

PUBLIC HEARING HELD AT THE LETHBRIDGE LODGE HOTEL, LETHBRIDGE  
15TH OCTOBER, 2002

INDEX OF PRESENTERS - LETHBRIDGE

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1 Public Hearing held at the Lethbridge Lodge Hotel, Lethbridge  
2 15th October, 2002, commencing at 7:30 p.m.

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4 THE CHAIRMAN: We can call the meeting to order.  
5 There is only one gentleman in attendance. Perhaps  
6 you could identify yourself, sir, at the mic, and then  
7 the reporter will have your voice down on the record.

8 MR. ED GRANGER: I am Ed Granger, G-R-A-N-G-E-R.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: We don't have any registered  
10 presenters, Mr. Granger, but we are, as you know, the  
11 Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission. We're here  
12 to receive any representations or reaction there might  
13 be to our proposal which is published in formal form,  
14 and I presume that you have a copy of it. If you  
15 haven't, you can certainly get one here.

16 MR. ED GRANGER: Yes, I have.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: And I did understand from my  
18 colleague that you -- this is Mr. Barry and  
19 Ms. Khullar, by the way, and my name is MacCallum. I  
20 understand that you had a question about the inclusion  
21 of all of the county within the electoral district.

22 MR. ED GRANGER: Yes. Just my -- I work within the  
23 constituency office in Lethbridge.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, for the MP?

25 MR. ED GRANGER: Yes, and so I wanted to come and  
26 hear any formal presentations that were being made.  
27 Just my observation, from working in the constituency

1 for the last five years, is we have a lot of people in  
2 the County of Lethbridge at the north end, which  
3 includes Barons and Carmangay, that tend to shop and  
4 come to this direction in terms of contacts and so on,  
5 so we have to redirect them in the other direction to  
6 MacLeod constituency out of Okotoks, which is really  
7 not a natural movement for them.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: And Barons and Carmangay are  
9 within the Lethbridge County, are they.

10 MR. ED GRANGER: Barons is -- I apologize.  
11 Carmangay might be just outside, but it's -- that's  
12 the county area right there that includes Barons and  
13 Turin.

14 MS. MATTHEWS: That's Barons.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

16 MR. ED GRANGER: That's Barons right there? Yes,  
17 so then Carmangay is just north of that, so it just --  
18 it's the county boundary then.

19 The other -- the other natural boundary there, of  
20 course, is the river, but people from Barons and Turin  
21 tend to contact us from this way.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, they would. Now, can we see  
23 Barons and Carmangay depicted on the map at all, or  
24 pointed to?

25 MS. MATTHEWS: Barons.

26 THE CHAIRMAN: Barons, yes. Carmangay?

27 MR. ED GRANGER: Yes, so Barons -- yes, Carmangay

1 is on the south side of river but would not be  
2 included in that particular drawing of the County of  
3 Lethbridge.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: What river is that, sir?

5 MR. ED GRANGER: That is the Bow River, I believe.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: And does the Lethbridge County  
7 include that area north of the present riding  
8 boundaries to the river.

9 MS. MATTHEWS: To the Little Bow.

10 MR. ED GRANGER: To the Little Bow.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Little Bow.

12 MS. KHULLAR: The current proposed boundary is  
13 that yellow line, actually, and Dawn has already  
14 changed the map to include --

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, I see.

16 MS. KHULLAR: That yellow line is the current  
17 boundary.

18 MR. ED GRANGER: The yellow line right now is right  
19 across the top of Keho Lake, is the boundary at the  
20 moment.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, I see.

22 MS. KHULLAR: So we've cut off that north part  
23 of the county.

24 MR. ED GRANGER: So if it extended up to include  
25 the county boundaries, it would be a natural . . .

26 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

27 MR. ED GRANGER: The other -- the other area is

1 west, right there, is a small area there that  
2 belongs -- is part of the County of Willow Creek,  
3 primarily inhabited by a small residential community  
4 called Moon River Estates. I believe you indicated  
5 about 300 people, 300 some, living in that area. It  
6 would be a natural to remain in the MacLeod.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, in MacLeod?

8 MR. ED GRANGER: In MacLeod, yes.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: But it's now in Lethbridge?

10 MR. ED GRANGER: It's now in Lethbridge, yeah, that  
11 piece.

12 MS. KHULLAR: And it has been in the past?

13 MR. ED GRANGER: Yes.

14 MS. KHULLAR: Yes, okay.

15 MR. ED GRANGER: See, up until -- up until four  
16 years ago the reserve used to be part of our  
17 constituency, and that boundary changed then, so . . .

18 THE CHAIRMAN: The western boundary at the  
19 Lethbridge riding as it now stands in that heavy blue  
20 line, is that a natural water course or something?

21 MR. ED GRANGER: Yes.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: No, above that.

23 MR. ED GRANGER: Yes, that's the Old Man River.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: That's the Old Man River, so that  
25 is a natural boundary?

26 MR. GRANGER: That's a river, yes.

27 THE CHAIRMAN: Which, no doubt, accounts for the

1 fact that that area there is in MacLeod and not in  
2 Lethbridge.

3 MR. ED GRANGER: Yes.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: But it is in Lethbridge.  
5 Where is that now, Dawn?

6 MS. MATTHEWS: That's in Lethbridge right now.

7 MR. ED GRANGER: That's in Lethbridge now.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, yes; for no particularly good  
9 reason that I can think of.

10 MR. ED GRANGER: No. I can't think of any either,  
11 so . . .

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. Okay.

13 MR. ED GRANGER: Yes. If it's just a question of  
14 balancing off numbers, it would just make some sense  
15 that that would go to MacLeod.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I don't think it would  
17 entail a big population shift at all, would it?

18 MR. ED GRANGER: No.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: That's very useful. Have you got  
20 anymore gems like that?

21 MR. ED GRANGER: Well, just on the other -- the  
22 other corner; and the way the map is right now,  
23 there's a yellow line -- just right there. There's a  
24 yellow line there.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

26 MR. ED GRANGER: Very low populated area, and that  
27 is not in our constituency now, and there's a natural

1 waterway which is the Chin River or the Chin Lakes,  
2 right along there, and the way the constituency -- or  
3 the county runs, that's a natural boundary right  
4 there. It would seem like that one would be a natural  
5 to fit into the Lethbridge constituency.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: These boundaries have been in  
7 place quite a long time. Do you think it would cause  
8 very much confusion or resentment for the people in  
9 those particular areas to be moved all of a sudden?

10 MR. ED GRANGER: Not that we hear of certainly in  
11 our communication. It's rather quite natural for them  
12 to come in this direction. The other -- the one on  
13 the east side, if you go to the east side of the  
14 constituency, again, that we hear about a lot from our  
15 way is Taber. Of course, that's a large community --

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

17 MR. ED GRANGER: -- of 7,000 people, and it  
18 probably doesn't fit, you know, with the numbers,  
19 don't fit in our area; but those people naturally come  
20 our way, of course, because it's only 50 kilometers  
21 away.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

23 MR. ED GRANGER: But --

24 THE CHAIRMAN: The Medicine Hat riding needs  
25 their population.

26 MR. ED GRANGER: Definitely. They need the  
27 population.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

2 MR. ED GRANGER: Yes, they do; and that wouldn't be  
3 a natural -- you know, even though they tend to call  
4 us first.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, I believe that must be so.

6 MR. ED GRANGER: Yes.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. Well, trading patterns, of  
8 course, are one element of community of interest, and  
9 we have to take account of that --

10 MR. ED GRANGER: Of course.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: -- but they're not the only one,  
12 of course, and our primary objective is to equalize --

13 MR. ED GRANGER: Of course it is, yes.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: -- the ridings in population --

15 MR. ED GRANGER: Yes.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: -- as nearly as possible.

17 Tell us something about the riding in general.  
18 How is your economy?

19 MR. ED GRANGER: Well, it is rather interesting.  
20 We're hearing a lot about the drought that took place  
21 in Alberta and Saskatchewan this year. This is the  
22 first year in three years that we've had rain.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Wow.

24 MR. ED GRANGER: So we've had drought now for three  
25 years in a row and have learned how to deal with that.  
26 The economy stays fairly stable.

27 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

1 MR. ED GRANGER: People, because of the southern  
2 Alberta arid economy, tend to learn how to live with  
3 that --

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

5 MR. ED GRANGER: -- and balance the economy  
6 overall. This is the first year that we've had rain  
7 in -- and, of course, the drought moved north in a  
8 much larger area.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: It certainly did. Yes.

10 MR. ED GRANGER: So we've got some good activity  
11 happening here in terms of agriculture in the south.  
12 We have lots of other issues that are not affected by  
13 weather, but the economy is stable.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Is there much transborder traffic  
15 anymore?

16 MR. ED GRANGER: Yes.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Is there?

18 MR. ED GRANGER: That's one of our biggest issues  
19 in the constituency.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: I mean with the States.

21 MR. ED GRANGER: Yes.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. So people no longer go down  
23 there to shop, I suppose, like they once did because  
24 the dollar is --

25 MR. ED GRANGER: Yes, it's really -- the trend has  
26 really changed.

27 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

1 MR. ED GRANGER: People now no longer go to  
2 Whitefish, Kalispell, Columbia, down in that area,  
3 which used to be a very large recreation area from  
4 this area --

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

6 MR. ED GRANGER: -- because a lot of people owned  
7 cottages, and that has pretty well changed.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: I bet.

9 MR. ED GRANGER: We see the reverse now where we  
10 have a lot of Americans living across the north border  
11 coming to Lethbridge to shop, a very -- a big movement  
12 there.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: How interesting.

14 MR. ED GRANGER: They buy a lot of agricultural  
15 products, trucks --

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Do they?

7 17 MR. ED GRANGER: -- and shop in Lethbridge.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Wow.

19 MR. ED GRANGER: So it's quite a change.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Does their Customs levy a tax on  
21 them when they bring goods back across the border, do  
22 you know? Are they limited? Is there any kind of a  
23 duty?

24 MR. ED GRANGER: Yes, they do have limitations; but  
25 with the low dollar, they're still farther ahead  
26 to pay the duty.

27 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. They've got 40 percent to

1 play with.

2 MR. ED GRANGER: Yes.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, that's right.

4 MR. ED GRANGER: Yes.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, Mr. Granger, that's been

6 very helpful.

7 MR. ED GRANGER: Yes.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm glad you dropped around.

9 MR. ED GRANGER: Thank you, I'm glad. I was

10 hoping -- I was hoping there would be some formal

11 presentations to listen to.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I was -- yes, we have been

13 too; but it seems that in places where we haven't made

14 changes --

15 MR. ED GRANGER: Right.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: -- or at least where there's --

17 MR. ED GRANGER: Yes.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: -- no great change in the riding

19 boundaries, there's not much interest.

20 MR. ED GRANGER: No, I understand that.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. M-hm.

22 What we rather expected was a little more

23 interest from the press and the media, you know, in

24 general with these places, and they were at a few

25 meetings in the north, but we've been rather

26 disappointed, in general, but that doesn't seem to be

27 a burning issue with people.

MR. ED GRANGER: No, obviously it's not.  
THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks a lot.  
MR. ED GRANGER: Thank you.

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PUBLIC HEARING CONCLUDED  
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Certificate of Transcript

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

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

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D. L. Ragan, CSR (A)  
Official Court Reporter

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

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P U B L I C   H E A R I N G

LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA

15th October, 2002

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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

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