



September 5, 2022

Federal Electoral Districts Redistribution – Ontario Commission
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London, Ontario, N6E 3T3
SENT BY EMAIL: ON@redcoupage-federal-redistribution.ca

To Whom It May Concern;

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) is the unified voice of Northeastern Ontario, representing and advocating on behalf of 110 cities, towns and municipalities. Our mission is to improve the economic and social quality of life for all northerners and to ensure the future of our youth.

As President of FONOM, I want to commend the Commission for adding Indigenous Representation to the Redistribution Plan for Northern Ontario. But I want to share some of my concerns about the Redistribution plan's negative impacts on Northern Ontario. Currently, Northern Ontario has ten Electoral Districts, with the proposed plan reducing that number to eight. ***FONOM would ask that the Commission retain the current ten Electoral Districts as they are today, plus the planned Indigenous Representation!***

Geographically Northern Ontario is quite large. The distance from North Bay to the Manitoba border is 1623 kilometres (the distance from North Bay to Charlottetown is 1693 Kilometres). Your research shows you that the existing ridings are large already. Currently, the Members have a difficult job fairly representing their constituents. The MPs do an admirable job and represent Canada well, but we believe the new alignments will make their efforts even more difficult. ***FONOM would ask that the Commission retain the current ten Electoral Districts as they are today! Especially in the Northeast as any redistribution will divide our established First Nations, Francophone, and Municipal Associations.***

We are also concerned that the planned consultation for Northern Ontario is only in Timmins and virtual. I have real concerns with only one in-person consultation session for a region of the province this realignment covers. This vital consultation is also coinciding with a Municipal Election. As a Municipal Politician running for re-election, I believe that very few individuals will take the time away from campaigning to drive to Timmins for the session on October 11th. The Northern Ontario session is also happening in the middle of the Hunting Season. The timing of the Commission's consultation highlights a further lack of understanding for our part of Ontario. ***FONOM recommends you increase and extend the consultation in Northern Ontario until January 2023!***

Also, I want to mention the Redistribution website is very hard to navigate. We believe anyone using the site to find the impacts on their community would be hard-pressed to get the information they seek. For your information, several web design firms are using focus groups of fifty- and sixty-year olds to beta test interactive websites to ensure their product is user-friendly. ***FONOM would recommend to the Commission that they ensure they improve upon this platform for the next realignment in 2032.***

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Danny Whalen', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Danny Whalen
President, FONOM