



Redistribution
Federal Electoral Districts

Redécoupage
Circonscriptions fédérales



Report of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of

Prince Edward Island

Published pursuant to the *Electoral
Boundaries Readjustment Act*

ISBN 978-0-660-46234-9

Cat. No.: SE3-123/2-1-2022E-PDF

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Introduction

Mandate of the Commission

Each decade, a commission is established in the province to undertake a review of the federal electoral districts. Such reviews occur nationwide and are a legislated mechanism to ensure that the population shifts that naturally occur are periodically taken into account. The shifts in demographics can affect the distribution of voting rights and are subject to review after each decennial census. The ***Electoral Boundaries Redistribution Act***, R.S.C. 1985, c. E-3 (the “Act”) sets out the procedure for the review.

In the summer of 2021, the Honourable John K. Mitchell was appointed Chair of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Prince Edward Island by the Chief Justice of Prince Edward Island. Thereafter, Don Desserud, Professor of Political Science at the University of Prince Edward Island, and Kerri Carpenter, a lawyer with the law firm of Atlantic Fusion Law Group, were appointed by the Speaker of the House of Commons to serve as Commission members.

The commissions for all provinces work separately and independently toward the following objectives:

- Propose a new electoral map for their province by considering such criteria as average population numbers, communities of identity and interest, historical patterns of an electoral district, and geographical size of electoral districts;
- Consult with Canadians through public hearings;
- Submit a report and propose an electoral map to the House of Commons;
- Consider objections from members of the House of Commons;
- Prepare a final report outlining the electoral boundaries for their province.

It is important to note that commissions consider the input received from Canadians and members of the House of Commons when determining the boundaries. However, as independent bodies, they make all final decisions as to where the boundaries will lie.

The decennial census was taken in 2021, and it reported that the population of Prince Edward Island had grown to 154,331. This represents an increase in population of approximately 10%. The province is divided into four (4) electoral districts, designated as Cardigan, Charlottetown, Egmont and Malpeque. In Prince Edward Island, the designated number of electoral districts is protected by legislation and, despite varying electoral quotas across the country, Prince Edward Island is guaranteed four seats.

The Act provides that the population of each electoral district shall correspond as nearly as possible to the electoral quota for the province. The **Prince Edward Island electoral quota is 38,583 inhabitants** per electoral district.

Factors for consideration

It is necessary to take into consideration the factors stated in section 15 of the Act. That section defines the applicable factors for redistribution as follows:

15. (1) In preparing its report, each commission for a province shall, subject to subsection (2), be governed by the following rules:
 - (a) The division of the province into electoral districts and the description of the boundaries thereof shall proceed on the basis that **the population** of each electoral district in the province as a result thereof **shall, as close as reasonably possible, correspond to the electoral quota for the province**, that is to say, the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the province as ascertained by the census by the number of members of the House of Commons to be assigned to the province as calculated by the Chief Electoral Officer under subsection 14(1); and
 - (b) The commission shall consider the following in determining reasonable electoral district boundaries:
 - (i) The **community of interest** or **community of identity** in or the **historical pattern of an electoral district** in the province; and
 - (ii) A manageable geographic size for districts in sparsely populated, rural or northern regions of the province.

In reviewing the legislated factors, the Commission has determined that the geographical size mentioned under 15(1)(b)(ii) is not a relevant consideration in this small Province. Rather, the key to effective representation is to achieve a close proximity to the electoral quota.

Public hearings

The Commission published its proposed changes on May 2, 2022.

Thereafter, pursuant to the legislation, the Commission held three public hearings for the purpose of receiving public input on the matter of their proposed electoral districts. The dates and locations of these meetings are provided below.

| Location | Place of hearing | Date of hearing |
|-----------------|---|----------------------------|
| Summerside | Loyalist Country Inn & Conference Centre 195 Heather Moyse Drive | Tuesday, June 7, 2022 |
| Stanhope | Stanhope Place 2784 Bayshore Road | Wednesday, June 8, 2022 |
| Virtual hearing | | Thursday, June 9, 2022 |

A geography specialist attended each meeting to assist attendees understand the maps which were on display and subject to discussion. An interpreter (English to French/French to English) attended the virtual meeting on June 9.

At each meeting, the Commission reviewed the rationale for the proposed changes as well as the proposed maps for each electoral district. The questions and discussion at each meeting were generally positive.

At the Summerside meeting on June 7, Dr. Herb Dickieson from the riding of Egmont suggested that we recommend to the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada that Elections Canada and Elections Prince Edward Island work together on drawing the poll boundaries so that, as much as possible, these boundaries be identical in both provincial and federal elections. Ideally, the polling stations would also be the same. This would decrease confusion and improve poll identification for voters and, thereby, increase voter turnout.

While this is not specifically in our mandate dealing with electoral boundaries and names, we applaud and endorse this recommendation. It is, in our view, a matter of common sense which will assist in voter turnout at very little or no cost.

At the virtual meeting, one of the presentations was made by Madame DasyIva-Gill, on behalf of Société acadienne et francophone de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard. Her presentation was in French.

She asked to be allowed until mid-September to make a further, more fulsome presentation. The request was made because Statistics Canada would be releasing statistical information on linguistic communities in Canada in or around mid-August. They wanted to see that information before making further comments.

The Commission agreed with that request.

The written presentation of the Société acadienne et francophone de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard was received September 23. The Société opposes any change to the electoral district of Egmont. The Société points out that the proposed changes represent a loss of 0.3% of the demographic weight of francophone vote in Egmont. This, together with a loss of 1.5% of the French speaking population of Egmont between the 2016 and 2021 census, represents, in their view, a significant loss.

The Société is of the view that the principle of effective representation, taking into account geography, history, and interest of the community, as well as minority groups, would justify leaving Egmont's boundary untouched.

The Commission's decision

The 2012 redistribution resulted in variances from the electoral quota of -0.03% in the district of Malpeque, -1.29% in Egmont, -1.40% in Charlottetown, and 2.72% in Cardigan. However, the most recent census shows that population growth and shifts since then have changed those variances to 2.98% in Malpeque, 3.33% in Cardigan, -6.89% in Egmont, and 0.59% in Charlottetown.


The Commission appreciates and understands the position taken by the Société acadienne et francophone de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard. However, the Commission feels that a change of 0.3%, or even 1.8%, is not a sufficient reason to permit a variance of 10% of electors in the district of Egmont (-6.89%) compared with Malpeque and Cardigan (+3%).

Therefore, we have decided to move the boundary line of Egmont to the east to include such communities as Lower Bedeque, North Bedeque, and the Rural Municipality of Bedeque and Area, and to move the boundary line of Malpeque to the east to include communities such as Grand Tracadie and Corran Ban. This has the effect of making the province-wide variance from the electoral quota between -2% and 2%, as shown in the table below. The electoral district of Egmont will still be the smallest electoral district but the variance between Egmont and the others will be no more than 3.85%.


| Population Quota of 38,583 | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Federal Electoral District | Population 2021 | Variance |
| Cardigan | 39,236 | 1.69% |
| Charlottetown | 38,809 | 0.59% |
| Egmont | 37,751 | -2.16% |
| Malpeque | 38,535 | -0.12% |

The specific descriptions of the four electoral districts are attached hereto. We recommend that there be no changes to the names of any of the federal electoral districts.

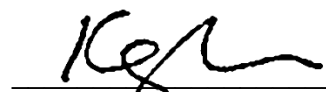
Dated at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, this 25th day of November, 2022.



The Honourable John K. Mitchell
*Chair, Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission
for the Province of Prince Edward Island*



Don Desserud
*Member, Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission
for the Province of Prince Edward Island*



Kerri Carpenter
*Member, Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission
for the Province of Prince Edward Island*

APPENDIX – Map, Boundaries and Names of Electoral Districts

There shall be in the Province of Prince Edward Island four (4) electoral districts, named and described as follows, each of which shall return one member.

In the following descriptions:

- (a) reference to “bay”, “channel”, “drive”, “highway”, “river”, “road” or “route” signifies their centre line unless otherwise described;
- (b) all cities, towns, counties, rural municipalities, fire districts, resort municipalities islands and Indian reserves lying within the perimeter of the electoral district are included unless otherwise described;
- (c) all First Nation territories lying within the perimeter of the electoral district are included unless otherwise described;
- (d) all offshore islands are included in the landward district unless otherwise described;
- (e) wherever a word or expression is used to denote a territorial division, such word or expression shall indicate the territorial division as it existed or was bounded on the first day of January, 2021;
- (f) all coordinates are in reference to the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83);
- (g) the population figure of each electoral district is derived from the 2021 decennial census;
- (h) effective June 1, 2022, the Province approved the annexation of seven Marshfield area properties to the City of Charlottetown resulting in the extension of municipal boundaries for said city (EC2022-428).

Cardigan

(Population: 39,236)

Consists of that part of the Province of Prince Edward Island lying easterly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the northern boundary of the said province with the northwesterly corner of the Fire District of East River, Part 1; thence generally southeasterly and westerly along the western limit of said fire district in Tracadie Bay to Route 6; thence southerly along said route to the western limit of the Fire District of East River, Part 1 (Route 2, St. Peters Road); thence generally easterly and southerly along said limit to Hillsborough River; thence generally southwesterly along said river to the channel leading to Hillsborough Bay; thence generally southerly along said channel and Hillsborough Bay passing west of Governors Island and east of St. Peters Island to the southern boundary of the Province of Prince Edward Island in the Northumberland Strait.

Charlottetown

(Population: 38,809)

Consists of the City of Charlottetown.

Egmont

(Population: 37,751)

Consists of that part of the Province of Prince Edward Island lying westerly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the northern boundary of said province with the northeastern corner of the Fire District of Tyne Valley located east of Hog Island; thence southwesterly along the southeastern limit of said fire district to the eastern limit of the Fire District of Miscouche; thence southerly along the eastern limit of said fire district to the northern limit of the Rural Municipality of Sherbrooke; thence generally southerly along the limit of said rural municipality to Barbara Weit Road (Route 180); thence generally easterly along said road to Waterview Road (Route 120); thence southerly along said road to Veterans Memorial Highway (Route 2); thence easterly along said highway to Wilmot Valley Road (Route 120); thence southerly along said road to Blue Shank Road (Route 107); thence easterly along said road to MacMurdo Road (Route 120); thence generally southerly along said road to Route 1A (Read Drive); thence southeasterly and southerly along said route to the northern limit of the Rural Municipality of Bedeque and Area; thence easterly, southerly and westerly along the northerly, easterly and southerly limits of said rural municipality to Route 1A (Read Drive); thence southerly along said route to Route 10 (North Carleton Road Extension); thence southerly and southwesterly along said route to the southern limit of the Fire District of Kinkora; thence generally southwesterly along the limit of said fire district to the southwestern boundary of the Province of Prince Edward Island in the Northumberland Strait.

Malpeque

(Population: 38,535)

Consists of that part of the Province of Prince Edward Island lying easterly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the northern boundary of said province with the northeastern corner of the Fire District of Tyne Valley located east of Hog Island; thence southwesterly along the southeastern limit of said fire district to the eastern limit of the Fire District of Miscouche; thence southerly along the eastern limit of said fire district to the northern limit of the Rural Municipality of Sherbrooke; thence generally southerly along the limit of said rural municipality to Barbara Weit Road (Route 180); thence generally easterly along said road to Waterview Road (Route 120); thence southerly along said road to Veterans Memorial Highway (Route 2); thence easterly along said highway to Wilmot Valley Road (Route 120); thence southerly along said road to Blue Shank Road (Route 107); thence easterly along said road to MacMurdo Road (Route 120); thence generally southerly along said road to Route 1A (Read Drive); thence southeasterly and southerly along said route to the northern limit of the Rural Municipality of Bedeque and Area; thence easterly, southerly and westerly along the northerly, easterly and southerly limits of said rural municipality to Route 1A (Read Drive); thence southerly along said route to Route 10 (North Carleton Road Extension); thence southerly and southwesterly along said route to the southern limit of the Fire District of Kinkora; thence generally southwesterly along the limit of said fire district to the southwestern boundary of the Province of Prince Edward Island in the Northumberland Strait;

Excluding:

(i) the City of Charlottetown; and

(ii) that part of the Province of Prince Edward Island lying easterly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the northern boundary of the said province with the northwesterly corner of the Fire District of East River, Part 1; thence generally southeasterly and westerly along the western limit of said fire district in Tracadie Bay to Route 6; thence southerly along said route to the western limit of the Fire District of East River, Part 1 (Route 2, St. Peters Road); thence generally easterly and southerly along said limit to Hillsborough River; thence generally southwesterly along said river to the channel leading to Hillsborough Bay; thence generally southerly along said channel and Hillsborough Bay passing west of Governors Island and east of St. Peters Island to the southern boundary of the Province of Prince Edward Island in the Northumberland Strait.

Prince Edward Island

