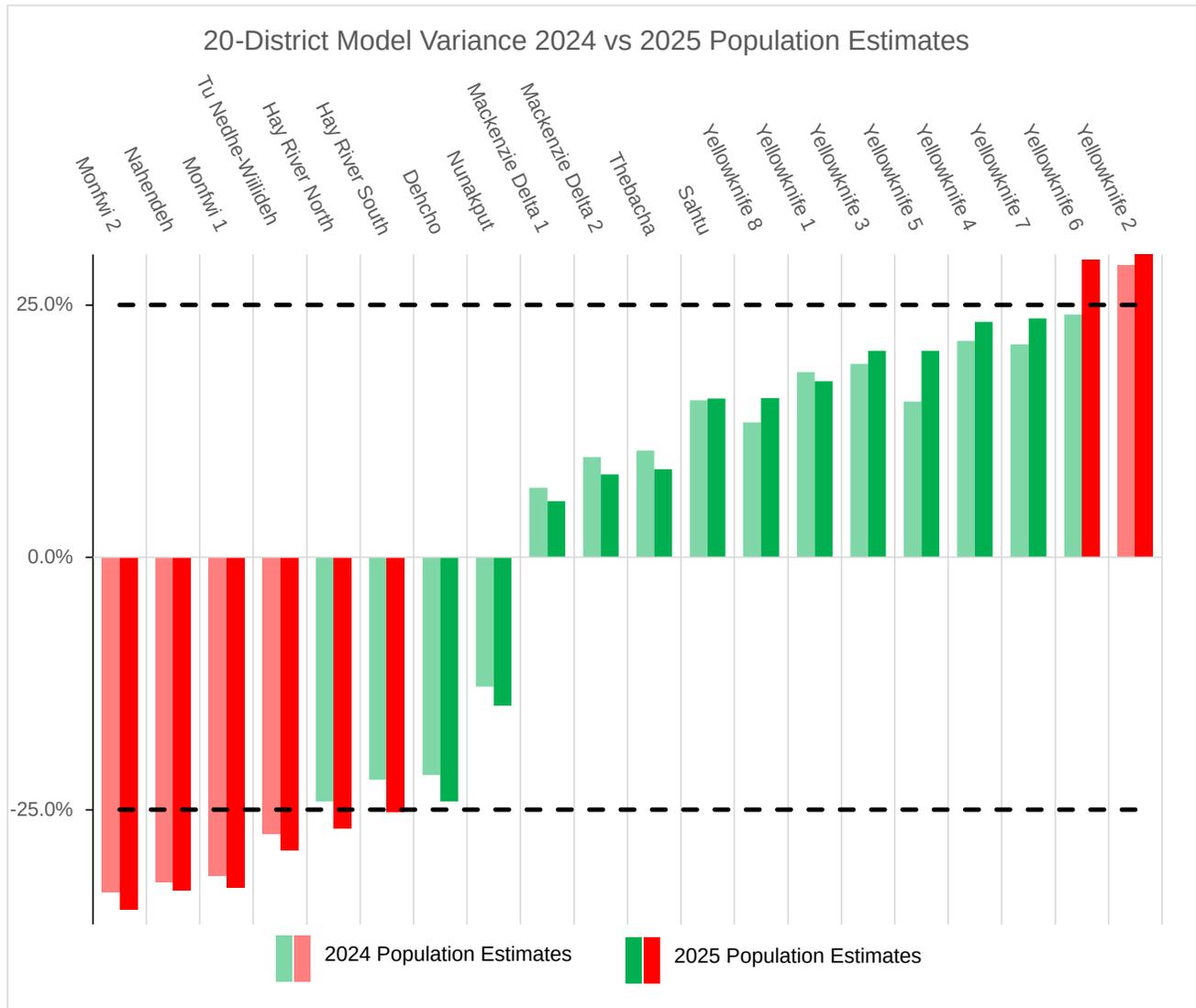
Maps illustrating the 19-district model can be found in Appendix A on pages 30-37

We strongly and unanimously recommend that the 19-district model we were directed to propose NOT be adopted. In our view, a 19-district model simply cannot adequately achieve effective representation for all residents of the Northwest Territories.



The Commission examining ways to divide Yellowknife into districts

20-District Model



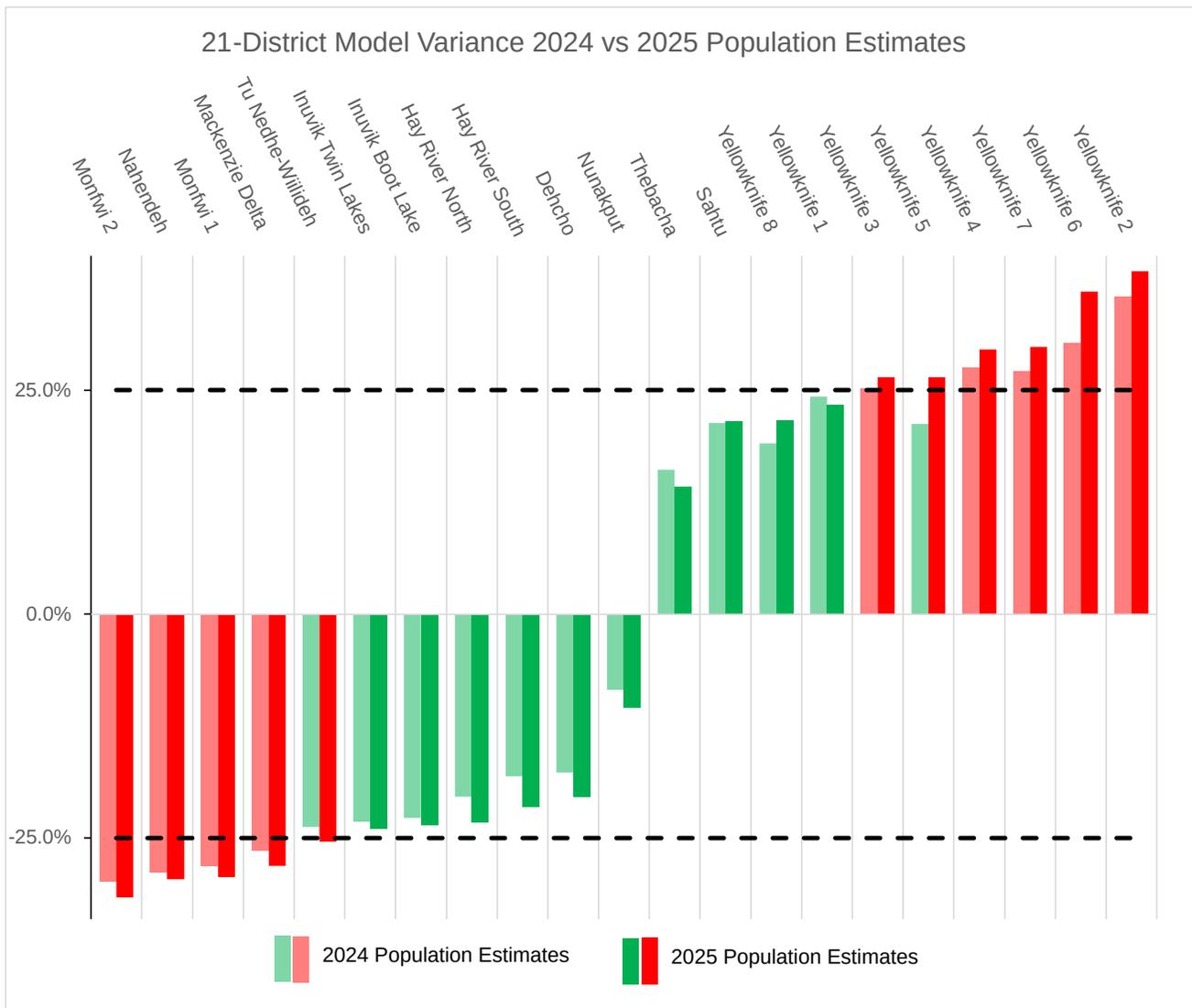
“We would be underrepresented if we were part of Inuvik. Everything is administered out of the centre. Our communities will lose their representation.”

Fort McPherson attendee

The Commission heard no support for this option in any of our public hearings or through submissions. It suffers from the same deficiencies as the 19-district model in representing communities of interest, albeit there may be fewer issues in the southern NWT with Dehcho communities keeping their districts or separate representation. The 2025 population estimates also show that 6 of the districts would be overrepresented. If the Yellowknife districts could be evenly distributed, they would each be at +24.1% or very close to being out of variance.

It is our view that both effective representation and parity of voting power are not achieved in this model, and we do not recommend it.

21-District Model

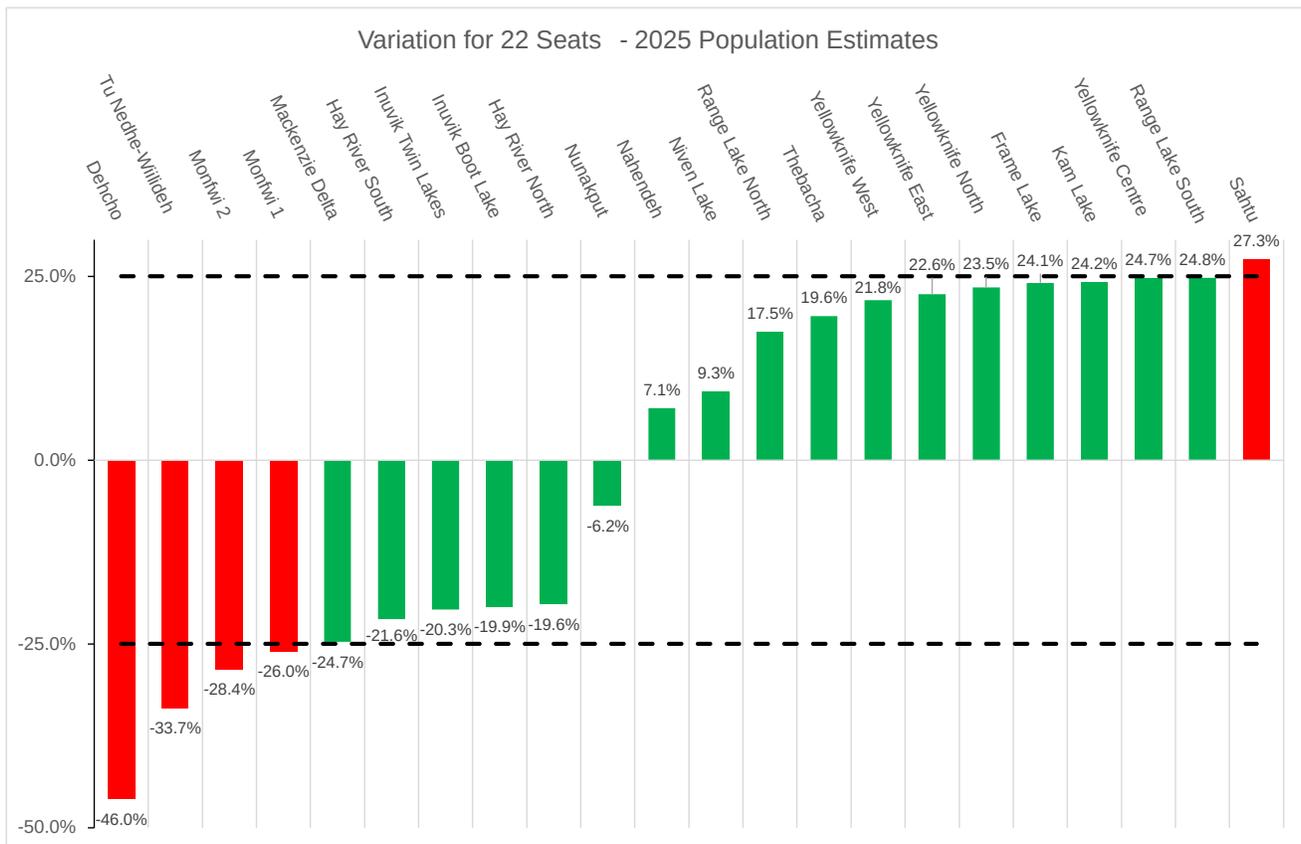


The Commission heard little support for this option, and even that was tempered by this being the next-least objectionable option after the 22-district model.

11 of the districts are out of variance once we applied the 2025 population estimates. If we were able to evenly distribute the populations of the 8 Yellowknife districts, they would each be at +30.3% above the territorial average and out of variance.

It is our view that both effective representation and parity of voting power are not achieved in this model, and we do not recommend it.

22-District Model



This model makes no changes to the current electoral districts of Nunakput, Mackenzie Delta, Sahtu, Nahendeh, Dehcho or Thebacha.

The changes made are to:

Inuvik - dividing line between Boot Lake and Twin Lakes is adjusted to better balance the population between the districts.

Hay River - dividing line between North and South is adjusted to better balance the population between the districts.

Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh - the boundaries are adjusted to include the Dettah Access Road, and Highway 3 from the western border of Yellowknife to Boundary Creek. These adjustments allow for a contiguous district without needing to create exclaves.

Yellowknife - 9 districts - the boundaries between the districts are adjusted to better balance the population and create two new districts. The district of Niven Lake is held at a lower population to reflect the ongoing development in the district, which we anticipate will bring the population of Niven in line with the other Yellowknife districts in the next few years.

There are four districts that will be over-represented by more than 25%.

- Dehcho
- Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh
- Monfwi 1&2

We examined many ways to try and bring the population of Dehcho and Tu Nedhé -Wiilideh closer to the territorial average. Each of these options had disadvantages that outweighed any benefit of increasing the population. Moving one or two small communities into Dehcho will not bring the district into variance. There are no other distinct larger population centres that can be moved into the district to increase the population.

The same is true for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh. The four communities of the district are distant from each other. There are no comparable communities bordering the district that could be added. Our proposal to include the Ingraham Trail residents was met with broad disapproval. The Commission heard from Dettah that there is a planned subdivision that may increase the population of the community.

We view these two districts as practicably impossible to bring into variance.

The creation of a second district out of Monfwi does make both new districts overrepresented. In the Commission's view, this is acceptable for two reasons. First, we cannot address the underrepresentation of Monfwi except by splitting the district into two. Moving a Tłıchq community into Dehcho or Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh is not an option in our opinion as it fails to respect that the Tłıchq are one people - in other words a community of interest - and have clearly expressed that their electoral districts should be kept together. Second, the Tłıchq region is experiencing sustained population growth. Behchokò and Whatì in particular are growing and are projected to continue to grow. Should this population growth continue, it is our expectation that both districts will be within the permissible variance range in a few years time.

The 22-district model we have proposed will result in the Sahtu being underrepresented. The Commission examined various options to avoid this; however, we rejected each as being unworkable. In order for the Sahtu to not be underrepresented, either a community would have to be moved into another district - Tulita into Nahendeh, for example; or the district would have to be split. It is our view that moving a community to another district disrupts the community of interest that the Sahtu communities comprise, as those 5 communities speak Dene Kǎdǎ, and fall under the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. However, splitting the district results in two very overrepresented districts, and would result in Yellowknife and Fort Smith each requiring an additional district. Population projections for Sahtu communities vary, with some projecting growth, while others are projected to decline. Overall, the region's population is estimated to remain quite stable. The Commission's view is that the Sahtu's underrepresentation is practicably impossible to address at the current time, and if the NWT's general population continues to grow, the Sahtu may well come into variance as the territorial average increases.

To achieve no district being underrepresented by 25% or more, there would need to be 29 districts, which is simply untenable in the opinion of the Commission. In this scenario there would still be two districts over-represented.

Despite our extensive examination of models up to 53 districts, we were unable to find an option that brought all districts into variance. We note with caution that, even within the 22-district model, all nine Yellowknife districts (representing over 40.9% of the total districts and 49.7% of the Northwest Territories' population) remain significantly underrepresented, facing an average variance approaching the limit of 25% relative to the territorial average. While the Commission is confident that this 22-district model aligns with today's legal standards and our terms of reference, it is important to note that the current and future growth of urban centers like Yellowknife may propel the population beyond the current legal threshold for representation by the next boundary commission.

We are ultimately of the view that the 22-district model is also most consistent with the object of reconciliation; i.e., grappling with colonialism and forging and maintaining better relationships between Indigenous peoples and government as well as society more broadly. The 22-district model strives to adequately address parity without eliminating separate representation for smaller but significant Indigenous communities of interest in the territories. It addresses the under-representation for the Tłıchǫ communities in what is now the single electoral district of Monfwi. It also ensures an acceptable degree of parity for Yellowknife, a community which has a substantially larger Indigenous population than any other community in the Northwest Territories. We note as well that Yellowknife is home to significant populations of visible minorities who also require effective representation.

We have ultimately concluded the 22-district model we have proposed would most effectively balance voter parity and communities of interest and thereby best realize the ultimate goal of effective representation for all residents of the Northwest Territories.

Maps illustrating the 22-district model can be found in Appendix A on pages 38-45

We strongly and unanimously recommend the 22-district model. In our view, it provides the best option for moving forward, as it most fully addresses the needs of all the residents of our diverse communities while striving for fair voter representation until the next commission in eight years time.

Names

The Commission is also mandated to provide recommendations on names of proposed or existing districts. During our public hearings the Commission invited participants for ideas on new names.

For the proposed districts in the Tłıchq region, the Commission recommends the Legislative Assembly write to the Tłıchq Government encouraging them to provide recommended names. For Yellowknife districts, the Commission heard submissions that, wherever possible, continuity should be maintained for the ease of voter recognition.

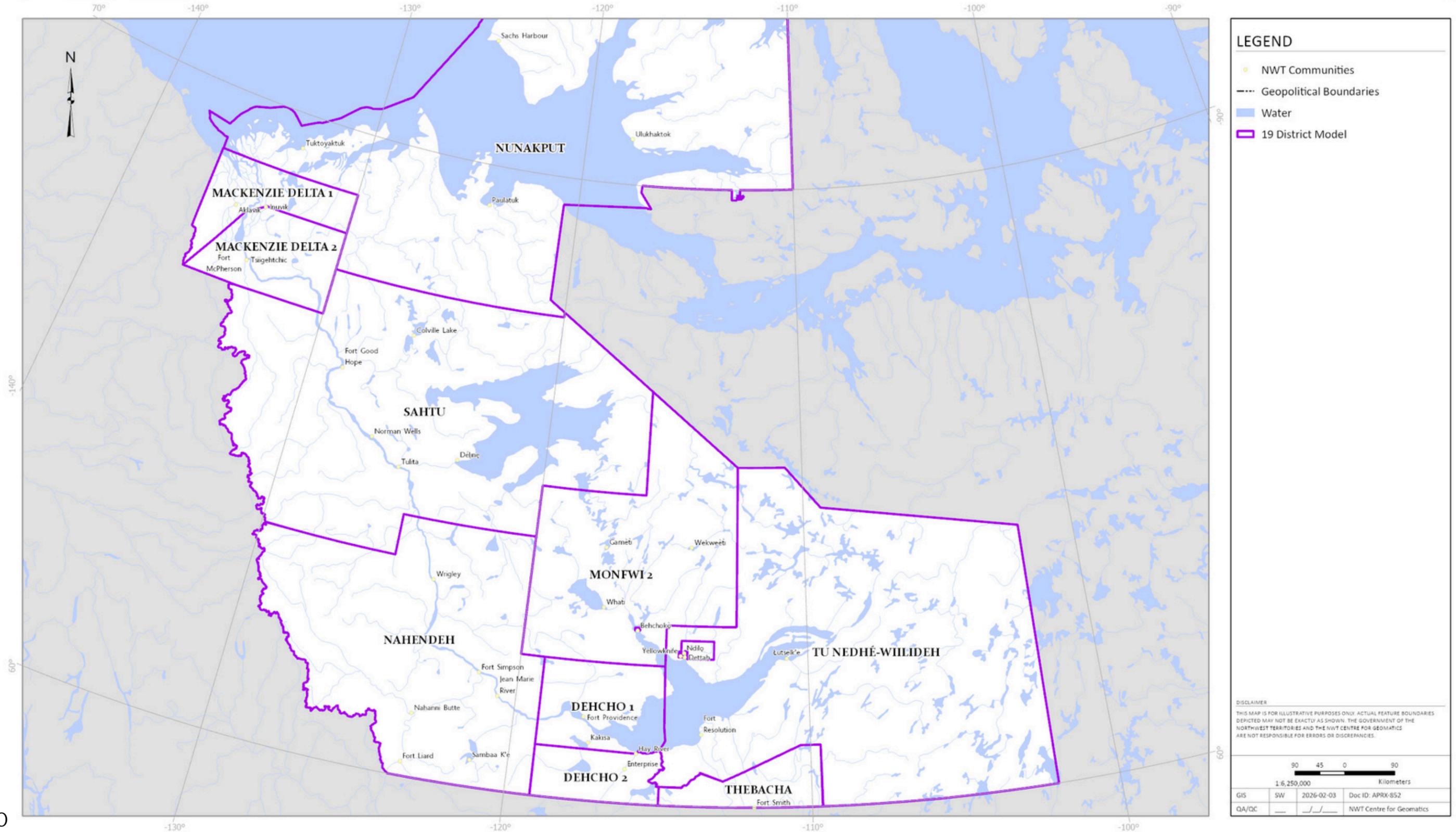
The Commission notes Yellowknife South no longer represents the southern portion of the city, as Kam Lake, Frame Lake and Yellowknife East all extend further south. Yellowknife West would be more geographically accurate.

For the creation of a 9th district, the Commission proposes using Yellowknife West for the new district west of Yellowknife Centre and Frame Lake and using Range Lake as the primary geographic feature between districts 2 and 3, and using Range Lake North (approximately the current Range Lake) and Range Lake South (approximately the current Yellowknife South).

We strongly and unanimously recommend the name “Great Slave” be eliminated for any present or future electoral district given its demeaning and objectionable nature.



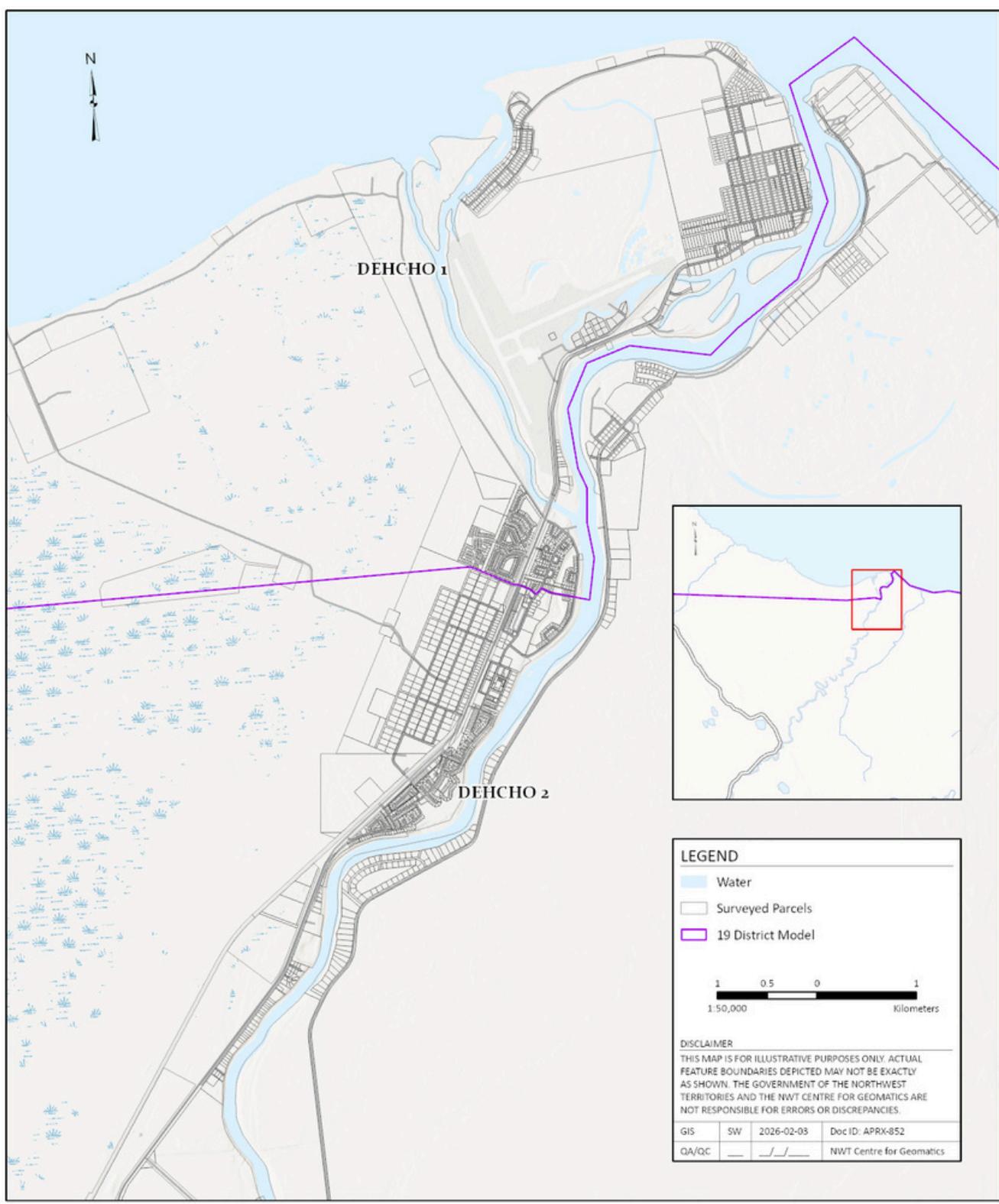
Territory - 19 District Model



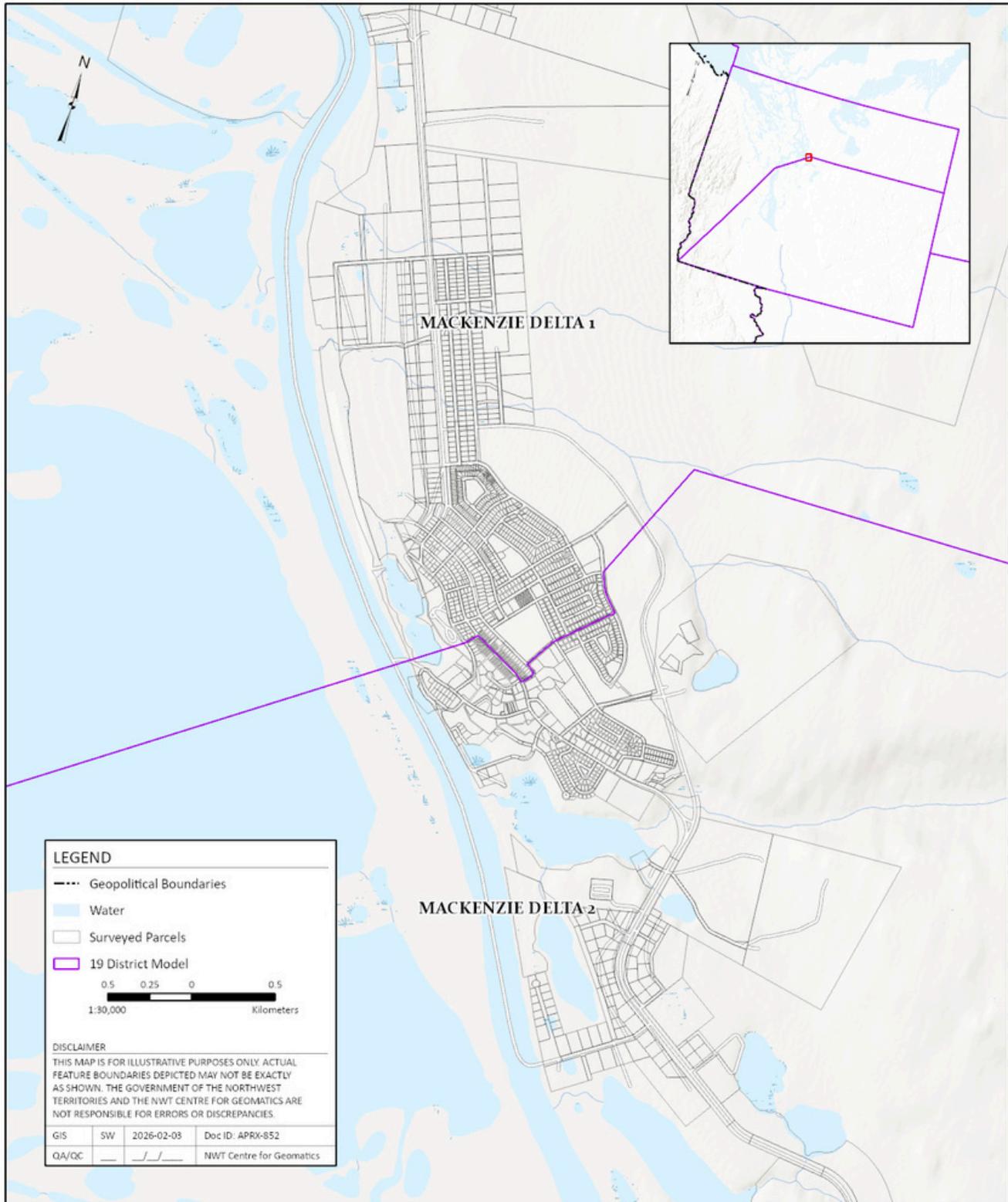
19 District Model Estimated Population

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

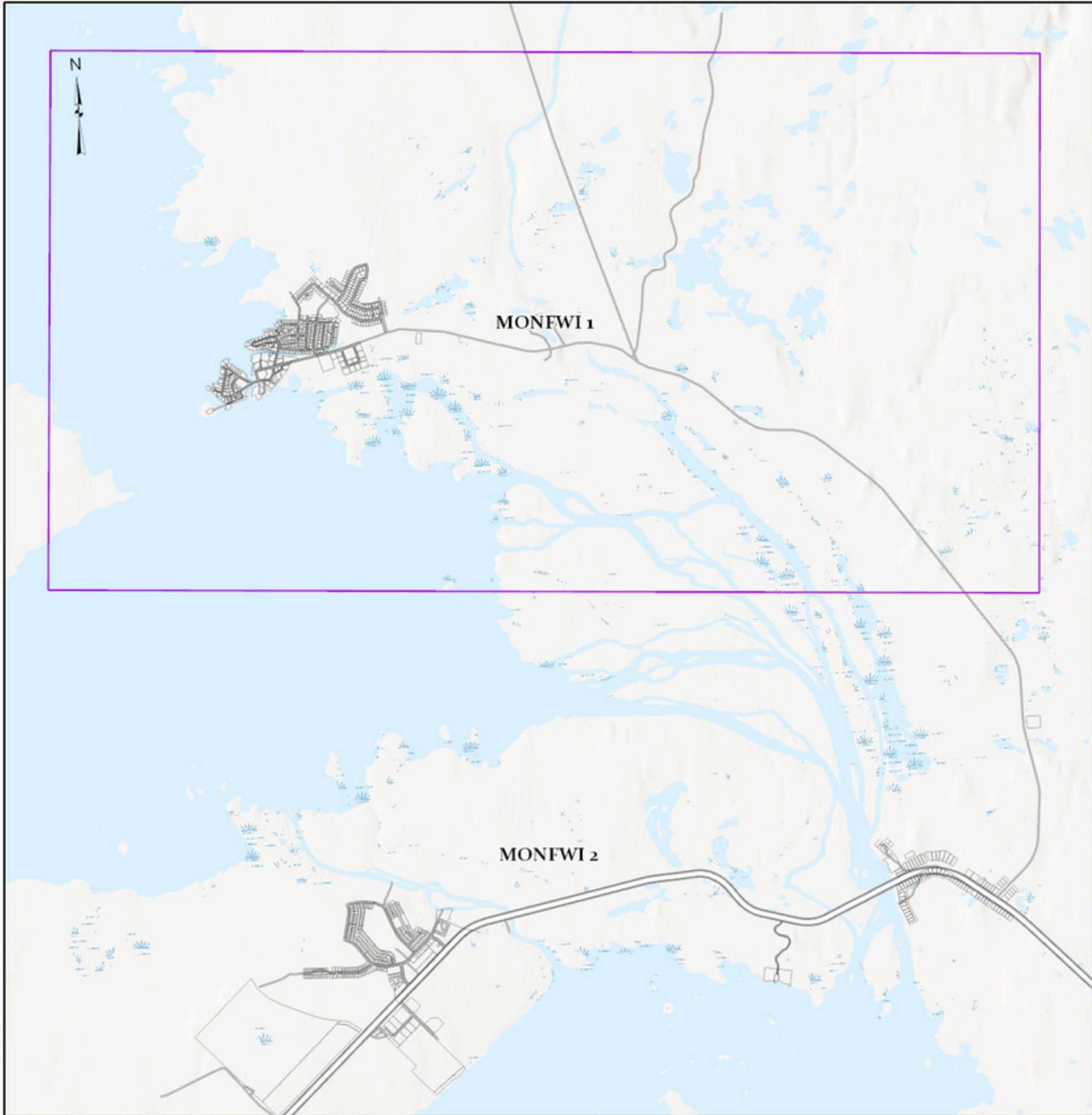
Hay River - 19 District Model



Inuvik - 19 District Model



Behchokò - 19 District Model

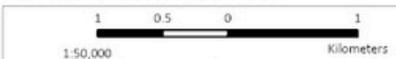


LEGEND

-  Water
-  Surveyed Parcels
-  19 District Model

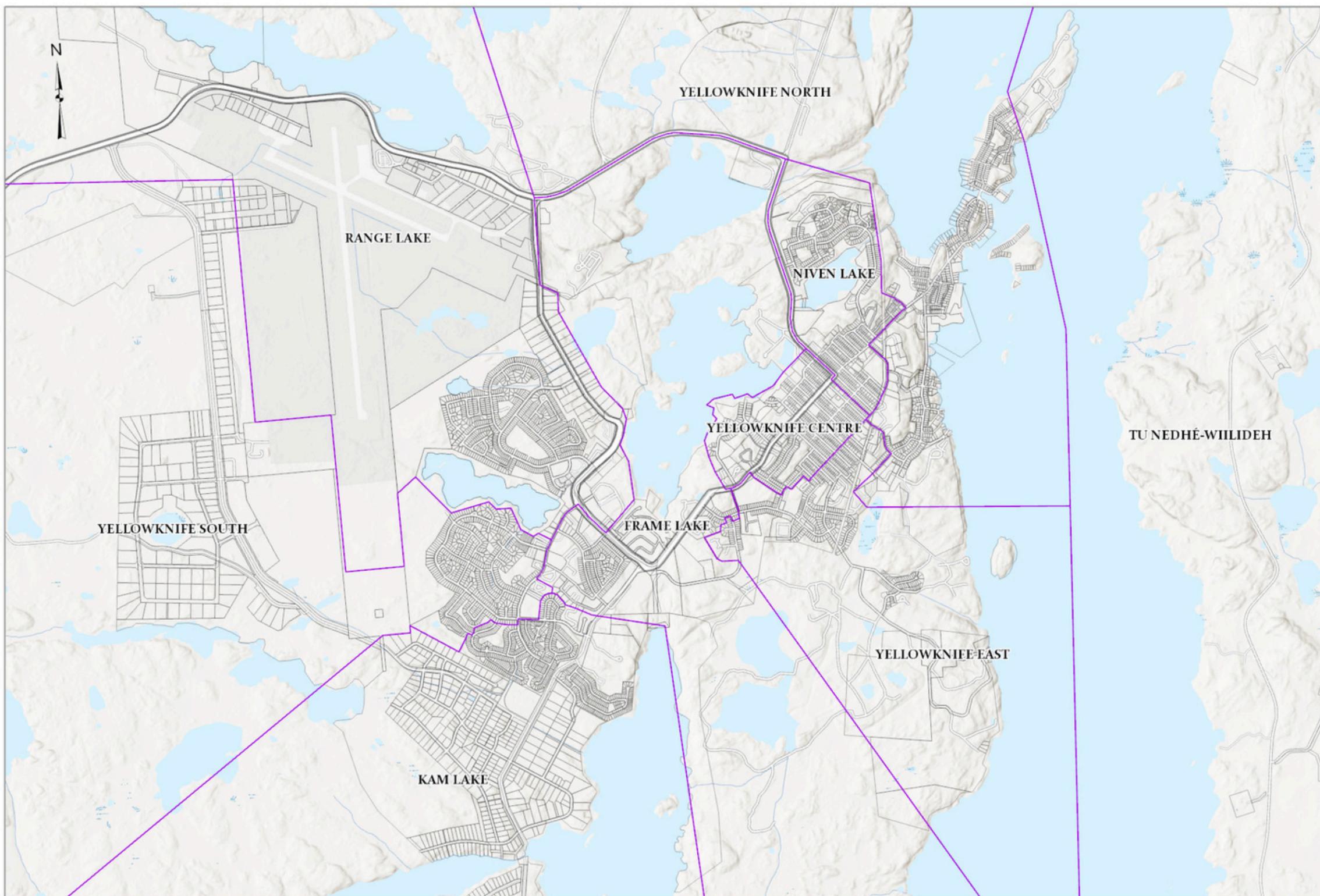
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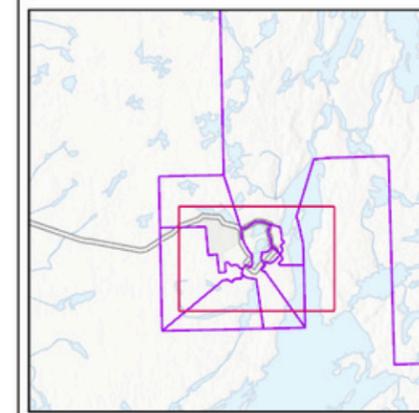
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Yellowknife - 19 District Model



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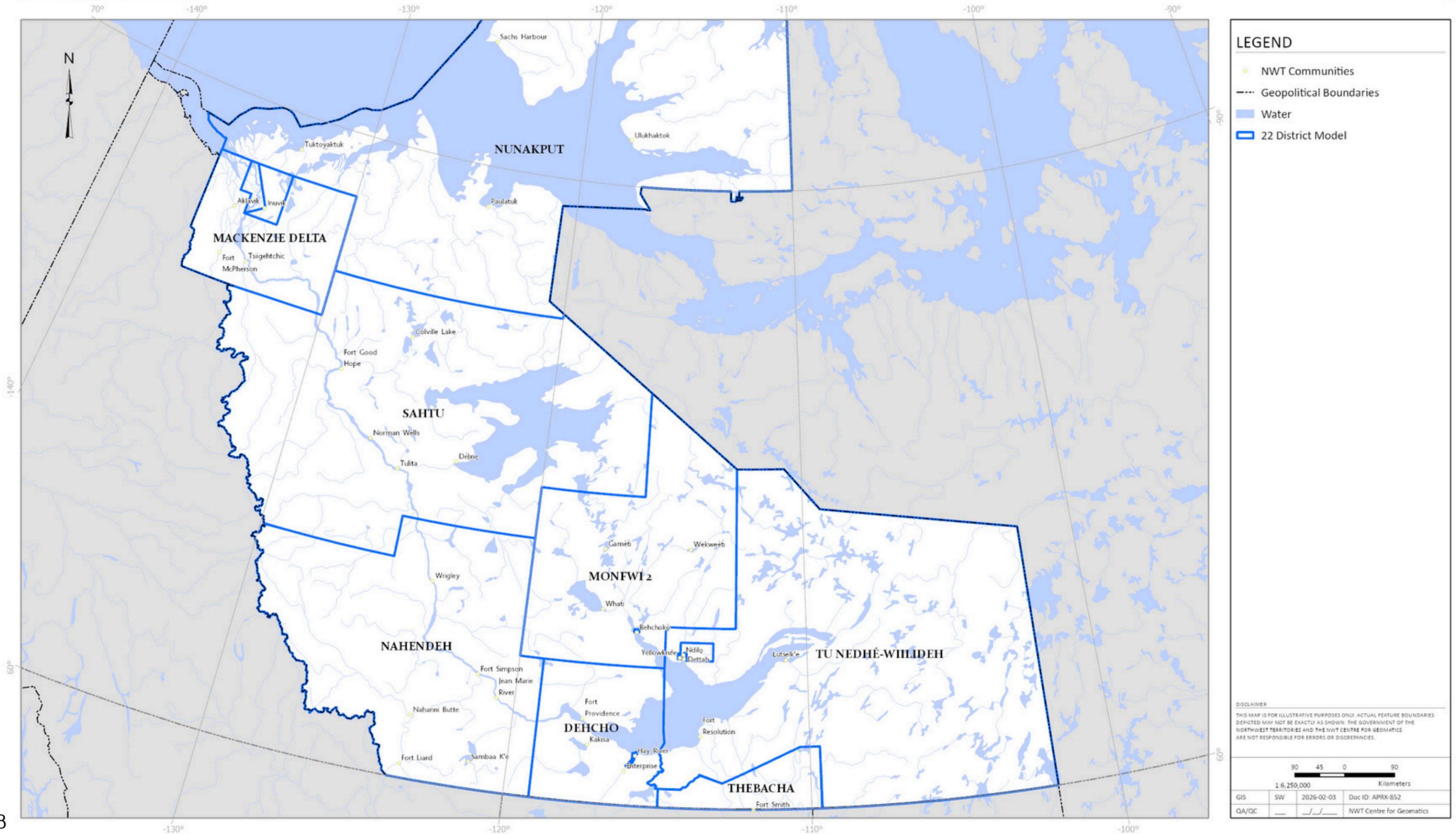
- Water
- Surveyed Parcels
- 19 District Model



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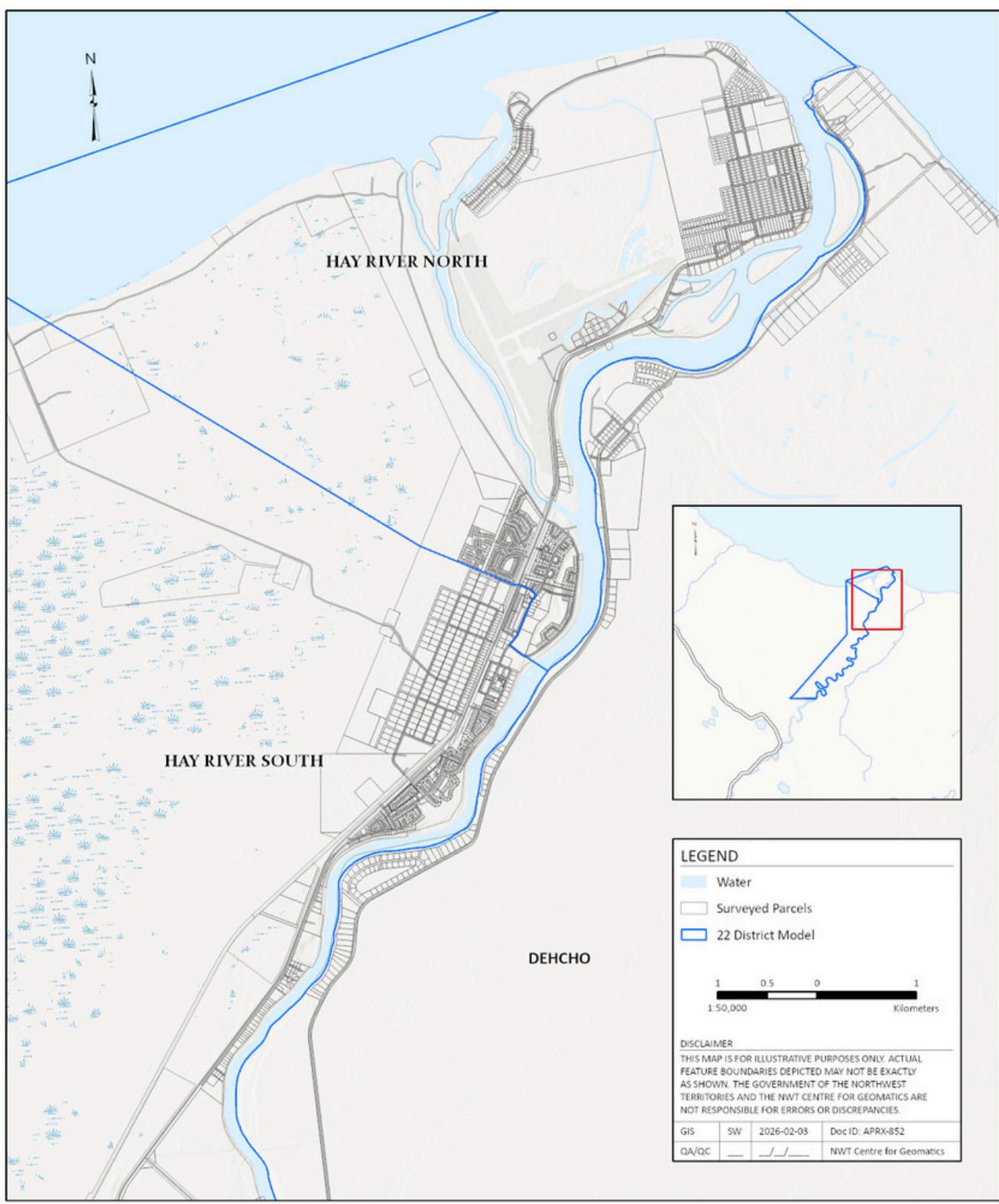
Territory - 22 District Model



22 District Model Estimated Population

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

Hay River - 22 District Model



LEGEND

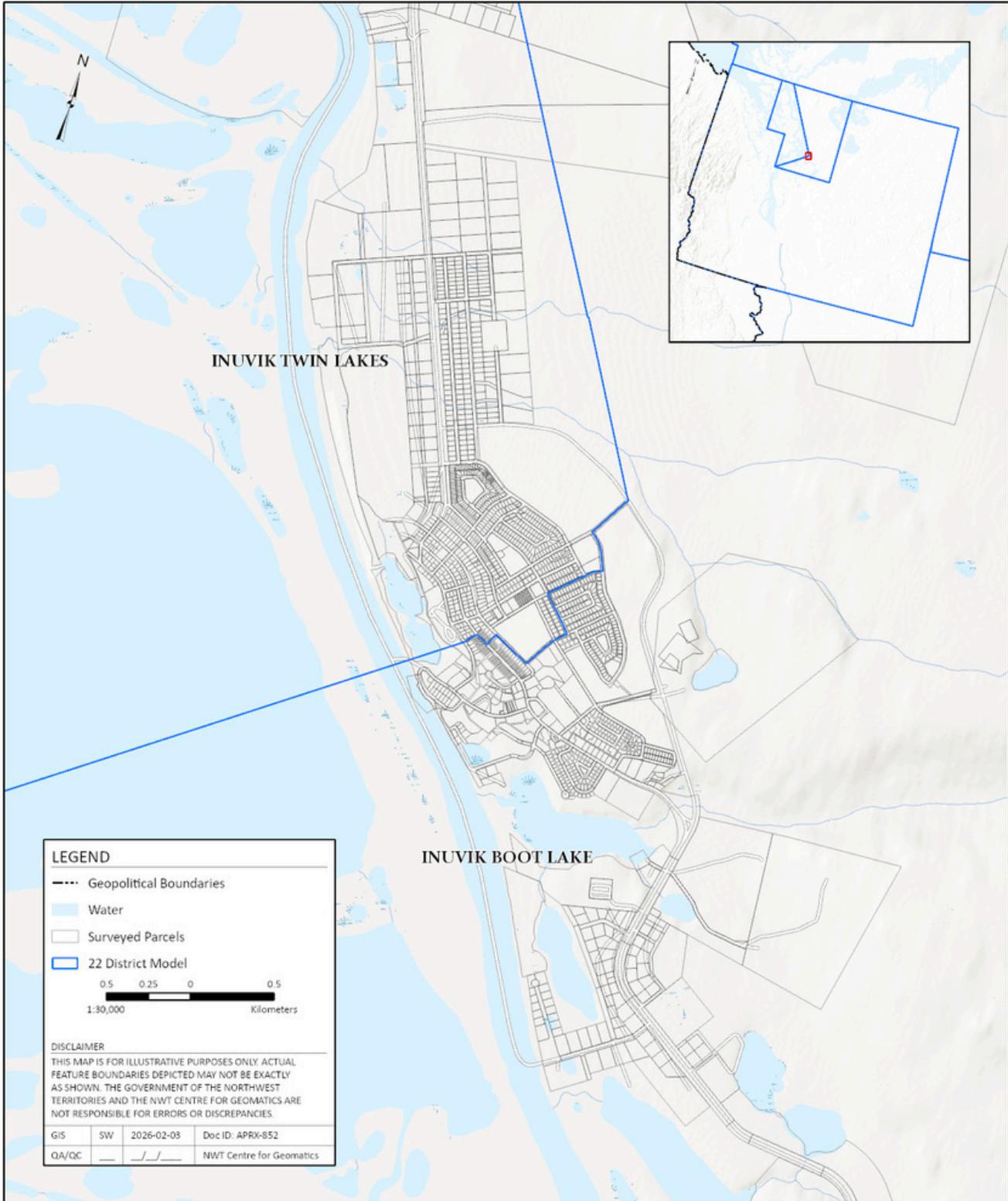
-  Water
-  Surveyed Parcels
-  22 District Model

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Inuvik - 22 District Model



Behchokò - 22 District Model

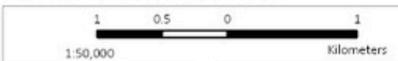


LEGEND

- Water
- Surveyed Parcels
- 22 District Model

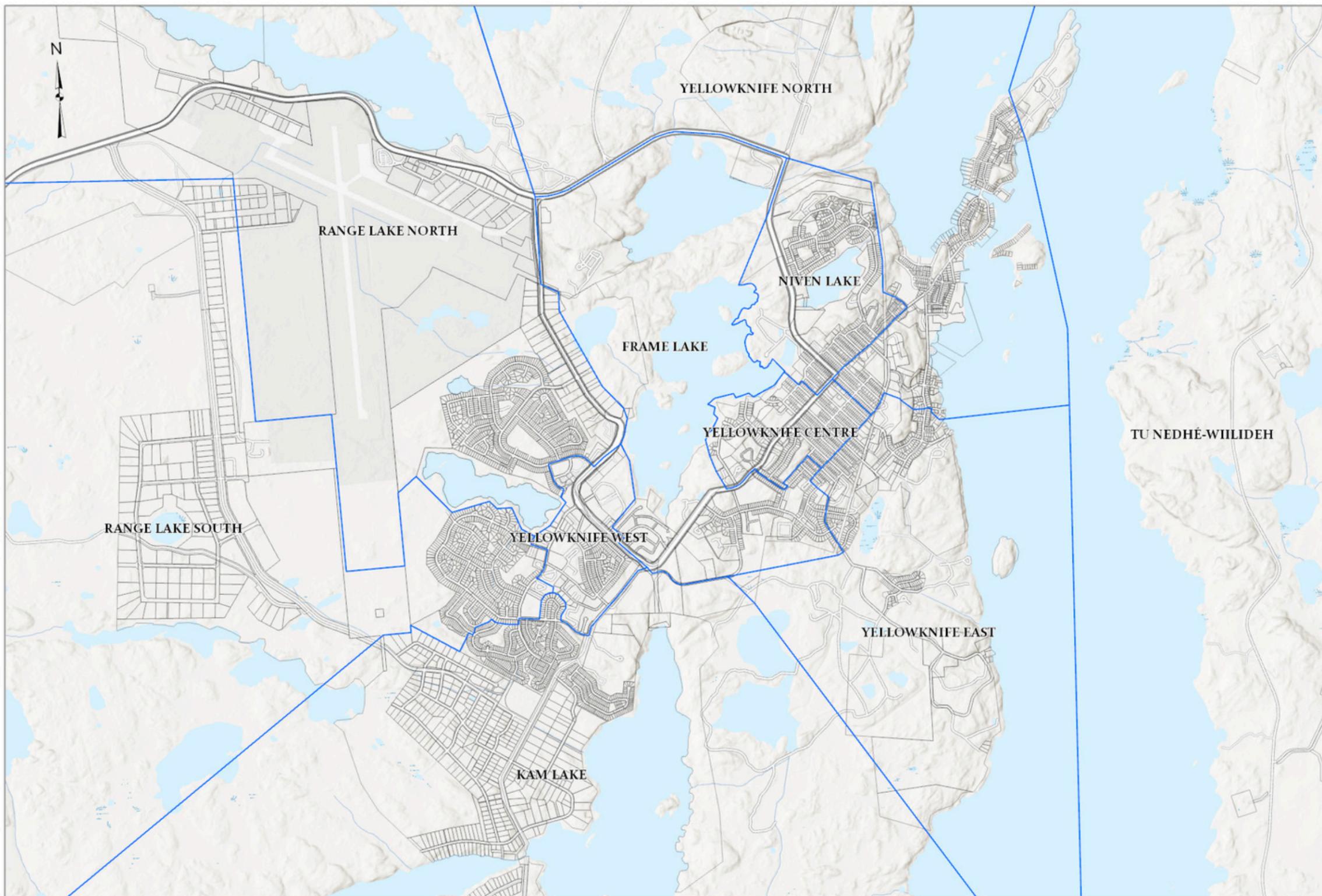
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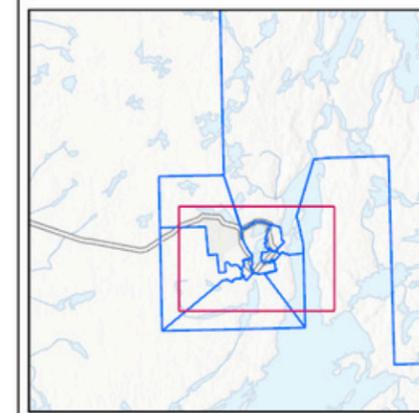
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Yellowknife - 22 District Model



LEGEND

- Water
- Surveyed Parcels
- 22 District Model



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QA/QC	NWT Centre for Geomatics

Electoral Boundaries Commission Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The Commission shall review the area, boundaries, name and representation of the existing electoral districts and shall, on completion of that review, prepare a report containing recommendations respecting the area, boundaries, name and representation of the electoral districts proposed by the Commission.

2. Guidelines

The Legislative Assembly requires the commission the following guidelines:

- a) The Commission shall review the existing electoral districts using the most recent and accurate census and other population data available.
- b) In keeping with Canadian constitutional conventions, relative parity between electoral districts shall be sought, to the extent possible, except where special circumstances warrant exceptional deviation.
- c) For greater certainty, relative parity means that the percentage variation between the number of persons in a riding and the average mean should be within plus or minus 25 per cent.
- d) In addition to whatever recommendations the Commission may propose for more than 19 seats, the Commission shall recommend how the electoral boundaries should be drawn if the Legislative Assembly were composed of 19 seats.
- e) The Commission shall prepare an interim report with proposed electoral district boundaries for review by the public and discussion at public hearings.
- f) The Commission shall establish a website or other publicly accessible mechanism(s), in addition to public hearings, to receive submissions on the existing and/or proposed boundaries.
- g) All submission to the Commission shall be considered public documents.
- h) Simultaneous interpretation of official languages shall be available at public hearings where the use of an official language in that region or community warrants the use of interpreters.
- i) If the Commission is not able to fulfill its mandate within the budget allocated, it may return to the Legislative Assembly to request additional funds.

3. Composition

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

4. Considerations

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

- a) Demographic factors, including the sparsity, density or rate of growth of the population of any area;
- b) Census data and other information pertaining to population;
- c) Information in the register of electors maintained under the *Elections and Plebiscites Act*;
- d) Geographic factors, including the accessibility, size or shape of any area;
- e) Traditional names for geographical features, populated places and regions;
- f) Community boundaries and boundaries established under land, resources and self-government agreements, including land claim and treaty land entitlement agreements;
- g) Facilities for and patterns of transportation and communication within and between different areas;
- h) Language, culture and any other special community or diversity of interests of the residents of any part of the Northwest Territories;
- i) Special circumstances relating to any existing electoral districts;
- j) Public input obtained by the Commission;
- k) Any guidelines or criteria proposed for the consideration of the Commission by resolution of the Legislative Assembly; and
- l) Any other similar and relevant factors that the Commission considers appropriate.

5. Report

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

6. Finance and Administration

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

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

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

7. Remuneration

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

8. Termination

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

Yellowknife - Great Hall, Legislative Assembly - Wednesday 3 December

Attendees: 6

Summary of Public Comments

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

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

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

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

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

Comments outside of the Commission mandate:

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

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

Behchokò - Community Youth Centre - Friday 5 December

Attendees: 2

Summary of Public Comments

A representative of the Tłıchq Government presented.

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

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

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

Any names for new districts should involve the communities.

Fort Simpson - Community Hall - Sunday 7 December

Attendees: 3

Summary of Public Comments

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

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

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

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

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

Comments outside of the Commission mandate:

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

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

Fort Liard - Community Hall - Monday 8 December

Attendees: N/A

Summary of Public Comments

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

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

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

Attendees: 3

Summary of Public Comments

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

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

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

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

Attendees: 3

Summary of Public Comments

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

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

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

Fort Providence, Snowshoe Inn - Wednesday 10 December

Attendees: 8

Summary of Public Comments

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

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

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

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

Whatì - Cultural Centre
Wednesday 10 December
Attendees: 7

Summary of Public Comments

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

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

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

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

Summary of Public Comments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Comments outside of the Commission mandate:

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

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

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

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

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

Comments outside of the Commission mandate:

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

Dettah - Chief Drygeese Centre - Monday 12 January 2026

Attendees: 15

Summary of Public Comments

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

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

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

Comments outside of the Commission mandate:

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

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

Yellowknife - Great Hall, Legislative Assembly - Monday 12 January

Attendees: 6

Summary of Public Comments

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

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

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

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

Written Submissions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

	<p>are markedly underpopulated: Dehcho has 1,113 residents (– 52.7%), Tu Nedhé Wiilideh 1,381 (– 41.3%), Inuvik Twin Lakes 1,487 (–36.8%), and Mackenzie Delta 1,568 (–33.4%).</p> <p>These discrepancies are not minor. A resident of Yellowknife North has approximately 3.7 times less voting power than a resident of Dehcho. Such disparities directly challenge the principle of equitable representation and the effectiveness of our democratic institutions. As the Commission’s report notes, 10 of the current 19 electoral districts have a variance of greater than 25% (the threshold that courts have found to be presumptively constitutional).</p> <p>Assessment of the Commission’s Options</p> <p>I have reviewed each of the four options presented in the Interim Report. While all represent genuine efforts to address the representational imbalance, they differ substantially in how well they achieve voter parity.</p> <p>Option 4 (22 districts) comes closest to achieving the constitutional standard of effective representation. Under this model, all but three districts fall within the ±25% variance threshold, and even those exceptions (Sahtu, Nahendeh, and the proposed Monfwi 2) are justifiable based on the exceptional circumstances the Commission has identified, including geographic isolation, shared land claims, and cultural coherence. This option most faithfully honours the principle that every citizen’s vote should carry roughly equal weight.</p> <p>I recognize, however, that Option 4 may be politically unpalatable for MLAs. The Legislative Assembly has historically been reluctant to add seats, and adding three new districts represents a significant expansion. Yet, the Commission’s own analysis demonstrates that half measures will not resolve the underlying problem. Option 3 (21 districts), while preferable to the status quo, still leaves five of eight Yellowknife districts underrepresented by more than 25%, with an effective range of over 65% between the most and least populous districts.</p> <p>Options 1 and 2 require difficult trade-offs that diminish representation for some communities. Merging Mackenzie Delta with Inuvik, or Dehcho with Hay River, may achieve numerical parity but risks diluting the distinct voices of smaller communities within larger regional centres.</p> <p>My recommendation is that the Commission endorse Option 4 in its final report. If the Legislative Assembly ultimately rejects a 22 seat model, Option 3 represents an acceptable compromise, though it should be understood as a step toward, rather than a resolution of, the representational imbalance.</p>
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		<p>On the Question of Cost</p> <p>I am aware that past boundary reviews have foundered on concerns about the cost of additional seats. The Commission’s report rightly notes that cost is not among the factors it is mandated to consider, nor is it a factor recognized under Charter jurisprudence as justifying deviations from voter parity.</p> <p>Nevertheless, political realities matter. When this Commission’s recommendations come before the Legislative Assembly, MLAs will weigh the fiscal implications. I would encourage the Commission to address this directly in its final report by noting two points. First, Yukon, with a similar population, has adopted 21 districts, and Nunavut, with a smaller population, operates with 22. The NWT is not being asked to pioneer an untested expansion. Second, the cost of inaction is not zero. Continued constitutional vulnerability invites litigation, as the Friends of Democracy case demonstrated in 1999. The expense of defending boundaries that fail to meet Charter standards, or of conducting yet another review after the Assembly rejects modest reforms, may well exceed the incremental cost of additional seats.</p> <p>Fair representation is not a luxury - it is a constitutional obligation. The modest investment required to add two or three seats is justified by the legitimacy it confers on our democratic institutions.</p> <p>An Alternative Approach: Multi-Member Urban Districts</p> <p>I understand that the Commission has a narrow mandate to review the number, boundaries, and names of single member electoral districts. What I propose in this section falls outside that core mandate, and I raise it not as a formal recommendation for this review, but as an idea that deserves consideration in the broader conversation about democratic reform in the Northwest Territories.</p> <p>The current configuration of single member urban districts creates artificial boundaries that divide cohesive communities and limit voter choice. Multi-member districts, in which electors use a ranked ballot to select multiple representatives, offer a principled alternative for urban centres like Yellowknife, Hay River, and Inuvik. This approach reduces arbitrary division, allows voters to elect representatives who better reflect the diversity and density of urban populations, and is consistent with how municipal and education body elections already operate in many jurisdictions where the municipality is not divided into arbitrary wards.</p> <p>I recognize that Commissions such as this one have historically operated within similar limitations, and that recommendations are</p>
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		<p>often set aside by the Legislature regardless of their scope. I would urge Commissioners to consider, in their final report, whether broadening the scope of your recommendations, or at least noting that alternative electoral models warrant future study, might serve the public interest. New ideas and new ways to improve governance always have a place, even if they cannot be implemented through this particular process.</p> <p>Respect for Community Integrity</p> <p>Whatever option the Commission recommends, I urge that all boundary adjustments respect the integrity of communities, including Indigenous governance structures, language regions, and patterns of social and economic interaction. The Commission’s attention to land claims, self-government agreements, and communities of interest is commendable and must remain central to the final recommendations. Effective representation is only meaningful if residents can engage with MLAs who understand and reflect the character and needs of their communities.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Based on the evidence presented in the 2025 Interim Report, I urge the Commission to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recommend Option 4 (22 seats) as the model that best achieves voter parity and effective representation, while acknowledging the political challenges it may face. 2. Identify Option 3 (21 seats) as an acceptable alternative if the Legislative Assembly is unwilling to adopt a 22 seat model. 3. Address cost concerns directly, noting comparisons with Yukon and Nunavut and the costs of continued constitutional vulnerability. 4. Consider noting in the final report that alternative electoral models, including multimember urban districts, warrant future study by the Legislative Assembly. 5. Ensure that all boundary adjustments respect community integrity and Indigenous governance structures. <p>Thank you for considering these views as you finalize your recommendations.</p>
Yellowknife	Fraser Fuite	<p>I would like to express my support fo Jessie Wilson’s proposal, which I read on Cabin Radio: I think it makes a lot of sense to have a slate of candidates for cities with many MLAs. We are used to using slates without ridings in our local elections, and it would reinforce that successful tradition. And it is clear to me that the main difference in interests in the NWT is between different communities--not neighbourhoods within communities. I will be very excited if this proposal turns out. Vive la démocratie!</p>
Yellowknife	Jan Larsson	<p>NWT has only 42,000 residents and is experiencing a population decline. For this reason, we no longer need any additional elected</p>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowknife 4 = Kam Lake • Yellowknife 7 = Yellowknife Centre <p>The four ridings I recommend updating the district names:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowknife 1 = New Name • Yellowknife 5 = New Name • Yellowknife 6 = New Name • Yellowknife 8 = New Name <p>Furthermore, when considering Option Number 4:</p> <p>The five ridings I recommend the district names go unchanged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowknife 2 = Range Lake • Yellowknife 3 = Yellowknife South • Yellowknife 4 = Kam Lake • Yellowknife 5 = Frame Lake • Yellowknife 7 = Yellowknife Centre <p>The four ridings I recommend updating the district names:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowknife 1 = New Name • Yellowknife 6 = New Name • Yellowknife 8 = New Name • Yellowknife 9 = New Name <p>MINOR OBSERVATION WITH RESPECT TO SOME OF THE CURRENT INPUT RECEIVED TO DATE:</p> <p>Lastly, there have been a few outlier suggestions in this process, through submissions, that Yellowknife MLA's should be elected at large similar to how the city elects councillors. From my understanding, this does not fall within your mandate to address.</p> <p>That said, as well intended as the suggestion may be, I felt it worthwhile to offer a brief comment and observation from someone who has served in four different Assemblies.</p> <p>My immediate concern then becomes equitable balance of workload as a very glaring issue, and at the same time, the essence of resources to help address those demands. Furthermore, not all ridings in any particular Assembly are equal, however it would be very unfair that one or two MLAs ended up shouldering well beyond their fair share of the work. I could say much more, but I will leave it there.</p> <p>Therefore, my recommendation would be that the commission be silent on this matter.</p> <p>Thank you for you time, your hard work to date, as well as your consideration towards the comments I've made.</p>
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<p>Yellowknife North</p>	<p>MLA, Shauna Morgan</p>	<p>First, thank you for your efforts in service of our Territory to try to ensure our system of democratic representation is fair and meaningful. As the current representative for Yellowknife North, I wanted to raise a few points I understand to be particularly important to my constituents that I hope you consider in your final report.</p> <p>Those residing permanently in rural neighbourhoods along the Ingraham Trail (Highway 4) must continue to be included within one of the Yellowknife ridings. Contrary to the Commission’s assertion on page 16 of its Interim Report, the vast majority of Ingraham Trail residents are not members of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation; their cultural and community ties are primarily with Yellowknife. While no reliable statistics are available, this unincorporated group of rural residents includes an estimated 100 families with about 300 residents. It is unacceptable for these residents to be transferred to the Tu Nedhé-Willideh riding, as is proposed in all four options outlined in the Interim Report. I am happy to have this area remain with Yellowknife North, but if rebalancing of population amongst Yellowknife ridings necessitates a switch, then the Ingraham Trail should at least be included within one of the other Yellowknife ridings, even if the Trail is not geographically connected to that riding on the map.</p> <p>I note with great concern that the status quo means the vote of any citizen in Yellowknife North holds significantly less weight than a citizen in any other part of the NWT, including other parts of Yellowknife and other regional centres. YK North residents have approximately four times less voting power in the Assembly than some other parts of the territory such as the Dehcho, and less than half the voting power of at least eight other ridings, including all four Hay River and Inuvik ridings. While some may argue the status quo is justified as it appears to offer historically oppressed Indigenous voices more weight than non-Indigenous voices, the current system fails to protect the democratic rights of the over 4800 Indigenous citizens who live in Yellowknife. This argument also fails to take into account the systems of Indigenous self-government that now exist both in parallel to and in partnership with the GNWT, including the Council of Leaders and the Intergovernmental Council protocol for co-drafting legislation. In other words, offering residents of predominantly Indigenous communities four times the voting power of Yellowknifers in the Assembly does not seem to be either the necessary or appropriate way to ensure their interests are addressed. Democratic principles require boundaries to change, and change will be difficult for everyone, including myself, as I do feel attached to my current constituents. I love the wonderful diversity of YK North neighbourhoods, and would prefer to continue serving all of them.</p>
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		<p>Given that there has been no significant overall population increase in the NWT and no sustainable increase to our economic base, I do not believe that the solution is to increase the number of MLAs. I take to heart many serious concerns around fiscal responsibility, and would advocate for continuing with 19 MLAs.</p> <p>Continuing with 19 MLAs while making changes to boundaries will require a willingness by political representatives to adjust from what we are used to. There has been a tendency for communities and regions to fragment into smaller and smaller groups who each consider themselves to be distinct communities of interest needing distinct representation, but in this age of increased migration and frequent travel within the Territory there is also an opportunity to emphasize linkages and common ties.</p> <p>I would suggest that one way to ease the transition would be to minimize unnecessary boundary changes and to consider instead grouping non-contiguous neighbourhoods or communities together if the priority is to rebalance population sizes, as long as the Commission’s basic principles are upheld (ie. communities of interest, practical access to all parts of the riding). For example, the Commission’s proposed Options 1 to 3 mean that most of the Yellowknife ridings have both significant areas added and taken away. In YK North, this would mean removing the downtown and Niven subdivisions while adding School Draw neighbourhoods to Old Town. This essentially creates an entirely new constituency of people, which could cause unnecessary disruption and confusion to both MLAs and residents, given the relationships that have been built.</p> <p>Some residents have floated the idea of replacing all Yellowknife ridings with one ranked slate of candidates, similar to municipal elections. I can see the appeal of potentially getting a better overall group of representatives for a small city than would be possible with a disconnected series of first-past-the-post races; however there are many significant problems with the idea that have not been addressed. The current system of government requires an individual MLA to advocate on behalf of a particular constituent with a Minister’s office—in order to get their specific concerns addressed, for example around income security, healthcare, housing, or student financial assistance, etc. Constituents would presumably continue to receive assistance this way in the rest of the territory, but under a slate system it is unclear how a Yellowknife resident would find an MLA to assist them, or how YK MLAs would balance the constituency work fairly and cost-effectively amongst themselves. It is also unclear whether this would be desired or feasible in Inuvik or Hay River which each currently have two ridings. The slate model could also lead to certain groups of minority neighbourhoods in and around Yellowknife more easily being ignored, if no particular MLA</p>
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		<p>was responsible for them. I am open to further discussions about this idea, but do not believe it is feasible for the current Commission to recommend.</p>
<p>Ulukahtok</p>	<p>Hamlet of Ulukhaktok</p>	<p>Council Resolution</p> <p>Resolution No.:#2026-01-09-01 Date: January 9, 2026</p> <p>Title: Review and Changes to the Nunakput Electoral Boundary – Creation of a New Electoral District for Ulukhaktok, Paulatuk, and Sachs Harbour</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Northwest Territories is comprised of diverse and geographically distinct communities, each with unique social, economic, cultural, and governance needs;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS, the communities of Ulukhaktok, Paulatuk, and Sachs Harbour are remote Inuvialuit communities with shared challenges related to isolation, limited transportation access, climate impacts, cost of living, and service delivery;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS, the current Nunakput Electoral District includes communities with significantly different geographic access and infrastructure conditions, including Tuktoyaktuk, which is connected to the all-weather road system and faces distinct development pressures.</p> <p>AND WHEREAS, the size, distance, and logistical challenges within the existing Nunakput Electoral District make it difficult to ensure equitable representation, effective constituency services, and meaningful engagement across all communities;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS, improved and more focused legislative representation would enhance advocacy, responsiveness, and policy attention to the specific needs and priorities of Ulukhaktok, Paulatuk, and Sachs Harbour;</p> <p>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hamlet of Ulukhaktok formally supports a review of the Nunakput Electoral Boundary with the intent of establishing a new electoral district comprised of Ulukhaktok, Paulatuk, and Sachs Harbour;</p> <p>AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hamlet of Ulukaktok supports the creation of a new Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) position to represent these three communities, ensuring fair, effective, and equitable representation;</p>

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



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
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