

NO: R097

COUNCIL DATE: **MAY 25, 2015**

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **May 25, 2015**  
FROM: **General Manager, Planning and Development** FILE: **0430-01**  
SUBJECT: **British Columbia Electoral Boundaries Commission Draft Report**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Planning and Development Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Request that the Mayor, on behalf of City Council, forward a letter, including a copy of this report and the related Council resolution, as Surrey's comments regarding the British Columbia Electoral Boundaries Commission Draft Report of March 26, 2015, on proposed changes to Surrey electoral districts.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the process being undertaken by the British Columbia Electoral Boundaries Commission (the "Commission") and to recommend that the Commission consider adjusting some of the proposed electoral district boundaries, as outlined in this report, considering population growth in both Surrey-Cloverdale and Surrey-South, which could create boundaries that better reflect the natural boundaries of the communities and projected population growth.

## BACKGROUND

The British Columbia *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* requires a periodic review of electoral district boundaries. On May 9, 2014 the "Commission" was appointed and began its review of the electoral map.

## DISCUSSION

The Commission's draft report proposed the addition of one electoral district, going from eight to nine districts, along with substantial changes to existing district boundaries. The Commission recommend these changes to keep the average population of Surrey's electoral districts close to the Provincial average and within a range of 25% deviation from the electoral quota.

The proposed changes by the Commission will affect mostly the Surrey-Tynehead district, Surrey Cloverdale, which has seen a 55% growth within that district. The Commission is also recommending reducing the boundaries of the Surrey-Fleetwood district. A new district is proposed for Surrey-South with adjustments to the Surrey-White Rock district.

The Commission is recommending these changes in order to keep the population of each district close to the Provincial average and in anticipation of projected growth, within a range of 25 % deviation from the electoral quota. These proposed changes, and the Commission mentions it in their report, are difficult to keep with the natural communities boundaries within Surrey. This is due to the growth experienced in some communities such as Cloverdale and South Surrey. These changes are impacting some districts such as Surrey-Fleetwood where parts of the district will fall within the revised Surrey-Cloverdale district, which is not in following the natural boundaries that exist in the form of the Agricultural Land Reserve and a similar situation is happening in Cloverdale where parts of Clayton are proposed to be in Surrey-South district (see proposed district Map in Appendix I).

It is also important to consider where Surrey's growth will take place in the future. Surrey's population projections are different than the Commission. This can be explained on how current and future population numbers are generated by the Commission and by Surrey.

The Commission uses the 2011 census population figures and the BC stats. Surrey uses the same source of population estimates; however, when the population is mapped, it is done using the building permit information. This information generates a geographic distribution of population that differs from the Commission projections.

Commission draft report District Populations comparison with Surrey's estimates is detailed in the table below.

**Districts Population (December 2014)**

	Commission	Surrey
Surrey-Whalley	58,668	65,331
Surrey-Guildford	58,037	55,448
Surrey-Cloverdale	61,060	66,877
Surrey-Fleetwood	59,066	52,071
Surrey-Green Timbers	58,816	45,533
Surrey-Newton	58,340	47,414
Surrey-Panorama	60,128	62,876
Surrey-South	57,807	71,649
Surrey-White Rock	<u>58,527</u>	<u>61,951</u> (includes White Rock)
Total:	530,449	529,150

## CONCLUSION

The Commission draft report justifiably proposes one new electoral district to be located in Surrey. However, some of the proposed electoral district boundary adjustment could be reviewed as it is likely the district population will exceed the Provincial average and 25% deviation.

Therefore, the City of Surrey recommends that the Commission consider adjusting some of the electoral district boundaries, considering population growth in both Surrey-Cloverdale and Surrey-South, which could create boundaries that better reflect the natural boundaries of the communities and projected population growth.

Based on the above discussion it is recommended that Council request that the Mayor, on behalf of City Council, forward a letter, including a copy of this report and the related Council resolution, as Surrey's comments regarding the British Columbia Electoral Boundaries Commission Draft Report of March 26, 2015, on proposed changes to Surrey electoral districts.

*Original signed by*  
Jean Lamontagne  
General Manager,  
Planning and Development

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Attachment:

Appendix I Map showing Proposed Surrey Electoral Districts

