

PUBLIC HEARING HELD AT THE DRUMHELLER INN
17 OCTOBER, 2002

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1 Public Hearing held at the Drumheller Inn, 17th October,
2 2002, Drumheller commencing at 10 a.m.

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4 THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome
5 this morning. Our voices are not amplified here, so
6 we'll try to speak loudly enough to be heard. Your
7 voices, however, those of the presenters, will be both
8 amplified and recorded for the reporter's benefit, so
9 anybody who speaks is asked to come to the podium and
10 do it from there after identifying yourselves.

11 I'd like to welcome you all to the meeting, the
12 Public Hearing of the Electoral Boundaries Commission
13 for this area. We are the Federal Commission, by the
14 way. The province is conducting its own process at
15 the same time, and there has been some confusion.

16 The purpose of the meeting is to consider the
17 proposals, which we put forward in this form and
18 copies of which are available at the back of the room.
19 The proposals appeared in handout form, first of all,
20 in the major papers, and then they were published in
21 the formal hard copy form, and you can get them on the
22 web as well; and if you need the web address, ask our
23 secretary afterwards, please.

24 I'd like to introduce the Commission, first of
25 all. My name is MacCallum. I'm a judge of the Court
26 of Queen's Bench of Alberta in Edmonton; to my right
27 is Ms. Ritu Khullar, a practicing lawyer from

1 Edmonton; and to my left, Mr. Don Barry, a political
2 scientist from the University of Calgary. I was
3 appointed by the Chief Justice of Alberta, and my
4 colleagues by the Speaker of the House of Commons.
5 Our staff is Ms. Miranda Petryshyn, on my far left,
6 she's the Commission secretary; and next to her,
7 Dawn Matthews, the geography consultant from Ottawa;
8 and our reporter today over here is Debbie Ragan from
9 Edmonton. Everything that is said today will be taken
10 down verbatim and will be transcribed as a matter of
11 public record.

12 The process is as follows. We are an independent
13 Commission established under the Federal Electoral
14 Boundaries Readjustment Act of 1985. We are intended
15 to be and we are free of political influence and
16 administrative influence of any kind. We are expected
17 to interpret and apply the law to serve the public
18 interest in a wide sense; and, of course, we must
19 decide and balance competing interests as well.

20 And while we welcome constructive suggestions,
21 you must understand that these suggestions and
22 proposals must be evaluated in the general context of
23 the public interest; in other words, we take a big
24 picture, so if a particular point of view which you
25 have expressed is not, in the end, adopted by the
26 Commission, please don't feel aggrieved. We're simply
27 doing our duty as required under the law. You may

1 rest assured that every submission that we hear will
2 receive the attention it deserves.

3 The final word in the process is ours, but the
4 process is consultative. We must follow the legal
5 guidelines set out under Section 15 of the Act, as
6 well as Section 3 of the Constitution. We have done
7 this in producing our proposal, and the Public
8 Hearings, of which this is one, are the next step in
9 which the proposals are considered, and suggestions
10 are made from the public, and, of course, if we deem
11 it advisable, we will adopt those suggestions and
12 amend our proposal accordingly.

13 We then prepare a report which goes to the
14 Speaker of the House of Commons and thenst to a
15 committee where it will be examined by the Members of
16 Parliament; and if the MPs have objections, they send
17 them to us, and we will consider them, and, again, if
18 necessary, amend our proposal accordingly.

19 The modified report then, finally, is sent to the
20 Chief Electoral Officer who drafts a Representation
21 Order that goes to the Governor of Council for
22 proclamation. All of this will happen before July of
23 next year, July, 2003, but the new boundaries thus
24 established are not in effect for a year after that;
25 so if any election is called before July of 2004, it
26 will be contested on the basis of the existing
27 boundaries as they are today; and if it's called after

1 that, on the basis of the new boundaries which we
2 establish.

3 Ladies and gentlemen, the object of the
4 submissions today is electoral boundary readjustment,
5 and it is not the redistribution formula which
6 allocates the number of seats to each province. There
7 has been widespread interest, of course, in that from
8 all kinds of people, so I can explain it very briefly,
9 but it is a subject which is not open for discussion.
10 There's nothing we can do about it.

11 You start with 282 seats, which was the number in
12 the House of Commons in 1985. You subtract from that
13 number three seats from the Northern Territories:
14 Nunavit, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon.
15 That leaves you with 279. You divide 279 into the
16 population of Canada as fixed by the 2001 census, and
17 you come up with a national quotient. That national
18 quotient is then divided into the population of each
19 of the ten provinces, and, presto, you have the
20 theoretical number of seats for each province. In
21 Alberta's case that makes 28. You then apply a couple
22 of special clauses. One is the Senatorial Clause,
23 which says that no province shall have fewer seats in
24 the House of Commons than it had senators in 1915, and
25 another one is called the Grandfather Clause under the
26 terms of which no province will have fewer seats in
27 the House of Commons than it had during the 33rd

1 Parliament in 1976. The application of those two --
2 one or both of those clauses has resulted in giving
3 seats to -- more seats to seven of the ten provinces
4 than they would otherwise have arithmetically.
5 Alberta is not one of those because its population has
6 been increasing. The same applies to Ontario, and the
7 same applies to British Columbia. So seven out of the
8 ten provinces have more seats than they would
9 otherwise deserve on a strict population basis.

10 So that's the end of that. All we have to do for
11 the purposes of this hearing is remember that Alberta
12 has 2.9 million people. It has 26 seats right now,
13 and it will be entitled to 28, as a result of this
14 redistribution.

15 Under Section 15 of the Act, we are obliged by
16 law to design electoral districts which contain as
17 closely as reasonably possible the provincial
18 quotient, that is, 106,243 people. 106,243 people.
19 We don't have any choice in that. That's the --
20 that's the primary objective. We can deviate from
21 that objective by taking into account communities of
22 interest and the historical pattern and the
23 necessities imposed by the size of a riding, for
24 example, in thinly populated areas; but unless there's
25 a very good reason for doing otherwise, we want to
26 come close to 106,000 people per riding.

27 The hearing procedure today will be as follows.

1 There will be 15 minutes allocated to each speaker.
2 The Commissioners may -- and, by the way, I'm afraid
3 I'll have to enforce that because we're going to
4 Red Deer next, and we have a very heavy day there.
5 We'll be lucky to get it finished. So the secretary
6 will hold up a little sheet of paper which says
7 "Three Minutes" when you have three minutes left, and
8 I'd ask you to be kind enough to observe that
9 stricture on your presentation.

10 The Commissioners may intervene at any time
11 during the course of your presentation, although we'll
12 try to leave you alone to say what you want to say. I
13 will have to enforce relevancy.

14 If you want to look at page 1 of our proposal
15 when you get a minute, you'll see the statutory
16 requirements and the factors that we are obliged to
17 take into account, so other matters, interesting
18 though they might be, are not open for discussion
19 today; and if they stray into your presentations, I'll
20 have to remind you.

21 You may put questions to us during the course of
22 your presentation if you want to. We won't answer
23 them on the spot, but if you leave us some time
24 between the conclusion of your remarks and 15 minutes,
25 we'll try to give you an answer at that time. If we
26 can't, we'll simply take them under advisement and
27 consider them later.

1 What we will not do is get into a debate with any
2 speaker. We are here to listen and not to argue with
3 anybody. We will hear your suggestions and give them
4 due consideration afterwards.

5 We can't take any submissions or questions from
6 the floor, first, by reason of the provisions of the
7 statute; and, secondly, although we have no objection
8 to informal discussion, the fact is that our time is
9 limited, so I'm afraid that we'll hear from our
10 presenters who have signified their intention to be
11 here and make a presentation, and the first of these
12 persons is Mr. Andrew R. Cameron.

13 Mr. Cameron, if you'd just come forward, please.

14 MR. ANDREW R. CAMERON: Are these on here?

15 Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you
16 today. I won't be using near close to 15 minutes. I
17 wish to give reasons to retain the Crowfoot
18 constituency name.

19 Chief Crowfoot was a distinguished warrior in his
20 youth. He was a chief in 1869 at the age of 33. I
21 believe the Crowfoot constituency was named in honor
22 of Chief Crowfoot. He counselled peace during the
23 1870s. He worked with missionaries and Mounties to
24 guide his people to a new way of life as the buffalo
25 were gone. In 1883, Crowfoot intervened to allow the
26 CPR to go through southern Alberta from the Blackfoot
27 area. He also averted a bloodbath when he refused to

1 join his people with the Metis and the Cree in the
2 Northwest Rebellion of 1885. Crowfoot was respected
3 throughout Canada in 1876 for refusing an invitation
4 to join Sitting Bull.

5 Many pictures of Chief Crowfoot are on the walls
6 across the Crowfoot constituency.

7 The name Crowfoot constituency is known and
8 respected across Canada. The Blackfoot Indian tribes
9 led by Chief Crowfoot traveled to the north of
10 Battle River to far enough south to touch to first
11 TransCanada CPR railroad, the approximate range of the
12 present Crowfoot constituency.

13 I believe Crowfoot is the name to keep for the
14 Crowfoot constituency. It has historical
15 significance.

16 The name Drumheller is not suitable as it is on
17 the edge, almost not in the constituency. The names
18 Yellowhead, Strathcona and Calgary-Nose Hill were used
19 for significant reasons, historical reasons, but do
20 not have near the historical reasons the name Crowfoot
21 constituency has.

22 I highly recommend that the Commission retain the
23 name Crowfoot constituency.

24 Now, I was also scheduled to speak on the
25 boundaries too but have not prepared a report;
26 however, I think dividing Flagstaff County does not
27 make much sense to me. I think that if you took

1 another good look at putting the two extra MLAs in the
2 Wildrose-Calgary area, thus there would be not much
3 need for changing very much in the rest of Alberta,
4 and I had --

5 THE CHAIRMAN: MLAs, Mr. Cameron?

6 MR. ANDREW R. CAMERON: The two extra MLAs we get in the
7 province.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: MPs, I'm sorry, yes. Two extra
9 Members of Parliament, yes.

10 MR. ANDREW R. CAMERON: I was just suggesting that if they
11 went in that Calgary area, Wildrose has far too many
12 population right now, and I think some are here. If
13 those two were put in that general area, I don't think
14 you'd have to do much changing in the rest of the
15 province.

16 Now, I had some extra copies, but if this is
17 being recorded, I guess there's no need of handing the
18 copies out.

19 Thank you.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, if you have hard copies, we'd
21 greatly appreciate them, sir.

22 MR. ANDREW R. CAMERON: Okay.

23 MS. KHULLAR: Mr. Cameron, sorry, I just have a
24 question. Your comment on Flagstaff County -- is that
25 Flagstaff County flagged? Is your proposal that all
26 of Flagstaff County appear in the proposed riding of
27 Drumheller, or that it appear in the other --

1 MR. ANDREW R. CAMERON: Well, I would prefer that, yes,
2 but it's just -- I couldn't see any reasons for
3 splitting it; but, like I say, I didn't go into a
4 special study of it to make up a --

5 MS. KHULLAR: Okay. So your proposal is that
6 all of Flagstaff County should appear in the proposed
7 Drumheller or Crowfoot riding --

8 MR. ANDREW R. CAMERON: I think I would prefer that, yes.

9 MS. KHULLAR: -- as you want it to be called.
10 Okay. Thank you.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Cameron, thank you very much
12 for that rather scholarly presentation on the subject
13 of names. We appreciate that very much.

14 You will have noticed perhaps in the formal
15 proposal at page 4 the following -- sorry, page 5:

16 "According to the Geographical Names Board
17 of Canada, the best names for federal
18 electoral districts are those that
19 immediately give a sense of the province and
20 if possible the region or part of the
21 province in which they are located. For
22 this reason, the Commission favours place
23 names."

24 And that is the sort of thing which prompted us to
25 drop the name as a proposal for Crowfoot, but we fully
26 recognize the force of your comments, sir. Historical
27 names have always played a part in the naming of

1 federal electoral districts, and, in fact, they do as
2 well in other provinces, but that was the reason we
3 did this. We followed a fairly consistent pattern
4 across the province but with some exceptions, and
5 certainly we'll take your comments into -- under
6 advisement, sir, and make a change if we think it's
7 advisable.

8 Okay, now. Mr. Myron Thompson.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, I'm here
10 observing on behalf of Mr. Thompson today.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: M-hm.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I was actually a bit surprised to
13 see his name on the list. He informed the Commission
14 a couple of weeks ago that he wouldn't be appearing,
15 so I'm not sure why he's on the list, but . . .

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you want to say anything on his
17 behalf?

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I didn't have anything prepared,
19 no. I'm just here to observe, so . . .

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you, sir.

21 Mr. David McKinstry from Oyen.

22 MR. DAVID MCKINSTRY: Mr. Justice MacCallum, Mr. Barry
23 and Ms. Khullar, good morning. Good morning to
24 everyone. I would, first of all, like to thank you
25 for the opportunity to present my views on boundary
26 revision, and submit some additional suggestions your
27 Commission may consider in the months ahead.

1 Early in July I had submitted a brief with a
2 hand-drawn proposal where the boundary for our area
3 would be beneficial to some of our constituents.
4 Later that week, I found that your Commission had made
5 proposals for the Province of Alberta and had updated
6 the Elections Canada website. At this time, I would
7 like to review my paper for you and the interested
8 parties in attendance.

9 My name is Dave McKinstry. I'm a 36-year-old
10 farmer from Oyen, Alberta. Since I was in junior high
11 I've been interested in being active in the community.
12 In my time, I have been president of our 200 member
13 curling club, the secretary of the Acadia Seed
14 Processing Co-op, the golf club and currently
15 secretary of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 208. I
16 also sit on the road infrastructure advisory committee
17 for our municipality, the Special Areas Board.

18 Politically, I've been active in the past with
19 the Reform Party and Canadian Alliance as the past
20 president and zone director for the constituency
21 association in Crowfoot. As the constituency
22 president and director, I've had the opportunity to
23 meet constituents from Empress to Hay Lakes and from
24 Drumheller up to Wainwright.

25 The constituency is very diverse in its
26 appearance when you're on the road. The rich black
27 soils in the north and western parts of Crowfoot

1 usually produce bumper crops. In the south around
2 Oyen, Youngstown and Cessford, an average crop is
3 appreciated due to the limited rainfall we receive.
4 In fact, entire townships are resided only by cattle.

5 This introduction to the area is meant to
6 familiarize you with the land and the people that call
7 it home.

8 In the next several paragraphs, I'll strive to
9 make you aware of constituents concerns of
10 representation in the Parliament of Canada.

11 Having been interested in an electoral boundary
12 change since before the last election, I have checked
13 on Election Canada's website occasionally. Last week
14 I noticed your new Federal Representation 2004 link on
15 this site. I've sat down and studied the vast wealth
16 of information the Government of Canada has provided
17 all the way back to the 1925 election. At this time,
18 a local farmer by the name of Robert Gardiner was
19 elected to represent the people of Acadia. My dad
20 tells me that Mr. Gardiner rose in the house one day
21 and asked a question that nearly toppled the
22 Mackenzie King government. He continued to serve
23 until 1935 when the UFA party was obliterated at the
24 polls.

25 In my research one constant remains:
26 depopulation and larger constituencies in rural
27 Alberta. Acadia constituency, from 1924 to 1966, had

1 its boundaries revised three times before being
2 abolished in 1966.

3 Crowfoot has had boundary changes three times
4 also since its inception in 1966. Crowfoot has had a
5 colorful past with Jack Horner, Pollockville area
6 rancher, elected as a PC in 1958 and leaving as a
7 Liberal in 1979; Arnold Malone, a Camrose berry
8 farmer; Jack Ramsay, a consultant; and now Kevin
9 Sorenson, Killam area farmer and auctioneer, have all
10 represented the people of Crowfoot very well.

11 Crowfoot's most major change occurred in 1996
12 when the ridings of Beaver River and Vegreville were
13 abolished to make way for the new riding of Lakeland
14 and a much larger Crowfoot on it's north side.

15 This move from once was Acadia into a mega
16 Crowfoot has given voters in the south a sense of
17 being left out. The vast amount of constituents
18 outside the towns of Oyen, Hanna and Drumheller
19 roughly follow the perimeter of Highways 12 and 56.

20 Residents of these towns: Drumheller, Hanna and
21 Oyen on Highway 9 and the small farming communities
22 these days do most of their business in a south and
23 westerly direction and have very little to do with the
24 northern two-thirds of Crowfoot.

25 Drumheller and Hanna's business is slipping over
26 to Calgary. Provincial services in agriculture are
27 located in Airdrie and Stettler. Health Authority 5

1 is the Highway 2 corridor east to Drumheller, Hanna,
2 Youngstown and Cereal.

3 The Palliser Health Authority and the
4 Prairie Rose School Division encompass an area from
5 the US border to the community of New Brigden 30 miles
6 north of Oyen. Shopping for vehicles, furniture and
7 clothing is now centered in Medicine Hat. For the
8 farmers, grain can be shipped to the last elevator
9 standing in Oyen or they can truck grain some
10 one-and-a-half to two hours to Medicine Hat, Brooks,
11 Trochu or even Calgary, some three-and-a-half hours
12 away. Cattle are no different, as the markets are
13 located in the larger centers.

14 I mentioned earlier about the crops and cattle.
15 We here in the southern half of Crowfoot are blessed
16 with a drier climate. When it rains for a few days in
17 a row, that happens only once every ten years or so,
18 we think two inches of rain is a real good start. The
19 Special Areas is a municipality run by the provincial
20 government. It was formed in 1938 when most farmers
21 had left the area. Local governments at the time had
22 gone bankrupt due in most part for the farmers'
23 inability to pay taxes during the Dirty Thirties.

24 The Brooks and Medicine Hat areas differ little
25 from the southern half of Crowfoot. The Suffield
26 Military Block and the Brooks area were once part of
27 the Special Areas also. The residents of Medicine Hat

1 constituency enjoy the same climate and the people
2 share the same grit and determination as we do.

3 I am no expert on population changes elsewhere in
4 the constituency; however, I am aware that we share
5 many more things in common with the Medicine Hat
6 constituency than we do with our friends in Stettler,
7 Wainwright or Camrose.

8 And my proposals that I had sent along were:
9 from the electoral district of Crowfoot, delete the MD
10 of Acadia 34, the Special Areas Number 3, including
11 Special Area 4 portion Township 32 westerly from the
12 Alberta/Saskatchewan border to include Range 6. This
13 portion of the Special Area 4 includes business and
14 geographic borders. All of the above-mentioned areas
15 to the Medicine Hat electoral district.

16 And I also had a second preference. Add to the
17 Medicine Hat electoral district Special Areas 3, the
18 MD of Acadia 34, a portion of the Special Areas Number
19 4 and Special Area 2.

20 So that was the proposal I had sent in, in the
21 summer.

22 I would now like to speak on the Commission's
23 proposal for the new Drumheller constituency.

24 At first glance, I must congratulate you on your
25 very hard work you and your staff have undertaken. It
26 must be very difficult work.

27 I understand the proposal the Commission has

1 brought forward. This proposed Drumheller
2 constituency addresses many of the concerns that I
3 mentioned to you in my July paper, and this I applaud
4 you for. However, as to the issues of why Special
5 Area 3 and a sliver of Special Area 4 should move into
6 Medicine Hat constituency remains, those being the way
7 of life we enjoy, our morals, our climate, our
8 business interests; and though they are provincial
9 jurisdictions, health and education. I would think
10 although distances may increase for us to get to some
11 corners of a change into the Medicine Hat
12 constituency.

13 When you compile all of these presentations
14 today, I hope that you may consider the points I have
15 made. However, the only thing I know about population
16 is that we don't have much population with the
17 exception of cows, grasshoppers and sunny days. Just
18 where do you put a huge expanse of land with very few
19 people on it?

20 If the Commission ultimately decides to keep the
21 proposed Drumheller constituency, may I now present
22 some possible suggestions.

23 1. The northeast corner of the proposal includes
24 a six or an eight-mile strip of the MD of Provost. I
25 think due to municipal and business interests, this
26 should be included in the proposed
27 Vegreville-Wainwright district.

1 2. On the north boundary the proposal includes
2 a portion of the County of Flagstaff.

3 MS. KHULLAR: Mr. McKinstry?

4 MR. DAVID MCKINSTRY: Yes.

5 MS. KHULLAR: I'm just going to stop you, and
6 perhaps our geographer could give you her pointer. As
7 you go through proposals, just show us where you mean
8 on the map too.

9 MR. DAVID MCKINSTRY: Yes.

10 MS. KHULLAR: It would just be helpful to help
11 follow your suggestions. Thank you.

12 MR. DAVID MCKINSTRY: Thank you. There is the portion
13 of the M.D. of Provost right there. It's right down
14 in this corner. And the County of Flagstaff, I
15 believe, is included in our constituency as this
16 portion here, and I'll continue on.

17 Here the Battle River is a natural as well as
18 municipal and business boundary.

19 3. On the western edge of the district, over in
20 this area, several miles of Red Deer, Mountain View --
21 Red Deer there, Mountain View here -- and Rocky View
22 municipalities. I think that these people would want
23 to be with the rest of their local government and
24 business. To be blunt, perhaps, these people may
25 never go east of their local town. To address this,
26 perhaps the Red Deer proposal could grow towards the
27 south and east a few miles.

1 4. The farmers just south of Drumheller --
2 here -- should also be included in the rest of the
3 County of Wheatland, which is here, which is already
4 included in the proposed Drumheller constituency.

5 In closing, I trust the population is not the
6 sole factor in these proposals. I think it unfair
7 that ridings in Ontario and PEI, for instance, have
8 only some 60 or 70,000 people while in constituencies
9 here, we have upwards of 108,000 residents. In
10 Crowfoot, our MPs travel four hours one way to get
11 from the northwest corner up by Hay Lakes down to
12 Empress and Acadia Valley. That area is from there up
13 to here somewhere. Even board members of the
14 constituency associations make a great sacrifice
15 taking part in the political process many Canadians
16 treasure.

17 This process won't occur for another ten years.
18 Let's do some fine tuning where necessary.

19 Representation is what we're striving for.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. McKinsty, thank you for your
22 hard work on that presentation. It was very detailed.
23 We'll take the detailed part of it into account at our
24 leisure, if you want to put it that way because we
25 can't properly respond to it at this moment.

26 We are keenly aware, of course, of the problem
27 presented in representation to the MPs and to their

1 constituents by the size of ridings; but if you think
2 we have problems in southern Alberta, you should see
3 Northern Alberta.

4 MR. DAVID MCKINSTRY: Oh, I can appreciate that.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: The geographical center of Alberta
6 is near Swan Hills. There are two ridings to the
7 north and 26 -- there will be 26 to the south, so they
8 have immense distances to cover up there and often
9 times the roads are very poor or there aren't any,
10 which is in distinction to rather good roads that we
11 enjoy in this part of the province, so we certainly
12 are aware of that, and we do what we can to minimize
13 the inconvenience caused by the size of ridings, but
14 we are limited by law in how far we can go in that
15 respect.

16 Your comments about Red Deer are well taken. The
17 Red Deer constituency will be the subject of intense
18 scrutiny later on today, but I can just say to you now
19 that Red Deer is really growing. It almost merits
20 federal electoral boundaries of its own in the city
21 proper, never mind the entire Red Deer County or the
22 country which it now encompasses, so out of necessity
23 it has to shrink geographically, and perhaps it
24 doesn't have to shrink in the way that our proposal
25 set it out because we recognize the complaints from
26 the people on the immediate east side of Red Deer that
27 we're hiving them off when all of their association is

1 with Red Deer and not with points east.

2 MR. DAVID MCKINSTRY: Sure.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: So we'll hear a lot about that
4 tonight, and I just don't want to comment anymore at
5 this time. I'm going to ask my colleagues if they
6 have comments or questions for you.

7 DR. BARRY: I don't have any.

8 MS. KHULLAR: I don't have anything else. Thank
9 you very much. It was very helpful.

10 MR. DAVID MCKINSTRY: Thank you.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks a lot.

12 Mr. Stanley Schumacher.

13 MR. STANLEY SCHUMACHER: Mr. Chairman, members of the
14 Commission, welcome to Drumheller. For the benefit of
15 the audience, I think they'll feel much more
16 comfortable by knowing that our chairman was born in
17 Drumheller and spent his formative years at Munson,
18 not very far away.

19 And I hope I don't sound like a broken record for
20 Mr. McKinstry, but I have some of the same concerns he
21 does, but I wanted to particularly say that my first
22 appearance before an Electoral Boundaries Commission
23 was before the Honourable Mr. Justice Marshall Menzies
24 Porter at the Calgary Courthouse in 1966, and it's
25 nice to see that things have got much more user
26 friendly since that time. And I appeared there as
27 president of a constituency association making some

1 comments about the proposals at that time. I really
2 didn't know that two years later I'd be a candidate in
3 the proposed constituency that I was appearing for;
4 but, nevertheless, I was nominated and elected for the
5 electoral division of Palliser in 1968, and it was a
6 constituency very much like even, but more so, more
7 rural in area. It certainly looked like a rural seat
8 on the map because it went just east of Drumheller to
9 the Stony Indian Reserve on the west, it included the
10 Sarcee Reserve, and two miles south of the TransCanada
11 Highway east of Calgary was the general borders. But
12 it had a large, large portion of Calgary in it on the
13 west side -- the west, north and east sides, and which
14 grew substantially in the succeeding 11 years in which
15 I represented it.

16 All I can say is that I believe, from reading the
17 daily press in Edmonton, that the people in Edmonton
18 who allegedly speak for the citizens really don't have
19 an understanding of what you have been -- what you've
20 presented for Edmonton, and I want to say that I think
21 that you are on the right track in what you've done
22 there, and perhaps it could be -- as time goes on, you
23 maybe not do it this time, but I think that succeeding
24 commissions should take note of what you've done this
25 time and apply it to the other growth areas of Calgary
26 and, say, Red Deer, in future redistributions.

27 So I certainly -- I want to say that I generally

1 support what you've proposed for this Drumheller
2 constituency. I would urge, though, that this part of
3 Wheatland County that's not in should be put in
4 because -- and I think there --

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Would you mind using the pointer
6 as well, Mr. Schumacher? That would be very helpful.

7 MR. STANLEY SCHUMACHER: It's pretty high tech for an old
8 fellow like me.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: It's actually quite a lot of fun.

10 MR. STANLEY SCHUMACHER: All right. That part, that should
11 be the boundary, so that -- because it really makes --
12 I know there's not many people involved, but it brings
13 to the fore the main point of my submission here.

14 The purpose of this legislation and what the
15 Commission is doing is to provide effective
16 representation to the people involved. Now, they
17 select somebody to be their representative, and in
18 particularly areas like this one, there's a large,
19 large area in which large parts of it have very, very
20 few people, and to make life easier for the
21 representative and so that he can or she can be more
22 effective on behalf of the population, it's my
23 submission that, as far as possible, these
24 constituencies should be made up of whole
25 municipalities. Whole municipalities. Don't -- and
26 where that's impossible, for sure the boundary should
27 be on a major geographical identifier like a river or,

1 in some cases, highways.

2 But in this particular case, I notice that we are
3 very, very close to the quotient. In fact, we're
4 plus. I find it hard to justify it being plus when
5 you have this whole eastern part of the constituency
6 with hardly anybody in it. So there is a distance and
7 sparsity problem, and I really do believe that there
8 should be room to pull back those western boundaries
9 so that we don't have Mountain View, Rocky View and
10 Red Deer within this constituency.

11 I'm sorry, I can't say what that does to the
12 variance, but we do have a 25 percent variance.
13 That's written into the law. The law doesn't say that
14 some section of the law is less important than other
15 sections of the law. It's all the law.

16 And sometimes I think that people get too wedded
17 to this representation by population, the
18 one-person-one-vote concept, which I don't think was
19 ever designed for the North American continent. It
20 grew up in the tight little island of -- or islands of
21 the United Kingdom. And certainly our neighbor to the
22 south doesn't accept that, except for the lower house,
23 but they certainly modify that by their senate. We
24 don't have that same situation here, so we have to
25 have a mix in both houses of our federal Parliament.

26 But I -- so my main point is, particularly on the
27 west, and I suppose that --

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Just use your pointer,
2 Mr. Schumacher.

3 MR. STANLEY SCHUMACHER: This area here, and, of course,
4 that would make Red Deer very happy, although it would
5 give them -- they'd be quite a bit above, but if the
6 people -- if that's what the people want, I don't know
7 why we can't be responsive to the people.

8 And so I just leave that with you. Try to
9 lessen -- because I know ten years seems like a long
10 time when you're young, but when you get my age, it's
11 not very long, and we seem to be having these
12 redistributions quite frequently, I've noticed, in the
13 last three or four times.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Time flies.

15 MR. STANLEY SCHUMACHER: And, I guess, what I've noticed
16 about boundaries commissions, whether they be federal
17 or provincial, they seem to want to do their division
18 so that the population will grow into the 25 percent
19 by the time -- the terms for the next time to go, and
20 I don't understand why that has to be, but, anyway, I
21 don't understand everything in this world.

22 But to make for effective representation to help
23 make up for the terrible distances involved, it would
24 be so much handier for the people, if they knew where
25 they lived, what constituency they were in, and their
26 representative would have as few as possible
27 jurisdictions, MLAs and municipal councillors, to deal

1 with in trying to meet the needs of their citizens.

2 Thank you very much. It's a pleasure to have you
3 at Drumheller, and I wish you all the best in your
4 deliberations.

5 Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Schumacher, just stay there,
7 and I'll see if anybody has a comment.

8 MS. KHULLAR: I don't have any questions. I
9 would just like to thank you. You obviously bring a
10 wealth of experience to this, and thank you for
11 sharing that with us.

12 DR. BARRY: I'd like to second that. Thank
13 you very much.

14 MR. STANLEY SCHUMACHER: Thank you very much.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: It's good to be back in
16 Drumheller, Mr. Schumacher. Thank you very much.

17 MR. STANLEY SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: As indeed, we take careful note of
19 anything somebody with your experience has to say.

20 MR. STANLEY SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: And Ms. Joyce Westerlund from
22 Oyen.

23 MRS. JOYCE WESTERLUND: Good morning. I'm very happy to
24 present some views, concerns and suggestions to you
25 people today. Thank you for coming, and we welcome
26 you here today.

27 So on behalf of the meetings that have been

1 numerous that I've gone to and held across Alberta,
2 then working with the adjoining constituencies to
3 Crowfoot as it is and collecting input from all of the
4 concerned voters, I present to you the following for
5 your serious consideration. There's been quite a bit
6 of work done in our constituency on this and with
7 different people.

8 Please refer to the proposed map, and it's the
9 last one on your page there, and it is a proposal from
10 people who have done the work.

11 The west boundary of the constituency as proposed
12 goes up to and north of Red Deer, very close to the
13 city. Now, there is no community of interest or
14 identity with the rest of Crowfoot because it's urban,
15 of course.

16 2. Going south down that same boundary, the
17 proposed boundary goes west of the major Number 2
18 Highway. It travels from Calgary to Edmonton and
19 beyond. There still is no connection as far as
20 continuity with the constituency.

21 3. And continuing south, it follows the Number
22 2 Highway past Airdrie, and it cuts Airdrie in half
23 with the industrial park being on the east side. This
24 puts Airdrie's industrial half in a basically
25 agricultural and smaller business constituency. Plus
26 with Airdrie and Calgary's growth, it will soon be
27 part of Calgary. There is no common community or

1 identity in this area either with the rest of
2 Crowfoot.

3 4. And Number 4, going south still, the
4 boundary butts up to Calgary's eastern boundary. The
5 city meets the country, for now anyway, and, there
6 again, we don't see anything in common.

7 5. But by using municipal boundaries west of
8 Three Hills and including Strathmore into the new
9 constituency, it would be compatible gaining similar
10 local governments and life-styles, plus increasing the
11 population to comply with the electoral quota of at
12 least 106,243.

13 6. So then we move on to number 6. Then follow
14 the Red Deer River as the boundary to the Alberta and
15 Saskatchewan border. This does not isolate anyone.
16 This border would be the eastern one up until just
17 under Wainwright. That's the meridian one between
18 Saskatchewan and Alberta. And then it would turn --
19 underneath Wainwright it would turn west and go over
20 to and take in Camrose and Hay Lakes, as is shown on
21 the Citizens' Proposed Constituency Map that you have
22 there. I've basically described that suggestion.

23 Now, there is other further reasons for keeping
24 it in one block. The Special Areas is a special kind
25 of government. It needs to be kept together to be
26 administered properly because it all has the same
27 features: drought, grasshoppers and special attention

1 to lighter land. In some cases, heavy land, but not
2 always.

3 So then by making these changes as proposed, you
4 would have satisfied your mandate as well as the
5 concerns of the people. They are major -- minor
6 changes in such that the surrounding constituencies
7 can then have a similar, well drawn out constituency
8 as to the population.

9 And I am not being critical here. I just would
10 like to see a really workable one because -- for
11 Crowfoot and the rest of the constituencies because of
12 the breadth -- the length and breadth of the
13 constituency and the traveling time and things that is
14 put on the people who are interested in politics or in
15 running for any position in the constituency.

16 It is serviced quite well by the hospital setup
17 that we have now, and to make any major changes to it
18 would wreak quite a bit of havoc on the citizens of
19 this area. As you know, we get used to using the
20 doctors that we trust and are satisfied with, and
21 they're within our driving distance, and we have
22 chosen those, and we need to retain that. And that is
23 where the major -- where we do our major shopping, as
24 we go to see the doctors, as we travel for repairs,
25 and we travel all over that constituency for repairs.
26 It is just a way of life for us.

27 But further to the other concern that we had, the

1 name of Crowfoot is a special historical significance
2 to the people of our proposed constituency. As you
3 know, Crowfoot was a highly respected Native chief who
4 lived and travelled the western plains. A gentleman
5 from Drumheller painted a picture of Chief Crowfoot
6 and then allowed prints to be made with the permission
7 of Chief Crowfoot's decedents. Many people now have
8 these prints in their homes and even in Ottawa. It's
9 a very significant part of our history here.

10 We are proud of Chief Crowfoot and wish to retain
11 the name of Crowfoot for this constituency, and we
12 really don't wish to cause any embarrassment to his
13 decedents for changing it. We are quite loyal to him
14 and really appreciate what he has done over his years,
15 and we do think that Crowfoot is very apt in its
16 naming of our constituency.

17 But I would like to thank you for your time and
18 for your attention, and I'm sorry about my jerky
19 presentation. My voice is not as good it should be
20 today.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: It was just fine, Ms. Westerlund.
22 Thank you very much for coming. We appreciate the
23 historical reminders, and we'll certainly give it
24 careful consideration.

25 Your concerns about Airdrie I don't think are
26 founded. The boundary -- can you show us the
27 boundary?

1 MRS. JOYCE WESTERLUND: The boundary goes right through
2 the highway, like.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. No.

4 MRS. JOYCE WESTERLUND: No?

5 THE CHAIRMAN: No. We -- it goes around. Do you
6 see there, the jog? It certainly wasn't our intention
7 to bisect any town, it sometimes happens, but
8 particularly a town that's as important as Airdrie.
9 We have to be careful about that, that's for sure.

10 MRS. JOYCE WESTERLUND: Yes. Well, I'm glad you have
11 because it --

12 THE CHAIRMAN: And I may say that the Highway
13 Number 2 towns between Red Deer and Airdrie are a
14 cause of concern to many people in respect to which
15 riding they should be in, and it's something we'll
16 have to iron out in our Calgary hearings and deal with
17 because it is a matter of concern to everybody --

18 MRS. JOYCE WESTERLUND: M-hm.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: -- us included.

20 MRS. JOYCE WESTERLUND: M-hm.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: A certain amount of this exercise,
22 of course, is population driven, as you can imagine.

23 MRS. JOYCE WESTERLUND: That's right.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: And the fact that some towns have
25 been included in one riding and others in another one
26 has been done just for that reason, so we'll do
27 whatever we can to accommodate the wishes of people

1 who live there and trade in that corridor, which has
2 become a very significant one in Alberta.

3 MRS. JOYCE WESTERLUND: Yes. That is would be a lot of
4 help.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks, Ms. Westerlund.

6 MRS. JOYCE WESTERLUND: Thank you.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: All right.

8 MS. KHULLAR: Thank you for doing the detailed
9 map as well. That's very helpful to us.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: That's very helpful to us, yes.

11 MS. KHULLAR: Thank you.

12 MRS. JOYCE WESTERLUND: You're welcome.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ken Perreault.

14 MR. KEN PERREAULT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
15 fellow members of the head table.

16 Mr. Chairman, my name is Ken Perreault. I'm from
17 Castor, Alberta. I'm a farmer in that region.

18 First off, I would like to start this morning by
19 telling you why I, as a voter of Crowfoot constituency
20 would want to remain as a residing resident of
21 Crowfoot constituency instead of renamed to Drumheller
22 as your proposal has suggested, and then I want to
23 turn to issues of specific direct harm regarding the
24 proposed boundary realignment that you have proposed
25 for east central Alberta.

26 I am one of many thousands of voters within this
27 part of the province who have come to rely, just as

1 most Canadians from all regions of this country -- to
2 recognize the unique name of Crowfoot constituency, of
3 what Crowfoot constituency denotes and its historical
4 place in this vast society of ours.

5 The Crowfoot constituency of today is named in
6 honor of Chief Crowfoot. This great leader brought
7 much fame to the region of this country, a respected
8 diplomat and orator. His actions in turning down an
9 invitation to join Sitting Bull during the American --
10 the against the Americans in 1876, his dominant role
11 in the Blackfoot Treaty of 1877, and his decision not
12 to take part in the Riel Rebellion of 1885 made both
13 he and his nation famous and respected throughout all
14 Canada. He died a broken man and a starved man simply
15 because federal government agents dictated that he
16 must live on land reserved for his people on the edge
17 of Sounding Lake where he well understood they would
18 not be able to sustain a livelihood of their own.

19 Well, Mr. Chairman, Crowfoot has been an
20 identifiable region that all Canadians have come to
21 recognize. It is known as that vast region of east
22 central Alberta whose peoples today have much in
23 common. The drought of this past summer is one of
24 many examples that this -- that the unique peoples of
25 this region have had to endure, yet in your proposal
26 it is noted that you are suggesting the voters who
27 work and commute daily into the City of Calgary have

1 much the same common concerns as experienced by
2 ranchers and farmers from Coronation or Oyen.

3 It goes without saying that the Chief Electoral
4 Officer's report on modernizing Canada's electoral
5 process contains a number of recommendations designed
6 to move forward the process of electoral reform which
7 this country so dearly needs. Areas addressed in
8 Mr. Kingsley's report noted that the elector must,
9 before all else, be the central focus of an electoral
10 system, that the system must be designed to remove as
11 much as possible all obstacles.

12 Well, is that what your proposals provide? If
13 so, that affects the right of Crowfoot constituency to
14 exist. The City of Camrose, the largest urban center
15 presently in Crowfoot, whose economic trading area
16 extends into the heartland of Crowfoot constituency
17 has a great deal more empathy than the communities
18 adjacent to the cities of Calgary and Red Deer, both
19 of which will be bordering the new riding of
20 Drumheller, as you have proposed. Camrose is a city
21 whose residents are still closely rooted in the
22 agriculture industry and have proudly played their
23 part in Crowfoot constituency. Is that what your
24 proposals provide? If not, that creates an obstacle
25 for Camrose and the voters of Crowfoot. I would I
26 would ask you maintain the city's status as part of
27 the major trading area that it serves in Crowfoot

1 constituency.

2 What obligations are being placed on the voters
3 of this constituency by your recommendations but
4 financial obligations? What other obligations? For
5 the moment, let me say, simply, we don't know.

6 The important thing is are the obligations such
7 that the long-term significance of this region -- of
8 this region, are they enhanced or impaired? Will
9 onerous burdens be placed on electors so that in the
10 long run the Member of Parliament will not be able to
11 provide and the electors will not be able to enjoy the
12 same level of service that they have come to expect
13 and anticipate to date. If the provisions of your
14 recommendations contribute to the risk or failure of
15 the constituency's Member of Parliament to provide
16 adequate service, that is not just a risk to the
17 Member of Parliament. It's not just something that
18 our Member of Parliament can determine or control.
19 It's a risk ultimately to be borne by the residents of
20 this region. Crowfoot constituency, its electors,
21 they, most significantly, they will be the ones who
22 will suffer if your recommendations impose undue
23 obligations and risks so that our Member of Parliament
24 is no longer able to provide and the residents of this
25 constituency no longer able to enjoy the same level of
26 service as they have come to expect and anticipate.
27 That is why it is important to look at issues of

1 specific harm in terms of what we had and what we're
2 going to get.

3 1. Crowfoot has a residing Member of Parliament
4 who maintains an office staffed by very capable people
5 in Killam. The Town of Killam is situated very near
6 the center of the constituency today. Your proposal
7 to divide the riding with the northern boundary of the
8 new riding just south of Killam will make it necessary
9 to re-establish a new riding office in a location that
10 may not be centralized. This is why it is important
11 to consider your proposal in terms of what we had and
12 what we're going to get.

13 I don't feel that your proposal of an expanded
14 Drumheller riding will enhance the delivery of
15 services that the electors of Crowfoot now enjoy and
16 have come to anticipate.

17 2. Your proposal will require constituency
18 associations of each political party to re-establish
19 actively functioning party associations within the new
20 riding of Drumheller which will require considerable
21 time and effort on the part of many electors in this
22 new constituency. This is why it is important to
23 consider your proposal in terms of what we had and
24 what we're going to get. I don't feel that your
25 proposal enhance the delivery of services that the
26 electors of Crowfoot now enjoy and have come to
27 anticipate.

1 3. Your proposal of further expanding the
2 boundaries, making traveling time for a greater number
3 of electors now an issue of considerable risk and
4 costs they will be required to bear. This is an
5 unfair, onerous burden placed upon rural electors that
6 needs to be addressed in the modernization of Canada's
7 Election Act. That is why I feel it is important to
8 consider your proposal in terms what rural electors of
9 this constituency now have and what they're going to
10 get.

11 In closing, Mr. Chairman and fellow members, I
12 would ask you to consider maintaining the Crowfoot
13 name and ask you to reconsider allowing all those
14 electors who commute daily into Red Deer and Calgary
15 to remain in those city ridings.

16 I wish to submit a map that forms part of my
17 presentation and ask that you consider the expanding
18 alignment of the boundary for Crowfoot constituency
19 and that I have proposed.

20 Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Perreault, have you handed
22 your map into the secretary yet?

23 MR. KEN PERREAULT: I have my submissions here. I've
24 got extra copies, along with the map.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Just before you -- just don't sit
26 down for a second, sir. I'd like to look at that map
27 for a second.

1 MR. KEN PERREAULT: The map is on the last page and as
2 long as -- as well as a description of the boundaries.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Sir, does your map -- it's hard to
4 tell from this because the Calgary city boundaries are
5 not shown, but does the western boundary of the riding
6 of Crowfoot, as you propose it, impinge upon any part
7 of Calgary City.

8 MR. KEN PERREAULT: No, it doesn't.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: But it does include, in your view,
10 the commuting communities.

11 MR. KEN PERREAULT: It still it has the commuters out
12 of Strathmore and that area.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: You'd like the bedroom communities
14 to be with Calgary.

15 MR. KEN PERREAULT: That's right, if possible.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: In other words, the creation of
17 sort of hybrid ridings, if I can put it that way.

18 MR. KEN PERREAULT: That's right, because what you
19 have done in the City of Edmonton --

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

21 MR. KEN PERREAULT: -- is exactly what you haven't
22 done in the City of Calgary.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: That's right.

24 MR. KEN PERREAULT: And so they're -- you're treating
25 the two different -- the two cities in a
26 diabolically --

27 MR. STANLEY SCHUMACHER: Diametrically.

1 MR. KEN PERREAULT: -- diametrically opposite
2 position. You're not --

3 MS. KHULLAR: Some in Edmonton would say
4 diabolical.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Some in Edmonton have said
6 diabolical --

7 MS. KHULLAR: Yes, they have said that.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: -- and worse. It's a good point
9 you raise, sir, and the hybrid riding concept we chose
10 for Edmonton was in recognition of the peculiar nature
11 of the surrounding communities. The population center
12 of metropolitan Edmonton is about 181,000 people
13 living in communities which are very close to the city
14 boundaries of Edmonton, and they're bedroom
15 communities, really.

16 MR. KEN PERREAULT: Yes.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: And so we thought that there was
18 such a community of interest there and so little
19 intervening truly agricultural interest that they
20 should be represented by Members of Parliament who had
21 both the interests of those so-called bedroom
22 communities and the interests of Edmonton at heart, so
23 we didn't do it in Calgary because Airdrie is about
24 the only big place that is very close to Calgary.

25 MR. KEN PERREAULT: You have High River. You have
26 High River to the south.

27 THE CHAIRMAN: And also, and more importantly,

1 Calgary has grown so much that it qualified for an
2 extra seat just within its city boundaries; so perhaps
3 the next time around, if Calgary doesn't -- if Calgary
4 doesn't amalgamate further -- annex, I should say,
5 further territory, something like that will have to be
6 done out of necessity by the next Commission who works
7 on it, but we make no comment about things that far
8 into the future, and, briefly speaking, sir, that's
9 why we have done what we have done. We have to
10 draw the boundary of a rural riding somewhere,
11 obviously, and whether we put it -- you know, the
12 influence of Calgary, as you say, is too far extended
13 into Crowfoot, if it weren't for that, I suppose it
14 might be too far into MacLeod, or too far into
15 Lethbridge.

16 So I want to thank you very much, however, for
17 the insights you have offered us, and you've obviously
18 given much thought to this, and the map is very
19 helpful.

20 Any further comments?

21 MS. KHULLAR: Did you have something else you
22 wanted to say, sir?

23 MR. KEN PERREAULT: No. It was just a -- sort of a
24 rebuttal to the Edmonton situation up there in that
25 your extensions that you have made out of the city
26 have gone really too far, and that is why the City of
27 Edmonton has created a problem, but you haven't kept

1 the problem within the city boundaries. You have
2 extended them way out into the country, and, in fact,
3 it's right out into even Crowfoot territory here,
4 so . . .

5 MS. KHULLAR: Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Into where?

7 MR. KEN PERREAULT: Into our constituency as well.

8 Our northern boundary is chopped down simply because
9 of trying to fit Edmonton ridings --

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, I see, because of the domino
11 effect.

12 MR. KEN PERREAULT: Yes.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. Thank you, sir.

14 MR. KEN PERREAULT: Okay. I thank you very much.

15 MS. KHULLAR: Thank you very much.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: And thanks for that. That's good.

17 I want to say to everybody who has taken the
18 trouble to leave us hard copies that we appreciate
19 them very much. Obviously, we can only get so much --
20 absorb so much during the hearing, and we don't want
21 to forget what has been said, otherwise it would have
22 been wasted.

23 As matters have developed, ladies and gentlemen,
24 we do have a bit of extra time, and so if anybody
25 wants to ask us a question from the floor, we will
26 bend the rules as set out in the statute and welcome
27 those questions or comments, but please be brief, and

1 if you wish them to make them, come to the podium and
2 identify yourselves.

3 Anybody else? I'm not asking for a reprise of
4 what we've already heard.

5 Okay.

6 MR. KEVIN SORENSON: I have one question. Just, as the
7 Member of Parliament, I am asked quite regularly,
8 because obviously there has been major changes to the
9 constituency that I represent, but one of the
10 questions that I get asked as I travel throughout the
11 constituency is: To what degree do these appeals or
12 presentations -- historically, have they shown that
13 they have made a difference? This is a concern.

14 I think of the City of Camrose who presented a
15 letter and was to send a letter to the Commission and
16 sent me a copy of the letter explaining in great
17 detail how their market area, and, you know, the area
18 that they're involved with mainly is completely to the
19 east, and they feel very disenfranchised from the rest
20 of the constituency and certainly from the new
21 constituency that they would be placed in, in
22 Wetaskiwin, and, you know, their frustration level has
23 been that they have very little in common with
24 Wetaskiwin, other than, you know, proximity, but the
25 shopping and the market area doesn't reach to the
26 west, it reaches to the east; and, again, in cities
27 and rural communities, the question is: Does the

1 appeal make much of a difference?

2 I know that I have a responsibility, and, I
3 guess, I have the privilege of making my appeal in
4 Ottawa where the Members of Parliament will do their
5 presentations later, but to the people that I'm asked
6 the question of: To what degree do these meetings --
7 do they play a significant role?

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I can begin by assuring you
9 that they certainly do, a casual glance at the history
10 demonstrates that entire ridings have been proposed
11 and not followed through with in the past. I don't
12 think I have to be specific, but the Beaver River
13 country, the old riding west -- east of Edmonton, is a
14 good example of that, and there are many examples
15 which we have encountered during the course our
16 meetings of people giving us the benefit of local
17 knowledge that we simply wouldn't have known about
18 simply by reference to a map. That's applied from the
19 north end of the province to the south end of the
20 province, and if it makes no great difference in terms
21 of the population shifts, and there's not a
22 substantial reason for not adopting it, we certainly
23 will. We are not married to these proposals. That's
24 what they're -- that's why they're call proposals, and
25 we've received many valuable suggestions about
26 boundary changes which can be made without doing great
27 violence to the law or to the boundaries as they now

1 exist, particularly in southern Alberta.

2 The point you make about Camrose, of course, is
3 one which we'll here again, forcefully, I'm sure, when
4 we hold our Wetaskiwin hearings. I just wanted to say
5 that not every claim of trading area which a center
6 makes is beyond dispute. The mayor, I think, was of
7 Bawlf, for example, which we have placed in with
8 Camrose, which is there now, wanted to be in
9 Wetaskiwin, whereas Camrose claims it.

10 MS. MATTHEWS: We have both where they wanted to
11 be.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: That's right. They wanted to be
13 in Wetaskiwin, and Camrose claims that area in which
14 Bawlf is located is part of its natural trading area,
15 so there's lots of -- as I said in my opening remarks,
16 there's plenty of interests that we have to balance.
17 You don't get the same story from everybody; and when
18 we're dealing with a major center like Camrose, of
19 course, we have to be very, very careful of what we
20 do.

21 MR. KEVIN SORENSON: Can I just respond to that, as far
22 as the Bawlf situation?

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

24 MR. KEVIN SORENSON: I'm not so sure that Bawlf really
25 wants to be in Wetaskiwin-Camrose riding as much as
26 they want to be in the Camrose -- together with
27 Camrose. Camrose has, in letters and -- you know,

1 letters that I have received has made it very clear
2 that they would like to have that whole eastern
3 region, and I'm sure -- I'm sure that, you know, the
4 towns down the line into Flagstaff and carrying right
5 through to Provost wouldn't be in the same category as
6 Bawlf wanting to be in that area with Camrose, so
7 just . . .

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, if you'll just give me a
9 minute, I'll find the letter. City of Camrose, yes.
10 Yes, here it is.

11 "As mayor of Bawlf, I am following through
12 on a resolution by our council that our
13 village wishes to be included in the
14 proposed new Wetaskiwin riding rather than
15 the Vegreville-Wainwright riding."

16 MR. KEVIN SORENSON: The other way, with Camrose.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: With Camrose though. Yes.
18 Thanks.

19 Okay. Yes, sir, Mr. McKinstry.

20 MR. DAVID MCKINSTRY: Mr. Chairman, what is the
21 timetable from now on, and what -- like, in the months
22 ahead, are we allowed to follow up on other
23 presentations that we've heard today and forward our
24 input to the Commission? Are we allowed -- are there
25 hearings in the future where we might be able to speak
26 again, or is this it?

27 THE CHAIRMAN: This is the -- the only round of

1 public hearings is this one. The province, for
2 example, has two, but the federal process provides for
3 only one. You may, however, attend other hearings.
4 In speaking of the timetable, we go to Red Deer, and
5 then next week we go to Calgary, and then Cochrane,
6 and then Wetaskiwin, and then St. Paul, and then
7 Vegreville, and we're finished, so you're welcome to
8 appear at any one of those, although the time has
9 passed when you can make a formal presentation.

10 MR. DAVID MCKINSTRY: Forgive me, but, I guess, what I
11 meant to ask was, in the months ahead --

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, in the months ahead, sure.

13 MR. DAVID MCKINSTRY: Like, what is the timetable from
14 now until you come up with another -- if you reject
15 those proposals in any way, when will we be seeing
16 that updated.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: We intend to make our report to
18 Parliament by the 15th of December, and it will then
19 go to a committee of the house where the Members of
20 Parliament will have their chance to voice their
21 objections, if they have any; and as a result of that,
22 it will come back to us, and we will prepare our final
23 report. We intend to be finished our final report by
24 February or March, and then it goes according to the
25 timetable which I described in my opening statement,
26 so everything should be finished by July, and I don't
27 think you'll have access to our report until the final

1 one comes out, sir.

2 And, sir, if you wish to make any supplemental
3 representations in writing, we would welcome those,
4 and please have them into our Commission office before
5 the end of the month, if you would.

6 MR. DAVID MCKINSTRY: Okay. Thank you.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: The end of this month.

8 Thank you, one and all. If that's all, we will
9 bid you good-bye, and we're off to the airport and
10 then Red Deer.

11 MS. KHULLAR: Thank you very much.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Please help yourself to coffee, if
13 you wish; and, by the way, that representation formula
14 that I talked about is described in a schematic way on
15 that poster at the back of the room, and it also
16 appears in a booklet entitled REPRESENTATION -- I'll
17 find it here for you, this booklet here,
18 REPRESENTATION in the House of Commons of Canada.
19 It's a very informative thing, and if you want a copy
20 of it, you can take one with you.

21 Thanks.

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23 PUBLIC HEARING CONCLUDED

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1 Certificate of Transcript

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3 I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the
4 foregoing pages are a true and faithful transcript of
5 the proceedings taken down by me in shorthand and
6 transcribed to the best of my skill and ability.

7 Dated at the City of Edmonton, Province of
8 Alberta, this 25th day of October, 2002.

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D. L. Ragan, CSR (A)

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Official Court Reporter

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FEDERAL ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION
OF ALBERTA, 2002-2003
UNDER THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES
READJUSTMENT ACT, R.S.C 1985, c. E-3

P U B L I C H E A R I N G

DRUMHELLER, ALBERTA

17th October, 2002

C O M M I S S I O N

Justice E. P. MacCallum	Commission Chairman
Ms. Ritu Khullar	Commission Member
Dr. Donald J. Barry	Commission Member

Ms. Miranda Petryshyn	Commission Secretary
Ms. Dawn Mathews	Geography Specialist
D. L. Ragan, C.S.R. (A)	Official Court Reporter/ Examiner