



Corporate Report

NO: R278

COUNCIL DATE: DECEMBER 18, 2006

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **December 14, 2006**
FROM: **Acting General Manager, Planning and Development** FILE: **4200-01**
SUBJECT: **Provincial Electoral District Boundary Review**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Recommend that the Electoral Boundaries Commission (the "Commission") allocate two new Provincial Electoral Ridings within Surrey, as proposed in this report and as illustrated in Appendix II of this report, prior to the next Provincial election, increasing the number of Surrey/White Rock Ridings from seven to nine; and
3. Authorize the City Clerk to forward a copy of this report and the related Council resolution to the Commission and to the City of White Rock.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the process being undertaken by the Commission related to reviewing the electoral areas within the Province, prior to the next Provincial election, to be held in 2009 and to seek Council authority to forward a recommendation to the Commission about Surrey's position regarding electoral areas in Surrey.

BACKGROUND

The *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 107, requires a review of electoral district boundaries every second Provincial election (or every eight years). The last changes to electoral boundaries occurred in 1998.

The Commission began its current review of the BC electoral map in August 2006. The process being undertaken by the Commission includes the following:

- Informal public consultations and the receipt of public submissions in the Fall of 2006;
- Initial boundary development by March 2007;
- A preliminary report to the Legislature in August 2007;
- Public hearings in the Fall of 2007; and
- A final report on boundary revisions in February 2008.

The next Provincial election will be held in May 2009.

Informal public consultation sessions were held across the Province in September, October and November 2006. The informal public consultation meeting in Surrey was held on Saturday, October 14, 2006, at Kwantlen College. The City of Surrey has not forwarded an official position on the matter to date. However, written submissions can still be forwarded to the Commission on-line, by e-mail, or by mail in a prescribed form, during the public consultation process, which is still underway.

DISCUSSION

The Current Population Distribution by Provincial Riding

The Commission has a mandate to recommend additional ridings within the Province, an increase from the current 79 ridings to a maximum of 85 Provincial ridings. In determining boundaries, the Commission is governed by the following principles:

- Representation by population; and
- The Commission is permitted to deviate from a common statistical Provincial electoral population quota by no more than 25% plus or minus the quota, except in very special circumstances.

In 2006, the population of BC reached 4.31 million. Based on the current BC Statistics population estimate (4,310,500), divided by the number of existing ridings (79), the Commission has established a quota of 54,563 residents per riding. Given that the Commission can deviate up to 25% from this quota, a range between 40,922 and 68,204 residents per riding is possible. However, if the number of ridings was increased to 85, the quota would be reduced to 50,712 residents per riding. With a plus/minus 25% deviation, a population range of between 38,034 and 63,390 per riding is possible.

Over the past five years, the average annual Provincial population growth rate has been 0.97% (00/01) to 1.25% (05/06). By the time of the May 2009 election, BC Statistics projects that the average annual growth rate will be approximately 1.26% or 55,458 new residents per year and that BC's projected population will be approximately 4,467,067. Based on the current number of ridings (79), the quota would be 56,545 residents per riding and the plus/minus 25% range would be between 42,409 and 70,681 residents per riding. If the number of ridings was increased to 85, the quota would be reduced to 52,554 residents per riding with a plus/minus 25% range of between 39,415 and 65,692.

Existing Surrey/White Rock Provincial Electoral Ridings

The map attached as Appendix I to this report shows the existing electoral boundaries in the Surrey/White Ridings. Table 1 below illustrates the breakdown of 2006 and projected 2009 population and the deviations from the quotas, based on the existing seven electoral ridings.

Table 1 - Existing Surrey/White Rock Provincial Electoral Ridings

Existing Surrey Ridings	2001 Population	Population Increase (2001 - 2006)	2006 Population	Difference From Quota of 54,563 Based on Current 2006 Pop. with 79 Ridings	% Difference	Difference From Quota of 50,712 Based on current 2006. Pop. With 85 Ridings	% Difference	Population Increase (2006 - 2009)	Projected 2009 Population	Difference From Quota of 52,554 Based on Proj. 2009 Pop. With 85 Ridings	% Difference
Surrey-Cloverdale	48,792	22,371	71,163	16,600	30.42%	20,451	40.33%	13,725	84,888	32,334	61.53%
Surrey-Green Timbers	55,064	2,296	57,360	2,797	5.13%	6,648	13.11%	1,545	58,905	6,351	12.09%
Surrey-Newton	52,593	6,460	59,053	4,490	8.23%	8,341	16.45%	3,193	62,246	9,692	18.44%
Surrey-Whalley	50,534	2,534	53,068	-1,495	-2.74%	2,356	4.65%	1,715	54,783	2,229	4.24%
Surrey - Panorama Ridge	49,328	9,517	58,845	4,282	7.85%	8,133	16.04%	7,537	66,382	13,828	26.31%
Surrey-White Rock	48,936	4,780	53,716	-847	-1.55%	3,004	5.92%	5,052	58,768	6,214	11.82%
Surrey-Tynehead	59,275	7,848	67,123	12,560	23.02%	16,411	32.36%	3,454	70,577	18,023	34.29%
Total	364,522	55,806	420,328					36,221	456,549		

As the fastest growing City in BC, over the past five years, Surrey's population (including White Rock) increased by 55,806 to 420,328 in 2006. Using the 79-riding quota of 54,563 residents per riding, Surrey/White Rock should be eligible for 7.7 ridings. Similarly, if the 85-riding quota of 50,712 is used, Surrey White Rock should be eligible for 8.3 ridings, or an increase of at least 1.3 ridings, based on 2006 population.

Over the next three years, Surrey's population is projected to grow by 36,221, to reach 456,549 by 2009. Using the 85-riding quota of 52,554, based on 2009 Provincial population projection, Surrey-White Rock should receive at least 8.7 ridings, or an increase of at least 2 new ridings. In a closer look at the four adjacent ridings of Surrey-

Cloverdale, Surrey-Newton, Surrey-Panorama Ridge, and Surrey-Tynehead (Table 1), which are expected to contain the majority of growth, it is apparent that these four ridings will surpass the maximum 25% deviation in 2009. The largest growth area will be the Surrey-Cloverdale riding, which includes the emerging urban community of Grandview Heights. The 2009 population of this riding is expected to reach a percent difference of +61.53% from quota, based on the proposed 85 ridings. Given the extent of and projected growth to 2009, Surrey is justified in requesting two new ridings. If the Commission only allocated one new riding for the Surrey-White Rock Electoral District, there would be a significant under-representation in the legislature for Surrey for at least the eight years from 2009 to 2017 (the probable date of the election following the next electoral boundary review).

Table 2 - Existing Surrey/White Rock Provincial Electoral Ridings (Projected Population 2014)

Existing Surrey Ridings	Population Increase (2009 - 2014)	Projected 2014 Population	Difference From Quota of 55,944 - Based on Proj. 2014 Pop. With 85 Ridings	% Difference
Surrey-Cloverdale	19,932	104,820	48,876	87.37%
Surrey-Green Timbers	4,724	63,629	7,685	13.74%
Surrey-Newton	4,126	66,372	10,428	18.64%
Surrey-Whalley	5,104	59,887	3,943	7.05%
Surrey - Panorama Ridge	8,662	75,044	19,100	34.14%
Surrey-White Rock	3,285	62,053	6,109	10.92%
Surrey- Tynehead	7,206	77,783	21,839	39.04%
Total	53,039	509,588		

Proposals for Additional Surrey/White Rock Riding(s)

Based on the projected 2009 population, Surrey's current under representation and exceptional growth circumstances point to the need for the creation of two additional ridings within the Surrey/White Rock area.

Boundaries for the new ridings are to be based on the following criteria:

- **Minimize change to existing boundaries.** Maintain consistency for residents, representation and election administration;
- **Recognize established communities.** Amend boundaries to maintain the integrity of geographic areas;
- **Accommodate high growth areas.** Amend boundaries to anticipate areas that will have substantial growth over the next 10 years; and

- **Achieve Provincial population quotas.** Amend boundaries to achieve, as closely as possible, the riding population quotas.

The map attached as Appendix II illustrates a recommended realignment of the boundaries that would create two additional ridings in the central and east quadrant of the City. Table 3 below documents the distribution of the projected 2009 Surrey population, based on nine ridings in Surrey/White Rock.

Table 3 - Proposed Surrey/White Rock Electoral Ridings (See map in attached Appendix II) Based on 2009 Population

Ridings	2001 Population	Population Increase (2001 - 2006)	2006 Population	Population Increase (2006 - 2009)	Projected 2009 Population	Difference From Quota of 52,554 Based on Proj. 2009 Pop. With 85 Ridings	% Difference
Surrey - Cloverdale/Port Kells*	33,412	9,897	43,309	7,567	50,876	-1,678	-3.19%
Surrey - Tynehead/Fleetwood*	51,672	6,375	58,047	2,901	60,948	8,394	15.97%
Surrey - Whalley	50,534	2,534	53,068	1,715	54,783	2,229	4.24%
Surrey - Green Timbers	55,064	2,296	57,360	1,545	58,905	6,351	12.09%
Surrey - East Newton**	26,065	9,887	35,952	7,023	42,975	-9,579	-18.23%
Surrey - North Newton	36,057	4,874	40,931	2,412	43,343	-9,211	-17.53%
Surrey - West Newton*	43,767	3,856	47,623	2,955	50,578	-1,976	-3.76%
Surrey - White Rock*	42,642	3,988	46,630	4,632	51,262	-1,292	-2.46%
Surrey - Grandview**	25,309	12,099	37,408	5,471	42,879	-9,675	-18.41%
Total	364,522	55,806	420,328	36,221	456,549		

* Boundary adjustments and name change

** New riding

The Proposed New Ridings of Surrey-Grandview and Surrey-East Newton

As shown in the map attached as Appendix II, the boundaries of all but two ridings, being Surrey-Whalley and Surrey-Green Timbers are proposed to be adjusted in order to create the two new ridings of Surrey-Grandview and Surrey-East Newton for a total of 9 ridings

for Surrey and White Rock, based on the projected 2009 population. Table 3 documents that the negative deviation from the 85-riding quota are highest in the three ridings of Surrey–East Newton, Surrey-North Newton and Surrey-Grandview. The deviations are still within the 25% maximum and these three ridings, especially the Surrey-Grandview Riding, is expected to experience rapid growth in the next three years since new areas in this proposed riding have recently been approved for urban development. Table 4 documents that the negative deviations in these ridings from the quota will be significantly reduced by 2014 and, at that time, additional new ridings may be justified.

Table 4 – Deviations from the 85-riding quota for the Proposed 9 ridings in the Surrey-White Rock Electoral District Based on the Projected 2014 Population

Ridings	Population Increase (2009 - 2014)	Projected 2014 Population	Difference From Quota of 55,944 - Based on Proj. 2014 Pop. With 85 Ridings	% Difference
Surrey - Cloverdale/Port Kells*	11,867	62,743	6,799	12.15%
Surrey - Tynehead/Fleetwood*	5,364	66,312	10,368	18.53%
Surrey - Whalley	5,104	59,887	3,943	7.05%
Surrey - Green Timbers	4,724	63,629	7,685	13.74%
Surrey - East Newton**	7,311	50,286	-5,658	-10.11%
Surrey - North Newton	2,923	46,266	-9,678	-17.30%
Surrey - West Newton*	4,278	54,856	-1,088	-1.94%
Surrey - White Rock*	2,605	53,867	-2,077	-3.71%
Surrey - Grandview**	8,863	51,742	-4,202	-7.51%
Total	53,039	509,588		

* Boundary adjustments and name change

** New riding

The new riding of Surrey-Grandview is created by splitting the existing Surrey-Cloverdale Riding. Its northern boundary is along 52 Avenue from 196 Street westwards to 172 Street, then along 172 Street northwards to Colebrook Road and along Colebrook Road westward until reaching 120 Street. An area west of Highway 99 will be moved from the Surrey-White Rock riding to the Surrey-Grandview riding

The new riding of Surrey-East Newton includes portions of the adjacent existing ridings of Surrey-Tynehead, Surrey-Cloverdale, and Surrey-Panorama Ridge. It is bounded by 168 Street to the east, Colebrook Road to the south, then along 136 Street, northwards to Highway No. 10, then westwards along Highway No. 10 to 132 Street, then northwards along 132 Street to 68 Avenue, then eastwards along 68 Avenue and along East New Ring Road (138 Street) to 72 Avenue, then eastwards along 72 Avenue to 152 Street, then northwards along 152 Street to 80 Avenue, then eastwards along 80 Avenue to the eastern boundary of 168 Street.

Proposed Additional Boundary Adjustments and Name Changes

As a result of creating the two new ridings, as described above, adjustments and name changes to some other ridings in Surrey are proposed, as follows:

- The existing riding of Surrey-Cloverdale will give up some area for the two new ridings. It is proposed that the Surrey-Cloverdale riding be expanded to the north to include the eastern portion of the existing Surrey-Tynehead Riding. The west boundary is to follow 168 Street northwards to 96 Avenue, then eastwards along 96 Avenue to 176 Street, then northwards along 176 Street and its alignment until reaching the Fraser River. With this boundary adjustment, this riding now includes the communities of Cloverdale and Port Kells. This riding could be renamed Surrey-Cloverdale/Port Kells.
- The boundaries of the existing ridings of Surrey-Newton and Surrey-Panorama Ridge would be adjusted to create the new riding of Surrey-East Newton, as described above. The remaining areas would be re-oriented to reflect the communities in the west and north portions of Newton and, therefore, the ridings of Surrey-Newton and Surrey-Panorama Ridge should be re-named. Thus the re-named riding of Surrey-West Newton (re-named from Surrey-Panorama Ridge) covers the area on the east side of 120 Street between 88 Avenue and Colebrook Road. Its east boundary follows 132 Street, Highway No. 10 and 136 Street. The re-named riding of Surrey-North Newton (re-named from Surrey-Newton) would have as its west boundary 132 Street and would include a small area bounded by 132 Street, 68 Avenue and 138 Street.

The Single Transferable Vote System (BC-STV)

The Province has advised that there will be a second referendum on the issue of the Single Transferable Vote in conjunction with the May 2009 Provincial election.

For that reason, the Commission has been instructed to provide recommendations for two sets of boundaries:

- One set, under the current Single Member Plurality (SMP) electoral system; and
- A second set of boundaries under the BC-Single Transferable Vote (BC-STV) electoral system, which was recommended by the Citizen's Assembly on electoral reform, but which did not succeed in gaining majority support in the referendum held in conjunction with the 2005 Provincial election.

The public has been invited to make submissions on electoral boundaries under both systems.

This report reflects the proposed boundaries under the current Single Member Plurality system. Since the Single Transferable Vote System is an area of some uncertainty at this time, it is recommended that the City of Surrey not make comments on the possible electoral boundaries under this system until staff has had the opportunity to review the

recommendations of the preliminary report from the Commission, which will be tabled in August 2007.

CONCLUSION

The Provincial Electoral Boundary Review is being undertaken to update riding boundaries to ensure adequate and fair representation in the Provincial legislature among BC communities. Surrey's strong growth over the past five years has resulted in Surrey residents being under represented in the existing distribution of ridings, as outlined in this report.

It is expected that the population of the Surrey/White Rock Electoral District will increase by 36,000 by 2009 to a total population in excess of 450,000. This population warrants two additional ridings. This report proposes the boundaries for two new ridings within the City as illustrated on the attached Appendix II. It is recommended that Council forward this report and the related Council resolution to the Commission as the City's input to the current electoral boundary review.

How Yin Leung
Acting General Manager
Planning and Development

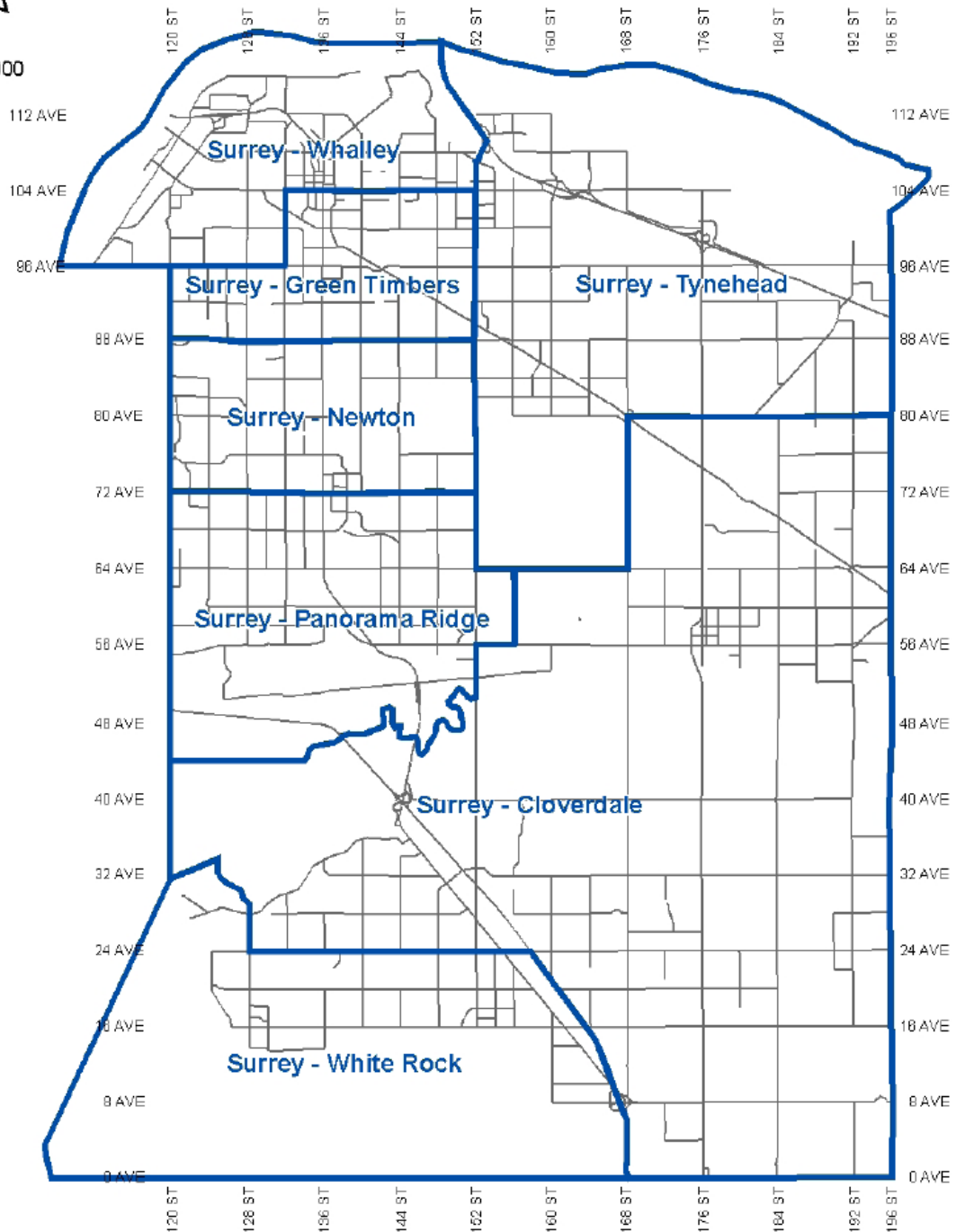
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Attachments:

Appendix I Map of Current Provincial Electoral Boundaries


Appendix II Proposed 9 Electoral Ridings

Provincial Electoral Boundaries (Existing) City of Surrey Planning and Development Department



Legend

Existing PE Boundaries (June 1999)

 Existing Provincial Electoral Boundaries

