

PUBLIC HEARING HELD AT THE RED DEER LODGE, RED DEER
17 OCTOBER, 2002

INDEX OF PRESENTERS - RED DEER

NO.	NAME OF PRESENTER	PAGE
1	BOB MILLS	7 - 18
2	RUBY MEUNIER	19 - 24
3	DWAYNE BECK	24 - 27
4	CODY BERGGREN	27 - 34
5	RAYMOND PRINS	34 - 38
6	MILTON ELLIOT	38 - 42
7	REG DEAN	43 - 45
8	GILLMAN CRONE	45 - 49
9	SANDRA BRATLEY	49 - 50
10	BRIAN MAZZA	50 - 60
11	DOREEN R. MacDONALD	60 - 64
12	GREGG C. JOHNSON	65 - 68
13	EDWARD McBRIDE	68 - 71
14	LOU SOPPIT	71 - 74
15	PETER FENRICH	75 - 78
16	DICK SOMMERVILLE	78 - 81
17	GRANT HOWELL	81 - 85
18	MARY ANNE JABLONSKI	85 - 92
19	GUY POIRE	92 - 94

1 Public Hearing held at the Red Deer Lodge, 17th October,
2 2002, Red Deer, commencing at 6 p.m.

3 -----

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, we'll have
5 to start. People are still coming in, but we have so
6 little time available for the completion of our job
7 that we'd better make a start at it anyway.

8 I'd like to welcome you all to this, the Red Deer
9 Public Hearing of the Federal Electoral Boundaries
10 Commission. We are here tonight to consider the
11 proposals which we published and which appear in this
12 form in hard copy, and a copy -- copies of which are
13 available at the back of the room.

14 The proposals, in summary form, also came out in
15 the major newspapers in this form, and we have as well
16 a supply of these booklets entitled REPRESENTATION in
17 the House of Commons of Canada, and it is a very
18 useful booklet, and it's full of good information, so
19 I encourage you to access these sources.

20 We are, as well, on the web with all of these
21 publications, and our website address can be gotten
22 from the secretary of the Commission. Oh, there it
23 is. Okay.

24 Sir, I think there's one seat up here.

25 Our voices from here are not amplified. We have
26 microphones which are used for the recording purposes
27 only. The speaker's voice, however, will be amplified

1 because anyone who speaks must do so from the podium,
2 and I would ask the speakers to be slow in what they
3 say because the reporter has to keep up. Everything
4 that is said at this hearing is being taken down
5 verbatim and will form part of the public record.

6 Let me introduce the Commission. My name is
7 MacCallum. I'm a judge of the Court of Queen's Bench
8 of Alberta from Edmonton. On my right is Ms. Ritu
9 Khullar, a practicing lawyer from Edmonton. On my
10 left is Mr. Don Barry, a political scientist teaching
11 at the University of Calgary. My colleagues were
12 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Commons. I
13 was appointed by the Chief Justice of Alberta. Our
14 reporter for today is Debbie Ragan, and she's on the
15 far left. Seated next to her is Miranda Petryshyn,
16 the Commission secretary. And Dawn Matthews, who is
17 manning the technology here, is our geography expert
18 from Ottawa.

19 The process of the Commission, briefly speaking,
20 is as follows. We are appointed under the Federal
21 Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act of 1985. We are
22 intended to be and we are free of any political or
23 administrative influence. We are expected to
24 interpret and serve the public interest in a wide
25 sense, which involves balancing and deciding as
26 between competing interests. We welcome constructive
27 suggestions, but you must understand that these

1 suggestions and submissions must be evaluated in a
2 general context, in other words, we take the big
3 picture, and so if a particular point of view which is
4 not -- which is offered to us is not adopted, please
5 doesn't feel insulted or slighted in any way. We are
6 simply applying the law, as we must, and exercising
7 our discretion that is given to us. We will, let me
8 assure you, carefully evaluate all submissions giving
9 each one the attention it deserves.

10 The final word in the process is ours, but the
11 process is consultative. We must follow the legal
12 guidelines set out under Section 15 of the Act, and
13 you'll find an explanation of that in this booklet as
14 well as in more summary form in the proposal itself,
15 the formal proposal which we've published on page 1.

16 We hold public hearings, of which this is one,
17 and we will change our proposal if we deem it
18 advisable in view of what we hear at these public
19 hearings.

20 We will then prepare our report, which goes to
21 the Speaker of the House of Commons, and thenst to a
22 committee where the members of the House of Commons,
23 the Members of Parliament, will consider it and will
24 have their -- a chance to voice their objections, if
25 any.

26 After we have received and considered those
27 objections from Members of Parliament, we will modify

1 the report again, if we deem it advisable.

2 Our final report is then sent to the Chief
3 Electoral Officer, who drafts a representation order,
4 and this goes to the Governor in Council for
5 proclamation. All of this is done before July of
6 2003.

7 The new boundaries thus established are not in
8 effect for a year from that date; so if an election is
9 called before July of 2004, it will be contested on
10 the basis of the existing riding boundaries.

11 The object of this exercise tonight, ladies and
12 gentlemen, is electoral boundary readjustment, and it
13 is not the redistribution formula which allocates the
14 number of seats to the various provinces. That matter
15 is fixed by law, but I must say that we've received
16 many questions about it and comments on it, so I'm
17 just going to take a few very minutes to explain it,
18 once and for all. The subject is not open for
19 discussion or debate at this meeting.

20 You start with 282 seats, which existed in 1985
21 in the House of Commons. You subtract three seats,
22 one for each of the Northern Territories: Nunavit,
23 the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. That leaves
24 you 279 seats. You divide 279 into the population of
25 the ten provinces of Canada, and you come up with what
26 is known as the national quotient. That national
27 quotient is then divided into the population of each

1 province, and you are left with the number of seats
2 allocated to each province. It is a theoretical
3 figure because there are two special clauses which
4 must be applied. By virtue of the senatorial
5 exemption, no province will have fewer seats in the
6 House of Commons than it had senators in 1915, and no
7 province will have fewer Members of Parliament than it
8 had Members of Parliament during the 33rd Parliament
9 in 1976. In the result, Ontario, British Columbia and
10 Alberta are allocated their number of seats by strict
11 arithmetic, which I've just described. The other
12 seven provinces get more seats than they would
13 otherwise have, the reason for that being that they're
14 not growing and the other three provinces are. There
15 you are. All you have to remember for tonight's
16 purposes is Alberta has 2.9 million people. It has
17 26 seats at this moment, and it's going to have 28.
18 The quotient for Alberta, the average riding
19 population is 106,243.

20 We are required under Section 15 of the Act to
21 arrange boundary ridings which have the result that
22 the population of each riding shall be, as nearly as
23 practically possible, 106,243. That is our first
24 objective.

25 There are secondary factors we can take into
26 account like communities of interest, for example, the
27 historical pattern of ridings, for example, and

1 special attention or special treatment which should be
2 paid to ridings which are very thinly populated and
3 cover a very large geographic area. That becomes a
4 real factor in Northern Alberta, for example. You may
5 or may not know that the geographical center of
6 Alberta is near Swan Hills. North of Swan Hills there
7 are two ridings. South of Swan Hills there will be 26
8 ridings, so you can imagine the size of the
9 Peace River and the Athabasca ridings.

10 The hearing procedure is this. Fifteen minutes
11 per speaker. The Commissioners may intervene at any
12 time. The speakers will be given a warning when they
13 have three minutes left. We have lots of
14 representations tonight, ladies and gentlemen. I hope
15 you won't think I'm rude if I have to remind you that
16 your time is up. It's only fair to the others who
17 follow.

18 I will have to enforce relevancy. I know that
19 there's many issues people like to speak about
20 concerning the electoral process, but, as I said, the
21 only thing that concerns us is the electoral boundary
22 readjustment.

23 The presenters may put questions to us in the
24 course of their remarks. We won't answer them right
25 away, but if they allow us enough time between the
26 conclusion of their remarks and the 15 minutes, we'll
27 try to give them an answer, or at least take it under

1 advisement for later consideration.

2 There won't be any questions or submissions from
3 the floor. All notices of representation were due on
4 the 26th of September. We wouldn't have time for it
5 anyway because we have about 20 presenters tonight.
6 We'll have to take a break after a few hours to give
7 the reporter some rest and give everybody else a
8 chance to go to the bathroom or whatever else it is
9 you have to do.

10 I'll turn now to the first speaker. There have
11 been some changes, but the first one is Mr. Bob Mills.

12 MR. BOB MILLS: Thank you very much. It's
13 certainly my pleasure to have the opportunity to speak
14 to you tonight, and I'm the sitting Member of
15 Parliament for Red Deer and know how difficult your
16 job must be and the parameters that you've gone
17 through with us, and I know you have a pretty tough
18 job.

19 What we have done in this riding is had a number
20 of town halls, had a number of information articles
21 about the process, and certainly in this riding there
22 has been a lot of involvement and a lot of
23 consultation that has gone on, and I believe that's
24 very good simply because of democratic process being
25 carried out.

26 In doing this, we've heard many, many different
27 proposals. I guess the one biggest concern that we've

1 heard, when we were in Rocky Mountain House, for
2 instance, was that Elections Canada doesn't treat the
3 far-out places very well, and, largely, they don't
4 deal in weekly newspapers but only in daily
5 newspapers. I hardly think that's a reason to put
6 forward as a reason why they should not be part of
7 this riding.

8 We also did a poll in the riding, and of about
9 750 people who responded, we found that
10 92 percent reported that they didn't like the new
11 boundaries for the Red Deer riding, and that only
12 6 percent approved of those changes. We also found
13 that 73 percent said that the boundary should
14 represent where people work, where they shop, where
15 their kids go to school, and the general market area
16 for those people should be where the federal
17 boundaries should be. 23 percent said that didn't
18 matter. It was a little tougher when we asked:
19 Should rural ridings be smaller in population than
20 urban ridings or with a larger urban center?
21 And there we found that 48 percent agreed with that,
22 38 percent did not, and so we said it didn't matter,
23 that that was not a factor. So that's just a little
24 information that we collected in our riding and I
25 thought you might find interesting as a way to start
26 off.

27 I would like to make two major points, really,

1 two arguments, I guess, in terms of the -- of the
2 riding boundaries. The first one would be the market
3 area concept, and I think most people, most people in
4 this room and most people in this riding, would agree
5 that Red Deer is the center of much of their activity.

6 And I'd sort of look at two areas, mainly. First
7 of all, east of Red Deer. The people living on the
8 East Hill, and there's a great many more living there
9 now than before, and the present east boundary of the
10 Red Deer riding pretty much relate totally to
11 Red Deer. They work in Red Deer. Their kids go to
12 school in Red Deer. They have all of their
13 recreation, all of their hockey schools and everything
14 is in Red Deer.

15 I, as an example, live eight minutes from
16 downtown Red Deer. My office is in downtown Red Deer.
17 I have worked in Red Deer all my life, and I am eight
18 minutes from downtown, and I'm now in the Drumheller
19 riding. Well, obviously, I don't -- I have nothing
20 against Drumheller, but I've been there two or three
21 times in my life to see the museum there, but I really
22 would find it very difficult going to Drumheller to a
23 town hall meeting or to feel the desire to vote in
24 that particular area, and that's what I've been told
25 by so much people on the East Hill.

26 Then we move west, and certainly the areas of
27 Rocky Mountain House and Caroline have a great deal in

1 common with Red Deer. They're part of central
2 Alberta. They're part of this community. That's
3 where they do all of their -- all of their
4 relationship and all of -- you know, whether it's the
5 hospital board -- Red Deer College and the new high
6 school that's being built in Rocky will be a central
7 part of the Rocky education system. All of our
8 government services come to Red Deer. The head office
9 is in Red Deer from Rocky Mountain House and Caroline
10 and that immediate area.

11 So, I think, from that perspective, we would
12 suggest that the main consideration should be to take
13 that wedge, if you want, in central Alberta and call
14 that the Red Deer riding. I think down the road ten
15 years from now, probably Red Deer is -- the rate its
16 growing, probably would be its own riding, and
17 probably the Sylvan Lake-Innisfail-Rocky Mountain
18 House would be a riding, but that's ten years from
19 now, and that's not something that we need to cross
20 today.

21 So I would argue then that just all of those
22 services, all of that relationship of those people is
23 with Red Deer and that that is -- has to be a major
24 consideration; and certainly I know that talking to
25 many of those people, whether they're on our present
26 boundary, some would like to go further. You're going
27 to hear tonight that they would like to expand those

1 boundaries, and I tried to draw some maps and so on,
2 but then I decided that my job was not to do that,
3 that my job was more to represent to you what I've
4 been hearing in all of the communities that are part
5 of the present Red Deer riding.

6 And I do believe that my next point is critical
7 as well, and that second point is that the population
8 in a riding like Red Deer can be larger than in a
9 riding like Drumheller or Banff-Cochrane, and my
10 arguments there would be that with the major center of
11 population in Red Deer, makes it much easier to
12 service, makes it much easier for people to get to
13 public meetings, to relate to Red Deer. So Red Deer
14 could easily be 120,000, while a riding like
15 Drumheller or Banff-Cochrane, I would say, I would put
16 forward, should be smaller because of the distances
17 that are required. Where an Member of Parliament has
18 to travel four or five hours to get to a town hall
19 meeting, I can be in Rocky Mountain House in one hour,
20 I can be in Innisfail in, depending on how I drive, 12
21 minutes, and so it goes from there. So it's very easy
22 to handle that riding from a geographic standpoint
23 with Red Deer being such a central location.

24 And some would argue: Well, no, we should be all
25 the same, and, of course, I would put forward the
26 standard argument that I know the Speaker of the House
27 hears all the time, and that's, you know,

1 Prince Edward Island has four Members of Parliament,
2 has 100,000 people, but that's constitutional, that
3 goes back in history, and -- but it does show that,
4 you know, across Canada there isn't equal
5 representation. There are many members who have
6 60,000 constituents, there are some who have had as
7 many as 200; and, of course, that's -- you might argue
8 about the representation there, but I would argue that
9 the people of the west country have a lot more in
10 common with Red Deer than they do with Banff-Cochrane,
11 that the people on the East Hill, where they -- their
12 total focus would be Red Deer, that they certainly
13 would have few things in common with Drumheller and
14 would not really relate to that riding, would not
15 understand the concerns of that riding. They would
16 not be the same as they would have in this area.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Excuse me, Mr. Mills.

18 MR. BOB MILLS: Yes.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: When you say the East Hill, you're
20 not referring to just that portion which is within
21 Red Deer but rather the acreages and so on?

22 MR. BOB MILLS: That's correct, yes. I'm
23 basically talking, I guess, our present boundary line,
24 including the west side of Pine Lake; and, you know, I
25 know the people on the east side of Pine Lake also
26 would like to be in the Red Deer riding, right to the
27 Red Deer River, actually.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

2 MR. BOB MILLS: But I understand your constraints
3 in terms of enlarging the riding, and so I'm more
4 putting forward the argument that the riding boundary
5 on the east side as it is does at least take into some
6 consideration the factors that I've mentioned. So, I
7 guess, I would say, you know, I mean, there are other
8 roads there that could be boundaries, and certainly
9 the river would be the natural boundary that many
10 people have put forward in terms of where the
11 boundaries should be, but I'm not going to suggest
12 that I would draw those lines or try to tell you how
13 to do your job.

14 So in conclusion then, basically, I want to, you
15 know, simplify this down to just these two points
16 then, that I really feel that it is critical that the
17 interests of people be the number one issue, not the
18 number, not the Highway 2 and where that happens to
19 be, or where the east boundary of the city limits are
20 because, of course, by the time we get ten years down
21 the road, that east boundary will be considerably
22 changed, I expect, through the course of growth of the
23 city, and I don't know for sure whether that means
24 that the boundary of this riding will change and
25 people will become part of the Red Deer riding if, in
26 fact, city limits change, but I assume it does.

27 And -- but these would be considerations that I

1 would ask you to really consider, and, as I say, where
2 people do all of their business, and that certainly
3 applies to all of the people on the east side of
4 Red Deer and the people directly west of us; and how
5 far you expand that north and south, I'd say that's
6 where the restrictions could come and help you get to
7 within your numbers. But it would just make a lot
8 more sense, I think, from the perspective that I've
9 heard from literally hundreds of constituents in this
10 area.

11 And, of course, my second point about population,
12 I really don't feel that a Member of Parliament
13 centered in a place like Red Deer or like Lethbridge
14 cannot service a fairly large area, and I think it's
15 very healthy that you have both the urban perspective
16 and the rural perspective as a Member of Parliament in
17 Ottawa. I think it lets you do your job a lot better,
18 and I think it's extremely important because Red Deer,
19 of course, is very dependent upon agriculture, the oil
20 and gas industry, and all of those happen outside of
21 the city limits, and so having that as part of the
22 constituency is a very valuable -- certainly has been
23 for me and would be for any future Members of
24 Parliament.

25 So I'd be glad to entertain any questions, if you
26 have them, or, you know, anything that you might want
27 to add there.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, perhaps I do have a question
2 in the course of -- I just wanted to congratulate you,
3 Mr. Mills, and your constituents for holding these
4 town hall meetings. It's very gratifying to know that
5 people are taking such an -- taking such an interest
6 in this topic.

7 The East Hill area, of course, has been the
8 subject of much vociferous complaint, and we have
9 taken it into account and we probably will, in the
10 final result, by trying to include the acreage areas
11 which lie to the east of Red Deer, and we've drawn a
12 provisional map for our own information which would
13 accomplish that effect, so that's one thing.

14 We can't -- Red Deer, of course, everyone must
15 realize, is getting to be a fair-sized place. Pretty
16 soon, as Mr. Mills said, it will warrant its own
17 riding within its corporate limits. As it is, the
18 geographic boundaries of Red Deer are such that if we
19 don't -- of the riding are such that if we don't
20 shrink them, the population will be far too much to
21 comply with the law, as I tried to explain it under
22 Section 15.

23 Mr. Mills has stated, and I certainly believe
24 him, that he could ably represent 125 or 130,000
25 people. That same sentiment has been echoed by many
26 of you in correspondence to us, but that is a luxury
27 which cannot be afforded under the terms of the Act.

1 There has to be exceptional reasons to allow a spread
2 in population, and you know what the reason is for
3 that, is that the more people in a riding, the more
4 the vote is diluted. Your vote is worth less if you
5 are a member of a very populace riding. That's the
6 reason. That's the reason datre of the legislation,
7 and so there are certain imperatives that we can't
8 avoid, but we'll try our best to meet the wishes of
9 constituents as -- or electors, I should say, as they
10 are expressed to us.

11 So we're working on the East Hill problem.
12 Westerly, I think we've tried to include -- west,
13 north and south we've tried to include the environs of
14 Red Deer City which are most immediately served, in
15 other words, would serve as commuting points for
16 people to go from their residences into town and to
17 shop and one thing and another; but we can't go to an
18 unlimited extent. We simply can't. There will be too
19 many people in the riding. So irrespective of what we
20 hear tonight, we have to comply by the law.

21 But you've made many fine points, and I'm going
22 to ask my colleagues now if they would like to ask you
23 any questions.

24 MS. KHULLAR: I just have one question. You
25 commented on you'd like us to focus on east/west
26 corridor, and perhaps we could play with the
27 north/south boundary. I'm just wondering what your

1 view, for instance, is of including Innisfail? I
2 mean, if we were to make the riding narrower and
3 longer, for instance, I mean, would excluding
4 Innisfail be appropriate?

5 MR. BOB MILLS: Well, I mean, we're into a whole
6 new problem too --

7 MS. KHULLAR: Yes.

8 MR. BOB MILLS: -- because the people of
9 Innisfail, I know, relate very much to Red Deer as
10 well.

11 MS. KHULLAR: Yes.

12 MR. BOB MILLS: And I think that's the main point
13 I'm trying to make --

14 MS. KHULLAR: Yes.

15 MR. BOB MILLS: -- is that people, it's their
16 home, it's where all of the activity is, that's part
17 of their life. Where they do their business, their
18 shopping, their hospitals, their doctors, their
19 dentists, their -- you know, any kind of social needs
20 that they have, and Red Deer certainly is that center
21 point, and, you know, putting some of those people,
22 say, in Drumheller, it's just a big distance; and,
23 again, I'd come back to the argument of, you know,
24 there are ridings with 80,000, and there are ridings
25 with 117,000. I guess I would rather see us on the
26 117,000 front as opposed to the 80,000, and I'd rather
27 see a Drumheller riding that was 80,000 because it

1 would just make it so much easier for the Member of
2 Parliament.

3 MS. KHULLAR: So just so I'm clear then, so, in
4 fact, you wouldn't support a shrinking of the south
5 boundary, in any event?

6 MR. BOB MILLS: Hey, I'm not going to say I want
7 to lose any constituents. I mean I enjoy my job a lot
8 here and enjoy representing them all.

9 MS. KHULLAR: Okay. You're on thin ground, I
10 guess, but, okay, I --

11 MR. BOB MILLS: I don't want spears in my back.

12 MS. KHULLAR: Okay. I was trying to understand
13 that comment, and thank you very much.

14 MR. BOB MILLS: Yes.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mills, thank you very much.

16 MR. BOB MILLS: Yes, thank you.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Mrs. Ruby Meunier.

18 And, Mr. Mills, do you have a hard copy of your
19 presentation to hand into us?

20 MR. BOB MILLS: I can get you one.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: We'd appreciate that.

22 MR. BOB MILLS: Sure. Okay.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: If you'd have it to us by the end
24 of the month, please --

25 MR. BOB MILLS: Yes.

26 THE CHAIRMAN: -- so it's not overlooked.

27 Yes, go ahead, Mrs. Meunier.

1 MRS. RUBY MEUNIER: As you'll notice, firstly, I'd
2 like to draw your attention to the eastern boundary --

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

4 MRS. RUBY MEUNIER: -- of our constituency, and I
5 wanted to tackle it slightly from a different angle.

6 In the past polls that have been for the City of
7 Red Deer, every one of those eastern polls have been
8 well over 600 people in their polls; and it seems to
9 have happened, at least in the last three elections
10 that I have been involved with, it seems to be an
11 ongoing problem, and I don't see it getting better,
12 and I'll tell you why.

13 In considering development in the eastern section
14 of the city in the last ten years, we've had a new
15 shopping center, we've had two new high schools, we
16 have the largest recreation center for the city in
17 that eastern area. There are two proposed new
18 shopping centers, I believe, and there certainly are a
19 number of seniors -- over 50s complexes being built in
20 that eastern area; so I really do feel that there will
21 be much more population there.

22 If you have the boundary that you've now
23 proposed, I think what's going to happen is that
24 you're going to have people in the City of Red Deer
25 voting in Drumheller, and I can't imagine that anybody
26 is going to be happy with that. As a matter of fact,
27 the people just east of Red Deer, many of them would

1 like to have the boundary of our constituency be
2 Highway 21. Well, even if it is where the boundary is
3 now, it is better than what has been proposed.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: What's up on there now is a
5 product of some work we did as a result of
6 representations like yours. You can see that the
7 eastern boundary has been moved.

8 MRS. RUBY MEUNIER: Okay.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: To the east.

10 MRS. RUBY MEUNIER: Okay. And, secondly, I'd like to
11 talk about the north/south boundaries.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

13 MRS. RUBY MEUNIER: I think when we first heard that
14 Alberta was getting two new constituencies,
15 immediately we thought of Edmonton and Calgary and the
16 growth that has taken place, but also in that
17 Edmonton-Calgary corridor, there certainly has been a
18 growth in population; and, as a result, we felt that
19 our constituency would be compressed.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

21 MRS. RUBY MEUNIER: And that hasn't really happened,
22 at least not to any great extent. I think that's all
23 I would say about that.

24 And thirdly, I'd like to talk about the western
25 boundary. If you'll just consider Highway 11 which
26 goes from Red Deer out to the Banff-Jasper highway.

27 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

1 MRS. RUBY MEUNIER: It you just sit out there and see
2 the commerce that's coming back and forth on that
3 road, you will know it's very busy, but it's just not
4 all commerce either because, starting on weekends and
5 starting Thursday nights, you'll see the campers going
6 west. Also, in winter, you see snowmobiles and ski
7 people.

8 We have -- all of us in this constituency have a
9 great concern for what happens in the west country. I
10 realize that that is a shared provincial/federal
11 jurisdiction, but if you look what's happened in the
12 last two weeks alone, we had a significant ruling,
13 provincially, on recreation in the west country, and
14 we also had Chretien with his proposal of parks and
15 talking -- and about the Flathead valley, which
16 borders on Waterton. I draw this to your attention
17 because it concerns the entire eastern slopes of the
18 Rockies. It is not just Jasper and Banff, which
19 people in Ottawa like to talk about.

20 Right now we have six MPs representing our
21 eastern slopes. Already, the Americans have lost
22 their corridor of migration for animals and birds in
23 their parks because they don't have an actual
24 corridor. So to us this is very important, and we
25 feel that it is not too much to have six MPs having a
26 voice for us on that subject because in the next ten
27 years there's going to be a lot of things coming down

1 about that. Your proposal now is that we would have
2 only five, and as a Red Deer person, we would not have
3 direct -- an MP directly speaking on behalf of
4 constituents, if you take that away from us. We feel
5 it's a large area with not a lot of population, and we
6 feel it's of great significance to Red Deer
7 constituency to keep that in our constituency.

8 In conclusion, I'd like to say that I'd like to
9 see the east boundary stay as it is. If you must
10 compress -- change the number of population in our
11 constituency, please do it north and south. It will
12 have the least effect on people in our constituency.
13 And please leave the west boundary as it is.

14 Thank you.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Meunier, I wonder if you'd
16 just -- my colleague has something to ask you.

17 Thanks.

18 MRS. RUBY MEUNIER: All right.

19 DR. BARRY: I just wondered where you'd like
20 to see those? What do you think the possibilities are
21 for adjusting the north and south boundaries?

22 MRS. RUBY MEUNIER: I know that it will inconvenience
23 people regardless, but I really do think that it would
24 be better to have part of the Banff-Cochrane and
25 Drumheller sides of our constituency, making our
26 constituency more east and west than you presently
27 have it, and if that means that we lose population on

1 Highway 2, I say so be it.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, ma'am.

3 Mr. Dwayne Beck.

4 Excuse us for just a second.

5 Excuse me, Ms. Ritu has a comment to make,

6 please.

7 MS. KHULLAR: Ms. Ritu?

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, I'm sorry, Ms. Khullar.

9 MS. KHULLAR: I haven't been called that in a
10 long time.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Just got me all excited.

12 MS. KHULLAR: Ms. Matthews, our specialist in
13 geography, was just pointing something out to me.
14 Both the previous speakers have made the comment that
15 with the growth of the City of Red Deer continuing to
16 expand, there was a concern that there would be people
17 who were in the city limits of Red Deer on the eastern
18 side that might have to go in the Drumheller
19 constituency; but the way that the riding is described
20 is -- the riding is described currently under the
21 current proposal, is following the eastern boundary of
22 the city limits; so if the city limits were to expand,
23 that would still keep the City of Red Deer within --
24 the entire City of Red Deer within the riding.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

26 MS. KHULLAR: So that one concern, I think, is
27 addressed. That doesn't deal with the other concern

1 about the Eastern Hill, and we've -- we've heard from
2 that, and, as Justice MacCallum has indicated, we're
3 already working on some revised drawings on that
4 point. But just that the City of Red Deer would not
5 be split into different constituencies no matter what
6 happens.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: As a result of amalgamations -- or
8 annexations. Okay. Thanks very much.

9 Now, Mr. Beck, would you care to make your
10 presentation.

11 MR. DWAYNE BECK: Well, most of everything I wanted
12 to say was covered by Mr. Mills, but I represent
13 Parkland Nurseries, and most of our people that we
14 employ come from Red Deer. We also feel part of
15 Red Deer as we get into the hospital and the service
16 groups, and we're -- if Bob can make it in eight
17 minutes, we can make it in two to downtown, and we
18 spend a fair chunk of our money in the City of
19 Red Deer. We pay a premium to use the facilities for
20 our kids.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Where is your business, sir?

22 MR. DWAYNE BECK: Parkland Nurseries, we're two
23 miles east of Red Deer.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Two miles east, yes.

25 MR. DWAYNE BECK: Yes, and, basically, I wonder, it
26 may be too simple, but why doesn't -- why don't you
27 look at the County of Red Deer, and then when it gets

1 to a certain size, why don't you split it in half from
2 there to get your two ridings? Like, if we're all
3 part of the Red Deer area, or we feel like we're part
4 of the community, why couldn't you just take the
5 footprint of the County of Red Deer and then divide it
6 up from there when the time comes that we're too big
7 to be represented by one person?

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I think the -- it's not a
9 question of being too big to be represented by one
10 person. It's being too populaceto fit into one
11 riding --

12 MR. DWAYNE BECK: Right.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: -- under the terms of the Act, and
14 the County of Red Deer, are you suggesting that those
15 boundaries be contiguous with the federal electoral
16 district?

17 MR. DWAYNE BECK: Yes, that's what I'm --

18 THE CHAIRMAN: I think there's too many people in
19 the County of Red Deer, sir.

20 MR. DWAYNE BECK: And we couldn't divide that
21 up or -- so how many people would be over than what we
22 need to make a riding?

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Do we have the figures for the
24 County of Red Deer? Just a minute, we'll get them for
25 you.

26 MR. DWAYNE BECK: There's just got to be an easier
27 way of doing this than putting us into Drumheller.

1 We --

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, well, I don't think you have

3 to make the point again about the eastern boundary of

4 Red Deer City.

5 MR. DWAYNE BECK: And that's why I didn't repeat

6 what Mr. Mills said, so . . .

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, I appreciate the fact that

8 you're doing it, but we understand the point very

9 well, and we're working on it. We're just trying to

10 get the Red Deer County population for you.

11 MS. MATTHEWS: 103,505.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Excuse me?

13 MS. MATTHEWS: 103,505.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: For the county, including the

15 city?

16 MS. MATTHEWS: Yes.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, and it is described where?

18 On what lines?

19 MS. KHULLAR: The yellow part.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Just the yellow part?

21 MR. DWAYNE BECK: So what is our population allowed

22 for one riding?

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, it's 106,000, sir, is the --

24 you know, give or take, so --

25 MR. DWAYNE BECK: Right, so we're pretty close.

26 THE CHAIRMAN: You're pretty close, yeah. I'm

27 surprised.

1 MR. DWAYNE BECK: Actually, there's got to be more
2 than that in our area. So you got -- if you put
3 Red Deer --

4 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry, I don't have that
5 figure. I meant to -- I have seen it recently, and I
6 just don't have it in front of me. I see Mr. Charles
7 in the audience. Can you remember, Allen, what the
8 amount was? Red Deer County?

9 MR. ALLEN CHARLES: I see there's representation here
10 from the county.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Is there a county councilor here?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, there is, but I can't
13 remember exactly the last count, but I think it's
14 about 18,000 something.

15 MS. MATTHEWS: 104,679.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry?

17 MS. MATTHEWS: 104,679.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Well, our figure is
19 104,600, so your point is well taken, sir. We'll give
20 that -- we'll give that thought.

21 Mr. Cody Berggren, Mayor of Bowden.

22 MR. CODY BERGGREN: On behalf of our Bowden town
23 council, I'd like to express our concern over the
24 proposed federal electoral boundaries and the riding
25 in which the Town of Bowden would be located.

26 Historically, the Town of Bowden has been located
27 in central, south central and west central federal

1 ridings of Alberta. Bowden has a strong regional
2 working relationship with many of the communities
3 along the Highway 2 corridor, including regional water
4 lines, regional waste collection, fire protection with
5 Red Deer County, seniors' housing, you name it, all
6 basically focuses along the Highway 2 corridor and
7 primarily towards the Red Deer area.

8 By identifying these partnerships is intended to
9 give the Commission members an idea of our -- those
10 strong economic ties and social ties that we have.

11 With the tremendous growth that is occurring
12 along this corridor, it is imperative to have
13 political representation which can identify with our
14 issues. The recent electoral boundary proposal,
15 however, shows the Towns of Olds and Bowden and
16 surrounding areas being moved into an entirely
17 different region which includes Drumheller, Stettler
18 and communities right to the Saskatchewan border.

19 Due to the fact that the eastern boundary of the
20 proposed Banff-Cochrane riding follows Highway 2 until
21 Township 32, we have a hard time accepting the
22 deviation which basically pigeonholes Bowden and Olds
23 into the Drumheller riding. We see this as just an
24 attempt to boost the population numbers in the
25 Drumheller riding and doesn't really take into
26 consideration any of the other factors or guidelines
27 as the Commission outlines.

1 Recently MP Myron Thompson, from the Wildrose
2 riding, developed a scenario which would move Bowden
3 into the Red Deer riding, and we are well aware that
4 not everybody can be in the Red Deer riding, but
5 contrary to our original proposal to the Commission,
6 we would remain in the Banff-Cochrane riding. We
7 would favor this scenario, as outlined by
8 MP Myron Thompson, and we'd request to be in the
9 Red Deer riding, and that would just give us a better
10 representation.

11 His outline of his scenario basically for the
12 Red Deer riding is very close to what Dwayne Beck
13 suggested of the Red Deer County. It makes a lot of
14 sense to us, and that's basically what we'd like to
15 see is something along the Red Deer County type
16 scenario, so I guess our first choice would be to go
17 into the Red Deer riding, and the second choice would
18 be to remain in the Banff-Cochrane riding; but we
19 really don't see any rhyme or reason for Bowden, and
20 I'll speak for my counterparts in Olds as well, to be
21 included in the Drumheller riding. It stretches for
22 hundreds of kilometers. Like, the Drumheller riding
23 is vast. It's -- I certainly wouldn't want to be the
24 MP for that riding.

25 And if you have any questions . . .

26 THE CHAIRMAN: No, sir. You raise a very good
27 point, of course, and it's a point that's been made by

1 very many correspondents, and it is a point which we
2 specifically addressed in our proposal. Just let me
3 read something:

4 "Specifically, Olds and Bowden are in the
5 Drumheller electoral district whereas the
6 rest of the communities are allocated to
7 Banff-Cochrane."

8 Speaking of the Highway 2.

9 "Although this arrangement should pose no
10 representational difficulties, the
11 Commission recognizes that there is a
12 commonality of interest among Highway 2
13 communities that cannot be completely
14 observed."

15 And when you say that you saw that move as simply as a
16 way to give more population to Drumheller, you weren't
17 far off the mark because our previous sentence said:

18 "The Commission deems it advisable to split
19 some communities along this route between
20 the two electoral districts in order to
21 achieve a greater measure of numerical
22 equality."

23 So you're quite right, sir, and you're also quite
24 right that there is a -- the result of doing that is
25 to split up a community of interest which undoubtedly
26 exists between those communities. We're trying our
27 level best to find a way to balance these competing

1 interests, and you may rest assured that we'll
2 continue our efforts notwithstanding the fact --
3 that's what this document is. It's a proposal. It's
4 not written in stone, so we welcome all these
5 suggestions, as I began by saying, and I thank you
6 very much for coming.

7 Do you have any questions for him?

8 DR. BARRY: Just a question about the
9 communities themselves. Is it your view that they
10 should all be in one constituency: Innisfail, Olds,
11 Bowden and Carstairs, or do you want to see them
12 gravitate toward different constituencies?

13 MR. CODY BERGGREN: Well, I think we share a lot of
14 common things, but, obviously, with the growth that's
15 going to be experienced along the Highway 2 corridor,
16 most of the communities are growing at rapid rates,
17 and I don't think you can really map out a, you know,
18 a riding that would consist of just the Highway 2
19 corridor. Obviously, when you get out into the
20 outlying areas, you need have more population in those
21 ridings, but, you know, contrary to what a former
22 speaker said, even like Innisfail, or whatever, in
23 shrinking that riding, I mean, that makes no sense
24 when Innisfail is a 15, 20 minute drive into Red Deer
25 and Rocky is over a half hour. I mean,
26 geographically, we all -- we all kind of go into
27 Red Deer, I guess, is kind of our focal point.

1 DR. BARRY: Actually, what I had in mind,
2 actually, were the Highway 2 towns.

3 MR. CODY BERGGREN: Yes, I could feasibly see
4 something that would be a riding that would just be
5 the Highway 2 corridor, along those lines.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't think you've got -- I
7 don't think you've understood his point. Did you want
8 to try again?

9 DR. BARRY: You can try.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: You have to belong to one side
11 of -- the Highway 2 communities would have to go one
12 way or the other or be split in order to achieve
13 numerical equality.

14 MR. CODY BERGGREN: Oh, I see.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Would you rather -- would you
16 rather see them go to one side or the other or be
17 split?

18 MR. CODY BERGGREN: Well, I could -- I'd rather see
19 them split, I guess, but --

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Would you?

21 MR. CODY BERGGREN: I can't see Highway 2 as being the
22 dividing line, necessarily. You know, it's kind of a
23 region --

24 THE CHAIRMAN: No, but the communities along it
25 are certainly united by the old Highway 2 and by the
26 railroad.

27 MR. CODY BERGGREN: Right.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: And by their trading patterns, as
2 you suggest.

3 MR. CODY BERGGREN: Yes. Like, I would see everything
4 along Highway 2, basically between, let's say, Calgary
5 and Red Deer, could all basically be in one riding
6 versus being over in the Drumheller riding.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, okay.

8 DR. BARRY: Okay.

9 MR. CODY BERGGREN: I don't see any of the communities
10 from Airdrie, Crossfield, Carstairs, Didsbury, none of
11 those communities really have any type of working
12 relationships with Drumheller, Stettler, out to that
13 area. We're all -- you know, we all have lots of
14 close ties, you know, within this area.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: As you know, in terms of
16 population, the greatest increases are in the western
17 part of the riding of the proposed Banff-Cochrane.
18 Cochrane and Canmore are experiencing explosive
19 growth.

20 MR. CODY BERGGREN: Right.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: And there's only so much we can do
22 west of Highway 2 because if we add too many people to
23 that mix, we know very well that it's not only going
24 to be too big to start with, it's going to be much too
25 big by the time the next census rolls around.

26 But anyway, thanks, Mr. Berggren.

27 MR. CODY BERGGREN: Right.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm very appreciative of your
2 efforts, and we get your point, and, rest assured,
3 we'll give it some thought.

4 MR. CODY BERGGREN: Okay. Thank you.

5 MS. KHULLAR: Thank you very much.

6 DR. BARRY: Thank you.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raymond Prins, County of
8 Lacombe.

9 MR. RAYMOND PRINS: Thank you for this opportunity to
10 make a presentation.

11 Lacombe County is presently served by three MPs,
12 that is, Crowfoot, Wetaskiwin and Red Deer; and under
13 the new suggestions, they would be Wetaskiwin,
14 Red Deer, Drumheller and Banff-Cochrane; so we're
15 going to be dealing with five different people over
16 the term of this switch here. It's somewhat confusing
17 and complex. It's difficult for the county to
18 effectively communicate on federal issues with this
19 many different MPs.

20 We don't have a big problem with some of changes
21 that are happening because change is inevitable when
22 you're in a fast-growing area, and we realize that the
23 population in this area has grown by about 18 percent,
24 so we have to change some of these things, and we
25 appreciate the fact that we can have input to fine
26 tune this.

27 But if you look at the far southwest corner of

1 our county, it is now in the Wetaskiwin area, and I
2 think a little small part of it will end up in
3 Banff-Cochrane. We feel that that's not in the best
4 interests of those people that live in that area. You
5 can see on that map, just to the west of the Red Deer
6 County, there's a little -- where the County of
7 Lacombe juts down south.

8 MS. KHULLAR: Excuse me. Dawn, would you give
9 him the pointer. We have a pointer, and maybe that
10 would just help you to show us on the map.

11 MR. RAYMOND PRINS: Oh, look here. I've never used
12 one of these things before. See how much coffee I've
13 had for supper.

14 Right -- that line there is Highway 11, and --
15 but south of that line would be a small part in the
16 Banff-Cochrane and a small part in the Red Deer
17 riding. We feel that that should be either in one
18 or -- either in Red Deer or Wetaskiwin, where it
19 presently is, and that way when we represent the
20 interests of those people at a county level, we can
21 deal with their -- with one MP for that area.

22 On the other side of the county, in this region
23 here, in the southeast, this will -- this will -- now,
24 you've got me confused again.

25 Part of this area is Crowfoot presently, and it
26 would go into Drumheller, and this is our county. In
27 this part we have some very large petrochemical

1 complexes in there. These people live in Red Deer and
2 Lacombe and urban areas in the Red Deer and Wetaskiwin
3 ridings, and their interests would then be represented
4 by Drumheller. I think we would like to see that part
5 of the county in this area either go into Red Deer or
6 into Wetaskiwin, and the best would be to leave it
7 within Wetaskiwin.

8 These are not large populations in these areas,
9 so they're not going to affect the numbers of people
10 in these other ridings very much. The numbers of
11 people aren't going to be the big thing. It's just
12 where they're represented, and I think the people in
13 these areas would be better represented by the present
14 situation.

15 Normally, in the past, I think, boundaries have
16 been established along rivers and roads and natural
17 boundaries; and we feel that the border between the
18 Lacombe County and Red Deer County is partly the
19 Blind Man River and partly the Red Deer River. With
20 this new riding, divisions would follow the Red Deer
21 River on the east. That would be a natural boundary
22 because people don't -- you only can cross the river
23 where there's bridges, and there's only a couple of
24 bridges across on that side. On the west side, the
25 same thing, it's divided by a river and some other
26 natural boundaries, and I think that would be better
27 served remaining with Wetaskiwin.

1 So those are my two points. I think on the
2 northeast part of the county in this area, some of the
3 people will be going from Crowfoot to Wetaskiwin. We
4 don't have a huge problem with that. I think it's
5 just -- sooner or later, these things are going to
6 happen. Boundaries are going to change, and both of
7 these ridings are okay.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. Thanks, Mr. Prins. Do you
9 happen to know how many counties and MDs there are in
10 Alberta?

11 MR. RAYMOND PRINS: Around 60.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Around 60.

13 MR. RAYMOND PRINS: Yes.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: And I know that you're not
15 suggesting anything like this, but if the members of
16 the audience would just consider that that number is
17 around 60 counties or MDs in the province, and
18 around -- well, not around, 28 federal electoral
19 districts, it's quite obvious, of course, that we
20 can't observe county boundaries, much as we would like
21 to in many cases, but they do undeniably describe a
22 commonality of interest, which we take account of --
23 which we must take account of, so, wherever possible,
24 we would like to comply with requests such as the ones
25 you've just made, sir, and we'll take them into
26 account.

27 MR. RAYMOND PRINS: Certainly, and that's my point.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

2 MR. RAYMOND PRINS: We know that change is happening.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

4 MR. RAYMOND PRINS: And two or three MPs is okay.

5 Four is a little bit of a stretch, and these

6 geographical areas and business interests, I think, is

7 very important.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Indeed, they are, yes. M-hm.

9 MR. RAYMOND PRINS: Thank you.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you have any questions?

11 DR. BARRY: NO.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: No?

13 MS. KHULLAR: No. I'd just say thank you very

14 much. That's helpful.

15 MR. RAYMOND PRINS: Thanks.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks, Mr. Prins.

17 Milton Elliot. Mr. Milton Elliot.

18 Mr. Prins, did you have a hard copy of your

19 presentation to offer us?

20 MR. RAYMOND PRINS: We'll submit that.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: If you would, before the end of

22 the month, please.

23 Go ahead, sir.

24 MR. MILTON ELLIOT: Thank you very much.

25 Good evening, and thank you for the opportunity

26 to address the Federal Boundaries Commission for

27 Alberta. My name is Milton Elliot. I'm the reeve of

1 Clearwater County.

2 Clearwater County is the largest rural
3 municipality in Central Alberta. Its boundaries
4 extend from the prairies 50 kilometers west of
5 Red Deer through to the meandering streams and forests
6 ending in the eastern slopes of Rocky Mountains. In
7 its entirety, Clearwater County encompasses
8 approximately 15,000 square kilometers. Clearwater is
9 a very active community with a very diverse economy
10 comprised of oil, gas, lumber, agriculture and
11 tourism.

12 At the recent council meetings, county council
13 members had an opportunity to discuss the proposed
14 federal boundary -- electoral boundaries. Council
15 recognizes the importance of the process in terms of
16 promoting equality of votes and in terms of ensuring
17 effective representation throughout Canada. It is in
18 this regard, to the latter principle, effective
19 representation, that Clearwater council wishes to
20 provide the following comments.

21 Council has serious concerns with respect to the
22 federal proposal on the boundaries. The boundaries
23 constituency -- excuse me. The proposed constituency
24 boundaries will divide the county between three
25 constituencies: Yellowhead, Wetaskiwin and
26 Banff-Cochrane. While the current alignment divides
27 the county into four constituencies, alignment is such

1 that the majority of the population is affiliated with
2 Red Deer. This council and previous councils have
3 found this association to be an effective arrangement
4 in that the county works primarily with one Member of
5 Parliament. It is our opinion that working with one
6 MP allows this council and residents the opportunity
7 to develop the type of relationship that is necessary
8 to effectively represent the concerns and issues with
9 the Clearwater area.

10 Clearwater County's association with the Red Deer
11 electoral area is important given the regional
12 affiliations that the Clearwater community has with
13 other communities within central Alberta. Travel
14 routes associated with Number 11 Highway and trade
15 patterns relating to the City of Red Deer have forged
16 many regional affiliations, alliances and
17 associations. Council also believes that the current
18 alignment is appropriate given the wide variety of
19 interests, for example, rural issues, farming issues
20 and economic, that are, again, the common interests of
21 central Alberta.

22 Council believes that the proposed boundary
23 change will significantly alter the voice of
24 Clearwater council and its constituents . . . will
25 have an opportunity to meet and discuss concerns with
26 their Member of Parliament. By dividing the
27 population of Clearwater County in the manner the

1 Federal Commission sees, and by aligning the areas
2 of -- other areas of Alberta with whom we share little
3 common interest in terms of regional affiliation,
4 industry or travel, council fears that the concerns of
5 this council or our residents will be minimized or
6 lost. The potential impact of the proposed boundary
7 change is best illustrated in terms of the Hamlet of
8 Nordegg.

9 Nordegg, which has 70 residents, is approximately
10 85 kilometers west of the Town of Rocky Mountain
11 House. Under the proposed boundary, residents living
12 on the north side of Number 11 will become part of the
13 Yellowhead, which has some of its primary centers:
14 Edson, Hinton and Whitecourt and Barrhead. These are
15 centers up to 400 kilometers away with which Nordegg
16 community and this county has virtually no contact.

17 Nordegg residents living south of Highway 11
18 become part of Banff-Cochrane. Again, the main
19 centers are Banff, Cochrane, Airdrie, 3- to 400
20 kilometers to the south and with which no community,
21 again, has no contact. The proposed boundary change
22 will result in Nordegg residents, individuals within
23 5 kilometers of each other, being in different
24 constituencies and communities and populations that
25 have little in common in terms of commerce, travel or
26 interaction.

27 Clearwater Council therefore requests that the

1 whole of Clearwater county be aligned with Red Deer.
2 We believe that the request will have little impact on
3 your representation formula and is more practical in
4 terms of regional affiliation and travel patterns and
5 common interest and will therefore result in effective
6 representation to the residents of Clearwater in
7 Ottawa.

8 Thank you.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Elliot, I just have one
10 observation to make. Thanks very much for that
11 careful presentation. The Nordegg anomaly, as I've
12 come to recognize it, is being addressed. It seems
13 that we've bisected an urban population that we
14 shouldn't have, so as you've pointed out, it can be
15 easily fixed without attracting much of a population
16 shift; but your other points as well will be taken
17 into account, sir, and I ask my colleagues now if they
18 have any questions of you.

19 MS. KHULLAR: No, I don't have any, thank you.

20 DR. BARRY: No, I don't have any.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: No? Thank you very much.

22 I'm sorry for the standees at the back of the
23 room? Is there anything that can be done? Do we have
24 more chairs available?

25 Apparently, we have no more chairs available,

26 so --

27 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And there's no more room for them.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: And there's no more room for them.

2 I see.

3 I don't want anybody to get up and leave, but
4 thank you for your -- Your hearts are in the right
5 place.

6 MS. KHULLAR: Thank you.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks for coming, folks.

8 Now I call on Mr. Reg Dean of Rocky Mountain
9 House.

10 MR. REG DEAN: Good evening. I'm here to object
11 to the proposed boundary changes for the Red Deer
12 constituency. I have lived west of Caroline, and 30
13 years ago we had a north/south constituency that ran
14 from Canmore, Banff, Swan Hills to Grand Prairie. We
15 were not aligned politically with anything or anyone.
16 All our services at that time: leasing, doctors,
17 everything, was aligned east/west with
18 Red Deer-Innisfail. We never did see our MP, who was
19 Joe Clark for part of it; and sometime, when you
20 phoned his office, they didn't know where you were or
21 whether you were even in their constituency or not.

22 Caroline, Rocky and Spruce View have nothing in
23 common with the proposed communities that we are
24 aligned with. Unless we're going Banff on a holiday,
25 we have no reason to even go to any one of the other
26 communities. We have no reasons to go -- we have all
27 the reasons to go to Red Deer. Our schools, policing,

1 doctors, nurses, dentists, power companies, specialty
2 shops, agricultural services and too many more are
3 aligned east/west, not north/south.

4 The argument of size is a nonissue to us. We're
5 happy living in a constituency that is a little larger
6 than some and smaller than others. It is more
7 important that we have all the services and political
8 boundaries aligned with each other.

9 It is also very important that the cities, towns,
10 the villages and rural areas represented by an MP have
11 something in common so that we can all be represented
12 equally and fairly. It is very difficult for an MP to
13 effectively represent all his constituents if they
14 have nothing in common.

15 I recommend that you leave the Red Deer riding as
16 it is until the next review.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Excuse me, Mr. Dean, what county
18 are you in at the moment?

19 MR. REG DEAN: Clearwater.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, Clearwater.

21 Mr. Dean, before you sat down, I really don't
22 have any questions to make -- to ask of you, sir, but
23 everything you say, of course, is true. You've
24 pointed to a very important commonality of interest in
25 terms of your trade and communication for other
26 purposes running east and west. You've also reminded
27 many of us who were active in this business years and

1 years ago of the old Rocky Mountain constituency which
2 required wings to get from one end of it to the other.
3 Thanks again.

4 MR. REG DEAN: Thanks.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: And now we have Mr. Gillman Crone,
6 Provost.

7 MR. GILLMAN CRONE: Good evening, and thank you for
8 allowing me to make this presentation.

9 A lot of what I have here has been thrashed over
10 pretty good tonight. I feel that representation by
11 population is partially fair, and I stress partially.
12 Imagine how much easier it would be for an MP to
13 represent 100,000 residents in an urban area
14 consisting of just a few square miles opposed to
15 100,000 in an area that takes 2 to 3 hours just to
16 drive from one side to the other. I won't go any
17 further on that. It's been discussed.

18 I'd just like to say that, is this fair and
19 effective representation? Please consider a formula
20 that would take into consideration the sparsity
21 factor, which I believe you mentioned, in order to be
22 able to provide fair and effective representation to
23 rural Canada.

24 Over the 136 years since Confederation, rural
25 Canada's voice has eroded to just a whisper. We need
26 a strong rural voice, not less voices as proposed.
27 The MD of Provost lies fully within the existing

1 Crowfoot constituency which has represented the
2 residents of the MD of Provost well, giving true
3 representation to east central Alberta residents with
4 similar concerns and issues being that of agriculture,
5 gas and oil, and small business.

6 The proposed boundaries are very upsetting. The
7 southern boundary of the Vegreville-Wainwright, as
8 proposed, splits the MD of Provost in half. The
9 boundary would now be between Townships 38 and 39.
10 Provost would be in the Vegreville-Wainwright
11 constituency, and rural residents living just two
12 miles south of Provost would be in the
13 Red Deer-Drumheller constituency.

14 With these proposed changes, the MD of Provost is
15 at the tail end of two constituencies. We already
16 feel that we are at the end of the world with no say
17 anyway. Please don't fracture us further. When it
18 comes to requesting our MP to act on our behalf, we
19 will have to lobby two MPs. At present it seems that
20 our population is frequently too low for the MP to
21 look at our community for projects and grants. When
22 the government looks to communities with respect to
23 planning for the future, the fragmented MD of Provost
24 will probably receive even less consideration than it
25 has previously. The proposed boundaries will further
26 reduce the size of our community.

27 All the residents of the MD of Provost belong to

1 the same market region. Residents in Township 38 and
2 below would be distributed -- or disturbed to find
3 themselves in an area completely different from their
4 friends and neighbors to the north. The proposed
5 boundary splits the Rural Hospital District Number 7.
6 The proposed boundary fractures the southern residents
7 of the Buffalo Trail Public School District from their
8 northern counterparts. The proposed boundary changes
9 fracture our voice.

10 The MD is constantly undergoing electoral
11 boundary changes. One election we are with the north,
12 next election we are with the south, then the north
13 again. Do you know that these causes in the minds of
14 the electorate -- do you know what this causes in the
15 minds of the electorate? It causes confusion, and
16 confusion causes apathy. More than once I've heard
17 voters say: It doesn't matter how I vote anyway.
18 Apathy causes low voter turnout.

19 Rural Alberta has a small enough voice at
20 election time. Did not fragment our community.

21 Thank you.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

23 MR. GILLMAN CRONE: Further to that, I would ask that
24 the Crowfoot constituency remain as is. I think there
25 are 96 or 98,000 people in that constituency. Is that
26 within the --

27 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, yes.

- 1 MR. GILLMAN CRONE: -- allotted amount?
- 2 THE CHAIRMAN: The reason for changing Crowfoot
3 doesn't exist so much on the eastern side at all.
4 It's prompted by what's happening west of Calgary.
- 5 MR. GILLMAN CRONE: Well, that doesn't help us.
- 6 THE CHAIRMAN: No. No.
- 7 MR. GILLMAN CRONE: I think, if you were to change it,
8 I would prefer that we would be tied in with Camrose,
9 Wainwright, Flagstaff, Paintearth Counties.
- 10 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.
- 11 MR. GILLMAN CRONE: Those are our common areas, but I
12 do emphasize that I prefer it to remain as is.
- 13 THE CHAIRMAN: That was very helpful, Mr. Crone.
14 Thanks so much for coming.
- 15 I just wanted to make one point that this process
16 happens once every ten years, and elections frequently
17 happen oftener than that so -- in fact, they always
18 do, so you won't experience a change, in fact, until
19 election, bi-election, although the phenomenon of
20 provincial elections coming along at odd intervals
21 results, as you point out, in voter confusion at
22 times.
- 23 MR. GILLMAN CRONE: Yes. Yes.
- 24 THE CHAIRMAN: So we'll do what we can to device
25 some rational creature for you.
- 26 MR. GILLMAN CRONE: Well, thank you very much.
- 27 THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks, Mr. Crone.

1 MS. KHULLAR: Thank you.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: And Ms. Sandra Brattley.

3 MS. SANDRA BRATTLEY: I've originally come to make a
4 case for keeping the Red Deer constituency east
5 boundary as it is, and you've heard it over and over,
6 and I know you've said you've addressed it, but I
7 cannot emphasize more that that east boundary is
8 critical to the Red Deer constituency. There are just
9 too many people living right along the city's edge in
10 the acreages and the areas right up against the city
11 that do -- they work, they play, they go to school,
12 they do everything within the city, and they do not
13 consider themselves noncitizens of the City of
14 Red Deer, and I would think that it would be very
15 difficult for them to be voting in the constituency of
16 Drumheller when their influence is needed in Red Deer.

17 If you leave the boundary -- the east boundary
18 the same as it is now, as near as I can figure -- and
19 that would leave our population at about 104,000, and
20 that is well within the quotient that you've given in
21 your lists, and that would give us room to expand that
22 way.

23 But during -- listening to the proposals before
24 me, consider -- you know, on the Red Deer
25 constituency, and you've had requests for keeping it
26 close to the way it is and requests to have it run
27 east and west, and if you would look at your own

1 boundaries that you've given Red Deer on your new
2 proposals for the north end of Township 39 and the
3 north end of Township 34, if you were to take those
4 roads and go straight west expanding a little bit when
5 you get into the Clearwater MD, you would make -- you
6 would be within your numbers, and you would satisfy a
7 lot of the statements that were made here today
8 concerning the Red Deer constituency.

9 I'm just suggesting that it's something that you
10 maybe take a look at.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. Thanks. I'm sure we will,
12 and you have provided us with a copy now. Do you have
13 any questions?

14 My colleagues and I believe that we have your
15 point, so --

16 By the way, ladies and gentlemen, we'll be
17 getting a transcript of all this, so it will be up to
18 us to go through all the representations, word for
19 word, and riding by riding, and take everything into
20 account. You won't necessarily hear -- every
21 contributor won't necessarily hear from us, obviously,
22 because it would simply involve too much, but the
23 suggestions are all valuable, and we'll certainly
24 consider them.

25 Mr. Brian Mazza.

26 MR. BRIAN MAZZA: Justice MacCallum, members of the
27 Commission.

1 And now for something completely different. I'm
2 going to be a very unpopular person in this room with
3 the people in the western part of this area.

4 I'm the editor the newspaper in Rocky Mountain
5 House, and I have been since 1988. Suffered through
6 several federal elections and quite a number of
7 provincial ones; and for the purpose of this, I would
8 like to talk about the entire northwest corner of the
9 constituency, including Yellowhead, so if you can
10 bring up the Indian reserves to the northwest of Rocky
11 Mountain House on your map, it would be great . . .
12 and then down a little bit. Actually bring, yes, the
13 whole thing.

14 There we go. Thank you very much.

15 I have three points to make, after much debate.
16 I've been in great debate with Bob Mills in front of a
17 large group of people in Rocky Mountain House and have
18 enjoyed this.

19 Boundaries are one of my areas of political
20 study, and I have a degree in political science from
21 U of C, a former student of Dr. Barry's, much too long
22 ago to be worth remembering, so it's . . .

23 This is an area of high interest for me, and so
24 I'll go from there. My first point is an admonition.

25 The Commission -- I was dismayed that the
26 Boundaries Commission proposed to change -- their
27 proposed changes were only carried in a tabloid

1 inserted into the Calgary and Edmonton daily
2 newspapers. Changes occurred across the province
3 affecting people in places which the dailies do not
4 reach. The Commission could have improved its
5 communications with all Albertans, not just those
6 living in the largest centers, and my recommendation
7 is: Please recommend to Elections Canada and to
8 future commissions the need to establish and improved
9 communications plan. I'll just leave it at that.

10 On the shrinking of the Red Deer constituency,
11 we've heard a lot about people wanting to be
12 continuing to be part of it.

13 Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, has shared
14 constituency with Red Deer City for the last 90 years
15 or so, so the proposed boundaries come as a shock to
16 many people. Many have understood -- many have
17 understandably taken a reactionary position. Red Deer
18 Member of Parliament, Bob Mills, will argue that a
19 connection should be maintained and that Red Deer
20 could easily handle a population 125,000 while the
21 surrounding constituencies would each average around
22 90,000; and after some thought with his proposal, I
23 disagree.

24 The Commission is correct in trying to average
25 out populations between constituencies. Alberta is
26 growing so rapidly that the 2001 census figures no
27 longer accurately reflect the province, after just 18

1 months. At least some attempt is being made to make
2 each person's vote equal, and that's deeply
3 appreciated.

4 During the last election, I felt the effects of
5 urban creep. I guess, my comments relate largely to
6 the mechanics of running an election, which is
7 something that I haven't heard spoken about at the
8 Commission meeting today, so far.

9 The returning officer and her staff in the office
10 were all Red Deer residents and were geared to
11 answering questions from urban voters. They were not
12 familiar with the rules for rural voters. Many of my
13 area's voters received incorrect information. While
14 the staff did their best to help me provide accurate
15 information to my readers, I still felt that we were
16 the tail being wagged by the Red Deer dog.

17 Red Deer is a large urban center and will likely
18 have its own boundaries following the 2011 census. To
19 retain the shape of the present-day constituency only
20 delays the inevitable.

21 Many of the arguments raised about market
22 corridors and trade routes have more resonance under
23 provincial constitutional powers and are irrelevant
24 under section 91 powers. It simply doesn't matter
25 that we won't be represented by a Member of Parliament
26 for the City of Red Deer.

27 Then I'd like it make the case for

1 Banff-Cochrane.

2 The proposed constituency of Banff-Cochrane is
3 largely a good idea, although I suspect the Commission
4 will hear many proposals for change because of its
5 very nature. I'm no different. The constituency
6 fragments many communities because nearly all the
7 population centers are at the edges of the proposed
8 constituency, and, therefore, there will always be
9 someone feeling left out, one way or the other.

10 No rural constituency is homogeneous, as issues
11 vary from one end to the other, but Banff-Cochrane is
12 a reasonable attempt to group like-minded communities
13 together. From north of Airdrie, agriculture provides
14 a great tie, and to the west is forestry industry and
15 largely wilderness issues.

16 While the proposed riding does have a registered
17 city, Airdrie, that community still only has a weekly
18 community press, so the entire constituency is served
19 by community newspapers and one radio station. The
20 returning officer will require a communications plan,
21 and the communities served largely by -- and the
22 communities served are largely small, and the rules
23 for rural voters apply. As a result, there should be
24 no confusion over the advice given to voters.

25 The constituency also groups the
26 Kiska-Waptan-Nakota First Nation Reserve at Big Horn
27 with the reserves at Morley, so the entire Nakota

1 Nation is located in the riding. That is on the west
2 end of the constituency, the little blue dot north of
3 Lake Abraham -- I'm sorry, I can probably --

4 MS. KHULLAR: Sorry, use the pointer. Yes,
5 okay.

6 MR. BRIAN MAZZA: Yes. That is the Big Horn
7 Reserve, and then on the south end we have the Stony
8 Reserves there. The little reserve up here elects a
9 single councilor to sit on a council of one of the
10 three Nakota Reserves in the south, so what it does is
11 it actually brings the whole Nakota Nation together
12 under a single Member of Parliament, and I think that
13 has some benefit for them.

14 Likewise, on the north end, by putting the
15 Sunchild and O'Chiese Reserves, which the tail end
16 just comes right in at the top there, the Sunchild and
17 O'Chiese are adjacent reserves. They're both members
18 of the Yellowhead Tribal Council, and there are other
19 members of the Yellowhead Tribal Council in the
20 Yellowhead constituency. Again, there's a case of
21 some resonance with -- for them as -- a more powerful
22 voice to a single Member of Parliament who can carry
23 their concerns, and I think that that is -- that has
24 been a tremendous benefit.

25 I do propose a change to Banff-Cochrane. I
26 recommend that all of Banff National Park be brought
27 into Banff-Cochrane and that the northern boundary be

1 moved from Highway 11 north to the north edge of
2 Township 42 from Jasper National Park boundary to the
3 west edge of the North Saskatchewan River in the east,
4 including six -- excluding the six sections of the
5 Sunchild Reserve. Essentially, the boundary -- what
6 I'm proposing is that from the -- from Yellowhead
7 in -- just move the line to this point and draw it
8 straight across there, and what this does, it will
9 change the population very little, but it makes -- it
10 resolves your Nordegg problem that you've already
11 alluded to because there's very little population in
12 that area. What I suggest is leave the -- leave the
13 reserves in Yellowhead: 598 people in the Sunchild,
14 506 people in the O'Chiese. That is the largest
15 population there. The other populations are centered
16 right down in this area, and then at Nordegg, right
17 about there, there's a few people on the north and on
18 the south side, and then one other little population
19 that is highly transient but still there is right here
20 at Saskatchewan River Crossing, and by the use of
21 Highway 93 and Highway 11, you take that one tiny,
22 little, isolated pocket of population and move it into
23 Yellowhead, so distant from all other populations.
24 Highway 11 corridor ties all these people together.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: You're not referring to a
26 First Nations population at Saskatchewan Crossing?

27 MR. BRIAN MAZZA: Saskatchewan River Crossing is a

1 commercial center.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

3 MR. BRIAN MAZZA: And so there's a highly transient
4 population, but people who could actually be resident
5 there long enough to establish voting criteria.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Right.

7 MR. BRIAN MAZZA: And so what this does is, by
8 drawing that line, it seems to take in a huge area,
9 but the population is extremely tiny. I guess, it
10 might help the Commission to see. This is a county
11 map. It's a little on the old side, but it gives just
12 an indication of this idea.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Is that Clearwater County?

14 MR. BRIAN MAZZA: This is -- this is a portion of
15 Clearwater County, and what it does is, if you look in
16 the corner there, the southwest -- or the southeast
17 corner of Yellowhead, there's a tiny, little lake,
18 that's this one. What it is, is there's a little bit
19 of farmland that surrounds that lake and then travels
20 up the river.

21 By moving the boundary to the north section of
22 the north of Township 42, so even with the bottom of
23 the reserve, essentially, it would take in this tiny,
24 little bit of population. Most of the population
25 that's west of the river falls into the yellow area
26 just west of Rocky Mountain House and on the south
27 side of Highway 11, so what it does is it allows a

1 single polling district -- a single polling station to
2 take in account for all of these people, there, and it
3 would -- I think it would ease matters for a returning
4 officer -- would ease matters for a returning officer
5 from Banff-Cochrane, and also ease returning officers'
6 problems from Yellowhead, and then all of those people
7 are within easy reach of Rocky Mountain House, which,
8 I think, would make their representation by a Member
9 of Parliament a little bit easier. It's a very minor
10 change to make but I think one that would -- that
11 would resolve the western issue quite nicely.
12 Population is very sparse. It's grouped in small
13 collections, but it's -- I think that would help
14 matters quite a bit, and I'm happy to provide this to
15 you.

16 And I do want to make a note that while I am
17 talking about moving a significant area from
18 Yellowhead into Banff-Cochrane, I make no
19 recommendations on the boundary for the County of
20 Wetaskiwin, even though I live within 3 kilometers of
21 all three constituencies where they come together at
22 that little nexus. I've advised the county that I
23 think that they would have some benefit by being
24 represented by two Members of Parliament instead of
25 one. It's nice to have several voices going ahead on
26 your behalf, so -- but I know that that's not a
27 popular position, already stressed.

1 So I did tell you I'd provide something
2 completely different here, and that's my presentation.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mazza, do you have a copy of
4 your presentation?

5 MR. BRIAN MAZZA: I do, yes.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, good. That will be very
7 helpful, and does it contain the rather technical
8 points that you were making?

9 MR. BRIAN MAZZA: The technical points that I'm
10 making are actually quite simple, and they are
11 contained in the document.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, that's just fine, sir. Do
13 you have any questions?

14 DR. BARRY: Well, I'm now being taught by my
15 former student, and that's exactly the way it should
16 be.

17 MS. KHULLAR: No, no questions. Thank you very
18 much.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mazza, take some advice from
20 someone quite a lot older. Don't be concerned about
21 being unpopular. I'm sure you're not, being in the
22 business you are.

23 MR. BRIAN MAZZA: M-hm.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: As a Commission, we've learned
25 during our travels that we're not in a popularity
26 contest; and if we are, we've lost it.

27 MR. BRIAN MAZZA: I guess my question to you is have

1 you learned whether you've done anything right yet?

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Just now. As a matter of fact, in
3 Edmonton, it might interest you to know, that the
4 Edmonton Sun quoted one of the Edmonton City
5 councillors as having said, "What moron came up with
6 this?" And when I quoted those remarks to the
7 Edmonton meeting, Deb Grey was in the audience, and
8 she reassured us by saying that to be called a moron
9 in the House of Commons means you've had a good day.

10 Thanks, Mr. Mazza.

11 Is Mr. Gregg -- oh, sorry, Doreen R. MacDonald
12 from Red Deer.

13 Thanks, ma'am. Go ahead, please.

14 MRS. DOREEN R. MACDONALD: Thank you. Well, first of all,
15 I appreciate the opportunity to voice my concerns
16 about the proposed electoral boundary changes to take
17 place in 2004.

18 Secondly, because I live in the City of Red Deer,
19 I'm not personally affected by the proposed changes.
20 I do, however, see changes made that seriously affect
21 many people who are currently within the Red Deer
22 constituency and to whom I'm personally involved with
23 too.

24 I recognize that it is federal law to reassess
25 and readjust boundaries according to population growth
26 every ten years, but I have to ask: Are the drastic
27 changes to the Red Deer riding necessary or are we

1 looking at change for change sake or because of
2 changes of other ridings? I think you've answered
3 some of those questions already.

4 It is clear that the Red Deer population has and
5 is growing as well as many smaller communities within
6 the riding, but are the number more important than the
7 geographic/economic needs of the citizens in the
8 constituency as long as the population is manageable
9 and can be represented fairly?

10 There are, and always will be, people on the
11 other side of the boundary line. However, when city
12 limits and major highways are the criteria used to
13 establish new boundaries, the natural demographics of
14 communities are overlooked.

15 In the case of the area immediately east of
16 Red Deer, which we've gone through, and I probably
17 won't because I do point out that everything that
18 those people immediately east of Red Deer -- well, I
19 would say almost to the Pine Lake boundary too, but
20 particularly those in the Balmoral and east
21 communities there, do their business, everything, in
22 Red Deer.

23 There's a lady in the audience tonight that
24 pointed out to me the first Ladies Auxiliary to the
25 Red Deer Hospital was something like 1904, I can't
26 remember the exact date, came from the Balmoral, that
27 area just east of Red Deer, it's not in Red Deer, so

1 that's kind of history of that.

2 Yet, with the proposed boundary change, for
3 federal representation -- the proposed boundary change
4 for federal representation, these same citizens will
5 have to go far to the south and east for their
6 concerns. This, when within easy access and in their
7 area is a representative, a Member of Parliament, who
8 can more directly take care of their requirements.

9 Understandably, with today's communication
10 technology and transportation, access is more
11 available, regardless of distance, making it possible
12 to take care of constituents. But these same
13 technologies make it possible for a Member of
14 Parliament to manage a greater population with all
15 their concerns and interests, and in the case of this
16 particular constituency of rural/urban mix, a general
17 commonality.

18 So looking at the west of Red Deer, we see a
19 population whose flow of trade and commerce,
20 entertainment, medical emergencies and other needs, as
21 has already been pointed out, are in Red Deer, not in
22 Banff or Cochrane, even Airdrie, another major center
23 in that proposed Banff-Cochrane constituency.

24 Looking -- again, I just pointed out in
25 describing our present electoral district, which I
26 won't go into now, but you are aware of, and we are
27 aware of, then there's the -- but this new proposed

1 electoral boundary would see Red Deer constituency
2 shrink to exclude the population immediately east of
3 the Red Deer city limits and Highway 2 and people a
4 short distance west of Eckville. Total population of
5 the riding would be in the range of 100,800, according
6 to the information I have.

7 And I would suggest that we look at including --
8 keeping the eastern boundaries of Red Deer similar as
9 what they are, and I would say that maybe if we looked
10 at going north to Blackfalds and following west on
11 Township 41 to the provincial border and going south
12 to the -- west, to follow west on Township 35 to the
13 border, would take in a lot of the people that we're
14 concerned about.

15 However, another thought would be to go -- for
16 the western portion of the riding to consider going
17 west on Township 41 from Blackfalds to Range 10 and
18 then cut south to Township 35. That would eliminate
19 the mountain areas, the Nordeggs and some of the
20 reserves, the two reserves that we have there.

21 From the population numbers obtained from towns
22 and counties, and this I did on my own, I just
23 estimated, and this was very difficult, it's just --
24 it is a rough estimate, I've estimated that if we
25 stuck to that kind of a boundary for Red Deer
26 constituency, the population would be about 115,000.
27 Now, that is probably not very accurate, but the best

1 I could do with the information I got from the various
2 county offices and town offices.

3 This number is feasible and compares with the
4 population numbers considered for other riding changes
5 under the proposed electoral boundary changes.

6 I firmly believe that the above suggestion makes
7 sense and would serve the majority of the
8 constituents.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. KHULLAR: I'd like to say thank you. I
11 notice you've attached to map to your submission.

12 MRS. DOREEN R. MACDONALD: It's very rough, very rough.

13 MS. KHULLAR: I appreciate that, but it's
14 helpful. Thank you.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: It's very helpful. Thanks so
16 much.

17 MRS. DOREEN R. MACDONALD: Okay.

18 MS. KHULLAR: Thank you very much.

19 MRS. DOREEN R. MACDONALD: Thank you.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: There's a chair up here, sir, if
21 you would care to be seated. That's okay? Okay.

22 Is Mr. Greg Johnson from the County of Red Deer
23 here yet?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Reeve Johnson isn't here yet. We
25 put his name down the list.

26 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. We know about -- yes, we
27 know he's busy, so we can wait.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And if he doesn't show, two of us
2 councillors will do an impromptu for you.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: By the way, the quote from the
4 Edmonton Sun is something I illustrated by way of
5 joke. I wasn't suggesting that anybody indulge
6 themselves in that sort of name-calling, not that I
7 expected it from this civilized crowd.

8 I think what we'll do is take a 15 minute break
9 now. We're moving along pretty good, and I think that
10 with an equivalent amount of time after 15 minutes, we
11 can finish up. Thank you.

12 (ADJOURNMENT)

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, we'll call
14 the meeting to order, please.

15 Mr. Greg C. Johnson.

16 MR. GREGG C. JOHNSON: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman and
17 members of the Commission, for holding this and for
18 holding up the meeting today. I apologize. I was in
19 a one-hour NRCB appeal that turned into a three-hour
20 hearing, so I do apologize for being somewhat tardy.

21 My presence here today, Mr. Chairman, is to relay
22 the concerns or the perspective of the Red Deer County
23 to you today. We did debate this issue two sessions
24 ago of council, and what council wanted me to bring
25 forward to you today was the notion that really a
26 federal riding should be based on a nexus, a community
27 nexus of where people reside and where they have their

1 most significant point of interest.

2 In this case, of course, we have the City of Red
3 Deer. Red Deer County, in cooperation with its
4 municipal partners, have established many bodies such
5 as the Diamond Willow, the family and community
6 support services of Red Deer and area. We have
7 regional systems that go throughout our county in
8 cooperation with other municipalities.

9 What's clear, both from an economic trading
10 perspective and from a -- from a community perspective
11 and a political perspective is that Red Deer is indeed
12 the center of the area.

13 I saw a number of the changes, and, of course,
14 what concerned us the most was the shift towards the
15 eastern boundary eliminating the vast majority of the
16 eastern portion of Red Deer County from the new
17 boundary.

18 Speaking personally, I live a half a kilometer
19 outside the City of Red Deer, and the proposal would
20 have made me now within the division of Drumheller,
21 which, from my perspective, was rather absurd since my
22 most -- my largest causal connection is to the City of
23 Red Deer.

24 So council's position I'd like to reiterate today
25 is the possibility that all of Red Deer County be
26 incorporated within the federal Red Deer riding.

27 We all recognize that in many cases change is

1 inevitable. We certainly recognize that sometimes
2 change is good, but if there's going to be a change,
3 it should be for a good reason. I think the good
4 reason for a change in this instance is to reflect the
5 fact that everyone within Red Deer County really does
6 recognize the City of Red Deer as being their
7 substantive connection from a community perspective,
8 so we would like to see that position put forward,
9 and, if nothing else, to leave the boundaries the way
10 they are. Sometimes change isn't good, and, in some
11 respects, this is perhaps a testament to the man that
12 does such a good job representing us in Ottawa, and we
13 all like to keep with him. If a change is required,
14 please consider the inclusion of all the Red Deer
15 County.

16 I think that's about it.

17 Oh, I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, if you have any
18 questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

19 MS. KHULLAR: No, I don't, thank you.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: No. You're a marvel of
21 succinctness, sir, and it's a point that was made by
22 others, and we have discussed some of the points, you
23 know, in your absence, sir, so I won't go over plowing
24 up the same ground again, but rest assured that you
25 share a belief which is held strongly by others, and
26 we'll see what can be done to partially accommodate
27 your wishes.

1 MR. GREGG C. JOHNSON: Thank you, sir. Thank you.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Edward McBride.

3 Oh, I forgot to ask the last speaker if he had a
4 paper copy of his remarks.

5 MR. GREGG C. JOHNSON: I'm sorry, sir, I don't.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: If you want to submit one, it
7 would be a help to us, and please do so before the end
8 of the month.

9 MR. GREGG C. JOHNSON: I will do so.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

11 MR. GREGG C. JOHNSON: Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

13 MR. EDWARD MCBRIDE: Okay. I am here to make a
14 recommendation on behalf of the Raven Community Center
15 which is approximately 48 kilometers west of
16 Innisfail.

17 Our members live in the far west portion of the
18 Red Deer County on the west side of Highway 766 and
19 the adjoining southeasterly corner of the County of
20 Clearwater. Until now, this area has been -- formed
21 part of the Red Deer district. However, the
22 Commission proposal for the revision of the Red Deer
23 boundaries places our community in the newly-formed
24 Banff-Cochrane district.

25 From a study of your website information, you
26 have done a very thorough job of allocating the
27 recommended number of electors to each district;

1 however, this mathematical exercise does not take into
2 account the community of interest considerations. We
3 have very strong ties to Red Deer district, which we
4 believe we should remain in that district.

5 Now, I have a couple of paragraphs here on the
6 electoral boundaries which I will omit because they've
7 been discussed.

8 Having therefore established the importance of
9 the community of interest in general, I would like to
10 point out the Raven Community's ties with the Red Deer
11 district.

12 The majority of us are taxpayers in the Red Deer
13 County for medical services, including ambulances,
14 hospital, doctors, all are located in the Red Deer
15 County. Our children go to school in Spruce View in
16 Red Deer County. Our RCMP detachment is in Innisfail
17 in Red Deer County. Our mail service comes from
18 Innisfail in the Red Deer County. Our local papers
19 are published in Innisfail and Red Deer. A number of
20 our members are employed in Innisfail or Red Deer
21 County. Council resides in this area. From the eight
22 directors -- oh, sorry, four of our eight directors in
23 Spruce View live in this area, and our members and
24 volunteers and officers of social, recreational and
25 cultural organizations. With all these ties to the
26 Red Deer County, we feel that the move to the
27 Banff-Cochrane district would deprive us of

1 representation.

2 Since the current proposed boundaries of the
3 Red Deer district enclose a population of 103,065
4 versus a provincial quotient of 106,243, of this area
5 west of Highway 66, it will not violate these
6 numerical guidelines.

7 We thank you for your attention and trust that
8 you will consider our request.

9 MS. KHULLAR: Mr. McBride, would you mind just
10 using the pointer and just showing me on the map?
11 I've got the geography and the notes, but it's helpful
12 to see it visually where the community is located.

13 MR. EDWARD MCBRIDE: It should just point, should it?

14 MS. KHULLAR: You have to squeeze down, and a
15 little red comes out.

16 MR. EDWARD MCBRIDE: Oh, okay.

17 MS. KHULLAR: There.

18 MR. EDWARD MCBRIDE: Okay, it's this panhandle right
19 here.

20 MS. KHULLAR: Okay.

21 MR. EDWARD MCBRIDE: The population of it is virtually
22 nil. There's very few people there.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. So you have to drive to
24 Innisfail for --

25 MR. EDWARD MCBRIDE: For services, yes.

26 THE CHAIRMAN: Or Red Deer.

27 MR. EDWARD MCBRIDE: Yes, or Red Deer.

1 MS. KHULLAR: Okay. Thank you very much.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. That was very
3 helpful.

4 I think we have a team, Lou Soppit and
5 Larry Holstead. Go ahead, sir.

6 MR. LOU SOPPIT: Good evening, Commission
7 Chairperson, Members of the Commission. My name is
8 Lou Soppit, and I'm the mayor of Rocky Mountain House.
9 I would like to thank you for this opportunity to
10 present the views of the Rocky Mountain House town
11 council on the proposed changes to the federal
12 electoral boundaries. Many of my remarks tonight are
13 going to be repetitious, as of before, but I've been
14 charged with the duty of presenting these to you, and
15 I shall present them.

16 The population of Rocky Mountain House is 6208,
17 and we are located 80 kilometers west of the City of
18 Red Deer. We are a vibrant, growing community, and
19 our economic sector includes agriculture, oil and gas,
20 tourism and forestry. Our council is very concerned
21 about the proposed changes to the electoral boundaries
22 and how they will affect federal representation for
23 the Town of Rocky Mountain House and our neighboring
24 municipality surrounding the town, namely: the
25 Clearwater County. Counsel clearly supports
26 maintaining federal representation for the town
27 through the existing Red Deer riding rather than the

1 proposed riding of Banff-Cochrane. We have nothing
2 against Banff, Cochrane, Airdrie; however, I feel that
3 our boundaries could be left going east and west,
4 narrowing down the north and south, and I think that's
5 been pointed out before in previous speakers.

6 The Town of Rocky Mountain House has strong ties
7 with the City of Red Deer and other communities within
8 the Red Deer constituency. We share common
9 associations on a regional basis. These associations
10 include regional health service, a common regional
11 educational board, and we're in the process at this
12 particular time of building a multi \$20 million new
13 high school connected with Red Deer College, which our
14 students in Rocky Mountain House will be able to get a
15 trade in Rocky Mountain House without having to travel
16 to the cities.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Your high school burned, didn't
18 it?

19 MR. LOU SOPPIT: Pardon me?

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Did your high school -- did you
21 have a fire in --

22 MR. LOU SOPPIT: No, that was the junior high.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: That was the junior high, oh.

24 MR. LOU SOPPIT: But we're building a new high
25 school that will probably include the public high
26 school, St. Matt's High School and the Red Deer
27 College; so it all ties together in a \$20 million

1 complex which is going to be -- we're going to be
2 very, very proud of, and we would like to be tried
3 with Red Deer in that point.

4 Our economic development -- oh, excuse me, and
5 our regional economic development, to name only a few
6 of the other instances.

7 Our major trade and travel patterns are on an
8 east to west basis using Highway 11. As I said
9 before, we'd rather see the east/west expanded or
10 narrowed and the north and south-- pardon me, the
11 north and south narrowed, and the east and west going
12 from border to border, or however it comes about.

13 This further promotes our community's affiliation
14 to other communities within the current riding.
15 Travel time between some communities within the
16 Banff-Cochrane riding would require in excess of three
17 hours. We have not historically been closely aligned
18 with communities, including the proposed
19 Banff-Cochrane riding.

20 The town is also concerned about our neighbor and
21 surrounding county's federal representation being
22 fragmented. The proposed constituency boundaries will
23 divide the County of Clearwater between three
24 constituencies: Yellowhead, Wetaskiwin and
25 Banff-Cochrane, instead of the county being primarily
26 represented by the current Red Deer constituency. We
27 believe that the proposed boundary changes will reduce

1 the opportunity for the town and county residents to
2 share common issues with their Member of Parliament,
3 and we are very proud of our present Member of
4 Parliament.

5 The communities -- the communities of the
6 Red Deer riding have made conscious effort to work
7 together cooperatively. The Town of Rocky Mountain
8 House believes that our Member of Parliament
9 representing us through the current Red Deer boundary
10 alignment will result in the most effective
11 representation for our area.

12 Thank you for your time and for our presentation,
13 and I'm here to answer any questions that you would
14 have.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you have any questions?

16 MS. KHULLAR: No, I don't, but I'd say thank you
17 very much.

18 MR. LOU SOPPIT: Thank you.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Holstead, did you wish to
20 speak as well?

21 MR. LARRY HOLSTEAD: No, sir. The mayor has said it
22 well, thank you.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thanks. Thank you very
24 much.

25 MR. LOU SOPPIT: You've got it --

26 THE CHAIRMAN: We have a copy of it, thanks very
27 much, sir.

1 Mr. Peter Fenrich.

2 MR. PETER FENRICH: If you for the opportunity tonight
3 to make a verbal presentation. I'm Peter Fenrich,
4 Mayor of Forestberg, Alberta, and I'm here
5 representing our council's position.

6 We are currently in the Crowfoot constituency.
7 Under the proposal, we would be moved to the
8 Drumheller constituency. Our first request is that we
9 be united with other Flagstaff communities. What has
10 happened under this proposal is Flagstaff County has
11 been divided moving Forestberg-Yellowhead, Alliance
12 south and the rest of the county north. Preferable
13 for ease, I think it would be easier to include us in
14 the north riding of Vegreville-Wainwright.

15 Basically, the population that would shift would
16 be negligible. Forestberg is around 900 people,
17 Yellowhead, Alliance are quite a bit less, and the
18 farmers around there. And our reasoning behind this
19 is largely based on what we see for Canada and in the
20 future. We feel the municipalities will be working
21 closer and more cooperatively together. It makes it
22 quite difficult if we have to cross the Battle River
23 and go south, seeing right now all our trade routes
24 run north/west. We'd have a difficult time developing
25 a relationship with those communities and sharing
26 resources, both human as well as financial with
27 respect to recreation, health, school, etcetera.

1 Basically, what we've done, our council
2 currently, and councils before us, have developed a
3 pretty good relationship with our surrounding
4 communities going north and west and largely
5 Flagstaff County. We have worked toward the
6 regionalization of our ambulance, regionalization of
7 our waste collection, a county-wide fire agreement, we
8 have two seniors complexes that run under the name
9 Flagstaff Regional Housing. We're currently working
10 toward new rec. agreements. As for health and school,
11 they both run north/west out of Camrose.

12 Basically, to sum it up, as we move into the
13 future, we feel it will be more efficient to use our
14 resources if we were of like mind, as you've pointed
15 out; and in doing so, we'd like to be intact as a
16 county, be it in the northern riding or the southern
17 riding, we feel for ease, just to move that line south
18 there and engulf that bottom part.

19 The secondary request, and I'm not -- I don't
20 know if I'm old enough to dispense political wisdom or
21 not. Just listening to other concerns tonight, a lot
22 of the problem with the Drumheller riding is its name
23 itself. It creates a lot of animosity, and that's
24 just a personal feeling. We have nothing to do with
25 Drumheller, or very little, although if you look at
26 our current riding, it's quit vast; so we recognize we
27 have to be in a big riding, and we would appreciate a

1 name that recognizes everybody.

2 The other thing that I just found tonight, I
3 think you saw this morning, was a suggestion to keep
4 Crowfoot intact. Our MP gave me a copy of that, and
5 I'll attach it --

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

7 MR. PETER FENRICH: -- under a separate cover. That
8 would also be acceptable to our counsel, but I'll
9 bring it back before them before formally agreeing to
10 that.

11 And that is pretty much all I have.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fenrich, just on the point of
13 the Drumheller name, we heard the message, in no
14 uncertain terms, from the residents of Drumheller
15 earlier today, who have a great respect for
16 Chief Crowfoot and the legacy he left in that part of
17 the world, and many of them resist the name change,
18 and, of course, that is another aspect of our proposal
19 which is not written in stone either, and it could
20 change. We'll just have to take these things into
21 account.

22 If you want to read our proposal, this is for
23 everybody here, you will see in very abbreviated form
24 the reasons we have made various changes; and if you
25 wonder why we're not debating with these speakers
26 tonight, the reason is that we're here to listen,
27 primarily, and not debate or argue as advocates would

1 for a certain point of view. We appreciate very much
2 all the comments that we're hearing.

3 And I don't think my colleagues have any comments
4 or questions, sir, so -- and, by the way, you
5 certainly are old enough to dispense political advice.

6 MS. KHULLAR: Thank you very much.

7 MR. PETER FENRICH: Thank you.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

9 Now, Mayor Marjorie Peters and Mr. Dick
10 Sommerville.

11 Let me guess, you're Mr. Sommerville.

12 MR. DICK SOMMERVILLE: I'm Mr. Sommerville, yes, indeed.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

14 MR. DICK SOMMERVILLE: And I want to thank this
15 Commission for the opportunity to be here to bring you
16 all greetings on behalf of our mayor who would have
17 liked to have been here too but other commitments were
18 such that she couldn't.

19 Mayor Peters and the council asked me to convey
20 their appreciation for this exercise. Quite often we
21 feel that our political system is so heavily weighed
22 to the east that we get what they give us, so we do
23 appreciate the chance to speak, and we still believe
24 in democracy and are willing to fight for it. We want
25 to thank you for giving us this chance.

26 Now, having said that, I would like to say that I
27 really don't have any solutions for you. What we've

1 done is we've come here recognizing the task that
2 you're taking on. We want to encourage you and thank
3 you for the devotion you folks are putting to this,
4 and your staff, and we want to encourage all the
5 people here to try and remain open-minded about this
6 and realize that this is a bit of a labor of love. If
7 we weren't growing, we wouldn't be here. We're in a
8 province that's blessed, and we have to recognize that
9 in a world that's kind of upside down; so while we're
10 trying to figure things out and worry about who's
11 going to get represented by what, let's remember the
12 good things, and I want to thank Bob Mills for keeping
13 us informed and for doing an excellent job, and I
14 really feel that, and, I mean, he has represented me
15 in the way that I would like to be represented, and I
16 wish my council was hear to speak for themselves, but
17 I believe that they would feel the same way, Bob, and
18 thank you very kindly.

19 Instead of rehashing what's been said about the
20 services and the things that we like and the things
21 that we do and where we go to do them, those points
22 have been made, and I know they'll be considered by
23 you folks, and I thank you for that, but maybe on a
24 little more of a personal note, what I would like to
25 say is one of the fellows, the Mayor -- or, excuse me,
26 the reeve from -- Raymond Prins from Lacombe County
27 said that representation by population is only

1 partially fair, and we know that, but we haven't --
2 unless somebody has got a better idea, we haven't
3 found it yet, so we are working together towards that
4 end, which is why we're here.

5 But one of the things that I think needs to be
6 taken into consideration in the formula is -- maybe
7 I'm getting more sentimental as I get older, but,
8 frankly, the degree of peace and satisfaction I feel
9 in my life is directly related to the things I feel I
10 have in common with the people around me in my home
11 and in my area and in my district, and I don't know
12 about traveling down to -- you know, when I think
13 about splitting things up, anything that divides and
14 separates us, I'm against. And I try to go, and I
15 think I can speak again for some of the people that I
16 know in our area, that go to great lengths to try and
17 protect our heritage and who we are in our culture and
18 our family units and that sort of thing, and we will
19 do whatever we can to improve the networking and the
20 social exchange in our areas, and, again, as I said, I
21 really don't have any answers. There isn't a quick
22 fix for this, I'm pretty sure, but we -- I think we're
23 doing it right, and I want to thank you for the
24 invitation to be here, and I look forward to the
25 transcripts of these remarks so that I can take them
26 back to our council on behalf of what all you other
27 folks say, and, in closing, I would like to invite you

1 all come and see Caroline. If you don't know where we
2 are, if you drew a line between Sundre and Lou over
3 here in Rocky, we'd be about halfway, so we're just a
4 nice little day trip for most of you, and please, and
5 thank you.

6 MS. KHULLAR: Thank you very much.

7 DR. BARRY: Thank you for this presentation.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sommerville, that, I must say,
9 was a very eloquent presentation of some very basic
10 concepts, and we very appreciate it, as I'm sure
11 everybody else did. Thanks.

12 MR. DICK SOMMERVILLE: Thank you kindly.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: And again, sir, if you have a
14 copy, would you leave it with us or provide us with
15 one, if you wish, before the end of the month.

16 If I ever forget to say that, it's not because I
17 think your presentation wasn't great, it's simply the
18 fact that I forgot it; so anybody who is presenting
19 tonight, if you haven't already given us a hard copy
20 of your remarks, one would be appreciated by the end
21 of the month. Thanks.

22 And I think now we are at Mr. Grant Howell.

23 MR. GRANT HOWELL: Thank you very much. I come
24 before you this evening because I feel as a citizen of
25 this great country I have a responsibility to provide
26 my views when they're sought, and I thank you very
27 much for the opportunity and for the sense that I get

1 district in the province . . .
2 and that's been talked about many times this evening,
3 and I think quite eloquently. Also:

4 (ii) a manageable geographic size for
5 districts in sparsely populated, rural
6 or northern regions of the province."

7 and I think that's also one that very clearly affects
8 us, and, as it's been brought up before, that surely
9 the contiguous population clusters -- I know that's a
10 lot of funny words, but that's just how it strikes
11 me -- around Red Deer and the national patterns of
12 where we travel, demonstrate a very strong community
13 of interest that is better served, I think, with the
14 current system than with the -- with the proposed one.

15 As a resident of this area I can tell you that I
16 love to visit Drumheller. I have been there within
17 the last month, but I share no sense of identity with
18 it other than we share the same river. I'm sure that
19 Drumheller residents feel much more closely aligned
20 with their rural partners and even Calgary than they
21 do with Red Deer.

22 And I guess there's one other point. As an urban
23 citizen, I don't mind having the urban ratio higher
24 than the rural ratio. That situation is recognized in
25 the second guideline listed above, and rural MPs have
26 huge geographic areas to serve, as has been mentioned,
27 and my feeling is, as a kid that was born and raised

1 in urban communities in Alberta, that our rural
2 citizens have done and continue to do their share as
3 nation builders and nation sustainers, and their
4 voices need to be heard, and I think that the vast
5 area that is included there in the riding proposed as
6 Drumheller makes that more difficult.

7 My one recommendation would be to allow your
8 guidelines to give you the guidance in your
9 deliberations and hear the people that have brought
10 their views forward, looking at the ways and places
11 that people gather and form the boundaries away from
12 such artificial boundaries as city limits and major
13 highways where possible, and I think those points were
14 brought up, for example, in the Nordegg situation, the
15 Highway 2 situation.

16 And I'd just -- one final point in conclusion. I
17 don't view this as -- my submission here as a
18 resistance to change, which I know is an easy place to
19 get to. There has been a lot of talk about our growth
20 and the need for change in the future; but the strong
21 concern I have is that this redistribution, I think,
22 is worse for us than the one we now have. It divides
23 us as citizens. It forces our close neighbors with
24 whom we have close ties to travel significantly long
25 distances to distant and different regions to have
26 their voices heard, and I would really encourage us to
27 work from a successful model and make the minor

1 adjustments that may be necessary to take us to the
2 next -- through the next ten years when there will be
3 another major change.

4 Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Howell, thank you very much.

6 That was very ably expressed.

7 Now, the next speaker, there is an indication
8 that she might be late. Is Mary Anne Jablonski here?

9 She is.

10 MS. MARY ANNE JABLONSKI: Thank you. I want to thank you
11 very much for being here tonight with us. I know how
12 hard it must be for you to sit for a long day and
13 listen to presentations, and being the 18th presenter,
14 a lot my points have already been made, but my name is
15 Mary Anne Jablonski, and I'm the MLA for Red Deer
16 North. I live in Hawk Hill, which is in the east
17 section of the riding, just slightly north near the
18 Balmoral and Canyon Heights areas, and I'm here to ask
19 that the East Hill area, being -- that includes
20 Balmoral, Canyon Heights, Hawk Hills, Forest Green,
21 remain in the Red Deer riding.

22 Many of my neighbors are here tonight, and we
23 live a mere four blocks from the City of Red Deer. In
24 the province, we're going through electoral boundary
25 changes as well, and I understand how difficult this
26 job must be, but to take neighborhoods that are three
27 or four blocks from the City of Red Deer, two minutes

1 by fast car and three minutes by regular speed --

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: One minute for you.

3 MS. MARY ANNE JABLONSKI: -- and link them up to Drumheller
4 is not reasonable, and I just want you to know, I
5 never for one minute thought, when I read that
6 Edmonton paper, that any of this committee were
7 morons.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

9 MS. MARY ANNE JABLONSKI: And although the Drumheller
10 representative would strive to do a good job,
11 representation would not be as equitable as
12 representation from the Red Deer rep. It's hard to
13 understand why I would be expected to travel two hours
14 to Drumheller to see my MP when I can travel
15 15 minutes to my representative in Red Deer.
16 Accessibility to the MP would be very difficult when
17 the center is Drumheller and not Red Deer.

18 Our Red Deer rep now attends many of the same
19 events that we attend. We can see him frequently at
20 celebrations in Red Deer and at Rotary Club. I would
21 find it difficult to attend Rotary Club meetings in
22 Drumheller to keep in touch with my federal rep.

23 The issues are very different between Red Deer
24 and Drumheller, the Drumheller area being made up of
25 farmers and dinosaurs; and I was referring to the
26 paleontology and not the seniors of Drumheller.

27 The east area of the Red Deer riding are

1 primarily acreage owners, and Red Deer is their center
2 for schools, health care, work, shopping and business,
3 and even our criminals and offenders are housed in the
4 Red Deer Remand Centre.

5 The Drumheller area now -- concerns would
6 include -- their issues and concerns would include
7 agriculture and small business. Red Deer issues would
8 include homelessness and Child Welfare, women's
9 shelters, crime and Hell's Angels. Our industry is
10 different, and we are the service center for the
11 oilfield as well as a major food processing center.
12 The East Hill of Red Deer is attached to the City of
13 Red Deer to such an extent that we think we are
14 Red Deerites. To remove this integral part of the
15 Red Deer riding and join it to the good Drumheller
16 riding is like amputating it's right arm.

17 Is it logical to take the market area of Red Deer
18 and bond it to the Drumheller area? Red Deer meets
19 the needs of all the East Hill area, and East Hill
20 residents would find it difficult to have their needs
21 met by a Drumheller-centered representative.

22 And finally, I see the population of Red Deer in
23 2001 is 18 percent above the norm for a federal
24 riding. Two things to remember is that our MP,
25 Mr. Bob Mills, has never complained about the size of
26 this riding, and, in spite of the size, he does a
27 damned good job of representing everyone very well.

1 On the other hand, how difficult it will be for
2 the Drumheller rep to adequately represent those who
3 have two hours -- who live two hours from his center.

4 Now, Mr. Howell has raised the following points,
5 but I think they're significant enough to be noted
6 again. On page 1, part 1, in your fourth paragraph
7 it's stated the Electoral Boundaries Act is concerned
8 with more than the representation by population. You
9 are directed to consider community of interest, our
10 community of identity and the historical pattern of an
11 electoral district and a manageable geographic size.

12 I believe, and most of my neighbors believe, that
13 the last two considerations are not represented by the
14 proposed change. Our community of interest is
15 Red Deer. Our community of identity is Red Deer. The
16 historical pattern of this electoral district is
17 Red Deer, and including the East Hill of Red Deer and
18 the Balmoral and Canyon Heights area in the Drumheller
19 riding does not constitute a manageable geographic
20 size for the Drumheller representative.

21 The act allows a maximum population of 132,804.
22 The Red Deer riding, as it stands, is below this
23 maximum with 125,000. If you are unable to maintain
24 the Red Deer riding as it stands, please allow the
25 East Hill area to remain within the Red Deer riding,
26 and that includes the Balmoral and Canyon heights
27 area.

1 Thanks very much for listening.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Just stay where you are,
3 Ms. Jablonski for a second, please. We might have
4 some questions.

5 I want to reassure you that the question of
6 East Hill was canvassed very early in this meeting,
7 and we were very well aware of the concerns, and we're
8 working on a solution to them.

9 You pointed out that the issues between Red Deer
10 and Drumheller are very different, one for the rather
11 droll reason that there's farmers and dinosaurs in
12 Drumheller. I just wanted to tell you that I was born
13 in Drumheller, and people still refer to me as a
14 dinosaur at times.

15 MS. KHULLAR: Ms. Jablonski, I should have asked
16 this question of an earlier speaker, but I've got you
17 here now.

18 As Justice MacCallum said, we are working on a
19 solution to deal with the east border of Red Deer, but
20 could you assist me, assist us, in perhaps using our
21 pointer and showing us exactly what area is
22 encompassed by the East Hill? I mean, does it go all
23 the way to the river or just -- you have to push down
24 on the button and it turns red. Yes.

25 MS. MARY ANNE JABLONSKI: I'm being championed by my
26 friends in this room. They're saying yes, so it does
27 go to the river.

1 MS. KHULLAR: Okay, so basically from the city
2 boundaries towards the river.

3 MS. MARY ANNE JABLONSKI: Yes, that's correct.

4 MS. KHULLAR: Okay.

5 MS. MARY ANNE JABLONSKI: And slightly north.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Can you draw a line north and
7 south to show us.

8 MS. MARY ANNE JABLONSKI: I think -- where is this line?

9 MS. KHULLAR: The City of Red Deer is --

10 THE CHAIRMAN: The City of Red Deer is the
11 smaller area there with all the little hatch marks.

12 MS. MARY ANNE JABLONSKI: Is this East Hill in here?

13 MR. GREGG C. JOHNSON: No, it's over here. Do you want
14 me to do it for you?

15 MS. KHULLAR: East Hill would be the brown part
16 there. Yes, that area.

17 MR. GREGG C. JOHNSON: East Hill is right in there. This
18 is the Divide Hills.

19 MS. MARY ANNE JABLONSKI: Right.

20 MR. GREGG C. JOHNSON: Get the county reeve up here. We
21 know where our lines are.

22 MS. KHULLAR: Thank you.

23 MS. MARY ANNE JABLONSKI: Thank you. Include the
24 Divide Hills. That's where we want to be included;
25 but my friends would like you to go to the river too.

26 THE CHAIRMAN: And from the -- from the southern
27 boundary, how far south does that go, in terms of a --

1 MS. MARY ANNE JABLONSKI: Wherever the original Red Deer
2 boundaries were, the same boundary.

3 MS. KHULLAR: The original -- the current
4 Red Deer boundaries are quite a bit further east, but
5 the concern --

6 MS. MARY ANNE JABLONSKI: Okay, to Highway 42.

7 MS. KHULLAR: I'm just trying to get a sense of
8 where the East Hill is, so we go to the river, and so
9 we just go east from the city towards the river. I'm
10 just wondering, including at the southern part of the
11 city towards the river? I mean, I'm just trying to
12 get a sense of where these communities are.

13 MS. MARY ANNE JABLONSKI: Yes.

14 MS. KHULLAR: Where Balmoral, Canyon Heights and
15 Forest Green are.

16 MS. MARY ANNE JABLONSKI: Right.

17 MS. KHULLAR: Okay. Thank you.

18 MS. MARY ANNE JABLONSKI: Thank you.

19 MR. BOB MILLS: Down to Pine Lake, the Pine Lake
20 road really.

21 MS. MARY ANNE JABLONSKI: I'm glad that my MP knows the
22 area.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
24 Ms. Jablonski.
25 Mr. Paul Anderson.

26 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How about Randy Saler?

27 THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody know Mr. Anderson?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is Mr. Saler not here?

2 THE CHAIRMAN: No, Mr. Saler cancelled.

3 Mr. Paul Anderson.

4 Ladies and gentlemen, I hope you will go home
5 feeling that the submissions you've made have
6 expressed the points of view which concerned you. We
7 want to thank you very much for coming. If we have
8 missed any of the listed presenters, now is the time
9 to say so. I don't think we have.

10 Mr. Paul Anderson had not cancelled, but he
11 hasn't responded, so he's not outside.

12 Sir, you were raising your hand, at the back of
13 the room.

14 MR. GUY POIRE: If there's nobody else, sir, I
15 would like to just put in a little bit of a word.
16 Unfortunately, I have read this paper here a little
17 too late, plus the fact there was an amendment to it.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Just come to the microphone and
19 identify yourself, sir.

20 MR. GUY POIRE: My name is Guy Poire. I live in
21 the Waskasoo Estate in the Red Deer County.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Have you got the spelling of your
23 last name, please?

24 MR. GUY POIRE: P, as in Peter, O-I-R-E, and the
25 reason why I came in here was just to try to figure
26 out why -- I know that I've read that every tenth
27 session that the ridings are supposed to change.

1 Now, personally, I know that this must cost
2 hundreds of thousands of dollars. Now we don't seem
3 to have -- at least we hear, and that's for everybody,
4 I'm sure, at the federal level that we don't have any
5 money, at the provincial level that we don't have any
6 money, and even the council in the country don't have
7 any money. I can't quite figure out why all of a
8 sudden we are changing boundaries which must cost
9 literally hundreds of thousands of dollars, and why is
10 it? It seems that it has been working, to my
11 knowledge, fairly good. Why is it all of a sudden
12 that we are going to change and split everything and
13 have -- spend more money? I'm sure that if you split
14 all these counties that you're going to end up with
15 maybe 20 more MPs, so you're talking about 80- to
16 \$100,000 a year just for those people.

17 So why is it, this is my question, that we are at
18 present, at this time, spending all this money when --
19 I'm not going to say we don't really need to spend it,
20 but I understand, from what I hear, that there are
21 many more places in the government, all the
22 governments, to put whatever money we spend, and this
23 is my question, and that's all I wanted.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Poire, the money is being
25 spent and the boundaries are being changed because
26 Alberta is entitled to two more seats in the House of
27 Commons by reason of the fact that its population has

1 increased since the last census. That is the short
2 answer to your concerns. If you had been here, sir,
3 earlier, I suppose you might have gotten a better
4 picture as a whole of what's going on here, but I urge
5 you, sir, to pick up from our secretary,
6 Ms. Petryshyn, a copy of the proposal which we
7 published, as well as a booklet which explains the
8 matter in pretty good detail, and I think I can't do
9 anything better for you at this moment, sir, than
10 refer you to those items. The basic reason is we've
11 got two more seats. It has to change.

12 MR. GUY POIRE: Okay. Well, thanks very much.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks very much for coming, sir.

14 And I want to thank everybody. We'll close the
15 meeting now. We've been in Drumheller today, and
16 we've got to get back to Edmonton early tomorrow
17 morning, so thank you very much for coming. The
18 Commission appreciates the keen interest that the
19 people of this area have taken in the process.

20

21

22

23

PUBLIC HEARING CONCLUDED

24

25

26

27

1 Certificate of Transcript

2

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.

9

10

11

12

13

14

D. L. Ragan, CSR (A)

15

Official Court Reporter

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

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

RED DEER, 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