

**OUTLINE FOR PRESENTATION BY MAYOR MANDEL
TO THE ALBERTA ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 AT 3:15 P.M.**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

- Judge Walter, and members of the Electoral Boundaries Commission, thank you for this opportunity to present the position of the City of Edmonton to you.
- The City of Edmonton is requesting that the Electoral Boundaries Commission redesign the province's electoral division boundaries so as to provide 20 electoral divisions within the boundaries of the City.
- This would be an increase of 2 electoral divisions from the 18 current electoral divisions in the City
- I know that you will look to federal census numbers to help in your deliberations.
- But whether you consider the 2006 federal census, or our 2009 city census, redistribution of boundaries must result in an increase in representation in Edmonton.
- Section 12 of the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act was amended this year to add subsection 3, enabling the Commission to consider more recent population information if it is available. The City of Edmonton conducted a census in the spring of 2009. As of April 1, 2009, the City's official population is 782,439. That's an increase of over 60,000 people since the 2006 Federal Census.
- Given this population increase, and the Commission's current direction which says that the average electoral division population should be 37,820, the City's eligibility for electoral divisions can be calculated by dividing the current population (782,439) by the recommended average electoral division population (37,820). Edmonton would be eligible for 21 electoral divisions.
- Recognizing as well what the growth trends in our City communicate – that population trends in Alberta are overwhelmingly urban based, it is more

reasonable to assume that redistribution should not only acknowledge the strong growth which has occurred in Edmonton, but the trending over the past 10+ years which shows the depth and consistent strength of these trends.

- The City of Edmonton argues that the numbers tell a clear story of why the City is eligible for 2 additional seats in the provincial legislature on at least the following grounds:
 - Statistical analysis of current population numbers justifies the request for 2 seats.
 - The City of Edmonton censuses of 2008 and 2009 show that the City grew by just over 30,000 people in one year. That is a large 4% population increase in one year. That increase would warrant almost one additional seat on its own.
 - The rate of growth of the City of Edmonton is expected to continue. An additional 2 MLAs is the minimum number that Edmonton citizens should be electing in the next provincial election to ensure appropriate democratic representation.
 - Given that expected growth, I would argue that the electoral divisions in Edmonton should have a population equal to or slightly below the average electoral division to ensure equivalent democratic representation persists even as the population grows.
 - The redesign of boundaries must address the oversize of some of our divisions. For example, Edmonton-Whitemud is 50% higher than the average division and Edmonton-Castle Downs has 23% more people than the average. They will have an even larger variance than stated in your publicity materials, considering the growth reflected in our updated 2009 Census.
 - This dilutes the value and weakens the voice of the individual voters in these constituencies. At least two additional electoral divisions can easily be carved into Edmonton by redesigning the boundaries of these two divisions and redistributing their populations accordingly.

- The numbers tell a clear story, and when you consider that the next Commission may not be reviewing this again until as late as the year 2020, it is essential that the decisions you make here not only serve today's population, but will stand the test of time.
- I know that you have a difficult and often contentious task to accomplish.
- Edmontonians remember well that the last time this task was undertaken, we actually lost a seat – a result that resonated strongly and negatively in our growing City. For this reason, Edmontonians will be watching this process even more carefully.
- We are a growing City – a city with an increasing intensity of urban issues, caused by growth and concentration of people – whether a need for effective transit or the challenge of the homeless.
- There are urban needs and challenges which our citizens believe must receive proper focus from within the Legislative Chamber, a focus that becomes most possible when a fairly balanced level of representation is applied.
- We are a Capital City, with a pride of place, and with citizens who fully value the role played by the Legislature and who will be looking for transparency, logic and fairness in this process.
- I look forward to the Commission's consideration of this request and the design of 20 electoral divisions within the boundaries of the City of Edmonton.