



2016-17 Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission

Proposed Electoral Division Areas, Boundaries, and Names for Alberta

**Final Report to the Speaker of the
Legislative Assembly of Alberta**

October 2017

Electoral Boundaries Commission 2016-17 Final Report

The Honourable Robert Wanner
Speaker
Office of the Speaker
Legislative Branch
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10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
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Dear Mr. Speaker:

We are honoured to submit our final report setting out recommendations for the areas, boundaries and names of the 87 electoral divisions in Alberta, together with our reasons for the proposals, pursuant to the provisions of the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*, RSA 2000, c. E-3, as amended (the “Act”).

The Commission was established on October 31, 2016. It submitted its interim reports, consisting of a majority and a minority report, as required by s. 6(1) of the Act, to you on May 23, 2017. It then held additional public hearings at various locations in the province and considered 609 written submissions commenting on the recommendations contained in its interim reports. It now submits its final reports to you within five months of submitting the interim report, as required by s. 8(1) of the Act.

The Commissioners are grateful for the input of the many Albertans who have participated in this process.

Dated at Edmonton, Alberta, this 19th day of October 2017.

Honourable Madam Justice Myra Bielby, Chair

Gwen Day, Member

Laurie Livingstone, Member

W. Bruce McLeod, Member

D. Jean Munn, Member

Acknowledgements

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Executive Summary

In accordance with its role under the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*, RSA 2000, c. E-3 as amended (“the Act”), the majority (“the majority”) of the Electoral Boundaries Commission (the “Commission”) confirms the recommendations contained in its interim report, with amendments as described below. The overall effect of its recommended changes to the electoral boundaries of some of Alberta’s 87 electoral divisions (sometimes called constituencies or ridings) would continue to result in the:

- Consolidation of four electoral divisions into three in the central northeast area of the province (north and east of Edmonton) to account for the population in those areas having grown at a rate below that of the province as a whole; those existing four electoral divisions are Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville and Bonnyville-Cold Lake.
- Consolidation of five electoral divisions into four in the central west area of the province (north of Red Deer and west of Edmonton) to account for the population in those areas having grown at a rate below that of the province as a whole; those existing five electoral divisions are Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre, West Yellowhead, Drayton Valley-Devon, Whitecourt-Ste. Anne and Stony Plain.
- Consolidation of seven electoral divisions into six in the eastern side of the province (south of Calgary and east of Highway 2) to account for the population in those areas having grown at a rate below that of the province as a whole; those existing seven electoral divisions are Battle River-Wainwright, Drumheller-Stettler, Strathmore-Brooks, Little Bow, Cardston-Taber-Warner, Cypress-Medicine Hat and Vermilion-Lloydminster.
- Creation of a new electoral division to the immediate north and west of Calgary, to be called Airdrie-Cochrane, to account for population growth at a rate above that of the province as a whole in both of Airdrie and Cochrane.
- Creation of an additional electoral division in the City of Calgary, to be called Calgary-North East, to account for that city’s population growth at a rate above that of the province as a whole.
- Creation of an additional electoral division in the City of Edmonton, to be called Edmonton-South, to account for that city’s population growth at a rate above that of the province as a whole.

As a direct result of many helpful public submissions addressing the specifics of the majority’s interim recommendations, it has modified a number of them. The result of these modifications would include: a reduction in the geographic size of various electoral divisions; a reduction in the proposed degree of variance from the provincial average population size for various electoral divisions; minimization of the division of a single county between two or more electoral divisions; or the placement of certain First Nation reserves and Métis settlements in the same electoral division as one another. The Commission has also changed certain naming recommendations to reflect public input on proposed names.

The majority continues to recommend that the two electoral divisions in the far northwest of the province retain special status under s. 15(2) of the Act (currently Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley and Lesser Slave Lake). The special status permits a geographic size that yields a population between 25% and 50% below the average electoral division (the “provincial average”). The majority nonetheless makes recommendations increasing the size of both constituencies; the Act required that to be done in relation to Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley, as its existing population size is more than 50% below the provincial average.

The Commission also recommends name changes to various electoral divisions and has applied the following criteria in selecting names:

- No name should duplicate or otherwise cause confusion with the name of a federal electoral division.
- The name of an electoral division located in a city containing more than one electoral division should begin

with the name of the city in which it is located, e.g., Lethbridge-East.

- Existing electoral division names should be retained except where boundary changes move one or more of the geographic locations or markers contained in the existing name outside the electoral division.
- Otherwise, names should reflect the geographic location of the constituency.
- Electoral division names should be as short as possible.
- While making no recommendation about the names of existing electoral divisions that contain the names of former politicians, that practice should not be followed when naming or renaming electoral divisions.
- While the name of an electoral division that currently bears the name of two or more communities should not be changed to list those names alphabetically, newly named or renamed electoral divisions that bear the names of two or more communities should list those communities alphabetically.

Commissioner Day's minority report ("the minority"), found in Appendix A commencing at Page 63, recommends that electoral boundaries be set in each of Calgary and Edmonton in such a manner that no additional electoral divisions be added in either city. That approach would result in most or all of the electoral divisions in each city containing populations above the provincial average population size but below the 25% maximum size permitted under the Act. No consolidation of electoral divisions outside of these cities would be required as a result, with the populations of many of those electoral divisions left at existing levels, some well below provincial average population size.

Notwithstanding the preferences outlined in her minority report, Commissioner Day fully participated during the Commission's deliberations leading to the majority's final recommendations, and those reflect her input throughout, as well as those of the other commissioners.

The Electoral Boundaries Commission and its Work

This Electoral Boundaries Commission was fully established on October 31, 2016. The Honourable Madam Justice Myra B. Bielby of the Court of Appeal of Alberta, from Edmonton, was appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council as Chair. Appointed as members, by the Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, were:

Gwen Day (Mountain View County)
Laurie Livingstone (Calgary)
W. Bruce McLeod (Acme)
D. Jean Munn (Calgary)

The Commission was appointed, and has carried out its work, under the provisions of the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*, reproduced as Appendix D. As provided for under that Act, the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer assisted the work of the Commission by providing it with access to his excellent staff, who have provided advice, information and assistance throughout.

The Commission first met in early December 2016, and its consultations and deliberations have continued since that time. In early January 2017, the Commission distributed an information card to each household in Alberta. The card explained the Commission's work, invited Albertans to visit the Commission website (www.abebc.ca) and encouraged written submissions and appearances at public hearings.

A deadline of February 8, 2017, was set for receipt of initial written submissions from members of the public. Submitters were also given the option to update their submissions between February 8, 2017, and February 17, 2017, in case the 2016 Statistics Canada census data (released February 8, 2017) altered their submissions or recommendations. Initially, 749 written submissions were received; 12 of those were later updated. Written submissions were received via mail, e-mail, and directly through the Commission website.

As required by the Act, the Commission held a series of public hearings across the province, 22 in total, in January and February 2017. Complete transcripts and audio files of the hearings, as well as the substance of the written submissions received, are available to the public on the Commission website.

The Commission next conducted deliberations based on the requirements of the Act, as interpreted by the Supreme Court of Canada and the Court of Appeal of Alberta, and arrived at the recommendations contained in its interim reports that were submitted to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly on May 23, 2017. The interim reports were also made available to the public on May 23, 2017, and thereafter via the Commission website.

As required by the Act, the Commission then invited written submissions from the public on the contents of its interim reports. A further 609 written submissions were received via mail, e-mail, and directly through the Commission website. The substance of those submissions has now been made available to the public via that website. A number of submissions were received after the deadline and thus could not, in fairness to others, be processed or posted on the Commission's website. However, a reading of those submissions invariably revealed only issues that had been earlier raised by others.

As required by the Act, the Commission held further public hearings, 10 in total, at various locations in the province between July 17-24, 2017. Complete transcripts and audio files of those hearings are now available to the public on the Commission website. The Commission was able to accommodate every request received to appear at one of these public hearings. Experience gained during the first round of public hearings allowed for more efficient organization of the second round.

The Commission then conducted further deliberations pursuant to the requirements of the Act, as interpreted by the Supreme Court of Canada and the Alberta Court of Appeal, and arrived at the recommendations contained in these final reports. The Commission intends to submit them to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly on October 19, 2017, and to make them available to the public the same day via the Commission website.

As required by s. 12 of the Act, the Commission utilized the Alberta population data produced by Statistics Canada in its 2016 federal census, released February 8, 2017. That census data provides the basis for all the population figures in these final reports except the population data for a First Nation reserve that chose not to participate in the census. As directed by the Act, the data used for that First Nation reserve was obtained from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (Canada).

Lists of the names of those persons who made written submissions and those who made oral submissions at the Commission's public hearings in advance of the tabling of its interim reports are found in appendices to the document containing those reports. A list of the names of persons who made presentations at the public hearings held in July 2017 are found in Appendix B to this report. A list of the names of those who made written submissions addressing the recommendations contained in the interim reports are found in Appendix C to this report.

For ease of reading, electoral divisions are sometimes referred to as constituencies or ridings.

Legal Requirements

In undertaking this work, the Commission is obliged to meet the requirements of the Act and to give due consideration to the decisions of the various courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada and the Alberta Court of Appeal, regarding the creation of electoral division boundaries.

The Act provides direction as to how, and on what timetable, the Commission must conduct its work. It states, in Part 2, Redistribution Rules:

Electoral Divisions

13. The Commission shall divide Alberta into 87 proposed electoral divisions.

Relevant Considerations

14. In determining the area to be included in and in fixing the boundaries of the proposed electoral divisions, the Commission, subject to section 15, may take into consideration any factors it considers appropriate but shall take into consideration

- (a) the requirement for effective representation as guaranteed by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*,
- (b) sparsity and density of population,
- (c) common community interests and community organizations, including those of Indian reserves and Métis settlements,
- (d) wherever possible, the existing community boundaries within the cities of Edmonton and Calgary,
- (e) wherever possible, the existing municipal boundaries,
- (f) the number of municipalities and other local authorities,
- (g) geographical features, including existing road systems, and
- (h) the desirability of understandable and clear boundaries.

Population of Electoral Divisions

15(1) The population of a proposed electoral division must not be more than 25% above nor more than 25% below the average population of all the proposed electoral divisions.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), in the case of no more than 4 of the proposed electoral divisions, if the Commission is of the opinion that at least 3 of the following criteria exist in a proposed electoral division, the proposed electoral division may have a population that is as much as 50% below the average population of all the proposed electoral divisions:

- (a) the area of the proposed electoral division exceeds 20,000 square kilometres or the total surveyed area of the proposed electoral division exceeds 15,000 square kilometres;
- (b) the distance from the Legislature Building in Edmonton to the nearest boundary of the proposed electoral division by the most direct highway route is more than 150 kilometres;
- (c) there is no town in the proposed electoral division that has a population exceeding 8,000 people;
- (d) the area of the proposed electoral division contains an Indian reserve or Métis settlement;
- (e) the proposed electoral division has a portion of its boundary coterminous with a boundary of the Province of Alberta.

The Act must be interpreted and applied in accordance with the provisions of the Canadian constitution, including s.3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which states: “Every citizen of Canada has the right to vote in an election of members of the House of Commons or of a legislative assembly and to be qualified for membership therein.”

That constitutional provision, and other factors to be considered when setting electoral boundaries, were reviewed by the Supreme Court of Canada in the *Reference re Prov. Electoral Boundaries (Sask.)*, [1991] 2 SCR 158 (the “*Saskatchewan Reference*”). While the Supreme Court was specifically considering Saskatchewan’s legislation in that decision, the directions it gave apply to all legislation governing electoral boundaries, including electoral boundaries legislation in Alberta.

Other courts have further interpreted the directions contained in the *Saskatchewan Reference*. Of importance are the two occasions the Alberta Court of Appeal did so, in the 1991 *Reference re Electoral Boundaries Commission Act (Alta.)*, 1991 ABCA 317 (CanLII) (the “*1991 Alberta Reference*”) and in the 1994 *Reference re Electoral Divisions Statutes Amendments Act (Alta.)*, 1994 ABCA 342 (CanLII) (the “*1994 Alberta Reference*”).

In the *Saskatchewan Reference* case, Madam Justice McLachlin (now Chief Justice of Canada) stated at pages 183-185:

It is my conclusion that the purpose of the right to vote enshrined in s. 3 of the *Charter* is not equality of voting power per se, but the right to “effective representation”. . . .

What are the conditions of effective representation? The first is relative voting power. A system which dilutes one citizen’s vote unduly as compared with another citizen’s vote runs the risk of providing inadequate representation to the citizen whose vote is diluted. The legislative power of the citizen whose vote is diluted will be reduced, as may be access to and assistance from his or her representative. The result will be uneven and unfair representation.

But parity of voting power, though of prime importance, is not the only factor to be taken into account in ensuring effective representation. . . .

Notwithstanding the fact that the value of a citizen’s vote should not be unduly diluted, it is a practical fact that effective representation often cannot be achieved without taking into account countervailing factors.

First, absolute parity is impossible. It is impossible to draw boundary lines which guarantee exactly the same number of voters in each district. Voters die, voters move. Even with the aid of frequent censuses, voter parity is impossible.

Secondly, such relative parity as may be possible of achievement may prove undesirable because it has the effect of detracting from the primary goal of effective representation. Factors like geography, community history, community interests and minority representation may need to be taken into account to ensure that our legislative assemblies effectively represent the diversity of our social mosaic. These are but examples of considerations which may justify departure from absolute voter parity in pursuit of more effective representation; the list is not closed.

It emerges therefore that deviations from absolute voter parity may be justified on the grounds of practical impossibility or the provision of more effective representation. Beyond this, dilution of one citizen’s vote as compared with another’s should not be countenanced.

Justice McLachlin went on to observe at page 188:

The problems of representing vast, sparsely populated territories, for example, may dictate somewhat lower voter populations in these districts; to insist on voter parity might deprive citizens with distinct interests of an effective voice in the legislative process as well as of effective assistance from their representatives in their “ombudsman” role. . . .

[T]he need to recognize cultural and group identity and to enhance the participation of individuals in the electoral process and society requires that other concerns also be accommodated.

And at page 195:

[R]ivers and municipal boundaries form natural community dividing lines and hence natural electoral boundaries.

In addition, the Alberta Court of Appeal observed at paragraph 27 of the *1991 Reference* that it is reasonable to design electoral divisions that are part rural, part urban. The Commission interprets this to mean that while s. 14(d) and (e) of the Act directs the Commission to take into consideration existing community and municipal boundaries wherever possible, it does not prohibit the creation or continuation of what are sometimes referred to as “rurban,” hybrid or blended constituencies. Several of these constituencies currently exist as a result of the legislative enactment of the recommendations contained in the 2009-2010 Electoral Boundaries Commission’s final report. In this report, the Commission refers to this type of constituency as “blended.”

The Alberta Court of Appeal also directed, at paragraph 28 of the *1991 Alberta Reference*, that the statutory provision permitting a deviation of up to 25% from average population in an electoral division does not mandate the use of that or any deviation in a case where it is not needed. At paragraph 31, the Court stated that interference with voter parity

is warranted only to prevent an impossibly large constituency or to prevent undue mixing of different communities. Voter parity means that each vote cast should have the same weight as every other vote cast in the province in an election. The Court went on to state at paragraph 37 that no argument for effective representation of one group legitimizes under-representation of another group.

Three years later, in the *1994 Alberta Reference*, the Court stated:

- variance from the average population figure cannot occur in a constituency without reasons being given for that variance (paragraphs 44-46);
- those seeking the variance bear the onus of establishing those reasons (paragraph 46);
- variances can be countenanced only on a constituency-by-constituency basis, not by pre-set divisions (paragraphs 50, 58);
- variances are not justified simply because a significant number of Albertans do not like the results of voter parity (paragraphs 59-60); and
- there are only three possible solutions to a situation of historical disparity between urban and rural ridings: hybrid ridings, adding more seats overall, or fewer non-urban seats (paragraph 71).

The Commission has approached its task by examining each of the allotted 87 electoral divisions separately and has used the provincial electoral division population average of 46,803 (adjusted from the 46,697-figure used in the interim report for the reasons given below) when evaluating variances in population in both existing and proposed electoral divisions.

In arriving at the recommendations contained in this report, the Commission has:

- considered each of the factors set out in the Act and other relevant factors, including those established by judicial decision;
- reviewed the written submissions and oral presentations received;
- assessed the available options for adjusting existing boundaries where needed; and
- considered the impact of boundary alterations in neighbouring electoral divisions when adjustments were required.

Sources of Population Information: Canada 2016 Census

Section 12(1) of the Act requires the Commission to use the population of each Alberta electoral division as found in the most recent Statistics Canada census, plus the population on any Indian reserves not contained in the census, as provided by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (Canada). Section 12(3) permits the Commission to use more recent population data, where available, in addition to the federal census data.

Deadline concerns compelled some of the Commission's first round of public hearings to be held before population figures from the Canada 2016 Census were released on February 8, 2017. Before that date, estimated population figures from the Alberta Treasury Board were used. Those who submitted written comments before the availability of 2016 census data were invited to send the Commission updates to their submissions, if they believed amendments were warranted.

The Commission has made its recommendations based in part on the population of each individual constituency, as required by the Act. The 2016 federal census establishes a total population for Alberta of 4,071,875, adjusted by the addition of 4,700 persons, being the estimated population of the Saddle Lake Indian reserve No. 125, a figure provided by the Department of Indian and Northern

Provincial Average Population

The average population in each of Alberta's 87 constituencies is 46,803, a figure obtained by dividing the province's total population of 4,071,875 by 87.

Affairs (Canada). That reserve declined to participate in the federal census; its population was therefore not included in the Statistics Canada census population figures for Alberta.

Dividing the province's population of 4,071,875 by the 87 electoral divisions establishes an average population per electoral division of 46,803. Said another way, if absolute voter parity in each electoral division was achieved, the population in each division would be 46,803. Absolute voter parity is relevant because it is the place where the majority began its analysis of the boundaries of each electoral division before beginning to apply other considerations, as mandated by the Act.

This average population figure changes slightly from the one used in the interim report because of its final recommendations regarding the Fort McMurray area and the treatment to be given to its population numbers. The interim recommendation was based on the inference that 9,180 people left the existing Fort McMurray-Conklin riding due to the 2016 wildfires and have not yet returned to it or to Alberta. In this report, the Commission has returned to the population figure for this constituency found in the 2016 federal census, with no reduction based on an assumption of temporary population loss or otherwise. As a result, the earlier adjusted figure used for calculating the entire population of the province has increased by 9,180, with a resulting increase of 105 people per constituency.

Notwithstanding the invitation contained in its interim report to provide information from which it could draw an accurate inference as to any temporary reduction in population in the existing Fort McMurray-Conklin constituency, the Commission has received little evidence by way of response. It has therefore decided, given that reconstruction is well under way, that it should treat the population of this constituency as it has all others and determine it based on the 2016 federal census data (with a population of 26,309) in arriving at its final recommendations.

The population figures used by the Commission do not include "shadow populations," persons who are regular but not permanent residents in the areas in which they work, train or attend school. These include those who reside in camps in the Fort McMurray area, members of the military residing at the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range and CFB Suffield, and those post-secondary students who attend school away from where they permanently reside. To avoid the risk of double-counting, the Canada 2016 Census only counts each person once, in their place of permanent residence.

The Commission received many submissions based on municipal census information. It found that information typically did not result in identical data to the 2016 federal census, possibly because of differing methods of treating shadow populations or because it was collected on different dates than those used in the 2016 federal census.

Some presenters argued that the federal census information should be rejected as unreliable, based on differences between that data and the information produced by various municipal censuses. The Commission has not accepted that point of view. The Commission believes it is important that one set of data, collected at the same time and employing the same method, be used for the entire province. A patchwork of data assembled from different municipalities, collected at different times and using different processes, is not as fair and reliable a tool as the one set of data produced by Statistics Canada through its census. In any event, s. 12(2) of the Act expressly requires the Commission to use the population figures contained in the 2016 federal census. If more recent population information was available, it could have been used. None was available.

Jurisdiction of the Electoral Boundaries Commission

The members of the Commission acknowledge the sincerity and effort represented by all those who made a submission to it. The Commission continues to be impressed by the genuine interest shown by the hundreds of Albertans who took the time to write to or speak at one of its public hearings, both initially or most recently. The input of Albertans has informed the final recommendations contained in these final reports.

As described in the interim report, some of the suggestions that were made to the Commission go beyond its powers and mandate. The Commission has chosen to identify and acknowledge these suggestions to avoid leaving the impression

that it has ignored these presenters. Suggestions beyond the power of the Commission to recommend include:

- increasing or decreasing the number of electoral divisions from the 87 established by the Act
- declining to make any recommendation for change where otherwise justified for fear of voter confusion or discontent
- recommending provincial constituency boundaries mirror federal ones or municipal wards
- recommending changes to the method of selecting members of the legislative assembly to one of proportional representation
- recommending that persons be permitted to vote only in the constituency in which they work, rather than the one in which they live
- assigning a percentage of or number of constituencies to either rural or urban areas independent of the population in those areas
- excluding the boundaries of any constituency from examination
- using algorithms or computer programs that would automatically adjust constituency boundaries upon the occurrence of certain events, without considering all the factors the Commission is obliged by law to address in arriving at its recommendations
- imposing maximum geographic sizes on constituencies
- presuming constituency boundaries meet the requirements of legislation simply because the population currently falls within the legislatively permitted 25% variation above or below provincial average, without considering the other required factors
- recommending size based on a formula mathematically combining geographic size, or distance from the legislature, with population size
- recommending boundaries be set to advantage or disadvantage any political party in future elections

A number of written submissions appeared to have originated from the same source, repeating identical observations and comments. Volume of response in relation to any particular issue is not relevant to the work of the Electoral Boundaries Commission. As the Court of Appeal stated at paragraphs 59-60 of the *1994 Alberta Reference*, variances from provincial average population size are not justified simply because a significant number of Albertans do not like the result. A justifiable result flows only from a proper identification of the legal requirements relating to constituency size and an application of the facts to those principles.

Various presenters proposed other factors which are potentially relevant to effective representation, but the Commission has not been provided with sufficient information to apply those factors, including the effect of members of shadow populations approaching various MLAs' offices for services or the distribution of non-English speaking populations within various constituencies.

Several presenters provided the Commission with proposed alternate maps, some of the entire province. Most were based on municipal census data, rather than on the 2016 federal census figures, and could not be substituted for the maps created to reflect the majority's interim recommendations. The Commission acknowledges, however, the substantial amount of work and effort undertaken by these presenters in attempting to provide comprehensive alternatives.

Other submissions were blunted in effect because while they proposed a set of boundaries for a certain electoral division, they did not address the result of those boundaries on other surrounding electoral divisions. The submissions that were the most helpful were those that considered the cascading impact of the changes they were proposing. Even without the sophisticated mapping software to which the Commission had access, presenters such as 15-year-old Ian Borody (the last

presenter at the Commission's public hearings) were able to offer alternate proposals for entire regions that recognized the various factors that the Commission needed to consider and the impact that changes to one riding had on others. While the Commission concluded it would not be reasonable to adopt the comprehensive redraft for the City of Edmonton put forward by Mr. Borody, it is worthwhile to note what could be accomplished by a 15-year-old high school student with access to no more than the Commission's interim reports and a good mind.

In making its recommendations, the Commission also considered a number of factors as mandated by Part 2 of the Act. However, that list is not exclusive, and the Commission was able to consider any other factors that would assist in achieving the goal of effective representation.

First, the Act was interpreted to direct that the Commission establish the population of each electoral division based on the federal census data, in this case the 2016 census. It must then compare that population figure to the provincial average of 46,803 (adjusted slightly upward from the figures used in the interim report for the reasons given above).

The Commission must then decide whether to recommend the boundaries of the constituency under consideration be changed, thus bringing its population closer to the provincial average, while considering the factors set out in s. 14 of the Act:

- requirement for effective representation guaranteed by the *Charter*
- sparsity and density of population
- common community interests and organizations, including those of Indian reserves and Métis settlements
- the existing community boundaries within the cities of Edmonton and Calgary
- existing municipal boundaries
- the number of municipalities and other local authorities
- geographical features, including existing road systems
- clear and understandable borders

The majority agreed that, while not expressly listed in the Act, it would be relevant to consider a number of other factors in the design of electoral division boundaries including: growth trends and communication challenges resulting from the size, location and composition of a constituency.

Public Hearings and Submissions Regarding the Interim Report

After the tabling of its interim report, the Commission invited written submissions on the recommendations contained within it, ultimately receiving a total of 609 such submissions. Those submissions can be reviewed at www.abebc.ca. The Commission also invited interested parties to make oral submissions at public hearings during July 2017.

The Commission held public hearings in each of Grande Prairie, Vermilion, Edmonton, Calgary, Brooks and Red Deer, between July 17-24, 2017. These locations were chosen either because they were central or they were in areas directly affected by the Commission's interim recommendations. An exception was the hearing in Grande Prairie; it was scheduled because the Commission was forced to cancel a planned hearing in January due to weather-related travel restrictions.

The Commission was gratified by the level of public interest shown at this stage of the process. Dates and times for its July public hearings were repeatedly extended in each of Edmonton and Calgary to meet demand, and a hearing was added in Red Deer. One hundred forty-two oral presentations were made by individuals and representatives of organizations at those hearings, as listed in Appendix B. The substance of the written submissions as well as audio recordings and written transcripts of the oral submissions made at all public hearings are available on the Commission's website.

The Alberta Context

Since the 2010 Electoral Boundaries Commission reported, Alberta has experienced a net increase in population of over 14%, by far the fastest rate of growth of any Canadian province. However, that increase in population has not been uniform in all areas of the province. It has been concentrated in cities, particularly in Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Fort McMurray and Grande Prairie.

Legislative implementation of the recommendations contained in the 2010 Electoral Boundaries Commission final report resulted in about half of Alberta's 87 constituencies having a population within 5% of parity and 83% having a population within 10% of parity. By the time this Commission started its work, those percentages had shifted significantly. Populations ranged from 28,858 in Lesser Slave Lake to 92,148 in Calgary-South East. An election held based on those constituencies would result in a vote cast in Lesser Slave Lake having 3.5 times the effect of one cast in Calgary-South East.

The 2016 federal census data helps in assessing this trend. It reveals that the populations for Alberta's 18 cities total 2,820,115. When the populations of the large but unincorporated communities of Fort McMurray and Sherwood Park are added, the total approaches 2,954,000 or 73% of the province's total population of 4,071,875. That percentage grows even higher when the population of the various suburban communities surrounding large and mid-sized cities are factored into the equation. Alberta is no longer entirely or primarily rural in nature.

Thus, in electoral divisions where the rate of growth has been low, the resulting recommended boundary adjustments may increase the geographic area of those electoral divisions even after all other relevant factors are considered. The reverse is also true. Where the rate of growth has been higher than average, boundary adjustment may decrease the geographic area covered by a single electoral division.

In certain instances, the effect of these geographic changes has been mitigated by recommending boundaries be adjusted to combine some or all of a city with an adjacent rural area, following a similar approach recommended by the 2009-2010 Electoral Boundaries Commission. The creation of such blended constituencies is one of the options available to the Commission, as indicated in the *1991 Alberta Reference*.

In cities where the population size is substantially larger than the provincial average of 46,803 but not large enough to yield multiple constituencies within the city boundaries, the majority concluded it had no choice but to recommend the creation or continuation of either two blended constituencies or one urban and one blended constituency. Otherwise, based on public input, the majority recommends the creation of blended constituencies only where the urban component and the rural component are relatively equal in population size, or where the population in the urban component shares the same general interests and concerns as those in the rural component.

Major Themes in the Public Submissions and Presentations

As was the case in the written and oral submissions leading up to the issuance of the interim reports, those who made representations in July 2017 addressed subjects reflecting the legally relevant factors which the Commission must consider, categorized as follows:

1. Voter Parity

Many submissions stressed the importance of drawing electoral boundaries based on the principle of representation by population, i.e., that each electoral division have the same number, or as close as possible to the same number, of voters to ensure that each Albertan's vote has relatively the same effect.

Variations on this theme included submissions urging the Commission to resist recommending that any electoral division's boundaries be set with a variance at or near the permitted 25% maximum. Others advocated that the Commission

should not permit any negative variances for rural constituencies because that would improperly prioritize rural areas. Still others proposed that the Commission consider growth trends and suggested that projected areas of growth support a reduction in the number of constituencies outside of Edmonton and Calgary.

Many submissions advocated for urban interests, referring to the growth of urban populations as a rationale for increased urban representation and raising concerns that the urban voice is not currently given a weight in the legislature proportional to the number of urban residents in the province. Many suggested that the significant growth in Alberta's population since 2010 and the disproportionate move of its population into cities has dramatically reduced the urban voice in proportion to the percentage of urban voters. One presenter stated, this situation "has unfairly diminished the worth of the voter in ridings with larger numbers" and has given too much influence to rural voters. He urged a more proportionate number of MLAs in relation to the number of urban voters.

Others submitted that the Commission should not hesitate to recommend an increase in the geographic size of rural ridings where needed to achieve relative voter parity because urban MLAs have a greater number of obligations, and obligations more varied in size and complexity, than do MLAs for non-urban areas. Urban MLAs are said to interact with a larger variety of community, indigenous and ethnic organizations, and community leagues than do their rural counterparts. They are said to deal with constituents, sometimes through an interpreter, who need assistance with challenges posed by poverty, homelessness, addiction and other social ills. MLAs for new areas, or inner-city communities, are said to have an above-average call on their resources, including demands posed by high levels of recent immigration. However, no evidence was presented to show the number of groups and organizations served by the average or any rural MLA in comparison to the number served by the average or any urban MLA.

Some presenters observed that modern forms of communication, including e-mail and social media, make it easier for MLAs and their constituents to contact one another than in the past, to a degree invalidating concerns about driving distances in geographically large constituencies. Others noted that even if geographic size must increase, the result is not unduly large constituency size, in historical terms, for most of Alberta's constituencies. As one presenter reminded the Commission, the term "riding" came into being as meaning the distance an MLA could be expected to ride a horse in one day. If one substitutes a car or truck for a horse, even with the expanded constituency sizes that would result from implementation of the majority's recommendations, most MLAs could continue to drive across their riding in well under a day.

Other presenters observed that increased financial and staff support to MLAs in larger or more remote constituencies would assist in addressing communication concerns. At the moment, pursuant to the direction of the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services, financial support is provided based on a "matrix" aimed at measuring the geographic area, density of population, rural/urban ratio, proportion of dependent population, elected and appointed bodies, Indian reserves and Métis settlements and the distance to the legislature from the constituency. Each constituency is given a score, with the constituencies measuring a higher score receiving more funding than those with a lower score. A range of funding is thus provided to MLAs; they do not each receive the same amount of financial support.

Payment amounts are reviewed annually and adjusted where necessary to address changes in economic conditions or updated population numbers. Additional funding is available to cover such things as: payroll benefits provided to each MLA and his or her constituency staff; travel expenses; office furnishings and equipment for both main and satellite constituency offices; communication expenses including telephones, computers, e-mail services and IT services; and security systems.

2. Rural Concerns

Many presenters opposed the strict application of voter parity principles in rural areas. They suggested that for rural Albertans to be represented effectively, their ridings should remain unchanged even if they are less densely populated

than those in urban areas or approach the maximum negative 25% variance in population from provincial average. Rural areas are defined as all areas of the province outside of the cities of Edmonton and Calgary.

Many submitted that giving the rural vote a greater weight than the urban vote is justified because achieving the goal of effective representation would be hindered by increasing the already significant travel distances both to the legislature and within the constituency for many rural MLAs. Others submitted that rural ridings should not be made larger because rural MLAs have obligations to a greater number of municipal, indigenous and community organizations in their ridings than do urban MLAs. Again, no evidence was presented to show the number of groups and organizations served by the average or any rural MLA in comparison to the number served by the average or any urban MLA.

Many of those who expressed concerns about their MLA's ability to drive the distances required to make personal contact with voters acknowledged the core of their concern was the fear that boundary adjustment based on population equity would inevitably reduce the number of rural constituencies. In turn, this would reduce the number of MLAs representing rural concerns in the legislature. Their real worry was losing voice at the table.

Other submissions referred to the desire to retain the existing level of MLA service in rural constituencies. Many rural voters expect to be able to see and talk to their MLA at a wide number of community events, ranging from high school graduations to village council meetings to local rodeos. The ability to raise concerns face-to-face, rather than having to schedule travel to electoral division offices, telephone or write, enhances their ability to communicate their needs or opinions with respect to a variety of issues. At some point, they observe, increasing geographic size would impede the ability of rural MLAs to provide this degree of access.

Other submitters reminded the Commission that high speed internet access has not yet reached every area in Alberta, and that face-to-face meetings between an MLA and constituent are much more likely to result in effective understanding than reliance on electronic communication.

The County of Grande Prairie No. 1 submitted its concern that because population growth has occurred disproportionately in the Calgary area, any redistribution of constituencies will result in the addition of constituencies in the southern part of the province, so that future decision-making will carry "a large southern bias."

3. Blended Constituencies

As the Court of Appeal observed in the *1994 Alberta Reference*, there are only three solutions available to address a significant shift of population into urban areas from rural areas. One is to increase the number of constituencies overall, an option that is not available in this round of electoral boundary review because the legislature did not choose to enact legislation creating more ridings before the Commission commenced its work. Another is to reduce the overall number of seats in rural areas. The third is to create blended ridings, which are composed of part or all of a city and part of an adjoining rural area.

Many submissions suggested that creating electoral divisions containing both urban and rural components should be avoided. A variety of rationales for keeping urban and rural electoral boundaries separate was offered, including the different needs of urban and rural residents, the resulting diminished vote for each component and the perception of diminished effectiveness of representation for each component.

Still others accepted the combining of rural and urban areas into blended electoral divisions only where supported by shared interests. Many presenters differentiated between blended constituencies containing a city and farm lands and those blended constituencies where the rural portion is largely inhabited by suburbanites who work in the city and live on acreages outside the city. In their view, blended constituencies of the latter type do not pose the same problem of dividing an MLA's interest and time between two totally different communities of interest, city dwellers and those involved in agriculture. The interests of those working in cities but living outside the city were viewed as sufficiently common to

those living in cities to support the creation of blended constituencies where otherwise necessary.

One presenter was concerned that where a blended riding exists, the urban vote, presumably because of larger numbers, always nullifies the rural vote. Another stated: “Splitting is of course unavoidable, but it should be minimized. For example, a riding that encompasses Grande Prairie and surrounding areas is more reasonable than a riding that wedges off a section of Calgary suburbs into an otherwise rural electoral division.”

The Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties recommended that, where blended ridings are established, an effort be made to balance the rural and urban components of the population. The rationale was that elected MLAs then have an incentive to work with both rural and urban constituents and understand the concerns and issues of both.

Conversely, another presenter’s problems would be solved by the creation of a blended riding, placing her town and surrounding rural areas in the same electoral division. The presenter owns a small business and commercial properties in the Town of Hinton yet lives and votes in an electoral division seven kilometres outside of Hinton. She wrote: “Why do we assume that just because we are considered ‘rural’ that all our issues will be the same? They are not. Why can I not participate in voting opportunities in Hinton that will directly affect me and my businesses?”

4. Section 15(2) Constituencies

Section 15(2) of the Act permits the Commission to propose up to four electoral divisions, each of which may have a population that is as much as 50% below the provincial average population. Currently two such constituencies exist. They are Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley, which at the time of the 2010 Commission’s final report had a population of 24,584 or 40% below the provincial average, and Lesser Slave Lake, which had a population of 28,858 or 29% below the provincial average at that time. The remaining 85 constituencies fell within the population requirements imposed by s. 15(1) of the Act.

Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley now has a population of 23,094, 51% below the provincial average, and thus falls below the lower limit allowed by s. 15(2) of the Act. For this constituency to continue to exist, even with special status, the Commission must recommend expanding its population numbers by moving its geographic area and boundaries outward.

Some presenters suggested that no s. 15(2) constituencies should be recommended. Others suggested that more be created as needed, particularly in the Drumheller area. The Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties submitted that existing variances between 25% and 50% below the provincial average population could be addressed by maintaining both Dunvegan-Central-Peace-Notley and Lesser Slave Lake at their existing size (presumably except as needed to meet the requirement that boundaries expand in the former to bring its population within the permitted maximum variance of 50% below average).

Other submitters proposed that the Commission should exercise its discretion to move the boundaries of Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley and Lesser Slave Lake so that they contain populations much closer to provincial average. Some referred to the paving of a connecting highway and enhanced telephone and electronic communication as factors making the special status of s.15(2) electoral divisions unnecessary. Others queried the effect of permitting a 50% variance below the average, observing that it created a situation where a vote currently cast in Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley with an existing population of 23,094 would have 3.9 times the effect of a vote cast in Calgary-South East, with an existing population of 92,148.

5. Constituency Design/Non-contiguous Constituencies

Some presenters questioned the *bona fides* of past electoral division design, referring to serpentine or “donut-shaped” constituencies and suggesting that improper considerations were at play in their creation. After its recent experience of

developing the 87 recommendations contained in each of its interim and final reports, this Commission cannot disagree more with this speculative view.

This Commission has found that the goal of preventing unjustified variances from the provincial average population size, while respecting common community interests, including county boundaries, occasionally resulted in constituency design that crossed major geographical markers or yielded an irregular shape. On occasion, “jogs” in boundaries have been, and are now, required to keep indigenous communities, including First Nation reserves, whole or to acknowledge existing access routes. Where the majority’s final recommendations result in the creation of an electoral division with an irregular shape, those recommendations invariably result from the desire to avoid dividing up a neighbourhood or county, although sometimes population density makes such divisions unavoidable.

One non-contiguous electoral division currently exists. A small part of the existing Wetaskiwin-Camrose electoral division is geographically located within the existing electoral division of Drayton Valley-Devon, with the goal of keeping First Nation communities together within the same electoral division. Presenters from Maskwacis urged the expansion of their constituency up to and absorbing these currently non-contiguous areas.

Elections Alberta staff observed that despite the best efforts of returning officers, small non-contiguous areas are easily overlooked in the administration of elections, with the result that those residents may receive poorer service than other Albertans.

6. Common Interests

The Act directs the Commission, when drawing electoral boundaries, to consider “common community interests and community organizations, including those of Indian reserves and Métis settlements.” Many presenters viewed this criterion, in addition to population density, as the most important consideration for the Commission. It was reminded that trading areas, urban or rural, are often a good indicator of common community interests.

Other submitters urged the Commission to ignore this criterion and to make its recommendations based on population figures alone. The Commission notes, however, that it is required to comply with the mandatory provisions of the Act, including that of respecting common community interests where possible. Other submitters urged that this criterion not be overused as a justification for supporting large variances between constituencies.

7. Existing Community and Municipal Boundaries

The Act directs that the Commission, when drawing electoral boundaries, consider the existing neighbourhood boundaries within the cities of Edmonton and Calgary and, wherever possible, existing municipal boundaries. Some submitters noted the importance of county boundaries in the context of joint projects undertaken by municipalities within a county and as a consideration for the number of counties any MLA is required to represent.

Various submitters recounted confusion arising because of urban neighbourhoods being divided up among two or more constituencies, sometimes in newly developed areas where constituency borders were set before homes were built. Others asked that constituency borders follow postal codes to avoid the annoying result of residents receiving campaign material for constituencies other than the one in which they reside (existing MLA practice sometimes directs material be mailed to all those living in a certain postal code area).

8. Geographical Features, Including Existing Road Systems

Section 14(g) of the Act directs the Commission to consider geographical features, including existing road systems, in devising its recommendations for electoral division boundaries.

The 2010 Commission expressed a concern in its final report about the design of the Edmonton-Riverview constituency, as it straddles both sides of the North Saskatchewan River. However, the only submission before this Commission that addressed this issue observed that the culture of communities immediately across a river from one another is often similar, and suggested this concern should not be treated as a priority, at least in urban areas where several bridges are readily accessible.

Process

The process used by the majority in designing electoral division boundaries followed the directions of the Supreme Court of Canada in the 1991 *Saskatchewan Reference*. It considered parity of voting power to be of prime importance and the first condition of effective representation. The majority thus started its work by considering each electoral division, one by one. It compared the actual population against the provincial average population of 46,803 (adjusted slightly upward from the figure used in the interim report for the reasons given above), and it determined by what percentage each constituency was above or below that average. The majority then addressed whether there was any acceptable reason that the boundaries of each constituency should not be moved outward or inward to achieve a population closer to the provincial average, through application of the specific factors set out in s. 14 of the Act and through consideration of growth trends and communication challenges created by geographic size. To determine if there were reasons justifying deviation, the Commission also considered each of the written and oral submissions addressing one or more of these factors prior to arriving at each recommendation contained in this final report.

The majority considered degree of variance from the provincial average population as an indication of whether the size of a given electoral division adequately addressed population size as a component of “effective representation” (This was the process followed by the 2009-2010 Electoral Boundaries Commission, as is discussed in the Population Distribution section of this final report.)

The majority attempted to avoid creating blended constituencies wherever possible. Those who made submissions on this topic invariably urged they be avoided. The mayors of each of Edmonton and Calgary asked for electoral divisions that were completely contained within the municipal boundaries of their respective cities. Indeed, that is a mandatory consideration under s. 14 of the Act.

Commissioner Day, although in disagreement with the ultimate recommendations, participated in the Commission’s deliberations throughout, including during this design process.

The majority decided to begin the design process in Edmonton, followed by Calgary, in an attempt to avoid the creation of blended constituencies partially lying within either city. That approach proved successful.

1. Edmonton

The majority began its deliberations with a review of the existing constituencies in the City of Edmonton. Following the above described process, it took each electoral division, one by one, to compare its actual population against the provincial average population of 46,803 and determined by what percentage it was above or below that average. It then considered whether and how the specific factors set out in s. 14 of the Act, or other factors that bear on effective representation, justified maintaining boundaries that resulted in populations above or below that figure or whether changes should be recommended.

The majority initially concluded that the geographic areas south of the city, currently part of Leduc County but being annexed by the City of Edmonton, should be treated as if they lay within the municipal boundaries of Edmonton, given that likelihood in the near future. Between the date of release of the interim report and the preparation of this final report, however, changes made to the annexation agreement resulted in Edmonton’s southern boundary stopping at Highway

19 rather than at the southern boundary of the Edmonton International Airport. The final recommendations in relation to the constituencies of Edmonton-South and Edmonton-South West reflect this change.

Similarly, the majority amended its interim recommendation as to the southern boundary of the proposed Edmonton-Ellerslie constituency. As the Town of Beaumont has now annexed nine quarter-sections of land adjacent to its former northern border, the constituency of Edmonton-Ellerslie would extend to the resulting new northern boundary of the town only, excluding this annexed land.

In beginning its analysis, the Commission was aware that the total population of Edmonton divided by the provincial average population of 46,803 yields the number 20, almost exactly. This suggested to the majority that, subject to the application of other factors relevant to effective representation, an increase to 20 electoral divisions from the previous 19 might result.

The Commission then reviewed each of Edmonton's constituencies, one after the other, which did result in the majority's recommendations for the creation of 20 electoral divisions, most of which have a population within 5% of the provincial average. The highest degree of variance arises in the constituency of Edmonton-Meadows (formerly Edmonton-Mill Creek) with a variance of plus 11%. While changes from its interim report have resulted in a somewhat wider degree of variance in its final recommendations, the majority believes that increase is justified by the concerns for common community interests, detailed under the description of each constituency found in the "Final Recommendations for Electoral Boundaries" section of this report.

A new constituency would thus be created in the south-central area of Edmonton, from portions of the current Edmonton-South West and Edmonton-Ellerslie constituencies, bisected by Gateway Boulevard and Highway 2.

Considering that Edmonton's population neatly divided into relatively equal electoral divisions, even after application of the factors set out in s. 14 of the Act and otherwise, the majority determined that the attempt to redistribute population to more precisely address potential future growth trends was not justified. Given the magnitude of potential resulting boundary changes, and the potential for the requirement of dividing neighbourhoods, no further attempt at redistribution was undertaken.

In some cases, the recommended boundary changes resulted in the relocation of a neighbourhood for which the existing constituency was named to a location outside of that constituency. The Commission therefore recommends name changes that reflect the geographic area in which the constituency is located, as is discussed in the "Naming Recommendations" section of this report. By way of example, Edmonton-Calder would become Edmonton-North West. The entirely new constituency, described earlier, would be called Edmonton-South.

2. Calgary

The Commission next turned its attention to Calgary. In beginning its analysis, the majority was aware that the total population of Calgary divided by the provincial average population of 46,803 yields the number 26.5. This suggested to the majority that, subject to the application of other factors relevant to effective representation, an increase to 26 or 27 electoral divisions from the previous 25 might result if it was to avoid the creation of a blended constituency with half of its population lying within the city and half without.

Ultimately, the majority chose to recommend the creation of only one additional electoral division in Calgary, 26 in total, in order to meet the legal requirement that municipal boundaries be respected, wherever possible. It also reflects the fact that no submission, written or oral, suggested the addition of a blended constituency or constituencies within the City of Calgary. Indeed, some submissions emphasized that Calgary and Edmonton should not include blended constituencies.

The other option, creating 27 electoral divisions, would have required further consolidation of rural constituencies.

The majority has attempted to minimize the number of consolidations necessary to achieve effective representation throughout the province.

As a result, a population equivalent to half the provincial average population, some 23,000 people, must be added to Calgary's electoral divisions; about 885 persons per electoral division, leaving each on average about 2% over the provincial average population size. Naturally, application of the other required considerations has left most of Calgary's ridings over or under by more than 2%, but on average a 2% positive variance has been accommodated in the majority's recommendations for Calgary.

Following the above described process, the majority then took each electoral division, one by one, to compare its actual population against the provincial average population of 46,803, and determined by what percentage it was above or below that average. It then considered whether and how the specific factors set out in s. 14 of the Act, or other factors that bear on effective representation, justified setting boundaries that resulted in populations above or below that figure.

The majority then considered that, while the existing Calgary-South East constituency had almost enough population to divide into two electoral divisions, immediately adjacent were constituencies with populations well below the provincial average, including the existing Calgary-Acadia and Calgary-Fish Creek. When the boundaries of Calgary-South East were adjusted to bring adjacent constituencies closer to the provincial average, which was required to achieve effective representation in this situation, Calgary-South East was left with a population at or below the provincial average itself.

In comparison, when the population in northern Calgary was considered, balancing constituencies with populations below provincial average population with those above it, sufficient population existed to create the new constituency that is recommended for northeast Calgary.

The majority then took the opportunity to design boundaries that would result in older areas of the Calgary being divided into electoral divisions with populations above the provincial average, ranging up to 13% above the provincial average in Calgary-Falconridge. The majority considered those fully built-out areas less likely to grow at the same rate as some of the fast-growing areas at the edge of the city. As a result, it could and did design constituencies with populations below the provincial average, mostly in "new" areas, ranging up to minus 16% in Calgary-North to account for planned and future residential building and population growth.

Higher variances for some proposed constituencies are invariably the result of attempting to avoid dividing neighbourhoods or communities. Some division was nonetheless unavoidable due to population density in some communities. Similarly, no practical option was found to prevent the Deerfoot Trail from bisecting the new constituency of Calgary-North East.

The Commission received many helpful submissions in relation to its interim recommendations for Calgary's electoral divisions. It would like to highlight one in particular, by acknowledging Robert Nelson's very helpful map demonstrating where communities would be split as a result of the majority's interim recommendations.

As with Edmonton, acceptance of the majority's recommendations would result in the movement of some neighbourhoods outside of the constituencies currently bearing their name. The Commission therefore recommends name changes that reflect the geographic area in which the constituency is located, as is discussed in the Naming Recommendations section of this report. For example, much of Calgary-Hawkwood would become Calgary-Edgemont. The new constituency, mentioned earlier, would be called Calgary-North East.

3. Areas outside Calgary and Edmonton

The majority next turned to the areas outside Calgary and Edmonton. Again, following the above described process, it took each electoral division, one by one, to compare its actual population against the provincial average population of 46,803, and determined by what percentage it was above or below that average. It then considered whether and how the

specific factors set out in s. 14 of the Act or other factors that bear on effective representation justified setting boundaries that resulted in populations above or below that figure.

That said, the majority was aware that its recommendations to add an electoral division to each of Edmonton and Calgary meant that two electoral divisions would disappear from other areas of the province. The 43 electoral divisions in those areas would drop to 41. Dividing the number of people living in Alberta outside of Edmonton and Calgary, 1,899,610 by 41, equals 46,332.

This figure, 46,332, is 471 people, or 1%, below the provincial average constituency size. This negative variance arises notwithstanding the fact that the two s. 15(2) special status constituencies – the proposed Central Peace-Notley and Lesser Slave Lake electoral divisions – have populations more than 25% below the provincial average. This arises as a result of each of the recommended constituencies in Calgary containing an average of 2% more than provincial average population size.

It would have been quite different if the majority had decided to recommend the creation of 27 rather than 26 electoral divisions within Calgary. In other words, retaining the two s. 15(2) constituencies did not result in the majority having to recommend that the other constituencies outside of Edmonton and Calgary contain a greater than average number of people to make up for the low populations in these two ridings.

In arriving at its final recommendations, the majority again applied the approach of leaving larger positive variances in areas with slower growth trends (those expected to grow at a pace slower than the provincial average), thus leaving a larger negative variance available in areas of with high growth trends. The majority considered that the population in low growth areas is likely to fall below the provincial average by the time the next electoral boundaries review is conducted, some eight to 10 years from now, even if those constituencies are now designed to contain more than the provincial average population. The reverse is true for high growth areas.

The process used for the areas outside Edmonton and Calgary started with the northwest part of the province. The majority then proceeded to consider each constituency in turn, from Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo clockwise around the province, developing recommendations for adjustments to the borders of every constituency.

Communities surrounding the City of Calgary, including Cochrane, Chestermere and Airdrie, have all experienced substantial growth since the last time the boundaries were redrawn. Shifts to accommodate growth in the electoral divisions bordering Calgary have resulted in the final recommendation that a new electoral division be created to the immediate north and west of Calgary, to be named Airdrie-Cochrane. This division would contain the western portion of the existing Airdrie electoral division, which now has too large a population to be contained within one electoral division, and would extend to include the entire Town of Cochrane.

Responses to Specific Questions for Public Input

In its interim report, the Commission invited public input on six specific questions. That input was received, and it influenced the majority's final recommendations, as follows.

1. Section 15(2) Constituencies

Public response on whether s. 15(2) constituencies should be retained or created was muted. The Commission was not persuaded that the two existing s. 15(2) constituencies should lose their special status. Although other areas, including the areas around Fort McMurray and Drumheller, may have met the s. 15(2) criteria had different boundaries been recommended for them, the Commission did not find there was ultimately a need to recommend s. 15(2) status be given to any other constituency as it was able to keep all remaining 85 constituencies within a minus 25% variance.

The Commission thus recommends that both the renamed Central Peace-Notley and Lesser Slave Lake retain their status

under s. 15(2) of the Act, with each of their proposed populations more than 25% below the provincial average population size. See the “Final Recommendations for Electoral Boundaries” section of this report for further particulars, as well as Maps 54 and 69 found in Appendix E.

2. Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche Population Size

In formulating its interim recommendations, the Commission used the figure of 17,129 as the population of the existing Fort McMurray-Conklin electoral division, some 9,180 persons lower than the population figure provided in the 2016 federal census. The population was reduced in this fashion based on an inference drawn by the Office of Statistics and Information, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance. It inferred that the population of this riding shrank by 9,180 persons because 2,000 homes located in it were destroyed in the 2016 wildfire.

The Commission was not advised as to the basis for the presumption that an average of 4.59 persons resided in each destroyed home, or why it was presumed that none of those persons continue to reside elsewhere in the constituency. The Commission also felt that presumption did not reflect the fact that reconstruction is now well under way, that most of destroyed homes will be reconstructed and that their displaced occupants, or other persons, will return to live in them. The presumption also did not consider that fire insurance often provides coverage for rental costs pending reconstruction of damaged homes. The Treasury Board presumption also does not reflect the possibility that other persons have or will move into the constituency to take up available employment as the economic recovery in oil and gas continues. The Commission is concerned that the Treasury Board estimate is thus not reliable.

Prior to issuing its interim report the Commission received submissions suggesting different inferences as to population size be drawn from school enrolment comparisons between September 2015 and 2016, from the number of pre-paid visa cards distributed to residents by the Government of Alberta in the aftermath of the fire evacuation, or from a comparison of the population figure of 17,129 to the size of the community prior to the fire. Unfortunately, these submissions were not supported by specific information from which alternate figures could be calculated

The Commission would have preferred to base any inferences as to population size on a variety of indicators, to assure itself that the most accurate population figure possible be established for Fort McMurray-Conklin, now Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche. It thus invited submissions supported by specific, reliable information upon which it could act in its final report. This invitation received little by way of response.

As a result, the majority has concluded that there is no good reason to continue to infer a population reduction in the existing Fort McMurray-Conklin riding. Instead, as with other constituencies, the population figure for Fort McMurray-Conklin used in this final report is based on the 2016 federal census. Thus, herein, the majority has considered the population of the current Fort McMurray-Conklin electoral division to be 26,309 persons, and of the proposed Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche riding to be 44,166, some 6% below provincial average. See the “Final Recommendations for Electoral Boundaries” section of this report for the specific reasons for these recommended boundaries, set out in Maps 60 and 61 found in Appendix E.

3. Orientation of Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo and Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche

The interim recommendation for these two constituencies was that their orientation be moved to run east-west rather than as in the existing north-south configuration, as shown on Maps 60 and 61 found in Appendix E. The result would be that the MLA for each constituency would have to cover a smaller geographic area than is currently the case to reach his or her constituents.

Response to this specific invitation for public input was muted. Those who responded did not object to this proposal. As a result, the Commission makes this recommendation for east-west orientation in this final report. See the “Final

Recommendations for Electoral Boundaries” section of this report for the specific reasons for these recommended boundaries.

4. Medicine Hat and Taber-Vulcan

In the interim report, the majority recommended leaving the two constituencies encompassing parts of the City of Medicine Hat in the existing configuration, with one containing a larger portion of that city and the other containing the remainder of the city as well as surrounding areas currently part of the Cypress-Medicine Hat, Cardston-Taber-Warner and Little Bow constituencies. The blended constituency was to be called Taber-Vulcan.

The Commission left another possible approach as a specific question for public input. The alternative suggestion was to configure each of the two constituencies into blended ridings, with each forming a modified wedge shape with part of the City of Medicine Hat contained in the apex of the wedge and the balance spreading into the adjoining area, one taking up the southern portion of the existing Cypress-Medicine Hat constituency and the other the northern portion. Both blended ridings would be considerably smaller geographically than the proposed Taber-Vulcan.

Considerable input was received in relation to this idea, with many concerned about perceived communications challenges arising from the size and shape of the proposed Taber-Vulcan constituency. Many asked that the name Medicine Hat be restored to each of the two blended constituencies.

As a result, the majority has decided to recommend an alternative design for this area. The majority’s final recommendations are that two blended ridings be created from the areas covered by the former proposed ridings of Medicine Hat and Taber-Vulcan. The northernmost of these would be known as Brooks-Medicine Hat and the southernmost known as Cypress-Medicine Hat; see the “Final Recommendations for Electoral Boundaries” section of this report for the specific reasons for these recommended boundaries and Maps 51 and 57 in Appendix E.

5. Drumheller-Strathmore

In its interim report, the majority recommended that this electoral division be created by adding the Town of Strathmore to the constituency containing the Town of Drumheller and that the Town of Stettler be removed from the constituency and added to the proposed Stettler-Wainwright constituency. The primary reason for this recommendation was low population growth in this area. It sought public input on the suggestion due to its concerns about the size and scope of the proposed Drumheller-Strathmore constituency.

It received strong public response to this invitation, both in relation to the size of the recommended proposed population variance of +16% in Drumheller-Strathmore and in relation to a perceived disconnect in the interests of the Town of Strathmore, largely a Calgary suburban community, and of the Town of Drumheller, focused on agriculture and tourism.

Considering the nature and degree of this input and accepting that the Town of Strathmore would indeed be a better fit with the City of Chestermere than the Town of Drumheller, the majority has altered its recommendations in this final report to restore Stettler to the constituency of Drumheller. Incidental boundary changes leave the proposed Drumheller-Stettler constituency with a population of 41,535, or 11% below the provincial average. See Page 32 of the “Final Recommendations for Electoral Boundaries” section of this report for the specific reasons for these recommended boundaries and Map 59 in Appendix E.

6. Airdrie-Cochrane

As a result of the rapid pace of growth in both the City of Airdrie and the Town of Cochrane, the majority made interim recommendations to the effect that a new constituency be created from a portion of Airdrie and all of Cochrane, to be called Airdrie-Cochrane, and that the remaining existing Airdrie constituency contain only the area located within that

city. With an existing population well above the provincial average, the majority was left with no choice but to divide the City of Airdrie into one urban and one blended constituency or two blended constituencies.

As this was a new situation for the residents of Airdrie, who have resided within a single constituency in the past, these proposals were raised as a specific question for public input. Considerable input resulted, with most comments supporting the majority's interim proposal.

However, the mayor of Airdrie urged a division of that city along Highway 2 to create two ridings, with the western portion ending at the western borders of the City of Airdrie. The part of Airdrie east of Highway 2 would be joined with the City of Chestermere and other portions of the proposed Chestermere constituency to make up a second riding. The Town of Cochrane would join with surrounding areas to form a third riding. He advised that he had the support of the Town of Cochrane for this proposal, while the City of Chestermere had not responded to his request for support. He also supported the idea that the southern portion of the existing Chestermere-Rockyview constituency be added to the Highwood constituency, now to be known as Okotoks-Sheep River, as reflected in the majority's final recommendation on that constituency, detailed in the "Final Recommendations for Electoral Boundaries" section of this report.

Unfortunately this proposal, like many other submissions, relied on municipal census data which proved somewhat different than the population figures provided by the 2016 federal census. Even had that not been the case, the population in the resulting Cochrane constituency would fall very close to the maximum negative variance. Even accepting the potential for future rapid growth in Cochrane, the majority did not accept that such a high variance was supported by consideration of the required criteria to achieve effective representation.

Further, with the addition of the Town of Strathmore to the proposed Chestermere riding, as recommended by the majority below, the population of what would become Chestermere-Strathmore would be well above legal limits if the area in the City of Airdrie east of Highway 2 was added to it. No workable option to joining part of the City of Airdrie to the City of Chestermere has otherwise been offered.

The final recommendations contained in this report continue, therefore, to propose that one constituency, made up of the eastern section of the City of Airdrie, be created, to be known as Airdrie-East, and that a second constituency made up of the remainder of the City of Airdrie, the Town of Cochrane and the area in between be created, to be known as Airdrie-Cochrane. See the "Final Recommendations for Electoral Boundaries" section of this report for the specific reasons for these recommended boundaries and Maps 47 and 48 in Appendix E.

General Reasons for the Majority's Recommendations

Specific reasons are given for the final recommendation made by the majority for each constituency's boundaries, alphabetically by proposed name, in the "Final Recommendations for Electoral Boundaries" section below. In addition to those specific reasons, the following form general reasons for each recommendation.

1. Relative Voting Power/Voter Parity

The majority supports the following recommendations because they result in minimum variance from the provincial average electoral division population after consideration of all other relevant factors related to effective representation within Alberta.

The principle of representation by population is a fundamental underpinning of any democracy and is protected as an aspect of the right to vote by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Variation in the application of this principle, such as by creating constituencies with significantly fewer voters than in others, can be done only with good reason and where that reason is expressly stated. The majority is mindful of the legal requirement that justification be provided for the loss of relative voting power in other constituencies caused by any recommendation for the creation of a constituency

that has a population well below the provincial average.

Specific reasons for the recommended boundaries of all 87 constituencies, including those with significant degrees of variance from the provincial average population size, and justification of any resulting loss of relative voting power elsewhere are given in the “Final Recommendations for Electoral Boundaries” section of this report.

2. Rural Concerns

The majority accepts that the time has come to stop treating differences between rural and urban Albertans as a main driver in setting the boundaries of electoral divisions. All areas of the province are interdependent, bringing to it diversity, shared resources and economic benefits which strengthen our communities and our citizens as a whole.

The Act does not guarantee that rural areas contain 50%, or any other percentage, of the total number of Alberta’s electoral divisions. Indeed, the Act makes no express reference to urban interests versus rural interests as a consideration in designing constituency boundaries. It makes no reference to the nature of economic activity in an area or contribution of its constituents to provincial tax revenue as a factor justifying variance from provincial average population size. Rather, the nature of a rural area can be considered to the extent that residents of different areas of the province may share different communities of interest.

The majority has thus arrived at its recommendations for every area of the province without labelling those areas either rural or urban, within Calgary or Edmonton or within the “rest of Alberta.” It sympathizes with the concerns of those who would see significant resulting growth in the geographic size of their constituency or the consolidation of their constituency with others through implementation of these recommendations. At the end of the day, however, even after fully considering all other factors bearing on effective representation, substantially different rates of population growth compel the creation of new constituencies in certain areas of the province and the consolidation of constituencies in other areas.

The majority believes that the concerns of residents outside of Edmonton and Calgary can be addressed by measures falling short of creating electoral divisions with significantly smaller or significantly larger populations than average.

In any event, some of the stated concerns of those residing outside of Edmonton or Calgary may be overstated. Driving distances are not disproportionate for all such Albertans. The MLA for the proposed Spruce Grove-Stony Plain riding will have, for example, a much shorter driving distance to the legislature than any of Calgary’s MLAs.

Further, where constituency size is large, satellite offices can be opened within it. This assumes that sufficient budget has been provided to their MLAs to allow for the hiring of staff and paying of additional expenses to meet these needs. While the funding model for MLA office budgets is well outside the jurisdiction of this Commission, improvements addressing the specific costs of additional staff and the operation of satellite offices for remote constituencies would certainly help voters in geographically large electoral divisions feel that they can more easily access the services of their MLAs.

Many rural residents are concerned that larger constituency sizes may reduce the level of access to their MLAs that they now enjoy. This includes the MLA’s ready availability at political and social events held across the riding. The majority accepts that a cultural shift toward making an appointment to see an MLA or making contact by telephone or e-mail is a more balanced means of addressing voter access than a reduction in the geographic size and population of the constituency, with the resulting reduction in voter parity in other constituencies in the province.

While increased geographic size will likely increase the number of elected officials, community organizations and others with whom an MLA must connect, the majority is not satisfied that the resulting demands have been shown to significantly exceed those placed on MLAs serving smaller geographic areas, including those in cities. Each riding, no doubt, imposes its own particular claims on an MLA’s time and resources; the majority does not accept that these demands increase only with an increase in geographic size.

The Act permits the creation of electoral divisions with populations of up to 25% above or below the provincial average (in addition to the s. 15(2) special status electoral divisions). However, that authority cannot be used simply to avoid change, or to preserve existing constituency boundaries or to preserve the current number of MLAs representing any particular area of the province, where not otherwise justified: see the *1991 Alberta Reference*. It can be used only where needed. Use of a high variance from provincial average population size can be justified only where consideration of the factors in s. 14 of the Act and other relevant factors, support over-representation. Disproportionate preservation of the rural voice is not one of these factors.

While consideration of “common community interests” is such a factor, most existing electoral divisions outside of Edmonton and Calgary do not contain a single common community in total, or individually. These existing 43 electoral divisions together contain 16 cities, along with the large metropolitan areas of Sherwood Park and Fort McMurray. Some are primarily agricultural in focus, but others have an oil and gas base or a forestry, mining or tourism focus or some combination of all these factors. As a result, the majority could not conclude that those Albertans living outside of Edmonton or Calgary share a common community of interest for that reason alone or that each of these 43 constituencies share a common community of interest one with the other.

The core concern that a reduction in the number of constituencies located in rural areas of the province will reduce the rural “voice” in the legislature, with the result that rural concerns will command less attention and fewer resources than they have in the past, was frequently raised. The inevitable result of applying the principle of representation by population as a relevant factor to constituency design is that as population shifts, the electoral divisions will also shift to ensure that all Albertans are effectively represented. To do otherwise would be to make some voices disproportionately louder than others, defeat the principle of representation by population and impede effective representation in urban constituencies.

While this Commission’s task is to recommend boundaries that establish and support effective representation of Albertans, relative voting power is not simply one of many factors to be considered. It is, as described by Justice McLachlin in the *Saskatchewan Reference*, the first condition to be considered, of prime importance to be taken into account before considering countervailing factors.

Further, variances from provincial average population size cannot be countenanced simply because they result in populations no more than 25% smaller or larger than that average. Rather, as directed at paragraph 36 of the *1991 Alberta Reference*, use of the 25% or any deviation from average is not justified where it is not needed and, at paragraph 38, interference with voter parity is warranted only to prevent an impossibly large constituency or to prevent undue mixing of different communities. Proper legal interpretation cannot place a priority on maintaining the *status quo* or on creating urban constituencies with populations significantly larger than provincial average for no reason other than to avoid the need to reduce the number of constituencies in areas of the province outside of Edmonton and Calgary.

3. Blended Constituencies

The Commission has attempted to minimize the creation of blended constituencies that combine a large urban area with a non-urban area. That said, it has not been possible to avoid situations where at least one blended constituency must be created because the population of a city exceeds the provincial average population but falls short of that required to create two or more constituencies.

The Commission accepts that where a blended constituency would combine two disparate communities of interest to be represented by the same MLA, it should be avoided if otherwise possible. This concern may not be present where those living in the suburban area largely work within and access services in the adjoining city; the residents of each are likely to have common interests.

The majority has considered that many presenters in the areas that currently have blended electoral divisions considered them to be working well. In particular, those from Fort McMurray and Medicine Hat were satisfied with their blended

constituencies. This suggests that there is nothing inherently flawed with this approach or that Albertans who reside outside city boundaries have, by that reason alone, no community of interest with their urban neighbours.

4. Section 15(2) Status

The Commission considered the option of recommending termination of s. 15(2) status for the constituencies of Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley and Lesser Slave Lake on the basis that by consolidating the present area of these two ridings into surrounding electoral divisions, three electoral divisions could be created from four, all three of which would have close to the provincial average population size.

This issue is one upon which public input was specifically invited, as detailed in the section of this report entitled “Responses to Specific Questions for Public Input.”

The rationale for creating the s. 15(2) special status for remote areas of the province is described by the Supreme Court of Canada at page 188 of the *Saskatchewan Reference* case: “The problems of representing vast, sparsely populated territories, for example, may dictate somewhat lower voter populations in those districts.” It has most recently been judicially confirmed in a decision of the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal released January 24, 2017, in which five judges of that Court unanimously concluded that legislation that failed to consider the continuation of such special constituencies flowing from a government direction to an electoral boundaries commission breached s. 3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms: Reference re the Final Report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission*, 2017 NSCA 10.

Reasons for retaining these special electoral divisions, although their population falls below 25% of the provincial average population, include a consideration of legislative intent. The legislature clearly intended that geographically large constituencies, in remote areas, could be created where needed to meet the goal of effective representation for their constituents. This intention is only 27 years old; the legislature introduced s. 15(2) when the current version of the Act was passed in 1990.

The provisions of s. 15(2) have been used since their creation, most recently in relation to Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley and Lesser Slave Lake. Nothing has changed in relation to the nature of the areas of the province occupied by these constituencies since 1990 or since the 2009-2010 Electoral Boundaries Commission reported; no principled reason has been advanced to suggest that s. 15(2) status is no longer needed in these areas notwithstanding their huge geographical expanse and sparse populations.

While Peace River does not have, or need, s. 15(2) status, its fate must be considered when addressing the s. 15(2) issue because Peace River would disappear into the consolidation of the two s. 15(2) constituencies as part of the proposal that they be abolished.

Lesser Slave Lake and Peace River are, geographically, the largest constituencies in Alberta, together constituting about 20% of the geographic area in the province. The final recommendation for the constituency of Lesser Slave Lake is 69,566 square kilometres in size, or approximately 2.5 times larger than the Netherlands. Peace River would be 109,222 square kilometres in size, or 2.4 times larger than Belgium. Together these two constituencies are 1.33 times the size of Canada’s Maritime provinces put together. Their scale far exceeds that of electoral divisions in any other area of the province. They fall within the exception to the prohibition of interference with voter parity described in the *1991 Alberta Reference*, as they are constituencies that would otherwise be “impossibly large.”

Much of the population in these ridings is concentrated along highways and not dispersed across the entire constituency. (That situation exists elsewhere, including in the mountain park constituencies.) It is not, however, evidence demonstrating that the unique geography in the north no longer continues to directly impact the goal of effective representation.

While it may seem ironic to some that geographic size is not otherwise considered, on its own, to bar the creation of geographically larger constituencies elsewhere in the province, constituencies created elsewhere are not “impossibly

large,” given their geographic size in comparison with that of Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley and Lesser Slave Lake. They enjoy better means of transportation and communication. They are typically traversed by all-season roadways in all directions and have populations scattered throughout.

The majority concluded that these two s. 15(2) constituencies should be preserved due to their remoteness, due to the disparate and small nature of their communities and because preservation would respect the common community of interest in the indigenous population of Lesser Slave Lake. The submission of residents of the Calling Lake reserve, currently located in the northwest corner of the adjacent Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater constituency, to be moved into the Lesser Slave Lake constituency, supports the conclusion that Lesser Slave Lake should be preserved as is, with the majority of its residents being indigenous, as a means of protecting that special community of interest.

Various submissions suggested that s. 15(2) status be extended to the existing Fort McMurray-Conklin and Drumheller-Stettler constituencies. The majority did not need to accept that approach because of the results of its required adjustment to the geographic size of Fort McMurray-Conklin. That riding currently has a population variance of 63% below provincial average, well below the negative 50% that is the maximum variance allowed under s. 15(2). In making that adjustment, the majority was able to create a constituency, Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche, with a population only 6% below average.

Further, extension of the s. 15(2) status to Drumheller-Stettler proved unnecessary as the final recommendation leaves it with a population only 12% below provincial average, well within the permitted variance for regular, s. 15(1) constituencies.

5. Constituency Design/Non-contiguous Constituencies

The majority’s recommendations would not result in any non-contiguous constituencies existing within the province. They would add the existing non-contiguous area of Wetaskiwin-Camrose to the proposed Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin constituency proper, by extending the new constituency’s western boundary further west to encompass the entire area surrounding Pigeon Lake as shown on Map 73, found in Appendix E. These recommendations arise from a concern that non-contiguous areas are at risk of being overlooked in the administration of elections notwithstanding the best efforts of returning officers and other Elections Alberta staff.

6. Existing Community and Municipal Boundaries

The majority’s final recommendations do not result in the division of any city or town in the province between two or more electoral divisions except in relation to those cities with a population larger than the provincial average population but smaller than that allowing for the creation of multiple constituencies, as is described above under the heading “Blended Constituencies.”

The majority has attempted to minimize the circumstances in which a county or school division contains parts or all of more than one constituency, notwithstanding submissions that suggested splitting a county between two or even three constituencies gives a greater voice to its residents as they have more than one MLA advancing their concerns in the legislature.

7. Indigenous Communities

The obligation to consider setting electoral division boundaries in such a manner as to keep common communities of interest together, where possible, applies to indigenous communities as it does to any other. This conclusion is augmented by the specific reference in s. 14(c) of the Act to Indian reserves and Métis settlements in the context of considering common community interests and community organizations.

The majority’s final recommendations, detailed in the “Final Recommendations for Electoral Boundaries” section of this report, addresses this goal by recommending:

- that the Stoney First Nation reserve and the Tsuut'ina First Nation reserve be located within the same electoral division, Banff-Kananaskis;
- that the Calling Lake area surrounding the Jean Baptiste Gambler Indian Reserve become part of the adjacent Lesser Slave Lake electoral division, moving it out of the existing Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater constituency;
- that the entire population of the four reserves, Ermineskin, Samson, Montana and Louis Bull, including those members residing at Ma-Me-O Beach and Buck Lake, be placed within the proposed Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin constituency;
- that both the Kainai (Blood) and the Siksika reserves be located within the same constituency, Cardston-Siksika;
- that the Saddle Lake reserve be placed within the same riding as the Kehiwin, Puskiakiwenin, Unipouheos, and Cold Lake reserves, as well as the Elizabeth and Fishing Lake Métis settlements, that being the Cold Lake-St. Paul constituency;
- that the Whitefish First Nation reserve be moved from Athabasca-Barrhead into Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche, where it will exist in proximity to other reserves and Métis settlements, including the Buffalo Lake and Kikino Métis settlements.

8. Geographical Features, Including Existing Road Systems

Section 14(g) of the Act directs the Commission to consider geographical features, including existing road systems, in devising its recommendations for electoral division boundaries.

The 2009-2010 Commission expressed a concern in its final report about the design of the Edmonton-Riverview constituency, as it straddles both sides of the North Saskatchewan River. This Commission, however, found that not to be a significant worry for presenters who resided in Edmonton-Riverview, or in any other of the five constituencies in each of Edmonton and Calgary that currently cross major rivers. It accepted submissions that observed the culture of communities immediately across a river from one another is often similar. It decided, therefore, not to prioritize changing boundaries to avoid straddling a river in urban areas where bridges are readily accessible.

Otherwise, the majority has attempted to use highways and major urban thoroughfares as constituency boundaries where possible.

9. Growth Trends

The majority accepts that a trend toward strong growth or loss of population in an electoral division is relevant to ensuring continued effective representation over the next eight to 10 years, before constituency boundaries are next reviewed. It did not receive and therefore did not consider express numerical growth projections from most cities, towns or rural areas. It has thus addressed this topic based on inferences drawn from disparities in the rates of actual growth since the last boundary review in 2009-2010 and from the locations of current new residential developments.

Where an electoral division's population has soared over the last eight years, and it contains land which is available for further development, the majority accepted that high growth in that constituency is likely to continue. Conversely, where the growth in an electoral division has been well below the provincial average over the last eight years, the majority accepts that trend is likely to continue.

While growth trends are relevant to continued effective representation, the majority has declined the invitations of some cities to create new constituencies with populations significantly below average in anticipation of growth. Had the majority taken projected growth trends in Alberta's larger cities fully into account, the result would have been a further reduction in the number of other constituencies in the province. Instead, the majority developed its recommendations

based on current population figures, while allowing modest additional variation from the provincial average in some high-growth areas.

10. Other Considerations in Adjustment

The majority applied the following other considerations in developing its final recommendations:

- It cannot and does not conclude that effective representation is not possible simply because a constituency would have a population of 46,803 or more. Federal electoral divisions in Alberta contain more than double the population of provincial electoral divisions. Municipal ward populations in each of Edmonton and Calgary also exceed 46,803. No argument or evidence was advanced to suggest that members of Parliament or municipal councillors are not effectively representing their constituents because of these population sizes.
- It was particularly mindful of the desirability of avoiding disruption in electoral divisions with populations very close to the provincial average except as a necessary consequence of adjusting the boundaries of neighbouring constituencies or where otherwise required to achieve effective representation.
- Much of the variance that appears in its recommendations occurs as a result of attempting to keep neighbourhoods or counties together, although that goal was not always reached. In certain urban areas, population is so dense that the splitting of some communities could not be avoided.
- It was not always possible to honour all of the, often conflicting, community boundaries in constituency design. Many counties and school districts are simply too large to be contained within a single constituency.
- Some suggested that electoral division borders should honour postal codes, to avoid the annoying result of residents receiving campaign material for constituencies other than the one in which they reside, based on MLA's mailing to all addresses in a certain postal code area. However, using postal codes as a basis for design is particularly problematic in rural areas where postal codes align with the area where people collect their mail, not necessarily where they live. Further, postal codes may change within the next eight to 10 years in high growth areas of the province.
- As with rivers, the presence of major roadways does not appear to be a reason, in and of itself, for failing to consider electoral division redesign which places such roadways within, and not at the boundaries of, a constituency. For example, the MLA for Calgary-Hays noted that the split in his riding by Deerfoot Trail improves the ease of travel to all areas of his riding.

Naming Recommendations

Pursuant to s. 3 of the Act, the Commission is empowered to make recommendations for the names of electoral divisions. A variety of submissions were received on this point, both before and after the issuance of the Commission's interim recommendations. One suggested that the names of electoral divisions be shortened. One believed that changing names caused unnecessary confusion. The mayor of Blackfalds made an impassioned submission that the name of her community be added to its electoral division to recognize the significant growth in that community.

Another submission suggested that continuing the practice of including the names of former MLAs in the names of electoral divisions could be confusing to those who have recently moved to Alberta and Canada and could implicitly create a bias toward the political party to which the politician had belonged. Some urged a return to the name Edmonton-Gold Bar rather than Edmonton-East and that Edmonton-Mill Woods East be renamed Edmonton-Meadows. A number urged that the constituency containing the Calgary International Airport continue to be named Calgary-McCall rather than Calgary-Airport.

After considering these representations, the Commission decided there was no good reason to vary the principles to be followed in recommending constituency names described in its interim report. It has, however, altered the names that it recommends be given to some proposed constituencies as described below in the section of this report entitled “Final Recommendations for Electoral Boundaries.” The principles it applied in arriving at its final naming recommendations are:

- No name change should be recommended for constituencies where boundaries continue to contain the geographic feature or geographic orientation or city/town for which they are currently named or that are named after a late politician or other prominent individual.
- Where the geographic feature, marker or city/town for which an electoral division is named is moved outside that electoral division, the electoral division should be renamed based on a geographic orientation or for another city/town that remains within its boundaries.
- Where electoral division boundaries expand to include a new city, town or First Nation reserve, consideration should be given to modifying its name to include the names of the city, town or First Nation reserve that most clearly reflects its location and size.
- Where the creation of an entirely new electoral division is recommended, it should be named according to its geographic orientation if possible, for example, Edmonton-South.
- While the Commission acknowledges the sincerity behind those recommending that Calgary-Greenway be renamed Calgary-Bhullar as a memorial to MLA Manmeet Bhullar, who died in a traffic accident while on his way to the legislature, it continues to believe that his legacy will receive a more enduring and effective tribute when recognized in other ways, as for example, by way of the naming of a Calgary elementary school for him, a school that opened in August 2017.
- To avoid confusion, no electoral division should have the same name as or a similar name to that of an existing or earlier name of a federal electoral division.

The Commission’s recommendations for the specific names of constituencies are included for each constituency in the following “Final Recommendations for Electoral Boundaries” section of this report.

Final Recommendations for Electoral Boundaries

The majority’s final recommendations for changes to the boundaries of individual electoral divisions follow. For each individual electoral division, the reasons for each recommendation, as well as the percentage variation it offers from the average population figure of 46,803, are given. The electoral divisions are listed in alphabetical order based on their recommended (new) names. This section of the report should be read in conjunction with the section entitled “General Reasons for the Commission’s Recommendations.”

Some of these final recommendations reflect changes from the boundaries recommended in the majority’s interim report, largely in areas of the province outside of Edmonton and Calgary. The Commission is grateful to have received such a large number of thoughtful, helpful responses to those recommendations. The changes reflected in these final recommendations are, in large part, the fruit of the public submissions received.

The majority recommends these changes, having concluded that they are likely to aid in ensuring effective representation. They include modifications to reduce the number of constituencies straddled by various counties; to further unite First Nation reserves and Métis settlements within a single constituency; to reduce some of the larger variances produced from the recommendations in the interim report; to physically reduce the size of constituencies; or to generally assist in uniting communities with common trading areas and cultures.

Where the majority’s final recommendation in relation to a specific constituency remains unchanged, yet the population

figure used for that constituency or the degree of variance from the provincial average changes slightly, that change is typically due to the provincial average being amended to 46,803 from the 46,697 figure used in the interim report or is the result of changes in the recommended boundaries for adjacent constituencies or is the result of rounding numbers.

The Commission attempted to honour county boundaries. Where deviations from that practice occurred, it attempted to adopt a consistent approach in the creation of those deviations. On the advice of the cartographers from Elections Alberta, where a constituency boundary adjoined a lake, the boundary was put into the centre of the lake to avoid future problems should the shoreline vary over time. Where county boundaries bisect homes or farms, the related constituency boundary may deviate slightly from the county boundary to avoid this result.

The following descriptions do not include text descriptions of the recommended boundaries of each constituency, as did the interim report. To avoid confusion, or the risk of inconsistency between the written descriptions and maps, the majority has decided to simply refer the reader to the maps of each electoral division by number as contained in Appendix E to this final report.

Airdrie-Cochrane

It is recommended that the existing electoral division of Airdrie be reformed into Airdrie-East and Airdrie-Cochrane. Airdrie-Cochrane thus becomes a new electoral division as shown in Map 47. The reasons for these recommendations are found in the “Responses to Specific Questions for Public Input” section of this report. Airdrie-Cochrane has a population of 51,170, 9% above the provincial average.

This new electoral division would recognize the surge in population north and northwest of the City of Calgary. The Town of Cochrane, based on public submissions, is more closely aligned culturally and economically to the City of Airdrie than to the Town of Banff, with which it currently shares a constituency. The City of Airdrie and the Town of Cochrane are both rapidly growing, with similar interests and challenges. They currently consult with one another in relation to the provision of services to their residents, enjoying a co-operative working arrangement between their two administrations. Aligning the Town of Cochrane with the City of Airdrie gives the residents of Cochrane a voice undiluted by the concerns of Alberta’s mountain park communities.

Airdrie-East

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Airdrie-East be as shown on Map 48, resulting in a population of 49,978, 7% above provincial average population size. It would be formed by a division of the existing Airdrie constituency into Airdrie-East and Airdrie-Cochrane. The reasons for these recommendations are found in the “Responses to Specific Questions for Public Input” section of this report.

This new electoral division would reflect the surge in population north and northeast of the City of Calgary and would address the population of the existing Airdrie constituency, now 38% above provincial average population size.

Athabasca-Barrhead

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Athabasca-Barrhead be as shown on Map 49, resulting in a population of 46,920, virtually at provincial average population size. It would be created by: moving the Town of Morinville and adjacent area from the existing constituency of Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock into the new constituency of Morinville-St. Albert; moving some acreage areas from the existing Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock constituency into the new constituency of Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland; and moving Athabasca County, including the Town of Athabasca, into the constituency of Athabasca-Barrhead from the existing Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater constituency. It would also reflect the move of the Whitefish First Nation reserve into the constituency of Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche.

This recommendation reflects changes made to the majority's interim recommendation based on significant public input to the effect that Athabasca has more in common with the communities south and west of it than to those, as earlier proposed, within the Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche constituency. The relatively significant size of the latter constituency could thus be reduced to improve communication among the MLAs representing each constituency and their constituents. It places the Town of Morinville and part of the City of St. Albert within the same constituency as a reflection of their common historic francophone roots; the residents of each of these two municipalities largely work in or near the City of Edmonton, whereas that is not the case for the residents of Barrhead and Westlock. An opportunity is thus created to reduce the size of the St. Albert-Redwater constituency as it was recommended by the majority in its interim report. While the final recommendation increases the geographic size of the Athabasca-Barrhead constituency in an east-west direction, its geographic size is reduced in a north-south direction.

Banff-Kananaskis

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Banff-Kananaskis be as shown on Map 50, resulting in a population of 46,824, virtually at average provincial population size. It would be created by joining Banff National Park and Kananaskis Country. This recommendation would move Kananaskis Country from the constituency of Livingstone-Macleod and Springbank from the existing Chestermere-Rocky View constituency into Banff-Kananaskis.

This recommendation responds to the suggestions made in various submissions: 1) to keep the Bow Valley mountain communities together rather than pooling them with the agricultural interests of foothills communities, including keeping the entirety of Kananaskis Country in one constituency; 2) to allow for a greater indigenous voice by placing both the Stoney First Nation reserve and the Tsuut'ina First Nation reserve within the same electoral division; 3) to avoid creating blended electoral divisions with the City of Calgary; 4) to give the residents of Cochrane a voice undiluted by the concerns of Alberta's mountain park communities; and 5) to place the Bergen corridor area in the Rocky Mountain House-Sundre constituency to which it has ready road access and community connections.

Brooks-Medicine Hat

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Brooks-Medicine Hat be as shown on Map 51, resulting in a population of 51,070, 9% above provincial average population size. This recommendation results from public response to one of the questions discussed in the "Responses to Specific Questions for Public Input" section of this report. It is a companion recommendation to that made for the constituency of Cypress-Medicine Hat.

The majority's final recommendations are that the existing Medicine Hat and Cypress-Medicine Hat constituencies both be reconfigured to become blended constituencies, each including a portion of the City of Medicine Hat and adjoining rural areas. These recommendations address the public concern that the Taber-Warner riding as recommended in the interim report was disproportionately large for the south-east area of the province and would create challenges for constituents and their MLA that could be lessened by reducing its geographic size.

The Brooks-Medicine Hat constituency would include the City of Brooks. That recommendation is made in response to submissions received to the effect that Brooks has more a common community of interest with Medicine Hat than it does with the Town of Strathmore, being largely composed of residents with rural connections. It is currently located within the constituency of Strathmore-Brooks.

The result of this recommendation will be to add the Towns of Brooks and Bassano and surrounding area to the northern blended constituency with Medicine Hat, including the entire County of Newell. The Commission received many submissions asking that the County of Newell not be divided among constituencies as proposed in the interim recommendations. This recommendation would reunite that county entirely within the constituency of Brooks-Medicine Hat.

The resulting 9% positive population variance is supported by the trend toward relatively low growth in this area, in

comparison to the province in general. As a result, it is anticipated that by the time of the next boundary review the population of Brooks-Medicine Hat will likely be much closer to provincial average.

These changes are part of a consolidation of seven existing electoral divisions into six because of the lower rates of population growth experienced in eastern and southeastern Alberta. Those electoral divisions are Battle River-Wainwright, Drumheller-Stettler, Strathmore-Brooks, Little Bow, Cardston-Taber-Warner, Cypress-Medicine Hat and Vermilion-Lloydminster.

Calgary Constituencies

The following recommendations regarding the boundaries of electoral divisions in Calgary should be read in conjunction with the “Process” section of this report.

Few of the final recommendations for Calgary constituencies vary substantially, or at all, from the interim recommendations. On occasion where the final recommendation does not alter the interim recommendation for a constituency, yet a slight difference in population numbers between the two appears, that difference is likely the result of rounding numbers.

Note that the majority recommends discontinuance of the Nose Hill name for any electoral division. As Nose Hill Park would border four different electoral divisions based on these final recommendations, use of that name for any one electoral division might lead to confusion.

Calgary-Acadia

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-Acadia be as shown on Map 1, resulting in a population of 48,966, 5% above provincial average population size. This final recommendation varies from the interim recommendation in that it makes minor adjustments with the goal of reuniting North Glenmore Park within one constituency, reuniting three communities belonging to the same community association and equalizing variances to a degree among the constituencies of Calgary-Acadia, Calgary-Elbow and Calgary-Glenmore. In the result, the Chinook Park community would be moved out of Calgary-Acadia and into Calgary-Glenmore. Further, Bow River would no longer bisect the constituency and, instead, would largely form its eastern boundary.

These changes would address the substantial negative population variance in the existing electoral division, while respecting neighbourhood borders to the extent possible. The remaining level of positive variance in population created is justified, in the view of the majority, by the likelihood that the population growth will fall below the provincial average, given the character of this area. As a result, its population levels will likely be at or below provincial average population by the time of the next electoral boundaries review.

Calgary-Beddington

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-Beddington be as shown on Map 2, resulting in a population of 50,220, 7% above provincial average population size. The boundaries of the existing electoral divisions of Calgary-Northern Hills and Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill were adjusted to create this constituency. The level of positive variance in population is justified, in the view of the majority, by the likelihood that the population growth rate will fall below provincial average, given the character of this central-north area. As a result, the population will likely be at or below provincial average population by the time of the next electoral boundaries review. The constituency would no longer be bisected by Deerfoot Trail, which would largely form its eastern boundary.

It is recommended that the name of this electoral division be Calgary-Beddington, as that name would most readily identify its location to residents in Calgary.

Calgary-Bow

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-Bow be as shown on Map 3, resulting in a population of 51,358, 10% above provincial average population size.

The level of positive variance in population created is justified, in the view of the majority, by the likelihood that population growth will fall below provincial average, given the character of this central area. As a result, its population levels will likely be at or below provincial average population by the time of the next electoral boundaries review.

The proposed changes move the communities of Montgomery and Spruce Cliff into the constituency. The Bow River would bisect the constituency, the result of a conscious decision by the majority to acknowledge the similarity of community and cultures on each side of the river in this area.

Calgary-Buffalo

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-Buffalo be as shown on Map 4, resulting in a population of 49,907, 7% above provincial average population size.

The reason for this recommendation is that the new electoral division would connect eastern downtown communities. These changes reflect the views of one presenter who suggested moving parts of Calgary-Fort into Calgary-Buffalo, noting that the northeast corner of downtown and the communities of Ramsay and Inglewood have similar traffic patterns and fit in well with downtown revitalization efforts. The Bow River and Deerfoot Trail are also natural boundaries that separated these areas from the rest of the Calgary-Fort constituency.

The level of positive variance in the population created is justified, in the view of the majority, by the likelihood that population growth will fall below provincial average, given the character of this central area. As a result, it is expected that population levels will likely be at or below provincial average population by the time of the next electoral boundaries review.

Calgary-Cross

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-Cross be as shown on Map 5, resulting in a population of 50,634, 8% above provincial average population size.

The final recommendation for Calgary-Cross varies somewhat from the interim recommendation as it includes changes aimed at reuniting the Marlborough community by moving the south part of it from the proposed Calgary-East into Calgary-Cross, and then moving the Abbeydale community from Calgary-Cross into the proposed Calgary-East.

This level of positive variance in population created is justified, in the view of the majority, by the likelihood that population growth will fall below provincial average, given the character of this area. While the eastern border of the electoral division is formed by the city limits, no land is available for residential development to the east, given the industrial and other uses of that area. As a result, the population levels will likely be at or below provincial average population by the time of the next electoral boundaries review.

Calgary-Currie

It is recommended the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-Currie be as shown on Map 6, resulting in a population of 48,403, 3% above provincial average population size. This recommendation would cause the community of Rutland Park to be moved from the current electoral division of Calgary-Elbow and into this riding and the community of Wildwood be removed from it and moved into the constituency of Calgary-Bow.

While the proposed adjustments would result in little other change to the population from the existing electoral division,

they permit adjustment to the boundaries and population of adjoining electoral divisions to bring them closer to provincial average population with minimal division of communities.

Calgary-East

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-East be as shown on Map 7, resulting in a population of 50,838, 9% above provincial average population size. This final recommendation varies somewhat from that contained in the interim report, as it recommends restoring the name of Calgary-East to this constituency due to concern that the proposed name of Calgary-Forest would cause confusion with the overlapping federal constituency of a similar name. This recommendation also includes changes aimed at reuniting the Marlborough neighbourhood by moving the southern part of it from Calgary-East into Calgary-Cross and then moving the community of Abbeydale from Calgary-Cross into Calgary-East. The community of Dover would then be divided along 36 St. SE, along a north-south orientation, with the western part of the community in Calgary-Peigan and the eastern part in Calgary-East.

This degree of positive variance is justified by the fact this constituency is largely built-out. Future population growth is likely to fall below provincial average, given the character of this area. As a result, its population levels will likely be at or below provincial average population by the time of the next electoral boundaries review. While the northern and eastern borders of the electoral division are partially formed by the city limits, no land is available for residential development to the east, given the industrial and other uses of that area.

Calgary-Edgemont

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-Edgemont be as shown on Map 8, resulting in a population of 50,803, 9% above provincial average population size. The majority considered this degree of variance to be justified as the result of reuniting the Dalhousie community within the constituency.

The final recommendation differs somewhat from the interim recommendation in that it reflects changes aimed at that reunification. It results in moving that portion of Dalhousie earlier proposed to be contained in Calgary-Varsity into Calgary-Edgemont.

Calgary-Elbow

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-Elbow be as shown on Map 9, resulting in a population of 48,618, 4% above provincial average population size. The final recommendation for this constituency varies from the interim recommendation in that it makes minor adjustments with the goal of reuniting North Glenmore Park in one constituency, reuniting three communities belonging to the same community association and equalizing variances to a degree among the constituencies of Calgary-Acadia, Calgary-Elbow and Calgary-Glenmore. It is recommended that the part of North Glenmore Park south of the Glenmore Trail, in the Calgary-Glenmore riding, be moved into the Calgary-Elbow riding. It is then recommended that the Kelvin Grove community be moved out of Calgary-Elbow and into Calgary-Glenmore.

Calgary-Falconridge

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-Falconridge be as shown on Map 10, resulting in a population of 52,688, 13% above provincial average population size.

This level of positive variance in population created is justified, in the view of the majority, by the likelihood that population growth will fall below provincial average, given the character of this area. As a result, its population levels will likely be at or below provincial average population by the time of the next electoral boundaries review. While the eastern border

of the electoral division is formed by the city limits, no land is available for residential development to the east, given the industrial and other uses of that area.

Calgary-Fish Creek

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-Fish Creek be as shown on Map 11, resulting in a population of 47,691, 2% above provincial average population size. This proposal gathers communities with shared interests, while addressing the current high negative variance from the provincial average population.

Calgary-Foothills

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-Foothills be as shown on Map 12, resulting in a population of 45,715 or 2% below provincial average population size. This is an area trending toward future high growth, containing significant lands which will likely be used for future residential development.

Calgary-Glenmore

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-Glenmore be as shown on Map 13, with a population of 49,543, 6% above provincial average population size. The final recommendation for this constituency varies from the interim recommendation in that it makes minor adjustments with the goal of: reuniting North Glenmore Park in the Calgary-Elbow constituency; reuniting three communities, Kelvin Grove, Chinook Park and Eagle Ridge, which belong to the same community association; and equalizing variances to a degree among the constituencies of Calgary-Acadia, Calgary-Elbow and Calgary-Glenmore. It is recommended that the part of North Glenmore Park south of the Glenmore Trail in the proposed Calgary-Glenmore riding be moved into the proposed Calgary-Elbow riding. It is then recommended that the Kelvin Grove community be moved out of Calgary-Elbow and into Calgary-Glenmore. Finally, the Chinook Park community would be moved out of Calgary-Acadia and into Calgary-Glenmore.

Calgary-Hays

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-Hays be as shown on Map 14, with a population of 50,782, 9% above provincial average population size. The final recommendation for this riding differs from that contained in the interim report in that it adjusts the border between Calgary-Hays and Calgary-Peigan to reduce the number of communities that were split by the interim proposal. It would move part of the McKenzie Towne community, north of McKenzie Towne Boulevard, into Calgary-Hays from Calgary-Peigan, thus reuniting McKenzie Towne.

This level of positive variance in population created is justified, in the view of the majority, by the likelihood that population growth will fall below provincial average, given the character of this area. As a result, its population levels will likely be at or below provincial average population by the time of the next electoral boundaries review.

Calgary-Klein

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-Klein be as shown on Map 15, resulting in a population of 50,338, 8% above provincial average population size.

The level of positive variance in population created is justified, in the view of the majority, by the likelihood that population growth will fall below provincial average, given the fully “built-out” character of this area, with the result that its population levels will likely be at or below provincial average population by the time of the next electoral boundaries review.

Calgary-Lougheed

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-Lougheed be as shown on Map 16, resulting

in a population of 42,956, 8% below provincial average population size. This degree of negative variance from provincial average population is justified because this electoral division contains areas of new growth. The recommended boundaries avoid splitting communities unnecessarily.

Calgary-McCall

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-McCall be as shown on Map 17, resulting in a population of 48,735, 4% above provincial average population size.

Public input on the subject of the name of this constituency was universal in requesting that it remain Calgary-McCall. Although the McCall Industrial Park would not be included in the riding, submitters believed that the name McCall is so closely associated with the history of aviation in Calgary that retaining the name Calgary-McCall would resonate with constituents and all Calgarians in general. The final recommendation is therefore to abandon the proposed name of Calgary-Airport and retain that of Calgary-McCall.

Calgary-Mountain View

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-Mountain View be as shown on Map 18, resulting in a population of 49,422, 6% above provincial average population size. The final recommendation differs somewhat from the interim recommendation in that it reflects changes aimed at reuniting the Dalhousie community in Calgary-Edgemont. It is the result of moving that portion of Dalhousie formerly proposed to be contained in Calgary-Varsity. It then moves the remaining portion of the West Hillhurst community from Calgary-Varsity into Calgary-Mountain View and moves the Banff Trail community from Calgary-Mountain View into Calgary-Varsity. The 6% positive population variance is lower than the 10% positive variance produced by the interim recommendation.

Calgary-North

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-North be as shown in Map 19, resulting in a population of 39,120, 16% below the provincial average population size. This is the largest variance resulting from the final recommendations but is justified, in the view of the majority, by the trend toward high growth in this area.

This recommendation differs somewhat from the interim recommendation in that it reunites the entire community of Livingstone in the Calgary-North East constituency, removing a portion of it from the proposed Calgary-North constituency. While there is currently no population that will be affected by this recommendation, it will affect population likely to move into the area before the next electoral boundary review.

This recommendation would create an electoral division at the northern edge of the central part of the City of Calgary, from areas contained in the existing Calgary-Northern Hills and Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill constituencies. Because most of the communities bearing the “Hills” name have been moved into the electoral division of Calgary-North East, it is recommended that the name of the constituency change from Calgary Northern Hills to Calgary-North.

Calgary-North East (new)

It is recommended that a new electoral division, Calgary-North East, be created in the northeast corner of the City of Calgary, bounded by the city limits to the north and east as shown on Map 20, resulting in a population of 40,366, some 14% below the provincial average. This variance is justified, in the view of the majority, by the fact that the areas included in this proposed constituency are some of the highest growth areas in the City of Calgary.

In keeping with the majority view that communities should be kept intact as much as possible, this constituency design maintains the integrity of communities on each side of the Deerfoot Trail. Conversely, any constituency design that did not include areas on both sides of the Deerfoot simply meant other constituencies, further south, would have had

to do so. The majority could find no option that avoided crossing the Deerfoot Trail at any point in the City of Calgary. The final recommendation for Calgary-North East differs somewhat from the interim recommendation in that it reunites the entire community of Livingstone in Calgary-North East, removing a portion of it from the proposed Calgary-North constituency. While there is currently no population that will be affected by this recommendation, it will affect population likely to move into the area before the next electoral boundary review.

Calgary-North West

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary North-West remain as they now exist, as shown on Map 21, resulting in a population of 48,766, 4% above the provincial average.

Calgary-Peigan

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-Peigan be as shown on Map 22, resulting in a population of 45,810, 2% below provincial average population size. This recommendation results in the Bow River forming a western boundary for the constituency, rather than bisecting it as it currently does.

The final recommendation for this riding differs from that in the interim report in that it reunites the Marlborough neighbourhood by moving the southern part of it from Calgary-East into Calgary-Cross and then moving the community of Abbeydale from Calgary-Cross into Calgary-East. The community of Dover would be divided along a north-south orientation, along 36 St SE, with the western part of the community joining Calgary-Peigan and the eastern part joining Calgary-East.

Further, the border between Calgary-Hays and Calgary-Peigan would change to reduce the number of communities split by the interim proposal. The final recommendation would move the part of the McKenzie Towne, north of McKenzie Towne Boulevard, into Calgary-Hays from Calgary-Peigan, thus reuniting McKenzie Towne.

These boundary changes remove Fort Calgary from the electoral division and into Calgary-Buffalo. It is recommended that the name thus be changed to Calgary-Peigan, reflecting the presence of Peigan Trail running across its northern edge.

Calgary-Shaw

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-Shaw be as shown on Map 23, resulting in a population of 45,169, 3% below provincial average population size. While this electoral division contains an area trending toward high growth, a larger negative variance was not justified in the view of the majority, as it would have required the division of communities between different electoral divisions.

Calgary-South East

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-South East be as shown on Map 24, resulting in a population of 40,309, 14% below provincial average population size. This degree of negative variance from provincial average is justified because this electoral division contains areas of trending toward high growth, given the presence of significant lands likely to be used for future residential development.

This recommendation results in the constituency no longer being bisected by the Bow River, which will now form much of its western boundary.

Calgary-Varsity

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-Varsity be as shown on Map 25, resulting in a population of 45,742, 2% below provincial average population size. The final recommendation differs somewhat from the

interim recommendation in that it reflects changes aimed at reuniting the Dalhousie community in Calgary-Edgemont. It results in moving that portion of Dalhousie proposed to be contained in Calgary-Varsity into Calgary-Edgemont. It moves the remaining portion of the West Hillhurst community from Calgary-Varsity into Calgary-Mountain View and moves the Banff Trail community from Calgary-Mountain View into Calgary-Varsity.

This recommendation supports the suggestion of one presenter who said Point McKay should be included in Calgary-Varsity as it has similar demographics.

Calgary-West

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Calgary-West remain unchanged, as shown on Map 26, resulting in a population of 46,266, 1% below the provincial average.

Camrose

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Camrose be as shown on Map 52, resulting in a population of 44,082, 6% below average provincial population size.

In response to public submissions relating to the interim proposed Stettler-Wainwright and other constituencies, the final recommendations vary significantly from the interim ones. They redesign this area of the province into two relatively square-shaped constituencies, aligned north-south rather than east-west to reduce concerns about driving distances and communication challenges. The result is the final recommendations call for the creation of the Camrose and Vermilion-Wainwright constituencies, with the return of the Town of Stettler and surrounding area to the Drumheller-Stettler constituency.

The Camrose constituency would contain communities that are largely agriculturally-based and thus share a common culture. It would be composed of the City of Camrose and surrounding area, currently part of the Wetaskiwin-Camrose constituency, along with the western portions of the current Vermilion-Lloydminster constituency. It would include Hardisty to the south east, Bashaw to the south west, Tofield to the north west and Viking to the north east. It would contain the larger part of the Camrose County, with the balance remaining in the proposed Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin riding. The entire county could not be kept together due to population size concerns.

The Camrose constituency would contain the entire County of Flagstaff. The majority notes the importance of keeping Flagstaff County within a single constituency as the county is doing significant work related to inter-municipal partnerships and is considered a template for regionalization. The recommendation respects requests that Camrose be placed in a different constituency than the City of Wetaskiwin, with which it does not entirely share the same culture.

These changes are part of a consolidation of seven existing electoral divisions into six because of the lower rates of population growth experienced in southeast Alberta. Those electoral divisions are Battle River-Wainwright, Drumheller-Stettler, Strathmore-Brooks, Little Bow, Cardston-Taber-Warner, Cypress-Medicine Hat and Vermilion-Lloydminster.

Cardston-Siksika

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Cardston-Siksika be as shown on Map 53, resulting in a population of 42,655, 9% below provincial average population size. This negative variance is supported by the trend toward relatively high growth in the area.

The electoral division would be created from portions of the existing Cardston-Taber-Warner and Little Bow electoral divisions. Waterton would be moved into the electoral division of Livingstone-Macleod from the existing Cardston-Taber-Warner constituency. The recommendation would also add the Siksika First Nation reserve and the Town of Gleichen to the same constituency in which the Kainai (Blood) First Nation reserve is located.

This recommendation would place similar communities within the same constituency and respond to various requests to move Waterton into Livingstone-Macleod, a constituency containing similar mountain communities.

With the move of the Towns of Taber and Warner out of the electoral division, its name should be changed. The majority recommends that it become Cardston-Siksika, in reference to the large Siksika First Nation reserve located within its northern boundary and the Town of Cardston being a significant geographic reference near its southern boundary.

These changes are part of a consolidation of seven existing electoral divisions into six because of the lower rates of population growth experienced in southeast Alberta. Those electoral divisions are Battle River-Wainwright, Drumheller-Stettler, Strathmore-Brooks, Little Bow, Cardston-Taber-Warner, Cypress-Medicine Hat and Vermilion-Lloydminster.

Central Peace-Notley

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Central Peace-Notley be as shown on Map 54, resulting in a population of 28,993, 38% below provincial average population size. The status of Central Peace-Notley as a s. 15(2) constituency is discussed in the section of this report entitled “Responses to Specific Questions for Public Input” and in its general discussion on s. 15(2) status .

While the Commission recommends that s. 15(2) status be continued for this riding, the boundaries of the existing Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley riding must nonetheless be moved to increase its population, which at 23,094 is currently 51% below provincial average and below the maximum variance permitted for s. 15(2) constituencies.

The Commission received significant public input on its interim proposal to undertake this expansion by including that portion of the existing Grande Prairie-Wapiti constituency that extends northward from the Wapiti River to the existing boundary between the two constituencies. Every presenter who spoke on the subject urged the expansion of Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley along the eastern side of the Grande Prairie constituency rather than along the west, arguing that the interim recommendation would divide the primarily agricultural communities in the northwest portion of the existing Grande Prairie-Wapiti riding. A better community of interest was suggested among the communities in Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley and those located along the Highway 43 access, the Towns of Valleyview and Fox Creek.

This final recommendation would remove significant area from the existing Grande Prairie-Smokey constituency into the Central Peace-Notley constituency. It would remove the entire Shaftesbury Settlement from this constituency into the Peace River constituency. It would use the Wapiti River as its southern boundary rather than the county boundary to avoid creating isolated pockets from the north side of the river, pockets that had no road access directly into the constituency.

It is recommended that, reflecting these changes, the electoral division’s name be shortened to Central Peace-Notley which continues to convey the geographic extent of the new boundaries while being simpler to use and remember than the existing three-part name.

Chestermere-Strathmore

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Chestermere-Strathmore be as shown on Map 55, with a population of 48,203, 3% above provincial average population size. This constituency would be formed from portions of the former Chestermere-Rocky View and Strathmore-Brooks constituencies. The Town of Strathmore would be added to it. The area south of the Bow River would be moved from it into the proposed constituency of Okotoks-Sheep River (formerly Highwood). It would maintain the jog in the eastern boundary to allow the Namaka area to remain in the same constituency as the associated Siksika First Nation reserve.

As discussed in relation to the Airdrie-Cochrane constituency in the section of this report entitled “Responses to Specific Questions for Public Input,” the Commission gave serious consideration to a submission by the mayor of Airdrie. It urged that the Chestermere-Rocky View constituency be reconfigured, in the course of reconfiguring Airdrie, to produce three

constituencies, none of which was to be a blend between portions of the City of Airdrie and the Town of Cochrane. The Commission was unable to devise three such constituencies which met the mandatory limits for deviation from provincial average population size, however, and thus could not give effect to this suggestion.

This final recommendation reflects the wishes of every person who made a submission on the topic: all wanted the constituency to be reshaped to improve access, to remove the need to drive through the City of Calgary to attend to constituency matters on the opposite side of the city (as required by the shape of the existing Chestermere-Rocky view constituency), and to connect the population in the north of the constituency to the population in Airdrie, which largely shares the same community of interest.

Further, it joins the Town of Strathmore with the City of Chestermere, both of which contain a considerable number of residents who work in the City of Calgary, thus joining common communities of interest. Strathmore currently shares the same riding as the City of Brooks, a primarily agricultural community.

Cold Lake-St. Paul

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Cold Lake-St. Paul be as shown on Map 56, resulting in a population of 53,809, 15% above provincial average population size. The majority believes this variance can be supported as this is an area where future population growth is likely to fall well below the provincial average. It is also a constituency that would be relatively small in geographic size, with the uninhabited Air Weapons Range being a large part of its geography. It is expected that by the time the electoral boundaries are next reviewed, the constituency population will be at or below the provincial average.

The constituency would include the Air Weapons Range, the Town of Bonnyville, the Town of St. Paul, the Saddle Lake First Nation reserve, and the Town of Elk Point. This recommendation varies from the interim recommendation made in relation to Bonnyville-Cold Lake, arising from significant public input received to the effect that St. Paul and Saddle Lake, immediately adjacent to one another, share common trading areas and should be placed within the same constituency. In consequence, the western section of the current Bonnyville-Cold Lake area would move into the proposed Athabasca-Barrhead constituency.

This recommendation achieves the suggestion, made by more than one submitter, that the Air Weapons Range be incorporated into the same constituency as the main roadway into the range. It would also maintain historic connections between Bonnyville and Cold Lake.

Various submitters asked the Commission to recommend constituencies with a smaller geographical size and shorter travel distances than those experienced in the existing Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills riding. This recommendation moves toward achieving that goal.

This recommendation contributes to the consolidation of four existing electoral divisions, including Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville and Bonnyville-Cold Lake, into three constituencies all located in the central northeast area of the province.

Cypress-Medicine Hat

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Cypress-Medicine Hat be as shown on Map 57, resulting in a population of 50,109, 7% above provincial average population size. This recommendation results from public response to one of the questions discussed in the “Responses to Specific Questions for Public Input” section of this report. It is made for the reasons given in that section and is a companion recommendation to that made for the constituency of Brooks-Medicine Hat.

The majority’s final recommendations are that the existing Medicine Hat and Cypress-Medicine Hat constituencies be

reconfigured to become blended constituencies, each including a portion of the City of Medicine Hat and adjoining rural areas. These recommendations address the public concern that the Taber-Warner riding created by the interim recommendation was disproportionately large for the southeast area of the province and would thus create communication challenges for constituents. They deviate from using the river as a boundary between the two blended constituencies to avoid a more disparate split of population between them.

Further, this final recommendation does not result in an electoral division that extends across the whole southern border of the province, a criticism often voiced by presenters about the federal electoral boundary in this area. It allows the reunification of the entire County of Forty Mile in the Taber-Warner constituency. The new electoral division would consist of communities with similar cultures and economies, largely agricultural.

These changes are part of a consolidation of seven existing electoral divisions into six because of the lower rates of population growth experienced in southeast Alberta. Those electoral divisions are Battle River-Wainwright, Drumheller-Stettler, Strathmore-Brooks, Little Bow, Cardston-Taber-Warner, Cypress-Medicine Hat and Vermilion-Lloydminster.

Drayton Valley-Devon

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Drayton Valley-Devon be as shown on Map 58, resulting in a population of 46,637, virtually at the average provincial population size. This final recommendation varies significantly from the interim recommendation, directly in response to significant public input.

The Town of Drayton Valley would return to this constituency, removing it from the proposed Drayton Valley-Rocky Mountain House constituency. Public presenters advised that Drayton Valley is more aligned with the communities to the east of it, including Devon, rather than to the south. This recommendation largely respects the transportation corridor down Highway 16X. It also keeps suburban areas together.

The final recommendation would add the northern portion of the Devon-Parkland constituency as proposed in the interim report, being the area north of the Brazeau County boundary, to the proposed Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland constituency.

These changes are part of a consolidation of five constituencies into four because of reduced population growth in mid-west Alberta. The five constituencies are currently Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre, West Yellowhead, Drayton Valley-Devon, Whitecourt-Ste. Anne and Stony Plain.

Drumheller-Stettler

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Drumheller-Stettler be as shown on Map 59, with a population of 41,535, 11% below provincial average population size. This variance is a significant improvement over the existing variance of negative 21%.

The Town of Stettler and surrounding area would be returned to this constituency, and the Town of Strathmore would move from it into the proposed Chestermere-Strathmore constituency. This final recommendation flows from the public response to the interim proposal for this constituency, as discussed in the “Responses to Specific Questions for Public Input” section of this report. Submitters viewed the suburban nature of the Town of Strathmore as so significantly different than the rural and tourism base in Drumheller that they should not be placed in the same constituency.

This recommendation keeps virtually all of the three special areas in the centre of the constituency intact, allowing them to continue to operate effectively as one, subject to a single administration. As a result, the administration of all these special areas can continue to cooperate in the delivery of fire, emergency, water, waste, and planning services, notwithstanding low population levels, a wish expressed by more than one submitter. The recommendation it addresses the concern of speakers regarding the significant positive population variance proposed in the interim recommendation.

These changes are part of a consolidation of seven existing electoral divisions into six because of the lower rates of

population growth experienced in southeast Alberta. Those electoral divisions are Battle River-Wainwright, Drumheller-Stettler, Strathmore-Brooks, Little Bow, Cardston-Taber-Warner, Cypress-Medicine Hat and Vermilion-Lloydminster.

Edmonton Constituencies

The following recommendations regarding the boundaries of electoral divisions in Edmonton should be read in conjunction with the “Process” section of this report. Few of the final recommendations for Edmonton constituencies vary substantially, or at all, from the interim recommendations.

Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview be as shown on Map 27, resulting in a population of 46,496, 1% below provincial average population size. The western boundary of Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview would shift by 20 people, as a result of a decision to straighten the boundaries of Edmonton-Decore and Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood so they follow 66 Street south down to the Yellowhead Trail.

Edmonton-Castle Downs

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Edmonton-Castle Downs be as shown on Map 28, resulting in a population of 46,612, 1% below provincial average population size. While the Commission received submissions to the effect that the MLA for this constituency would be able to effectively represent constituents if the population in it remained at its current plus 11% variance, the right of effective representation is the constituent’s right, not that of their MLA, and the majority remained concerned about leaving such a high variance in a rapidly growing area of the city.

Edmonton-City Centre

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Edmonton-City Centre be as shown on Map 29, resulting in a population of 47, 715, 2% above the provincial average.

Edmonton-Decore

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Edmonton-Decore be as shown on Map 30, resulting in a population of 48,927, 5% above provincial average population size. The majority recommends moving part of Edmonton-Decore into Edmonton-Manning, with the boundary between them to run down 66 Street rather than 56 Street. See the description of Edmonton-Manning for further detail. The final recommendation also includes moving the southern boundary down to the Yellowhead Highway, taking a small slice from Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

Edmonton-Ellerslie

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Edmonton-Ellerslie be as shown on Map 31, resulting in a population of 48,024, 3% above provincial average population size. By moving its western boundary toward the east, this recommendation allows for the creation of a new electoral division between the constituencies of Edmonton-Ellerslie and Edmonton-South West, to be called Edmonton-South.

This recommendation would also absorb land currently in the process of being annexed by the City of Edmonton. It varies slightly from the interim recommendation by deleting nine quarter sections of land along the northern border of the Town of Beaumont that have now been annexed by that town. The southern boundary of the constituency of Edmonton-Ellerslie would thus still extend to the northern boundary of the Town of Beaumont, but that boundary is in a somewhat different location than at the time of preparation of the interim recommendations. A small exception is found in relation to the Town of Beaumont. Road access on either side of Highway 814 falls within that town but would be added to the constituency of Edmonton Ellerslie, with the rest of the town falling within the riding of Leduc-Beaumont.

Edmonton-Glenora

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Edmonton-Glenora be as shown on Map 32, resulting in a population of 45,519, 3% below provincial average population size. It was suggested to the Commission at a public hearing that the addition of the community of Prince Rupert, as recommended, was a good fit for the constituency.

Edmonton-Gold Bar

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Edmonton-Gold Bar be as shown on Map 33, resulting in a population of 45,446, 3% below provincial average population size. It is recommended that the existing name of Edmonton-Gold Bar be restored to this constituency. Many presenters requested this change, some of them out of concern that the proposed Edmonton-East name would cause confusion because that is the name of a former federal constituency.

The final recommendation also reflects public submissions to the effect that the proposed addition of the Tamarack communities is not a good fit with this constituency given the differing demographics of each area. It would remove this area from Edmonton-Gold Bar and add it to Edmonton-Meadows. It would restore the neighborhood of Bonnie Doon, earlier recommended to become part of Edmonton-Strathcona, to Edmonton-Gold Bar.

The majority was unable to implement the recommendation of one submitter who suggested the Riverdale and/or Ritchie neighbourhoods be incorporated into Edmonton-Gold Bar, as they have socioeconomic similarities. To do so would require moving the constituency's boundaries through Edmonton-Strathcona, unnecessarily disturbing community boundaries in that constituency.

Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood be as shown on Map 34, resulting in a population of 43,550, 7% below provincial average population size. This final recommendation varies from the interim recommendation to reflect the removal of the entire area north of Yellowhead Trail, which includes the entire area north of the CNR railway tracks up to Edmonton-Decore.

This constituency is centrally located and fully built-out with no expectation for disproportionate future population growth. This recommendation reflects the observation of one presenter that the only two boundaries that could be moved easily would be the northern or eastern boundaries of the existing constituency.

Edmonton-Manning

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Edmonton-Manning be as shown on Map 35, resulting in a population of 48,376, 3% above provincial average population size. This final recommendation would move the western boundary to follow 66 Street rather than 56 Street, with the result that a portion of the constituency of Edmonton-Decore would move into the constituency of Edmonton-Manning. This responds to several submissions criticizing the proposed 56 Street border which would apparently place the community skating rink in one constituency with the immediately adjacent community hall being placed in another.

Edmonton-McClung

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Edmonton-McClung be as shown on Map 36, resulting in a population of 44,625, 5% below provincial average population. This final recommendation varies somewhat from the interim recommendation in that it moves the communities of Patricia Heights, Rio Terrace and Quesnell Heights into the constituency of Edmonton-Riverview from the constituency of Edmonton-McClung. The majority accepted submissions to the effect that these neighborhoods are more akin to the other neighborhoods that skirt the top of the north bank of the North Saskatchewan River than they are to other areas in Edmonton-McClung.

Edmonton-Meadows

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Edmonton-Meadows be as shown on Map 37, producing a population of 51,776, 11% above the provincial average. This degree of positive variance is the result of accepting public submissions to the effect that the Tamarack communities be moved into Edmonton-Meadows from the Edmonton-Gold Bar constituency, given that the demographics in the young and growing Tamarack area are more akin to that of the Meadows neighborhoods. As such, it is justified by a desire to honour common communities of interest.

These recommendations create a constituency that includes portions of the existing Edmonton-Mill Creek constituency but leaves the part of Mill Creek most well-known to Edmontonians in the constituency of Edmonton-Gold Bar. The majority's interim recommendation was that the electoral division's name change to Edmonton-Mill Woods East, as a reflection of its geographic location. However, in response to various submissions noting that this proposed constituency contains only a small portion of the Mill Woods neighborhoods, but most or all the Meadows neighborhoods, the majority accepts it should be renamed Edmonton-Meadows.

Edmonton-Mill Woods

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Edmonton-Mill Woods be as shown on Map 38, resulting in a population of 50,265, 7% above provincial average population size.

This degree of positive variance is justified by the fully built-out nature of this area, with the result that its population growth is likely to fall below provincial average growth rates in the future. Given the recommendation that the proposed Edmonton-Mill Woods East be named Edmonton-Meadows, the name of this constituency should revert to the existing Edmonton-Mill Woods name.

Edmonton-North West

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Edmonton-North West be as shown on Map 39, resulting in a population of 45,523, 3% below provincial average population size.

While the Commission received submissions to the effect that residents of the Calder neighborhood wished to remain in this constituency, rather than be joined with other neighborhoods on the other side of Yellowhead Trail in the Edmonton-West Henday constituency, to make that change, the neighborhoods of Wellington and Athlone should also be moved to the north side of that freeway. These three neighborhoods are of similar vintage and demographics and are dissimilar from the newer neighborhoods directly to the north of them.

The population of these three neighborhoods, along with any population in McArthur Industrial and Hagmann Estate Industrial that are part of the same general area, was too large to be moved without creating significant variances from provincial average population size in both Edmonton-North West and Edmonton-West Henday. While Yellowhead Trail is a major highway, many roads and overpasses exist to allow it to be crossed without delay. It is far from a major practical obstacle to communication, as evidenced by the fact that many residents of northern Edmonton communities cross it twice a day to get to and from work.

Because the community of Calder would no longer be in this constituency, the majority recommends the name of the constituency be changed to Edmonton-North West, which is geographically descriptive of the location.

Edmonton-Riverview

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Edmonton-Riverview be as shown on Map 40, resulting in a population of 45,214, 3% below provincial average population size. This final recommendation varies somewhat from the interim recommendation in that it would move the communities of Patricia Heights, Rio Terrace and Quesnell Heights into Edmonton Riverview from Edmonton McClung. The majority accepted submissions to the

effect that these neighborhoods are more akin to the other neighborhoods that skirt the top of the north bank of the North Saskatchewan River than they are to the other areas in Edmonton McClung. It also moves the communities of Malmo Plains and Lendrum Place from the portion of Edmonton-Riverview on the south side of the North Saskatchewan River into Edmonton-Strathcona.

The majority determined that to bring the constituency population closer to the provincial average, it made more sense to move population into it from the former Edmonton-Meadowlark constituency rather than from the relatively underpopulated constituencies of Edmonton-McClung and Edmonton-Glenora. Various presenters made alternative suggestions to add population to the constituency, but none accounted for the companion need to also move population out of the adjoining Edmonton-Meadowlark.

No submission suggested that the electoral division be reconfigured so that it is not bisected by the North Saskatchewan River. Rather, several presenters observed that the presence of the river does not hinder communication or contact, given the availability of bridges. They also observed that the communities of interest on either side of the river, within the electoral division, shared some commonalities.

Edmonton-Rutherford

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Edmonton-Rutherford be as shown on Map 41, resulting in a population of 47,353, 1% above provincial average population size. This recommendation is based on submissions that urged Twin Brooks be moved into the constituency, uniting all neighborhoods on the northern side of the Anthony Henday, which forms a natural southern boundary to the electoral division.

Edmonton-South (new)

It is recommended that a new electoral division, Edmonton-South, be created in the south of Edmonton, bounded by the city limits to the south, all as shown on Map 42, resulting in a population of 45,801, 2% below provincial average population size. This new constituency would incorporate portions of the existing Edmonton-Ellerslie and Edmonton-South West constituencies and include a portion of the lands within the electoral division of Leduc-Beaumont currently being annexed by the City of Edmonton, reaching down along Highway 2 to Highway 19. Its western boundary would be formed by Whitemud Creek.

Every submitter or presenter who spoke on the topic urged that a new electoral division be created in Edmonton, justified by population numbers, and that it be in the south of the city. While this new constituency would be bisected by Gateway Boulevard and Calgary Trail, this was not seen as an insurmountable barrier given its otherwise logical location.

It is recommended this new constituency be named Edmonton-South as a reflection of its geographic location.

Edmonton-South West

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Edmonton-South West be as shown on Map 43, resulting in a population of 45,901, 2% below provincial average population size. The constituency would continue to be divided by the North Saskatchewan River. Its eastern boundary would move further east to allow for the creation of the constituency of Edmonton-South. The constituency of Edmonton-South West would include a portion of the lands currently being annexed by the City of Edmonton from the electoral division of Leduc-Beaumont, reaching down from the existing southern boundary of the city to Highway 19. Its eastern boundary would be formed by Whitemud Creek.

In the result, the neighbourhood of Twin Brooks would be moved from the riding of Edmonton-South West into the riding of Edmonton-Rutherford so that no portion of the riding of Edmonton-South West would lie north of the Anthony Henday. The reasons for these recommendations include the need to split the constituency due to its explosive growth since the last electoral boundary review.

The changes do not unite the electoral division on the south side of the North Saskatchewan River as was suggested at public hearings. To do so would impede the creation of the new constituency of Edmonton-South in its most logical location, a development supported by all who made submissions on the subject.

Edmonton-Strathcona

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Edmonton-Strathcona be as shown on Map 44, resulting in a population of 46,578 virtually at the provincial average population size. This final recommendation varies somewhat from the interim recommendation in that it would move the community of Bonnie Doon out of Edmonton-Strathcona, where it was placed by the interim recommendations, and back into Edmonton-Gold Bar. It would also move the communities of Malmo Plains and Lendrum Place, located on the south side of the North Saskatchewan River, from the constituency of Edmonton-Riverview into the constituency of Edmonton-Strathcona.

This recommendation would keep the francophone community intact within the adjoining electoral division of Edmonton-Gold Bar. Other submissions from the public could not be implemented as they assumed the existing constituency population was above rather than below the provincial average population size.

Edmonton-West Henday

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Edmonton-West Henday be as shown on Map 45, resulting in a population of 43,046, 8% below provincial average population size. The majority believes this variance is justified because the electoral division contains rapidly developing residential areas at Edmonton's western boundary. It is likely the population in this electoral division will be at or above the provincial average at the time of the next electoral boundary review.

As these changes would move the neighbourhood of Meadowlark out of the constituency, it is recommended that the constituency name be changed to Edmonton-West Henday, referring to its geographic location.

Edmonton-Whitemud

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Edmonton-Whitemud be as shown on Map 46, resulting in a population of 46,833, virtually at the provincial average population size. The resulting serpentine shape of the constituency might appear unusual, but that shape results from using the path of the North Saskatchewan River as the western boundary and that of Whitemud Creek as the eastern boundary.

Unfortunately this does not result in all of the Riverbend and Terwillegar, communities being included within a single constituency, notwithstanding the views of one presenter who urged keeping the electoral division intact, describing the Terwillegar and Riverbend neighbourhoods as "a town within a city." Magrath and Mactaggart, part of the Terwillegar Community League, have been moved into Edmonton South. This recommendation does avoid moving part of the constituency to the west/north side of the North Saskatchewan River which would have been an unhappy result in the view of another presenter.

Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche

See also the discussion under Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo below.

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche be as shown on Map 60, resulting in a population of 44,166, 6% below provincial average population size. This degree of negative variance is supported by the realistic expectation that, as the oil and gas industry recovers from its recent economic downturn, residents will return to the constituency or new residents will move into it.

Determination of the correct population size for the existing Fort McMurray-Conklin constituency and the configuration

of the two existing Fort McMurray ridings were two of the questions addressed in the “Responses to Special Questions for Public Input” section of this report. The reasons for the final recommendations made in relation to each of them are to be found in that section. Please also see the discussion of this situation contained in the section of this report entitled “Sources of Population Information: Canada 2016 Census.”

The final recommendation relies on the 2016 federal census numbers for the existing Fort McMurray-Conklin constituency, giving it a population of 26,309, some 48% below the provincial average. That figure indicates that even before any population loss due to the 2016 wildfires, the population of this constituency was well below the maximum negative variance permitted by s.15(1) of the Act. This population figure is said to have arisen in part from the loss of population caused by the economic downturn in the oil and gas industry occurring before the wildfires. Also, growth has primarily taken place in the Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo constituency area rather than in the Fort McMurray-Conklin constituency area, contrary to what had been anticipated when these boundaries were set after the work of the 2010 Electoral Boundaries Commission. No matter what the cause for this low variance, changes to its boundaries must be made.

In response to a request from representatives of the Buffalo Lake and Kikino Métis settlements, it is recommended that those communities would move into this riding from the interim proposed St. Albert-Redwater riding so that they remain in the same constituency as the reserves and settlements around Lac La Biche and Fort McMurray. This final recommendation would also move the White Fish First Nation reserve into this constituency from the proposed Athabasca-Barrhead constituency.

The majority continues to recommend, as it did in the interim report, that the southern boundary of the constituency extend south to absorb the Hamlet of Lac La Biche, but in this final recommendation the majority would move Athabasca County, including the Town of Athabasca, out of the constituency of Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche into the proposed constituency of Athabasca-Barrhead. This move would reduce the geographic size of the interim proposed constituency of Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche, a size which caused submitters concern about impact on their ability to communicate with their MLA.

It is further recommended that the boundaries between the two Fort McMurray constituencies be adjusted so that the constituencies lie east-west rather than primarily north-south as is the existing situation. This change would result in both electoral divisions assuming a shape that allows easier access to constituents than the existing long thin configurations. This reconfiguration would result in a significant reduction in distance, north-south, than would exist if the electoral divisions were reconfigured to simply expand the existing long rectangles further to the south. The recommended boundaries respect county boundaries as well as historic connections in northeast Alberta; the resulting constituency follows the path of the only major highway connecting Fort McMurray with the south.

This final recommendation also varies from the interim recommendation regarding the dividing line within Fort McMurray. The Commission now recommends the boundary continue to follow Thickwood Boulevard rather than the course of the Athabasca River, based on public submissions to this effect.

The resulting constituency would be named Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche.

Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo

See also the discussion under Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche above.

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo be as shown on Map 61, resulting in a population of 41,420, 12% below the provincial average population size. This degree of negative variance is supported by the realistic expectation that as the oil and gas industry recovers from its recent economic downturn, residents will return to the constituency or new residents will move into it.

The constituency would include the entire northeast corner of the province. The reconfiguration of shapes with the

neighbouring Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche constituency would reduce driving distances in the latter, without significantly increasing them in this constituency.

It is recommended that the name of this constituency remain Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville be as shown on Map 62, resulting in a population of 52,141, 11% above provincial average population size. This variance is justified because population growth is expected to continue to be less than the provincial rate of growth. The Commission was told that the average age of residents in parts of the electoral division is well above that of other Albertans.

The entire counties of Lamont and Minburn would fall within this riding, as well as Elk Island National Park. With the move of St. Paul into the proposed Cold Lake-St. Paul constituency it was possible for the majority to alter its interim recommendation and restore the Town of Vegreville to this riding. The reconfigured riding also addresses public concern about the travel distance from west to east along the length of the interim proposed Fort Saskatchewan-St. Paul riding that extended almost half the width of the province. Many presenters urged this result.

This recommendation maintains the existing blended nature of the electoral division, where the population contained within the City of Fort Saskatchewan is at 24,149, and is relatively balanced with the number of constituents who live outside the city.

This recommendation contributes to the consolidation of four existing electoral divisions into three, located in the central northeast area of the province, including Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville and Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

Grande Prairie

See also the below discussion about Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Grande Prairie be as shown on Map 63, resulting in a population of 46,343, 1% below provincial average population size. It would be entirely composed of part of the City of Grande Prairie as well as all of Flyingshot Lake Settlement (a portion of which lies outside of the city limits). The result is the creation of a completely urban electoral division, containing most of the City of Grande Prairie. The boundary between it and Grande Prairie-Wapiti, falling within the City of Grande Prairie, would remain in the same location as was recommended in the interim report.

This recommendation responds to a significant number of submissions asking the Commission to create a single urban electoral division within the City of Grande Prairie. Submitters suggested the constituency's MLA would thus be better able to address urban issues, including those arising from the economic downturn affecting oil and gas production. This problem is exacerbated in the eyes of these submitters because both parts of the City of Grande Prairie currently fall within blended ridings.

This recommendation would result in the continuation of one of the existing two blended electoral divisions, Grande Prairie-Wapiti. While various other submissions urged retention of both in a blended format, they did not address the fact that the City of Grande Prairie has grown to the point where such blended ridings would not be evenly balanced between city and rural residents. About 75 percent of their populations would be made up of residents of the City of Grande Prairie.

Grande Prairie-Wapiti

See also the above discussion about Grande Prairie.

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Grande Prairie-Wapiti be as shown on Map 64, resulting in a population of 48,481, 4% above provincial average population size. It would result in the balance of the current constituency of Grande Prairie-Smokey, less the section moved into the electoral division of Central Peace-Notley (currently Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley), being consolidated with the balance of Grande Prairie-Wapiti in response to the bulk of public input on the subject.

Innisfail-Sylvan Lake

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Innisfail-Sylvan Lake be as shown on Map 65, resulting in a population of 46,717, virtually at provincial average population size. This recommendation reflects only a minor change from existing boundaries, in that a small area in the southwest corner is moved from this constituency into the constituency of Rocky Mountain House-Sundre to avoid splitting communities. This change has minimal impact on population size in either constituency.

Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland be as shown on Map 66, resulting in a population of 46,546, 1% below provincial average population size. This final recommendation differs from that contained in the interim report for the interim proposed constituency of St. Anne-Stony Plain in that it includes the area remaining after joining the City of Spruce Grove with the Town of Stony Plain into one constituency, to be known as Spruce Grove-Stony Plain, as well as some acreage areas from the constituency of Athabasca-Barrhead.

Further a portion of the interim proposed constituency of Devon-Parkland lying north of the Brazeau County boundary and Highway 627 and containing the Wabamun First Nation will be added to the constituency of Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland, which would also contain the entire county of Lac Ste. Anne. Its western boundary would follow county boundaries. It is proposed this constituency be renamed Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland to correctly reflect the name Lac Ste. Anne.

These recommendations would place indigenous peoples throughout the area together in the same constituency. It respects the Highway 16 west trading and transportation corridor and avoids the creation of a blended constituency with portions of the City of Edmonton. It results in Parkland County being split between two constituencies rather than three, as it was under the interim recommendation.

These changes are part of a consolidation of five constituencies into four because of reduced population growth in mid-west Alberta. The five constituencies are currently Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre, West Yellowhead, Drayton Valley-Devon, Whitecourt-Ste. Anne and Stony Plain.

Lacombe-Ponoka

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Lacombe-Ponoka be as shown on Map 67, resulting in a population of 44,898, 4% below provincial average population size. This final recommendation would move the Maskwacis reserves located along the northern border of the constituency into the constituency of Wetaskiwin-Camrose, as discussed in the section related to that constituency, now to be named Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin. The eastern boundary would follow the mid-line of Buffalo Lake.

This recommendation avoids the need to create a blended riding with the City of Red Deer. It continues to use the Red Deer River as the southwest border of the constituency. While the southwest border could be moved across the river to the Red Deer city limits, not many people would be added as population is sparse; most of those living in this area are acreage dwellers.

Leduc-Beaumont

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Leduc-Beaumont be as shown on Map 68, resulting in a population of 48,337, 3% above provincial average population size. This final recommendation reflects the annexation of land from Leduc County, lying north of the Town of Beaumont, by the City of Edmonton. However, this recommendation differs from that referred to in the interim recommendation to reflect the recent annexation of nine quarter-sections of land by the Town of Beaumont along its northern border. Similarly, the southern boundaries of Edmonton South-West and Edmonton-South now extend only to Highway 19, not to the southern boundaries of the Edmonton International Airport, as was suggested in the interim report, as these are now the only other portions of Leduc-Beaumont being expropriated by the City of Edmonton. The land occupied by the Edmonton International Airport would move into this constituency from the adjoining Drayton Valley-Devon constituency.

It is further recommended that the eastern border of this constituency be moved west to hug the eastern borders of the Town of Beaumont, Nisku Industrial Park and the City of Leduc. The land to the east of the new border would be added to the riding of Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin.

This final recommendation differs from the interim recommendation in that it reduces the significant positive population variance produced by that interim recommendation in an area trending toward continued high growth. The Commission was told that the Town of Beaumont is the fifth fastest growing municipality in Canada.

Lesser Slave Lake

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Lesser Slave Lake be as shown on Map 69, resulting in a population of 27,818, 41% below provincial average population size. The status of Lesser Slave Lake as a s. 15(2) constituency is discussed in the section of this report entitled “Responses to Specific Questions for Public Input” and in the general discussion on s. 15(2) status.

The Commission recommends that Lesser Slave Lake continue to enjoy special s. 15(2) status, allowing it to have a population up to 50% below provincial average population size. It is recommended that the boundaries of this electoral division be adjusted to add the Calling Lake reserve, now located in the northwest corner of the existing adjacent electoral division of Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater. This adjustment would satisfy the request of members of the Calling Lake reserve, who note that they share a common community of interest with the significant numbers of indigenous people residing in the constituency of Lesser Slave Lake. This constituency would remain the only constituency within the province where a majority of the population is indigenous.

Lethbridge-East

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Lethbridge-East remain unchanged, as shown on Map 70, resulting in a population of 46,204, 1% below provincial average population size.

Various submissions, made before receipt of the Canada 2016 census numbers, offered suggestions for either increasing or decreasing the population of the constituency based on various assumptions made by the authors. No one suggested any need for change in the absence of significant variance in population.

Lethbridge-West

It is recommended that the boundaries for the electoral division of Lethbridge-West remain unchanged, as shown on Map 71, resulting in a population of 46,525, 1% below provincial average population size.

Various submissions, made before receipt of the Canada 2016 Census numbers, offered suggestions for either increasing or decreasing the population of the constituency based on various assumptions made by the authors. No one suggested any need for change in the absence of significant variance in population.

Livingstone-Macleod

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Livingstone-Macleod be as shown on Map 72, resulting in a population of 48,120, 3% above provincial average population size. This recommendation would make no changes to the interim recommendation, other than moving a small tip of Kananaskis Country from it into the constituency of Banff-Kananaskis, to keep Kananaskis Country together in one constituency. As a result, 20 people would be removed from the constituency of Livingstone-Macleod. It would also expand the riding to encompass Waterton, which would then be removed from the electoral division of Cardston-Siksika, currently called Cardston-Taber-Warner.

These recommendations respond to submissions asking that Waterton move into the Livingstone-Macleod constituency as it shares a common culture with other mountain park communities. The changes would also reduce the physical size of the constituency, aligning it in a north-south direction, while increasing its population close to the provincial average.

Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin be as shown on Map 73, resulting in a population of 43,798, 6% below provincial average population size. This final recommendation differs from the interim recommendation in that it would include a portion of the existing Drayton Valley-Devon constituency in what would be renamed the constituency of Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin. It would also move the City of Camrose and surrounding area into its own constituency, to be called the constituency of Camrose. However, the entire Camrose County could not be added to the Camrose constituency due to population size, leaving a small heavily populated portion of that county within the riding of Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin.

The majority accepts the request to reunite the four reserves currently divided by the Wetaskiwin-Camrose and Lacombe-Ponoka boundaries within the constituency of Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin given their common history and community of interest. The new constituency would include the area to the west of Highway 2, along Highway 611, up to and including Pigeon Lake and the surrounding area. The result would reunite the entire Maskwacis reserve community within one electoral division and would eliminate the only existing non-contiguous constituency in Alberta. The negative variance in population size addresses the trend toward high growth in this area.

The final recommendation also accommodates the requests of presenters who urged that Camrose be placed into a separate constituency from Wetaskiwin, given the disparate cultures in the two cities.

Morinville-St. Albert

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Morinville-St. Albert be as shown on Map 74, resulting in a population of 50,225, 7% above provincial average population size. This recommendation creates a blended constituency that would contain the northern part of the City of St. Albert and the Town of Morinville, rather than combining St. Albert with the City of Spruce Grove as is currently the case. This change responds to numerous public submissions suggesting that the culture and residents of Morinville are more akin to those of St. Albert, enjoying the same francophone roots, than they are to the residents of Spruce Grove. It would end the much-criticized design of the blended constituency of Spruce Grove-St. Albert. A number of people noted the lack of cultural links and trade between these two cities, notwithstanding their geographic proximity.

The resulting blended constituency is much smaller in geographic size than was the interim proposed constituency of St. Albert-Redwater, addressing the concerns of various presenters about communication challenges posed by a geographically larger area.

See also the discussions, within this section, about the St. Albert and Spruce Grove-Stony Plain electoral divisions.

Okotoks-Sheep River

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Okotoks-Sheep River be as shown on Map 75, resulting in a population of 48,813, 4% above provincial average population size. This final recommendation would transfer the southern portion of Kananaskis Country to the riding of Banff-Kananaskis and transfer a portion of the interim proposed riding of Chestermere, all that land south of the Bow River and east of Highway 2, into this constituency.

This recommendation responds to several public submissions requesting that the Davisburg area south of the Bow River remain within the riding, as well as the Highway 2 corridor. It is recommended that, as the Highwood River no longer remains within this riding, the constituency name be changed to Okotoks-Sheep River.

Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills be as shown on Map 76, resulting in a population of 49,418, 6% above provincial average population size. This final recommendation would expand the size of the constituency to include the northern portion of Wheatland County, currently part of the Strathmore-Brooks constituency.

This recommendation is a result of the reconfiguration of the interim proposed Drumheller-Strathmore constituency. The economy of and residents of the section of Wheatland County to be added to this constituency are not dissimilar in nature from those otherwise found in Olds, Didsbury or Three Hills.

Peace River

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Peace River be as shown on Map 77, resulting in a population of 39,974, 15% below provincial average population size. Limited options exist to address this degree of negative variance because this electoral division is surrounded by the province's two s. 15(2) constituencies, Central Peace-Notley and Lesser Slave Lake, as well as the borders of British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. Expansion into either of the s. 15(2) constituencies would remove population from these already sparsely populated ridings.

That said, it is recommended that the southwest border of the constituency of Peace River be moved further southwest, to incorporate the Town of Grimshaw, which is located only about 20 kilometres from the Town of Peace River. Shaftesbury Settlement would be reunited within the constituency.

It is also recommended that the constituency's northeast border be expanded up to and including the eastern borders of both Tall Cree North and Tall Cree South, taking in those two reserves from the Lesser Slave Lake constituency. Good road access to these reserves is available only through the constituency of Peace River. This recommendation keeps the population of Mackenzie County intact, a proposal supported by various submissions. It also reduces the population variance from the existing negative 23%, which is approaching the maximum negative deviance for constituencies that do not have s. 15(2) designation.

It should be noted that the majority does not recommend removing the "jog" found in the existing east boundary of the constituency, which would otherwise be part of the Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo constituency. It is important to keep this area within the Peace River constituency as it unites members of the Little Red River Cree Nation with those of two other First Nation reserves in the immediate area, all located in Wood Buffalo National Park. This configuration also reflects the reality that road access to the reserves is available only through the Peace River constituency.

Red Deer-North

See also the below description of Red Deer-South.

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Red Deer-North be as shown on Map 78, resulting

in a population of 47,672, 2% above provincial average population size. While the populations of the two constituencies of Red Deer-South and Red Deer-North could be relatively equalized by placing the boundary between them so that it divides the Deer Park community, many submitters recommended the reunification of that community which results in disparate variances in the two constituencies. To otherwise reduce the degree of variance in either would require the creation of a blended constituency adding an area outside the City of Red Deer which might not share a common community of interest with the balance of the constituency.

The majority final recommendation is therefore limited to moving the boundary within the city to reunite the Deer Park community, as requested by a number of submitters.

Red Deer-South

See the above discussion under Red Deer-North.

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Red Deer-South be as shown on Map 79, resulting in a population of 52,743, 13% above provincial average population size. While the populations of the two constituencies of Red Deer-South and Red Deer-North could be relatively equalized by adjusting the boundary between them, that result would divide the Deer Park community, as is currently the case. Many submitters recommended the reunification of that community, which leads to the inevitable result of disparate variances in the two constituencies. To otherwise reduce the degree of variance in either would require the creation of a blended constituency, adding an area outside the City of Red Deer which might not share a common community of interest with the balance of the constituency.

The majority final recommendation is therefore limited to moving the boundary within the city to reunite the Deer Park community, as requested by a number of submitters.

Rocky Mountain House-Sundre

It is recommended that the boundaries of this electoral division be as shown on Map 80, resulting in a population of 45,138, 4% below provincial average population size. This final recommendation adjusts the interim one by returning the Town of Drayton Valley to the constituency of Drayton Valley-Devon and renaming the constituency as a result. It also would retain the communities along the Bergen corridor in the proposed Rocky Mountain House-Sundre constituency as they are at the current time, respecting road access realities in that area.

This final recommendation reflects the concerns of many presenters about the size of the constituency produced by the interim recommendation, with its proposed degree of variance of plus 17% from provincial average population size. It observes the limited road connections within the proposed constituency, particularly to the north and west, and it acknowledges the public submissions to the effect that the community of Drayton Valley has more in common with that of Devon than with the mountain areas further south.

The majority did consider moving the Town of Sundre out of the electoral division. It ultimately accepted submissions from the citizens of Sundre who said they would be effectively represented if the town were kept within the electoral division.

The majority considered geographic size when making this recommendation but concluded the recommended electoral division would not yield an area substantially larger than that of the current Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre electoral division. The majority was not able to follow the wishes of several presenters who asked that the constituency boundaries be moved south into the current constituency of Banff-Cochrane, given that constituency's already large population, or east to include areas of Innisfail-Sylvan Lake, as the population in that electoral division is at par. However, the recommended electoral division would contain the allied communities of Rocky Mountain House and Caroline, would keep mountain communities together and would not include the Town of Cochrane, which is seen to have a different community of interest than these other communities.

These changes are part of a consolidation of five existing electoral divisions into four because of the lower rates of population growth experienced in central-west Alberta. Those existing electoral divisions are Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre, West Yellowhead, Drayton Valley-Devon, Whitecourt-Ste. Anne and Stony Plain.

St. Albert

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of St. Albert be as shown on Map 83, resulting in a population of 47,745, 2% above provincial average population size. This recommendation assists in the creation of Morinville-St. Albert, a constituency with common interests and shorter travel distances than the interim proposed St. Albert-Redwater constituency, all as discussed above under Morinville-St. Albert.

The size of the population in the City of St. Albert is too large to be accommodated entirely within one constituency as suggested in some submissions. This recommendation avoids the creation of two blended electoral divisions; no presenter spoke in favour of two blended ridings. Many preferred the existing design of one blended riding and one entirely urban riding.

See also the discussions about the St. Albert-Morinville and Spruce Grove-Stony Plain electoral divisions.

Sherwood Park

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Sherwood Park be as found on Map 81, resulting in a population of 45,992, 2% below provincial average population size. It is recommended that a small area of the existing Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville electoral division be added to the constituency of Sherwood Park and that the southern boundary of the electoral division be moved to align with the municipal boundary. The constituency would thus remain largely unchanged from its existing form while capturing an “orphaned area” and producing a more logical southern boundary.

The public request that the entire urban area of Sherwood Park be united into one electoral division is not possible given its high population.

Spruce Grove-Stony Plain

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Spruce Grove-Stony Plain be as shown on Map 82, resulting in a population of 51,267, 10% above provincial average population size. While such a large positive variance is unfortunate in such a rapidly growing area, the majority concluded that it was preferable to the proposed interim recommendation for St. Anne-Stony Plain, which would have been a blended constituency. This final recommendation combines two urban centres within the same constituency. It also avoids adding a portion of either Spruce Grove or Stony Plain to an adjoining rural area, creating another blended constituency.

The constituency would be bordered by Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland along the northern and western boundaries, and the constituency of Drayton Valley-Devon elsewhere.

This final recommendation differs from those contained in the interim report for the constituencies of St. Anne-Stony Plain and Spruce Grove in that it reflects public submissions suggesting the joining of the City of Spruce Grove with the Town of Stony Plain into one constituency.

Strathcona-Sherwood Park

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Strathcona-Sherwood Park be as shown on Map 84, resulting in a population of 47,853, 2% above provincial average population size. It would result in unchanged boundaries except to straighten out the northern boundary shared with the constituency of Sherwood Park. See also the discussion on Sherwood Park.

Taber-Warner

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Taber-Warner be as shown on Map 85, resulting in a population of 42,625, 9% below provincial average population size. That degree of negative variance is unfortunate given the trend toward slow population growth in this largely agricultural area, but the majority accepted it as a necessary consequence of reconfiguring Medicine Hat, Brooks and the Cypress areas into two blended constituencies.

This final recommendation differs from the interim recommendation in that it substantially reduces the geographic size of the proposed Taber-Vulcan constituency. It combines the remainder of Cardston-Kainai and Taber-Vulcan ridings, as proposed by the majority in the Commission's interim report, and avoids splitting the County of Forty Mile.

Vermilion-Wainwright

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of Vermilion-Wainwright be as shown on Map 86, resulting in a population of 46,042, 2% below provincial average population size. In response to public submissions relating to the interim proposed Stettler-Wainwright and other constituencies, these final recommendations vary significantly from the interim ones. They redesign this area of the province to contain two relatively square-shaped constituencies, aligned north-south rather than east-west, to address concerns about driving distances and communication challenges. The result is the final recommendations for the creation of the Camrose and Vermilion-Wainwright constituencies, with the return of the Town of Stettler and surrounding area to the Drumheller-Stettler constituency. This recommendation would create an electoral division with largely agricultural interests.

The resulting constituency would include the entire County of Vermilion River and the M.D. of Wainwright; they thus would remain intact. It would include Makaoo Indian Reserve No. 120, sometimes known as Onion Lake, as well as Tulliby Lake, Lea Park, Dewberry and Clandonald. It would end the division of Beaver County into four electoral divisions, leaving it divided between only two.

These changes are part of a consolidation of seven existing electoral divisions into six because of the lower rates of population growth experienced in southeast Alberta. Those electoral divisions are Battle River-Wainwright, Drumheller-Stettler, Strathmore-Brooks, Little Bow, Cardston-Taber-Warner, Cypress-Medicine Hat and Vermilion-Lloydminster.

West Yellowhead

It is recommended that the boundaries of the electoral division of West Yellowhead be as shown on Map 87, resulting in a population of 50,604, 8% above provincial average population size. This relatively large variance can be justified by the expected continued decline in the population growth in this area as compared to the provincial average. It is expected that by the time of the next electoral boundary review, the population should be at or below provincial average.

This recommendation addresses the low population numbers in the current constituency of West Yellowhead, 32% below provincial average population, and below the bottom limit permitted by s. 15(1) of the Act.

The recommendation would see the constituency contain: the southern portion of the Municipal District of Greenview No. 16 (containing Grande Cache and nearby settlements); Jasper National Park; the municipality of Jasper; Yellowhead County (except for a small area east of Highway 22 that remains in Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland to allow Evansburg and Entwisle to be in the same constituency); and the south western half of Woodlands County which contains the Town of Whitecourt.

By adding Whitecourt, the electoral division design respects the natural east-west trade corridor in this area of the province. While Whitecourt lies somewhat to the north of the Highway 2 configuration of the rest of the riding, no proposal was offered that would increase the population in the constituency as required that would not deviate from the path of that highway.

These changes are part of a consolidation of five constituencies into four because of reduced population growth in mid-west Alberta. The five constituencies are currently Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre, West Yellowhead, Drayton Valley-Devon, Whitecourt-Ste. Anne and Stony Plain.

Population Variances

The majority is pleased to see that even after the modifications to its earlier recommendations contained within this report, the final recommendations result in 49 of Alberta’s 87 electoral divisions having a population within 5% of the provincial average, or 56% of the total. Seventy-four electoral divisions would have a population within 10% of the provincial average, or 85% of the total. This is something of an improvement over the recommendations of the 2009-2010 Electoral Boundaries Commission which resulted in 37 electoral divisions, or 43% falling within 5% of the provincial average, and 70 electoral divisions, or 81% falling within 10% of the provincial average.

The majority is particularly encouraged by this result as the Commission did not have the benefit of three additional constituencies to use as a mechanism for minimizing variances from provincial average, as did the last Electoral Boundaries Commission. It was able to retain a relatively narrow range of variation from provincial average in its final recommendations notwithstanding making certain changes from its interim recommendations, in response to strong public input.

This comparison is significant only in that the 2009-2010 Electoral Boundaries Commission concluded in its final report that its record of variation from provincial average population figures signified that, “all things considered, due consideration was given to the importance of population as a factor in effective representation”. The same may also be said regarding the recommendations contained in the majority’s final report.

The following table sets out the populations of the majority’s proposed electoral divisions, as well as the resulting percentage of variance from provincial average constituency population size.

Populations of Recommended Electoral Divisions

Calgary/Edmonton	Pop	Var %	Rest of Alberta	Pop	Var %
Calgary-Acadia	48966	5	Airdrie-Cochrane	51170	9
Calgary-Beddington	50220	7	Airdrie-East	49978	7
Calgary-Bow	51358	10	Athabasca-Barrhead	46920	0
Calgary-Buffalo	49907	7	Banff-Kananaskis	46824	0
Calgary-Cross	50634	8	Brooks-Medicine Hat	51070	9
Calgary-Currie	48403	3	Camrose	44082	-6
Calgary-East	50838	9	Cardston-Siksika	42655	-9
Calgary-Edgemont	50803	9	Central Peace-Notley	28993	-38
Calgary-Elbow	48618	4	Chestermere-Strathmore	48203	3
Calgary-Falconridge	52688	13	Cold Lake-St. Paul	53809	15
Calgary-Fish Creek	47691	2	Cypress-Medicine Hat	50109	7
Calgary-Foothills	45715	-2	Drayton Valley-Devon	46637	0
Calgary-Glenmore	49543	6	Drumheller-Stettler	41535	-11
Calgary-Hays	50782	9	Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche	44166	-6
Calgary-Klein	50338	8	Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo	41420	-12
Calgary-Lougheed	42956	-8	Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville	52141	11
Calgary-McCall	48735	4	Grande Prairie	46343	-1

Calgary/Edmonton	Pop	Var %	Rest of Alberta	Pop	Var %
Calgary-Mountain View	49442	6	Grande Prairie-Wapiti	48481	4
Calgary-North	39120	-16	Innisfail-Sylvan Lake	46717	0
Calgary-North East	40366	-14	Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland	46546	-1
Calgary-North West	48766	4	Lacombe-Ponoka	44898	-4
Calgary-Peigan	45810	-2	Leduc-Beaumont	48337	3
Calgary-Shaw	45169	-3	Lesser Slave Lake	27818	-41
Calgary-South East	40309	-14	Lethbridge-East	46204	-1
Calgary-Varsity	45742	-2	Lethbridge-West	46525	-1
Calgary-West	46266	-1	Livingstone-Macleod	48120	3
			Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin	43798	-6
Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview	46496	-1	Morinville-St. Albert	50225	7
Edmonton-Castle Downs	46112	-1	Okotoks-Sheep River	48813	4
Edmonton-City Centre	47715	2	Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills	49418	6
Edmonton-Decore	48927	5	Peace River	39974	-15
Edmonton-Ellerslie	48024	3	Red Deer-North	47672	2
Edmonton-Glenora	45519	-3	Red Deer-South	52743	13
Edmonton-Gold Bar	45446	-3	Rocky Mountain House-Sundre	45138	-4
Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood	43550	-7	Sherwood Park	45992	-2
Edmonton-Manning	48376	3	Spruce Grove-Stony Plain	51267	10
Edmonton-McClung	44625	-5	St. Albert	47745	2
Edmonton-Meadows	51776	11	Strathcona-Sherwood Park	47853	2
Edmonton-Mill Woods	50265	7	Taber-Warner	42625	-9
Edmonton-North West	45523	-3	Vermilion-Wainwright	46042	-2
Edmonton-Riverview	45214	-3	West Yellowhead	50604	8
Edmonton-Rutherford	47353	1			
Edmonton-South	45801	-2			
Edmonton-South West	45901	-2			
Edmonton-Strathcona	46578	0			
Edmonton-West Henday	43046	-8			
Edmonton-Whitemud	46833	0			

Setting Boundary Descriptions through the Mechanism of Mapping

The Commission saw no reason to deviate from the adoption of mapping as a means of defining constituency boundaries, introduced by the 2009-2010 Electoral Boundaries Commission. This approach replaced the former one of using the method of metes and bounds descriptions, i.e., describing boundaries in a running prose style, working around the constituency in sequence, starting from a physical or geographic feature, and measuring each straight run between two points with a distance and an orientation or direction.

As stated in the final report of the last Electoral Boundaries Commission: “For the average person, reference to a map is much more informative than the [metes and bounds] description.”

The majority therefore recommends that the boundaries of Alberta’s 87 constituencies remain, or be adjusted, as recorded in the maps found in Appendix E to this report.

Other Recommendations to Assist in Achieving Effective Representation

The Commission received recommendations aimed at improving the ability of MLAs to effectively represent their constituents, but falling outside of its jurisdiction. The implementation of some or all of these recommendations is offered for consideration by the legislature.

These recommendations are:

- (a) Provide specific funding to MLAs representing geographically large electoral divisions to permit the establishment of additional staffed constituency offices and reimbursement for resulting additional mileage costs for staff. For example, the Standing Committee on Members’ Services might assess whether the time has come to end the budget differential for constituency offices based on whether the constituency is rural or urban and to assess each one on a more granular level, including an assessment of the number of different organizations with which the current MLA actually interacts and on actual electronic communication costs rather than continuing to assume that all written communication will be undertaken via Canada Post;
- (b) Provide specific funding to permit MLAs to hire staff to interpret where needed and to assist constituents in the accessing of social programs;
- (c) Continue work to improve high-speed internet availability throughout the province with a goal to achieving total coverage by the date of the next electoral boundary review, likely in 2025-2026;
- (d) Motivate cell service providers to construct cell phone towers and otherwise provide technology necessary to improve cell phone service in all areas of the province; and
- (e) Further advertise to residents in remote areas the availability of voting by mail.

Suggestions for Future Consideration Regarding the Electoral Boundaries Commission Process

As did the 2009-2010 Electoral Boundaries Commission, this Commission makes the following observations and recommendations in the hope they may be of assistance to those involved in the process of reviewing electoral boundaries in the future:

1. Serious consideration should be given to establishing the next Commission during the months of June or July so that, in following the schedule for its work set out in the Act, the first round of public hearings can be held in October and the second set in March of the following year. This timing will no doubt contribute to attendance by members of the public at both sets of public hearings as it will avoid the heart of winter for the

first set of hearings and the time many Albertans take a summer vacation during the second set of hearings. This scheduling will also minimize the risk of travel delays or cancellations on the part of the Commission itself.

2. The initial “letters to stakeholders” sent out by the Commission to specific parties and groups inviting participation should be customized to the type of recipient so they do not simply appear to be part of a mass mailing. Those letters should be e-mailed to recipients where possible, in addition to being sent through the post. In our experience, e-mailed letters are most likely to expeditiously reach responsible parties in large municipalities. It would have been especially helpful for representatives of Alberta’s larger cities to have attended the first round of public hearings to help identify, and then make available, specific information that would assist the Commission. For example, information as to expected areas of future growth would have been welcomed by this Commission early in the process. The parties to whom stakeholder letters are sent should include the planning departments of the cities of Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Grande Prairie and Fort McMurray. In addition to being sent to each First Nation reserve, they should be sent to the administration of each Métis settlement. They should also be sent to individual community leagues, community associations and indigenous, ethnic and cultural groups, both urban and rural. They should include the administration of each city and town in the province. Letters to stakeholders might be followed up, before the second round of public hearings, with requests for information supporting any potential criteria to be used in assessing effective representation that are not expressly described in the Act. For example, information as to the numbers of shadow populations in each municipality might be of assistance.
3. Public hearings during both rounds might be scheduled in communities likely to be most affected by the ultimate recommendation, i.e., in those areas of the province showing larger and smaller rates of growth since 2017 based on census information or estimates available at the start of the process.
4. In scheduling those registered to make presentations at the Commission’s public hearings, the most effective process may be to invite registration for a specific half day, with a request that all registrants attend at the beginning of the half-day and register with the clerk at the door. Speakers could then be called upon in order of registration. This will result in each speaker being present for the Chair’s introductory presentation, so that each will understand what the Commission already knows and accepts and better understands what remains at issue. It will result in each speaker hearing the comments of all earlier speakers. The result may be more focused presentations than might otherwise be made.
5. Considerably greater interest may be displayed by persons seeking to speak during the second round of public hearings than at the first. Once the interim recommendations are known, Albertans are more likely to identify which are directly of concern to them. Further, considerably greater interest in speaking at a public hearing may arise in areas subject to interim recommendations that would result in the consolidation of ridings than in those areas where additional ridings are proposed.
6. It may be efficient to schedule an initial half-day hearing at each location, with the ability to add additional half-days as demand warrants. Notice of additional hearings, and an opportunity to speak at them, may be added to the Commission website as soon as the decision is made to hold them.
7. Future electoral boundaries commissions may want to inquire as to whether software mapping tools are available for their personal use in preparing options to discuss at public hearings and during the Commission’s deliberations, i.e., tools that can be accessed and used by them individually in their own homes or offices without the assistance of Elections Alberta staff. While such software is not now available, should it become so prior to the commencement of the work of the next Boundaries Commission, it might prove helpful to the Commissioners’ individual preparations.

8. The deadline for receipt of written submissions should be set at a date after the conclusion of the public hearings for each of the two rounds of hearings, so that those who cannot attend the hearings but nonetheless access the audio recordings of them on the Commission's website will have a chance to comment in writing on anything said during the hearings.
9. The Commission should allow for a minimum of seven weeks between the date it arrives at its recommendations and the date its reports – interim and final – are tabled. The creation of maps is laborious and time-consuming. Each must be prepared by hand. At least four weeks should be set aside for this process alone, in addition to time needed for editing, obtaining final approval from all Commissioners and printing.

Conclusion

The Chair of the Commission would like to extend her personal thanks to all who participated in the process of arriving at the final recommendations for electoral boundaries contained in this report. She is particularly grateful to each member of the Commission for being willing to engage in travel, without complaint, sometimes in adverse conditions and unfamiliar circumstances. Each has been proactive, creative and engaged in obtaining the best results possible.

She would also like to thank the staff that assisted the Commission in its work, from those in the legislative assembly offices to the cartographers at Elections Alberta. Without their fresh, resourceful and helpful suggestions this task would have been more difficult.

Finally, this process would have been without purpose or effect if it were not for the willingness of hundreds of Albertans to engage in the questions at hand, to read the interim recommendations, to make written or oral submissions on them and, in summary, to be active participants in this important aspect of the democratic process. It has been humbling to receive the feedback of such presenters as Leo Puerzer, from Beiseker, Alberta, who wrote:

There is the understanding that the process is not just numbers and lines on a map. It is most importantly about people, in Alberta and in Canada . . . we are a beacon of hope for people around the world that wish to call Alberta and Canada home.

Appendix A: Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission Minority Report, by Commissioner Gwen Day

While I respectfully acknowledge the sincere and diligent effort of the Commission members to create the proposed electoral boundaries, I am compelled to submit this minority report. My views and interpretation simply differed from the rest of the Commission. The Majority began the work with the priority of population carrying the most weight, which of course led to the desire to have a minimal deviation from the average number of 46,803 people per constituency. My view began with the premise that effective representation is comprised of many factors of which population is but one and that we were given the discretion to use variances by the Supreme Court and the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*. This is where we began and this is where we diverged in the process of the work at hand and thus the outcome achieved.

The Majority began its work by using population to justify a new riding in both Calgary and Edmonton. I do not believe that this was necessary given the discretion allowed for variances and additional considerations besides population in the Act. Nor do I believe it was beneficial to ensuring effective representation for all Albertans. I am convinced the correct response to growth in urban population should have been an increase in variances within the cities and not an increase in the number of ridings in the two major cities. This would best provide effective representation for Albertans as a whole.

Our Historical Canadian Foundation

We need to honor our Canadian historical standard of “representational democracy,” which has served us well, all

across Canada for 150 years. In the *Dixon* decision, Justice McLachlin wrote that “the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the *Charter* must be defined against the wider historical and philosophic tradition of Canadian Society.” From the beginning of our Canadian history, our forefathers made a conscious effort to balance population and non-population factors to create constituencies. Both the federal and provincial governments have traditionally strived to balance “rep by pop” with the representation of places, taking in the consideration of “communities of interest” which continues to guide us in this tradition.

In 1872 Sir John A. Macdonald commented on readjustments of constituency boundaries, “While it will be found that the principle of population was considered to a very great extent, other considerations were also held to have weight; so that different interests, classes and localities should be fairly represented, that the principle of numbers should not be the only one.”

“Historically, the drawing of electoral boundaries has been governed by the attempt to achieve voter equality with liberal allowances for deviations based on the kinds of considerations enumerated in s.20 of the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*.” Reference Re Prov. Electoral Boundaries (SASK) (1991) 2 S.C.R. 158.

Effective Representation Supported by the Canadian Charter and Case Law

Section 3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* states: “[e]very citizen has the right to vote in an election of members of the House of Commons or a legislative assembly and to be qualified for membership therein.” The *Charter* does not guarantee that we have equal weight to our vote to achieve democracy but the right to vote. As quoted from the decision in the last Supreme Court decision on the topic of Electoral Boundaries (Sask) (1991) 2 S.C.R. 158:

“The broader philosophy underlying the historical development of the right to vote must be sought and practical considerations, such as social and physical geography must be borne in mind” and “The purpose of the right to vote enshrined in s.3 of the *Charter* is not equality of voting power per se but the right to “effective representation.”” The right to vote therefore comprises many factors of which equality is but one. The section does not guarantee equality of voting power.

In the same case, this concept was further explained on page 33:

... such relative parity as may be possible of achievement may prove undesirable because it has the effect of detracting from the primary goal of effective representation. Factors like geography, community history, community interest and minority representation may need to be taken into account to ensure that our legislative assemblies effectively represent the diversity of our social mosaic. These are but examples of considerations which may justify departure from absolute voter parity in the pursuit of more effective representation; the list is not closed.

It emerges therefore that deviations from absolute voter parity may be justified on the grounds of practical impossibility or the provision of more effective representation. Beyond this, dilution of one citizen’s vote as compared with another’s should not be countenanced. I adhere to the proposition asserted in *Dixon* supra, at p 414, that “only those deviations should be admitted which can be justified on the ground that they contribute to better government of the populace as a whole, giving due weight to regional issues within the populace and geographic factors within the territory governed.”

In fact, the concept of “one person, one vote” is not a Canadian construct, and it is not mentioned anywhere in the *Charter*.

Mandate of the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*

Section 14 of the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* mandates the Commission to consider the following factors:

- (a) the requirement for effective representation as guaranteed by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*,
- (b) sparsity and density of population,

- (c) common community interests and community organizations, including those of Indian reserves and Métis settlements,
- (d) wherever possible, the existing community boundaries within the cities of Edmonton and Calgary,
- (e) wherever possible, the existing municipal boundaries,
- (f) the number of municipalities and other local authorities,
- (g) geographical features, including existing road systems, and
- (h) the desirability of understandable and clear boundaries. 1990 cE-4.01 s16;1993 c2 s12;1995 c10 s12

It is important to note that the Act is consistent with our historical foundation, the Canadian *Charter* of Rights and relevant case law in mandating the Commission to consider all of these factors to ensure voters have the right to effective representation.

Submissions about Effective Representation

The following submissions are examples that explain well the importance of preserving ridings, outside of the two major cities, to ensure effective representation for all Albertans:

Why is “effective representation” for rural Albertans critical to the wellbeing of all Albertans? We have three types of industries that create GDP in Alberta:

1. Primary industries that drive the service industries. These industries include Oil & Gas, Mining, Forestry, Agriculture, Manufacturing and Tourism.
2. Service industries that are driven by the primary industries. These include Retail, Finance, Commerce, Transportation, Construction and Utilities.
3. Industries that are funded by provincial tax dollars. These include Health Care and Education.

If good stewardship is not exercised within the primary industries, the service industries will all suffer. If the primary industries and service industries suffer, there will be insufficient tax dollars to fund industries such as Health Care and Education. Therefore, the management of resources within the primary industries affects ALL Albertans.

Rural Albertans control the land, access to the land and provide a significant portion of the labor force that most of our primary industries depend on. Because the rural population is small compared to the cities, in order to be “effectively represented” the rural population must be granted more than a “one person, one vote” voice in order to ensure that good stewardship is exercised over the resources that the primary industries of Alberta depend on.

This is critical to the well being of all Albertans.

EBC-2016/17-725

Further, the AAMDC clearly communicated in their presentation to the Commission that:

[t]he process or means through [which effective] representation is achieved [is] by balancing population and demographics, community interest and characteristics, existing municipal and natural boundaries, and other relevant criteria. Over-reliance on absolute voter parity may not achieve the desired outcome and may inhibit the ability of Albertans to be effectively represented – effectively weakening Alberta’s democratic institutions.

(AAMDC, 637)

Variations

The critical provision in the Act to ensure that effective representation is granted to all Albertans is the use of variations.

The Act states:

15(1) The population of a proposed electoral division must not be more than 25% above nor more than 25% below the average population of all the proposed electoral divisions.

To this point on variances, in the Charlottetown (City) vs Prince Edward Island (1998) case, the majority of the Court concluded that the variances were well within the tolerances accepted by McLachlin. In the *Saskatchewan Reference* “there is considerable acceptance in Canada for a variance of +/-25%.”

In spite of the provision for up to +/-25% variances, a priority by the Majority was set to achieve the lowest variances possible, particularly in Edmonton and to some extent in Calgary, thereby justifying an additional riding in both cities. The average variance in Calgary and Edmonton for the proposed electoral divisions is +/-5%. This is a full 20% below that allowed by the Act.

I am not advocating the use of maximum variances of +/-25% without careful consideration. I am also not advocating that we unduly dilute any one citizen’s vote as compared with another’s. I am advocating that we carefully consider and weigh all the factors starting with what is best for our province as a whole.

Federal Riding Variances

Based on Canada’s Representation Order of 2013, the population per federal electoral districts varies across Canada anywhere between 132,443 in Brantford-Brant and 31,906 in Nunavut. This illustrates that at the federal level many factors besides population are taken into account when establishing electoral boundaries to ensure effective representation for all Canadians. This is consistent with our Canadian *Charter*, Case Law and the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* as previously discussed and further supports the need to appropriately use variances from the average to ensure effective representation in Alberta.

The Elusiveness of “Voter Parity” Reinforces the Importance of the Other s. 14 Factors

The Act mandates the Commission to use the decennial census to assist in setting boundaries. The census includes every man, women and child in a household including those who are not eligible to vote. It’s a head count. In order for a Commission to calculate accurate numbers in an attempt to achieve voter parity, the Act should mandate that the Commission use data on the number of eligible voters in each riding. This concept is explored in great depth in Mr. Cooper’s submission EBC – 2016/17 – 2 – 610. Furthermore, Mr. Cooper gives the following example which illustrates that the percentage that the eligible voters is of the total populations is not consistent from one riding to the next: “the entire population of any riding is not the electorate. The electoral list (Elections Alberta web site) tells us that Lesser Slave Lake has 19303 registered voters (67% of the population) while Calgary-South East has 46555 (51% of the population).” The use of the terminology “voter parity” is inappropriate when we are basing our calculations on the mandated population census and not on eligible voter data.

We also heard from city constituents who believe their annual municipal census numbers are much more accurate than the Canada decennial census. The difficulty of pinning down accurate census numbers is obvious – people are born, die, move and become of age every day; any attempt at quantifying population or eligible voters is an estimate at best.

While I acknowledge the census provides a starting point in setting boundaries, the data is less than perfect; careful consideration of the other listed factors in Section 14 is a critical part of the process of ensuring effective representation.

Impact of Prioritizing Population

Because the population in the cities grew at a greater rate than the population in the “Rest of Alberta,” there was a perceived need to achieve voter parity and increase the number of ridings in the cities. As new ridings are added to the cities, electoral divisions must be taken from the “Rest of Alberta.” This results in ongoing erosion of ridings in rural

Alberta and is not sustainable if all Albertans are to be effectively represented. If Alberta continues to grow at such a rate, a critical part of our history, culture and primary economic voice will be lost, if at every boundary review we collapse two or three rural ridings. It's simply not a sustainable approach to this challenge.

As the final maps display, there are several detrimental effects on our electoral divisions resulting from the focus on population without a balanced consideration of other factors and appropriate use of variances:

1. **The eroding number of MLAs representing Albertans outside of Calgary and Edmonton as discussed above.** This concern was expressed consistently throughout our hearings in both rural and urban settings and in a great many of the submissions.
2. **Sparsity and density of population 14 (b).** The increasing geographical size of some rural ridings has made it even more unmanageable for the MLAs to effectively represent their constituents as we heard repeatedly in our hearings. Conversely, in the densely populated urban divisions MLAs are more able to well represent their population even with a larger positive variance because of easier communication and travel logistics, shared responsibilities amongst neighboring MLAs, ease of access to other levels of government officials and the availability of other resources to meet the constituents' needs. In our hearings, I don't recall hearing concerns expressed by urban MLAs and their constituents that their riding was not sufficiently and effectively represented. Both types of MLAs work tirelessly to represent their constituents; I acknowledge and respect that their roles are very different and equally important. On February 21, 2017, urban MLA Ric McIver at the Calgary Public Hearings said: "I think the expectations are in many cases harder on the rural MLAs because in Calgary there are 25 or 27 of us, and if you can't get McIver, you can get somebody else. If you can't get somebody else, you can get McIver. I think that in the public's mind there is an element of interchange-ability whereas in Rocky Mountain House: That's our MLA. We want you there."
3. **Unnecessary disruption.** In spite of population growth, many existing ridings could have remained unchanged and been within allowable variances both positive or negative. Because of the perceived need to reach voter parity, the final maps include significant changes to most rural and urban boundaries. This disruption, in my view, was unnecessary given the provision in the Act for justifiable variances.
4. **The effects of increasing the geographical size of ridings.** Sections 14 (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) mandate a Commission to consider many factors, including sparsity and density of population, community interests and organizations, community history, First Nation reserves and Métis settlements, number of municipalities and local authorities, urban neighbourhoods and municipal boundaries. I am concerned that we may have joined together disparate communities in the pursuit of lower variances. This joining together of disparate communities puts pressure on MLAs to meet the diverse needs of unique communities and the key economic industries like agriculture, oil and gas, forestry, mining, recreation and tourism. Additional organizations, municipalities, hospitals, First Nation reserves and Métis settlements, schools and school boards often increase in numbers along with the geographical size of the riding.

Average Variances by Discrete Areas in Alberta

In spite of the problems discussed earlier concerning the elusiveness of voter parity and need to consider factors other than population, the growth in the cities did not demand additional ridings as indicated by the discussion below.

MLA Wes Taylor in his presentation at the Red Deer hearing on July 24th noted that based on the February 2016 census, the average variance of population per existing riding vs the provincial average in each of the three discrete areas were as follows:

Calgary 6.14%

Edmonton 5.17%

Rest of Alberta – 5.91%.

I do acknowledge that a Commission needs to review each riding on its own and that we must respect the *1994 Alberta Reference*, when the Court stated: variances can be countenanced only on a constituency-by-constituency basis, not by pre-set divisions (paragraphs 50, 58). However, as described in the final report, the Majority did in fact follow a process that set the boundaries in Edmonton first and Calgary second, followed by the Rest of Alberta.

These small variances, listed above, indicate that the desire by the Majority for voter parity could have been achieved within each of the three discrete areas without adding ridings to the cities.

Conclusion

I admit that I am not able to fully address all the possible results to potential boundaries and variances applying my perspective. The opportunity was not available to explore this.

As an Albertan, I believe that we are very fortunate to have such a variety of electoral constituencies: rural ridings that also encompass towns and villages, 16 small cities, city/rural blends, and two metropolitan cities. We need to focus on the gift that this social mosaic brings to us as Albertans and recognize that we are in fact interdependent. Working hard to preserve effective representation for all Albertans, as we review boundaries, will best maintain better government as a whole and preserve our strength as a leading province in Canada.

The Majority's final report reflects a great deal of thought and diligence. The resulting maps and report have been an immense amount of work. Using the lens and fully believing in the primacy of population, the results of the report are understandable.

Respecting our Canadian historical style of representative democracy sets the foundation for effective representation, which is further affirmed by existing legislation and case law. It is clear that population needs to be balanced with the other elements of effective representation. In conclusion, I believe it would have been in the best interest of all Albertans to adequately consider all mandated factors and, where justifiable, preserve existing ridings using allowable variances. Adding ridings to the cities of Calgary and Edmonton could have been avoided, which would have resulted in much less reconfiguration throughout Alberta while still providing effective representation for all Albertans.

I acknowledge that after presenting the interim report to the public, many requested changes have been incorporated into the final maps. However, the fact remains that Calgary and Edmonton both unjustifiably received an additional riding which negatively impacted the right to effective representation for the Rest of Alberta.

Appendix B: List of Presenters – Second Round of Public Hearings

The table below sets out the names of those who made presentations at any of the Electoral Boundaries Commission's public hearings held in July 2017, in relation to the EBC's final report. It also includes dates, locations and the names of organizations represented.

A similar table relating to presentations made at the first round of public hearings, leading to the issuance of the EBC's interim report. It can be found at Appendix B of that interim report, available at www.abebc.ca.

Date and Location	Name	Organization
Grande Prairie, July 17	Leanne Beaupre	Reeve, County of Grande Prairie
Grande Prairie, July 17	Adele Boucher	Private Citizen
Grande Prairie, July 17	Gary Burgess	Mayor, Village of Hythe

Date and Location	Name	Organization
Grande Prairie, July 17	Tom Burton	Councillor, Municipal District of Greenview
Grande Prairie, July 17	Wayne Drysdale	MLA, Grande Prairie-Wapiti
Grande Prairie, July 17	James Friesen	Private Citizen
Grande Prairie, July 17	Dale Gervais	Reeve, Municipal District of Greenview
Grande Prairie, July 17	Bill Given	Mayor, City of Grande Prairie
Grande Prairie, July 17	Leona Hanson	Mayor, Town of Beaverlodge
Grande Prairie, July 17	Andre Harpe	Private Citizen
Grande Prairie, July 17	Bob Marshall	Councillor, County of Grande Prairie
Grande Prairie, July 17	Ken Matthews	Reeve, County of Big Lakes
Grande Prairie, July 17	Dianne Nellis	Constituency Assistant, Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley
Grande Prairie, July 17	Eric Rosendahl	MLA, West Yellowhead
Grande Prairie, July 17	Todd Russell	Private Citizen
Grande Prairie, July 17	Lee Suederus	Private Citizen
Grande Prairie, July 17	Chris Turnmire	Mayor, Town of Wembley
Vermilion, July 18	Glenn Andersen	Mayor, Town of St. Paul
Vermilion, July 18	David Hanson	MLA, Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills
Vermilion, July 18	Myron Hayduk	Mayor, Town of Vegreville
Vermilion, July 18	Jeremy Johnston	Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville NDP Constituency Association
Vermilion, July 18	Greg Kurulok	Private Citizen
Vermilion, July 18	Jessica Littlewood	MLA, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville
Vermilion, July 18	John Mather	President, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville PC Association
Vermilion, July 18	Omer Moghrabi	Mayor, Lac La Biche County
Vermilion, July 18	Ed Parke	Deputy Reeve, County of Vermilion River
Vermilion, July 18	Niel Parker	Private Citizen
Vermilion, July 18	Lanie Parr	Vice-chair, Buffalo Trail Public Schools
Vermilion, July 18	Judy Plett	Private Citizen
Vermilion, July 18	Ron Plett	Private Citizen
Vermilion, July 18	Sonny Rajoo	Private Citizen
Vermilion, July 18	Taneen Rudyk	Councillor, Town of Vegreville
Vermilion, July 18	Richard Starke	MLA, Vermilion-Lloydminster
Vermilion, July 18	Floyd Thompson	Chairman, Kikino Métis Settlement
Vermilion, July 18	Steve Upham	Reeve, County of St. Paul
Edmonton, July 18	Gabrielle Blatz	Private Citizen
Edmonton, July 18	Lori Blatz	Private Citizen
Edmonton, July 18	Katy Campbell	Constituency Assistant, Edmonton-Gold Bar
Edmonton, July 18	Bruce Ehmgig	Edmonton-Ellerslie NDP Electoral District Association
Edmonton, July 18	Joel French	Public Interest Alberta, Democracy Task Force
Edmonton, July 18	Laila Goodridge	Private Citizen
Edmonton, July 18	Bart Guyon	Reeve, Brazeau County
Edmonton, July 18	Duncan Kinney	Executive Director, Progress Alberta

Date and Location	Name	Organization
Edmonton, July 18	Patrick Kobly	Private Citizen
Edmonton, July 18	John Kolkman	Private Citizen
Edmonton, July 18	Andrew Koning	Private Citizen
Edmonton, July 18	Glenn McLean	Mayor, Town of Drayton Valley
Edmonton, July 18	Mary O'Neill	Private Citizen
Edmonton, July 18	Jamie Post	President, Glenwood Community League
Edmonton, July 18	Mark Smith	MLA, Drayton Valley-Devon
Edmonton, July 18	Garett Spelliscy	Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview NDP Constituency Association
Edmonton, July 19	Estefania Cortes-Vargas	MLA, Strathcona-Sherwood Park
Edmonton, July 19	Brian Fleck	Private Citizen
Edmonton, July 19	Sarah Hoffman	MLA, Edmonton-Glenora
Edmonton, July 19	Trevor Horne	MLA, Spruce Grove-St. Albert
Edmonton, July 19	Mark Nicoll	Private Citizen
Edmonton, July 19	Colin Piquette	MLA, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater
Edmonton, July 19	Marie-Laure Polydore	Executive Director, Inglewood Business Association
Edmonton, July 19	Colleen Powell	Private Citizen
Edmonton, July 19	Jim Ragsdale	Private Citizen
Edmonton, July 19	Jocelyn Stenger	Private Citizen
Edmonton, July 19	Peggy Wright	President, Alberta New Democratic Party
Edmonton, July 19	Sheila Aitken	Constituency Assistant, Stony Plain
Edmonton, July 19	Jon Carson	MLA, Edmonton-Meadowlark
Edmonton, July 19	Lorne Dach	MLA, Edmonton-McClung
Edmonton, July 19	Mic Farrell	President, Edmonton-McClung NDP Constituency Association
Edmonton, July 19	Alexandria Fisher	Private Citizen
Edmonton, July 19	Nicole Goehring	MLA, Edmonton-Castle Downs
Edmonton, July 19	Christina Gray	MLA, Edmonton-Mill Woods
Edmonton, July 19	Jim Hill	Private Citizen
Edmonton, July 19	Al Kemmere	President, AAMDC
Edmonton, July 19	Chris Nielsen	MLA, Edmonton-Decore
Edmonton, July 19	Philip Penrod	Private Citizen
Edmonton, July 19	Kieran Quirke	Vice-chair, Leduc-Nisku Economic Development Association
Edmonton, July 19	Heather Sobey	Whitcourt-Ste. Anne NDP Constituency Association
Edmonton, July 19	Heather Sweet	MLA, Edmonton-Manning
Edmonton, July 19	Jason Watt	McLeod Community League
Edmonton, July 19	Carol Wodak	Private Citizen
Calgary, July 20	Wayne Anderson	MLA, Highwood
Calgary, July 20	Michael Connolly	MLA, Calgary-Hawkwood
Calgary, July 20	Deborah Drever	MLA, Calgary-Bow
Calgary, July 20	Gord Elliott	Private Citizen

Date and Location	Name	Organization
Calgary, July 20	Mashhood Qazi	Vice-president, Calgary-Bow NDP Electoral District Association
Calgary, July 20	Paisley Sim	Constituency Assistant, Calgary-Buffalo
Calgary, July 20	Pat Stier	MLA, Livingstone-Macleod
Calgary, July 20	Kelly Sundberg	Professor, Mount Royal University
Calgary, July 20	Cam Westhead	MLA, Banff-Cochrane
Calgary, July 20	David Hartwick	First Vice-president, Northern Hills Community Association
Calgary, July 20	Sylvia Hawkins	President, Calgary-East NDP Constituency Association
Calgary, July 20	Nancy Janovicek	President, Calgary-Fort NDP Electoral District Association
Calgary, July 20	Anam Kazim	MLA, Calgary-Glenmore
Calgary, July 20	Brian Malkinson	MLA, Calgary-Currie
Calgary, July 20	Alan McNaughton	Calgary-Varsity NDP Electoral District Association
Calgary, July 20	Ricardo Miranda	MLA, Calgary-Cross
Calgary, July 20	Michael Mooney	Private Citizen
Calgary, July 20	Brandy Payne	MLA, Calgary-Acadia
Calgary, July 20	Don Ray	Private Citizen
Calgary, July 20	Alex Shevalier	President, Calgary & District Labour Council
Calgary, July 20	Graham Sucha	MLA, Calgary-Shaw
Calgary, July 20	Peter Brown	Mayor, City of Airdrie
Calgary, July 20	Scott Eden	President, Woodcreek Community Association
Calgary, July 20	Paul Frank	Private Citizen
Calgary, July 20	Jamie Kleinsteuber	MLA, Calgary-Northern Hills
Calgary, July 20	Carla Lloyd	Constituency Assistant, Calgary-Acadia
Calgary, July 20	Fred Nash	Mayor, Town of Rocky Mountain House
Calgary, July 20	Robert Nelson	Private Citizen
Calgary, July 20	Blake Richards	MP, Banff-Airdrie
Calgary, July 20	Peter Ries	Private Citizen
Calgary, July 20	Stephen Utz	Community Growth Manager, City of Airdrie
Calgary, July 20	Josi Wiebe	Vice-chair, Advocates for North Calgary High School
Brooks, July 21	Drew Barnes	MLA, Cypress-Medicine Hat
Brooks, July 21	Vic Budz	Board Chair, Grasslands Public Schools
Brooks, July 21	Molly Douglass	Reeve, County of Newell
Brooks, July 21	Ben Elfring	Councillor, Municipal District of Taber
Brooks, July 21	Michael Ell	Mayor, Town of Strathmore
Brooks, July 21	Derek Fildebrandt	MLA, Strathmore-Brooks
Brooks, July 21	Maria Fitzpatrick	MLA, Lethbridge-East
Brooks, July 21	Don Gibb	Mayor, Village of Rosemary
Brooks, July 21	Barry McFarland	Private Citizen
Brooks, July 21	Bev Muendel-Atherstone	Private Citizen
Brooks, July 21	Ross Owen	Board Chair, Eastern Irrigation District
Brooks, July 21	Kris Samraj	Private Citizen

Date and Location	Name	Organization
Brooks, July 21	David Schneider	MLA, Little Bow
Brooks, July 21	Colette Smithers	Alberta NDP Medicine Hat and Cypress-Medicine Hat Constituency Association
Brooks, July 21	Rick Strankman	MLA, Drumheller-Stettler
Red Deer, July 24	Pat Alexander	Reeve, Clearwater County
Red Deer, July 24	Erin Babcock	MLA, Stony Plain
Red Deer, July 24	Kathy Barnhart	Deputy Mayor, Town of Beaumont
Red Deer, July 24	Ian Borody	Private Citizen
Red Deer, July 24	Lee Cooper	Private Citizen
Red Deer, July 24	Scott Cyr	MLA, Bonnyville-Cold Lake
Red Deer, July 24	Elizabeth Hagell	Private Citizen
Red Deer, July 24	Neil Korotash	Private Citizen
Red Deer, July 24	Curt Maki	Deputy Reeve, Clearwater County
Red Deer, July 24	Eleanor Mohammed	Director of Planning and Engineering, Town of Beaumont
Red Deer, July 24	Richard Poole	Councillor, Town of Blackfalds
Red Deer, July 24	Kevin Smook	Reeve, Beaver County
Red Deer, July 24	Elaine Spencer	Private Citizen
Red Deer, July 24	Doris Splane	Reeve, Athabasca County
Red Deer, July 24	Wes Taylor	MLA, Battle River-Wainwright
Red Deer, July 24	John Whaley	Mayor, Leduc County

Appendix C: List of Submitters – Second Round of Written Submissions

The table below sets out the names of those who made written submissions, in relation to the Commission’s final report.

A similar table relating to written submissions made in advance of the Commission’s interim report can be found at Appendix C of that interim report, available at www.abebc.ca.

Submission Number	Name
EBC-2016-17-2-001	Darwin Durnie
EBC-2016-17-2-002	Nigel Logan
EBC-2016-17-2-003	Angela Christianson
EBC-2016-17-2-004	Sterling Matan
EBC-2016-17-2-005	Steve Aldred
EBC-2016-17-2-006	Paul Andrews
EBC-2016-17-2-007	Eric Bell
EBC-2016-17-2-008	Bruce Pettigrew
EBC-2016-17-2-009	Tracy Gillott
EBC-2016-17-2-010	Daryl Frenette
EBC-2016-17-2-011	Craig Jorgensen
EBC-2016-17-2-012	Lauraine Howatt
EBC-2016-17-2-013	Shelly Lindballe
EBC-2016-17-2-014	Ian Krauskopf
EBC-2016-17-2-015	Trevor Hackett
EBC-2016-17-2-016	Daniel Brown
EBC-2016-17-2-017	Keith Harrison
EBC-2016-17-2-018	Dalyn Orsten
EBC-2016-17-2-019	Dan Whelton
EBC-2016-17-2-020	Peter Dobbie
EBC-2016-17-2-021	Jennifer Foot
EBC-2016-17-2-022	Joshua Pawlak
EBC-2016-17-2-023	Don Paradis
EBC-2016-17-2-024	Kent Ladell
EBC-2016-17-2-025	Linda Perler
EBC-2016-17-2-026	Joe Gendre
EBC-2016-17-2-027	Laura Jackson
EBC-2016-17-2-028	Warren McKay
EBC-2016-17-2-029	Leslie Taylor
EBC-2016-17-2-030	Jeannette Parkin
EBC-2016-17-2-031	Greg McGinley
EBC-2016-17-2-032	Roger Arcand
EBC-2016-17-2-033	Carol Campbell
EBC-2016-17-2-034	Kathleen Hankins
EBC-2016-17-2-035	Dakota Hourie

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Submission Number	Name
EBC-2016-17-2-036	Charles Reid
EBC-2016-17-2-037	Jordan Zawada
EBC-2016-17-2-038	Dick Richards
EBC-2016-17-2-039	Stacey Lavallie
EBC-2016-17-2-040	Barbara Castell
EBC-2016-17-2-041	Donna Downey
EBC-2016-17-2-042	Shawna James
EBC-2016-17-2-043	Clarann Petersen
EBC-2016-17-2-044	David Fletcher
EBC-2016-17-2-045	Richard Hoppins
EBC-2016-17-2-046	Mary O'Neill
EBC-2016-17-2-047	Karen Chesterman
EBC-2016-17-2-048	Gwen Bouchard
EBC-2016-17-2-049	Terry McToni
EBC-2016-17-2-050	Elizabeth MacArthur
EBC-2016-17-2-051	Ellen Lupick
EBC-2016-17-2-052	Stuart Angle
EBC-2016-17-2-053	Janet Higgins
EBC-2016-17-2-054	Marilyn Carr
EBC-2016-17-2-055	Blatchford Blatchford
EBC-2016-17-2-056	Jack Barlow
EBC-2016-17-2-057	Concerned Albertan
EBC-2016-17-2-058	Vilnius Kniec
EBC-2016-17-2-059	Brian Owens
EBC-2016-17-2-060	Joel Teeling
EBC-2016-17-2-061	Dave Rusnell
EBC-2016-17-2-062	Adele Boucher
EBC-2016-17-2-063	Martin Kennedy
EBC-2016-17-2-064	Theresa Kline
EBC-2016-17-2-065	Betty Quinlan
EBC-2016-17-2-066	Robb Aishford
EBC-2016-17-2-067	Teresa Mullen
EBC-2016-17-2-068	Tom Whitfield
EBC-2016-17-2-069	Brenda Corney
EBC-2016-17-2-070	Steven LeLiever
EBC-2016-17-2-071	Roland Poitras
EBC-2016-17-2-072	Darren Poirier
EBC-2016-17-2-073	Terry Shillington
EBC-2016-17-2-074	Henry Irving
EBC-2016-17-2-075	Lisa Wardley
EBC-2016-17-2-076	Darlene Hoogstraten

Submission Number	Name
EBC-2016-17-2-077	Jennifer Williams
EBC-2016-17-2-078	Penny Kushko
EBC-2016-17-2-079	Barbara Willman
EBC-2016-17-2-080	Pat Rutledge
EBC-2016-17-2-081	John Smythe
EBC-2016-17-2-082	Bernice DeLennheer
EBC-2016-17-2-083	Richard Starke
EBC-2016-17-2-084	Gerry Neustaedter
EBC-2016-17-2-085	Marjorie Hibbert
EBC-2016-17-2-086	Audrey Page
EBC-2016-17-2-087	Kathleen Nakagawa
EBC-2016-17-2-088	Ronald Andrew Yule
EBC-2016-17-2-089	Anne Weerstra
EBC-2016-17-2-090	Nancy Holland
EBC-2016-17-2-091	Cheryl Marcynuik
EBC-2016-17-2-092	Chris Dunn
EBC-2016-17-2-093	Mayor Arnold Romaniuk
EBC-2016-17-2-094	Terrance Dunn
EBC-2016-17-2-095	David Hawco, Mayor of Milk River
EBC-2016-17-2-096	Drew Barnes, MLA
EBC-2016-17-2-097	Lydia Calhoun
EBC-2016-17-2-098	Dorit Rogalsky
EBC-2016-17-2-099	Tricia Mitchell
EBC-2016-17-2-100	Ellie Gerhadt
EBC-2016-17-2-101	Kalen Hastings
EBC-2016-17-2-102	Ali Tams
EBC-2016-17-2-103	Marjorie and Wilfrid Makowichuk
EBC-2016-17-2-104	Joanne Vander Heide
EBC-2016-17-2-105	Tonye Truba
EBC-2016-17-2-106	Jerry Wright
EBC-2016-17-2-107	Wendy Rudiger
EBC-2016-17-2-108	Pam Horne
EBC-2016-17-2-109	Tamara Keller
EBC-2016-17-2-110	Bryne Lengyel
EBC-2016-17-2-111	Paul Smith
EBC-2016-17-2-112	Ca Kraus
EBC-2016-17-2-113	Bob Barss
EBC-2016-17-2-114	Sandra Rush
EBC-2016-17-2-115	Laura Hack
EBC-2016-17-2-116	Lucille Fedkiw
EBC-2016-17-2-117	Erin Livingston

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Submission Number	Name
EBC-2016-17-2-118	Peter Cook-Bielech
EBC-2016-17-2-119	Suzanne Douglas
EBC-2016-17-2-120	Lavonne Svenson, Mayor, Village of Ryley
EBC-2016-17-2-121	Duplicate - see EBC-2016-17-2-96
EBC-2016-17-2-122	Ken Gwozdz, CAO, Town of Elk Point
EBC-2016-17-2-123	Ross Ford, Reeve, County of Warner
EBC-2016-17-2-124	Harold Conquest, Mayor, Town of Tofield
EBC-2016-17-2-125	Gale Katchur
EBC-2016-17-2-126	Josi Wiebe
EBC-2016-17-2-127	Bruce MacDuff, Mayor, Town of Vermilion
EBC-2016-17-2-128	Wayne Brown
EBC-2016-17-2-129	Halley Girvitz
EBC-2016-17-2-130	Murray Kulak
EBC-2016-17-2-131	Lisa Baerg
EBC-2016-17-2-132	Roger Taylor
EBC-2016-17-2-133	Peter Ries
EBC-2016-17-2-134	Carol Kauppi
EBC-2016-17-2-135	Wayne Miller
EBC-2016-17-2-136	Ivan Ivankovich
EBC-2016-17-2-137	Trent Auriat
EBC-2016-17-2-138	Bob Beck
EBC-2016-17-2-139	William Yesensky
EBC-2016-17-2-140	David W. Burghardt
EBC-2016-17-2-141	Kelly Malmberg
EBC-2016-17-2-142	Linda Davidchuk
EBC-2016-17-2-143	Ron McCrea
EBC-2016-17-2-144	Kurt Gordon
EBC-2016-17-2-145	Susan Green
EBC-2016-17-2-146	Lorne Hammel
EBC-2016-17-2-147	LaDonna Hammel
EBC-2016-17-2-148	Donna Thane
EBC-2016-17-2-149	Frederick Brittain
EBC-2016-17-2-150	Marian Ho
EBC-2016-17-2-151	Dianne Golob
EBC-2016-17-2-152	Sharleen Hiron
EBC-2016-17-2-153	Nikolina Lau
EBC-2016-17-2-154	Kristin VanArragon
EBC-2016-17-2-155	Sharon Koch
EBC-2016-17-2-156	Jason Ruecker, Reeve, Clear Hills County
EBC-2016-17-2-157	Dana McIntosh, Chair, School Div No.76
EBC-2016-17-2-158	Ted Clugston, Mayor, City of Medicine Hat

Submission Number	Name
EBC-2016-17-2-159	Judith Aberle
EBC-2016-17-2-160	Maureen Prince
EBC-2016-17-2-161	Gary McFarlane
EBC-2016-17-2-162	Penny Fox
EBC-2016-17-2-163	Lori Somner
EBC-2016-17-2-164	Carrie Anheliger
EBC-2016-17-2-165	Heather McRae
EBC-2016-17-2-166	Jim Palmer
EBC-2016-17-2-167	Wes Jones
EBC-2016-17-2-168	Darcy Movold
EBC-2016-17-2-169	David Nichiporik
EBC-2016-17-2-170	Crystal Wollman
EBC-2016-17-2-171	Don Gregorwich, Reeve, Camrose County
EBC-2016-17-2-172	Richard Milliken
EBC-2016-17-2-173	John Whaley, Mayor, Leduc County
EBC-2016-17-2-174	Barrie E. Pratt
EBC-2016-17-2-175	Spencer Bennett
EBC-2016-17-2-176	Kim Free
EBC-2016-17-2-177	Kim Movold
EBC-2016-17-2-178	Matthew Brink
EBC-2016-17-2-179	Margaret Louise
EBC-2016-17-2-180	Sherry Baker
EBC-2016-17-2-181	Vernita Carlson
EBC-2016-17-2-182	Donna Burlock
EBC-2016-17-2-183	Dylan Brewster
EBC-2016-17-2-184	Margaret Sharpe
EBC-2016-17-2-185	Bruce Clarence
EBC-2016-17-2-186	Susann Welk
EBC-2016-17-2-187	Jeff Lewandoski
EBC-2016-17-2-188	Brenda Werk
EBC-2016-17-2-189	Jessica Stock
EBC-2016-17-2-190	Donald Weiss
EBC-2016-17-2-191	Marian Dudenhoeffer
EBC-2016-17-2-192	Dennis MacNeil, Chair, Aspen View Schools
EBC-2016-17-2-193	Cathryn Coffman
EBC-2016-17-2-194	Crystal Klys
EBC-2016-17-2-195	Victoria Henry
EBC-2016-17-2-196	Jeffrey Dowling
EBC-2016-17-2-197	Andrew R. Cameron
EBC-2016-17-2-198	Bill Hegy, Mayor, Lac Ste. Anne County
EBC-2016-17-2-199	Allen Sayler, Reeve, County of Two Hills

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Submission Number	Name
EBC-2016-17-2-200	Clyde Corser
EBC-2016-17-2-201	Jonathan Henn
EBC-2016-17-2-202	Rodger Heidinger
EBC-2016-17-2-203	Phil Trenholm
EBC-2016-17-2-204	Dennis Warner
EBC-2016-17-2-205	Holly Dudley
EBC-2016-17-2-206	Barbara Beifus
EBC-2016-17-2-207	Robert Herring
EBC-2016-17-2-208	Claude Oppenheim
EBC-2016-17-2-209	Dean Gray
EBC-2016-17-2-210	Marvin Shoup
EBC-2016-17-2-211	Jake Turner
EBC-2016-17-2-212	Marie Smith
EBC-2016-17-2-213	Regina Hansen
EBC-2016-17-2-214	Sheri Henry
EBC-2016-17-2-215	Marjorie Horn
EBC-2016-17-2-216	Christina Kuttnick
EBC-2016-17-2-217	William Groves
EBC-2016-17-2-218	William Gilson
EBC-2016-17-2-219	Shirley Evans
EBC-2016-17-2-220	Trevor Pott
EBC-2016-17-2-221	Jennifer Burr
EBC-2016-17-2-222	Steven Kuchirka
EBC-2016-17-2-223	Stephanie Fehler
EBC-2016-17-2-224	Daniel Nash
EBC-2016-17-2-225	Gail Grant
EBC-2016-17-2-226	Janette and Kenneth Bernhart
EBC-2016-17-2-227	Bruce Beattie
EBC-2016-17-2-228	Corrine Erickson
EBC-2016-17-2-229	Jeanne Gonnason
EBC-2016-17-2-230	Vic Moran
EBC-2016-17-2-231	Duston Forrest
EBC-2016-17-2-232	Yvonne Webber
EBC-2016-17-2-233	Rita Radvony
EBC-2016-17-2-234	Tanya Babcook
EBC-2016-17-2-235	David Smitheman
EBC-2016-17-2-236	Mandi Skogen
EBC-2016-17-2-237	Trisha and Myron Bennett
EBC-2016-17-2-238	Linda Hibbert
EBC-2016-17-2-239	Ed Karl
EBC-2016-17-2-240	Ashley Fehr

Submission Number	Name
EBC-2016-17-2-241	Bryan Kranzier
EBC-2016-17-2-242	Kathy Rooyakkers, Reeve
EBC-2016-17-2-243	Ron Baugh
EBC-2016-17-2-244	Chris Doyle
EBC-2016-17-2-245	Sandra Sheridan-Kingsbury
EBC-2016-17-2-246	Allen Pierce
EBC-2016-17-2-247	William Astle
EBC-2016-17-2-248	Naomi MacLean
EBC-2016-17-2-249	Marg Lintott
EBC-2016-17-2-250	Rebecca Everitt
EBC-2016-17-2-251	Janet Schwengler
EBC-2016-17-2-252	Mel Smith
EBC-2016-17-2-253	Sarah Hartlen
EBC-2016-17-2-254	Nora Kish
EBC-2016-17-2-255	Connie Hamilton
EBC-2016-17-2-256	Gerry Gaede
EBC-2016-17-2-257	Dawn Messer
EBC-2016-17-2-258	Dan Kennelly
EBC-2016-17-2-259	Jennifer Rose
EBC-2016-17-2-260	Merritt Ranseth
EBC-2016-17-2-261	Shan O'fee-Byrom
EBC-2016-17-2-262	Jemie Li-Wong
EBC-2016-17-2-263	Erin Stanford
EBC-2016-17-2-264	Sara Nieboer
EBC-2016-17-2-265	James Bremner
EBC-2016-17-2-266	Ed Reddy
EBC-2016-17-2-267	Melissa Ramkissoon
EBC-2016-17-2-268	Peter MacKay
EBC-2016-17-2-269	Stephanie MacKay
EBC-2016-17-2-270	VaLinda Ivanics
EBC-2016-17-2-271	Charmaine Wood
EBC-2016-17-2-272	Ken Kultgen, Mayor of Foremost
EBC-2016-17-2-273	Kevin Smook, Reeve, Beaver County
EBC-2016-17-2-274	Stan Bzowy, Reeve, MD of Spirit River
EBC-2016-17-2-275	Don Iveson, Mayor of Edmonton
EBC-2016-17-2-276	Matthew Kreke
EBC-2016-17-2-277	Jo-Anne Wright
EBC-2016-17-2-278	Jay Slem, Chair, Palliser Economic Development
EBC-2016-17-2-279	Colleen Matthews
EBC-2016-17-2-280	Clifford Smith
EBC-2016-17-2-281	Trudy Baker

Submission Number	Name
EBC-2016-17-2-282	Barb Homer
EBC-2016-17-2-283	Judy MacLachlan
EBC-2016-17-2-284	Allison Brown
EBC-2016-17-2-285	Thomas Loucks
EBC-2016-17-2-286	William Montague
EBC-2016-17-2-287	Beverly Silverstone
EBC-2016-17-2-288	Sandra Percival Kaczmarek
EBC-2016-17-2-289	Sonia Tyhonchuk
EBC-2016-17-2-290	Beverly Abels
EBC-2016-17-2-291	Jason Watt
EBC-2016-17-2-292	Lindy Dawson
EBC-2016-17-2-293	Rob Dawson
EBC-2016-17-2-294	Laura Neary
EBC-2016-17-2-295	Judy Rice
EBC-2016-17-2-296	Sandra Peacock
EBC-2016-17-2-297	Lisa MacFarlane
EBC-2016-17-2-298	Carolyn Skov
EBC-2016-17-2-299	Brenda Eisenberg
EBC-2016-17-2-300	Dennis and Janice Lang
EBC-2016-17-2-301	Margot Langdon
EBC-2016-17-2-302	Lynne Davies
EBC-2016-17-2-303	John Davies
EBC-2016-17-2-304	Patricia Jorgensen
EBC-2016-17-2-305	Pat Jamniczky
EBC-2016-17-2-306	Natalie Harmon
EBC-2016-17-2-307	Ken Larsen
EBC-2016-17-2-308	Nicola Doyle
EBC-2016-17-2-309	Frank Cosman
EBC-2016-17-2-310	Teresa Ormberg
EBC-2016-17-2-311	Margaret Steel
EBC-2016-17-2-312	Craig Pearn
EBC-2016-17-2-313	John Borrowman
EBC-2016-17-2-314	Gillian Mair
EBC-2016-17-2-315	Gibson Scott
EBC-2016-17-2-316	Patrick Mair
EBC-2016-17-2-317	Krysti Baker
EBC-2016-17-2-318	Mark Shand
EBC-2016-17-2-319	Gregory Kraus
EBC-2016-17-2-320	Donald Jamison
EBC-2016-17-2-321	Wayne Brock
EBC-2016-17-2-322	Louise Capper

Submission Number	Name
EBC-2016-17-2-323	Brenda Dale
EBC-2016-17-2-324	Linda McGregor
EBC-2016-17-2-325	Elizabeth Gray
EBC-2016-17-2-326	Marnie Beaudoin
EBC-2016-17-2-327	Curtis Kutzweg
EBC-2016-17-2-328	Ronald Hons
EBC-2016-17-2-329	Jennifer and Andrew Wilkinson
EBC-2016-17-2-330	Calvin Ell
EBC-2016-17-2-331	Wanda Rose
EBC-2016-17-2-332	Dene Cooper, Reeve, Bighorn
EBC-2016-17-2-333	Alan Hyland
EBC-2016-17-2-334	Francis Egan
EBC-2016-17-2-335	Dixie-Lee Egan
EBC-2016-17-2-336	Cory Diemert
EBC-2016-17-2-337	Trevor Norris
EBC-2016-17-2-338	Ralph Gechter
EBC-2016-17-2-339	Wayne Pratt
EBC-2016-17-2-340	Jennifer McCurdy
EBC-2016-17-2-341	Trevor Dunham
EBC-2016-17-2-342	Glenn Andersen, Mayor of St. Paul
EBC-2016-17-2-343	Ian Borody
EBC-2016-17-2-344	Myrna Fyfe
EBC-2016-17-2-345	Sandra Oleksiw
EBC-2016-17-2-346	Jyoti Gondek
EBC-2016-17-2-347	Chris Stockwell
EBC-2016-17-2-348	Glenn McLean and Bart Guyon
EBC-2016-17-2-349	Joel French, Public Interest Alberta
EBC-2016-17-2-350	Leroy Durand
EBC-2016-17-2-351	Jeff Wedman, St. Albert PC Association
EBC-2016-17-2-352	Colleen Powell
EBC-2016-17-2-353	Iain Hawker
EBC-2016-17-2-354	Chris Challis
EBC-2016-17-2-355	Jaye Walter
EBC-2016-17-2-356	Dale Boddy
EBC-2016-17-2-357	Alan and Ingrid Rose
EBC-2016-17-2-358	Dan Wong
EBC-2016-17-2-359	Wayne Moorhead
EBC-2016-17-2-360	Claude Lagace, Mayor of Sexsmith
EBC-2016-17-2-361	Leanne Rosinski, McLeod Community
EBC-2016-17-2-362	LeVar Payne
EBC-2016-17-2-363	Jeff MacKenzie

Submission Number	Name
EBC-2016-17-2-364	Chantelle Hughes-Kreutzer, Mill Woods NDP
EBC-2016-17-2-365	Robyn Singleton, Lamont County
EBC-2016-17-2-366	Martin Shields, MP
EBC-2016-17-2-367	Gerald Aalbers, Mayor of Lloydminster
EBC-2016-17-2-368	Bill Maxim, Returning Officer, Edmonton-Decore
EBC-2016-17-2-369	Omer Moghrabi, Mayor, Lac La Biche County
EBC-2016-17-2-370	Susan Hodges Marlowe
EBC-2016-17-2-371	Judith A. Carter
EBC-2016-17-2-372	William B. Carter
EBC-2016-17-2-373	Ann McCormack
EBC-2016-17-2-374	Noel McCormack
EBC-2016-17-2-375	Paul Hopaluk
EBC-2016-17-2-376	Laurie Hopaluk
EBC-2016-17-2-377	Genevieve Baechler
EBC-2016-17-2-378	Thomas Baechler
EBC-2016-17-2-379	Andrew Convey
EBC-2016-17-2-380	Ben Poitras
EBC-2016-17-2-381	George Russell
EBC-2016-17-2-382	Ronald Boothman
EBC-2016-17-2-383	Kent Rewuski
EBC-2016-17-2-384	Keagan Rewuski
EBC-2016-17-2-385	K. Rewuski
EBC-2016-17-2-386	David Bensmiller
EBC-2016-17-2-387	Krista Bensmiller
EBC-2016-17-2-388	Bonnie Barnett
EBC-2016-17-2-389	Cindy Maynes
EBC-2016-17-2-390	David Cullins
EBC-2016-17-2-391	Rick Franke
EBC-2016-17-2-392	Patsy West
EBC-2016-17-2-393	Marcene Garnier
EBC-2016-17-2-394	Maurice Garnier
EBC-2016-17-2-395	Mable A. Walker
EBC-2016-17-2-396	Emma Wowk
EBC-2016-17-2-397	Janice Hilts
EBC-2016-17-2-398	Jim Hilts
EBC-2016-17-2-399	Dean Brett
EBC-2016-17-2-400	Brenda Brett
EBC-2016-17-2-401	Judy Bates
EBC-2016-17-2-402	Lindsey Bates
EBC-2016-17-2-403	Lorraine Whiteside
EBC-2016-17-2-404	Sheryl Davies

Submission Number	Name
EBC-2016-17-2-405	Jennifer Romanchuk
EBC-2016-17-2-406	Arnell Dennill
EBC-2016-17-2-407	Suzanne Pankiw
EBC-2016-17-2-408	Harvey Ericson
EBC-2016-17-2-409	Shannon Bakos
EBC-2016-17-2-410	Curt McLean
EBC-2016-17-2-411	Anne Fehr
EBC-2016-17-2-412	Brent Romanchuk
EBC-2016-17-2-413	Kerry Sikora
EBC-2016-17-2-414	Gioria Sikora
EBC-2016-17-2-415	Allan Parr
EBC-2016-17-2-416	Marty Hines
EBC-2016-17-2-417	Christine Graham
EBC-2016-17-2-418	Doris West
EBC-2016-17-2-419	L. Romanchuk
EBC-2016-17-2-420	Larry Bensmiller
EBC-2016-17-2-421	O. Bensmiller
EBC-2016-17-2-422	Ryley Bates
EBC-2016-17-2-423	Ken Haney
EBC-2016-17-2-424	Allan Stone
EBC-2016-17-2-425	Connie Whiteside
EBC-2016-17-2-426	Bob Braithwaite
EBC-2016-17-2-427	Daneca Goldsmith
EBC-2016-17-2-428	Bruce Goldsmith
EBC-2016-17-2-429	Darlene Goldsmith
EBC-2016-17-2-430	Carrie Goldsmith
EBC-2016-17-2-431	Theresa Butz
EBC-2016-17-2-432	Jerry Butz
EBC-2016-17-2-433	Vern Goad
EBC-2016-17-2-434	Brenda Goad
EBC-2016-17-2-435	Cole Goad
EBC-2016-17-2-436	Bruce Craige
EBC-2016-17-2-437	Tammi Etherington
EBC-2016-17-2-438	Bruce Etherington
EBC-2016-17-2-439	Bryce Goldsmith
EBC-2016-17-2-440	Morley Dennill
EBC-2016-17-2-441	Darren Brown
EBC-2016-17-2-442	Laurie Bowman
EBC-2016-17-2-443	Lois Rewuski
EBC-2016-17-2-444	Sandra Braithwaite
EBC-2016-17-2-445	Roger Braithwaite

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Submission Number	Name
EBC-2016-17-2-446	Eleanor Parr
EBC-2016-17-2-447	Norman Holowaychuk
EBC-2016-17-2-448	Shannon Convey
EBC-2016-17-2-449	C. LeClaire
EBC-2016-17-2-450	Lilian Ewan
EBC-2016-17-2-451	Shawn Ewen
EBC-2016-17-2-452	Glenn Ewen
EBC-2016-17-2-453	Brett Nolin
EBC-2016-17-2-454	Twila McVeety
EBC-2016-17-2-455	Cal Rewuski
EBC-2016-17-2-456	Remington Oneschak
EBC-2016-17-2-457	Tricia Oneschuk
EBC-2016-17-2-458	Bob Oneschuk
EBC-2016-17-2-459	Henry Labiuk
EBC-2016-17-2-460	Dave Eshleman
EBC-2016-17-2-461	Ron Tannas
EBC-2016-17-2-462	Allan Young
EBC-2016-17-2-463	W. Nuran
EBC-2016-17-2-464	Headley Dennill
EBC-2016-17-2-465	Annie Dennil
EBC-2016-17-2-466	Elisa Haney
EBC-2016-17-2-467	Penny Ryan
EBC-2016-17-2-468	Arthur Parr
EBC-2016-17-2-469	Lynn Parr
EBC-2016-17-2-470	Ryan Parr
EBC-2016-17-2-471	Betty Brown
EBC-2016-17-2-472	Lean Olsen
EBC-2016-17-2-473	Darwyn Olsen
EBC-2016-17-2-474	Arthur Lawrence
EBC-2016-17-2-475	Ruby Lawrence
EBC-2016-17-2-476	Sam Butz
EBC-2016-17-2-477	Sharon Rodesh
EBC-2016-17-2-478	William Snider
EBC-2016-17-2-479	Tracy Snider
EBC-2016-17-2-480	Shirley Osinchuk
EBC-2016-17-2-481	John Snider
EBC-2016-17-2-482	Jolene Soloy
EBC-2016-17-2-483	Vic Lawrence
EBC-2016-17-2-484	Lyle Rodesh
EBC-2016-17-2-485	Audrey Rainey
EBC-2016-17-2-486	John Anderson

Submission Number	Name
EBC-2016-17-2-487	Sheldon Quickstad
EBC-2016-17-2-488	Danelle Garner
EBC-2016-17-2-489	Lois Etherington
EBC-2016-17-2-490	Gary Etherington
EBC-2016-17-2-491	Norman Poitras
EBC-2016-17-2-492	Sharon Bates
EBC-2016-17-2-493	Meredith Whiteside
EBC-2016-17-2-494	Terry Ried, Milton Ried, Darryl Pankiw, Christel Homes
EBC-2016-17-2-495	Luta Goldsmith
EBC-2016-17-2-496	Veronica Radesh
EBC-2016-17-2-497	Arthur Redman
EBC-2016-17-2-498	Dallas Dyck
EBC-2016-17-2-499	Jude Jewuske
EBC-2016-17-2-500	Heather Oddan
EBC-2016-17-2-501	Alan Beaumer
EBC-2016-17-2-502	Holly Holmen
EBC-2016-17-2-503	Gordon Hegedus
EBC-2016-17-2-504	Sandra Lawson, Allan Belsheim, Duane Young, Gillian Belsheim, Noel Belsheim
EBC-2016-17-2-505	Matt Dow, AAMDC
EBC-2016-17-2-506	Craig Copeland, Mayor of Cold Lake
EBC-2016-17-2-507	Pat Huxley
EBC-2016-17-2-508	Denis Blake
EBC-2016-17-2-509	Kaitlyn Snider
EBC-2016-17-2-510	Darrell Snider
EBC-2016-17-2-511	Charles Lovell
EBC-2016-17-2-512	Marjorie Lawrence
EBC-2016-17-2-513	Rick Rewvski
EBC-2016-17-2-514	Alexis Dyck
EBC-2016-17-2-515	Colin Minish
EBC-2016-17-2-516	David Oddan
EBC-2016-17-2-517	Debra Hegedus
EBC-2016-17-2-518	Sheila Ritz, CAO County of St. Paul
EBC-2016-17-2-519	Alvin Hubert, Reeve, Saddle Hills County
EBC-2016-17-2-520	Nadine Lundgren
EBC-2016-17-2-521	Sherry Butler
EBC-2016-17-2-522	Gary Burgess, Mayor of Hythe
EBC-2016-17-2-523	Dale Nally
EBC-2016-17-2-524	Keith Brownsey
EBC-2016-17-2-525	Alan Rose
EBC-2016-17-2-526	Deborah Boyle
EBC-2016-17-2-527	Terry Leslie, Mayor, Town of Sundre

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Submission Number	Name
EBC-2016-17-2-528	Bruce Lukey
EBC-2016-17-2-529	Robert Jorgensen, CAO, Town of Athabasca
EBC-2016-17-2-530	Jessica Lajoie, Pres., Capitol Hill Community Association
EBC-2016-17-2-531	Ida Edwards
EBC-2016-17-2-532	Colin Piquette
EBC-2016-17-2-533	John Claydon
EBC-2016-17-2-534	David Hartwick
EBC-2016-17-2-535	Wayne Brehaut
EBC-2016-17-2-536	Harold Beatty
EBC-2016-17-2-537	Atiya Ashna
EBC-2016-17-2-538	Rhiannon Kirkland
EBC-2016-17-2-539	Gordon Elliott
EBC-2016-17-2-540	Christopher McMillan
EBC-2016-17-2-541	David Cournoyer
EBC-2016-17-2-542	Barry Turner
EBC-2016-17-2-543	Stuart Somerville
EBC-2016-17-2-544	Barbara Silva
EBC-2016-17-2-545	Venkatasanjeeva Rao Kanakala
EBC-2016-17-2-546	Michael Maher
EBC-2016-17-2-547	Benjamin McDonald
EBC-2016-17-2-548	Kris Samraj
EBC-2016-17-2-549	Leah Argao
EBC-2016-17-2-550	Stephen Merredew
EBC-2016-17-2-551	Gabrielle Blatz
EBC-2016-17-2-552	Peter Fortna
EBC-2016-17-2-553	Paisley Sim
EBC-2016-17-2-554	Rob Miyashiro
EBC-2016-17-2-555	Krista Vicen
EBC-2016-17-2-556	Brandon Sonnenberg
EBC-2016-17-2-557	Carol Wodak, VP, Sherwood Park NDP Constituency Association
EBC-2016-17-2-558	Stephen Drover
EBC-2016-17-2-559	Mandy Melnyk
EBC-2016-17-2-560	Brandon Stevens
EBC-2016-17-2-561	Craig Coolahan
EBC-2016-17-2-562	Jessica Abramyk
EBC-2016-17-2-563	David Shepherd
EBC-2016-17-2-564	Darcy Thiessen
EBC-2016-17-2-565	Elan Lynes
EBC-2016-17-2-566	Wayne Groot
EBC-2016-17-2-567	Lenard Legault
EBC-2016-17-2-568	Neil Kirkwood

Submission Number	Name
EBC-2016-17-2-569	Wally Regehr
EBC-2016-17-2-570	Charlene Preston
EBC-2016-17-2-571	Gordon Reynolds, Mayor, Town of Bow Island
EBC-2016-17-2-572	Gordon Reynolds, Vice-Chair, Mayors/Reeves SE AB
EBC-2016-17-2-573	Brad Tomlinson, Pres., Calgary Northern Hills Constituency Association
EBC-2016-17-2-574	Rachelle Marmur
EBC-2016-17-2-575	Gary Hansen
EBC-2016-17-2-576	George Ellen
EBC-2016-17-2-577	Louise Bauder, Deputy Mayor, Town of Gibbons
EBC-2016-17-2-578	Robert J. Twerdoelib
EBC-2016-17-2-579	Larry Schowalter
EBC-2016-17-2-580	Tim Eckert
EBC-2016-17-2-581	Bill Given, Mayor, City of Grande Prairie
EBC-2016-17-2-582	Arundeeep Sandhu
EBC-2016-17-2-583	Debra Lozinski, Trustee, Northern Lights Public Schools
EBC-2016-17-2-584	Derek Miron
EBC-2016-17-2-585	Jaymie Heilman
EBC-2016-17-2-586	Levi Bjork
EBC-2016-17-2-587	Adam McPhee
EBC-2016-17-2-588	J. Barrie Hoover
EBC-2016-17-2-589	Maureen Kuziw
EBC-2016-17-2-590	Sandra Mcfarlane
EBC-2016-17-2-591	Joan Ozirny
EBC-2016-17-2-592	Denis Espetveidt
EBC-2016-17-2-593	Marilyn Fisher, Elkwater Community Association
EBC-2016-17-2-594	Sheila Obrigewitsch
EBC-2016-17-2-595	MLAs: Woollard; Gray; Schmidt; Loyola
EBC-2016-17-2-596	Janice Hoover
EBC-2016-17-2-597	Niall Condon, Research Specialist, PC Caucus
EBC-2016-17-2-598	Lillian Lubyk
EBC-2016-17-2-599	Wes Taylor, MLA
EBC-2016-17-2-600	Leanne Beaupre, Reeve, County of Grande Prairie
EBC-2016-17-2-601	Stacey Loe, Legal and Government Services, Town of Cochrane
EBC-2016-17-2-602	Molly Douglass, Reeve, County of Newell
EBC-2016-17-2-603	Derek Fildebrandt, MLA
EBC-2016-17-2-604	Don Morrison
EBC-2016-17-2-605	Gene Sobolewskig, Mayor, Town of Bonnyville
EBC-2016-17-2-606	Ron Taylor
EBC-2016-17-2-607	Janine Giles
EBC-2016-17-2-608	Greg Boehlke, Reeve, Rocky View County
EBC-2016-17-2-609	Karl Hauch, Mayor, Town of Bruderheim

Submission Number	Name
EBC-2016-17-2-610	Lee Cooper
EBC-2016-17-2-611	Chris Turnmire, Mayor, Town of Wembley
EBC-2016-17-2-612	Craig Lukinuk, Reeve, Smoky Lake County
EBC-2016-17-2-613	Alan Hall

Appendix D: Electoral Boundaries Commission Act

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION ACT

Chapter E-3

HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, enacts as follows:

Definition

- 1 In this Act, “Commission” means an Electoral Boundaries Commission appointed pursuant to section 2.

1990 cE-4.01 s1

Part 1

Electoral Boundaries Commissions

Electoral Boundaries Commission

- 2(1) From time to time as required by this Act, an Electoral Boundaries Commission is to be appointed consisting of
- (a) a chair appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, who must be one of the following:
 - i) the Ethics Commissioner;
 - ii) the Auditor General;
 - iii) the president of a post-secondary educational institution in Alberta;
 - iv) a judge or retired judge of any court in Alberta;
 - v) a person whose stature and qualifications are, in the opinion of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, similar to those of the persons referred to in subclauses (i) to (iv),
 - (b) 2 persons, who are not members of the Legislative Assembly, appointed by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly on the nomination of the Leader of Her Majesty’s loyal opposition in consultation with the leaders of the other opposition parties represented in the Legislative Assembly, and
 - (c) 2 persons, who are not members of the Legislative Assembly, appointed by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly on the nomination of the President of the Executive Council.
 - (d) The Chief Electoral Officer is to provide advice, information and assistance to the Commission.
 - (e) With respect to the persons appointed under subsection (1)(b), one must be resident in a city and the other resident outside a city at the time of their appointment.
 - (f) With respect to the persons appointed under subsection (1)(c), one must be resident in a city and the other resident outside a city at the time of their appointment.
 - (g) Persons appointed under subsection (1) must be Canadian citizens, residents of Alberta and at least 18 years of age.

1990 cE-4.01 s2;1995 c10 s2

Function

- 3 The function of a Commission is to review the existing electoral boundaries established under the Electoral Divisions Act and to make proposals to the Legislative Assembly as to the area, boundaries and names of the electoral divisions of Alberta in accordance with the rules set out in Part 2.

1990 cE-4.01 s3;1995 c10 s3

Remuneration

- 4(1) The members of a Commission may be paid the remuneration prescribed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council for their services on the Commission.
- (2) The members of a Commission may be paid their reasonable travelling and living expenses while away from their ordinary place of residence in the course of their duties as members at the rates the Lieutenant Governor in Council prescribes.

1990 cE-4.01 s4

Time of appointment

- 5(1) A Commission is to be appointed on or before October 31, 2016.
- (2) Subsequent Commissions are to be appointed during the first session of the Legislature following every 2nd general election after the appointment of the last Commission.
- (3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), if less than 8 years has elapsed since the appointment of the last Commission, the Commission is to be appointed
 - (a) no sooner than 8 years, and
 - (b) no later than 10 years after the appointment of the last Commission.

RSA 2000 cE-3 s5;2001 c23 s3;2009 c19 s2;2016 c6 s2

Report to Speaker

- 6(1) The Commission shall, after considering any representations to it and within 7 months of the date on which the Commission is appointed, submit to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly a report that shall set out the area, boundaries and names of the proposed electoral divisions and reasons for the proposed boundaries of the proposed electoral divisions.
- (2) On receipt of the report, the Speaker shall make the report public and publish the Commission's proposals in The Alberta Gazette as soon as possible.
- (3) If the office of Speaker is vacant, the report shall be submitted to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, who shall comply with subsection (2).

1990 cE-4.01 s6;1995 c10 s5

Public hearings

- 7(1) The Commission must hold public hearings both
 - (a) before its report is submitted to the Speaker, and
 - (b) after its report has been made public, at the places and times it considers appropriate to enable representations to be made by any person as to the area and boundaries of any proposed electoral division.
- (2) The Commission shall give reasonable public notice of the time, place and purpose of any public hearings held by it.

1990 cE-4.01 s7;1993 c2 s8

Amendment of report

- 8(1) The Commission may, after considering any further representations made to it and within 5 months of the date it submitted its report, submit to the Speaker a final report.
- (2) On receipt of the report, the Speaker shall make it public and publish it in The Alberta Gazette.
- (3) If the office of Speaker is vacant, the report shall be submitted to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, who shall comply with subsection (2).

1990 cE-4.01 s8;1995 c10 s6

Commission report

- 9 If there is more than one report submitted under section 6 or 8, the report of a majority of the members of the Commission is the report of the Commission, but if there is no majority, the report of the chair is the report of the Commission.

1995 c10 s7

Report to Assembly

- 10 After the Commission has complied with sections 6 to 8, the final report of the Commission shall,
 - (a) if the Legislative Assembly is sitting when the report is submitted, be laid before the Assembly immediately, or
 - (b) if the Legislative Assembly is not then sitting, be laid before the Assembly within 7 days after the beginning of the next sitting.

1990 cE-4.01 s9;1995 c10 s8

New electoral divisions

- 11(1) If the Assembly, by resolution, approves or approves with alterations the proposals of the Commission, the Government shall, at the same session, introduce a Bill to establish new electoral divisions for Alberta in accordance with the resolution.
- (2) The Bill is to be stated to come into force on the day that a writ is issued under section 40 of the *Election Act* for the next general election.

RSA 2000 cE-3 s11;2010 cE-4.2 s6

Part 2 Redistribution Rules

Population of Alberta

- 12(1) For the purposes of this Part, the population of Alberta is to be determined by the Commission in accordance with this section.
- (2) In this section, “decennial census” means the most recent decennial census of population referred to in section 19(3) of the Statistics Act (Canada) from which the population of all proposed electoral divisions is available.
- (3) Subject to subsections (4) and (5), the Commission is to use
 - (a) the population information as provided in the decennial census, and
 - (b) information respecting the population on Indian reserves that are not included in the decennial census, as provided by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Canada).
- (4) If there is a province-wide census that is more recent than the decennial census and from which the population of all proposed electoral divisions is available, the Commission is to use
 - (a) the population information as provided in the province-wide census, and
 - (b) information respecting the population on Indian reserves that are not included in the province-wide census, as provided by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Canada).
- (5) The Commission may, as it considers appropriate, use more recent information respecting the population of all or any part of Alberta in conjunction with the information referred to in subsection (3) or (4).

RSA 2000 cE-3 s12;2009 c19 s3;2016 c6 s3

Electoral divisions

- 13 The Commission shall divide Alberta into 87 proposed electoral divisions.

RSA 2000 cE-3 s13;2009 c19 s4

Relevant considerations

- 14 In determining the area to be included in and in fixing the boundaries of the proposed electoral divisions, the Commission, subject to section 15, may take into consideration any factors it considers appropriate, but shall take into consideration
- (a) the requirement for effective representation as guaranteed by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*,
 - (b) sparsity and density of population,
 - (c) common community interests and community organizations, including those of Indian reserves and Metis settlements,
 - (d) wherever possible, the existing community boundaries within the cities of Edmonton and Calgary,
 - (e) wherever possible, the existing municipal boundaries,
 - (f) the number of municipalities and other local authorities,
 - (g) geographical features, including existing road systems, and
 - (h) the desirability of understandable and clear boundaries.

1990 cE-4.01 s16;1993 c2 s12;1995 c10 s12

Population of electoral divisions

- 15(1) The population of a proposed electoral division must not be more than 25% above nor more than 25% below the average population of all the proposed electoral divisions.
- (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), in the case of no more than 4 of the proposed electoral divisions, if the Commission is of the opinion that at least 3 of the following criteria exist in a proposed electoral division, the proposed electoral division may have a population that is as much as 50% below the average population of all the proposed electoral divisions:
- (a) the area of the proposed electoral division exceeds 20 000 square kilometres or the total surveyed area of the proposed electoral division exceeds 15 000 square kilometres;
 - (b) the distance from the Legislature Building in Edmonton to the nearest boundary of the proposed electoral division by the most direct highway route is more than 150 kilometres;
 - (c) there is no town in the proposed electoral division that has a population exceeding 8000 people;
 - (d) the area of the proposed electoral division contains an Indian reserve or a Metis settlement;
 - (e) the proposed electoral division has a portion of its boundary coterminous with a boundary of the Province of Alberta.
- (3) For the purpose of subsection (2)(c), The Municipality of Crowsnest Pass is not a town.

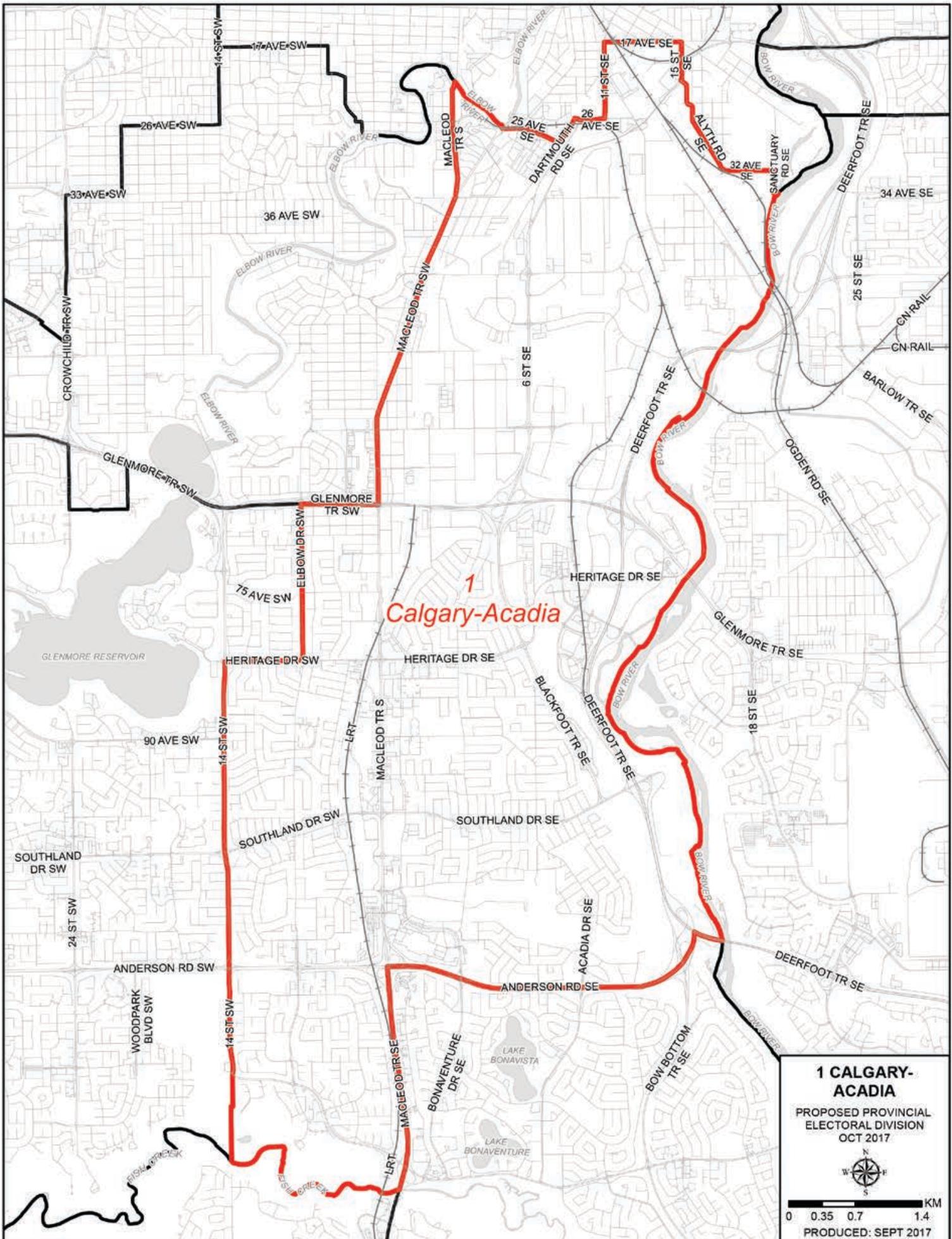
RSA 2000 cE-13 s15;2009 c19 s5

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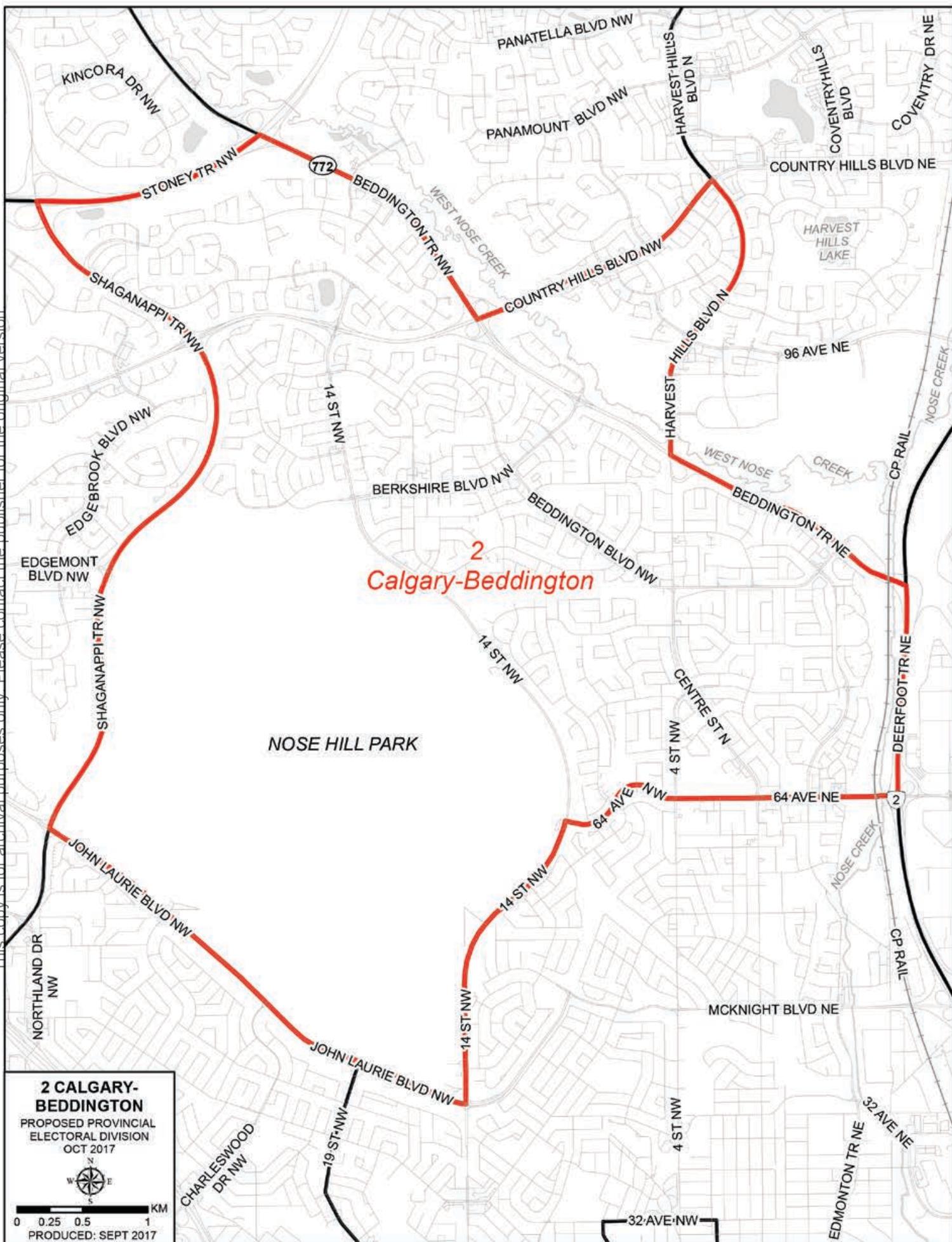
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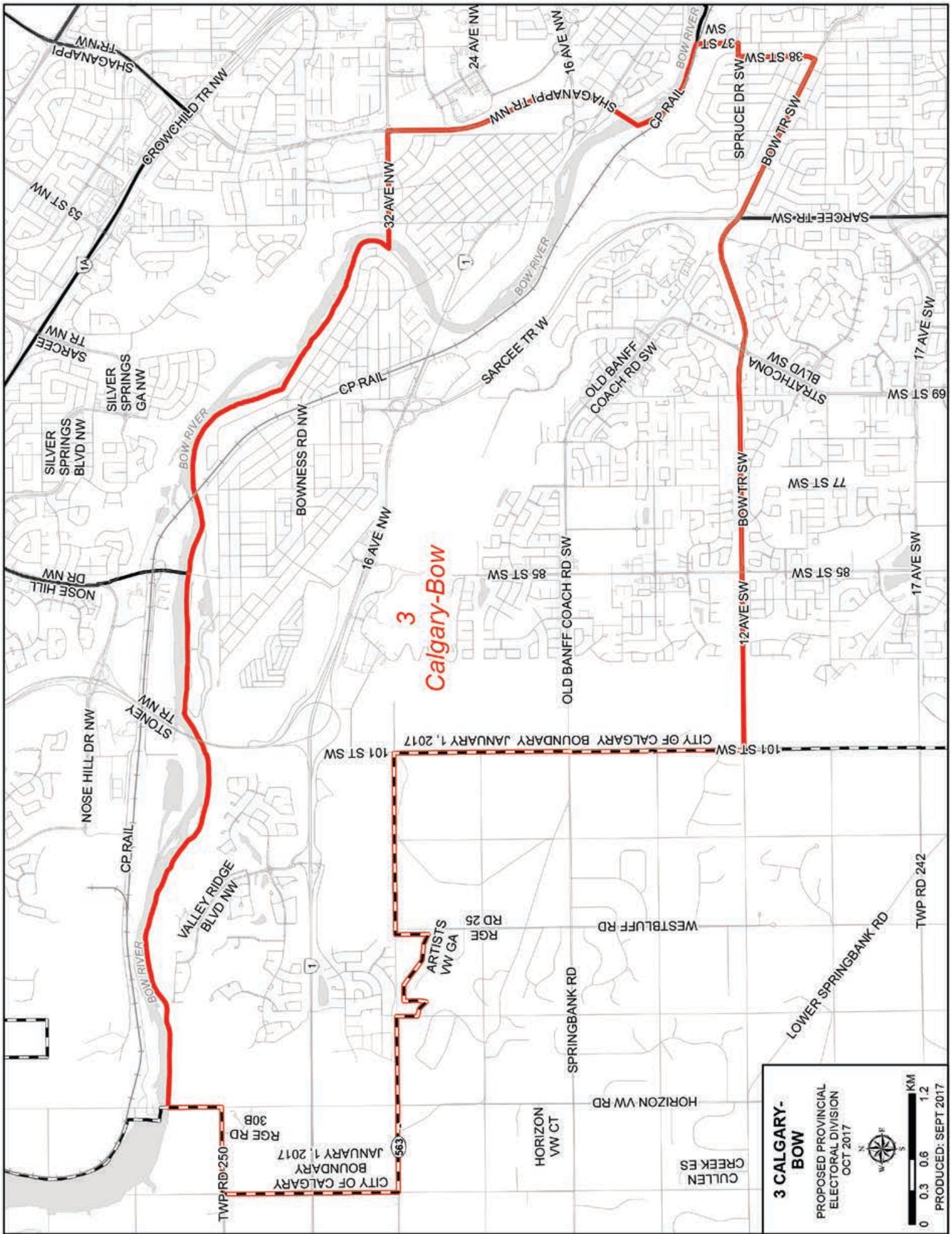


1 CALGARY-ACADIA
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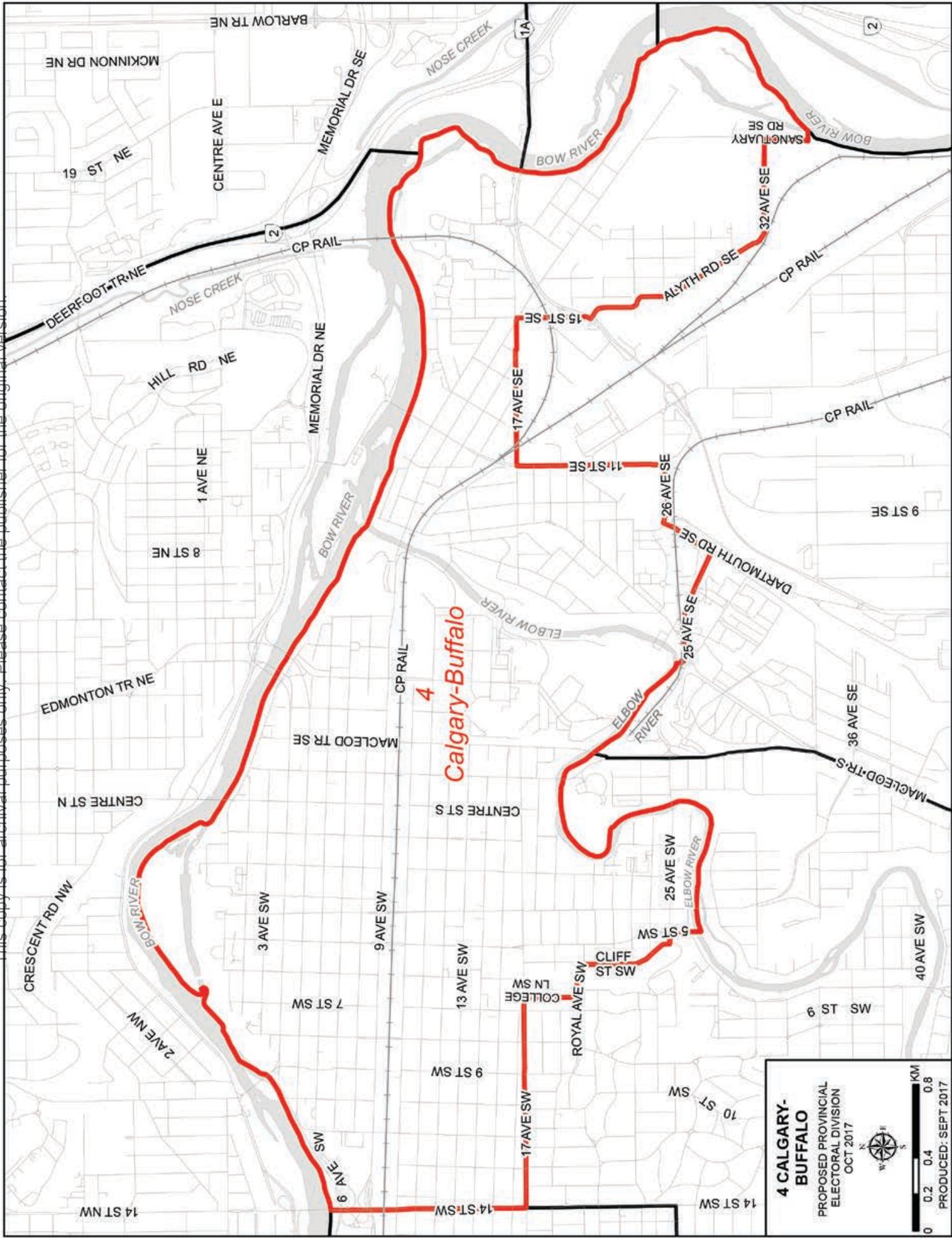
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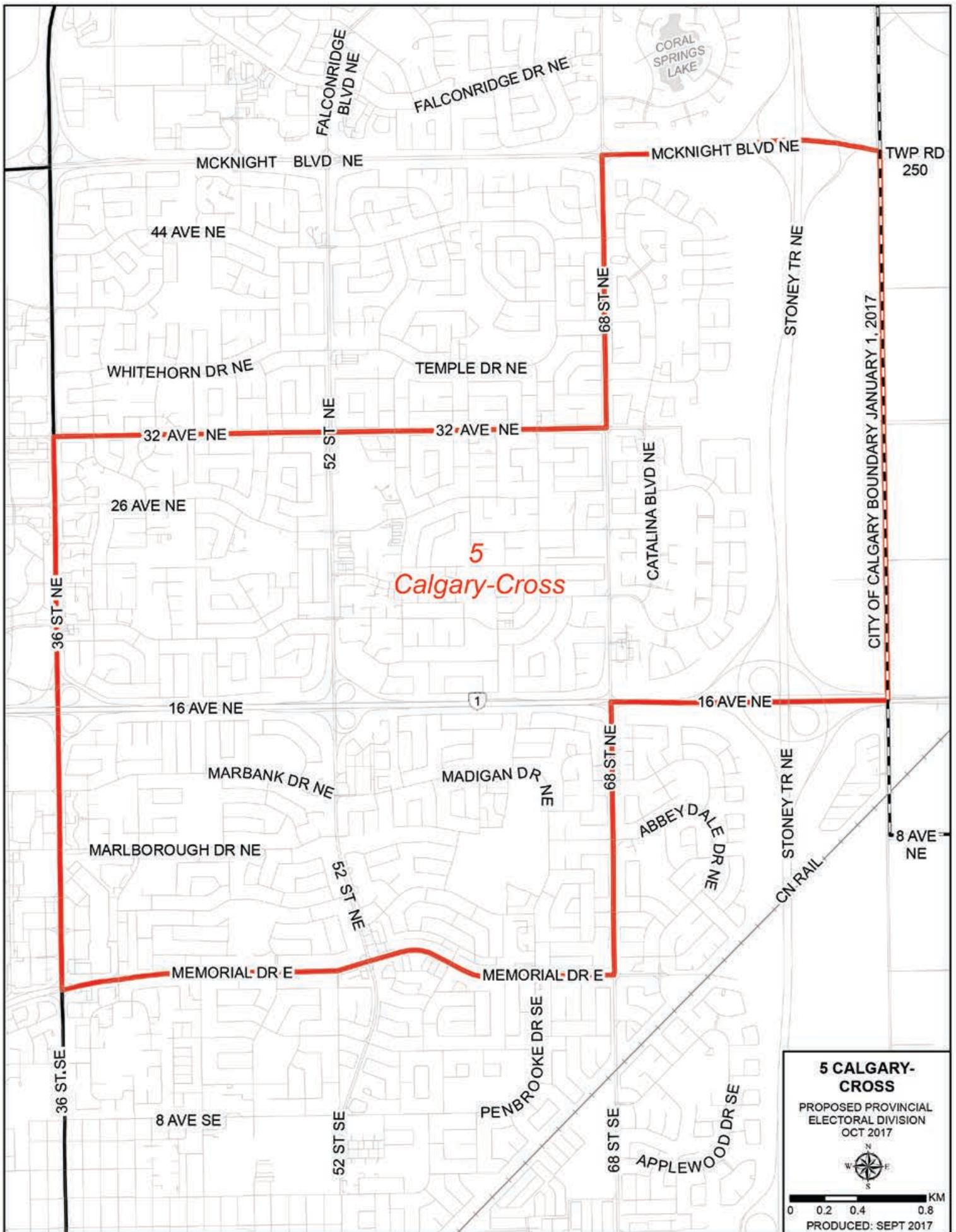
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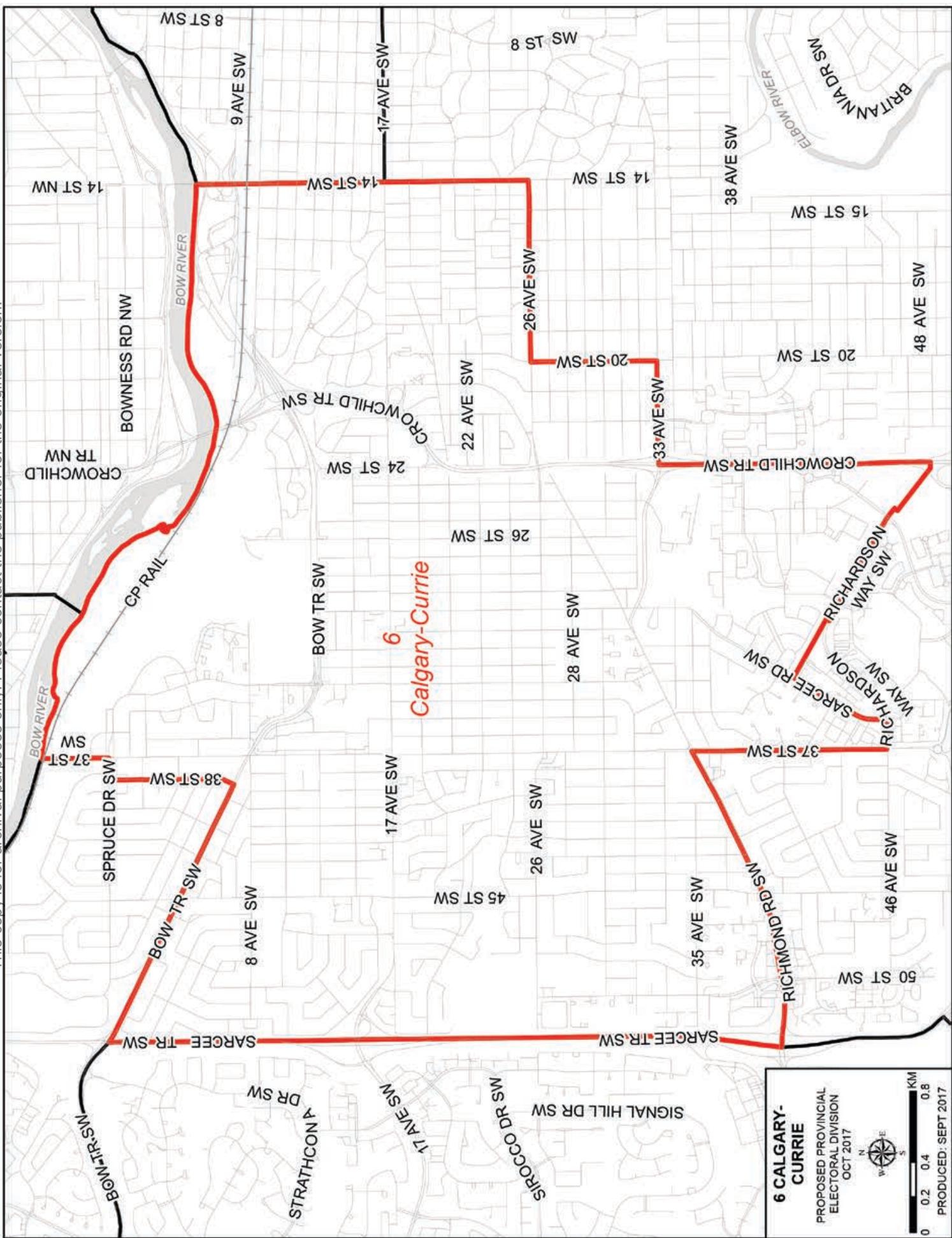




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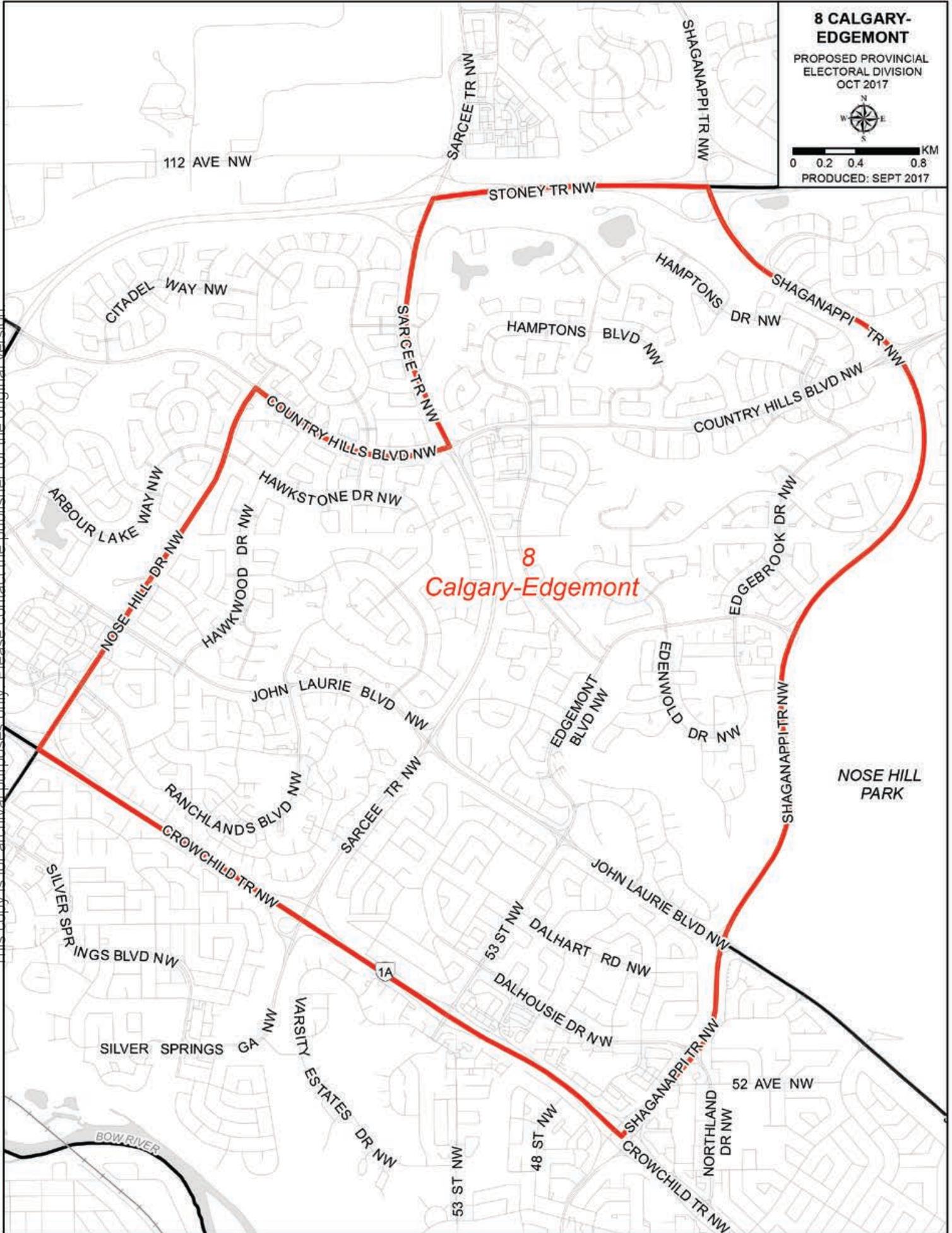
8 CALGARY-EDGEMONT

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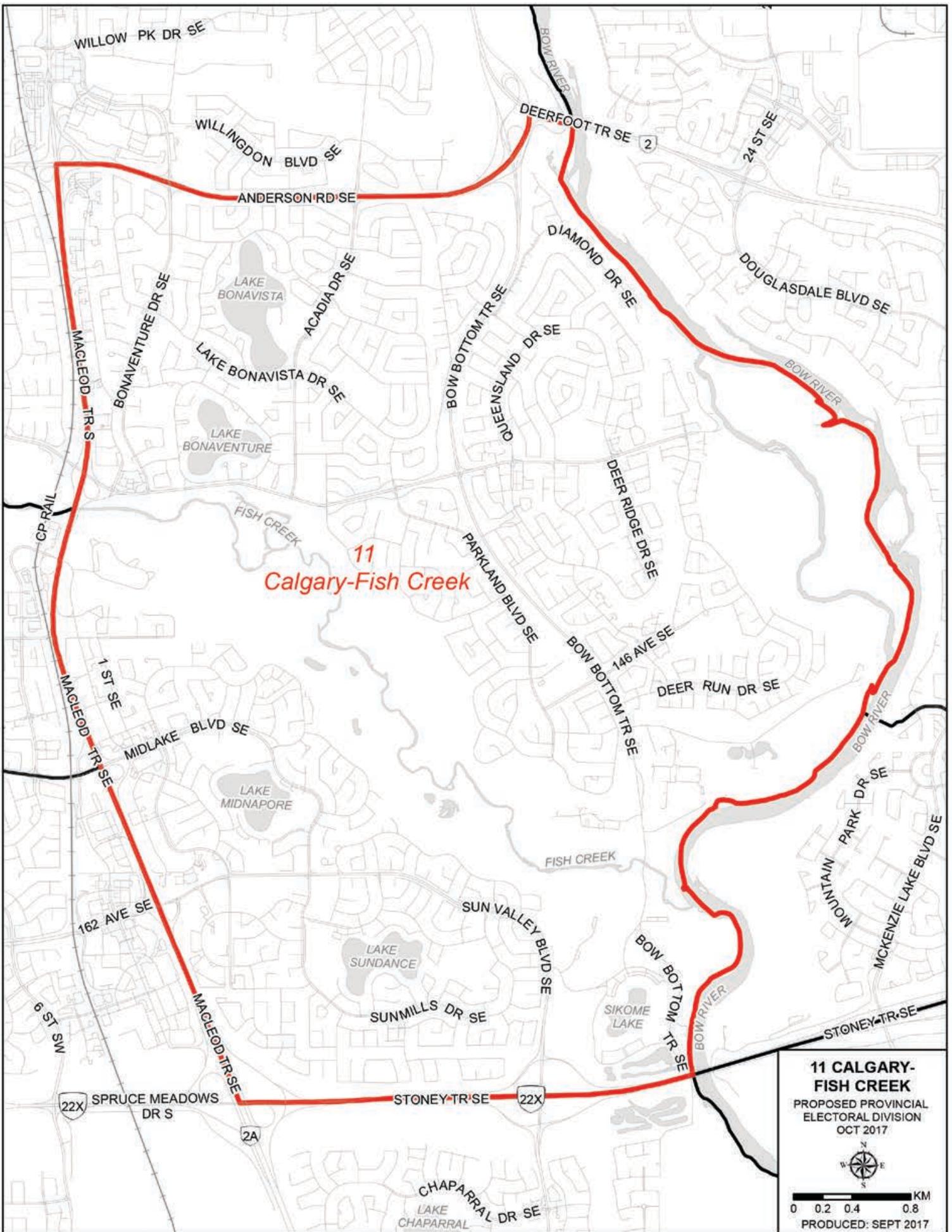
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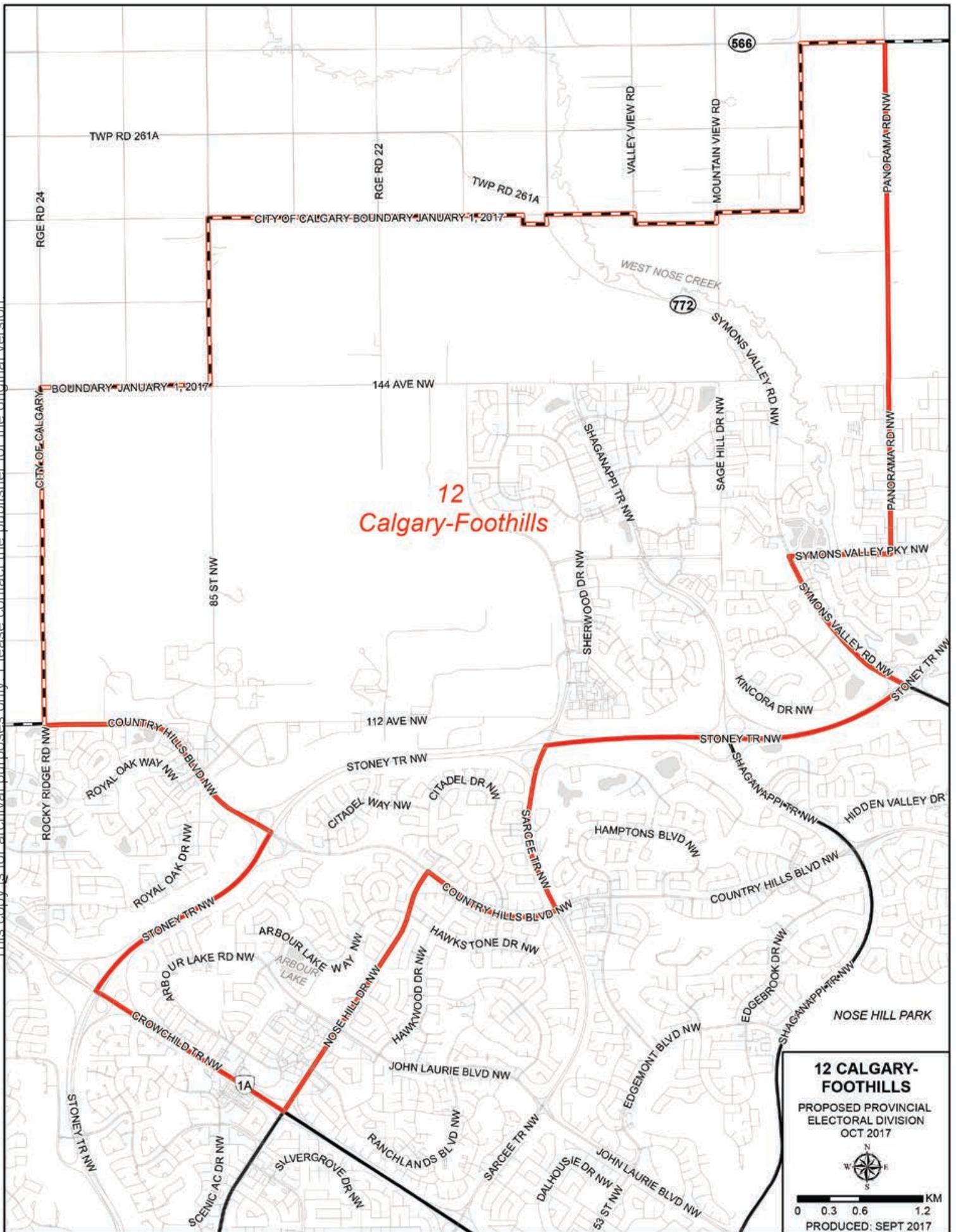


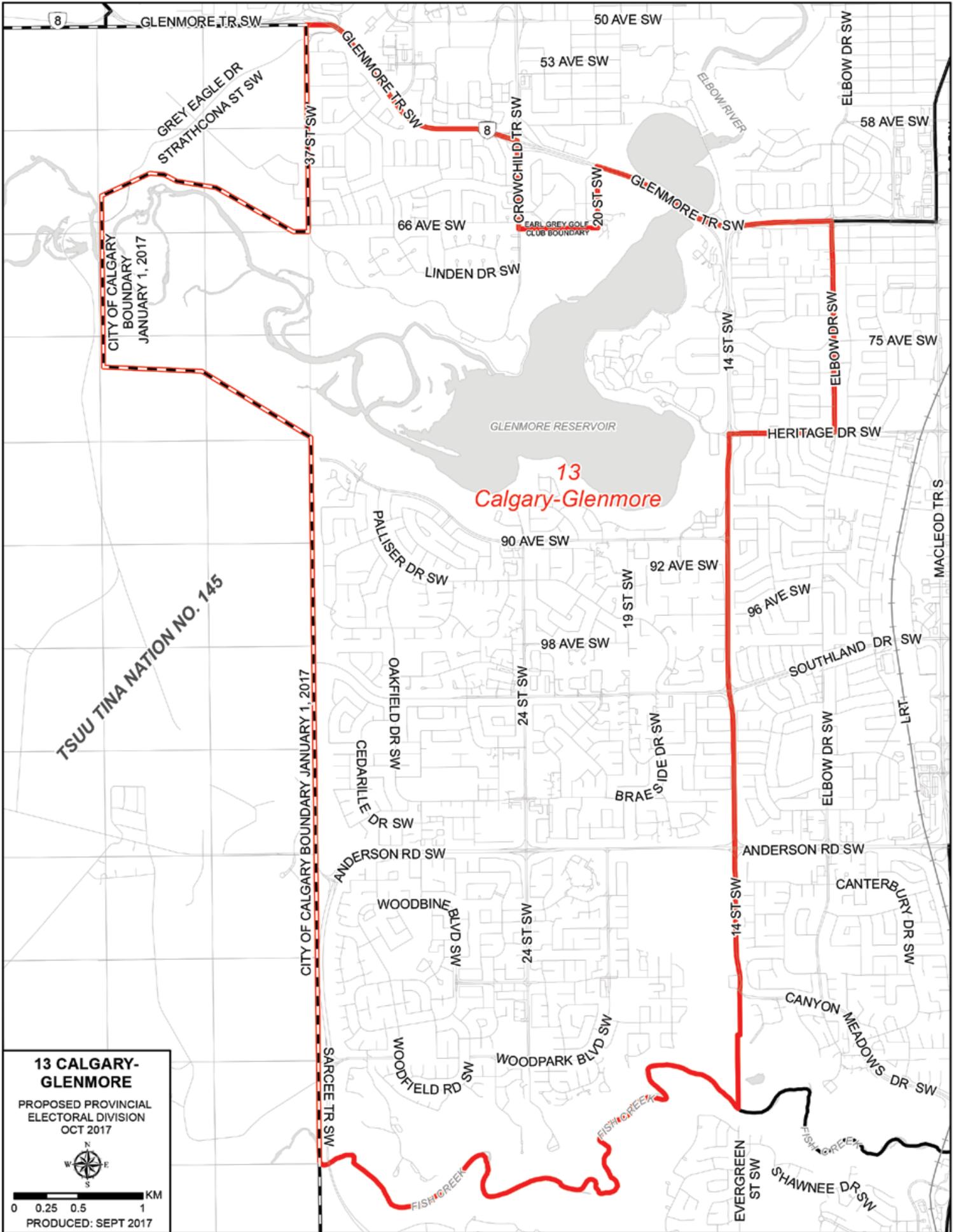
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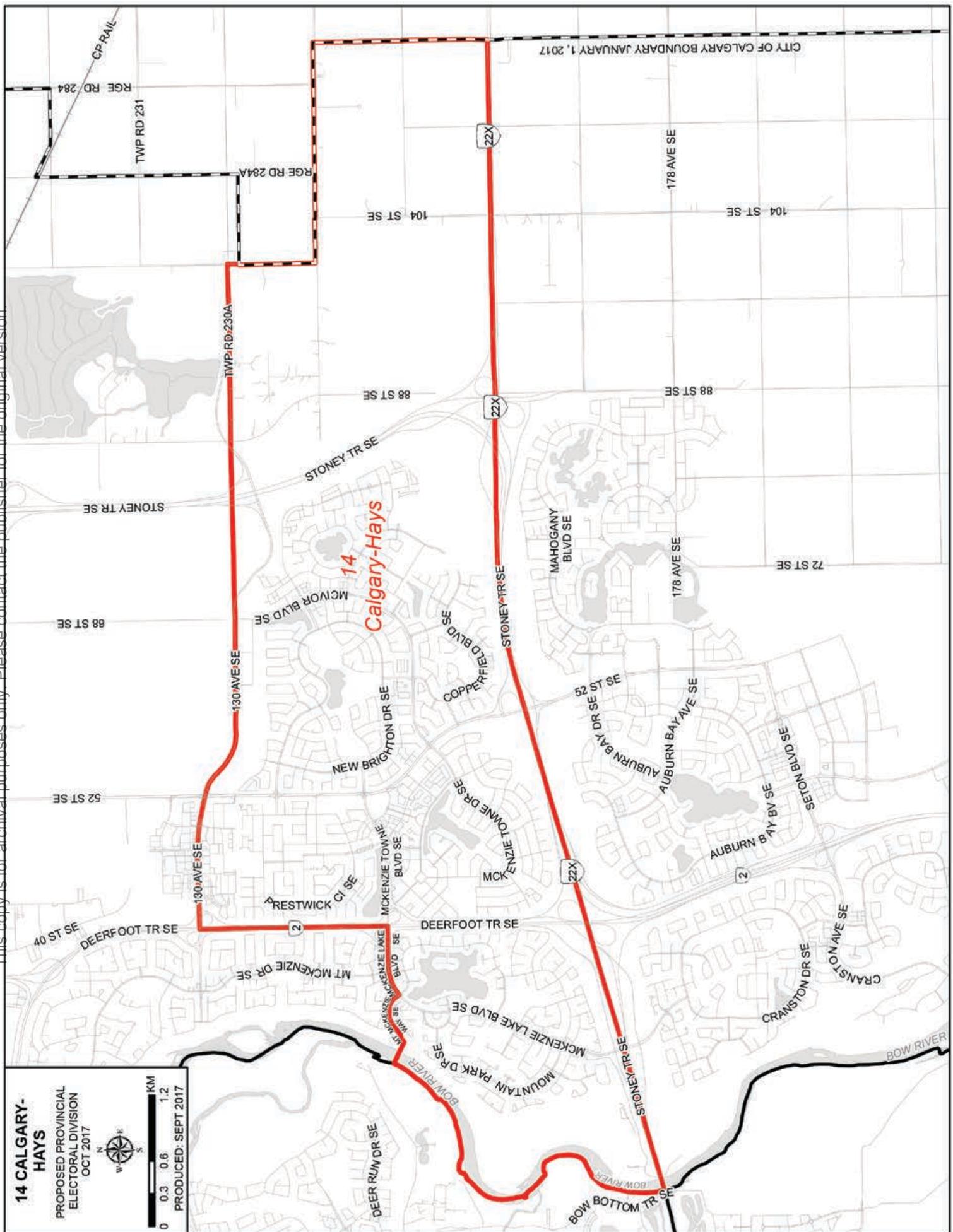


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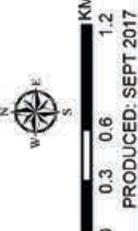




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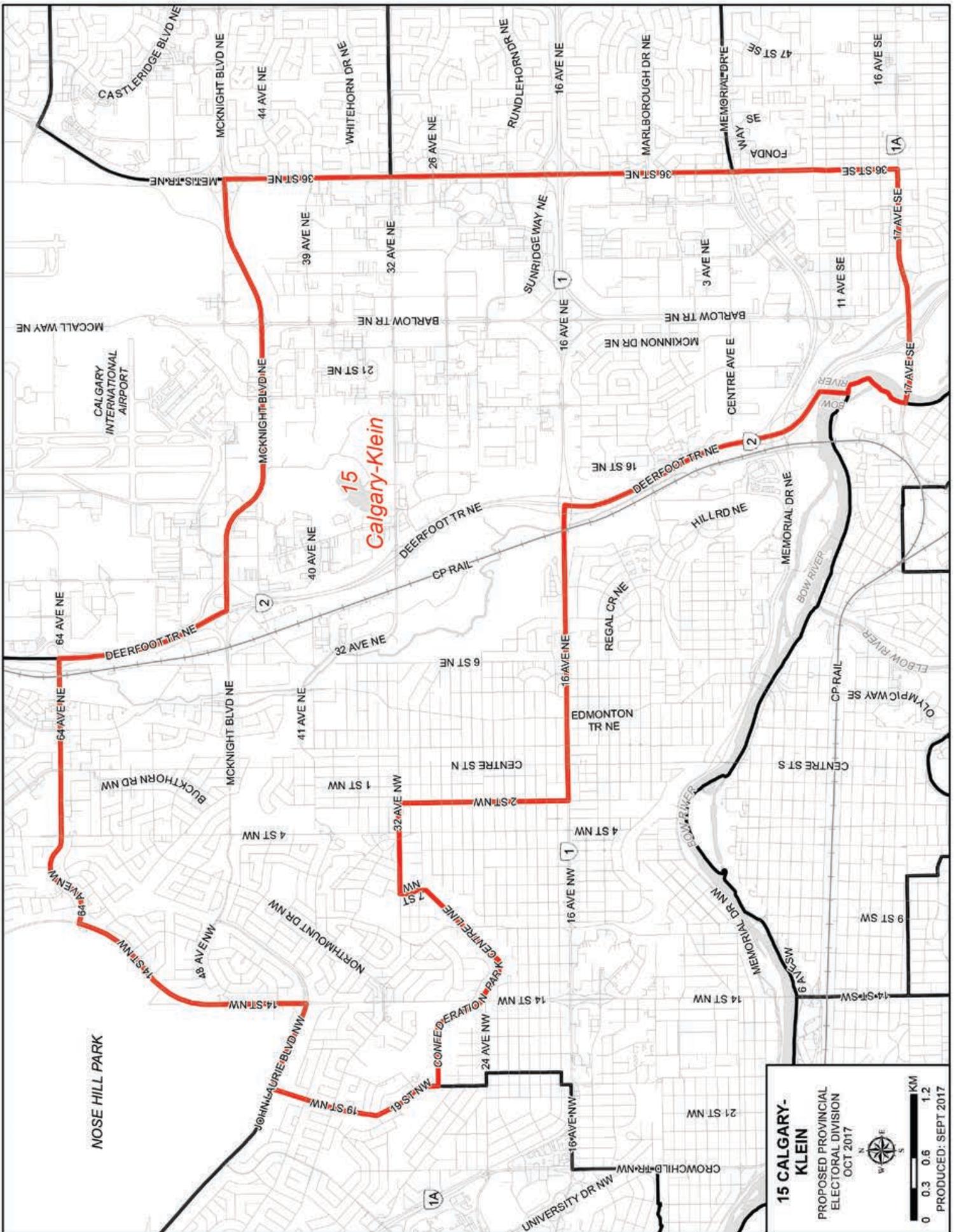


14 CALGARY-HAYS
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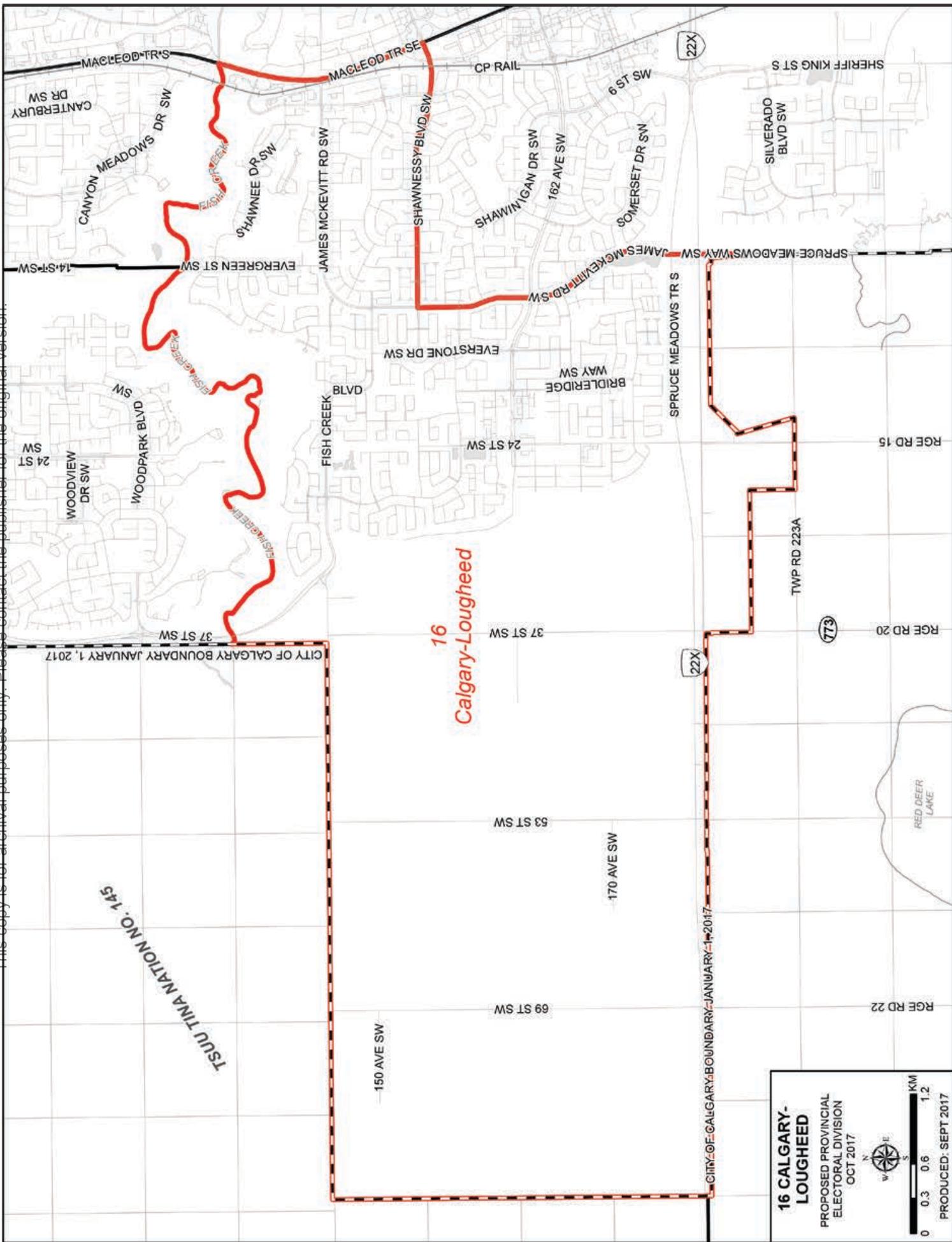


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CITY OF CALGARY BOUNDARY JANUARY 1, 2017



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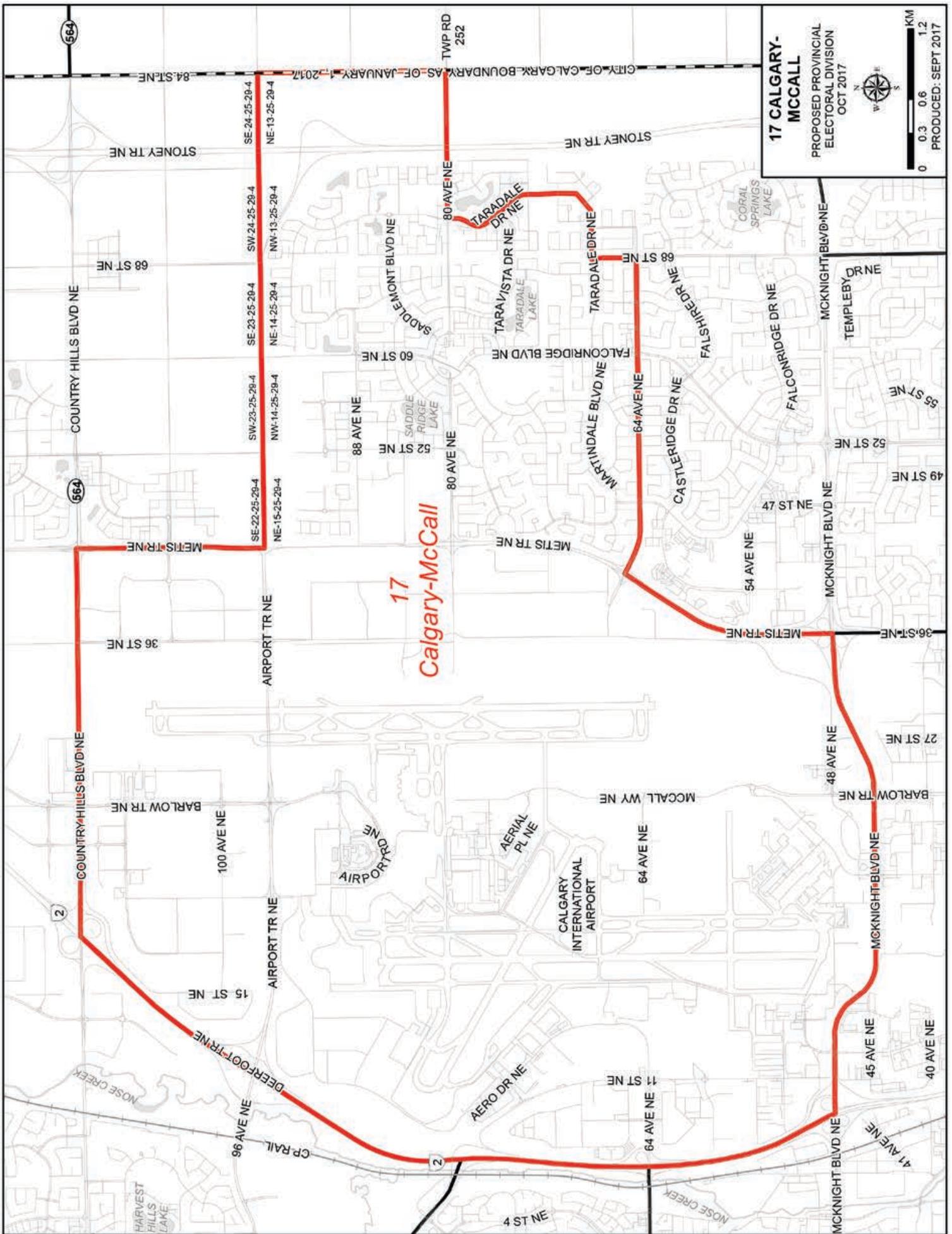


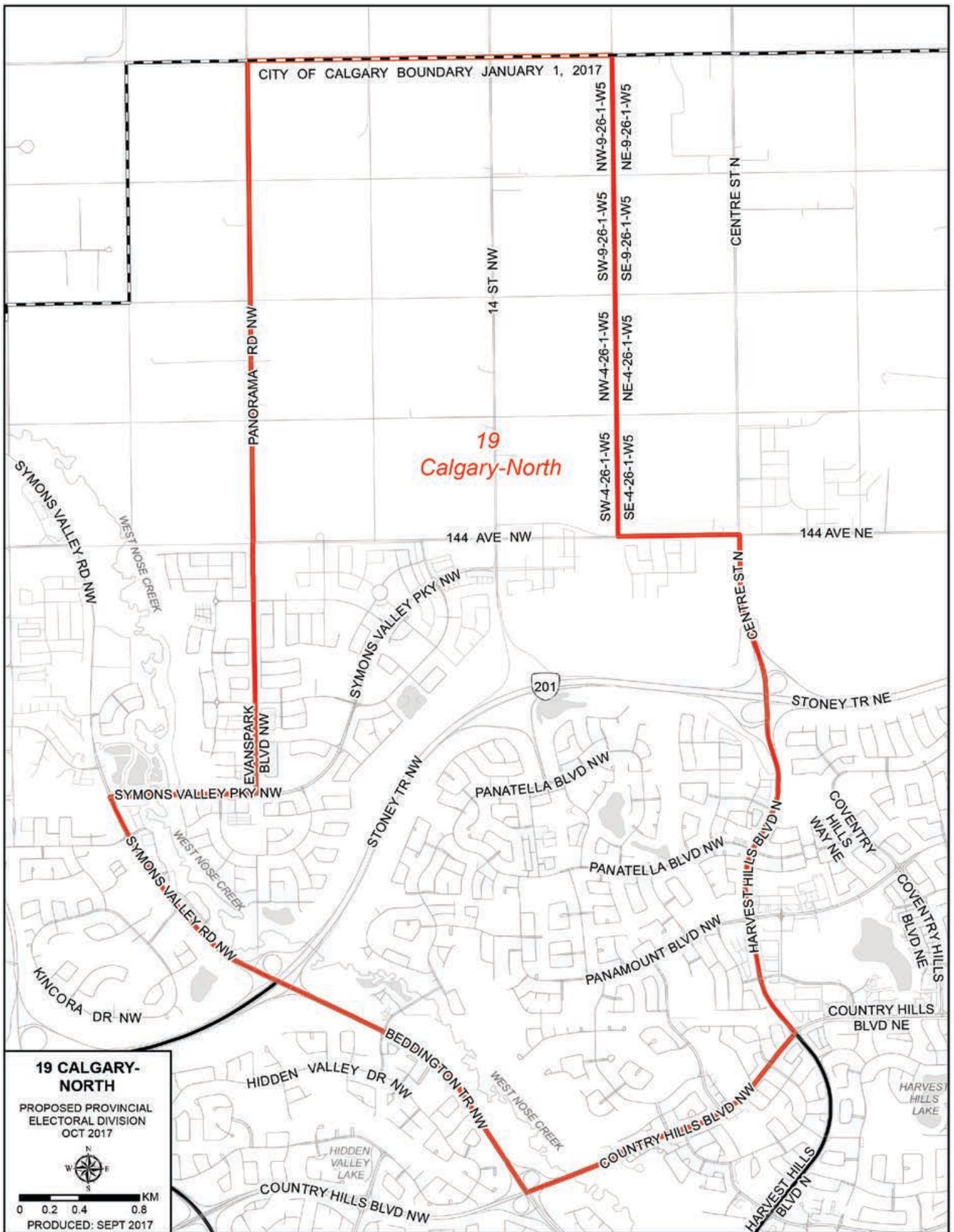
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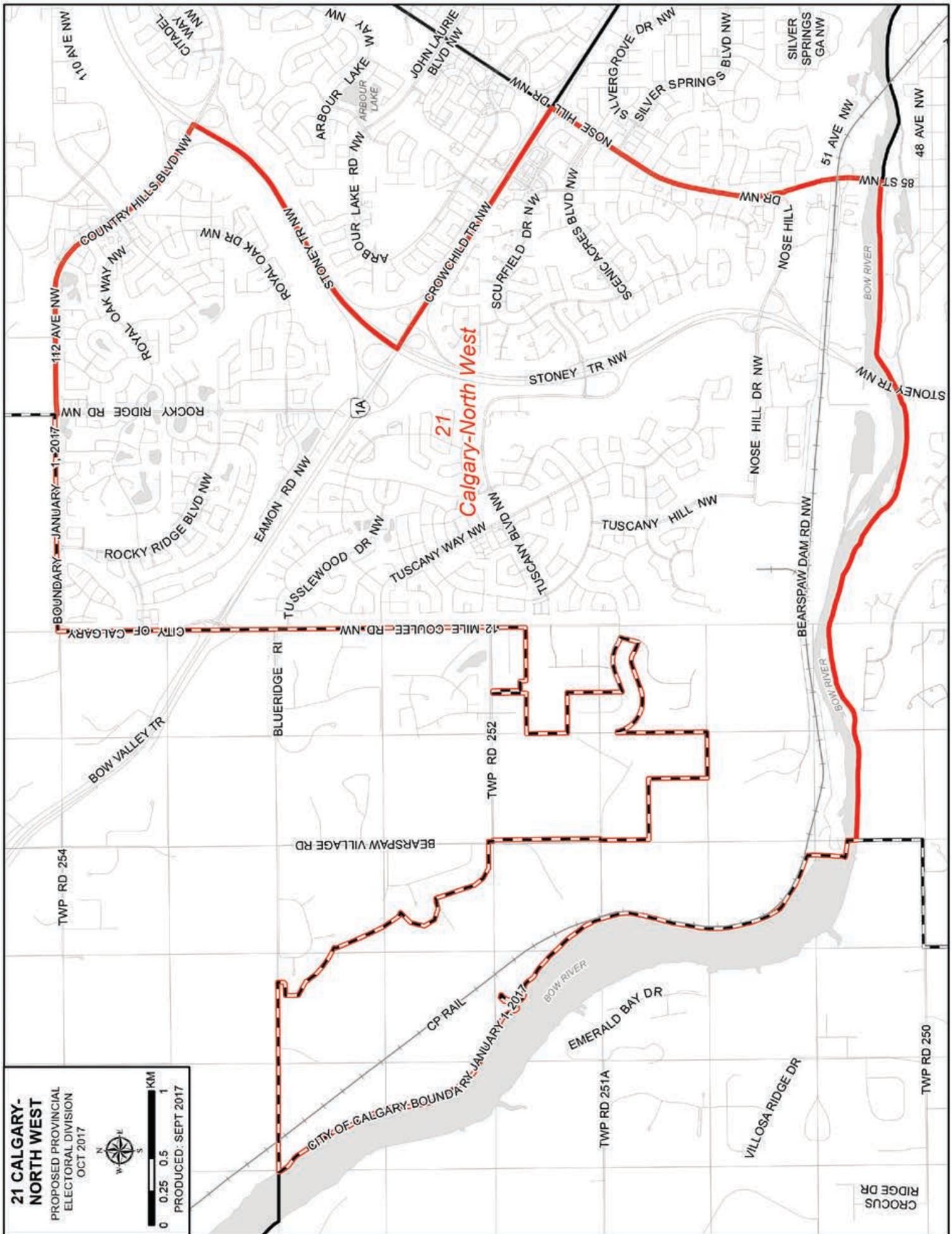
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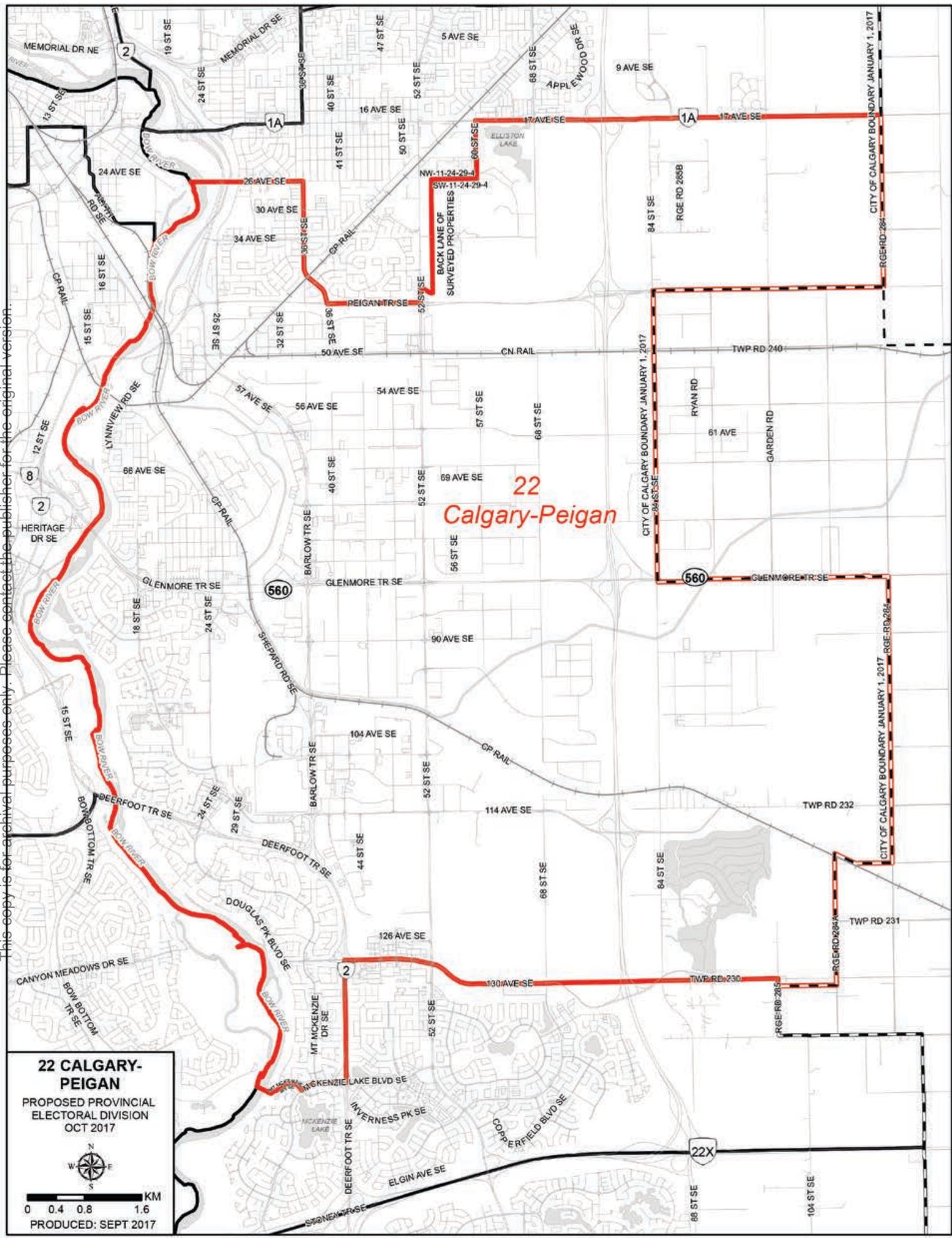
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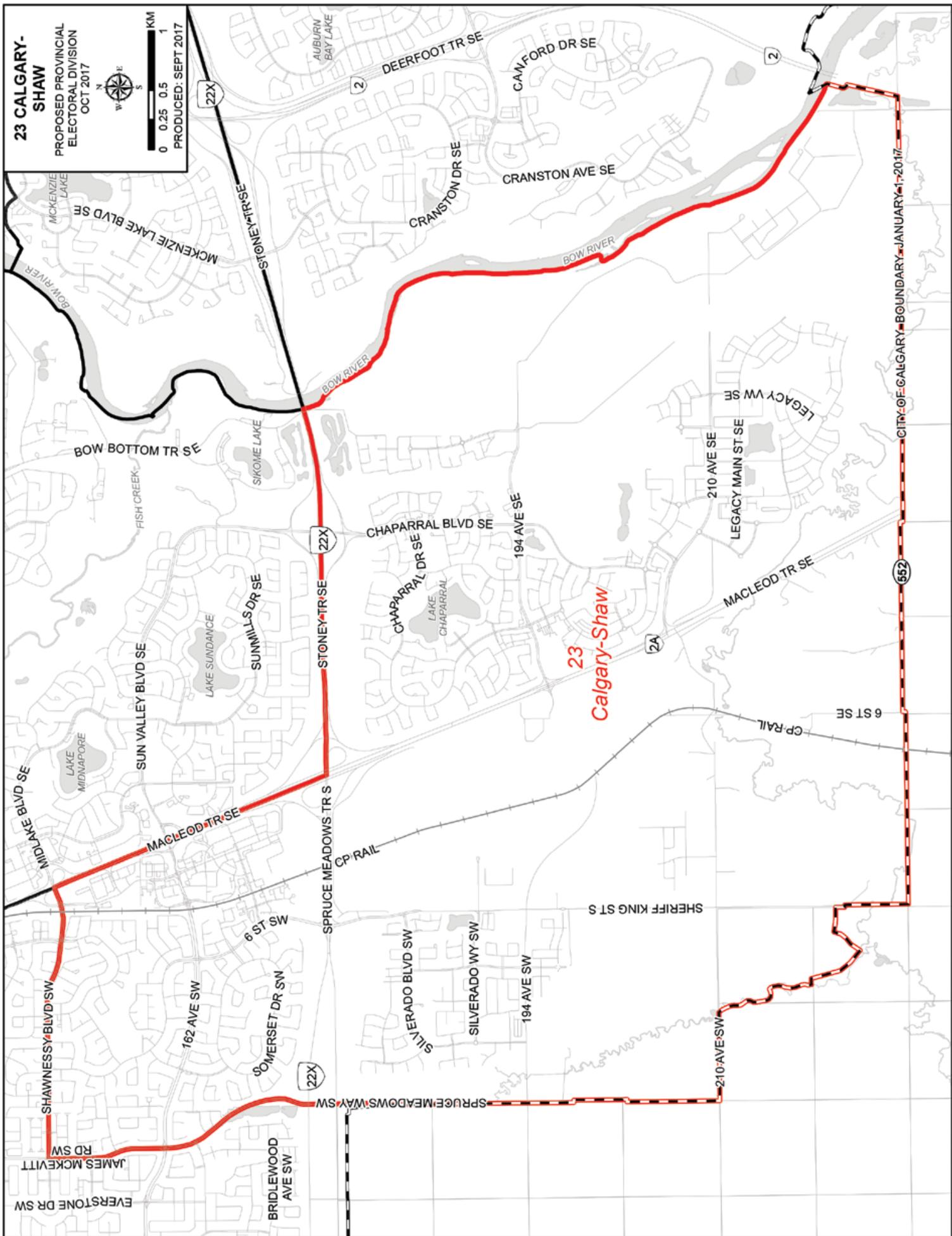
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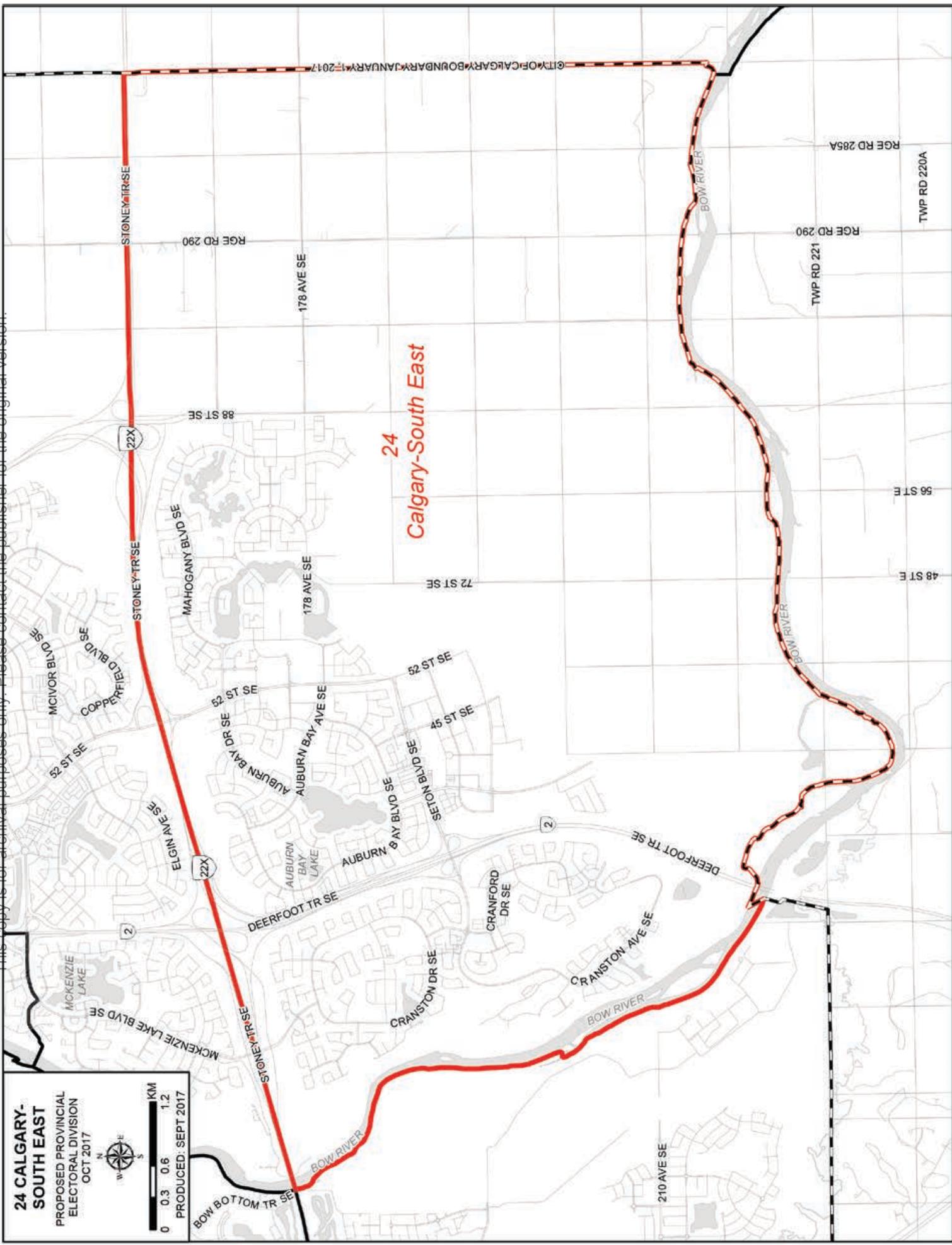


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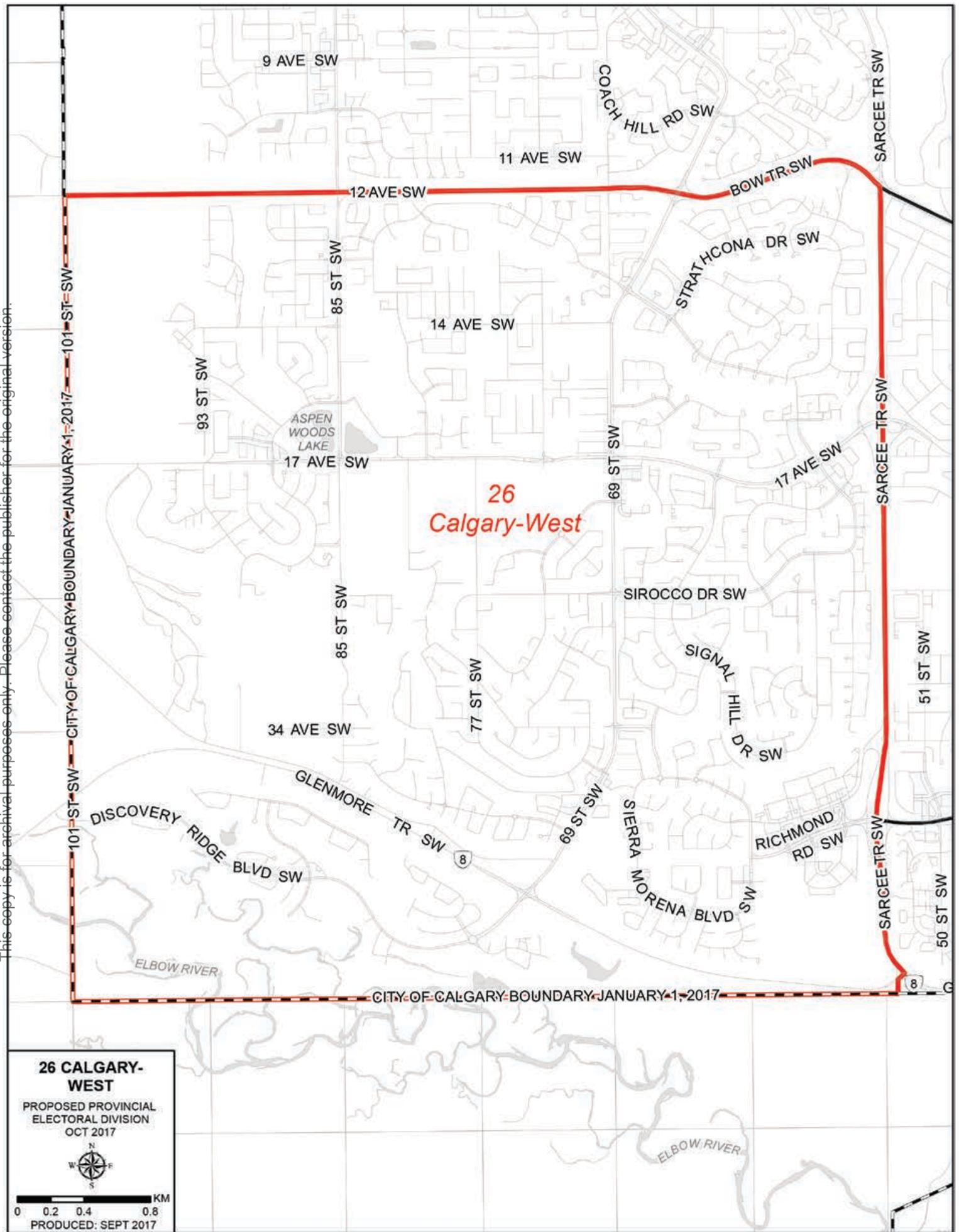
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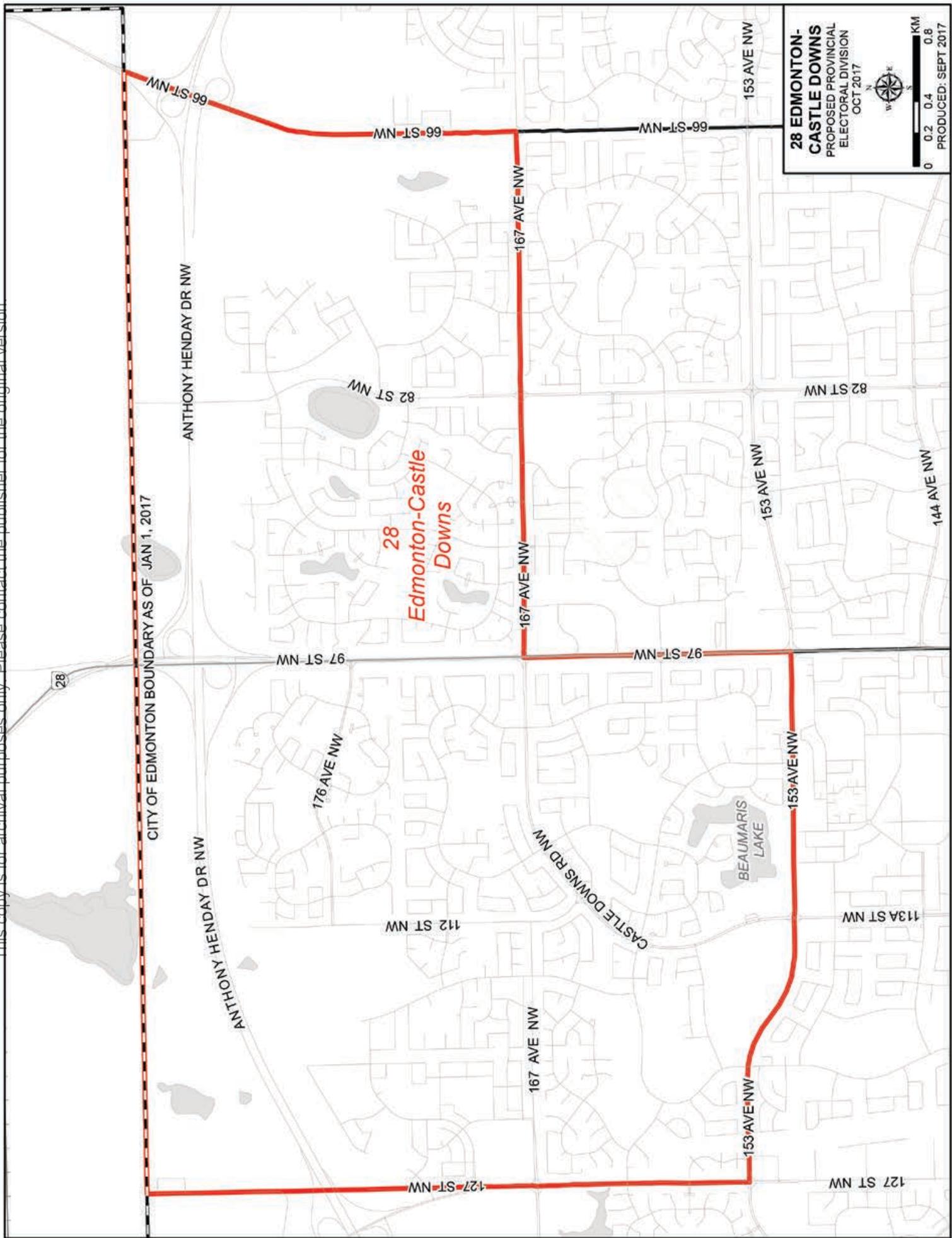




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28 EDMONTON-CASTLE DOWNS
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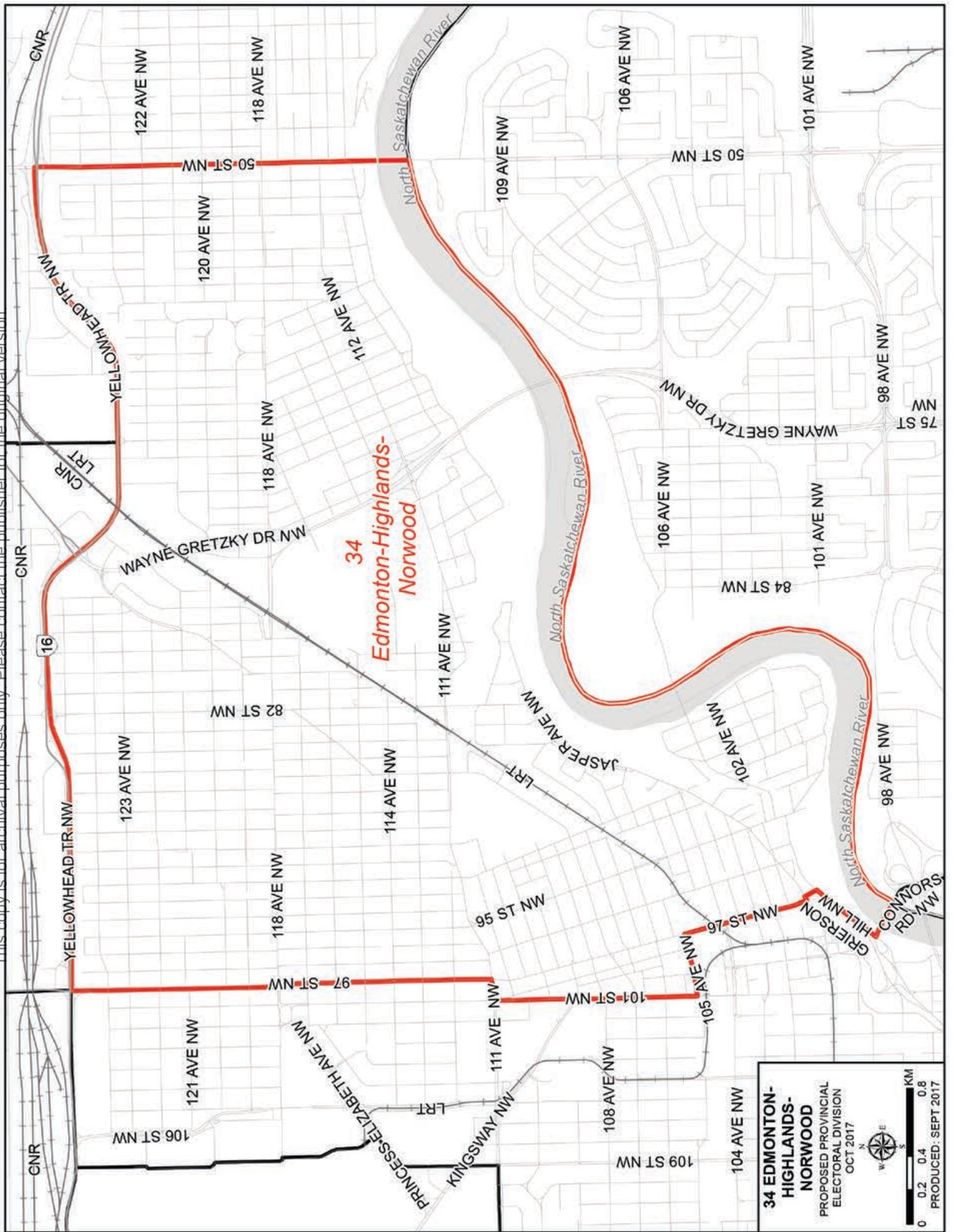
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**30
Edmonton-Decore**

30 EDMONTON-DECORE
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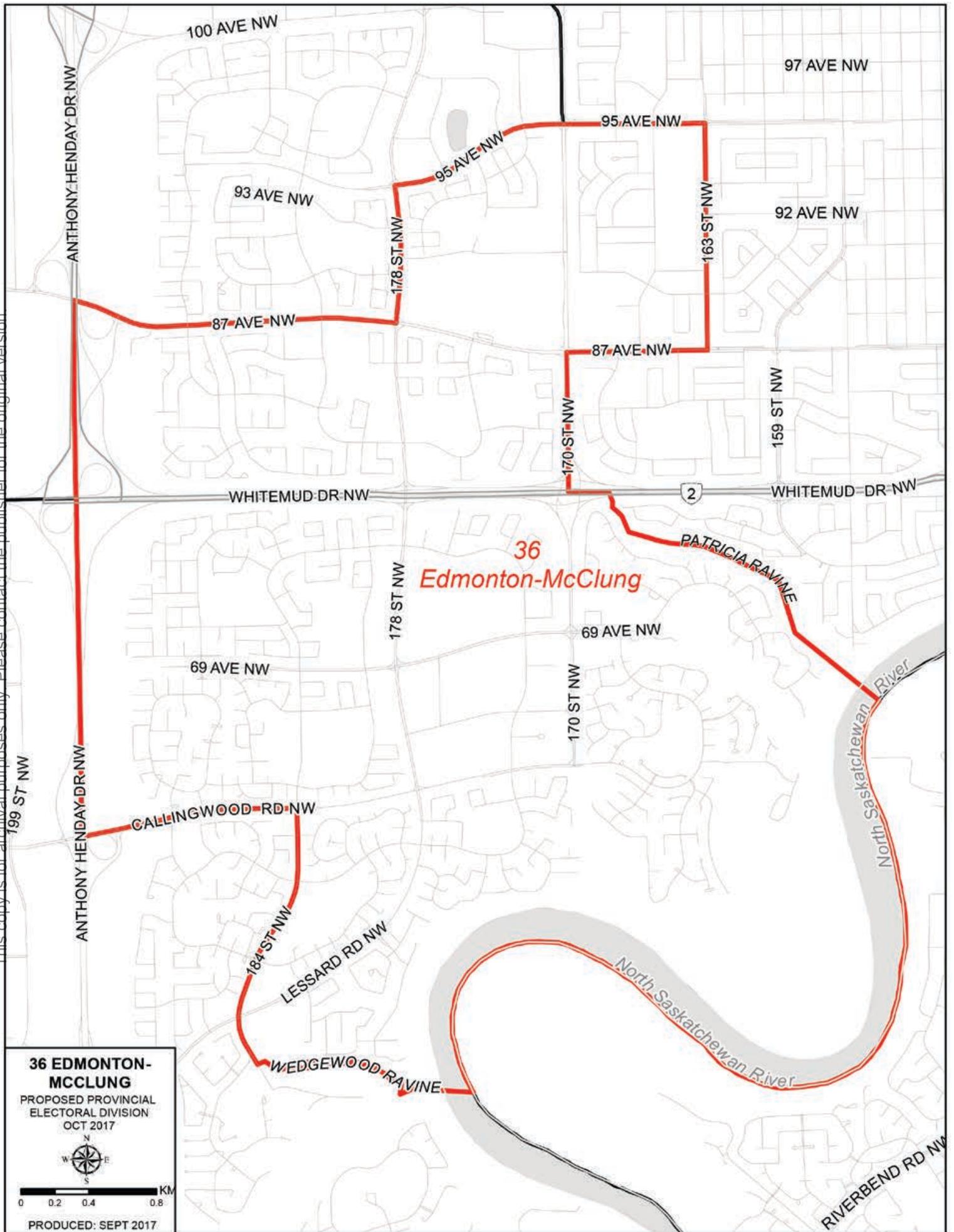
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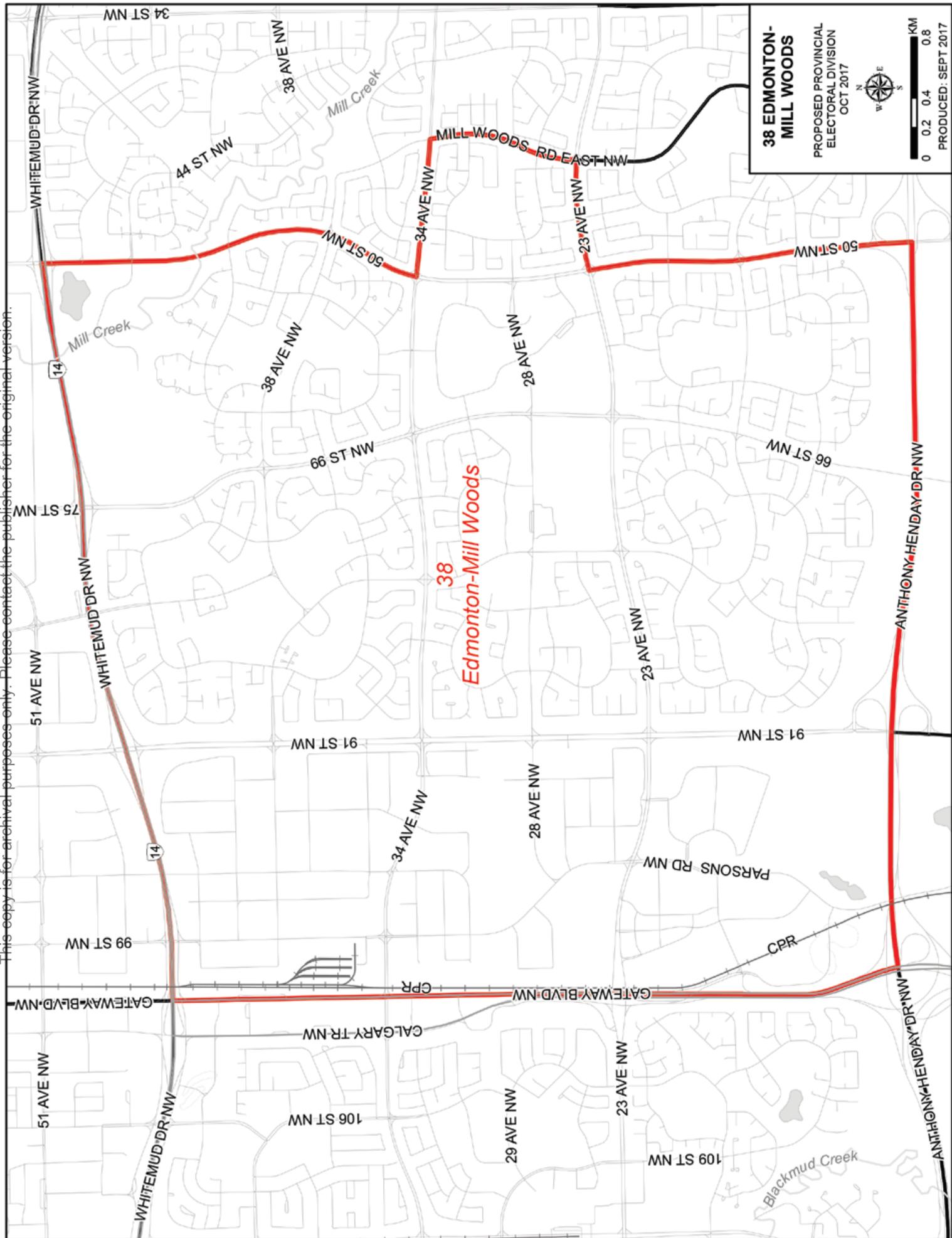
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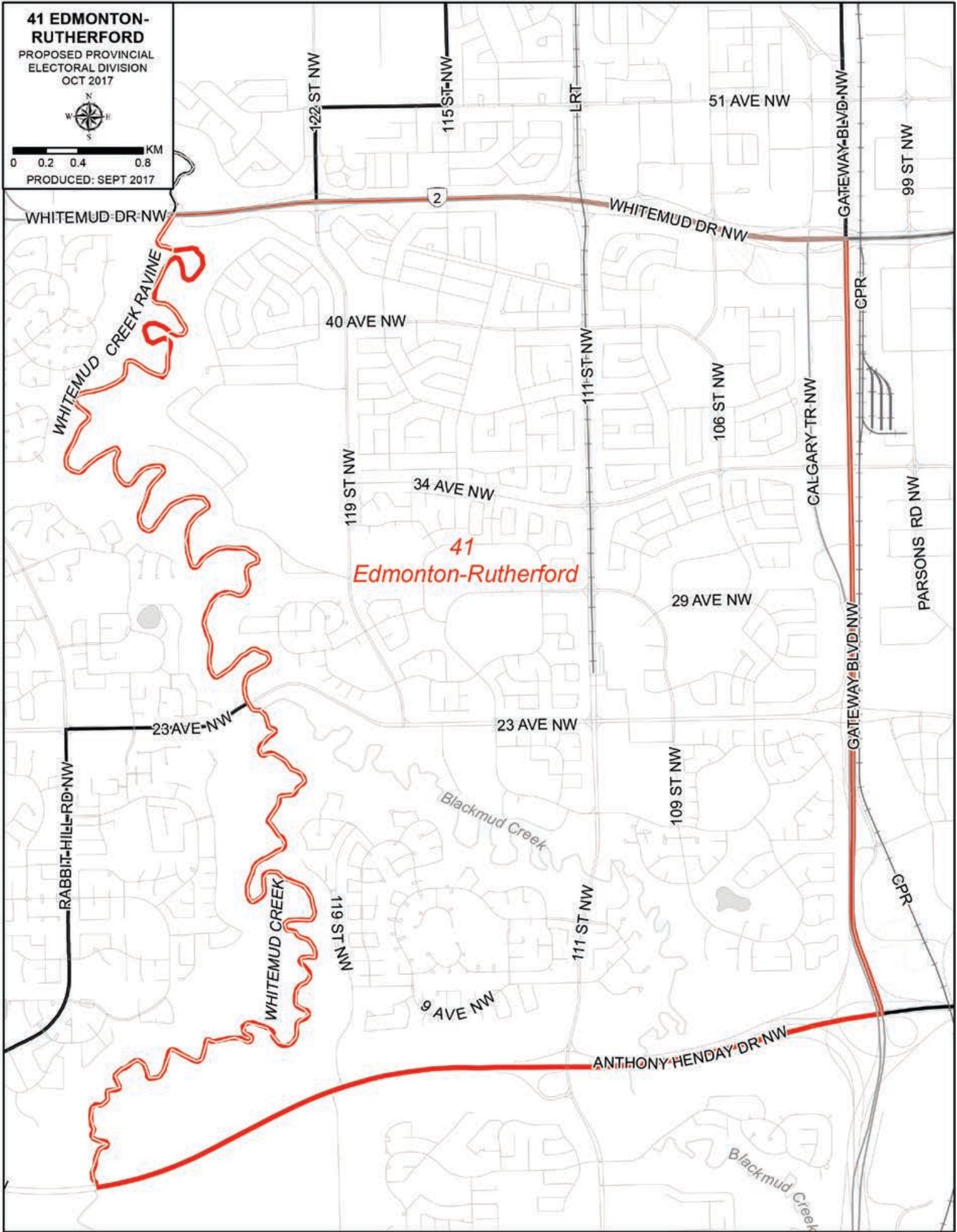


36 EDMONTON-MCCLUNG
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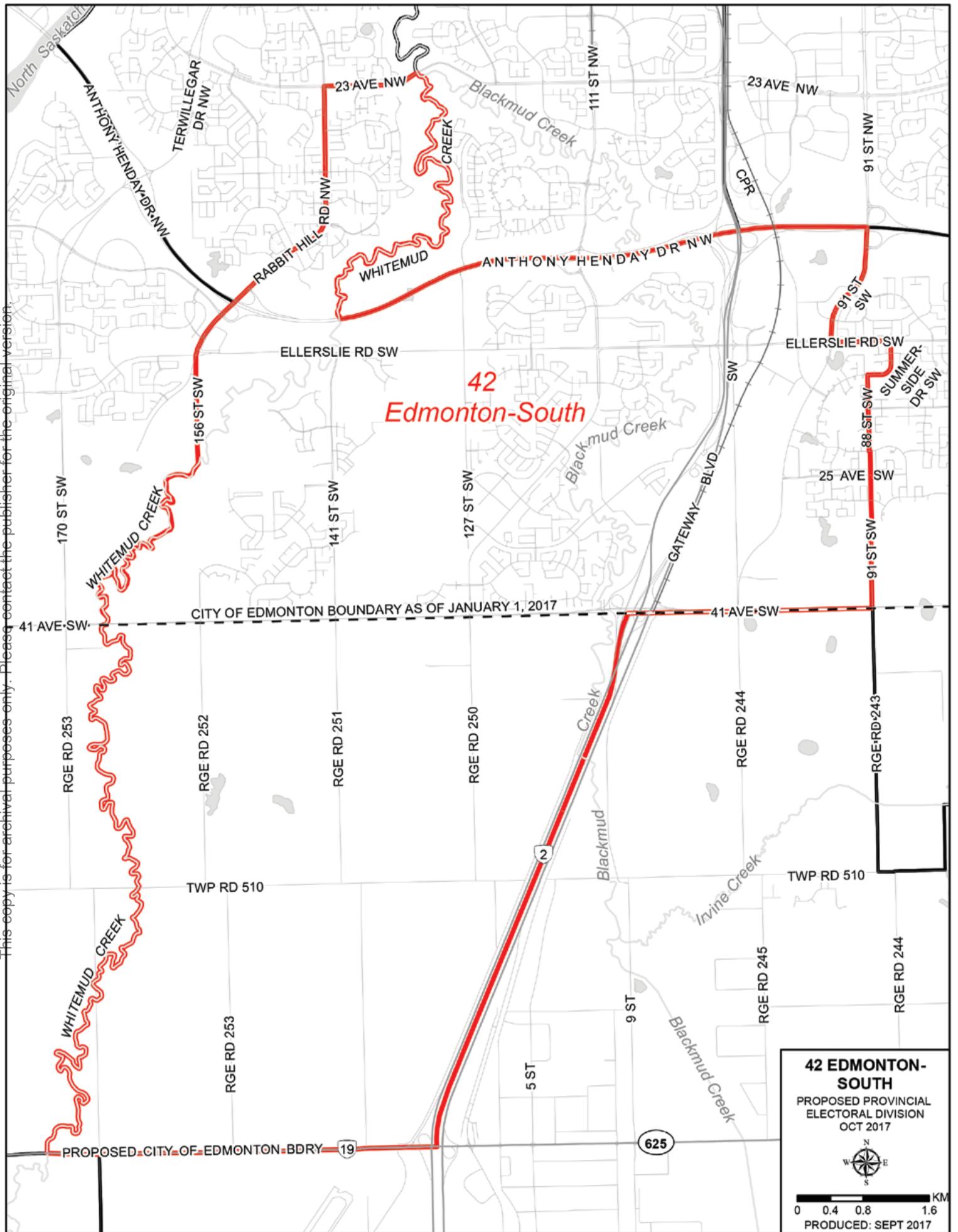
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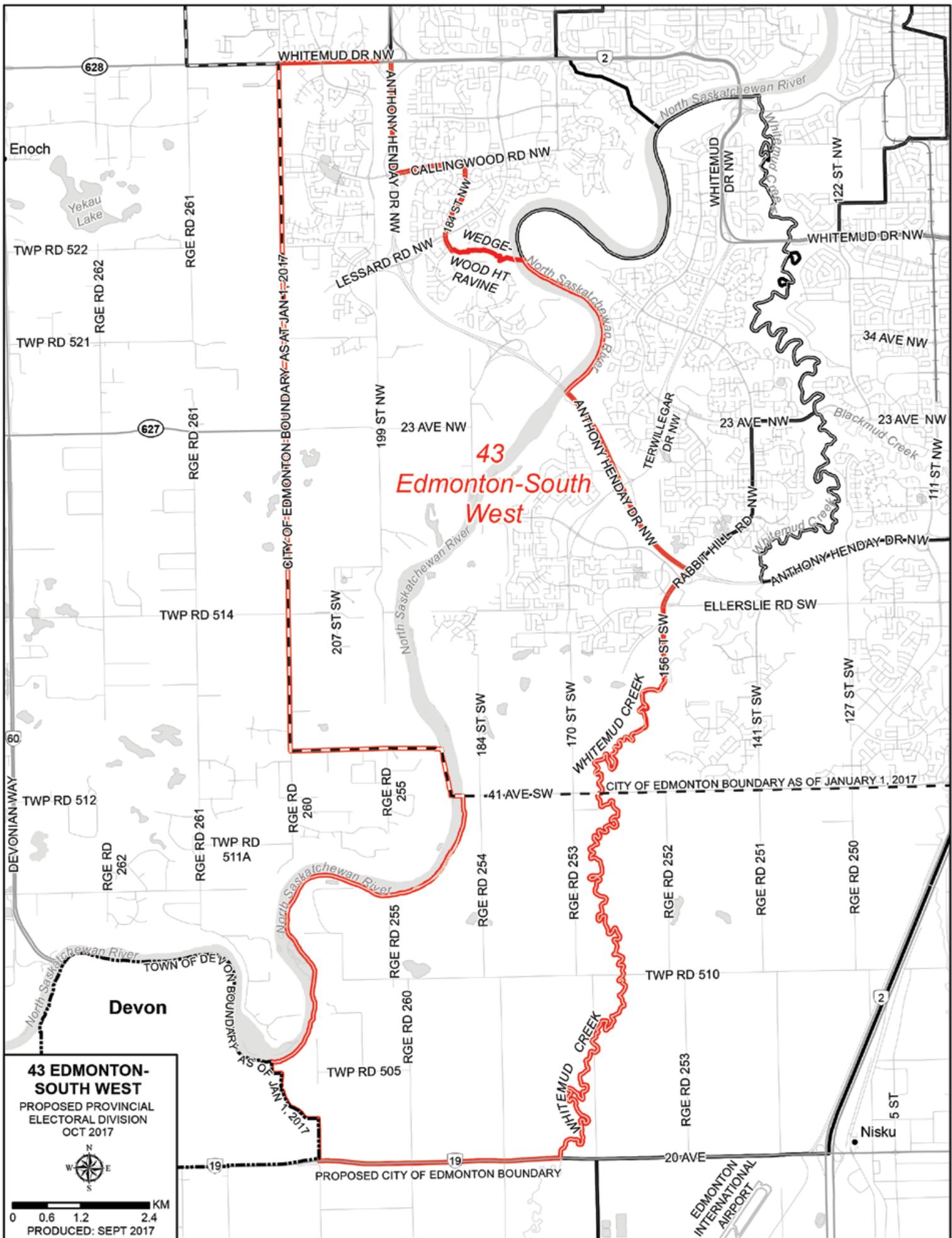
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44 EDMONTON-STRATHCONA
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**46 EDMONTON-
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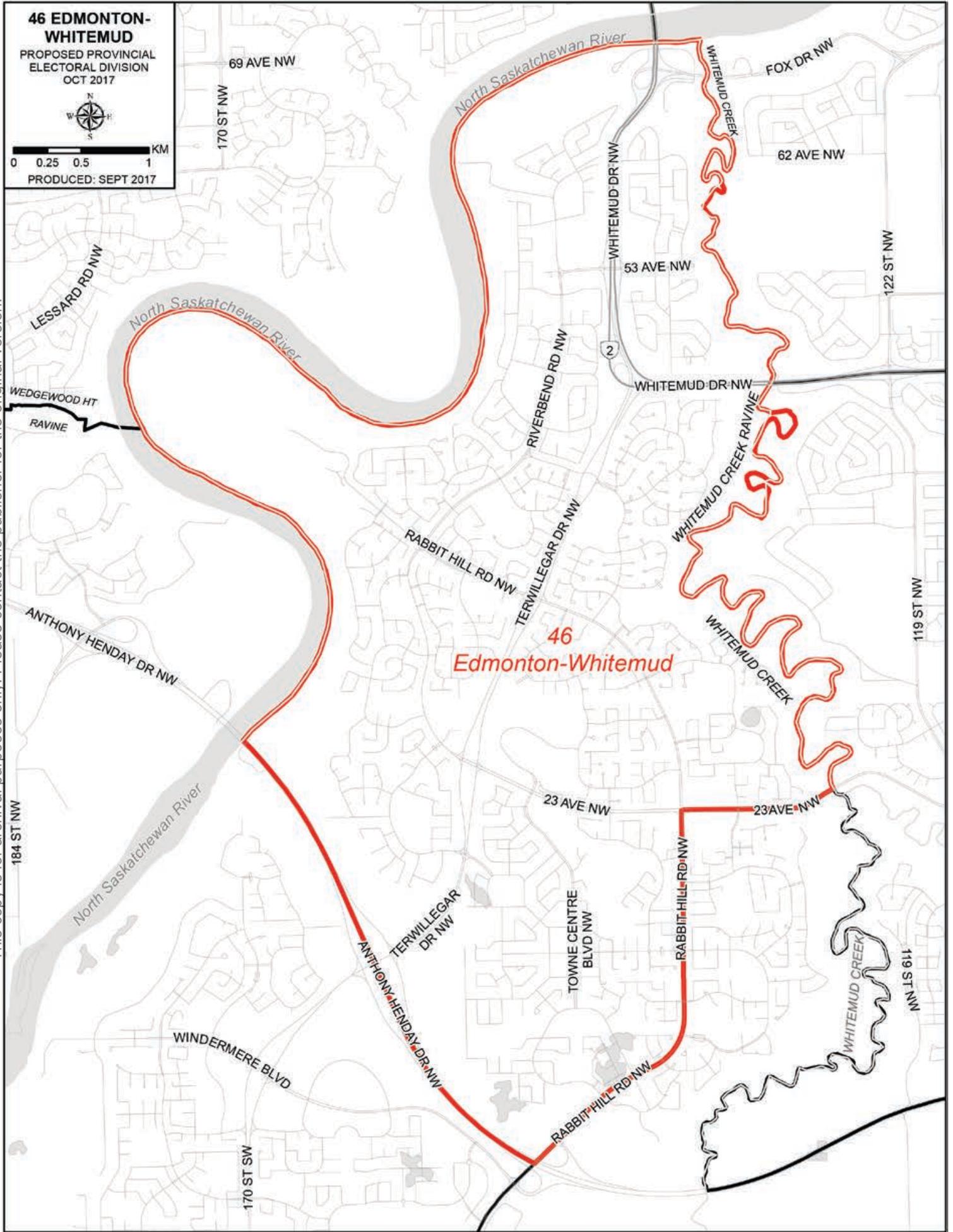
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ELECTORAL DIVISION
OCT 2017

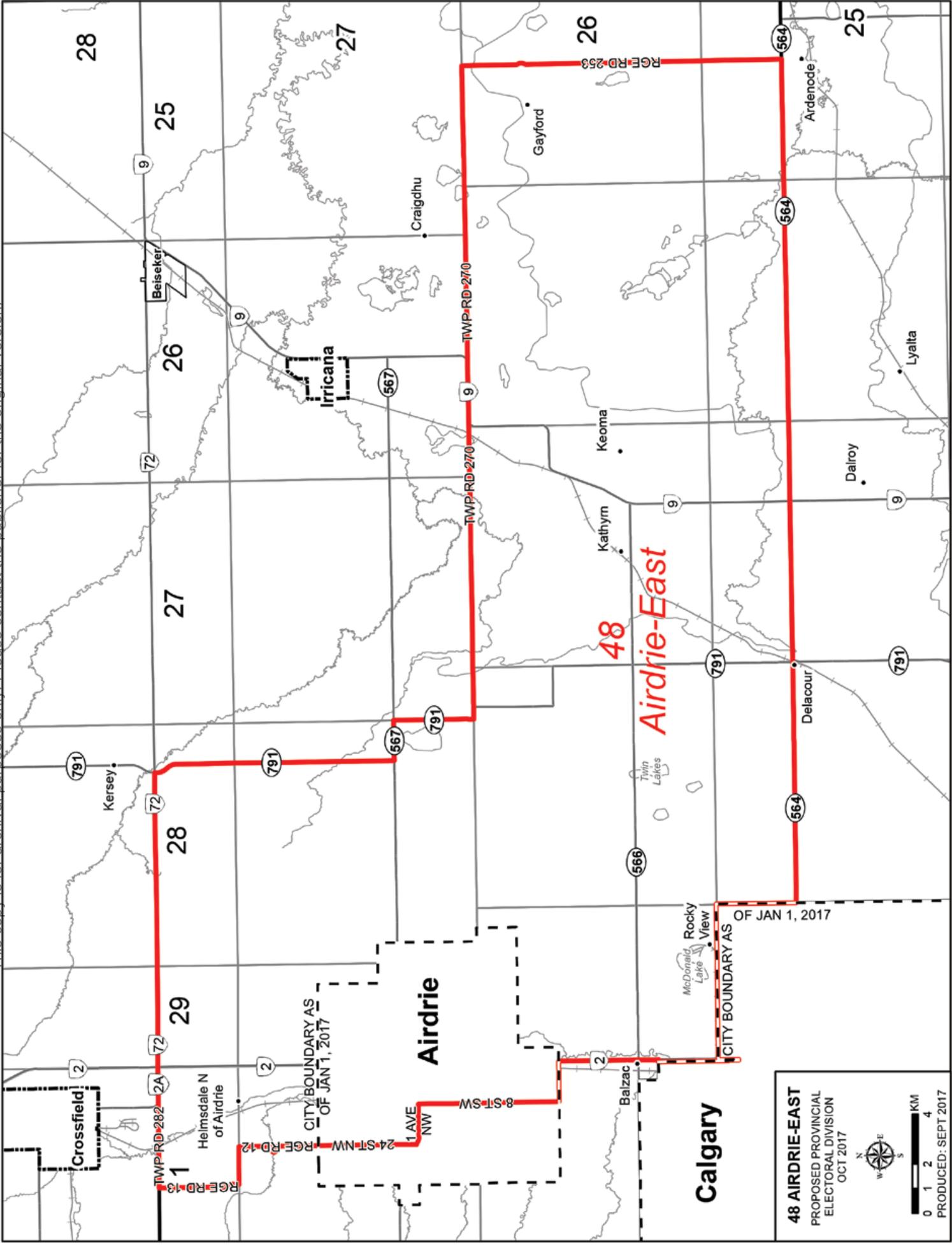


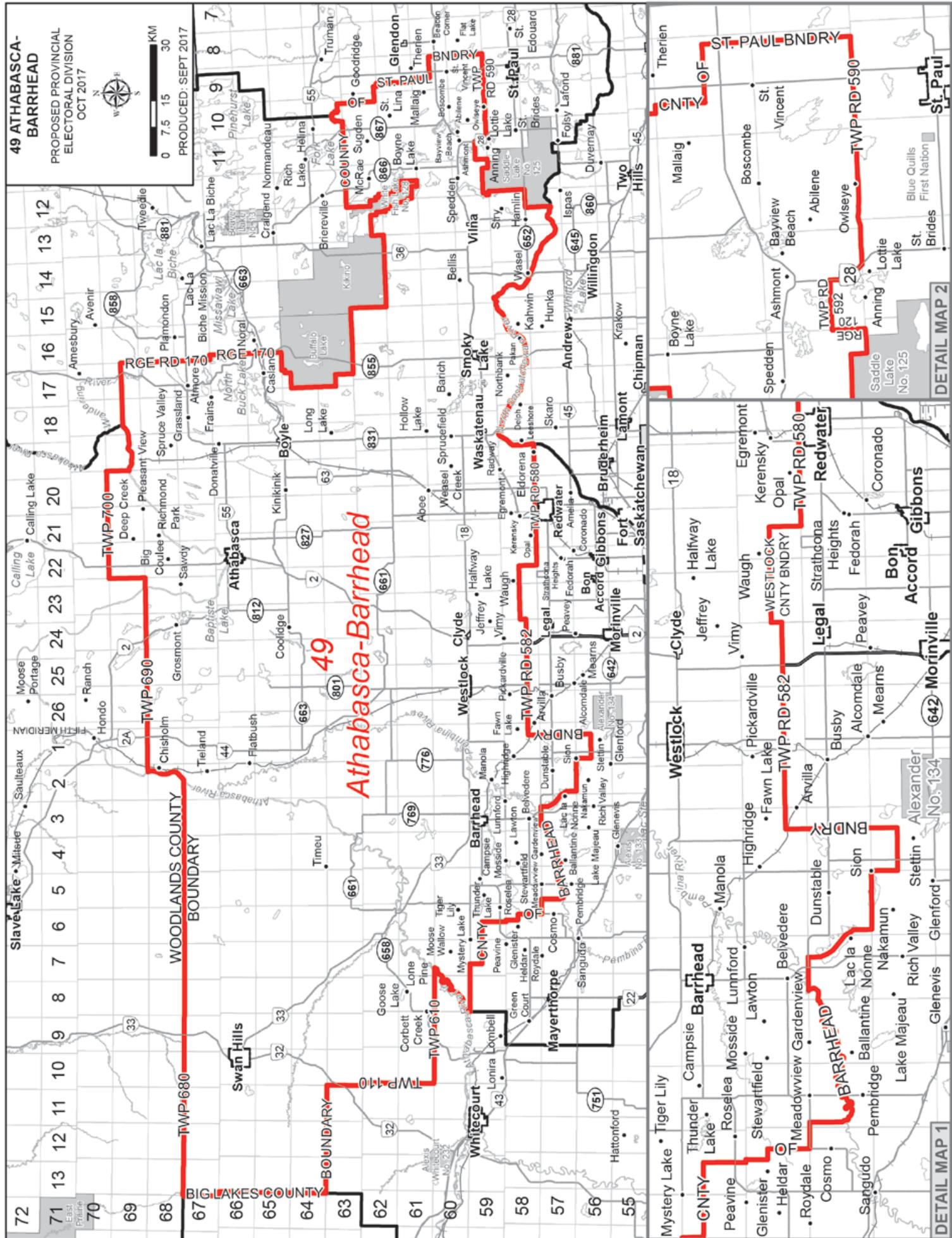
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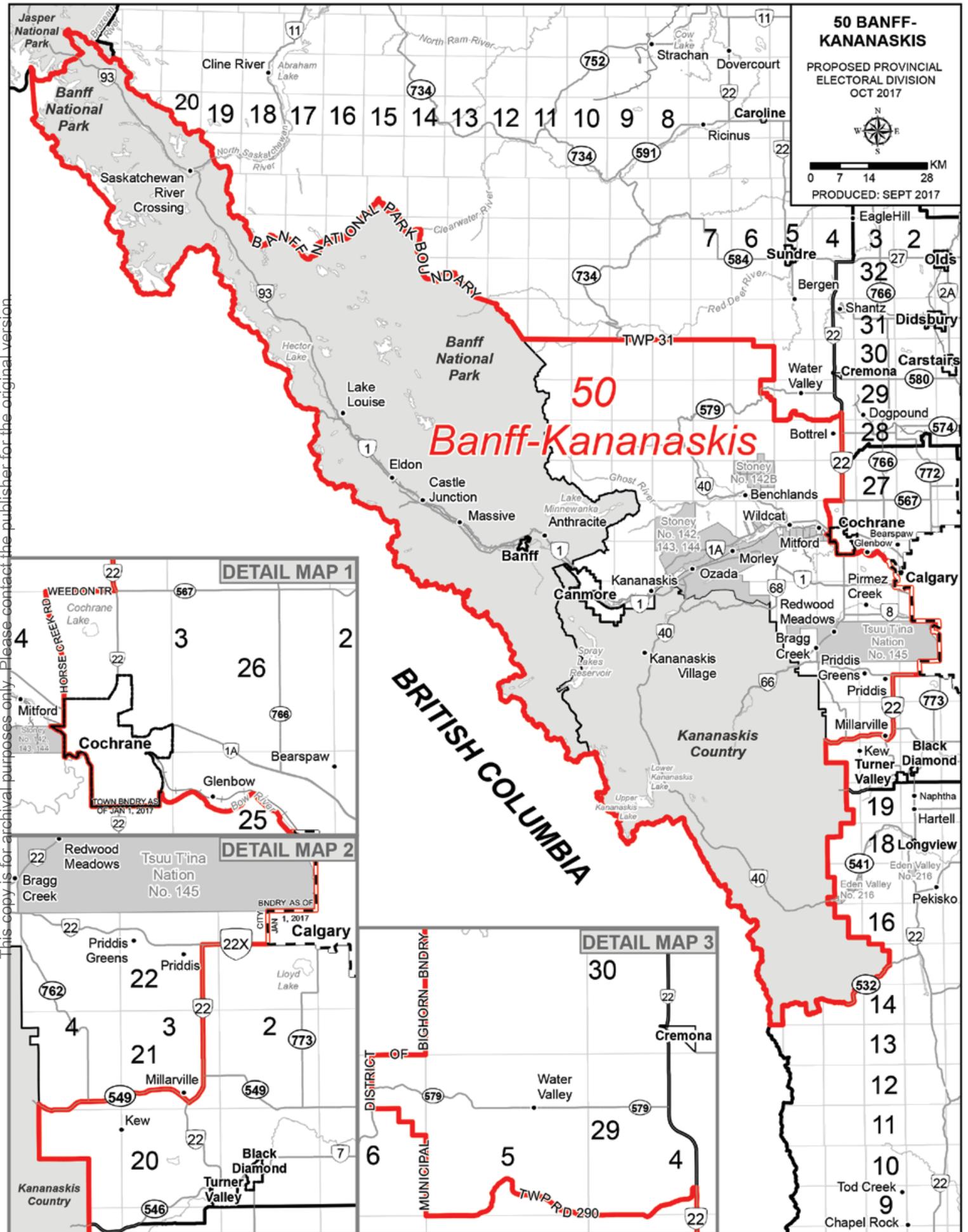
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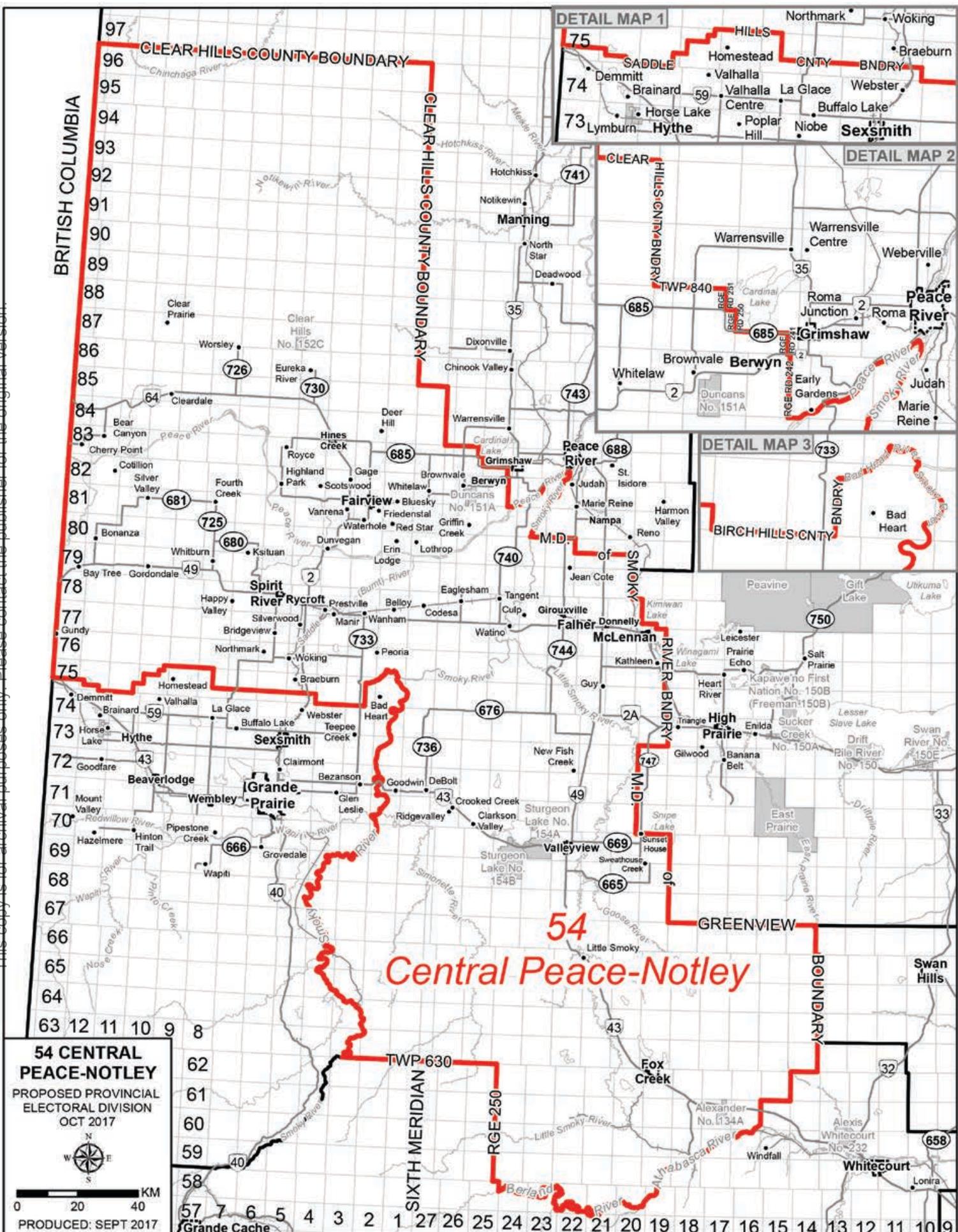


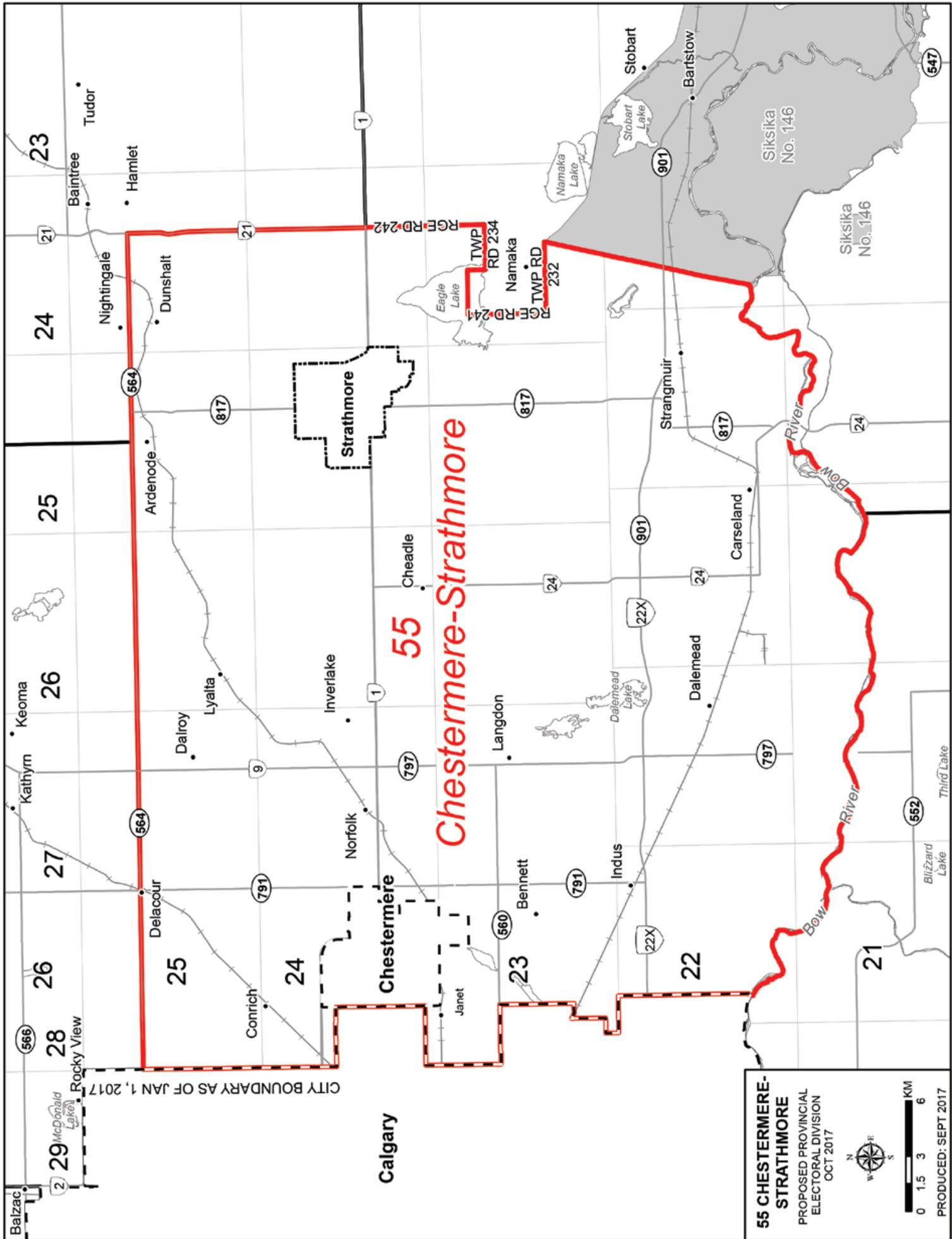


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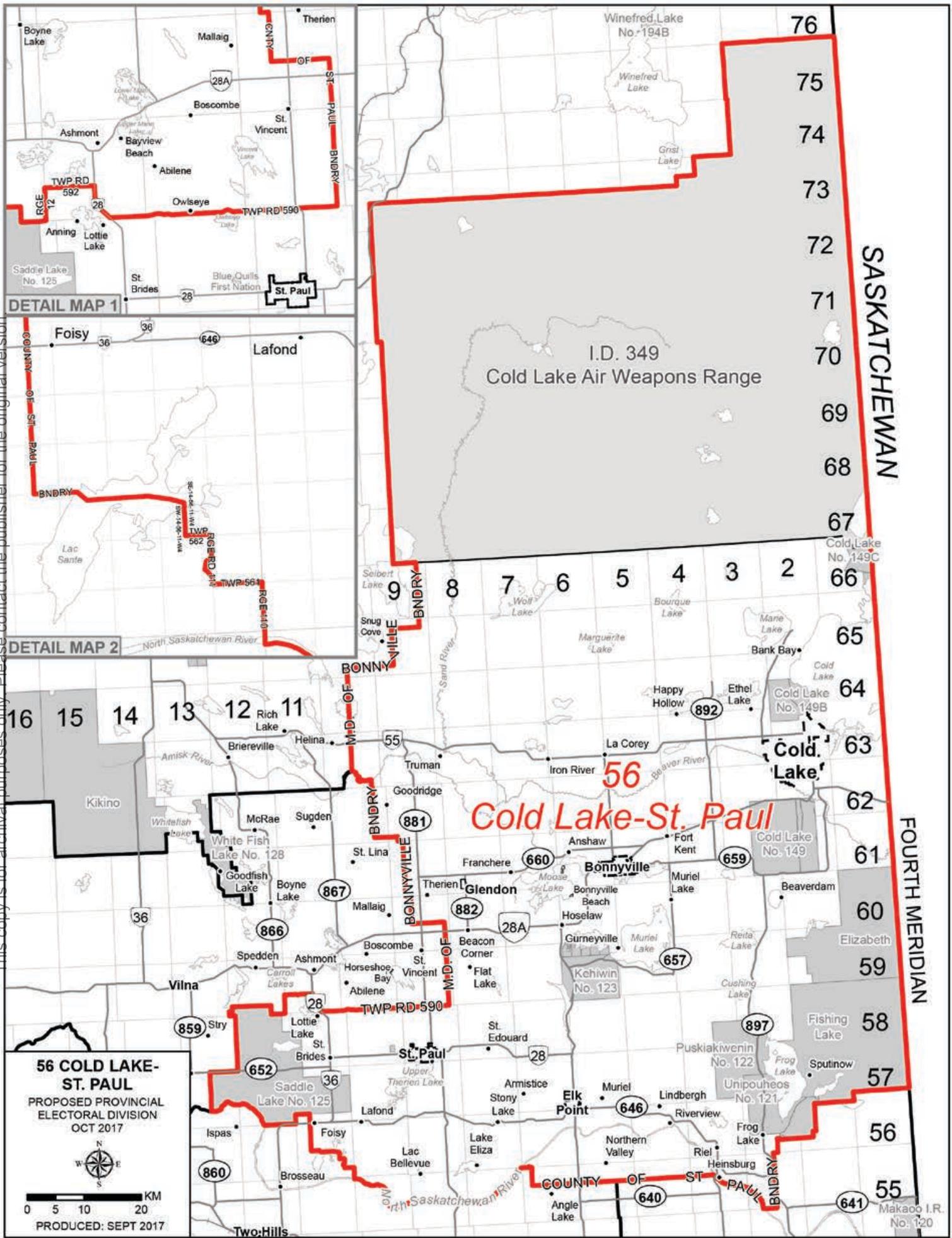


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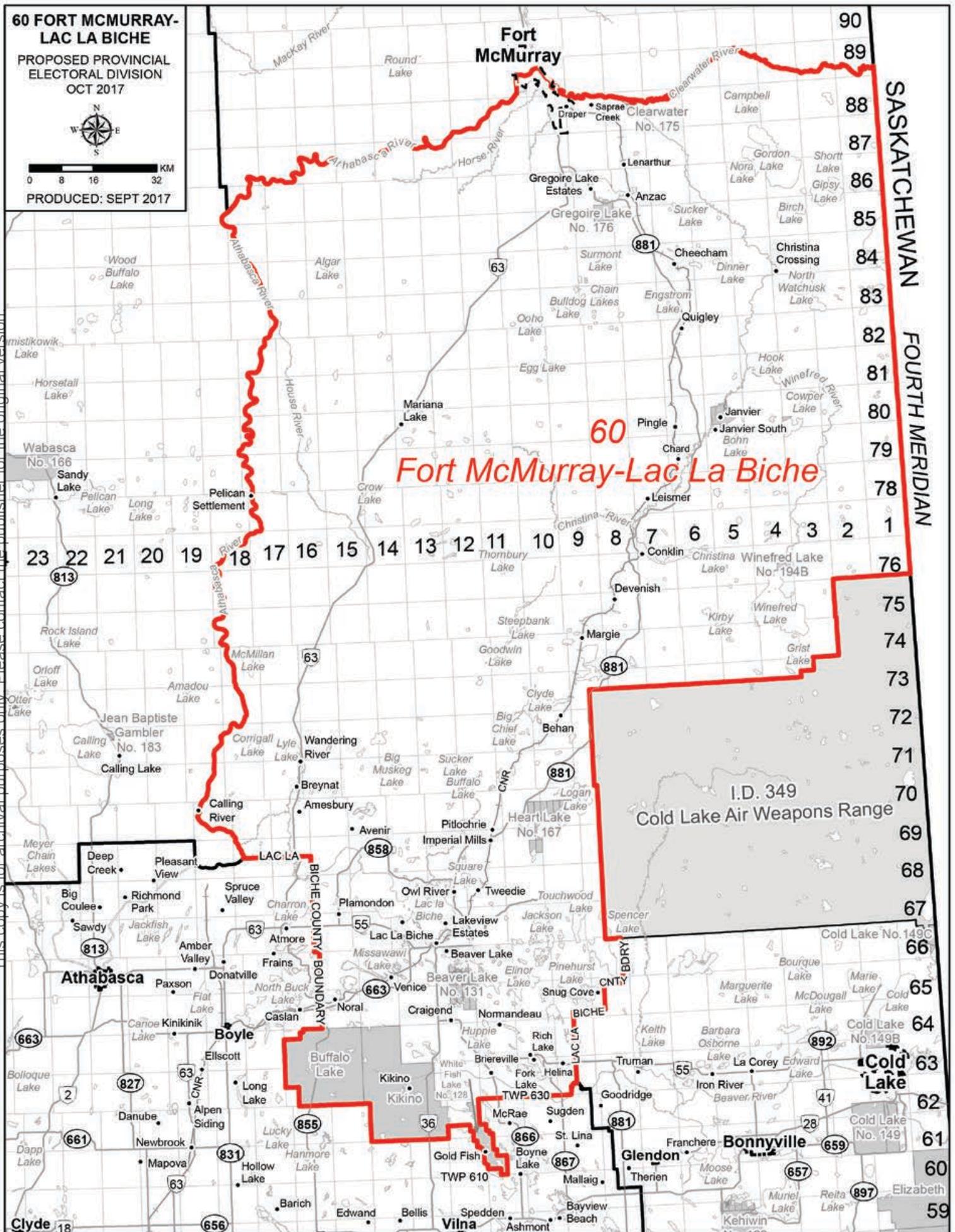
**60 FORT McMURRAY-
LAC LA BICHE**

PROPOSED PROVINCIAL
ELECTORAL DIVISION
OCT 2017

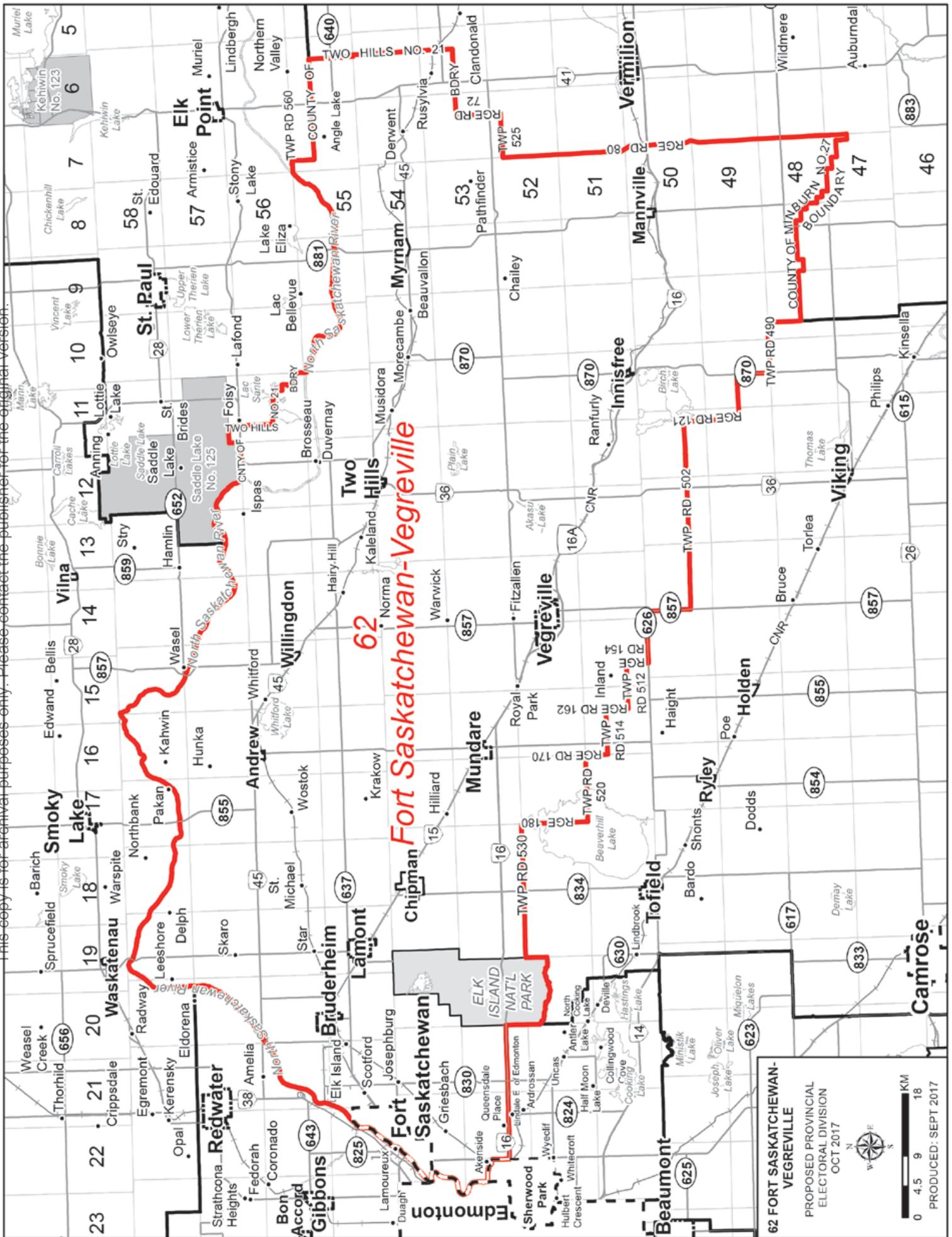


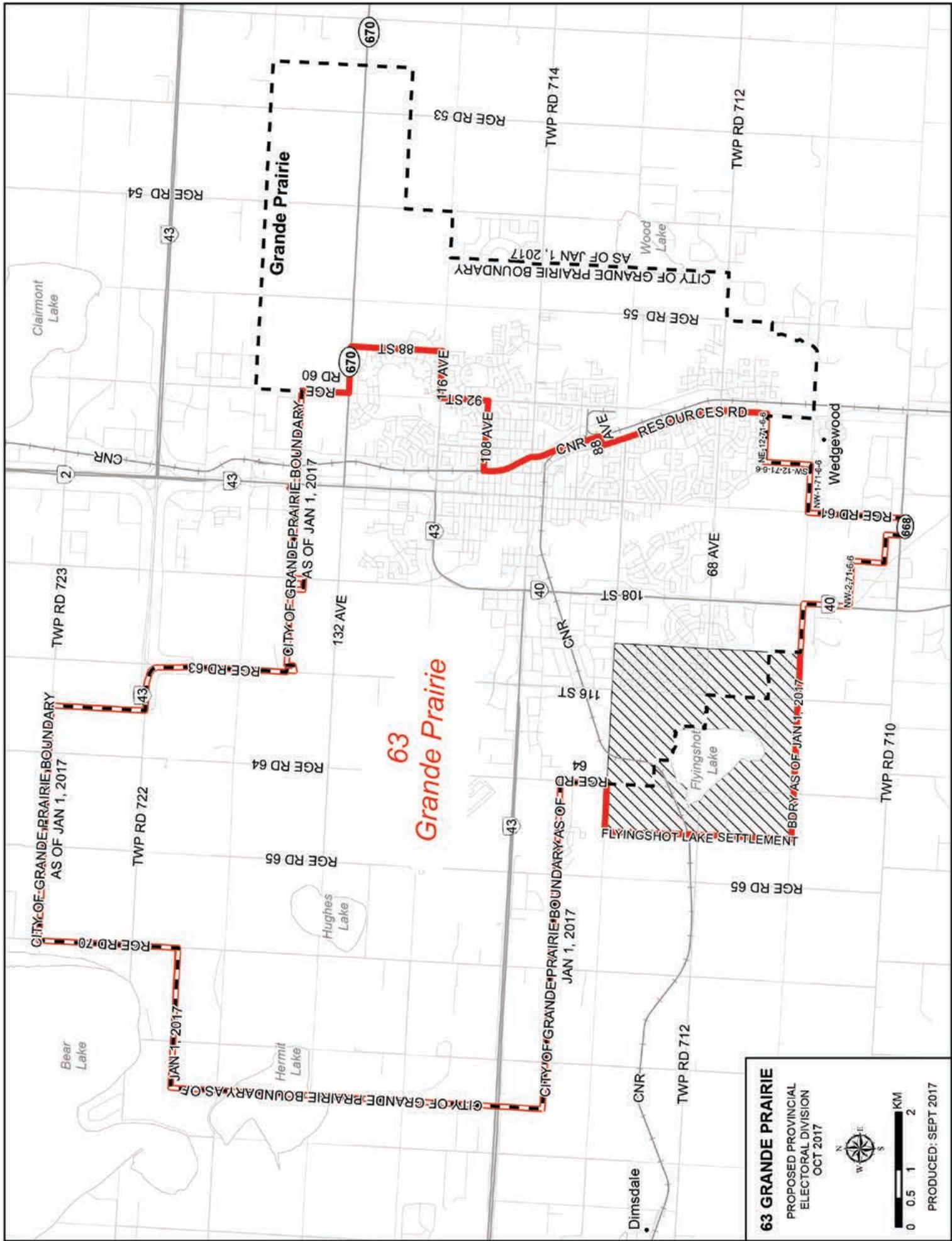
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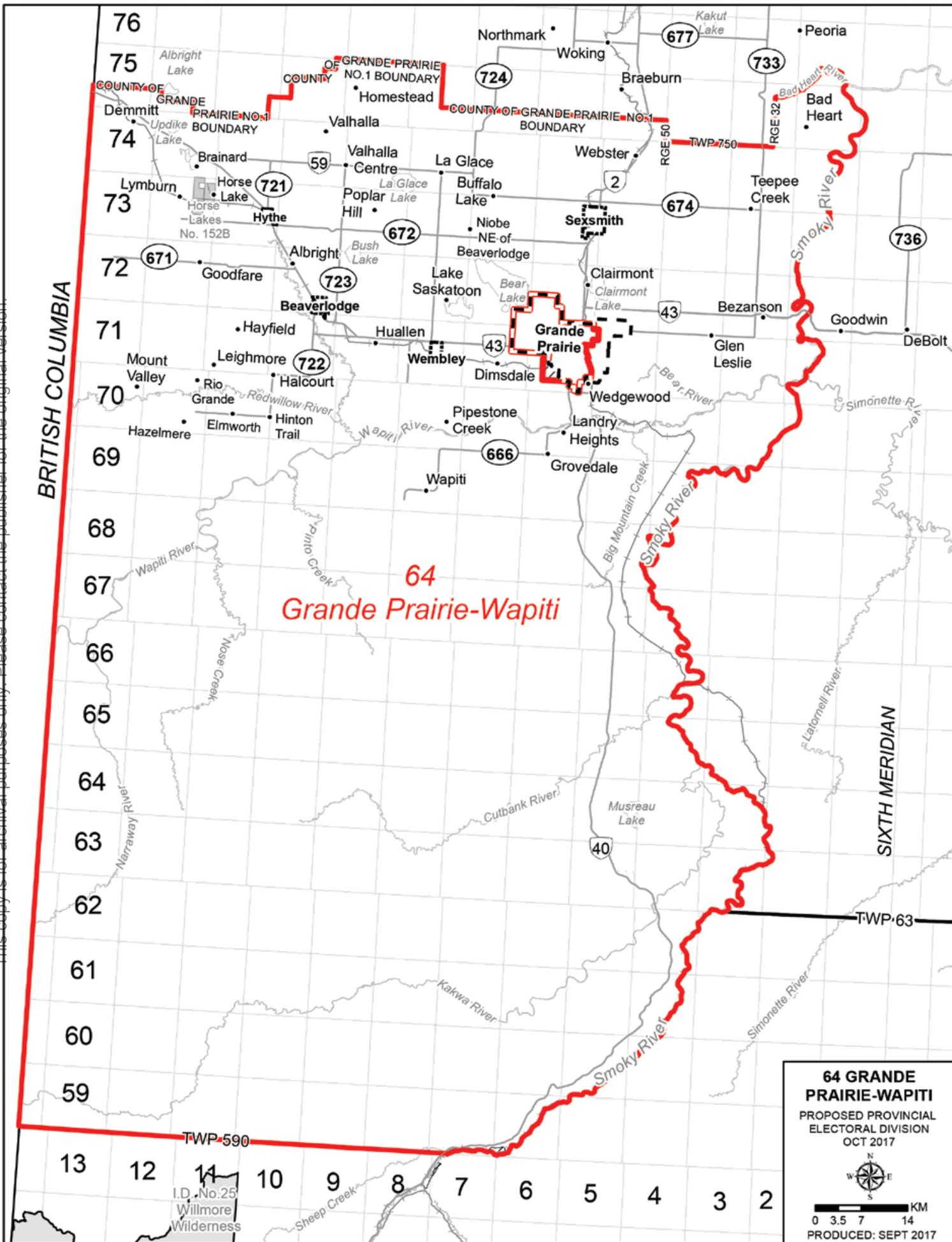


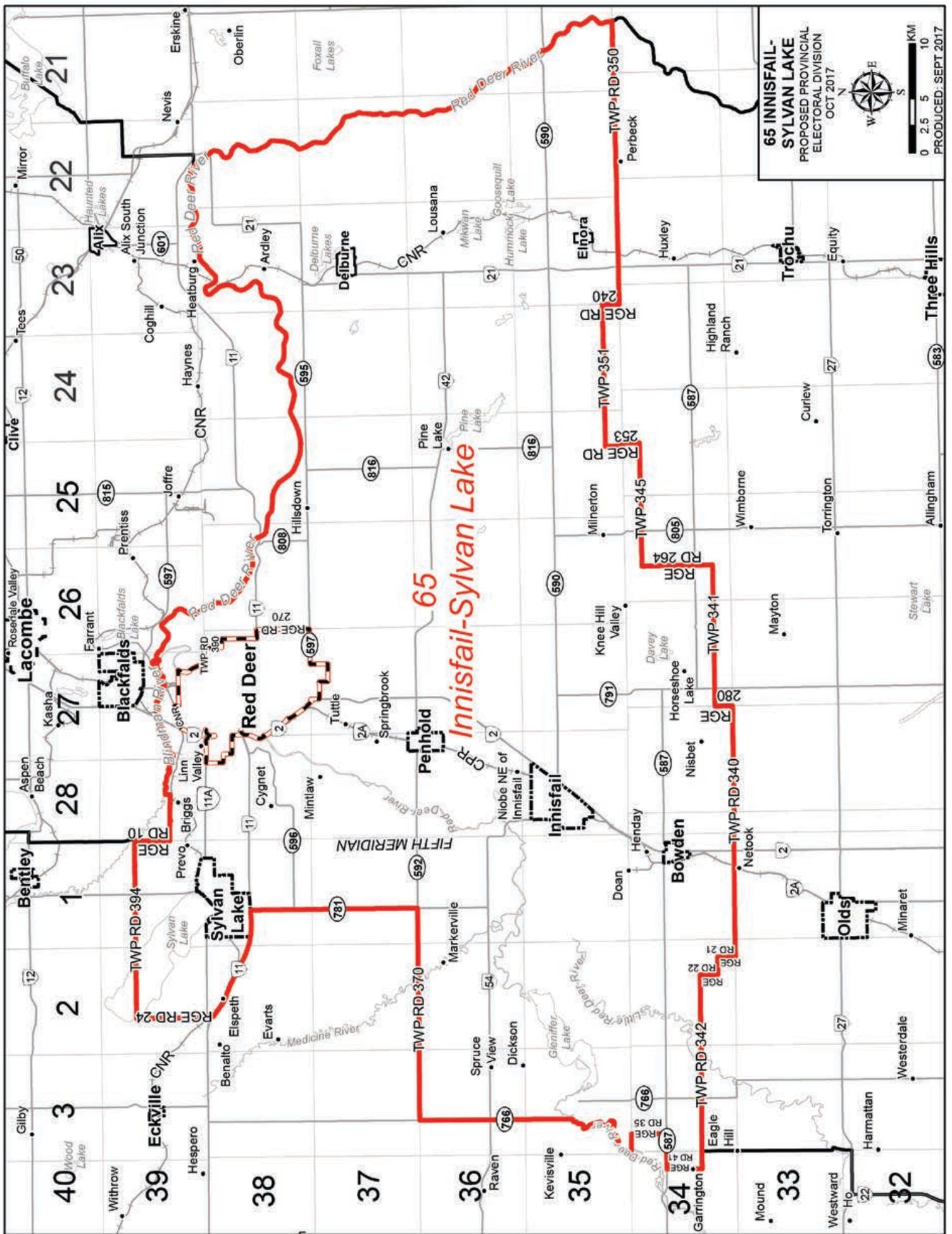
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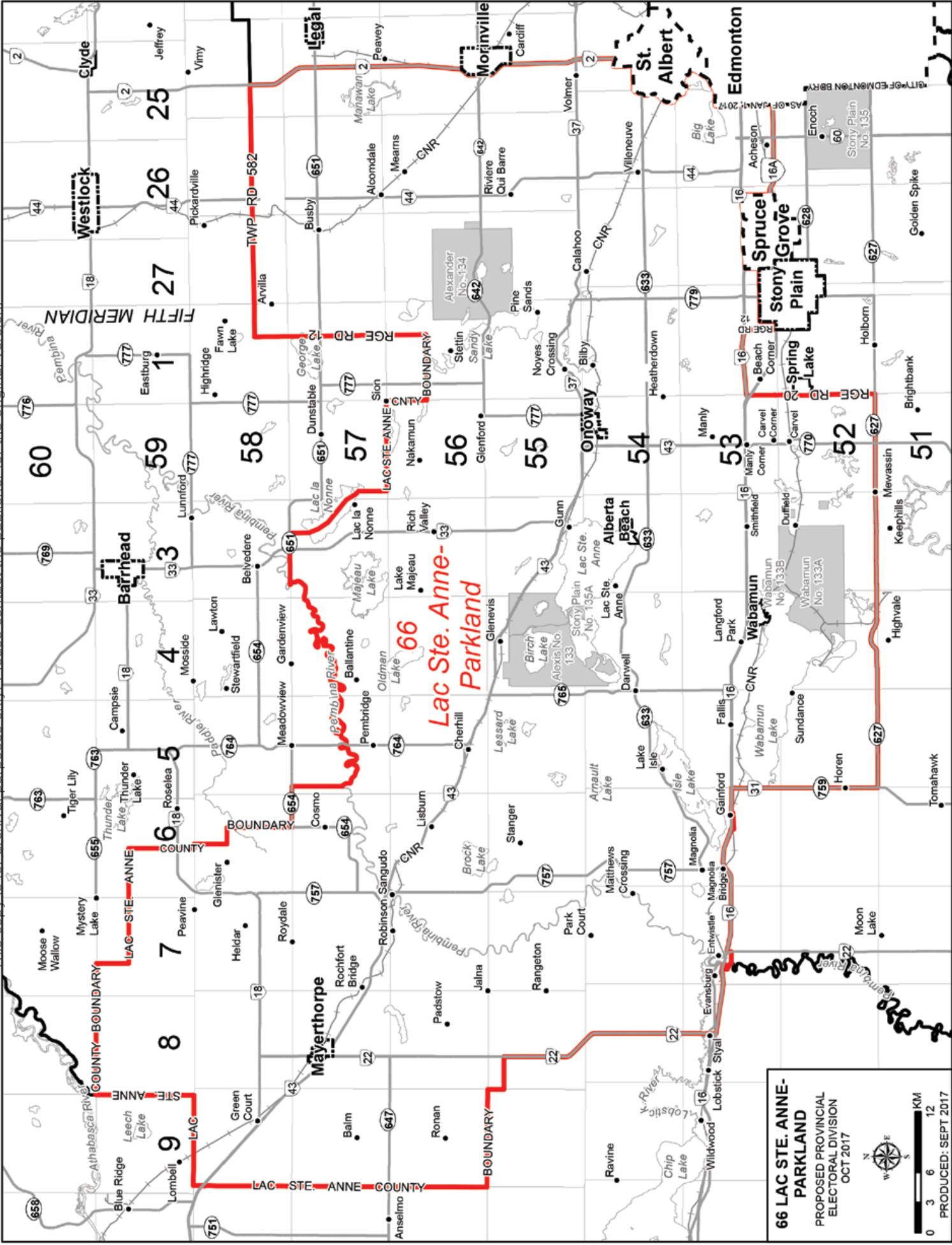




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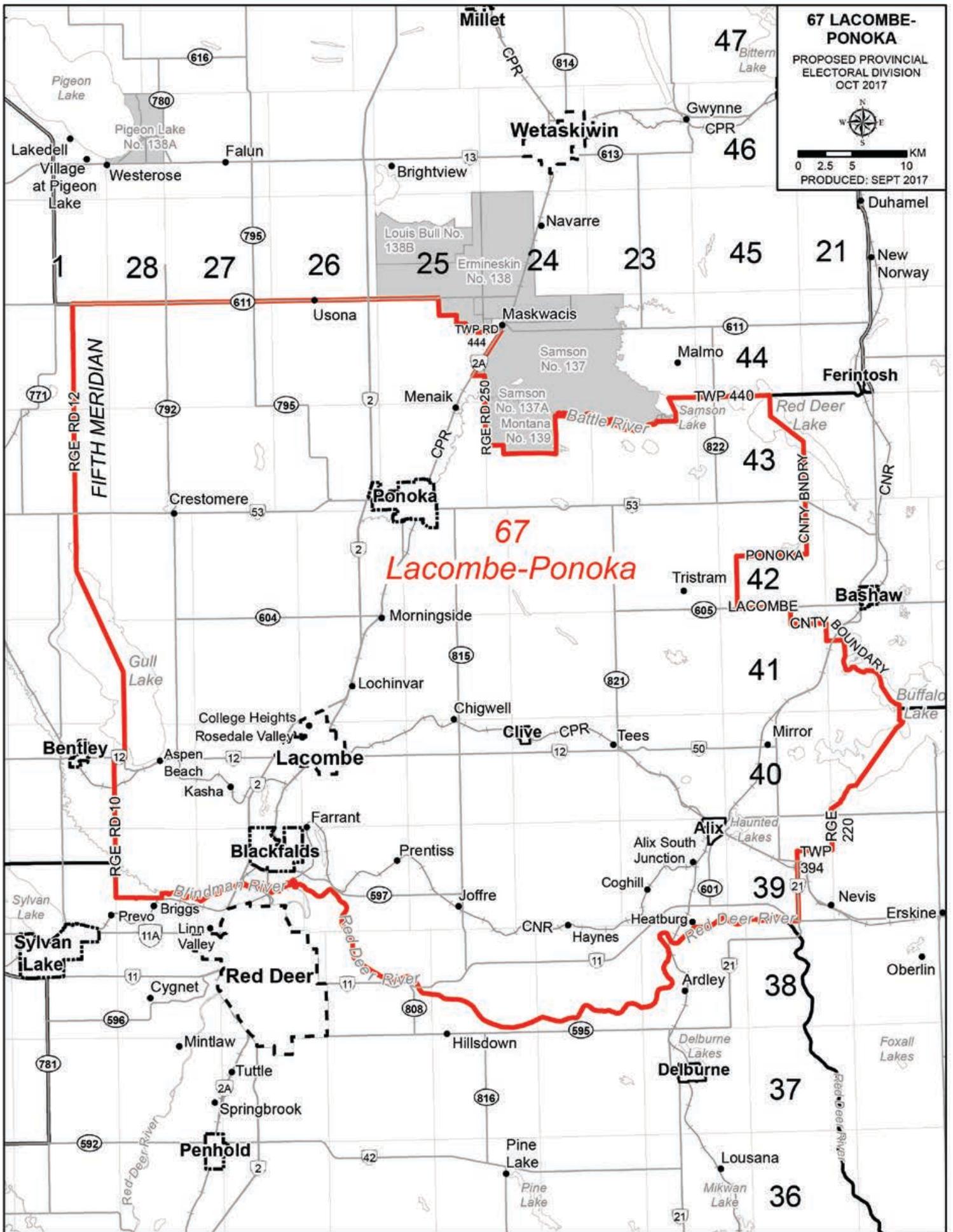




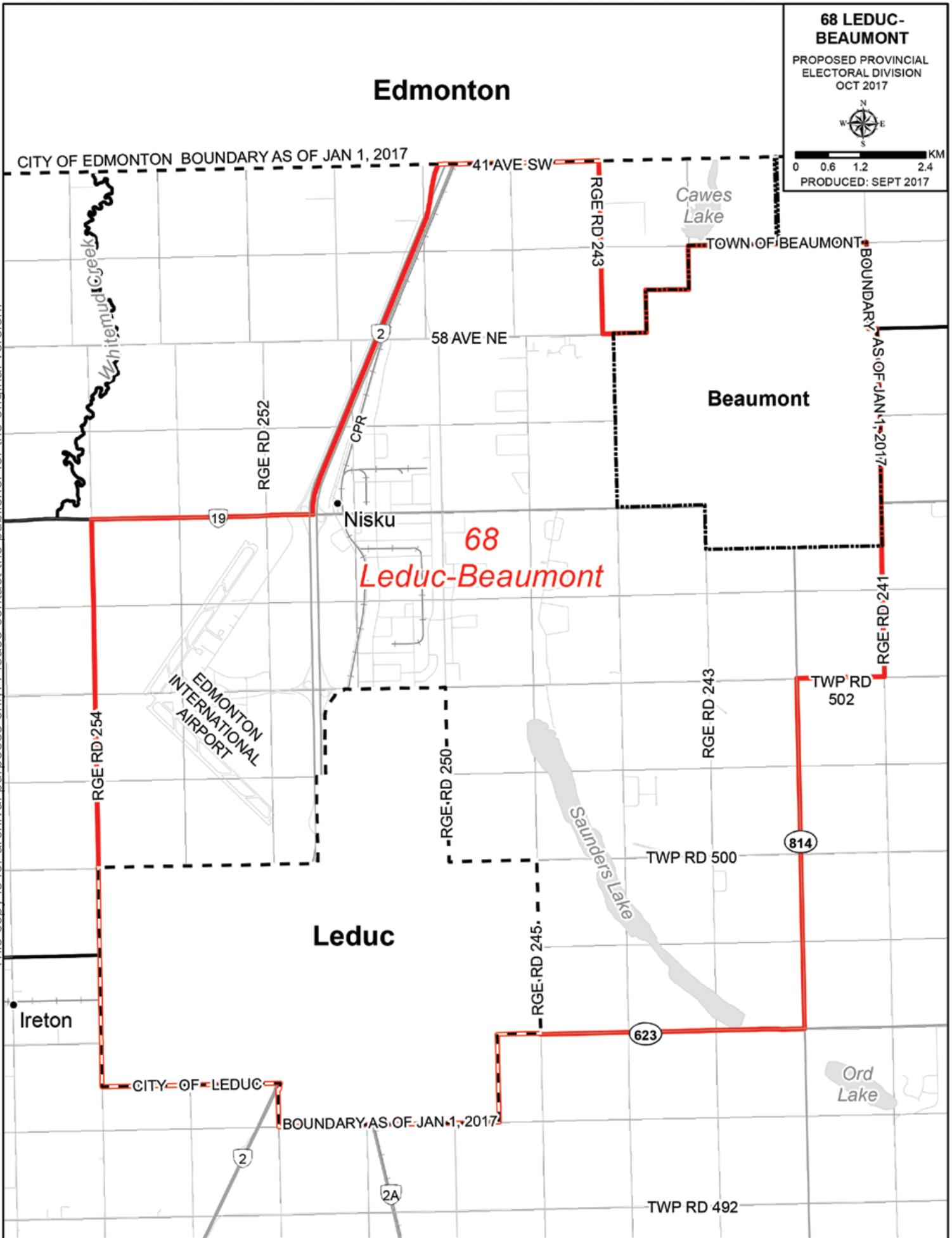


66 LAC STE. ANNE-PARKLAND
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 ELECTORAL DIVISION
 OCT 2017

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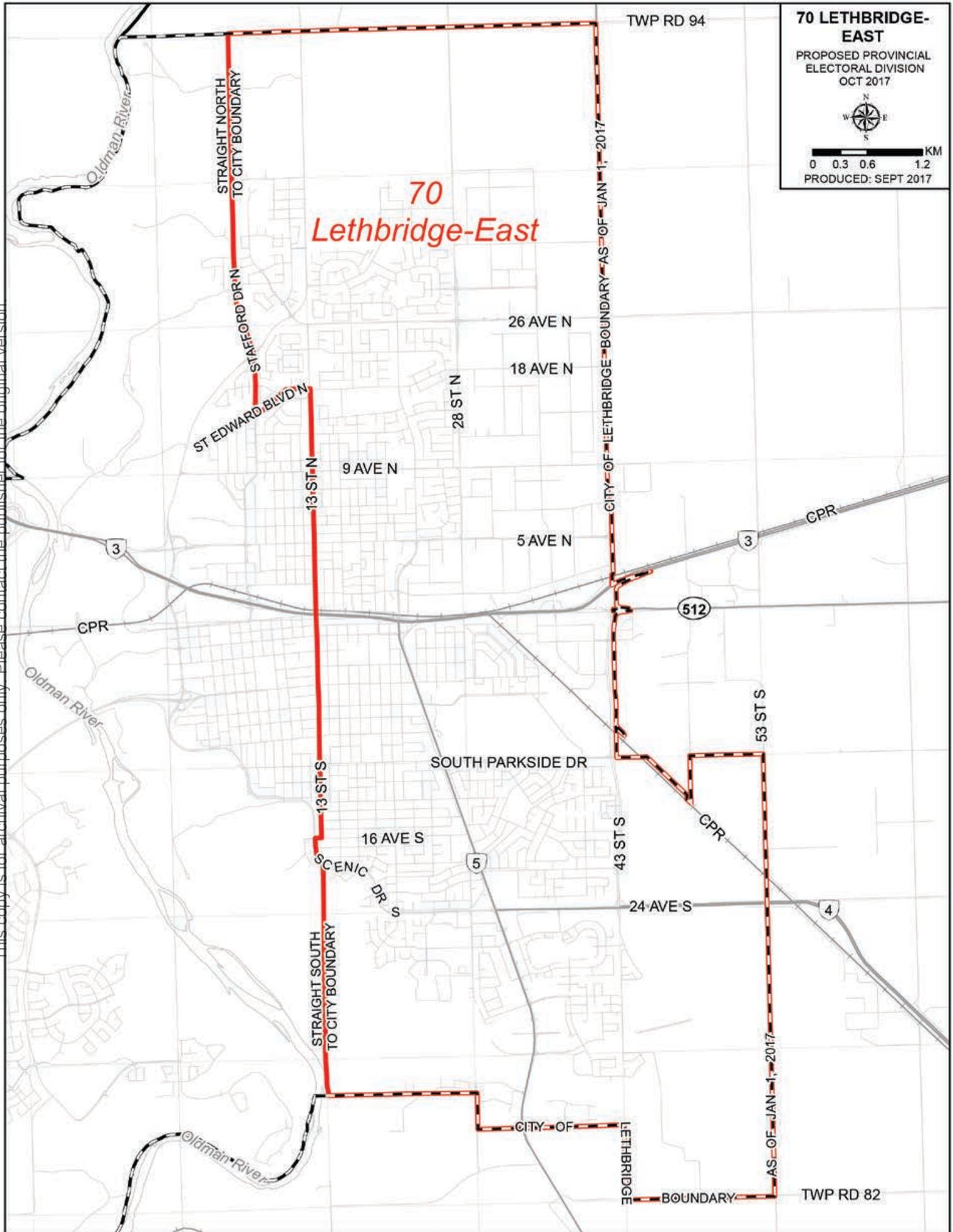


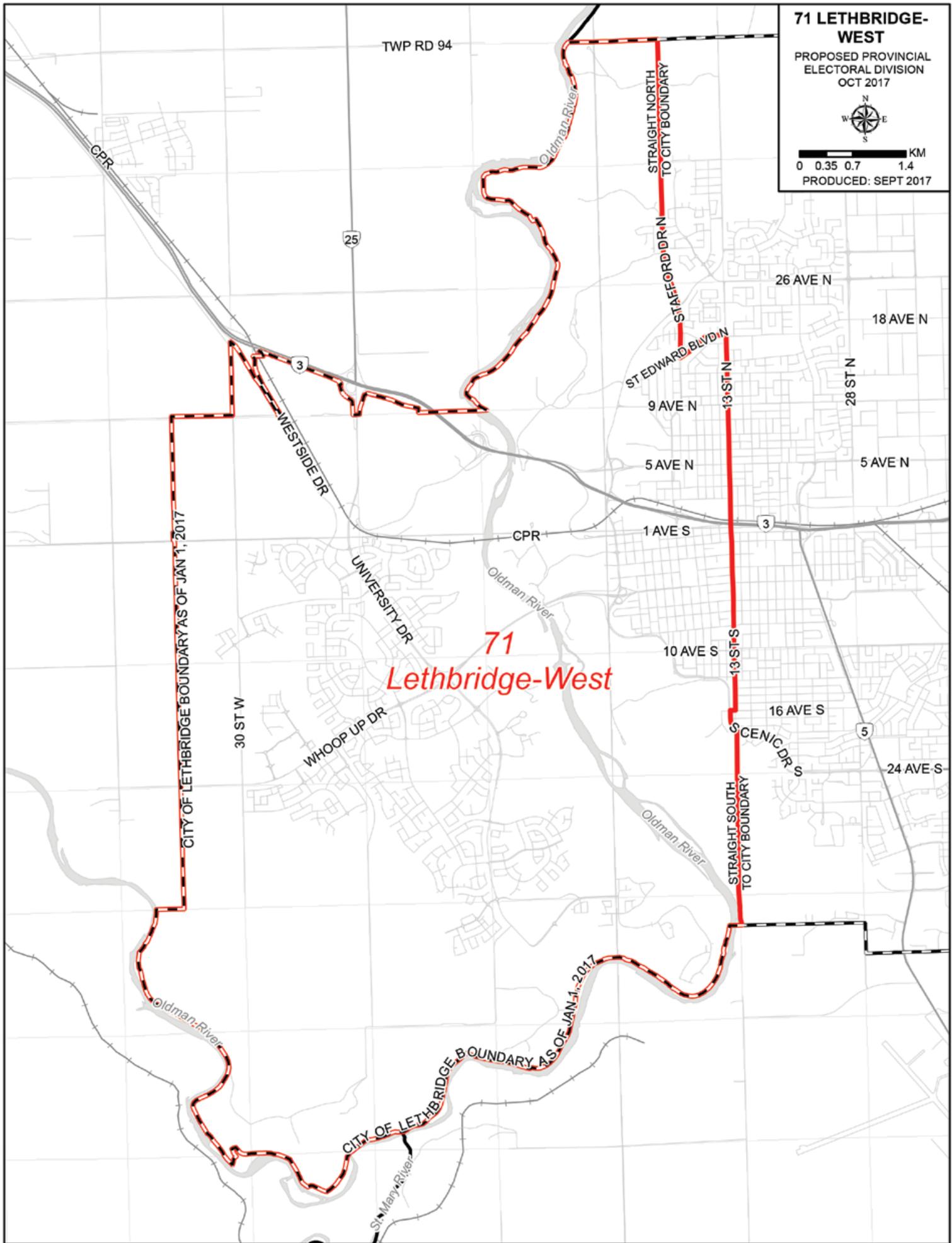
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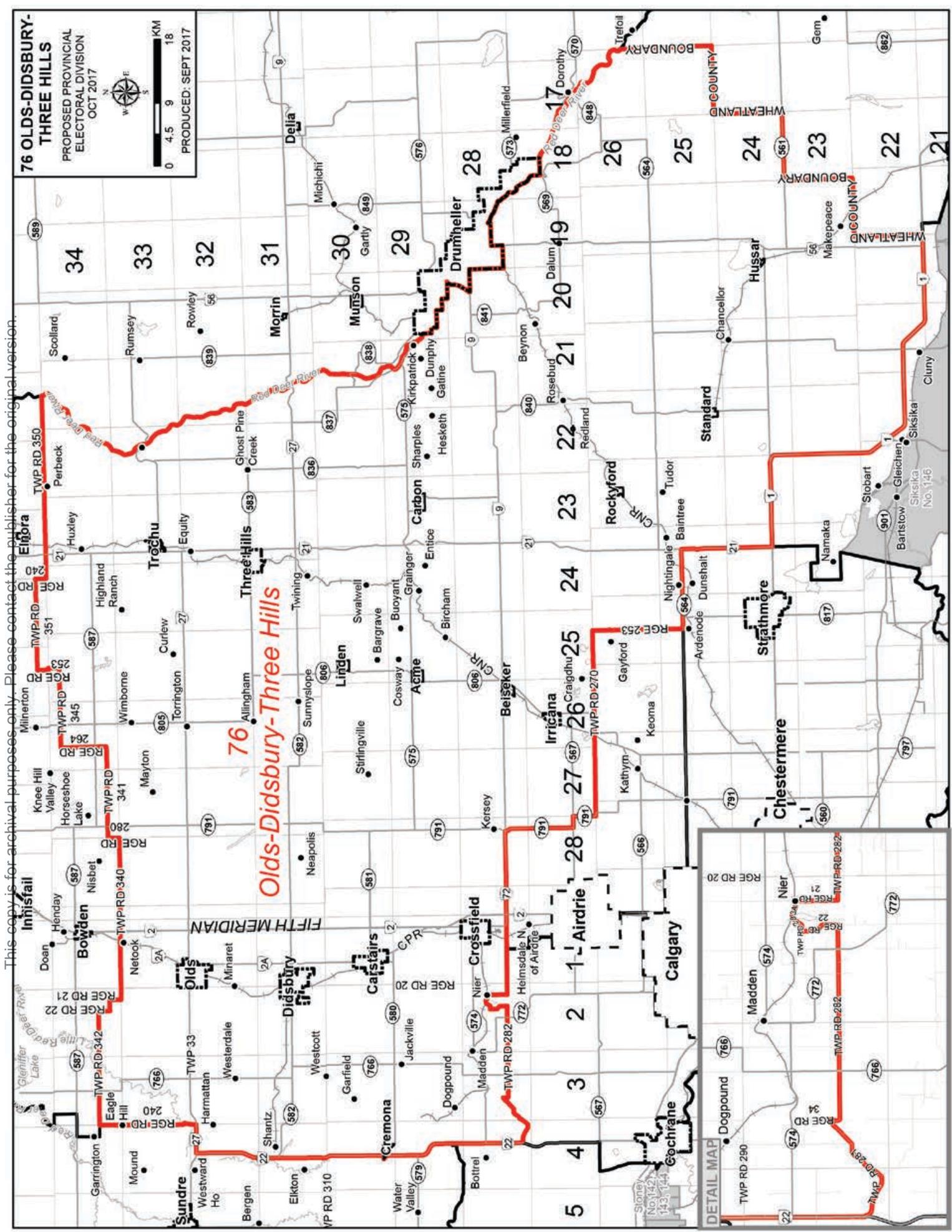
70 LETHBRIDGE-EAST
 PROPOSED PROVINCIAL
 ELECTORAL DIVISION
 OCT 2017



0 0.3 0.6 1.2
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 PRODUCED: SEPT 2017







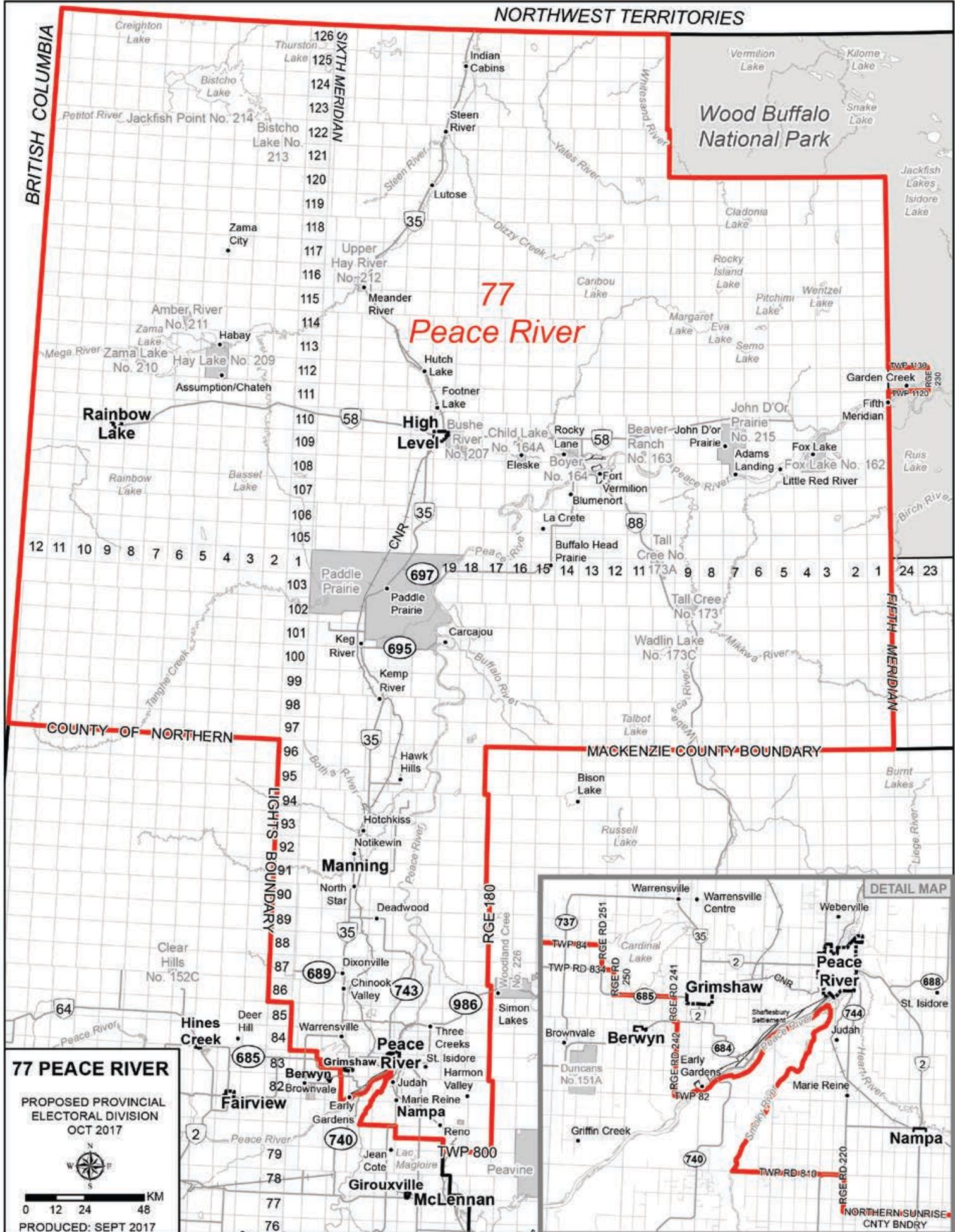
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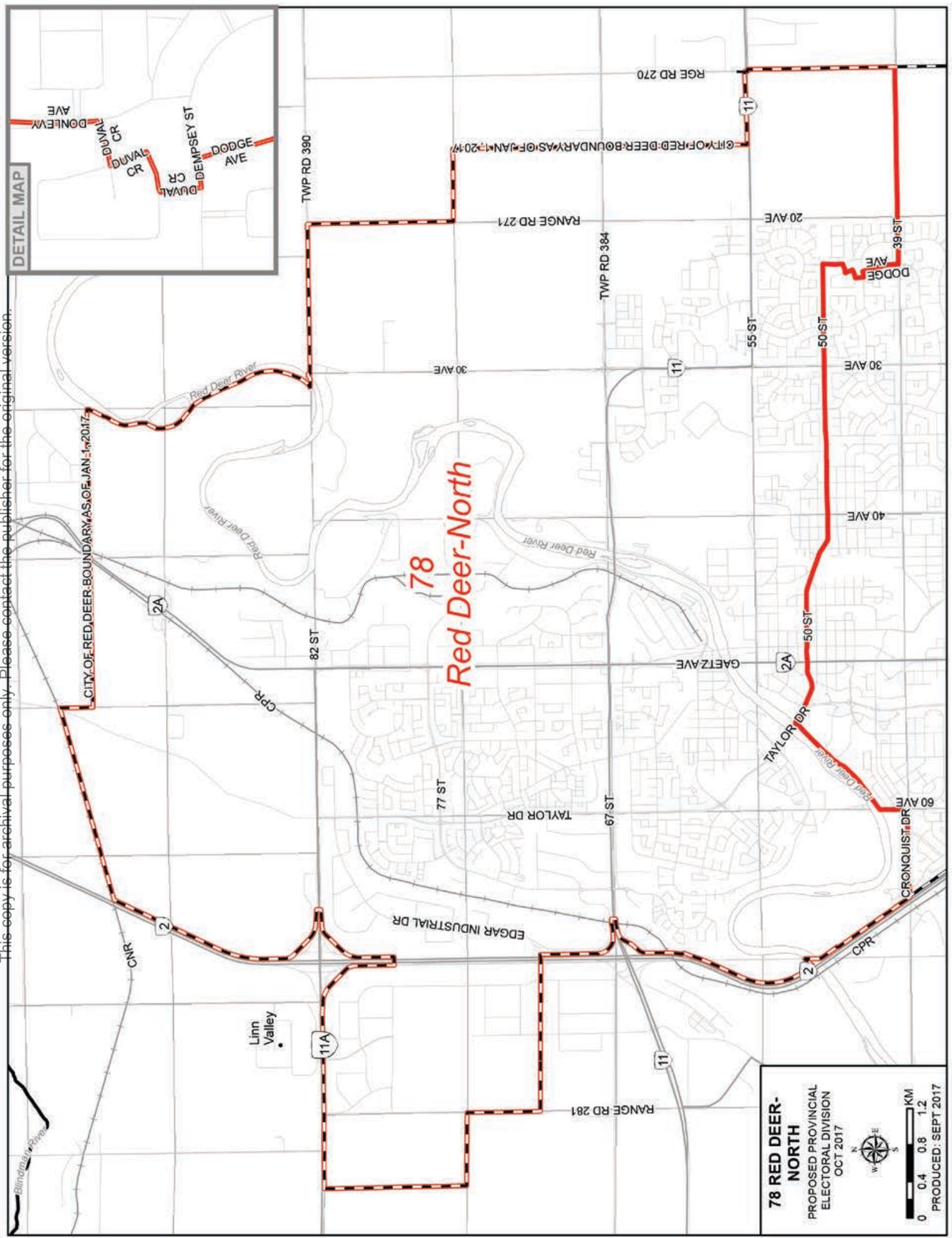
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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Wood Buffalo National Park





78 RED DEER-NORTH

PROPOSED PROVINCIAL
ELECTORAL DIVISION
OCT 2017



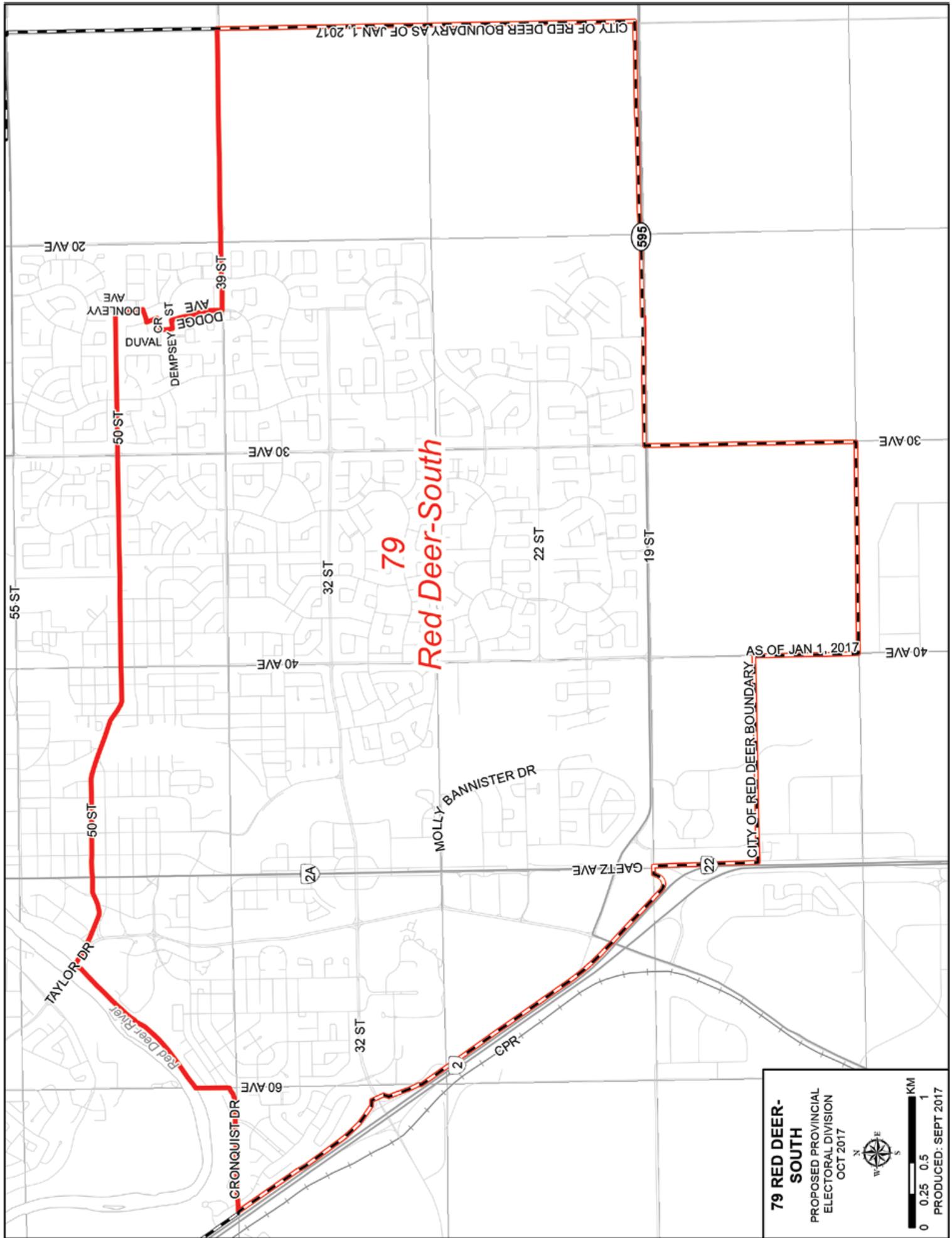
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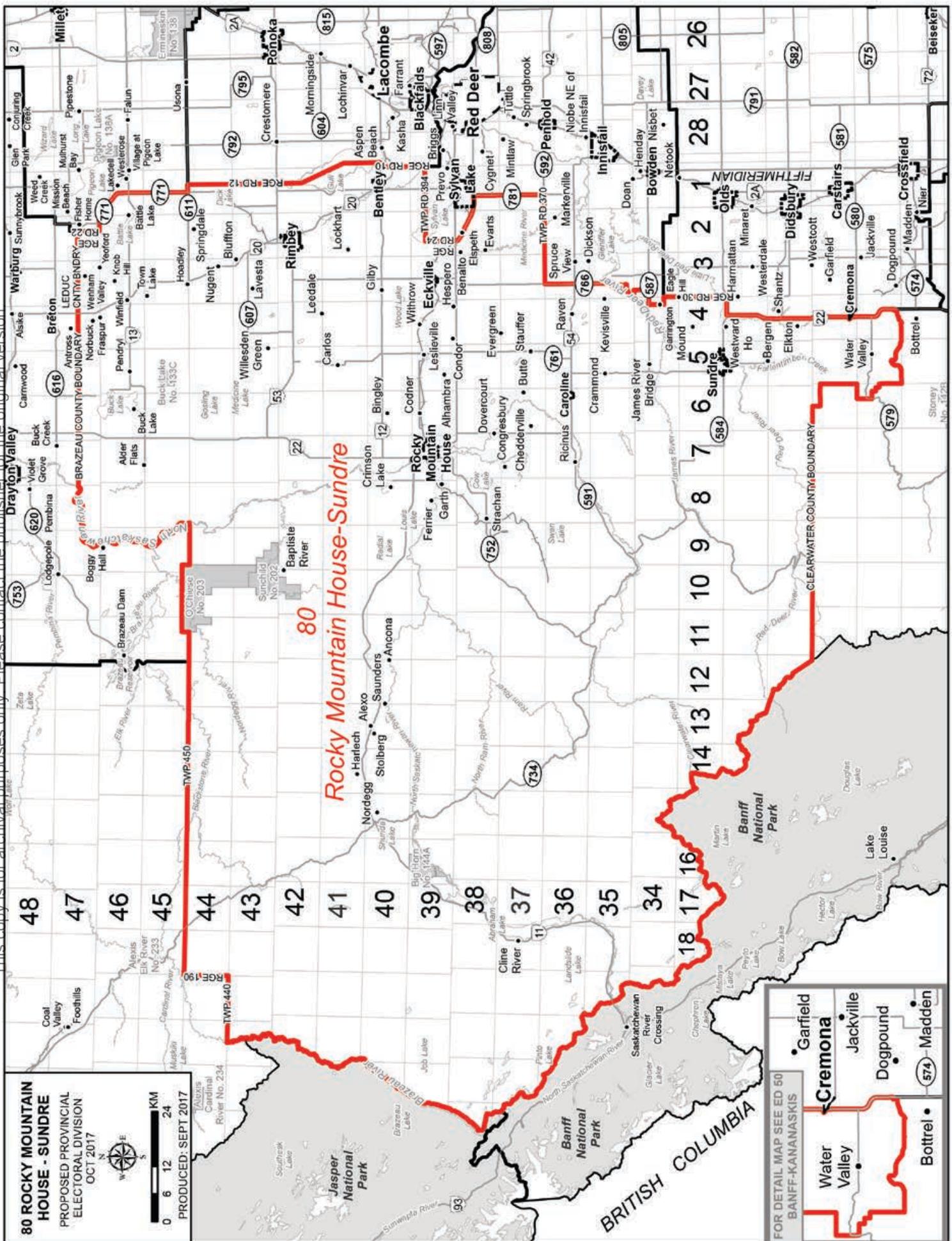
178
Red Deer-North

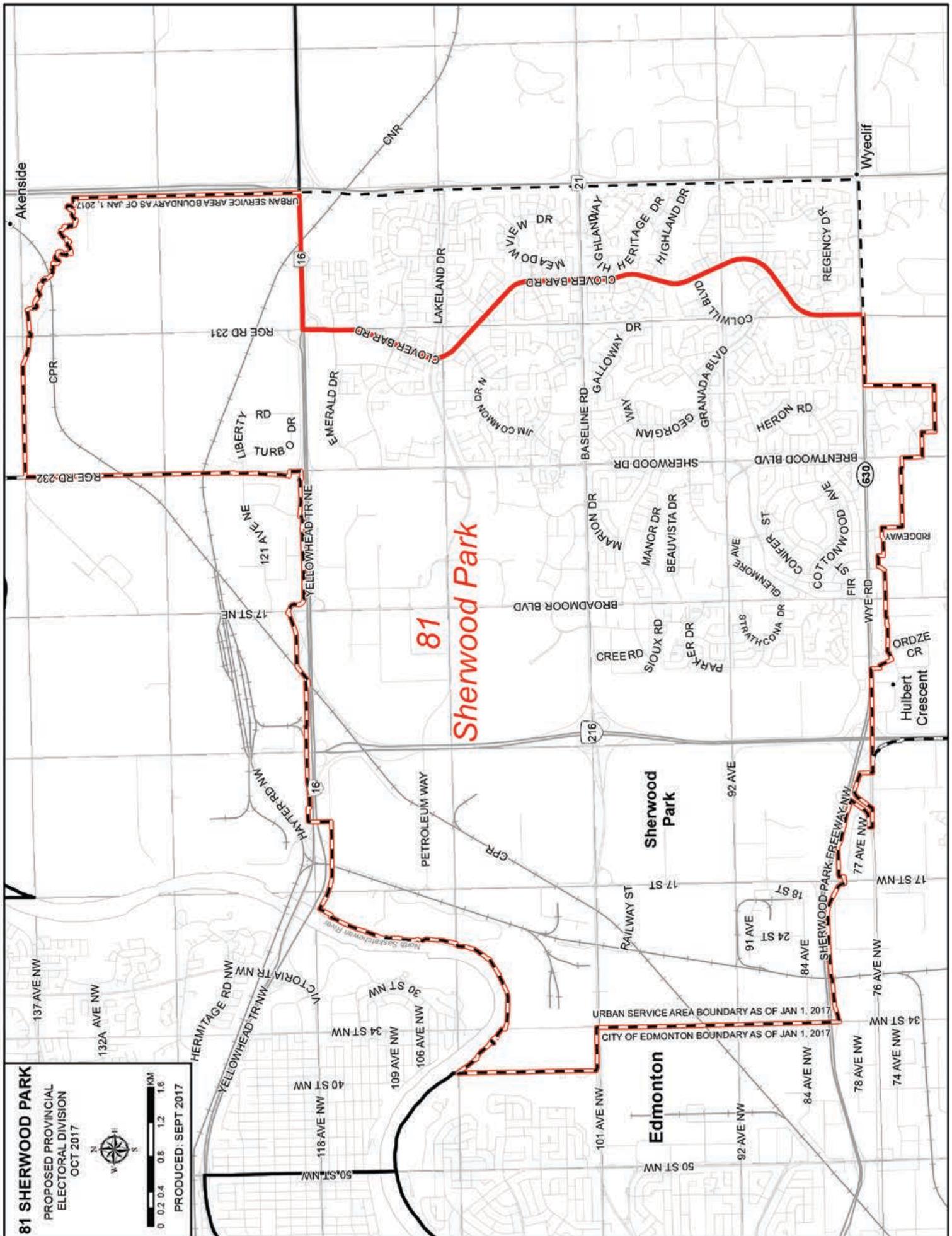
DETAIL MAP



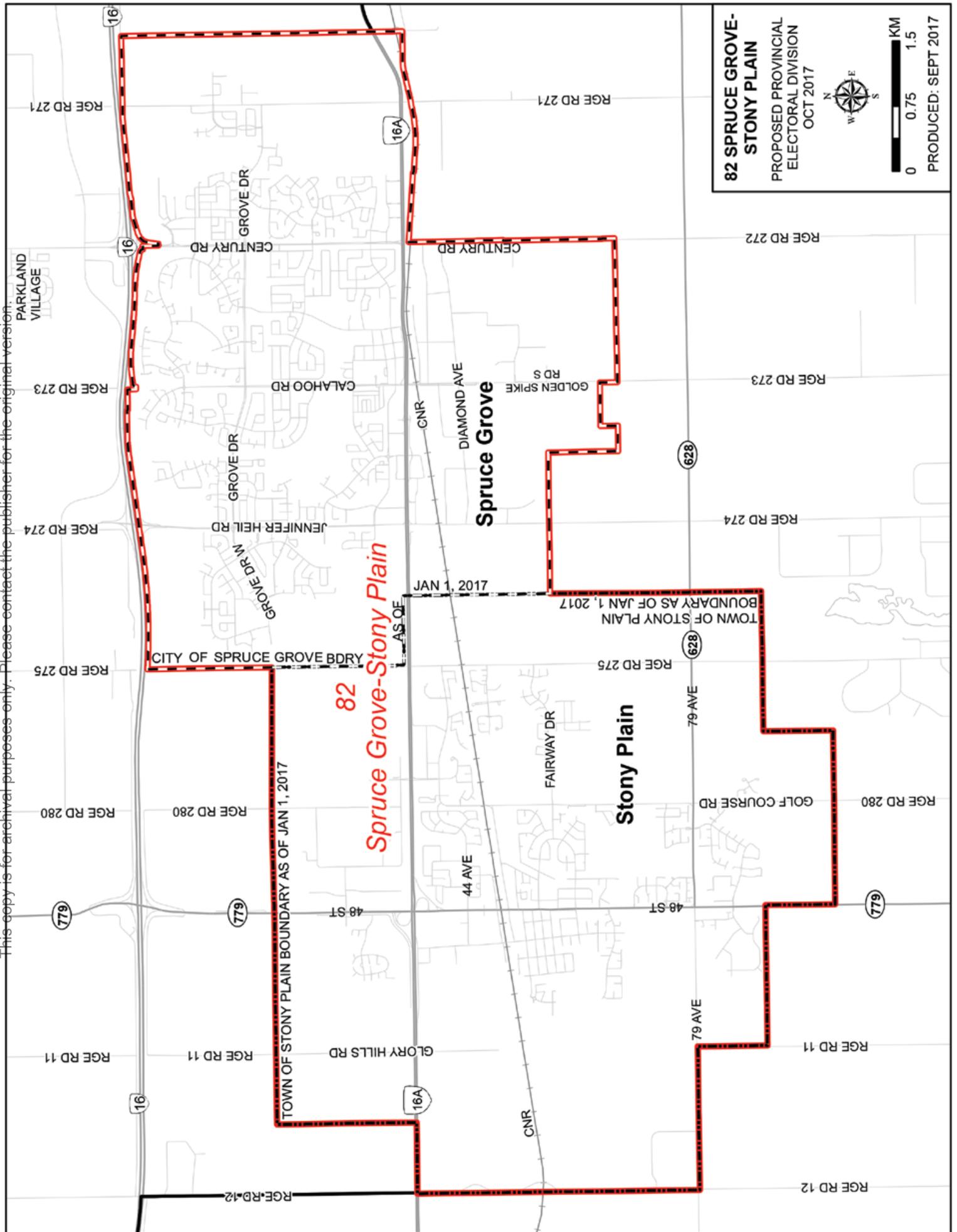
CITY OF RED DEER BOUNDARY AS OF JAN 1, 2017







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82 SPRUCE GROVE-STONY PLAIN
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 ELECTORAL DIVISION
 OCT 2017

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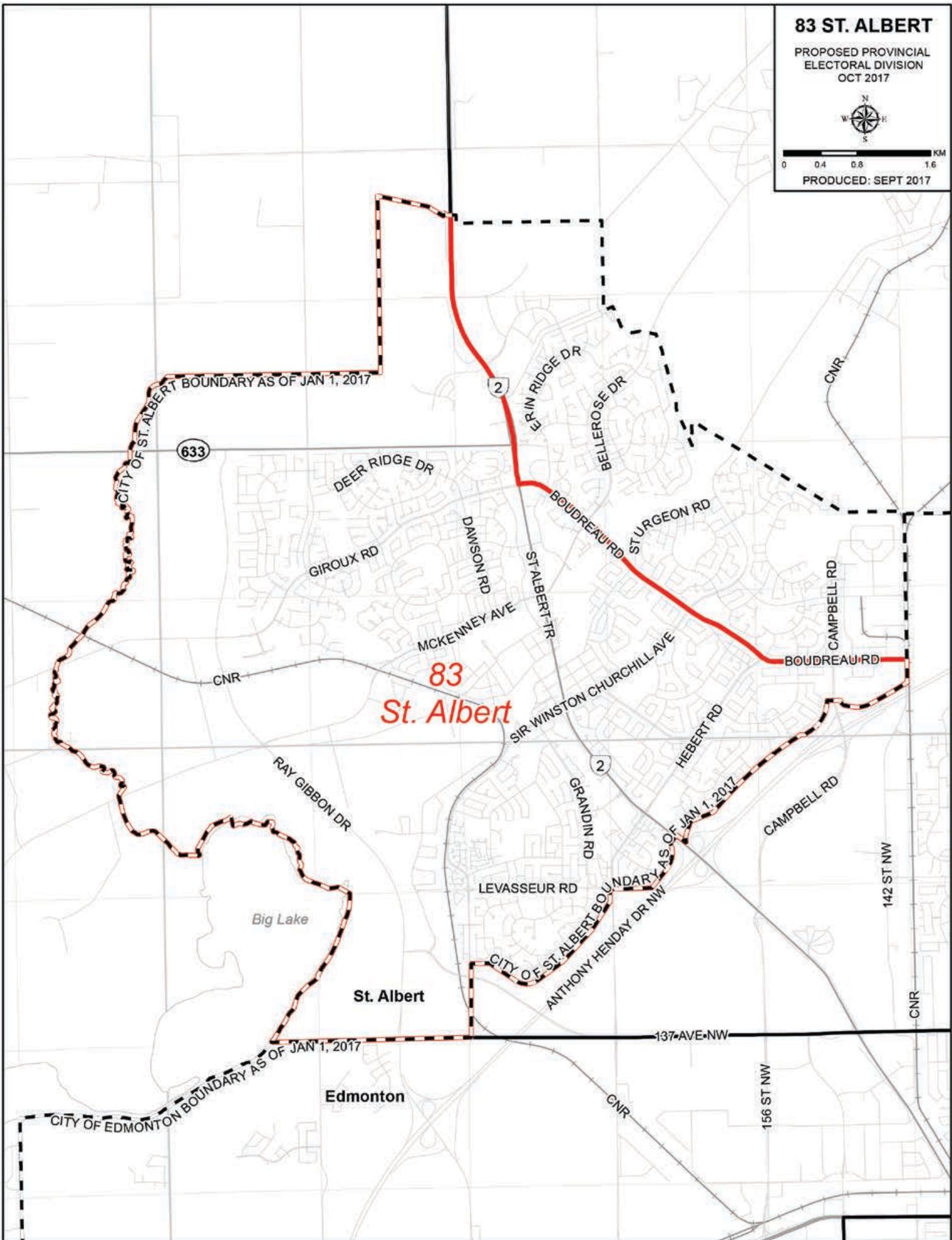
PRODUCED: SEPT 2017

83 ST. ALBERT

PROPOSED PROVINCIAL
ELECTORAL DIVISION
OCT 2017



PRODUCED: SEPT 2017



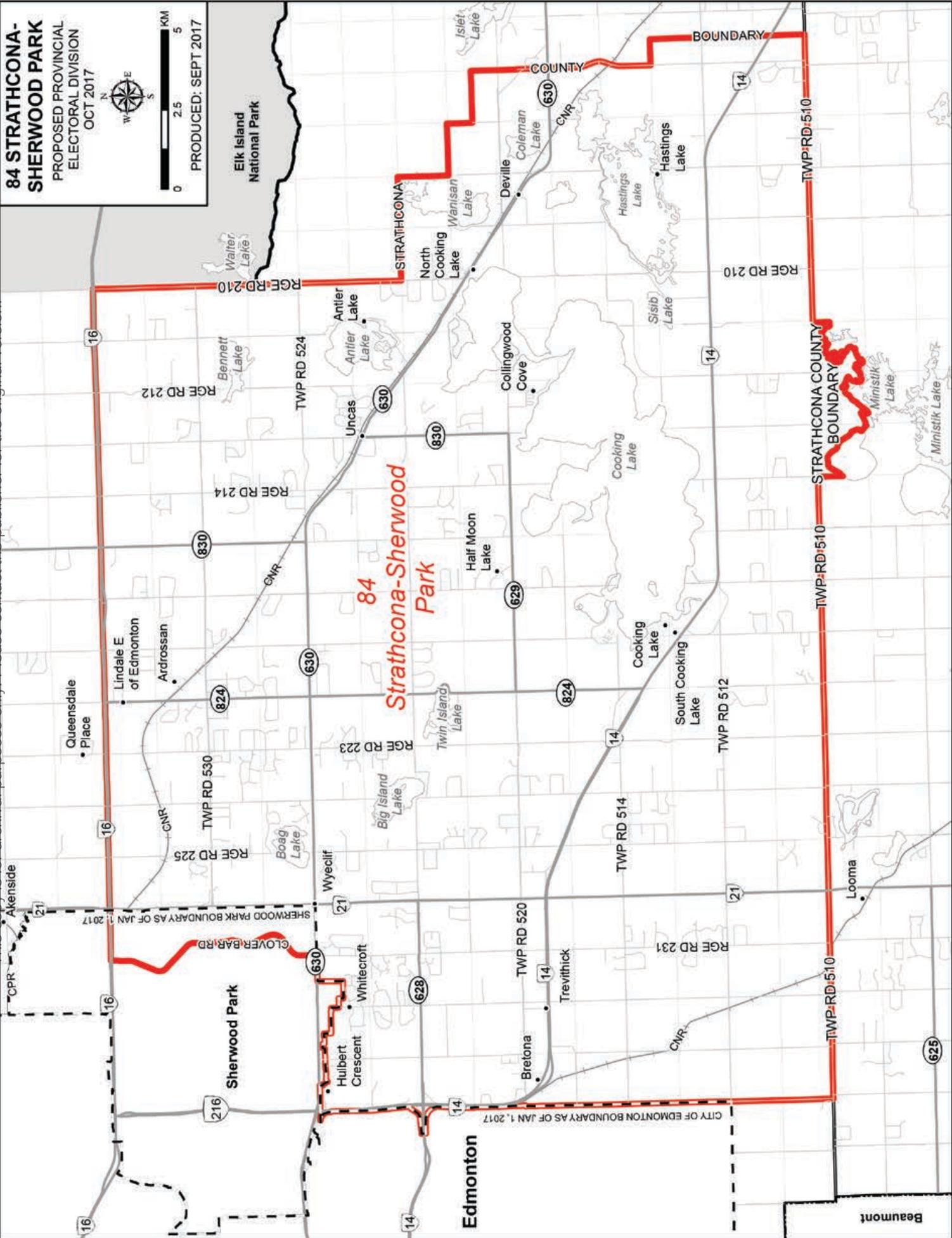
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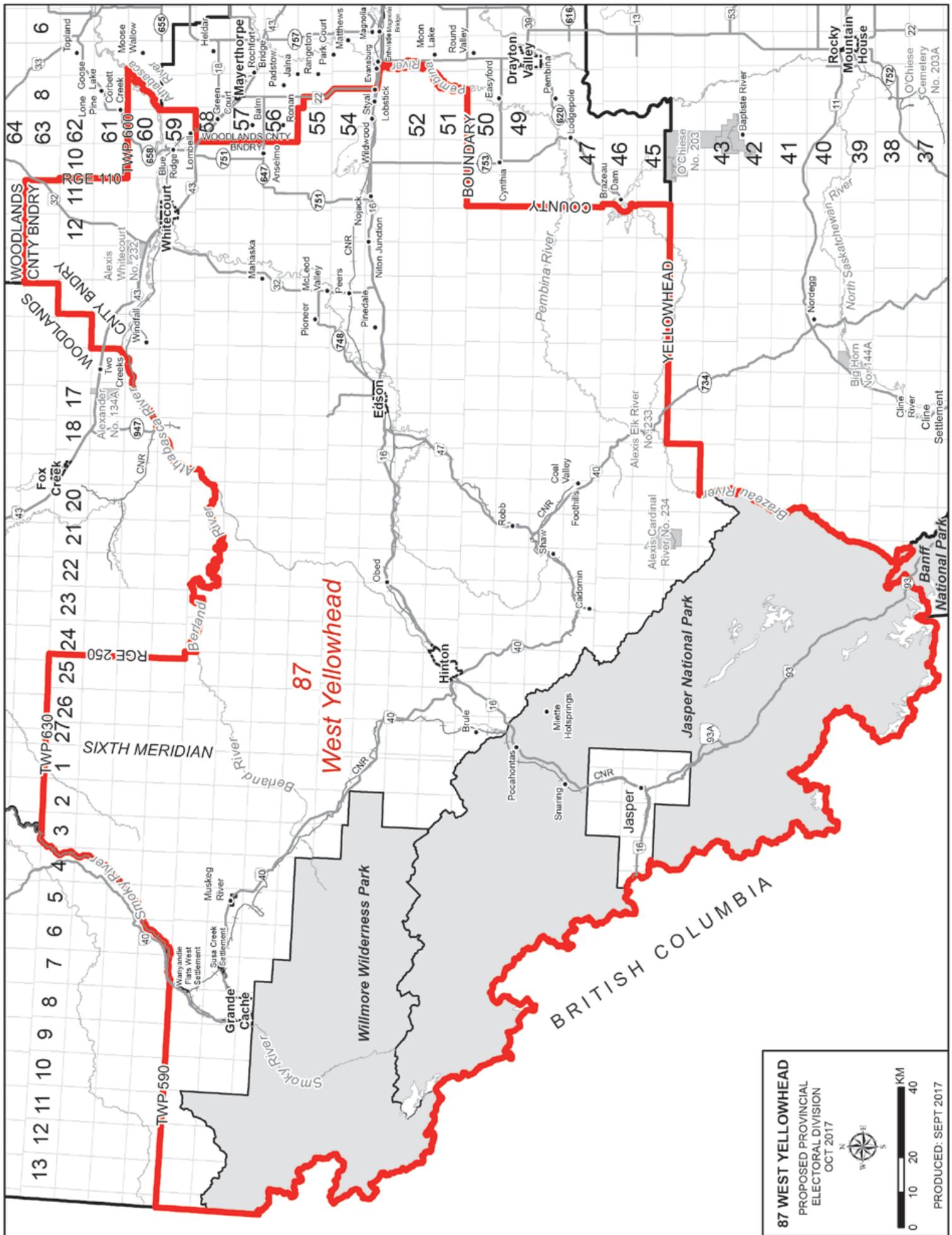
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84 STRATHCONA-SHERWOOD PARK
 PROPOSED PROVINCIAL
 ELECTORAL DIVISION
 OCT 2017



0 2.5 5 KM
 PRODUCED: SEPT 2017

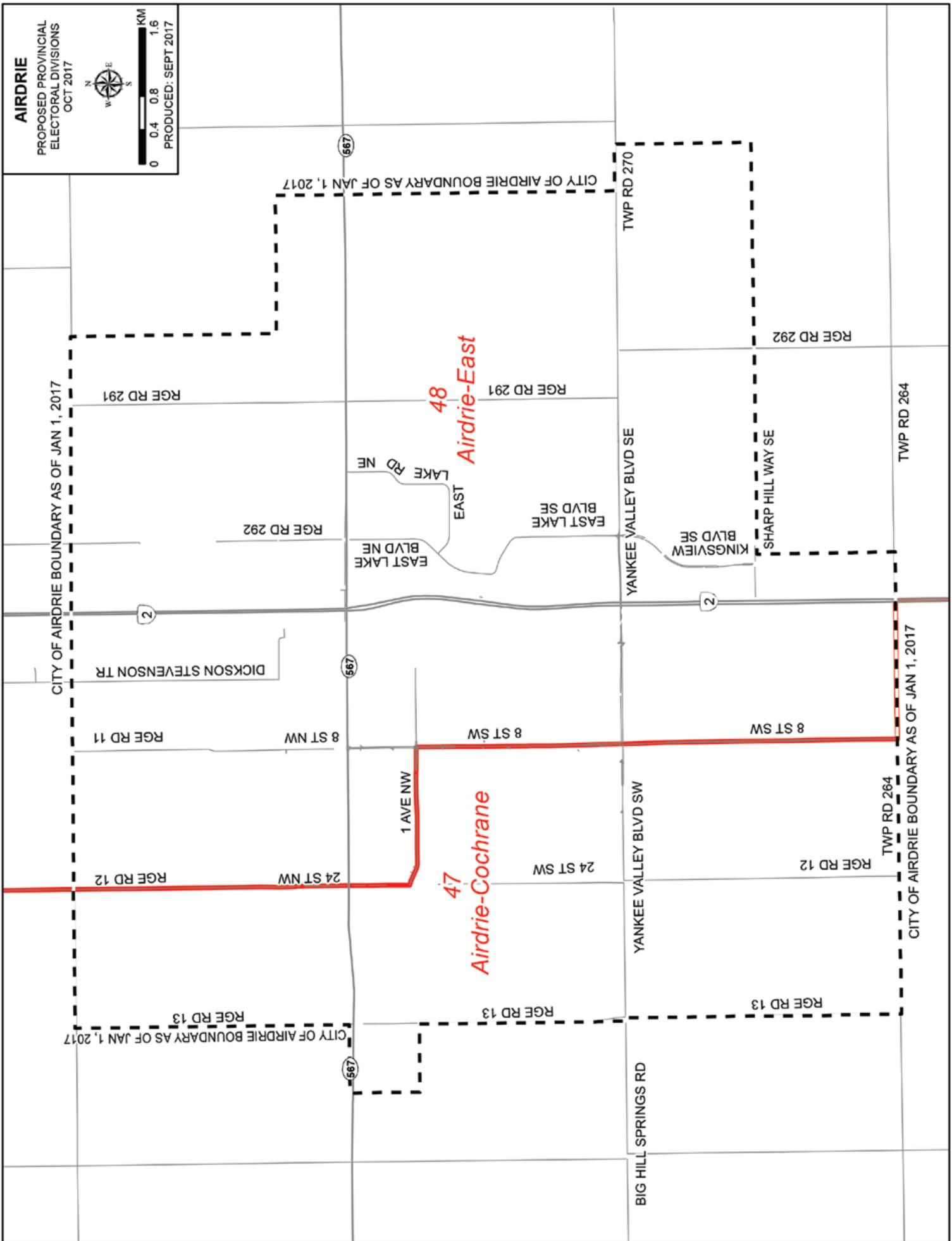




Cities and Urban Service Areas

- Airdrie-Cochrane
- Airdrie-East
- Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche
- Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo
- Grande Prairie
- Grande Prairie-Wapiti
- Lethbridge-East
- Lethbridge-West
- Brooks-Medicine Hat
- Cypress-Medicine Hat
- Red Deer-North
- Red Deer-South
- Sherwood Park
- Strathcona-Sherwood Park
- Morinville-St. Albert
- St. Albert

- Alberta (foldout)
- Calgary (foldout)
- Edmonton (foldout)



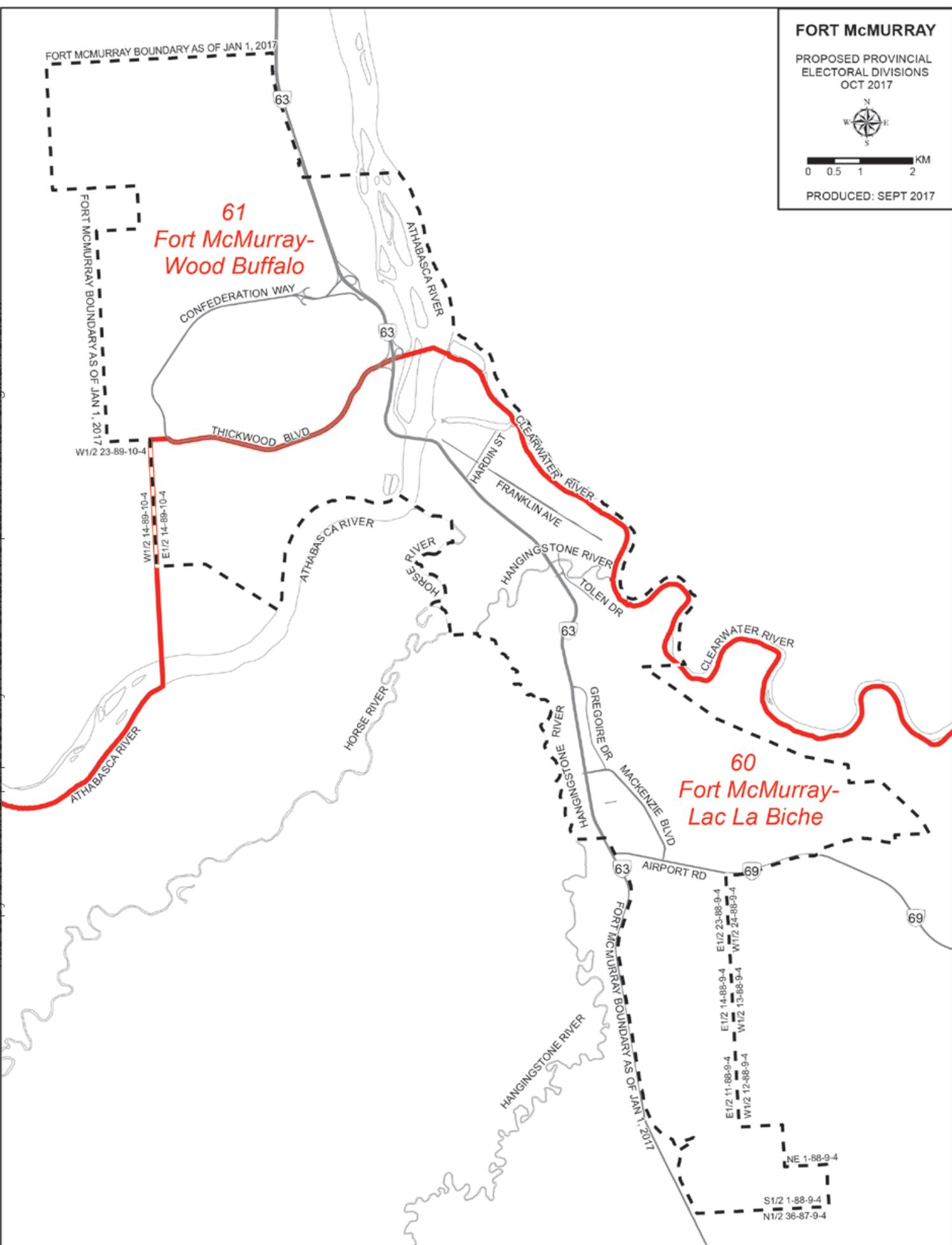
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FORT McMURRAY

PROPOSED PROVINCIAL
ELECTORAL DIVISIONS
OCT 2017



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61
**Fort McMurray-
Wood Buffalo**

60
**Fort McMurray-
Lac La Biche**

LETHBRIDGE

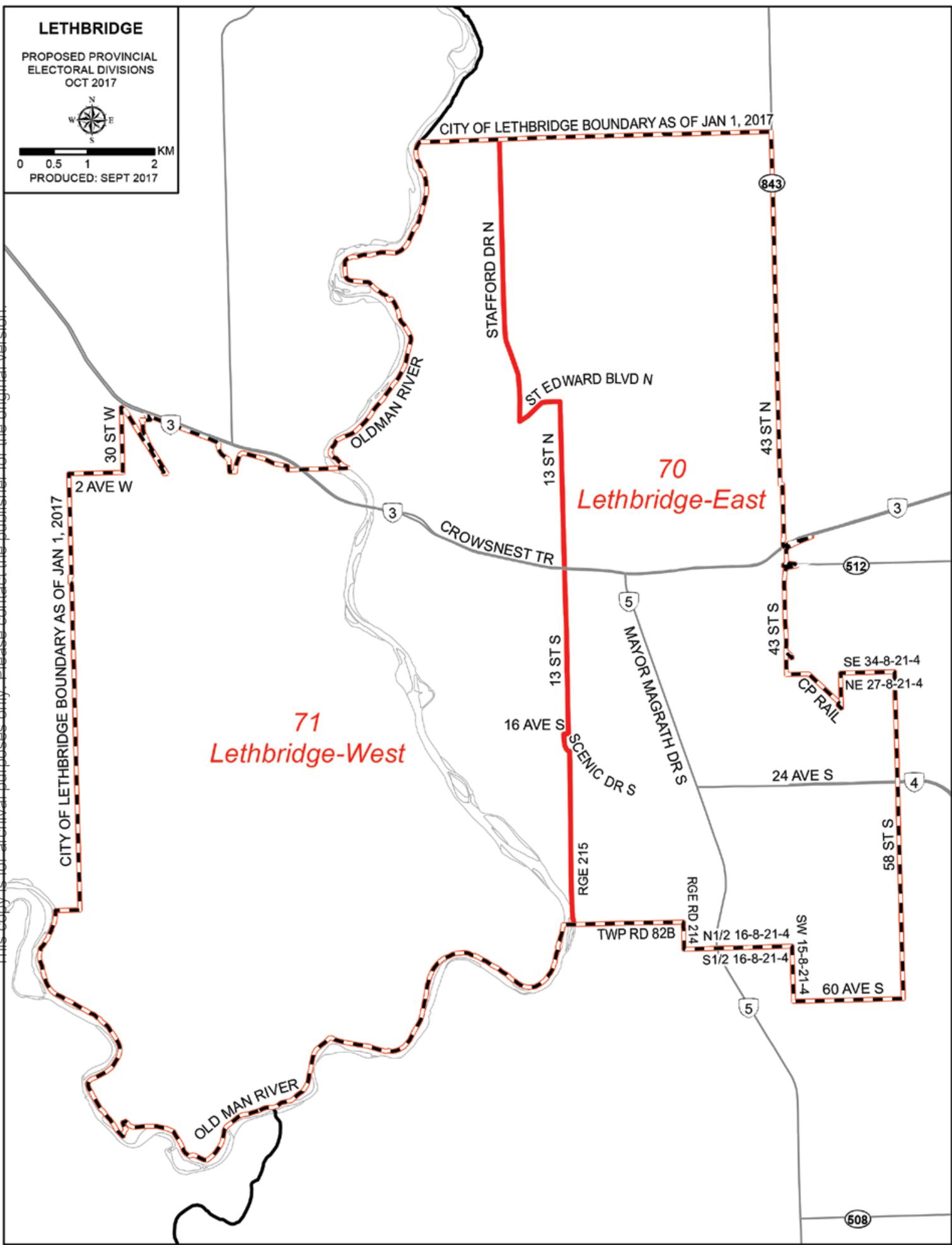
PROPOSED PROVINCIAL
ELECTORAL DIVISIONS
OCT 2017



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PRODUCED: SEPT 2017

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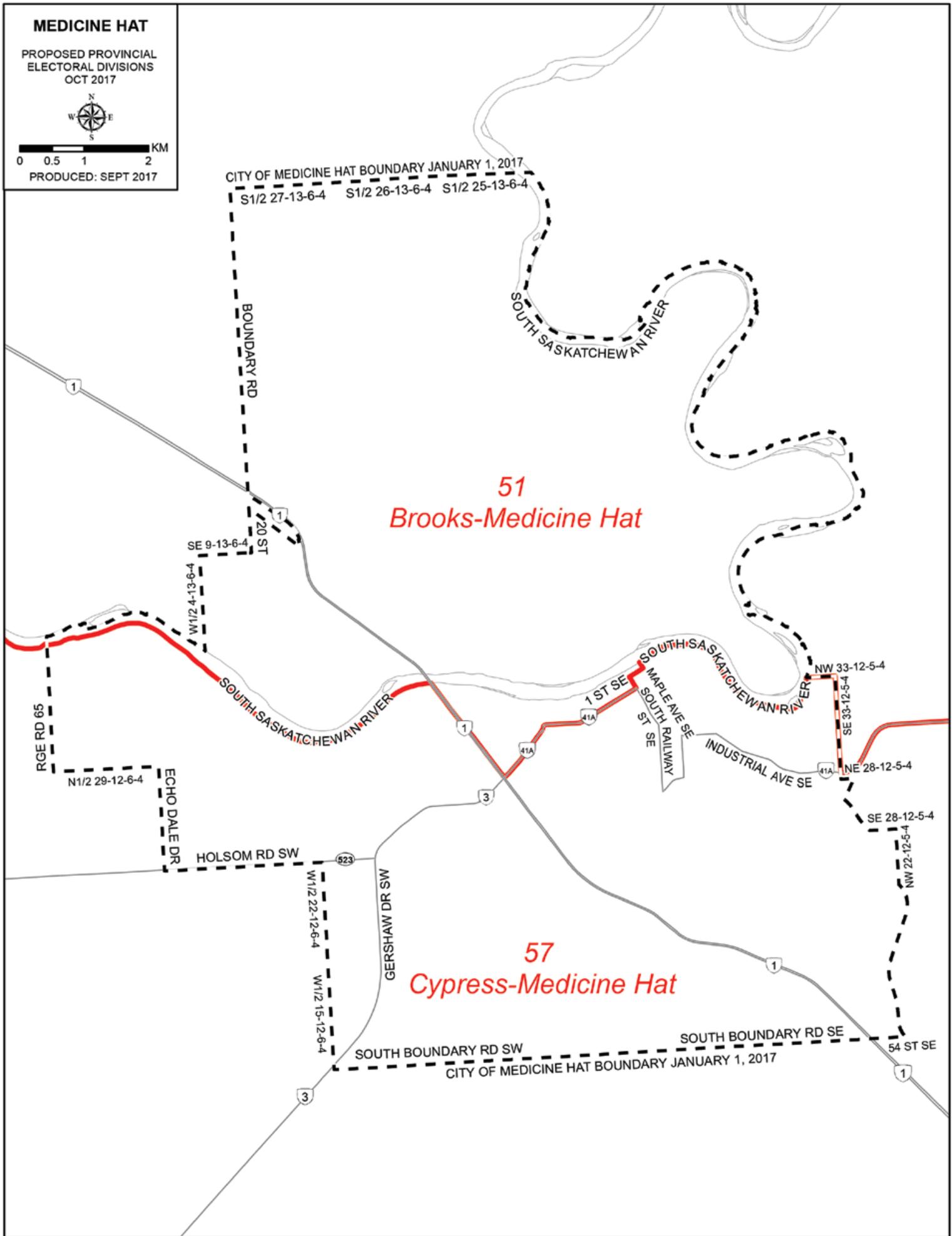
MEDICINE HAT

PROPOSED PROVINCIAL
ELECTORAL DIVISIONS
OCT 2017



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PRODUCED: SEPT 2017



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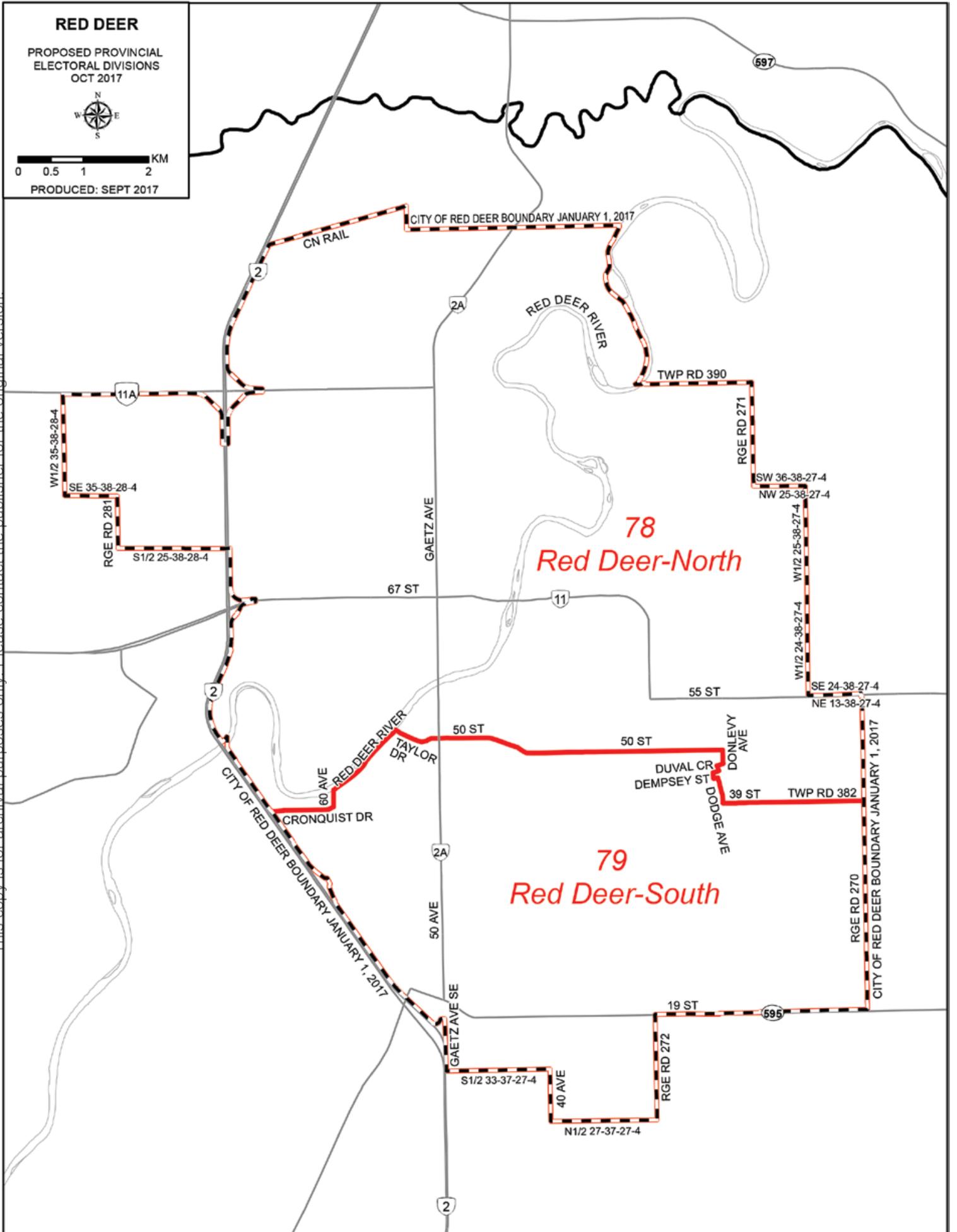
RED DEER

PROPOSED PROVINCIAL
ELECTORAL DIVISIONS
OCT 2017



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78
Red Deer-North

79
Red Deer-South

ST. ALBERT

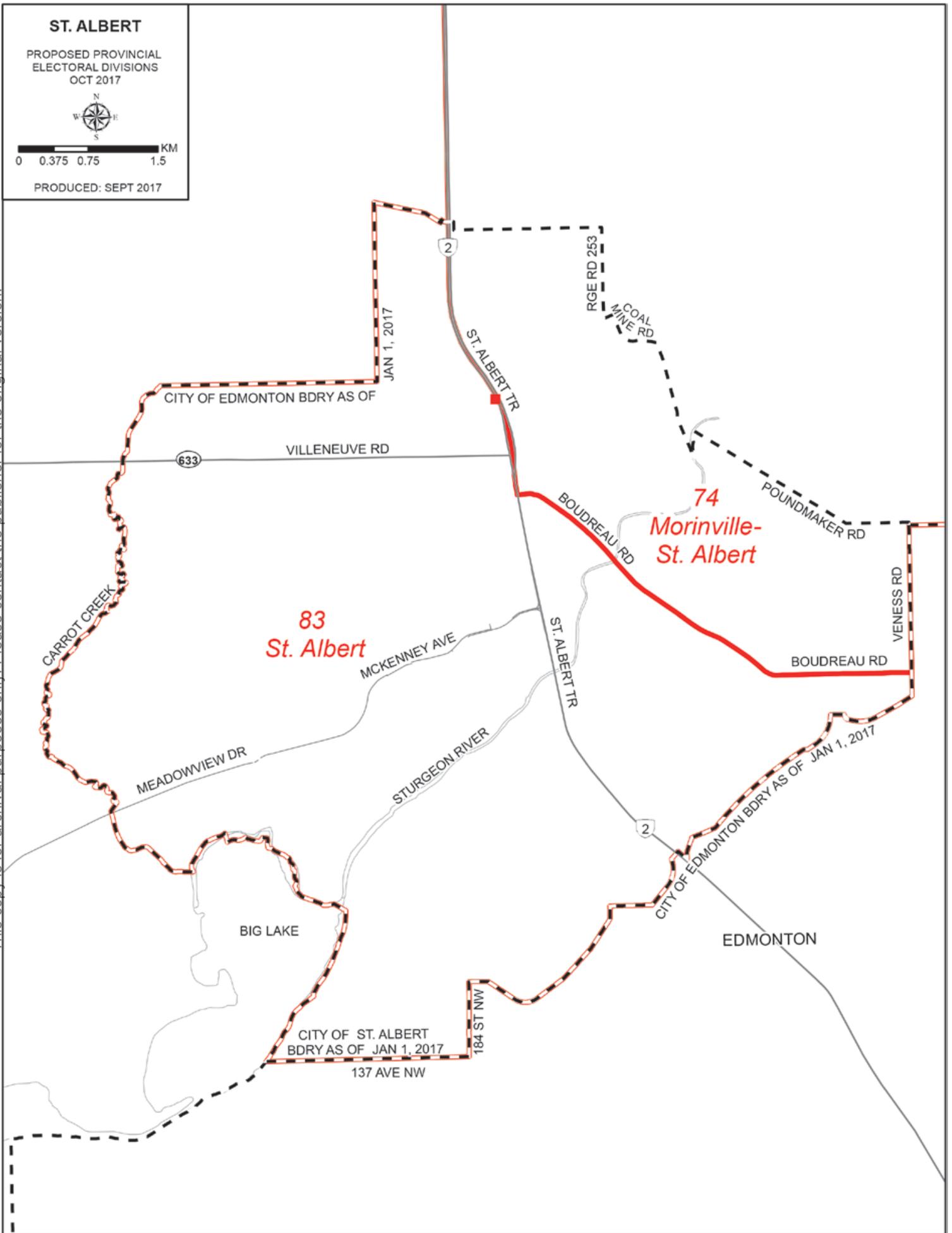
PROPOSED PROVINCIAL
ELECTORAL DIVISIONS
OCT 2017

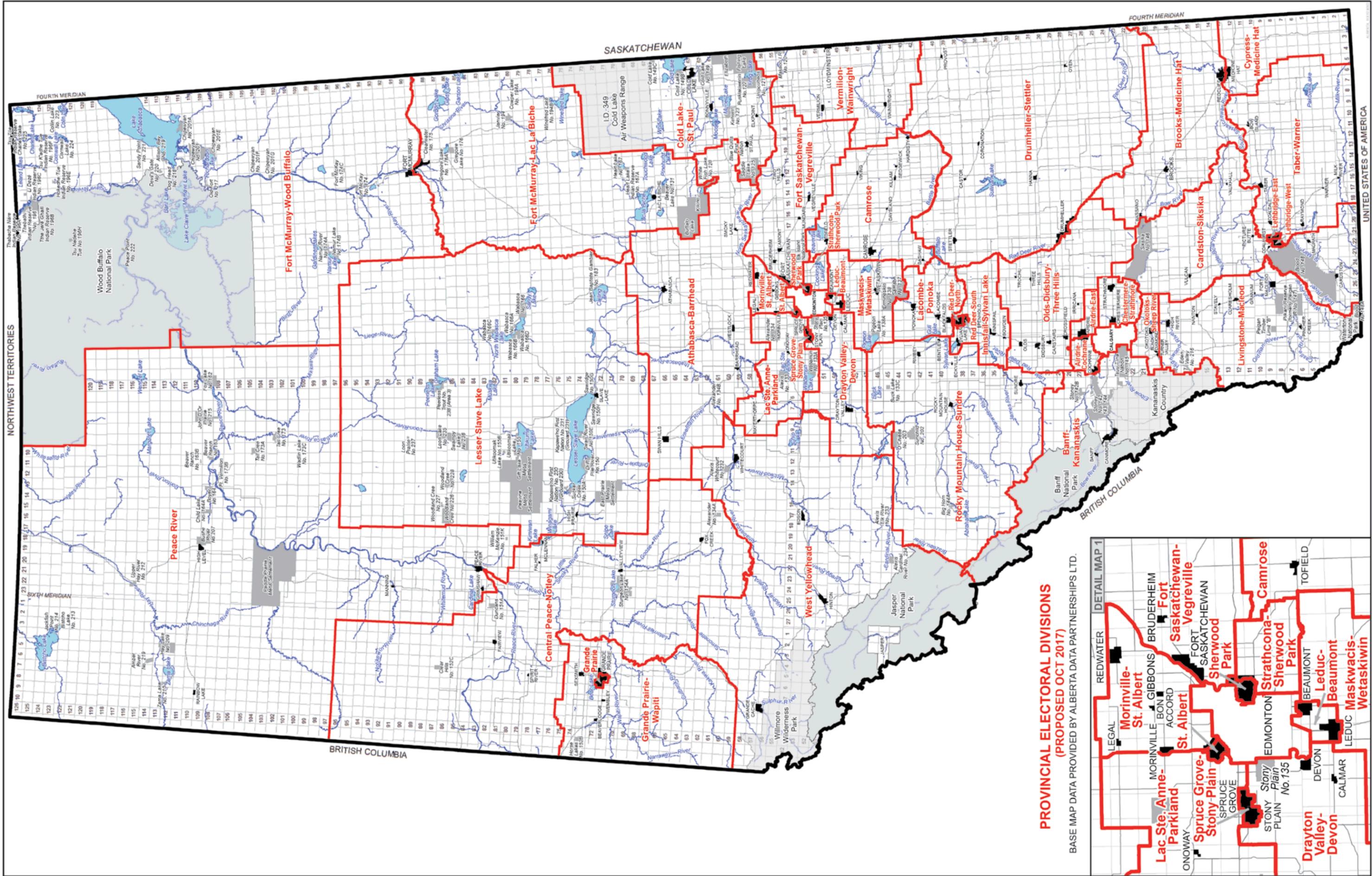


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PRODUCED: SEPT 2017

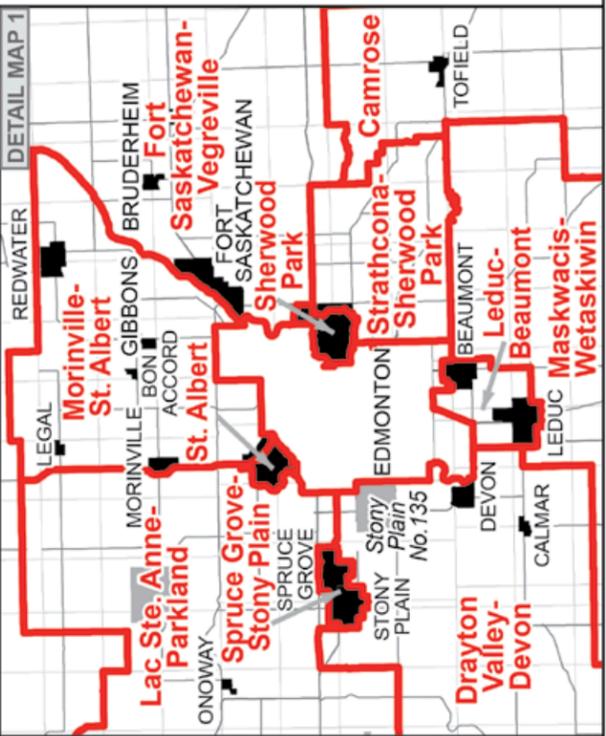
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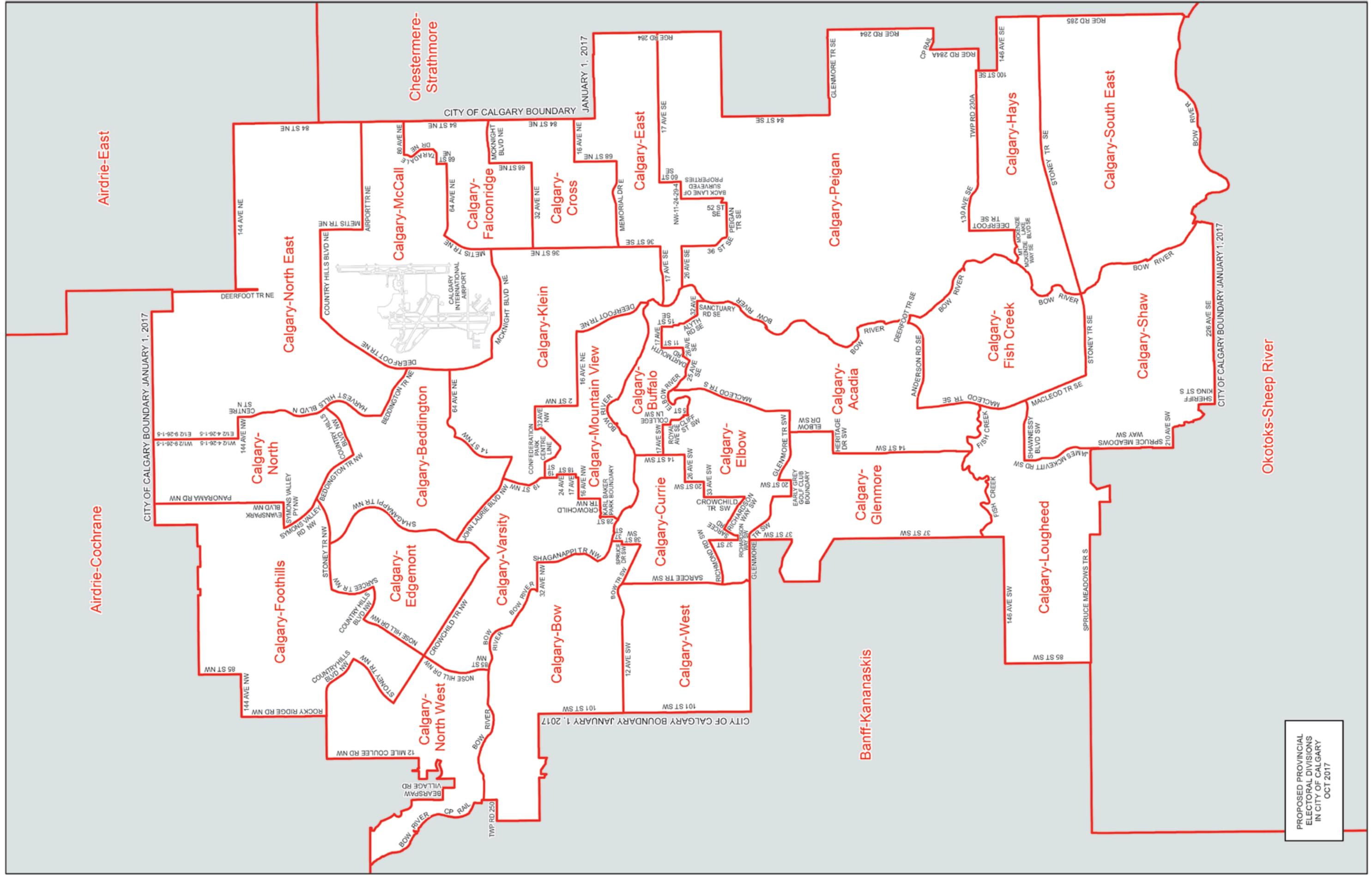




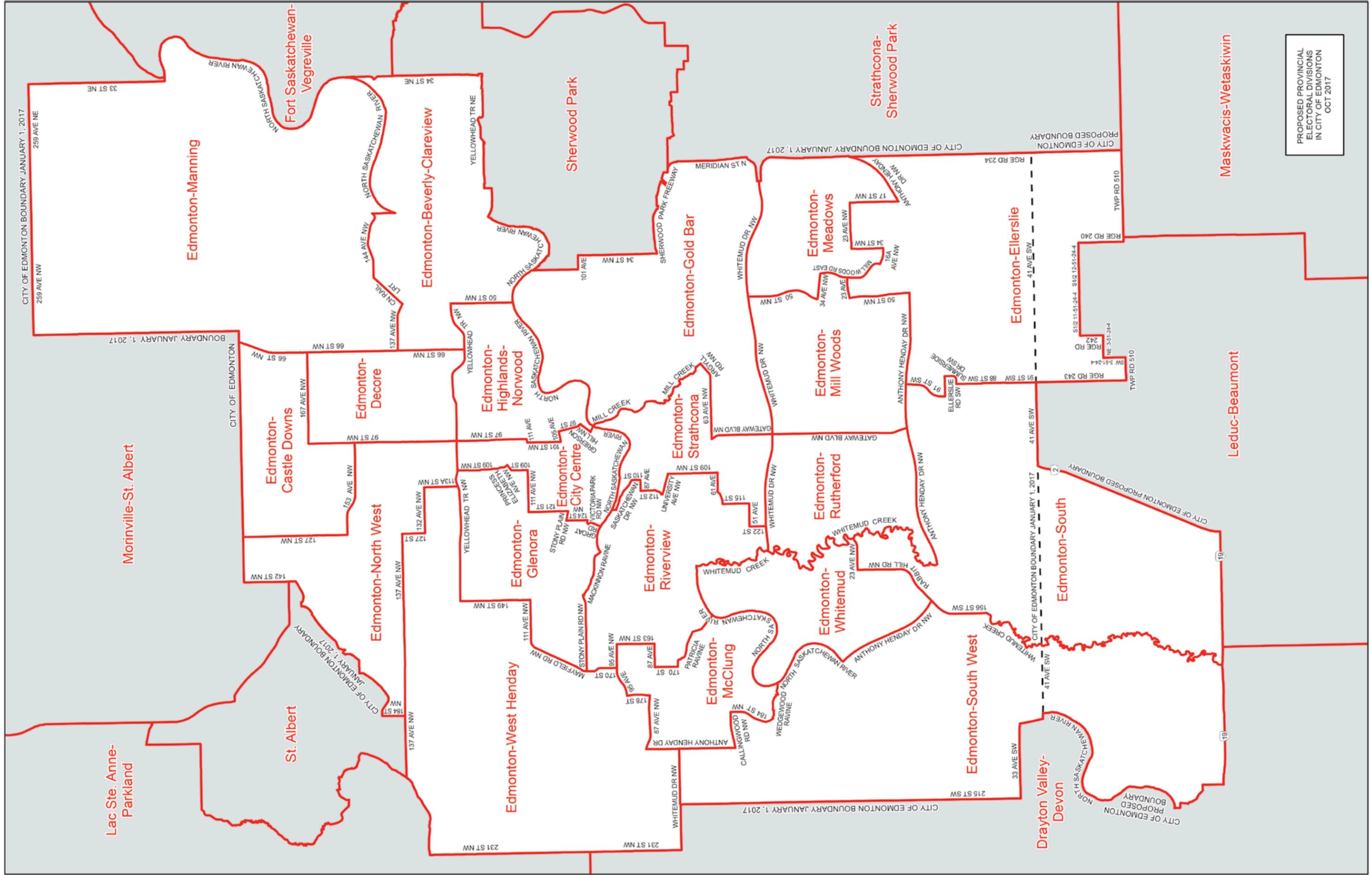
**PROVINCIAL ELECTORAL DIVISIONS
(PROPOSED OCT 2017)**

BASE MAP DATA PROVIDED BY ALBERTA DATA PARTNERSHIPS LTD.





PROPOSED PROVINCIAL
ELECTORAL DIVISIONS
IN CITY OF CALGARY
OCT 2017



PROPOSED PROVINCIAL
ELECTORAL DIVISIONS
IN CITY OF EDMONTON
OCT 2017

2016-17 Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission



An independent body established
under Alberta legislation