



**The 2009/2010
Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission**

**Proposed
Electoral Division Areas,
Boundaries, and Names
for Alberta**

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

February 2010

Ernest J. M. Walter
Chair



Members
Keith Archer
Peter Dobbie
Brian Evans
Allyson Jeffs

Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission 2009/2010

The Honourable Ken Kowalski
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Room 325, Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue N.W.
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We have the honour to submit to you our interim report setting out the areas, boundaries and names of the 87 electoral divisions we propose for Alberta, together with our reasons for the proposals. This report is submitted as required by section 6(1) of the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*, RSA 2000, c.E 3 as amended (the *Act*).

The Commission was established July 31, 2009. We are required to submit our interim report within seven months of the date of our appointment. We have therefore completed our mandate in regard to section 6(1) of the *Act*.

Pursuant to section 8(1) of the *Act*, we will be considering any further representations made to us. We intend to hold an additional set of hearings as appropriate. We will provide our final report to you on or before July 22, 2010, as required by the *Act*.

Dated at Edmonton, Alberta, this 24th day of February, 2010.

Honourable Judge Ernest J. M. Walter, Chair

Keith Archer, Member

Peter Dobbie, Member

Brian Evans, Member

Allyson Jeffs, Member

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- Bill Hyshka and Todd Chorney of the Office of Budget and Fiscal Planning, Alberta Finance and Enterprise
- Communications Services, House Services, *Hansard* staff, and Senior Parliamentary Counsel of the Legislative Assembly Office
- Alberta Municipal Affairs and several municipalities for assistance with 2009 population information
- the staff of the Air Transportation Service, Alberta Treasury Board, and
- Tom Forgrave.

FURTHER CONSULTATION

The Commission has found it very interesting and challenging to weigh the concerns and relevant factors put before it during the preparation of this interim report. The Commission is interested in receiving advice and suggestions on the electoral divisions proposed in this interim report.

Your submission will be most useful if it

- identifies the proposed electoral division that you are concerned about
- specifies your concerns
- proposes solutions to address your concerns
- reviews the effect of your solutions on neighbouring proposed electoral divisions

Please send written submissions by April 2, 2010, and indicate if you wish to appear and be heard at the public hearings which will be scheduled during the period April 12 to April 30 as required.

Send your submission to:

Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission
Suite 100, 11510 Kingsway Avenue Edmonton Alberta T5G 2Y5
Ph: 780 638 3132 Fax: 780 422 2900
(For toll free service, dial 310-0000 and the number above)
Email: info@altaebc.ab.ca

INTRODUCTION

ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION

This Electoral Boundaries Commission was established on July 31, 2009. *Honourable Judge Ernest J. M. Walter*, former Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta was appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council as Chair. Appointed as members, by the Honourable Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, were:

Keith Archer, Banff
Peter Dobbie, Vegreville
Brian Evans, Calgary
Allyson Jeffs, Edmonton

The Commission was appointed, and has carried out its work, under the provisions of the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* (Revised Statutes of Alberta, 2000, Chapter E-3 as amended and referred to in this report as the *Act*). Also under the *Act*, Lori McKee-Jeske, Acting Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta, was responsible for providing advice, information and assistance to the Commission.

The first meeting of the Commission was held on Tuesday, August 18, 2009, and deliberations have continued since then. In late August the Commission distributed a brochure to all households in Alberta explaining its work and inviting written comments and appearances at its public hearings.

As required by the *Act*, the Commission held a series of public hearings across the province in September and October. Complete transcripts and audio files of the hearings, as well as written submissions received, are available on the Commission's website at www.altaebc.ab.ca. A list of persons making presentations at the hearings is provided in Appendix B. The Commission has considered the submissions made to it in writing and during the hearings and is now issuing its Interim Report. In a second series of public hearings, to be scheduled as required during the period April 12 to 30, 2010, the Commission will receive comments on this report and will issue its Final Report by July 22, 2010.

In undertaking its work, the Commission has been guided by the requirements of the *Act*, relevant decisions of the courts, advice received at the public hearings and in written submissions, and by common sense.

THE LAW

The *Act* directs the Commission to divide the province into 87 electoral divisions, with a population within 25% of the provincial average, in a way that will ensure effective representation for Albertans.

The *Act* provides as follows:

- 13 The Commission shall divide Alberta into 87 proposed electoral divisions.
RSA 2000 cE-3 s13;2009 c19 s4
- 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 assist in ensuring effective representation, the *Act* also provides that up to four special consideration electoral divisions may have populations as much as 50% below the provincial average:

- 15(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 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

The *Act* also references the guarantee of effective representation found in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and lists factors which must be considered.

- 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

Section 3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* 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.”

The leading Canadian judicial authority on the meaning of this section is the Supreme Court of Canada's 1991 decision in the *Saskatchewan Reference* case. In the decision, Madame Justice McLachlin described the issue before the Court as a contest between two competing values – equality of voting power and effective representation.

She stated:

What are the conditions of effective representation? The first is relative parity of 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.

She concluded 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.’”

She stated:

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 the pursuit of more effective representation; the list is not closed.

In summary, the principles of effective representation seem to the Commission to be as follows:

1. Relative parity of voting power.
2. The tradition in Canada is “effective representation,” not absolute parity as in the U.S.
3. The process of achieving effective representation may involve diluting the political force of some votes but not unduly and not without reason.
4. The balancing of these interests is a delicate one, which involves an examination in depth of the social history, geography and demography of communities in every sense of the word.

The Commission has considered numerous complex factors, including the Court decisions, the wording of the *Act*, and the particular circumstances of the electoral divisions which it has visited or which individuals or groups have brought to the Commission's attention in their written or spoken representations.

2006 CANADA CENSUS RESULTS AND MORE RECENT POPULATION INFORMATION

In determining population, Sections 12(1) and (2) of the *Act* require the Commission to use “the most recent decennial census of population referred to in section 19(3) of the *Statistics Act* (Canada)” or “some other province-wide census that is more recent than the decennial census of population” plus “the population on Indian reserves that were not included in the census, as provided by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (Canada)”.

The 2006 Canada Census resulted in an Alberta population of 3,290,350, and identified that three Indian Reserves were incompletely enumerated. The provincial population was adjusted by 7,288 persons, based on data provided by Alberta Aboriginal Relations. Therefore, the total Alberta population to be used by the Commission based on the Census in recommending the boundaries of

electoral divisions is 3,297,638. The issue of net undercoverage in the 2006 Canada Census, in the view of the Commission, has been addressed by the use of the subsequent Alberta Municipal Affairs information and, in any event, could not accurately be allocated to electoral divisions. This was the number used for the householder.

The *Act* was amended in 2009 by adding Section 12(3) as follows:

- (3) The Commission may use more recent population information, if available, in conjunction with the information referred to in subsection (1) or (2). RSA 2000 cE-3 s12;2009 c19 s3

Subsequent to the householder publication, the Commission explored more recent population information. Alberta Municipal Affairs annually publishes an Official Population List. When the Commission began its work preparing this Interim Report, the 2008 list was available and several of the larger urban municipalities had announced results of their 2009 municipal census. The Commission decided to use the additional population information to determine a “provincial quotient” and subsequently in recommending electoral division boundaries in municipalities where the additional population information was available in a format that permitted its use for these purposes. The list is at http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/mc_official_populations.cfm.

Using the 2009 Official Population List, the population of Alberta has increased by 258,945 since the adjusted 2006 census of 3,297,638. The total population being considered by the Commission is 3,556,583.

Using all of this information, the “provincial quotient”, or the average population per electoral division, is

$$\frac{\text{Population}}{\# \text{ Electoral Divisions}} = \frac{3,556,583}{87} = 40,880$$

The allowable range for standard electoral divisions under the *Act* is 51,100 to 30,660 (+/-25%). Any special consideration electoral division could have a population as low as 20,440 (-50%).

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

In response to the invitation in the householder, the Commission received 316 written submissions. The written submissions are posted on the Commission’s website.

The Commission held public hearings in Fort McMurray, St. Paul, Wainwright, Edmonton, Calgary, Drumheller, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Grande Prairie, Peace River, Slave Lake, Westlock, Edson and Red Deer. Eighty separate presentations were made by individuals and representatives of a variety of groups. Transcripts of the public hearings are available on the Commission’s website www.altaebc.ab.ca. The public hearings provided an opportunity to explore various concepts with the presenters.

COMMENTS RECEIVED

NUMBER OF ELECTORAL DIVISIONS

A significant number of submissions and presentations suggested that the number of electoral divisions should not be increased or should be decreased. A common argument was that in the current economic climate, the added cost of four additional MLAs is not a priority. Others noted that the members of the City Councils in Calgary and Edmonton represent far more people than the MLAs in those cities do, as do Members of Parliament from Alberta and the provincial elected officials in a number of other provinces.

The *Act* requires the Commission to recommend the areas, boundaries and names for 87 electoral divisions. The submissions suggesting that the number of electoral divisions should not be increased or should be decreased are noted for the information of the Legislative Assembly.

REPRESENTATION BY POPULATION

Many written and oral submissions included some comments related to representation by population in terms of one person/one vote, under-representation of urban areas or similar comments. Irene Hunter personalized it at an Edmonton hearing by saying “I am here for my granddaughter Camryn, a city girl, who I hope in 12 years, when she votes, will have an equal vote to her distant rural cousins.” Respondents generally realized that absolute parity would be practically impossible to achieve but suggested that something in the order of 10% should be the maximum variation. Bill Longstaff of Calgary suggested that the Commission recommend “electoral boundaries that adhere closely to the fundamental democratic principle of one citizen, one vote, allowing a variance of no greater than five percent from the average constituency population.”

Submissions from rural areas, on the other hand, tended to support the variance allowed by the *Act*. St. Paul County Reeve Robert Bouchard told the Commission “We feel very strongly that rural Alberta must be at the table with fair and effective representation ... on the premise that ‘the purpose of the right to vote enshrined in the *Canadian Charter of Rights* is not equality of voting power, but the right to effective representation’.” Linda Ference, at the St. Paul hearing, pointed out that it takes nearly four hours to drive from one end of the Lac La Biche-St. Paul division to the other and suggested “That would be like having an MLA serve an area down Highway 2 three miles on either side from Edmonton to Calgary – we could call it the QE II constituency. Doesn’t seem right, does it?”

These submissions were based on the population information in the householder which compared the 2001 and 2006 census information for the existing electoral divisions which showed wide variations. Many of the submissions focused on the number of divisions in the two major cities as compared to the rest of Alberta. One task of the Commission is to address these variations. With the additional population information available and the addition of four electoral divisions, the Commission has attempted to limit the variations, with the exception of the special consideration divisions, to come closer to the representation by population approach. In addition to the major cities, there are now other urban areas with populations greater than 50,000 which generally were not addressed directly in many of these submissions.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION DIVISIONS

Somewhat related to this were the suggestions that special consideration electoral divisions should not be considered by the Commission or should only be considered in very special circumstances. Dale Norris of Calgary said “I do not agree with the proposal to allow up to four constituencies to be given special concessions ... All constituencies should be subject to the same rules/regulations.” On the other hand, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood MLA and Leader of the New Democratic Party Brian Mason told the Commission “We do recognize the need for exceptions for northern constituencies in particular. They’re very large with relatively low population density ... we believe that four such constituencies are, in fact, desirable.”

The Commission understands the views advanced that the special consideration divisions appear to conflict with a representation by population approach. As noted in the section of this report reviewing the law, effective representation has been interpreted by the courts as allowing the consideration of such special conditions in establishing particular divisions which exceed the general -25% of the quotient rule. The Commission agrees that this should be used sparingly.

RURAL/URBAN PERSPECTIVES

Many commented in a variety of ways on an urban/rural split in Alberta with perspectives generally being related to the location of the presenter. Submissions from rural areas tended to stress the difficulties involved in representing large geographic areas while those from urban areas suggested that advances in technology, with particular mention of the Supernet, make communication with constituents easier. A difference in expectations is evident in the submissions: rural people expect to have personal contact with their MLA; urban people are less likely to express that expectation. Dale Boddy at the Red Deer hearing said “How often do I see my MLA? Never. How often do I need to see my MLA? Never. Some people do. But it’s not the distance that is the big deal. If people want to go for the distance, they go.” The Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties said “Many rural constituents are located hours away from their representative and increasing these distances will only make effective representation more difficult.”

Beverley Smith of Calgary said that large geographic area “used to be a disadvantage when meetings had to be in person but today with the Internet in homes, offices and at public libraries and community centres, distance is no longer the problem it was.” However, Dunvegan-Central Peace MLA Hector Goudreau told the Commission that “we’ve got many residents that still do not have access to high-speed Internet, making it very difficult to communicate through modern technologies. We still have areas where cellphone reception is virtually nonexistent or extremely poor.” Cheryl Anderson, an experienced Returning Officer in Peace River, said that increasing the size of the electoral division would “make the twenty-eight (28) day general election process unmanageable because of the great distances and time constraints. (In a general election nominations close on day 14, it’s two to three days to print the ballots, then it’s a race to travel the constituency and get election personnel trained before the advance polls open).”

The urban/rural perspectives were raised frequently. Representative of the general comments, Councillor Don Whittaker, County of Vermilion River, told the Commission in St. Paul “Rural Alberta has really been the fuel in the engine that’s driven the Alberta economy for a number of years.” Gerald Soroka, Vice-President, Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, continued the theme in Edson by pointing out that rural economies in Alberta focus on forestry, farming and ranching, recreation, and oil and gas. “With these different economic drivers and different types of employment, areas of Alberta take on their own personalities.” At a number of

locations, particularly in the north, the Commission heard about the inordinate amount of time MLAs spend travelling in order to meet with constituents and attend events that they are expected to attend in rural Alberta.

On the other hand, Edmonton-Centre MLA Laurie Blakeman, for example, says there are “urban considerations such as that disparity of votes but also things like language groups and the number of business revitalization zones and community leagues that urban MLAs deal with, housing stock, density” that mean “at the same time one member is travelling to their constituency, another member who resides in Edmonton will be doing other jobs.” Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel noted “the ongoing urbanization of the province of Alberta and the influx of people moving to the cities, whether it’s Edmonton or other cities in the province ... There’s a huge aboriginal population ongoing moving into the urban areas, Edmonton in particular.” Joel Friedman said “It’s almost more difficult for an urbanite to get in touch with their MLA at the moment than it is for those in rural parts of the province ... you have to get in line among a lot of people to talk to your respective representative.” Edmonton-Gold Bar MLA Hugh MacDonald, referring to homeless people, said “They all have come from somewhere, and we do have a significant workload trying, again, to help these people get access to available government programs and services and work with those agencies.”

In its report, the last Commission highlighted the need “to give priority consideration to the effect of the emerging population distribution (Calgary/Edmonton corridor compared to the remainder of the province) on the electoral system in the province.” The addition of 4 new electoral divisions, the first expansion of divisions in 24 years, facilitated this Commission’s work. However, the submissions received indicate that further expansion of the number of electoral divisions may not be a publicly acceptable way to address this issue in the future.

NO CHANGE

Several submissions proposed that existing division boundaries be maintained or that changes be as limited as possible. These submissions from rural areas tended to focus on geographic size and the number of rural divisions. Some advanced the argument that communities within the divisions have developed ways of working together that could be disrupted by changes. Some submissions from urban areas tended to focus on the confusion created for electors in continually changing the boundaries.

The Commission recognizes the confusion created for electors by continually changing electoral division boundaries. However, the addition of four electoral divisions and the distribution of population growth since the existing boundaries were established have meant that a significant number of boundaries have required adjustment.

ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF REPRESENTATION

There were several suggestions regarding alternative forms of representation. Respondents suggested that

- all electors should have a say in who becomes Premier
- mixed member proportional representation should be introduced
- there should be a bicameral legislature, introducing the concept of an Alberta senate
- there should be two members for each division, one male and one female.

INDIVIDUAL DIVISION BOUNDARIES

The majority of submissions provided specific comments regarding the boundaries for specific electoral divisions. All of the submissions related to individual electoral division boundaries have been considered by the Commission in developing the boundary recommendations in this report.

Among these were two suggestions for significant boundary adjustments:

Northwestern Alberta – a suggestion that the northwestern Alberta divisions should be designed essentially on an east/west basis, rather than a north/south configuration as at present

Rocky Mountains – a suggestion that there should be a Rocky Mountains electoral division including the area from Kananaskis to Jasper

The two suggestions for significant changes deserve comment:

Northwestern Alberta – this proposal, supported by the Town of High Level, the High Level Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Rainbow Lake and the North Peace Tribal Council, would have resulted in one division in the north, which the proponents titled MacKenzie, with a population of 21,108 and the second, to the south of it with a population of 36,823. This compares with the proposed Peace River division with a population of 35,639 and the proposed Dunvegan-Central Peace division with a population of 24,908. The proposal included moving the Tall Cree reserves from Lesser Slave Lake to the new MacKenzie division. However, Chief Rupert Meenen filed a written submission indicating that the Tall Cree Tribal Council wished to remain in the Lesser Slave Lake division and Jake Wiebe, representing the La Crete Chamber of Commerce, told the Peace River public hearing that his area wanted the existing division to be maintained. Several submissions from the south end of the Peace River division also requested that the division be maintained. Consequently the Commission, while it appreciates the work that went into the proposal, is recommending that the existing electoral division alignment in northwestern Alberta basically be maintained.

Rocky Mountains – this proposal would have resulted in a Rocky Mountains electoral division with a population of 25,089, which is about 61% of the quotient, and therefore would be an additional special consideration division. The area would be more than 20,000 square kilometres, it would be more than 150 kilometres from the Legislature Building and it would have a boundary coterminous with the provincial boundary, therefore meeting three of the five conditions for establishing a special consideration electoral division. While the Commission recognizes the common environmental and tourism interests shared throughout this area, and the common municipality/Parks Canada relationship of Banff and Jasper, the Commission believes that the relationships of the southern area with Calgary and the northern area with Edmonton provide alternative and established communities of interest. Therefore a Rocky Mountains electoral division is not being proposed.

THE ALBERTA CONTEXT

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

During recent years, Alberta's robust economy resulted in significant population growth.

Census information for Alberta's cities shows that there has been a consistent pattern of growth since the 2001 Census:

	POPULATION INCREASES				
	1991 to 1996	1996 to 2001	2001 to 2006	2006 to 2009	TOTAL
Calgary	57,287	110,784	109,327	77,262	354,660
Other Cities ¹	11,952	58,971	96,067	67,687	234,677
Edmonton	-435	49,798	64,268	52,067	166,133

Fifty-two percent of Albertans currently reside in Edmonton and Calgary. When the population living in urban communities of 10,000 or more is considered, more than 75% of Albertans were resident in medium to large urban communities. In addition, there were 15 municipal districts and counties which had a population greater than 10,000² (see 2009 Alberta Municipal Affairs Official Population List at http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/mc_official_populations.cfm). This was one of the factors which led a number of submissions to suggest to the Commission that Alberta is now an urbanized province.

Secondly, the quotient has grown by 10,100 since the 1995/1996 Commission.

Commission	Quotient
1995/96	30,780
2002/03	35,951
2009/10	40,880

The growth in the quotient has two notable effects. In areas where population is steady or declining, it tends to give rise to an increase in the geographic area of electoral divisions. In areas where population is increasing, it tends to result in a lesser increase in electoral divisions than the growth numbers alone would seem to indicate. However, the court decisions, as well as the *Act*, require the Commission to pay close attention to the quotient.

DISTRIBUTION OF DIVISIONS

Alberta has been divided into 83 electoral divisions since the 1986 provincial election arising from the report of the 1983/1984 Commission. The distribution of electoral divisions recommended by the 2002/2003 Commission was:

Calgary	23
Edmonton	18
Rest of Alberta	42

¹ This Table compares growth in Calgary, Edmonton and the other cities of Alberta. The tables in the remainder of the report use the categories Calgary, Edmonton and the Rest of Alberta which includes all areas of the province outside the two major cities.

² The counties or municipal districts of Clearwater, Foothills, Grande Prairie, Lac Ste. Anne, Lacombe, Leduc, Lethbridge, Mackenzie, Mountainview, Parkland, Red Deer, Rocky View, Sturgeon, Wetaskiwin, and Yellowhead.

In 2009 the Legislative Assembly amended the *Act* to require this Commission to recommend the areas, boundaries and names for 87 electoral divisions.

The Commission is required by law to divide the existing Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo division. Its population is more than 88% higher than the quotient and the law prohibits the Commission from recommending a division which has a population more than 25% above the quotient.

The Commission received a variety of suggestions on how the divisions should be distributed. One submission suggested that the Commission should just divide the 4 largest divisions in half and go home!

On a more serious note, six submissions, including Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel in a personal appearance at an Edmonton hearing, suggested that two of the additional divisions should be added to Edmonton to recognize the growth in the city. Two, including Calgary Mayor David Bronconnier in a written submission suggested that Calgary should have 3 of the new electoral divisions. Three, including Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood MLA and Leader of the New Democratic Party Brian Mason, suggested two additional divisions for Calgary, one for Edmonton and one in the Rest of Alberta. Based solely on population, the distribution would be 3 to Calgary, 1 to Edmonton, and the Rest of Alberta would stay the same.

In summary, three general options were considered by the Commission:

- Option 1** – increase Calgary by 2 additional divisions, Edmonton by 1, Rest of Alberta by 1
- Option 2** – increase Calgary by 2 additional divisions, Edmonton by 2, Rest of Alberta no change
- Option 3** – increase Calgary by 3 additional Divisions, Edmonton by 1, Rest of Alberta no change

The comparison of these options to the populations is:

	Population	%	OPTION 1		OPTION 2		OPTION 3	
			EDs	%	EDs	%	EDs	%
Calgary	1,065,455	30	25	29	25	29	26	30
Edmonton	782,439	22	19	22	20	23	19	22
Rest of Alberta	1,708,689	48	43	49	42	48	42	48
Total	3,556,583	100	87	100	87	100	87	100

The majority of the Commission, considering all of the population information available to it and the factors affecting effective representation, concluded that the distribution of the 87 divisions should be:

Calgary	25
Edmonton	19
Rest of Alberta	43

The Commission was certainly aware of the controversy that arose when the previous Commission recommended the reduction in the number of Edmonton electoral divisions from 19 to 18 at a time when an increase in Calgary electoral divisions was also recommended.

The Commission reviewed the average population per division in Calgary, Edmonton and the Rest of Alberta before and after the last two Commissions and before and after this Commission.

	Average Population per Division					
	1995/1996 Commission		2002/2003 Commission		2009/2010 Commission	
	BEFORE	AFTER	BEFORE	AFTER	BEFORE	AFTER
Calgary	38,404	36,575	41,850	38,212	46,324	42,618
Edmonton	34,239	32,437	35,058	37,006	43,469	41,181
Rest of Alberta	27,824	29,119	33,464	34,181	40,683	39,737

It is apparent that the Calgary average was considerably higher than the others when the last Commission began its work. The disparity was significantly reduced by the recommendation of the last Commission to remove one Edmonton electoral division. The disparity grew again in the interim period and would be reduced again by this Commission's recommendation to add two divisions in Calgary, one division in Edmonton, and one division in the Rest of Alberta. The variation of the average population per division from the quotient would range from -2.8% to +4.3%.

	AFTER	% Quotient
Calgary	42,618	+4.3%
Edmonton	41,181	+0.7%
Rest of Alberta	39,737	-2.8%

INTERIM RECOMMENDED DIVISIONS

In this Interim Report, the Commission is providing recommendations on the names, areas and boundaries for 87 electoral divisions. These are interim recommendations upon which the Commission invites comments and suggestions which it will consider in preparing its final recommendations.

PRIMARY FACTORS FOR ELECTORAL DIVISION BOUNDARIES

In its efforts to respect the requirement for effective representation as guaranteed by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the primary factors which have guided the Commission's recommendations are:

- A. **Population** – the Commission has attempted to limit the variations in the average population per division. As noted above, range of variation of the average population per electoral division from the quotient is from +4.3% in Calgary to -2.8% in the Rest of Alberta.

The variation from the quotient of the proposed electoral divisions within the categories is:

	High	Low
Calgary	+16.5%	-9.9%
Edmonton	+7.8%	-10.0%
Rest of Alberta	+14.7%	-23.3%
Special	-29.5%	-39.1%

- This copy is for archival purposes only. Please contact the publisher for the original version.
- B. **Sparsity of Population** is recognized in the two proposed special divisions of Dunvegan-Central Peace and Lesser Slave Lake. Dunvegan-Central Peace meets all five criteria for a special division and Lesser Slave Lake meets four of the five criteria. In addition, the Commission is proposing three other electoral divisions, West Yellowhead (-23.3%), Bonnyville-Cold Lake (-15.0%), Peace River (-12.8%) and Lloydminster-Vermilion (-11.1%), which reflect the relatively low population density of those areas.
 - C. **Community Interests** – the Commission has taken into consideration community interests of which it is aware.
 - D. **Community Boundaries** – the Commission has attempted, as requested by the municipalities, to respect community boundaries in Calgary, Edmonton and other areas.
 - E. **Municipal Boundaries** – the Commission has made every attempt to respect municipal boundaries. This has not been possible in all cases but the Commission has attempted to reduce the fragmentation of municipal boundaries resulting from the existing divisions. Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel, responding to a question regarding divisions crossing the city boundary, told the Commission: “We are an entity to ourselves and have our own challenges, and I think our borders and the population we have within those borders are absolutely sacrosanct.” Chestermere Mayor Patricia Matthews told the Commission that her community had no interest in being combined with a portion of the City of Calgary because the city’s priorities would overwhelm the issues of communities and areas outside the city. The recommendations respect the boundaries of both Calgary and Edmonton.
 - F. **Geographical Features** - the Commission has considered geographical features, including roads, which provide natural barriers between communities of interest. The Commission notes, however, that some presentations suggested that divisions, like the current Edmonton-Riverview which is divided by the North Saskatchewan River, should not be changed. On the other hand, presentations regarding Edmonton-Gold Bar suggested that this division should not cross the river.
 - G. **Understandable and Clear Boundaries** – the Commission has attempted to recommend boundaries which are clear and easy to understand for the residents of the areas. In addition, the Commission is using digital mapping technology to describe the boundaries (rather than the extensive written legal descriptions previously used).
 - H. **Distance and Area** – this is primarily an issue in the “Rest of Alberta”. In recommending those boundaries the Commission has considered the area of the proposed electoral divisions and the travel distances involved both within the division and between the division and the Legislature.
 - I. **Inner City Urban Issues** - the Commission acknowledges the submissions stressing that inner city urban ridings generally have their own challenges, such as a large number of linguistic and cultural communities, a disproportionate number of people dependent on social programs, increasing numbers of new immigrants and aboriginal people, and other urban issues. However, even with those challenges, two inner city MLAs, Laurie Blakeman from Edmonton-Centre and Kent Hehr from Calgary-Buffalo, indicated reluctance to split communities in order to reduce the populations of their divisions.

- J. **Other Urban Issues** – the Commission also acknowledges that, while there may only be one council and one school authority, maintaining relations with a number of community leagues or associations, business revitalization zones and other identifiable organizations, place demands on the time of a city MLA. Suburban city electoral divisions tend to be more homogeneous, leading to a similar desire to keep communities together.

ARE METES AND BOUNDS DESCRIPTIONS NECESSARY?

In 2007 the British Columbia Electoral Boundaries Commission introduced the concept of replacing the traditional metes and bounds description of electoral divisions with maps, both in its preliminary report and in the *Electoral Districts Act*. The Commission noted that electoral boundaries commissions in British Columbia traditionally supplemented their written reports with printed maps of their proposed electoral districts and with detailed written metes and bounds descriptions of the boundaries of each proposed district.

Alberta's traditional process is similar. The reports of electoral boundaries commissions typically have included maps showing the proposed alignment of electoral divisions and the metes and bounds descriptions for each division. The Alberta *Electoral Divisions Act* is 82 pages long, of which 79 pages are the metes and bounds descriptions. In the current *Act* the description for the Airdrie-Chestermere division reads:

Starting at the intersection of the north boundary of Sec. 13 in Twp. 29, Rge. 1 W5 and the centre line of Highway 2; then

1. east along the north boundary of Sec. 13 in the Twp. and the north boundary of Sec. 15, 14 and 13 in Twp. 29, Rge. 29 W4 and the north boundary of Secs. 18 and 17 in Twp. 29, Rge. 28 W4 to the east boundary of Sec. 17 in the Twp.;
2. south along the east boundary of Secs. 17 and 8 to the north boundary of Sec. 4 in the Twp.;
3. east along the north boundary of Secs. 4, 3, 2 and 1 in the Twp. to the east boundary of Rge. 28 W4;
4. south along the east boundary to the north boundary of Twp. 28;
5. east along the north boundary to the east boundary of Rge. 25 W4;
6. south along the east boundary to the north boundary of Twp. 26;
7. east along the north boundary to the east boundary of Sec. 35 in Twp. 26, Rge. 25 W4;
8. south along the east boundary of Secs. 35 and 26 in the Twp. to the north boundary of Sec. 23 in the Twp.;
9. west along the north boundary of Secs. 23, 22, 21, 20 and 19 in the Twp. to the east boundary of Rge. 26 W4;
10. south along the east boundary to the north boundary of Twp. 25;
11. west along the north boundary to the east boundary of Sec. 32 in Twp. 25, Rge. 26 W4;
12. south along the east boundary of Secs. 32 and 29 in the Twp. to the north boundary of Sec. 20 in the Twp.;
13. west along the north boundary of Sec. 20 to the east boundary of Sec. 19 in the Twp.;
14. south along the east boundary of Secs. 19 and 18 in the Twp. to the north boundary of Sec. 7 in the Twp.;
15. west along the north boundary to the east boundary of Rge. 27;
16. south along the east boundary of Rge. 27 to the right bank of the Bow River;
17. upstream along the right bank of the Bow River to the southerly extension of 88 Street SE in the City of Calgary;
18. north along the extension of 88 Street SE to the east Calgary city boundary;

19. north and west along the east city boundary to its intersection with the centre line of Highway 2;
20. north along the centre line of Highway 2 to the north boundary of Sec. 12 in Twp. 26, Rge. 1 W5 (Highway 566);
21. west along the north boundary of Secs. 12, 11 and 10 to the east boundary of Sec. 16 in the Twp.;
22. north along the east boundary of Secs. 16, 21, 28 and 33 in Twp. 26 and Secs. 4, 9, 16 and 21 in Twp. 27 to the north boundary of Sec. 22 in Twp. 27, Rge. 1 W5;
23. east along the north boundary of Secs. 22, 23 and 24 to the centre line of Highway 2;
24. north along Highway 2 to the starting point.

For the average person, reference to a map is much more informative than the description in the *Act*. In addition, these descriptions are expensive and time-consuming to prepare.

The British Columbia Commission said that its goal was “to provide boundary descriptions that:

- are informative to readers (i.e. “what electoral district am I in?”);
- give candidates, political parties and election officials sufficient detail for their purposes; and,
- meet legal requirements and that can be easily incorporated into legislation, if the Legislative Assembly adopts our proposals.”

The combination of maps contained in Appendix E of this report and the digital version of maps contained in the accompanying DVD make the traditional metes and bounds description of proposed electoral boundaries unnecessary. The Commission believes that in addition to the printed maps in the report and the DVD’s visual depiction of the proposed boundaries, the filing of printed maps for archival purposes would meet the necessary legal requirements and can replace the traditional metes and bounds descriptions found in the current *Electoral Divisions Act*.

BOUNDARY CHANGES

The Table on page 16 shows the population of each proposed electoral division, using the most recent population information available, and the variation of each proposed division from the quotient of 40,880.

In addition to the changes discussed on the following pages, the Commission is proposing a number of minor adjustments to existing electoral division boundaries to more closely align with municipal boundaries and to clarify some boundaries.

Calgary and Edmonton

Within Calgary and Edmonton the boundaries of most existing electoral divisions are proposed to change, primarily resulting from the addition of one or more divisions and to accommodate growth that has occurred since the existing boundaries were established. The Commission has attempted to reflect information it has received regarding future growth areas in these cities, with the objective that, when the next Commission begins its work, divisions in those areas will not vary as widely from the quotient as occurred since the previous Commission.

Rest of Alberta

The following describes the proposed major changes using the existing electoral divisions:

Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo

Two new divisions are proposed, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo and Fort McMurray-Conklin. The existing division is divided along the Slave and Athabasca Rivers and within Fort McMurray, the Lower Townsite and Timberlea areas are included in Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo; with the remainder in Fort McMurray-Conklin. The populations of both proposed divisions are below the quotient. However, within the Fort McMurray urban area, two new development areas have been approved, one within each proposed electoral division.

Battle River-Wainwright

The area of Stettler County north of Highway 594, including the Town of Stettler, is added to the existing electoral division and the name is changed to Stettler-Wainwright.

Drumheller-Stettler

The area east of Highway 36 and north of Hwy 1, including the City of Brooks, is added to the remaining portion of the existing electoral division and the name is changed to Brooks-Drumheller.

Little Bow

The area south of Highway 1, including the Town of Bassano, and a small area of the existing Highwood electoral division are added.

Cardston-Taber-Warner

The Blood Reserve is added.

POPULATIONS OF INTERIM RECOMMENDED DIVISIONS

CALGARY	Pop	Dif(%)	REST OF ALBERTA	Pop	Dif(%)
Calgary-Acadia	42,036	2.83%	Airdrie	39,907	-2.38%
Calgary-Bow	37,806	-7.52%	Athabasca-Sturgeon	37,643	-7.92%
Calgary-Buffalo	40,381	-1.22%	Banff-Cochrane	42,898	4.94%
Calgary-Country Hills	43,508	6.43%	Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock	39,064	-4.44%
Calgary-Cross	46,102	12.77%	Beaverlodge-Valleyview	43,427	6.23%
Calgary-East	46,811	14.51%	Bonnyville-Cold Lake	34,730	-15.04%
Calgary-Elbow	42,699	4.45%	Brooks-Drumheller	43,113	5.46%
Calgary-Fish Creek	45,176	10.51%	Cardston-Taber-Warner	37,289	-8.78%
Calgary-Foothills	41,171	0.71%	Carstairs-Rocky View	38,088	-6.83%
Calgary-Fort	42,077	2.93%	Chestermere-Strathmore	44,418	8.65%
Calgary-Glenmore	42,996	5.18%	Cypress-Medicine Hat	38,969	-4.67%
Calgary-Hawkwood	47,636	16.53%	Drayton Valley-Devon	39,677	-2.94%
Calgary-Hays	36,848	-9.86%	Dunvegan-Central Peace	24,908	-39.07%
Calgary-Killarney	44,182	8.08%	Fort McMurray-Conklin	39,657	-2.99%
Calgary-Lougheed	38,779	-5.14%	Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo	37,815	-7.50%
Calgary-Mackay	45,846	12.15%	Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville	42,124	3.04%
Calgary-McCall	40,997	0.29%	Grande Prairie	40,137	-1.82%
Calgary-McKenzie	40,350	-1.30%	High River-Crowsnest	43,896	7.38%
Calgary-Montrose	44,186	8.09%	Highwood	41,595	1.75%
Calgary-Mountain View	42,092	2.96%	Innisfail-Red Deer	41,409	1.29%
Calgary-North Hill	42,654	4.34%	Lac La Biche-St. Paul	38,499	-5.82%
Calgary-North West	44,949	9.95%	Lacombe-Ponoka	40,014	-2.12%
Calgary-Shaw	44,271	8.30%	Leduc-Beaumont	43,496	6.40%
Calgary-Varsity	43,571	6.58%	Lesser Slave Lake	28,807	-29.53%
Calgary-West	38,331	-6.24%	Lethbridge-East	43,092	5.41%
EDMONTON			Lethbridge-West	42,416	3.76%
Edmonton-Callingwood	41,371	1.20%	Little Bow	39,955	-2.26%
Edmonton-Castle Downs	38,448	-5.95%	Lloydminster-Vermilion	36,341	-11.10%
Edmonton-Centre	42,381	3.67%	Medicine Hat	39,759	-2.74%
Edmonton-Clareview	44,053	7.76%	Peace River	35,639	-12.82%
Edmonton-Decore	42,907	4.96%	Red Deer-North	38,732	-5.25%
Edmonton-Ellerslie	36,842	-9.88%	Red Deer-South	40,186	-1.70%
Edmonton-Glenora	41,350	1.15%	Rocky Mountain House-Olds	39,307	-3.85%
Edmonton-Gold Bar	42,090	2.96%	Sherwood Park	46,896	14.72%
Edmonton-Highlands-Beverly	43,559	6.55%	Spruce Grove-St. Albert	44,845	9.70%
Edmonton-La Perle	43,030	5.26%	St. Albert	44,678	9.29%
Edmonton-Manning	42,234	3.31%	Stettler-Wainwright	41,678	1.95%
Edmonton-McClung	38,031	-6.97%	Stony Plain	40,535	-0.84%
Edmonton-Mill Creek	36,789	-10.01%	Strathcona	40,998	0.29%
Edmonton-Mill Woods	40,263	-1.51%	Sylvan Lake	40,964	0.21%
Edmonton-North West	43,233	5.76%	West Yellowhead	31,338	-23.34%
Edmonton-Riverview	41,875	2.43%	Wetaskiwin-Camrose	41,024	0.35%
Edmonton-Rutherford	39,848	-2.52%	Whitecourt-Ste. Anne	38,726	-5.27%
Edmonton-Strathcona	42,169	3.15%			
Edmonton-Whitemud	41,966	2.66%			

Pop = Population Dif(%) = percentage deviation from the quotient

Livingstone-McLeod

The area south of Highway 541 and Township Road 190, and the Town of High River, are added and the name is changed to High River-Crowsnest.

Highwood

The area south of Tsuu T'ina Nation is added from the existing Foothills-Rocky View division.

Foothills-Rocky View

The area east of Highway 22 is added to the existing Banff-Cochrane division. The area of the existing Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills division south of Highway 582 and east of Highway 766 is added, as is the area of the existing Airdrie-Chestermere division north of Township Road 260. The name is changed to Carstairs-Rocky View.

Airdrie-Chestermere

A new Airdrie electoral division is created including the City of Airdrie and the immediately surrounding rural area. The remaining portion of the division is combined with the remaining portion of the existing Strathmore-Brooks division to form a new division with the name Chestermere-Strathmore.

Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills

The area west of Highway 2A including the Town of Olds is added to the existing Rocky Mountain House division and the name is changed to Rocky Mountain House-Olds.

The area east of Highway 2 and south of Red Deer River, including Innisfail, is added from the existing Innisfail-Sylvan Lake division. The area between Gaetz Avenue and 30th Avenue, south of 28th Street is added from the existing Red Deer-South division. The name is changed to Innisfail-Red Deer.

Lacombe-Ponoka

The area between the west boundaries of Ponoka and Lacombe counties and Highway 2 is added to the remaining portion of the existing Innisfail-Sylvan Lake division to create a new division named Sylvan Lake.

The area of the existing Red Deer-North division north of Highway 11 is added to the remaining portion of Lacombe-Ponoka.

Drayton Valley-Calmar

The Town of Devon is added and the name is changed to Drayton Valley-Devon.

Leduc-Beaumont-Devon

The area east of Highway 833 is transferred to Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville. The remaining portion of the existing electoral division is named Leduc-Beaumont.

Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert

The area north and east of the Alexander Reserve and north of Township Road 552 is added to Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock. The name is changed to Spruce Grove-St. Albert.

Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock

In addition to the area transferred from Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert, the southern portion of the existing Lesser Slave Lake division is added.

Whitecourt-Ste. Anne

Fox Creek and the area south is transferred from Grande Prairie-Smoky division as well as a small portion of the Stony Plain division north of Highway 16.

St. Albert

Within the city, the boundary between the St. Albert and Spruce Grove-St. Albert divisions is changed to Giroux Road and Bellerose Drive.

Grande Prairie

The two existing electoral divisions are reconfigured into a new Grande Prairie division entirely within the city and a new Beaverlodge-Valleyview electoral division including the northern area of the city and the remainder of the two existing divisions. The creation of a pure urban division was proposed by the City of Grande Prairie and mirrors the division alignments in St. Albert and Medicine Hat. The Commission looks forward to the comments of the people affected by this interim proposal.

Red Deer-North

The area north of Highway 11 is added to the Lacombe-Ponoka electoral division.

Red Deer-South

The area between Gaetz Avenue and 30th Avenue, south of 28th Street, is added to the new Innisfail-Red Deer electoral division.

Lethbridge

The area north of St. Edward Boulevard and east of Stafford Drive is added to Lethbridge-East.

Sherwood Park

The area north of Wye Road and east of Highway 21, south of Heritage Hills wetland, is added.

Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville

The area east of Highway 833, currently in Leduc-Beaumont-Devon, is added.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION DIVISIONS

The Commission is proposing two special consideration divisions: Dunvegan-Central Peace and Lesser Slave Lake.

The *Act* provides that the Commission may recommend up to 4 electoral divisions which have a population as much as 50% below the quotient if at least 3 of the following criteria are met:

- (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 a Metis settlement;
- (e) the proposed electoral division has a portion of its boundary coterminous with a boundary of the Province of Alberta.

The *Act* permits a normal variance of +/- 25% of the quotient. Electoral divisions which could be considered for special status would have populations between -25% and -50% of the quotient.

In the following Table:

Pop – means the population of the proposed electoral division

% Quo – means the population as a percentage of the quotient

Area – means the total area of the proposed electoral division exceeds 20,000 square kilometres

Dist to LEG – means the distance from the Legislature Building to the nearest boundary of the proposed electoral division by the most direct highway route is greater than 150 kilometres

No Town >8k – means there is no town greater than 8,000 population

IR or MS – means there is an Indian Reserve or Metis Settlement

Prov Bound – means a boundary of the electoral division is coterminous with a provincial boundary

Yes – means the division meets the criterion

No – means the vision does not meet the criterion

Division	Pop	% Quo	Area	Dist to LEG	No Town > 8k	IR or MS	Prov Bound
DUNVEGAN-CENTRAL PEACE	24,908	-39.1%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
LESSER SLAVE LAKE	28,807	-29.5%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Dunvegan-Central Peace meets all five criteria for a special consideration electoral division. The sparse population base in northwestern Alberta is only sufficient to have one regular electoral division and one special consideration division.

Lesser Slave Lake meets four of the criteria. This electoral division has a distinctive community of interest since, as the Commission was told by Slave Lake Mayor Karina Pillay-Kinnee, there are 12 Indian Reserves and Metis Settlements and roughly 80 percent of the people in the electoral division are of aboriginal ancestry.

West Yellowhead also meets four of the five criteria but its population is -23.3% of the quotient and therefore does not qualify as a special consideration division.

ISSUES FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Various issues were raised with the Commission, in both written and oral submissions, which are beyond its current terms of reference. The Commission consistently pointed this out but also undertook to raise these as matters the Legislative Assembly needs to consider.

FUTURE TRENDS

If the population growth pattern of the past two decades continues in the future, by far the most significant issue for future Electoral Boundaries Commissions will be the effect of the concentration of population in the Calgary/Edmonton corridor and in the Grande Prairie and Wood Buffalo areas on the distribution of electoral divisions in the rest of the province.

While this report proposes a variety of changes in those divisions, the decision of the Legislative Assembly to increase the total number of electoral divisions to 87 actually limited the changes that would have been required if the number had been maintained at 83. The significant number of submissions received opposing the increase or proposing a decrease seems to indicate that further increases in the number of electoral divisions will need to be carefully assessed.

It seems likely that outlying electoral divisions may be fewer and larger in the future. This raises a question about how large a division can be before it involves so many non-common interests that it is impractical for the disparate issues of the electors to be represented, and for the MLA to represent them.

The Legislative Assembly needs to seriously consider how the urban/rural perspectives will be addressed in the future. The Commission believes that this is an Alberta issue which will have to be addressed, probably before the next Commission is appointed.

CONSTITUENCY OFFICES

Despite the increasing availability of electronic communication modes, the Commission was told several times that in rural Alberta people expect to have personal contact with their MLA. In all cases, they want to be able to meet with someone who will review their documentation, and provide information and assistance in dealing with their issues. On a day-to-day basis, that contact happens through the constituency offices, which in rural Alberta are frequently considered as a government office. In the large rural electoral divisions, significant travel time is imposed on the constituents to attend a constituency office, even if the office is located in the geographic centre of the division.

Inner city divisions are magnets for people dependent on social programs and for immigrants. Some of the constituency offices in the cities, particularly in the inner city, although easily accessible to most constituents, face challenges related to language, culture, social problem caseloads and the ability to provide competitive compensation for staff.

The Legislative Assembly should consider the resources allocated for constituency offices.

Multiple constituency offices may be required to provide reasonable opportunity of access for the residents of the large rural electoral divisions and access to air travel within those divisions would cut down the travel time demands on MLAs. Additional staff resources may be required, particularly in the inner city electoral divisions, to enable urban MLAs to carry out their advocacy

functions on behalf of constituents. The Commission realizes that in the current economic environment, increasing the budget is difficult. However, to assist with effective representation, the capacity of constituency offices to deal with the concerns of constituents needs to be assessed.

UPDATED POPULATION INFORMATION

Because the 2006 Canada Census data is more than three years old, the Commission decided to use the option of augmenting it with updated information. The authoritative source for updated information is the Official Population List published by Alberta Municipal Affairs. This list is normally published in early November. There was broad-based support for using updated data.

The Commission decided to hold its initial round of public hearings in late September and early October. In order to inform the public and provide time to prepare submissions, the information brochure was distributed in late August to all Alberta households. At that time, the only population information available was the 2006 census information. Many people making submissions invested a considerable amount of time in analyzing this data as part of preparing their submissions.

However, between the preparation of the brochure and the start of the public hearings, the Commission did receive 2009 municipal census information announced by the majority of the largest urban municipalities. The major effect of this was a significant increase in the quotient from that mentioned in the brochure, which consequently outdated the analyses in the submissions.

There were also considerable technical challenges in incorporating the updated population information into the electronic mapping program which is designed for use with census data that contains a greater level of geographic detail. This was a particular challenge where a municipality is located in more than one electoral division.

If future Commissions plan to use updated population information, it would assist persons wishing to make submissions if the householder is published once the updated information has been incorporated into the population data so that there is a common data base.

Future Commissions should be appointed early in a calendar year. This would result in Canada Census population data being current if the appointment is in the year following the census. It would also result in the current Municipal Affairs Official Population List being available if the Canada Census data is more than a year old.

APPENDICES

- A - Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission Minority Position
- B – List of Presenters – First Round Public Hearings
- C – List of Submitters – First Round Written Submissions
- D – Electoral Boundaries Commission Act Chapter E-3
- E – Proposed Electoral Divisions - Maps

ALBERTA ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION MINORITY POSITION

By Allyson Jeffs

The majority of the Boundary Commission is recommending a new electoral map for Alberta that would include 87 electoral divisions allocated as follows:

Calgary	25 seats
Edmonton	19 seats
Rest of Alberta	43 seats

I disagree with this allocation and, instead, propose the following:

Calgary	25 seats
Edmonton	20 seats
Rest of Alberta	42 seats

This is Option 2 as set out on page 10 of the Commission's report.

Edmonton Representation

Raising the number of Edmonton electoral divisions to 19 from the current 18 would restore Edmonton to the level of representation which the city first received 14 years ago, in 1996. The 19th seat was allocated to Edmonton upon the recommendation of the 1995/1996 Electoral Boundaries Commission.

A majority of the 2002/2003 Electoral Boundaries Commission recommended reducing Edmonton's representation to 18 seats. This recommendation was enacted by the Alberta Legislature notwithstanding the city's growth, significant public outcry and objections raised by Commission Member Bauni Mackay in her Minority Position Paper (available at <http://www.altaebc.ab.ca/interimrptappendices.html#appB>).

Restoring Edmonton to 19 seats, as the majority of the current Commission proposes, does not sufficiently recognize the city's population growth. Nor does it address the concerns raised by Edmontonians and others that Alberta's urban voters continue to be representationally disadvantaged when compared to their rural cousins.

Population Growth

In 1996, Edmonton's population was 616,306. According to the most recent city census, completed in 2009, Edmonton's current population is 782,439 – an increase of 27 per cent or 166,133 people. Between 2008 and 2009 alone, Edmonton's population grew by 30,027, more than Calgary's population increase of 22,563 during the same period.

Edmonton and Calgary are Alberta's two major cities, together comprising 52 per cent of the provincial population. Calgary's population growth has resulted in increased representation in the Legislature while Edmonton's has remained static or declined. Between 1996 and 2009, Calgary's

population grew by 297,373 people or 38 per cent and its representation grew by 2 MLAs.³ If the current Commission's recommendations are adopted, Calgary's representation will have increased by a total of four MLAs. Edmonton will have recovered the electoral division removed following the 2002/2003 boundary review but will have no net increase in electoral seats despite its significant growth.

Under the terms of the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*, the next Boundaries Commission cannot be convened for at least eight years with the result that the recommendations of the current Commission, if followed, will shape the electoral map until at least 2018. The legislation permits up to 10 years between the appointment of Commissions, so the boundary changes enacted as a result of the current review may be in place until 2020.

If Edmonton is represented by 20 ridings, the average population of each electoral district will be 39,122 people or 4.3 per cent below the provincial average of 40,880. This is well within the acceptable range set out in the *Electoral Boundaries Act* and will be more than offset by population growth before the next electoral boundary review is initiated.

Growing Forward, the Capital Region Growth Plan, March 2009 (available at http://www.capitalregionboard.ab.ca/images/Documents/Plan/crb_growthplan_e.pdf) forecasts Edmonton's population in 2018 to be between 900,833 and 902,583, an increase of about 15 per cent from the current population.

If Edmonton is represented by 19 ridings, the average population per electoral district will be 41,181 or 0.74 per cent above the provincial average. However, boundary drafting is about more than simple arithmetic. Once communities of interest, natural boundaries and future growth patterns within the city are taken into account, this average will be spread across the city in such a way that some electoral districts will be as much as 10 per cent below the average while others will be six or seven per cent above the average.

Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel attended the Edmonton hearings and urged the Commission to increase Edmonton's representation by two electoral divisions. In so doing, he remarked upon the sustained and significant growth which the city has experienced and which is expected to continue into the future. He also noted the need for the provincial capital to be appropriately represented in the Legislature to ensure that its collective voice may be heard:

We are a growing city, a city with an increasing intensity of urban issues caused by growth and concentration of people, whether the need for effective transit or the challenge of the homeless, urban needs and challenges which our citizens believe must receive proper focus from within the legislative Chamber, focus that becomes most possible when a fairly balanced level of representation is applied.

³ *The 1995/1996 Boundaries Commission which recommended 19 seats for Edmonton recommended 21 seats for Calgary. The 2002/2003 Boundaries Commission recommended 18 seats for Edmonton and 23 seats for Calgary. Both Commissions used Canada Census data in arriving at their recommendations. The 1995/1996 Boundaries Commission used 1991 census data and the 2002/2003 Boundaries Commission used 2001 census data.*

We're a capital city, with a pride of place, and with citizens who fully value the role played by the Legislature and who will be looking for transparency and logic and fairness in this process.

Effective Representation

The present boundary Commission is tasked with recommending the allocation of four new seats, bringing the total number of electoral divisions to 87 from 83. This is the first time in more than two decades that a Commission has been given the statutory mandate to increase the number of provincial representatives when drafting proposed boundaries. It provides an opportunity to adjust representation in a forward-looking manner.

Edmonton is one of two major cities in an increasingly urbanized province. It is appropriate that the city receive two additional seats in the Legislature at this juncture. Edmonton voters who saw the previous Commission remove a seat from Edmonton to accommodate more rapid urban growth in Calgary may feel their representation in the Legislature is compromised if the present Commission does not do more than restore the 19th seat first allocated in 1996. Such a decision may be particularly unpalatable when representation is being preserved in regions of the province where populations have plateaued or are declining.

Rural Representation

During the course of the public consultation a significant number of the written and oral submissions raised concerns about perceived inequities between the value of urban and rural votes. It seems clear that the preservation of representation in sparsely-populated rural ridings when urban constituencies are ballooning continues to be controversial in some quarters of the province.

Rural Albertans understandably wish to maintain or improve their representation and point to the special challenges which sparsely populated ridings present to their provincial representatives.

Rest of Alberta

During its deliberations, the Commission has viewed representation in terms of three key sectors, Edmonton, Calgary and the Rest of Alberta. As a category, the Rest of Alberta includes cities such as Red Deer, Grande Prairie and Lethbridge as well as rural electoral divisions and the special consideration areas which by statute may be up to 50 per cent below the population of the average provincial electoral districts, provided certain criteria are met.

I agree with the rest of the Commission that the addition of an electoral division to accommodate the growth of Fort McMurray is required. Accordingly, I agree with the proposal to split the Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo constituency into two new electoral divisions, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo and Fort McMurray-Conklin. The Commission proposal also calls for the creation of two special consideration divisions – Dunvegan-Central Peace and Lesser Slave Lake. The current electoral boundaries include only one special consideration riding, Dunvegan-Central Peace. I am in agreement with the proposal to create these two specific special consideration ridings. The particular challenges faced in representing these two northern Alberta divisions are readily apparent given their size and sparse population.

However, I am of the view that the travel, communication and logistical difficulties of representing these constituencies are unique and are not readily applicable to other rural ridings which are smaller, which lie along or near major transportation arteries and which have more ready access to an urban airport. I am also mindful that the combined population of these two special consideration electoral divisions is 53,715, approximately 131 per cent of the population of the average provincial electoral division of 40,880 and less than the population of the current Edmonton-Whitemud constituency. As a result, I think it is appropriate to reallocate boundaries in other constituencies so that the total number of boundaries in the Rest of Alberta remains at 42.

Dated at Edmonton, Alberta, this 24th day of February, 2010.

Allyson Jeffs, Member

List of Presenters – First Round Public Hearings

Fort McMurray – September 16, 2009**Guy Boutilier MLA**

Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo

Don Reimer**Cameron Donald**Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo Progressive
Conservative Constituency Association**Veronique Rensonnet**St. Paul – September 17, 2009**Geraldine Biduluk****Cecilia Quist**

Deputy Mayor, Lac la Biche County

Robert Bouchard

Reeve, County of St. Paul No. 19

Sonny Rajoo

Councillor, Town of Two Hills

Craig Copeland

Mayor, City of Cold Lake

Don Whittaker

Councillor, County of Vermilion River

Linda FerenceWainwright – September 17, 2009**Doreen Anderson****Jeff Newland**

Councillor, Town of Wainwright

Kelly Clemmer

Editor, Star News Inc.

Edmonton – September 22-23, 2009**Judith Axelson**Edmonton-Mill Woods Liberal Constituency
Association**Stephen Mandel**

Mayor, City of Edmonton

Laurie Blakeman MLA

Edmonton-Centre

Richard MartinEdmonton-McClung Progressive
Conservative Constituency Association**Steve Benson and Sandy Gillis**Edmonton-Meadowlark Progressive Conservative
Constituency Association**Brian Mason MLA**Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood and Leader
of the New Democratic Party**David Dorward and Russ Morrow****Dan McKinley**Edmonton-Whitemud Progressive
Conservative Constituency Association

Joel Friedman

Lorne Olsvik

Councillor, Lac Ste. Anne County
Whitecourt-St. Anne Progressive
Conservative Constituency Association

Irene Hunter

Allan Saylor

Reeve, County of Two Hills No. 21

John Kolkman

Karen Sevcik & Allan Covey

Edmonton-Riverview Liberal Constituency
Association

Peggy Louis

Dr. Cassandra Van Nostrand

Hugh MacDonald MLA
Edmonton-Gold Bar

Joe Yurkovich

Calgary – September 24-25, 2009

Rebecca Aizenman

Patricia Matthews and Patrick Bergen

Mayor and Deputy-Mayor
Town of Chestermere

Moe Amery MLA and Rod McKenzie
Calgary-East Progressive Conservative Constituency
Association

Donna Michael

Paul Breeze and Don Ady
Calgary-Shaw Progressive Conservative Constituency
Association

Gordon Olsen

Calgary-Elbow Progressive Conservative
Constituency Association

John McGee Burke

Michael White

Dave Fryett

Sandy Wilson

Calgary-Fort Constituency Office

Stanley Harper

Blair Yorke-Slader and Tim Corriveau

Calgary-West Progressive Conservative
Constituency Association

Marlene Sorenson

Judy Heynen

Bob Young

Allan LePoudre and Ada Rawlins
Airdrie-Chestermere Progressive Conservative
Constituency Association

Drumheller – October 5, 2009**Merle Blair and Jay Slemp**

Chairman, Advisory Council of the Special Areas
Board and Chairman, Special Areas Board

Don Thomas and Ed EggererMedicine Hat – October 5, 2009**Terrence Riley**

Medicine Hat Progressive Conservative Constituency
Association

Lethbridge – October 6, 2009**Derrick Annable**

Reeve, Vulcan County

Bill Malcolm

Lethbridge-West Progressive Conservative
Constituency Association

Ross Ford

Deputy Reeve, County of Warner

Grande Prairie – October 7, 2009**Elroy Diemert and Greg Scerbak**

Alderman and City Manager
City of Grande Prairie

Kevin McLean

Grande Prairie-Smoky Liberal Constituency
Association

Nona Elliott**Tony Yelenik**

Reeve, Municipal District of Greenview

Pat Jacobs and John Simpson

Councillor and Director of Planning
County of Grande Prairie

Peace River- October 7, 2009**Brian Allen**

Mayor, Town of Grimshaw

Agnes Knudsen

Reeve, Northern Sunrise County

Iris Callioux

Mayor, Town of Peace River

Liliane Maisonneuve Lavoie**Darlene Firth and Cheryl Anderson**

Deputy Reeve and Councillor
Municipal District of Northern Lights No. 22

Clark McAskile and Mike Mihaly

MacKenzie Region of Northwest Alberta

Hon. Hector Goudreau MLA and Roch Bremont

Dunvegan-Central Peace Progressive
Conservative Constituency Association

Jake Wiebe

La Crete Area Chamber of Commerce

Slave Lake – October 8, 2009**Dennis Barton****Denny Garratt**

Reeve, Municipal District of Lesser Slave River

Pearl Calahasen MLA

Lesser Slave Lake

Karina Pillay-Kinnee

Mayor, Town of Slave Lake

Westlock – October 8, 2009**Charlie Ashbey**

Councillor, County of Athabasca

Lawrence Miller

Reeve, County of Barrhead

Corey Hogan

Executive Director, Alberta Liberal Party

Neil PriceSpruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert
Progressive Conservative Constituency
AssociationEdson – October 9, 2009**Peter Aschenmeier****Ivan Strang****Jim Rennie**

Mayor, Woodlands County

Wes Tweedle and Maureen Schwab

Reeve and Councillor, Brazeau County

Gerald SorokaVice-President, Alberta Association of Municipal
Districts and CountiesRed Deer – October 9, 2009**Dale Boddy****Heather MacIntosh**Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in
Leadership**Shirley Cripps****Ray Prins MLA**

Lacombe-Ponoka

Phil Elder

Democratic Renewal Project

LIST OF SUBMITTERS - FIRST ROUND WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Submission Number	Name	Organization
EBC-001	Beverley Smith	Private Citizen
EBC-002	Larry Negrave	Private Citizen
EBC-003	Marian Ho	Private Citizen
EBC-004	Indra Patel	Private Citizen
EBC-005	Fred and Celine Brittain	Private Citizens
EBC-006	Janet Fenske	Private Citizen
EBC-007	Dieter Lemke, MD (ret)	Private Citizen
EBC-008	Brad Hunter	Private Citizen
EBC-009	Karam Gill	Private Citizen
EBC-010	Trevor Harper	Private Citizen
EBC-011	John Lummis	Private Citizen
EBC-012	Joe Brown	Private Citizen
EBC-013	Paul and Gillian Slade	Private Citizens
EBC-014	Ken Wilson	Private Citizen
EBC-015	N.J. Thurber	Private Citizen
EBC-016	Karl Miller, PhD	Private Citizen
EBC-017	R.G McCallum	Private Citizen
EBC-018	Eric Shorten	Private Citizen
EBC-019	Patrick Mahaffey	Private Citizen
EBC-020	Lorne Barraclough	Private Citizen
EBC-021	Tim Folkman	Private Citizen
EBC-022	Claude Gold	Private Citizen
EBC-023	Ron Corbiere	Private Citizen
EBC-024	Andy Popovic	Private Citizen
EBC-025	Ken Gaida	Private Citizen
EBC-026	Stella Gauthier	Private Citizen
EBC-027	Charlotte Bragg	Private Citizen
EBC-028	Dave Pridie	Private Citizen
EBC-029	Michael Grace	Private Citizen
EBC-030	Lisa Barrett	Private Citizen
EBC-031	J. Harry Warne	Private Citizen
EBC-032	Gary Zeman	Private Citizen
EBC-033	Nolan Crouse, Mayor	City of St. Albert
EBC-034	Peter Bentley	Private Citizen
EBC-035	Bryan Corbett	Private Citizen
EBC-036	H.H. Bjornson	Private Citizen
EBC-037	S. Adams	Private Citizen
EBC-038	Patricia Matthews, Mayor	Town of Chestermere
EBC-039	Grant Johnson	Private Citizen
EBC-040	John Isbister	Private Citizen
EBC-041	Anita Jenkins	Private Citizen
EBC-042	Melissa Blake, Mayor	Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

EBC-043	Craig Copeland, Mayor	City of Cold Lake
EBC-044	Dennis Dunn	Private Citizen
EBC-045	Debbie Engel, Chair	Edmonton Catholic Schools Board of Trustees
EBC-046	Bill Longstaff	Private Citizen
EBC-047	Lyle J. Mair	Private Citizen
EBC-048	Judy Johnson	Private Citizen
EBC-049	William R. Bale	Private Citizen
EBC-050	Gibson Brown	Private Citizen
EBC-051	Lorraine Metz	Private Citizen
EBC-052	Brian and Sandy Heninger	Private Citizens
EBC-053	<i>Illegible Signature</i>	Private Citizen
EBC-054	<i>Illegible Signature</i>	Private Citizen
EBC-055	<i>Illegible Signature</i>	Private Citizen
EBC-056	Jim Gunn	Private Citizen
EBC-057	John Gullett	Private Citizen
EBC-058	Wendella Peters	Private Citizen
EBC-059	Steve Dabner	Private Citizen
EBC-060	Amur Abdughani	Private Citizen
EBC-061	Vivianne Grue	Private Citizen
EBC-062	Devinder Shory, M.P.	Calgary Northeast
EBC-063	Ernest Frank	Private Citizen
EBC-064	<i>Illegible Signature</i>	Private Citizen
EBC-065	Barry Breadner, President	St. Albert Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-066	Robert Howard	Private Citizen
EBC-067	Judy Nissen	Private Citizen
EBC-068	Lorli Dukart	Private Citizen
EBC-069	Theresa Theobald	Private Citizen
EBC-070	Dr. B. Kirkpatrick, President	Edmonton–Goldbar Alberta Party Constituency Association
EBC-071	<i>Illegible Signature</i>	Private Citizen
EBC-072	Earl Nent	Private Citizen
EBC-073	Henry and Donna Dekort	Private Citizens
EBC-074	George Bichsel	Private Citizen
EBC-075	Alexander Ratsoy	Private Citizen
EBC-076	H.L. Bud James, Mayor	Town of Killam
EBC-077	R. Lewkonja	Private Citizen
EBC-078	Donald W. Johnson, President	Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties
EBC-079	Karen Robinson	Brazeau County
EBC-080	Scott Gibson	Private Citizen
EBC-081	Dennis and Kay Lewis	Private Citizens
EBC-082	<i>Illegible Signature</i>	Private Citizen
EBC-083	<i>Illegible Signature</i>	Private Citizen
EBC-084	Anonymous	Private Citizen
EBC-085	Joyce Miller	Private Citizen

EBC-086	<i>Illegible Signatures</i>	Private Citizens
EBC-087	Estalla R. Wilson	Private Citizen
EBC-088	Roelof A. Heinen, President	Picture Butte & District Chamber of Commerce
EBC-089	Jay and Kathy Speck	Private Citizens
EBC-090	David Fisher	Private Citizen
EBC-091	Garry DeVloo, Mayor	Town of Castor
EBC-092	E. McBurnie	Private Citizen
EBC-093	Raymond Dow	Private Citizen
EBC-094	Ron Jenkins	Private Citizen
EBC-095	Daphne Jenkins	Private Citizen
EBC-096	Ralf and Elinor Southwell	Private Citizens
EBC-097	Douglas Bell, MD	Private Citizen
EBC-098	Doug Easterbrook	Private Citizen
EBC-099	Duncan Wojtaszek	Private Citizen
EBC-100	Garry Hides	Private Citizen
EBC-101	Earl Nent	Private Citizen
EBC-102	Mo Elsalhy (Former MLA)	Private Citizen
EBC-103	Dale Norris	Private Citizen
EBC-104	Gretchen Ghent	Private Citizen
EBC-105	Jack and Isobel Seewalt	Private Citizens
EBC-106	Sheila Campbell	Private Citizen
EBC-107	Dave Fryett	Private Citizen
EBC-108	Sheila Greer	Private Citizen
EBC-109	Ronald Lameck	Private Citizen
EBC-110	Laura Hatch	Private Citizen
EBC-111	D.W. Boivin	Private Citizen
EBC-112	<i>Illegible Signature</i>	Private Citizen
EBC-113	Mike Potter	Private Citizen
EBC-114	Sylvia Kennedy	Private Citizen
EBC-115	Lesley and Stephen Reichenfeld	Private Citizens
EBC-116	Peter Davis, President	Calgary-North Hill Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-117	Garry Dearing, Reeve	County of Wetaskiwin No. 10
EBC-118	Marjorie Given	Private Citizen
EBC-119	Tom and Elaine Sampson	Private Citizens
EBC-120	Nick Taylor	Private Citizen
EBC-121	<i>Illegible Signature</i>	Private Citizen
EBC-122	Debbie Malone	Private Citizen
EBC-123	Rick Wolcott	Private Citizen
EBC-124	Charles Wilson	Private Citizen
EBC-125	Frank Gechter	Private Citizen
EBC-126	Shaun Buckwold McQuay	Private Citizen
EBC-127	<i>Illegible Signature</i>	Private Citizen
EBC-128	Brian Dell	Private Citizen
EBC-129	Maxine Farr-Jones	Private Citizen
EBC-130	Fred J. Mullen	Private Citizen

EBC-131	Philip J. Garlick	Private Citizen
EBC-132	Hayden and Rosemary Paddock	Private Citizens
EBC-133	Ted and Gail D'Amico	Private Citizens
EBC-134	Pauline Gauthier	Private Citizen
EBC-135	Paul G. Schorak	Private Citizen
EBC-136	Walter Friedli	Private Citizen
EBC-137	Christopher (<i>Surname Illegible</i>)	Private Citizen
EBC-138	Pat Alexander, Reeve	Clearwater County
EBC-139	John Ashton, President	Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood New Democratic Party Constituency Association
EBC-140	Bill Greene	Private Citizen
EBC-141	Alan and Heather MacFadyen	Private Citizens
EBC-142	<i>Illegible Signature</i>	Private Citizen
EBC-143	Paul Sinclair, Reeve	Municipal District of Opportunity No.17
EBC-144	Dave Malek	Private Citizen
EBC-145	Isadore Miller	Private Citizen
EBC-146	J.M. Henderson	Private Citizen
EBC-147	Imogene Hauck, Provincial Affairs Chair	Oyen and District Chamber of Commerce
EBC-148	Chief James Ahnassay Chief Lorne Bulldog Chief Gus Loonskin	North Peace Tribal Council
EBC-149	Miles Tindal	Private Citizen
EBC-150	Gerald Pilger	Private Citizen
EBC-151	Brian Anderson	Private Citizen
EBC-152	Colleen Campbell	Private Citizen
EBC-153	Nancy Townshend	Private Citizen
EBC-154	Wendy Francis	Private Citizen
EBC-155	Andy Marshall	Private Citizen
EBC-156	Ruth B. Mowat	Private Citizen
EBC-157	H. Price, CAO	Town of Swan Hills
EBC-158	Stella (<i>Surname Illegible</i>)	Private Citizen
EBC-159	Charles Shaul	Private Citizen
EBC-160	Neil Hardy	Private Citizen
EBC-161	Marlene Ferguson	Private Citizen
EBC-162	Richard J.P. Rajotte	Private Citizen
EBC-163	Israel Switzer	Private Citizen
EBC-164	B.C.W. Primmer	Private Citizen
EBC-165	Larry Reich	Private Citizen
EBC-166	Michael E.H. White	Private Citizen
EBC-167	Anne Rajotte	Private Citizen
EBC-168	John William Zyp	Private Citizen
EBC-169	Joyce Wilson	Private Citizen
EBC-170	L. Argue	Private Citizen
EBC-171	Modesta Cattaruzza	Private Citizen
EBC-172	Guy and Colleen Plamondon	Private Citizens

EBC-173	Colleen, Ryan and Chad Winhold	Private Citizens
EBC-174	Rhodina Shouldice	Private Citizen
EBC-175	Wayne D. Madden	Private Citizen
EBC-176	<i>Illegible Signature</i>	Private Citizen
EBC-177	Allan Serra	Private Citizen
EBC-178	Don Whittaker	County of Vermilion River
EBC-179	Sandra Wilson	Private Citizen
EBC-180	Allan LePoudre and Ada Rawlins	Airdrie-Chestermere Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-181	Paul Breeze	Calgary-Shaw Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-182	Marlene Sorenson	Private Citizen
EBC-183	Blair Yorke-Slader	Calgary-West Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-184	Stephen Mandel, Mayor	City of Edmonton
EBC-185	Laurie Blakeman, MLA	Edmonton-Centre
EBC-186	Dr. Cassandra Paula Van Nostrand	Private Citizen
EBC-187	Judith Axelson	Edmonton-Mill Woods Liberal Constituency Association
EBC-188	Dan McKinley	Edmonton-Whitemud Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-189	Richard Martin	Edmonton-McClung Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-190	John Kolkman	Private Citizen
EBC-191	Steve Benson	Edmonton-Meadowlark Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-192	Allen Sayler, Reeve	County of Two Hills
EBC-193	Irene Hunter	Private Citizen
EBC-194	Allan Covey and Karen Sevcik	Edmonton-Riverview Liberal Constituency Association
EBC-195	Joe Yurkovich	Private Citizen
EBC-196	David Dorward	Private Citizen
EBC-197	Geraldine Biduluk	Private Citizen
EBC-198	Robert Bouchard, Reeve	County of St. Paul No.19
EBC-199	Sonny Rajoo, Councillor	Town of Two Hills
EBC-200	G. Cameron Donald	Private citizen
EBC-201	Cheryl Anderson	Private citizen
EBC-202	Shauna Hunter	Private citizen
EBC-203	Frank Oberle, MLA	Peace River
EBC-204	Cathy MacGregor	Private citizen
EBC-205	Jim Cochrane	Private citizen
EBC-206	Iris Callioux	Northern Alberta Elected Leaders

EBC-207	<i>Submission withdrawn (Duplicate)</i>	
EBC-208	Maria McLeod, President	Leduc-Beaumont-Devon Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-209	Herman Schwenk	Battle River-Wainwright Constituency Association
EBC-210	Minder Singh	Private citizen
EBC-211	Catherine K. Moore and Terry Pearce	Private citizens
EBC-212	Bradley K. Bullock	Private citizen
EBC-213	Shelley E. Mabbott	Banff-Cochrane Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-214	Dave Bronconnier, Mayor	City of Calgary
EBC-215	Jerrold Kachur	Edmonton-Whitemud New Democratic Party Constituency Association
EBC-216	Shigara Atkar	Private citizen
EBC-217	Leora MacKinnon, Mayor	Town of Fox Creek
EBC-218	Eric Anderson, Reeve	County of Minburn No. 27
EBC-219	Liliane Masonneuve Lavoie	Private citizen
EBC-220	R. Lloyd Bertschi, Mayor	Town of Morinville
EBC-221	Earl Dreeshen, M.P.	Red Deer
EBC-222	Rupert Meneen, Chief	Tall Cree First Nations
EBC-223	Norm Dyck	Private citizen
EBC-224	Rick Miller (Former MLA)	Private citizen
EBC-225	Heather, Walter, and Patrick McCloskey	Private citizens
EBC-226	Robert Neufeld, Director	Edmonton-Rutherford Liberal Constituency Association
EBC-227	Dave Fryett	Private citizen
EBC-228	F.M. Reckhard	Private citizen
EBC-229	Rebecca Bunge Eisert	Private citizen
EBC-230	Betty and Dick MacArthur	Private citizen
EBC-231	Rick Mulhall	Private citizen
EBC-232	Natalka A. Mihalchuk	Private citizen
EBC-233	W. Brown	Private citizen
EBC-234	Joseph Oberhoffner	Private citizen
EBC-235	Dale Boddy	Private citizen
EBC-236	David Forster	Private citizen
EBC-237	Eileen Patterson	Private citizen
EBC-238	Rebecca Aizenman	Private citizen
EBC-239	John Rosebrugh	Private citizen
EBC-240	Jay Smith	Private citizen
EBC-241	Tim Corriveau, President	Calgary-West Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-242	Dennis Hassel, VP Policy	Calgary-Bow Progressive Conservative Constituency Association

EBC-243	Leonard Sorochan	Private citizen
EBC-244	Adele Rymhs	Private citizen
EBC-245	Karndeeep Singh	Private citizen
EBC-246	Maxine Schmaltz	Private citizen
EBC-247	Peter and Janet Bo-Lassen	Private citizen
EBC-248	Eileen and Michael Cholach	Private citizen
EBC-249	Peter Pilarski, Director	Calgary-Foothills Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-250	Ken Skoberg, President	Battle River-Wainwright Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-251	Tony Yelenik, Reeve	MD of Greenview No.16
EBC-252	Starr Curry, President	Edmonton-Calder New Democratic Party Constituency Association
EBC-253	Theresa Van Oort, CAO	Municipal District of Northern Lights No. 22
EBC-254	David Cournoyer	Private citizen
EBC-255	Douglas Lehman, Deputy Mayor	Town of Oyen
EBC-256	Patty Wickstrom, President	Calgary-Currie Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
	Lisa MacIntosh, VP	
	Terry Bullick, VP	
EBC-257	Tim Seefeldt, President	Sherwood Park Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-258	Carol Lund, President	Athabasca-Redwater Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-259	Veronica Bliska, Reeve	MD of Peace No. 135
EBC-260	<i>Submission withdrawn</i>	
EBC-261	Richard Marz, MLA	Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills
EBC-262	<i>Submission withdrawn (Duplicate)</i>	
EBC-263	<i>Submission withdrawn (Duplicate)</i>	
EBC-264	Kelly Drover, Mayor	Town of Rainbow Lake
EBC-265	Lloyd Campbell, Mayor	Town of Fairview
EBC-266	Kelli Taylor	Calgary-Northwest Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-267	Gerald G. Kronstedt	Private citizen
EBC-268	Mark Wells, President	Edmonton-Strathcona New Democratic Party Constituency Association
EBC-269	Peter Sandhu, MLA	Edmonton-Manning
EBC-270	Alberta NDP	Alberta NDP
EBC-271	Don Reimer, President	SeventHaven Group

EBC-272	Jeff Sloychuk, President	Edmonton-Manning New Democratic Party Constituency Association
EBC-273	Jo-Anne Teed, President	Calgary-Cross Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-274	Charlie Ashbey, Councillor	County of Athabasca
EBC-275	Town of Slave Lake Council	Town of Slave Lake Council
EBC-276	J. Barrie Hoover, Reeve	Starland County
EBC-277	Gregory W. Stone	Private citizen
EBC-278	Chris Brookes	Private citizen
EBC-279	Jay J. Slemp, Chairman	Special Areas Board
EBC-280	<i>No name indicated</i>	Calgary-Mackay Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-281	Peggy Louis	Private citizen
EBC-282	Heather MacIntosh	Sheldon Chumir Foundation
EBC-283	Scott Treasure	Edmonton-Riverview Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-284	<i>Submission withdrawn (Duplicate)</i>	
EBC-285	Evan Verchomin	Private citizen
EBC-286	Kelly Buchinski	Municipal District of Wainwright No.61
EBC-287	Casey DesChamp	Edmonton-Ellerslie Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-288	Bob Miller	Private citizen
EBC-289	Dr. Elroy Deimert, Alderman	City of Grande Prairie
EBC-290	Peter Ernst, Mayor	Town of High Level
EBC-291	Hon. Hector Goudreau, MLA	Dunvegan-Central Peace Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-292	Agnes Knudsen, Reeve	Northern Sunrise County
EBC-293	Jake Wiebe	La Crete Chamber of Commerce
EBC-294	Brian Allen, Mayor	Town of Grimshaw and the Municipal District of Peace No. 135
EBC-295	Nona Elliot	Lesser Slave Lake Constituency Association
EBC-296	Clark K. McAskile	MacKenzie Region
EBC-297	Gerald Soroka	Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC)
EBC-298	Merle Blair, Chairman	Drumheller Special Areas Advisory Council
EBC-299	Ed Eggerer and Don Thomas	Private citizens
EBC-300	Terrance W. Riley	Private citizen

EBC-301	Jack Dunn	Private citizen
EBC-302	Fred and Margaret Farch	Private citizens
EBC-303	Denny Garratt, Reeve	Municipal District of Lesser Slave River MD No. 124
EBC-304	Fred Kreiner	Private citizen
EBC-305	Lucien Cloutier, County Clerk	Lac La Biche County
EBC-306	Alex Girvin, President	Calgary-Hays Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-307	Charles Newell, Reeve	County of Thorhild No. 7
EBC-308	Jim Rennie, Mayor	Woodlands County
	Trevor Thain, Mayor	Town of Whitecourt
	Doug McDermid, Mayor	Town of Mayerthorpe
	Derril C. Butler, Reeve	Lac Ste. Anne County
EBC-309	Hank Van Beers, Reeve	Municipal District of Taber
EBC-310	Linda Ference	Private citizen
EBC-311	Lorraine Forcade	Private citizen
EBC-312	Ruth Nolan	Private citizen
EBC-313	Norm Aldolphson, Mayor	Town of Valleyview
EBC-314	Beverly Sawyer	Private Citizen
EBC-315	Salpie Stepanian	Assistant to the Prime Minister
EBC-316	Rory J. Koopmans	Private citizen
EBC-317	Gordon Olsen	Calgary-Elbow Progressive Conservative Constituency Association
EBC-318	Jim Thompson	Private citizen
EBC-319	Shirley Cripps	Private citizen
EBC-320	Peter Forrest	Private citizen

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.

(2) The Chief Electoral Officer is to provide advice, information and assistance to the Commission.

(3) 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.

(4) 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.

(5) 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 July 31, 2009.
- (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
 - c) after the appointment of the last Commission.

RSA 2000 cE-3 s5; 2001 c23 s3; 2009 c19 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,
 - c) 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 shall be stated to come into force on Proclamation and, if enacted, shall be proclaimed in force before the holding of the next general election.

1990 cE-4.01 s10

Part 2 Redistribution Rules

Population

- 12(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), in this Part, “population” means the population of Alberta as provided in 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, plus the population on Indian reserves that were not included in the census, as provided by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (Canada).

- (2) If, in the opinion of the Commission, there is some other province-wide census that is more recent than the 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, the population of Alberta for the purposes of this Part is to be determined

- a) by that province-wide census of population, and
- b) with respect to the population on Indian reserves that are not included in the census, by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (Canada).

- (3) The Commission may use more recent population information, if available, in conjunction with the information referred to in subsection (1) or (2).

RSA 2000 cE-3 s12;2009 c19 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

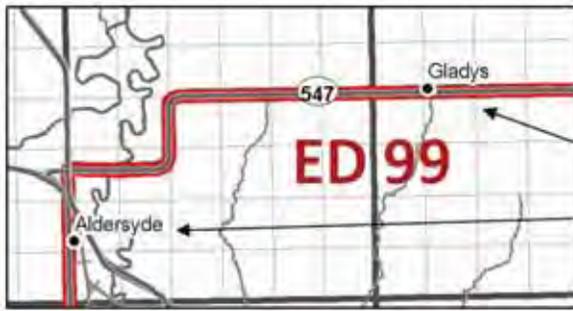
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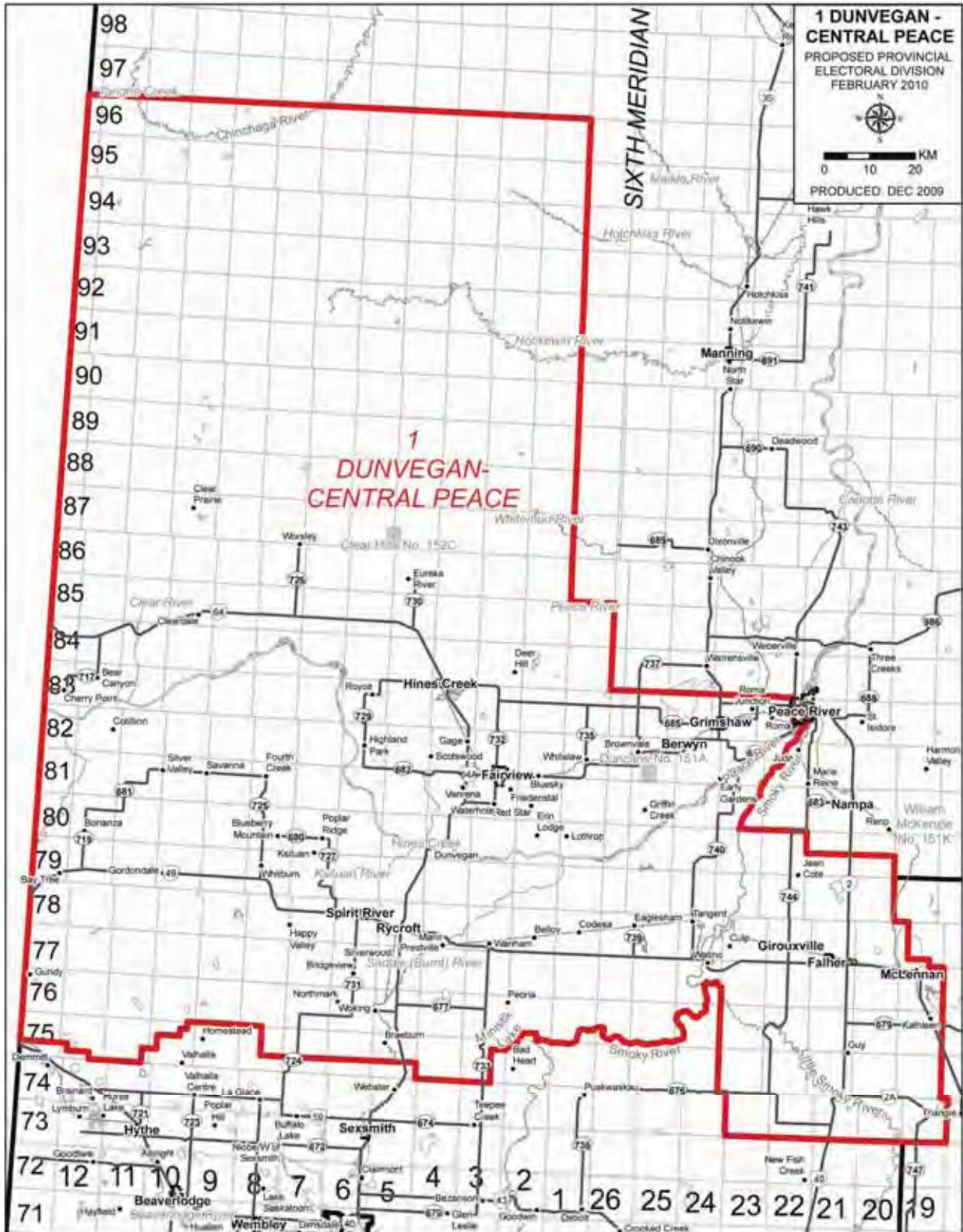
**EXPLANATORY NOTE -
HAMLET/LOCALITY**

** If a Hamlet/Locality symbol lies on a boundary, when the name is placed **OUTSIDE** the ED it is located outside that ED. Conversely, if the name is placed **INSIDE** the ED it is located within that ED.*

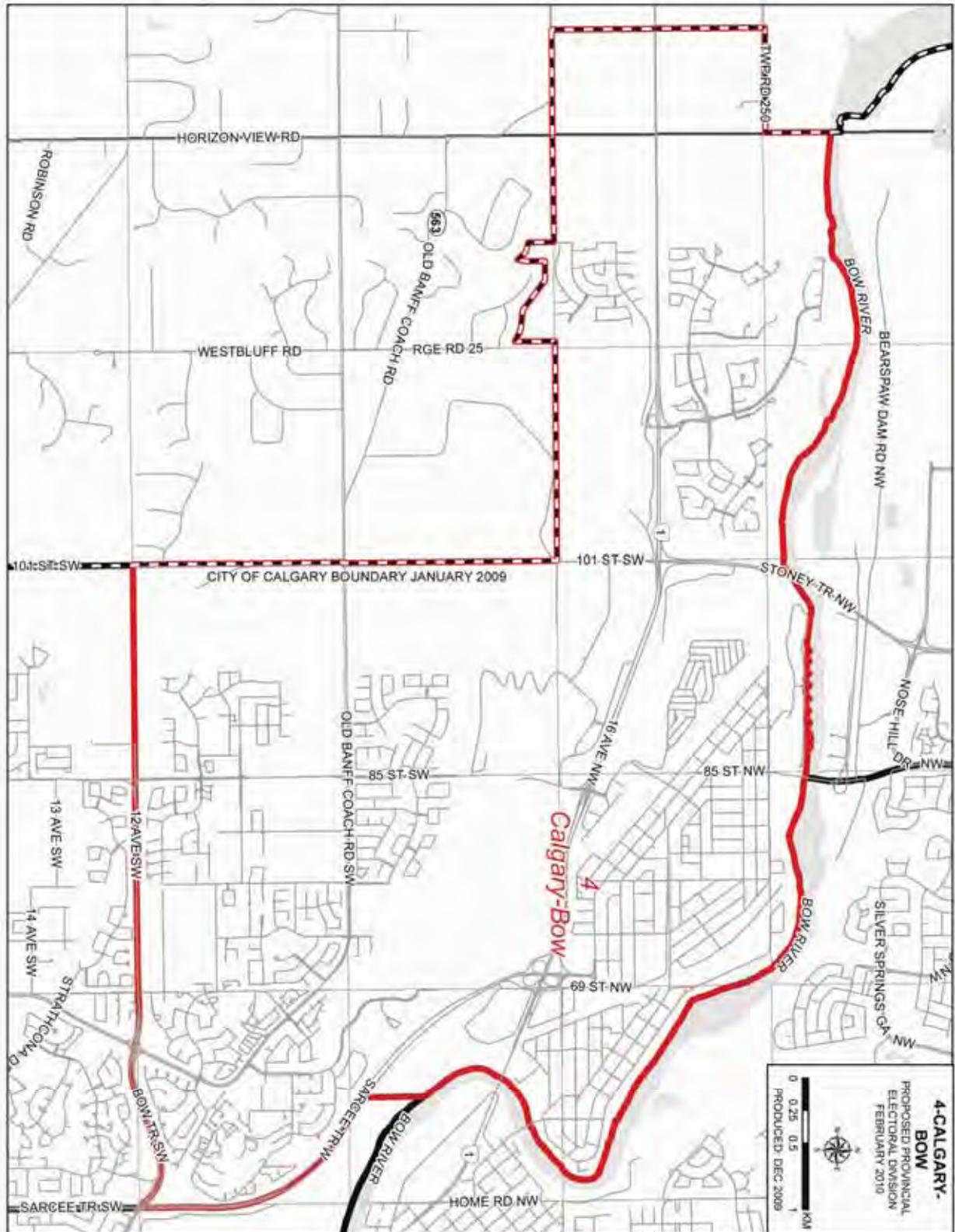
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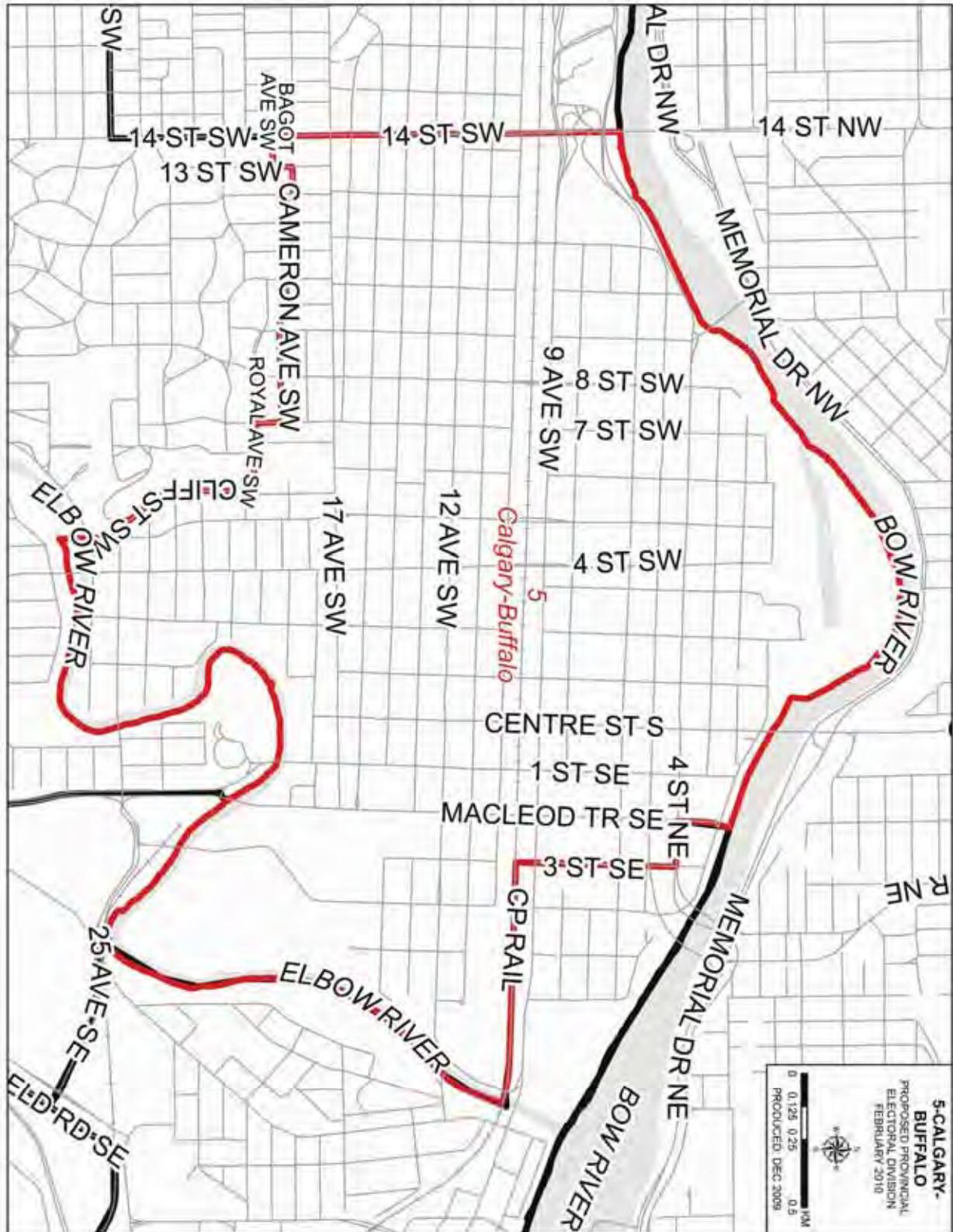
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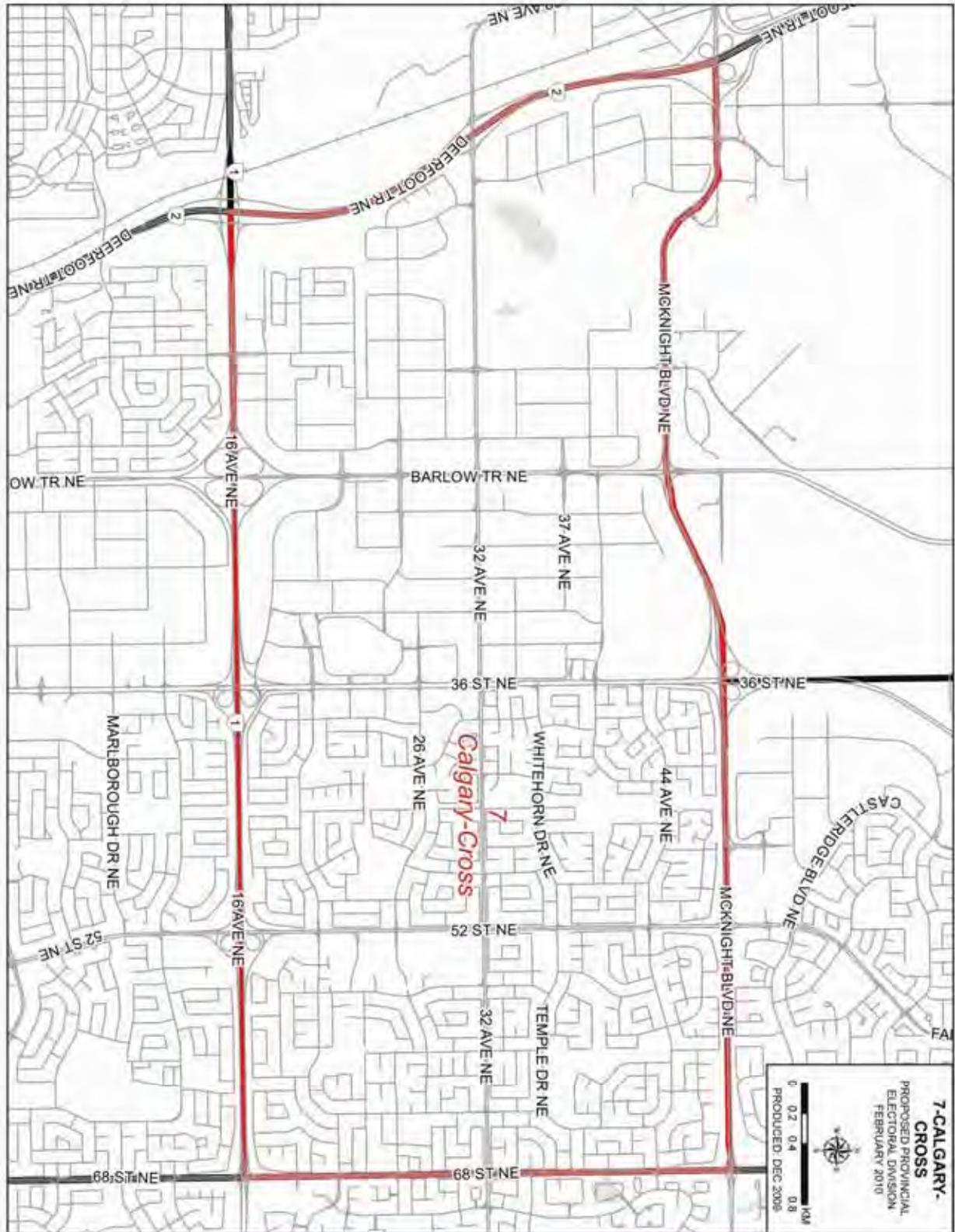


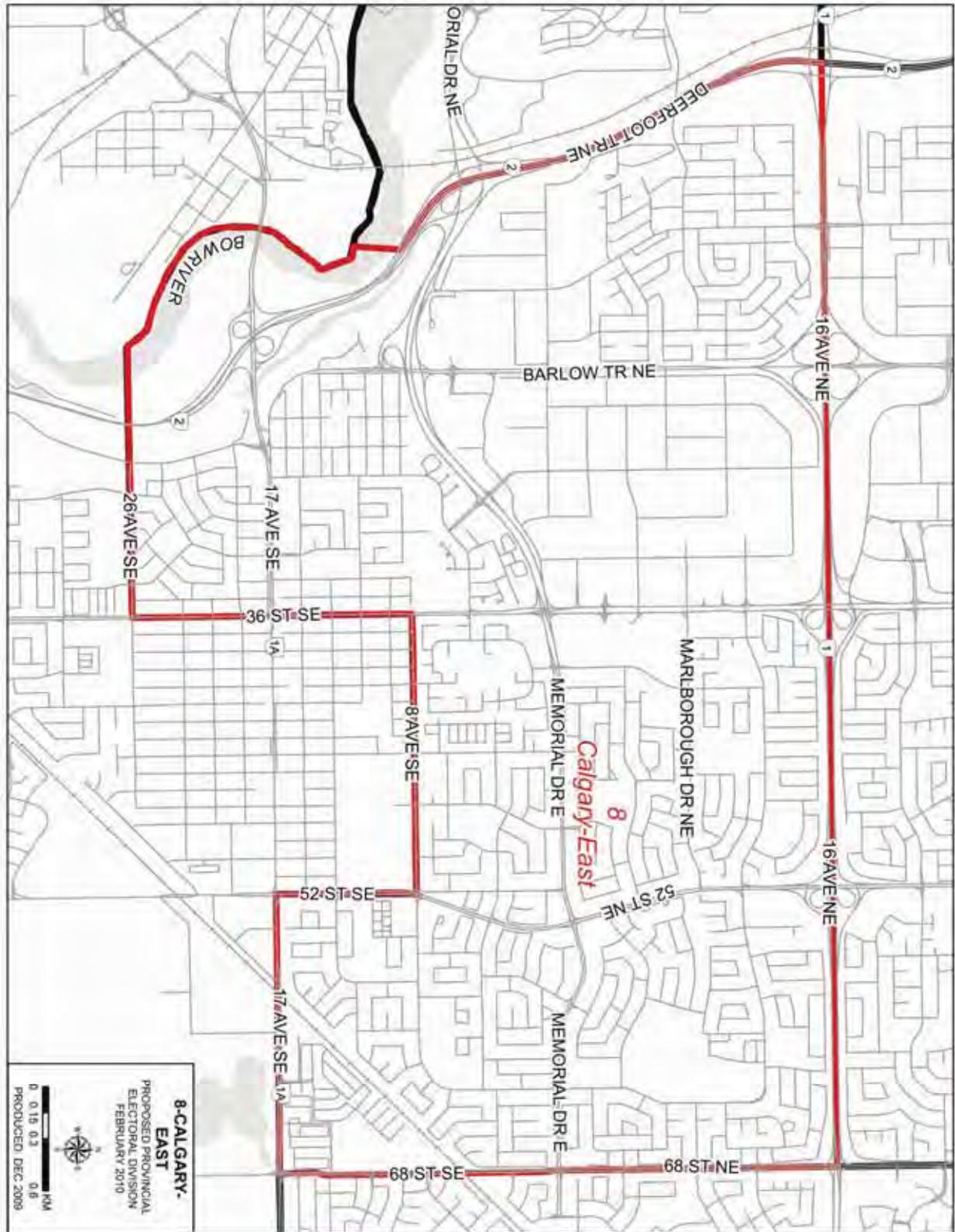
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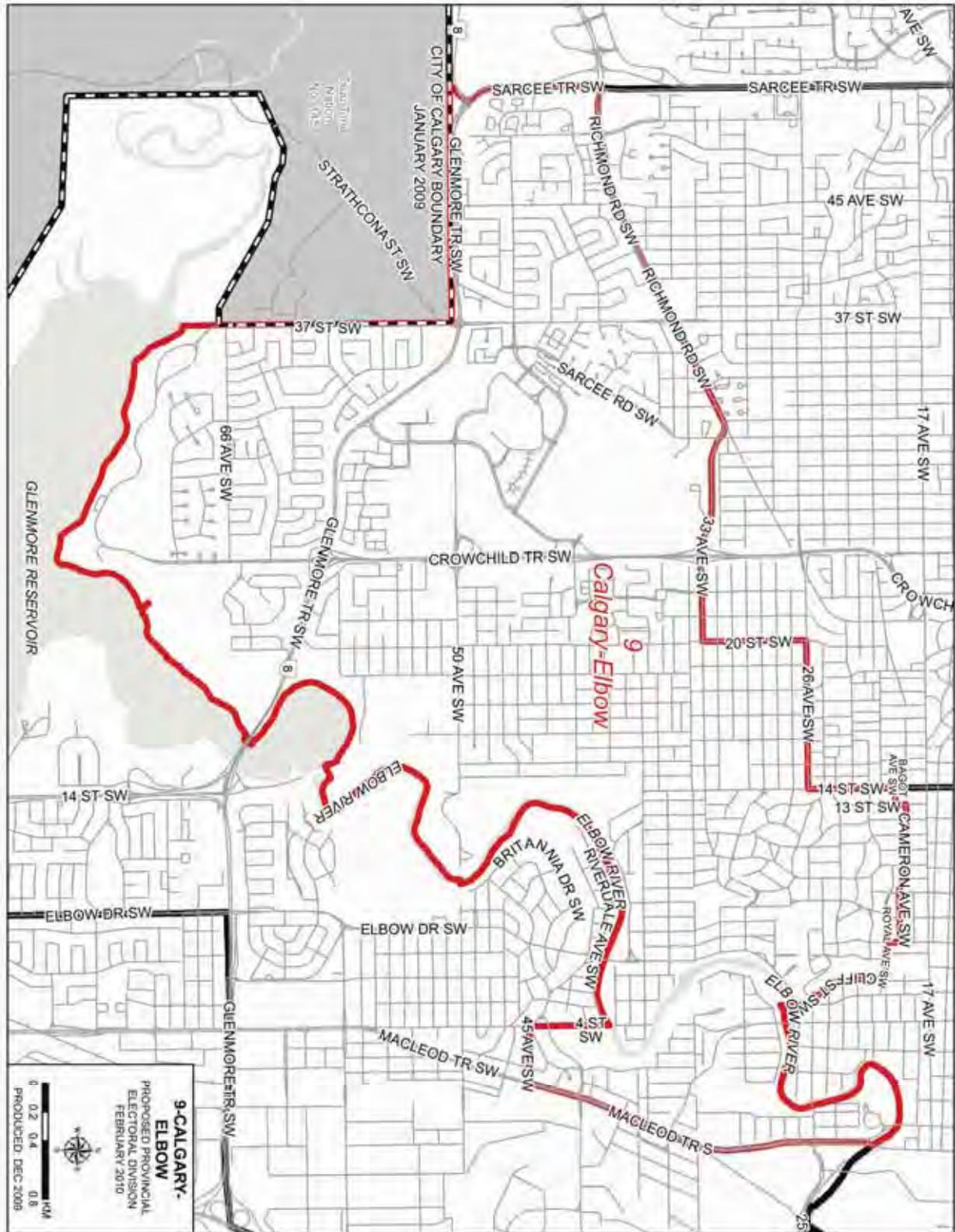
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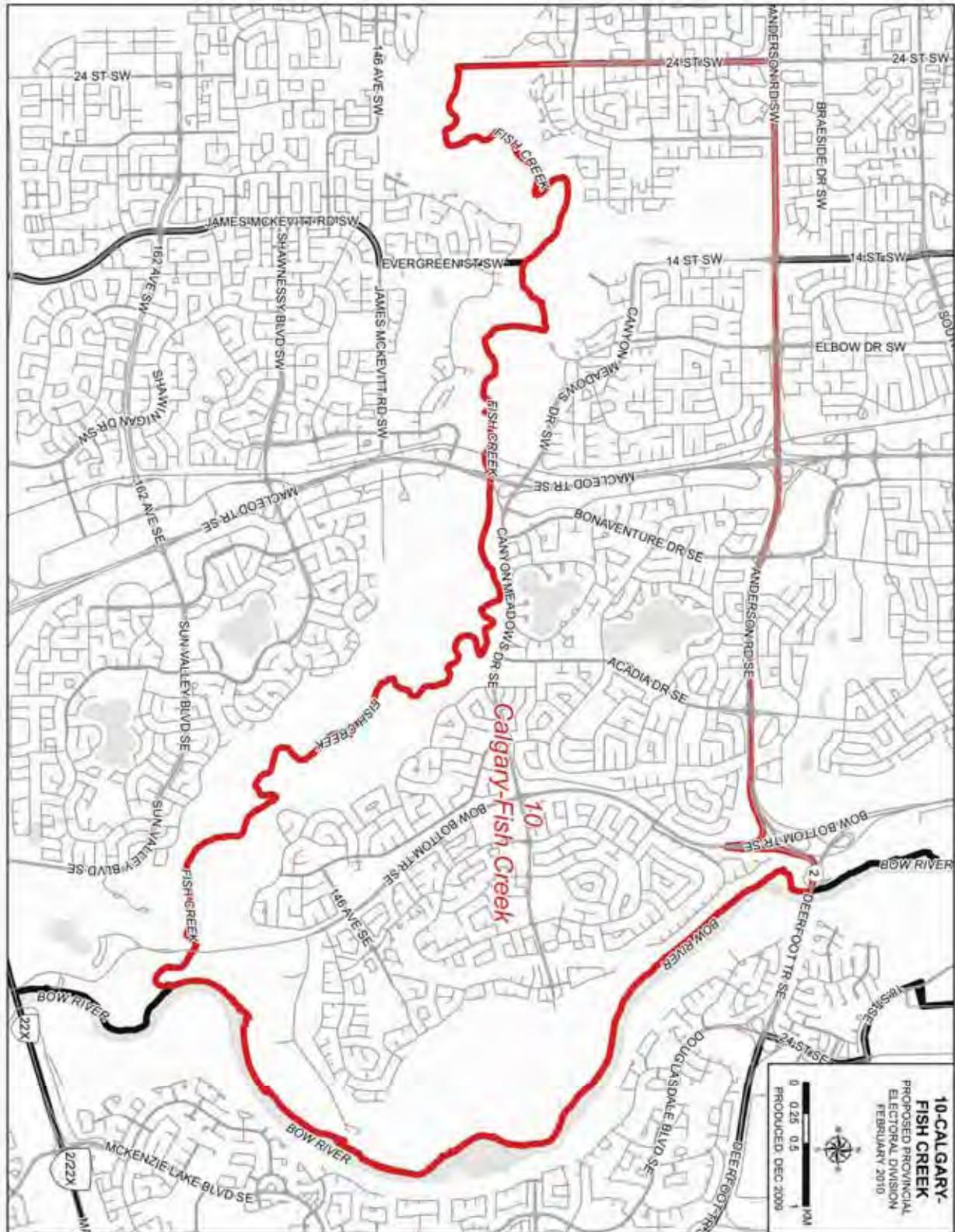




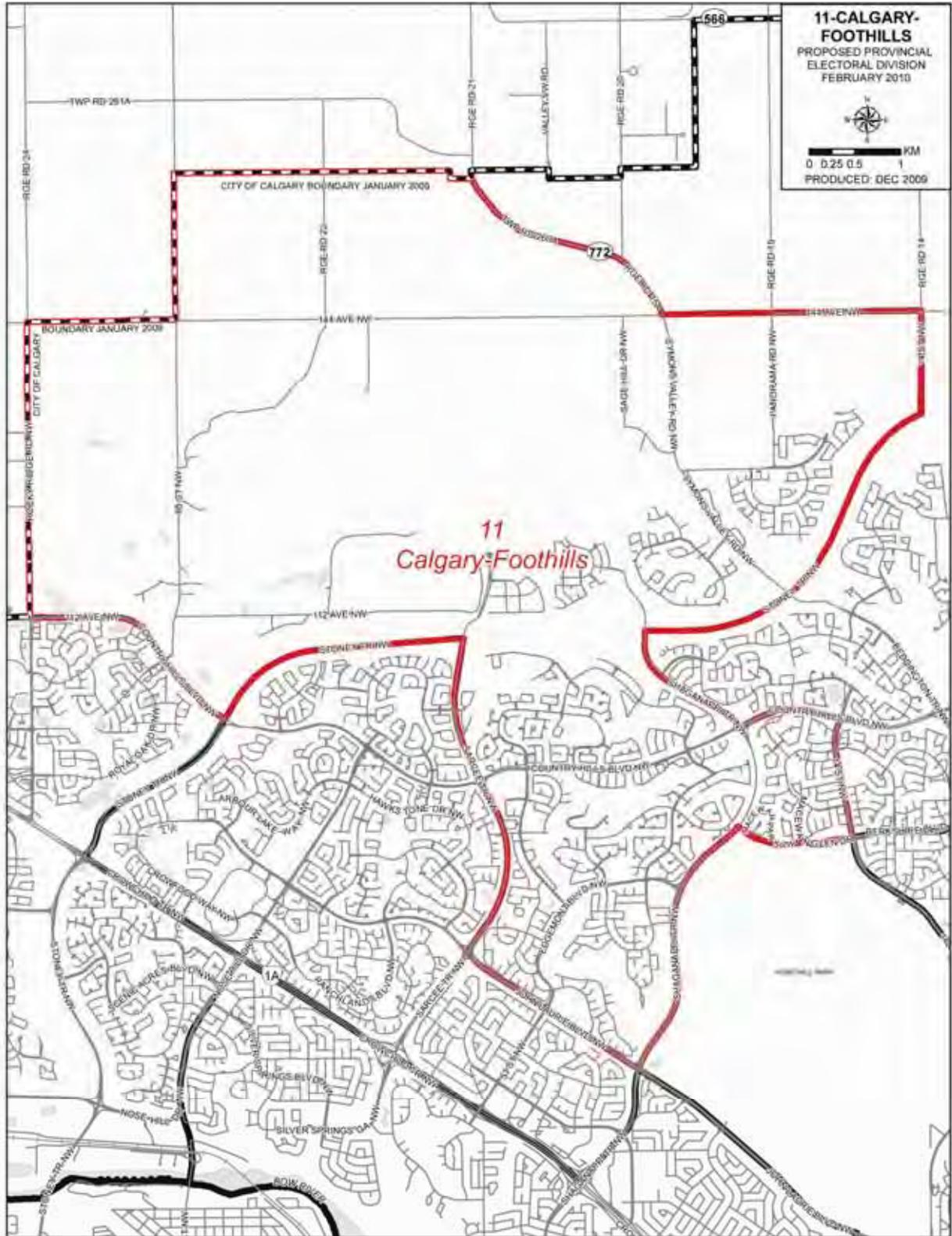
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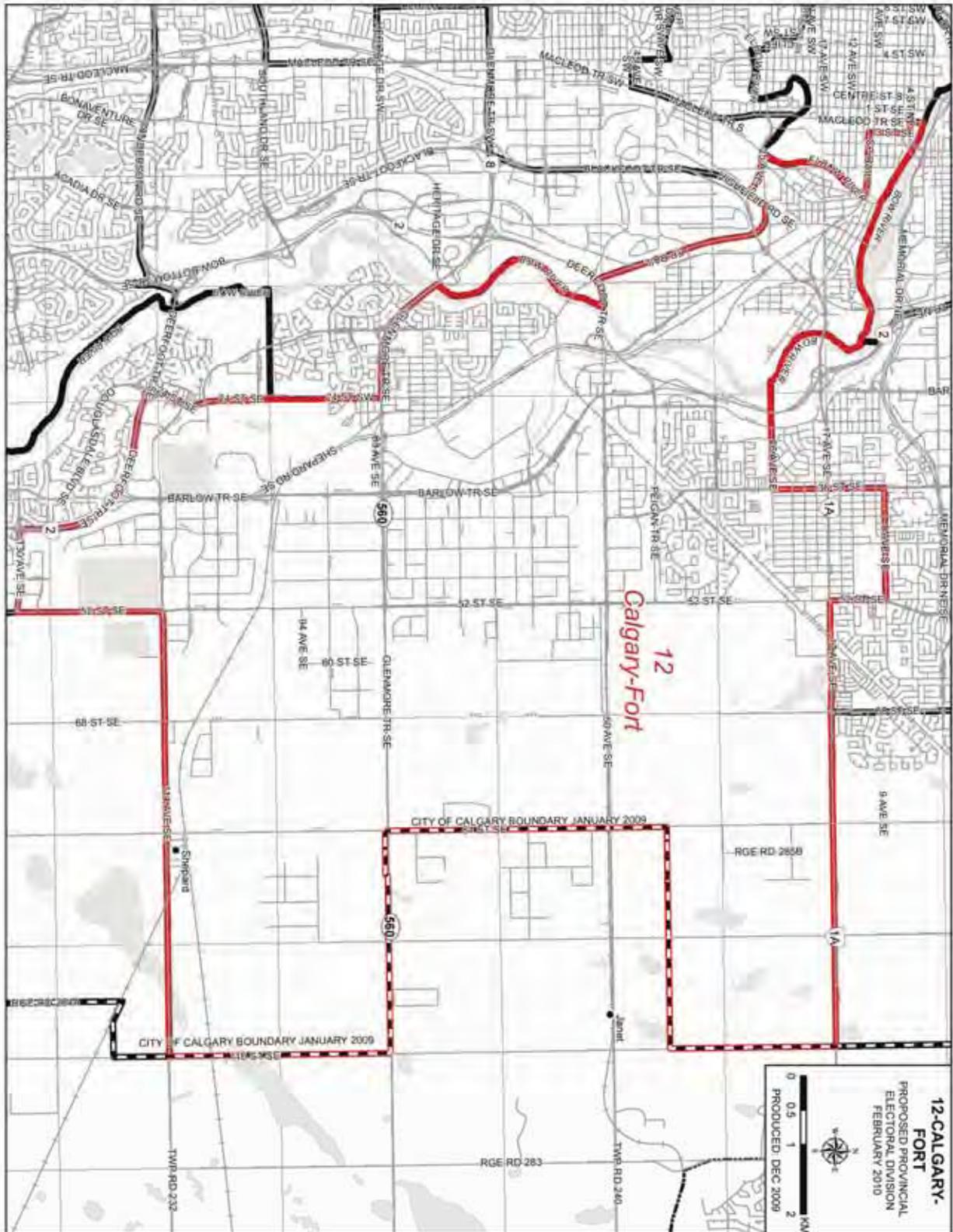


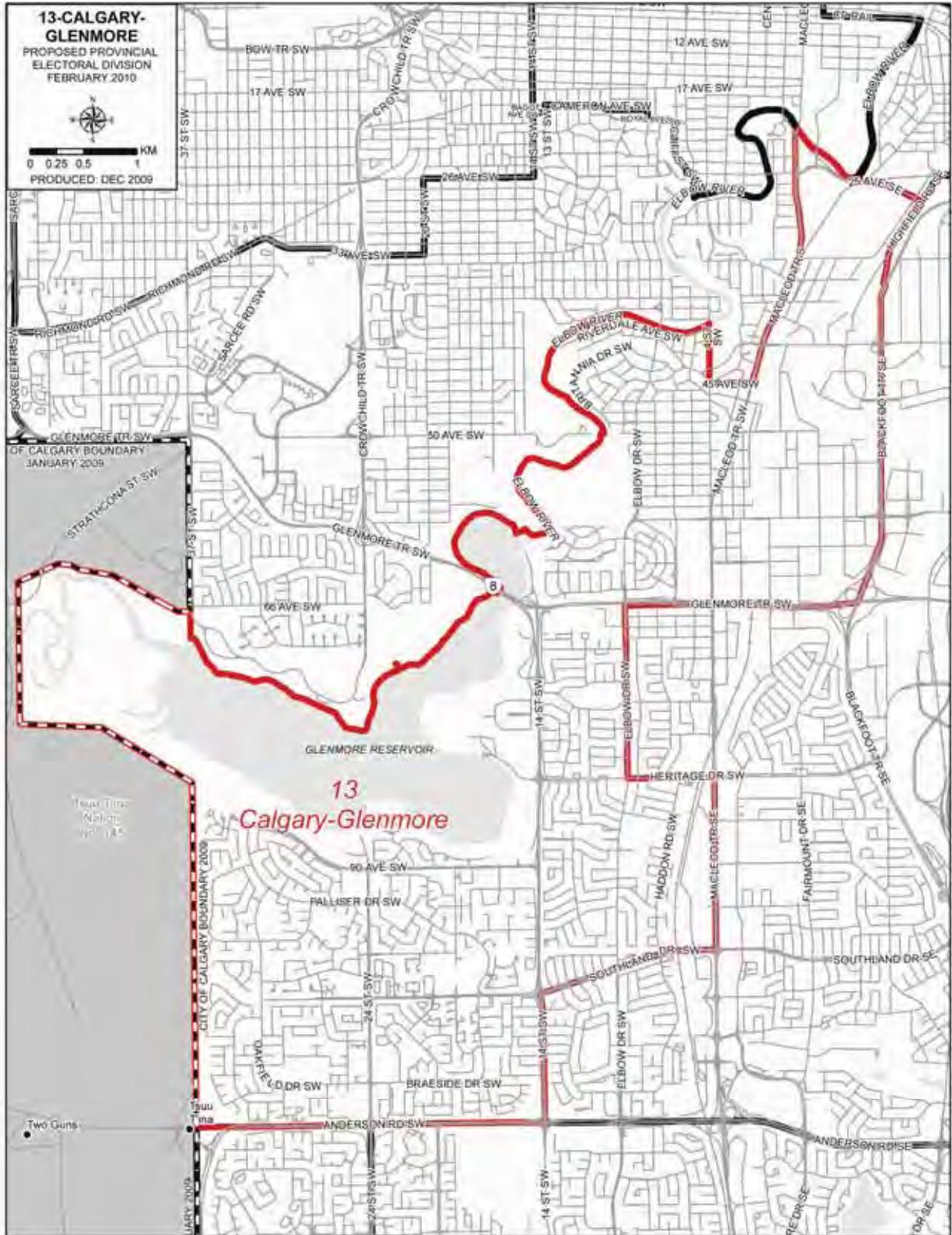
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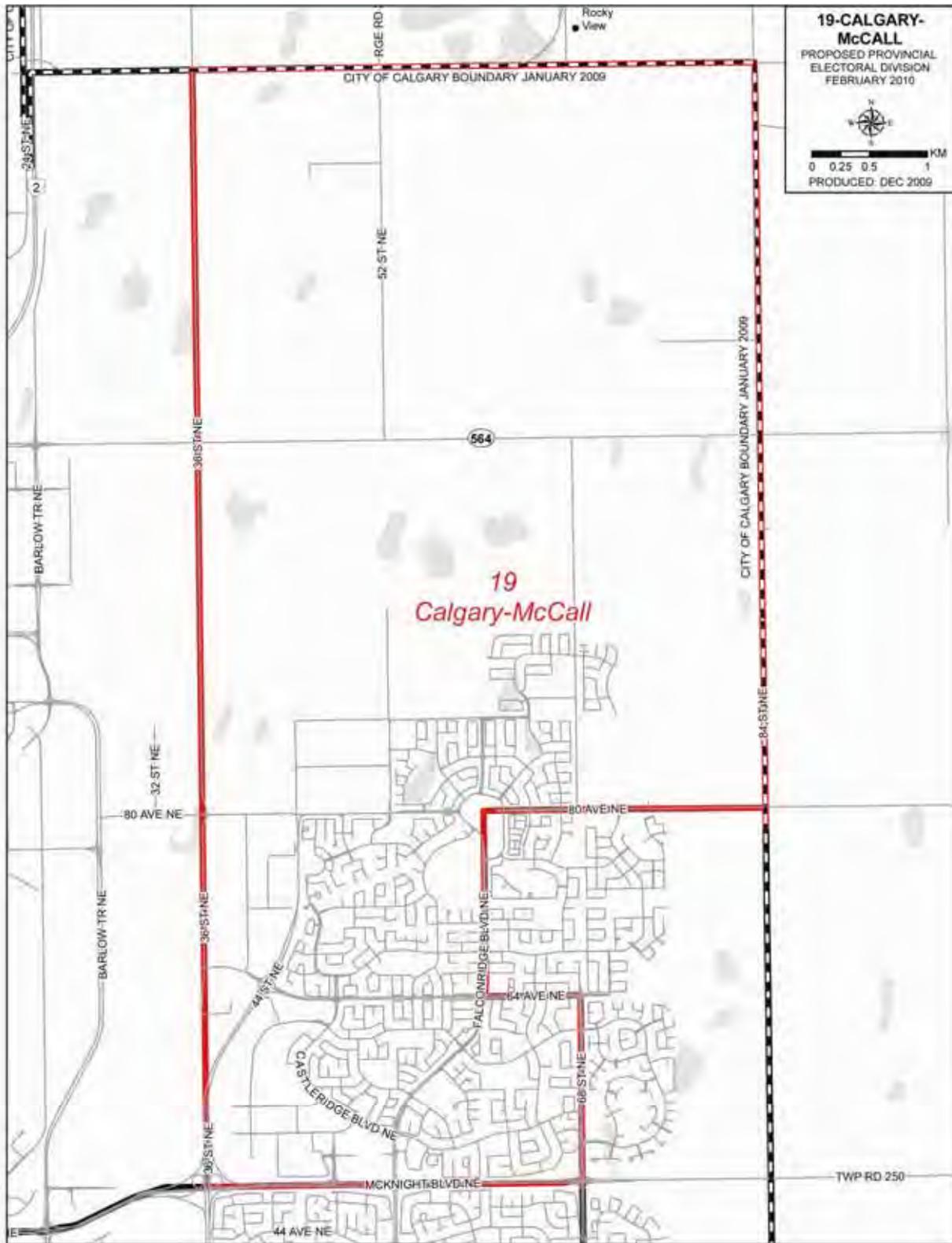


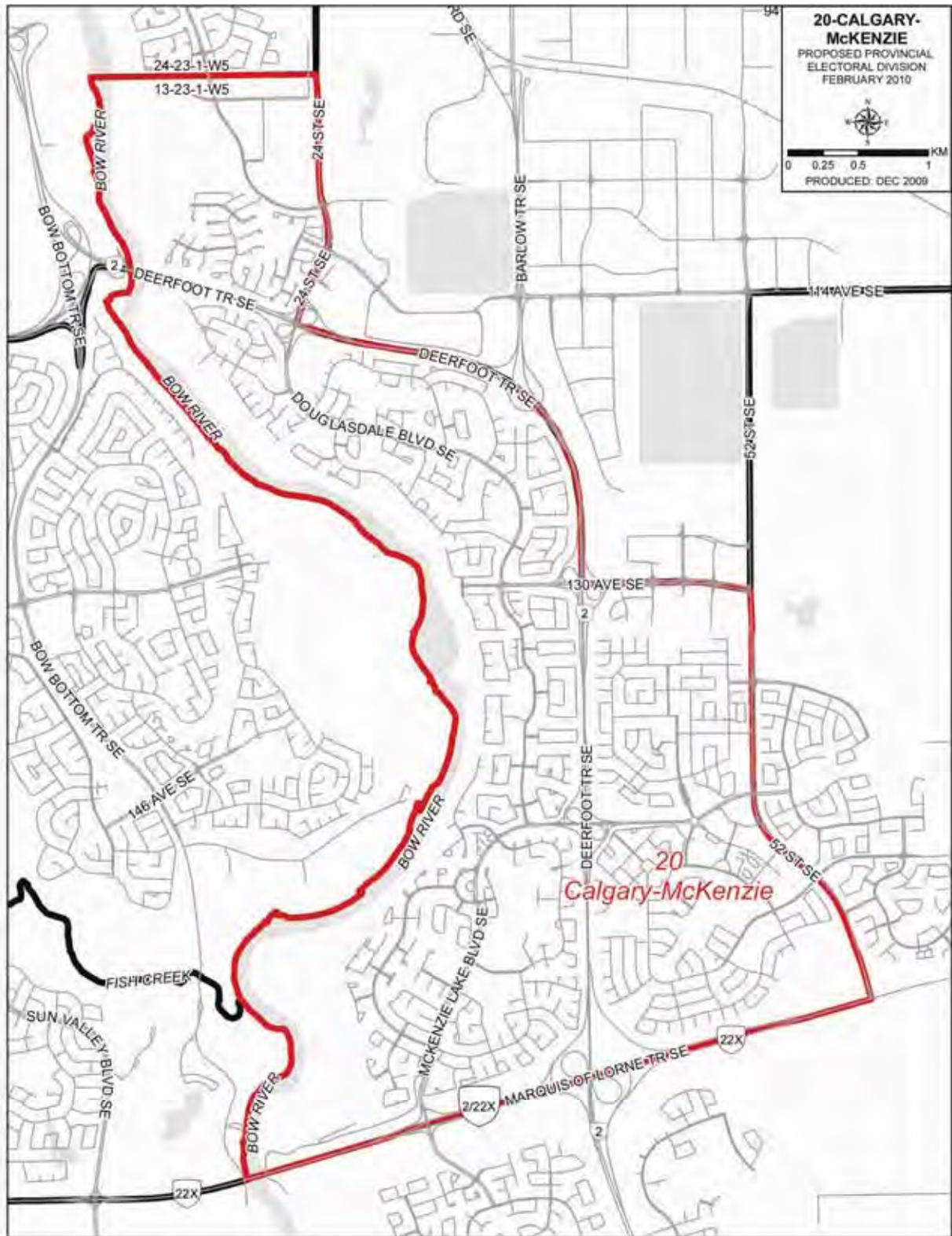
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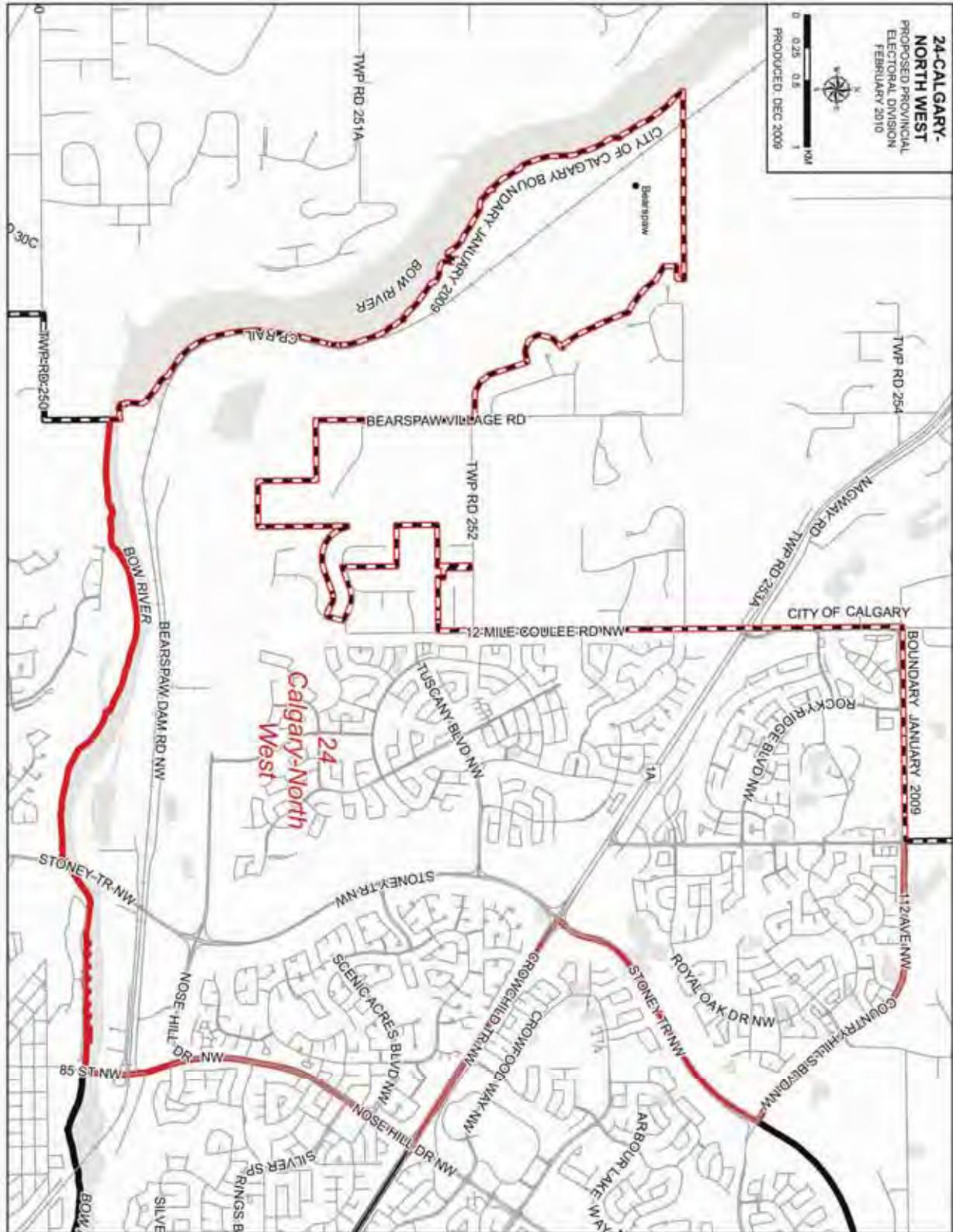
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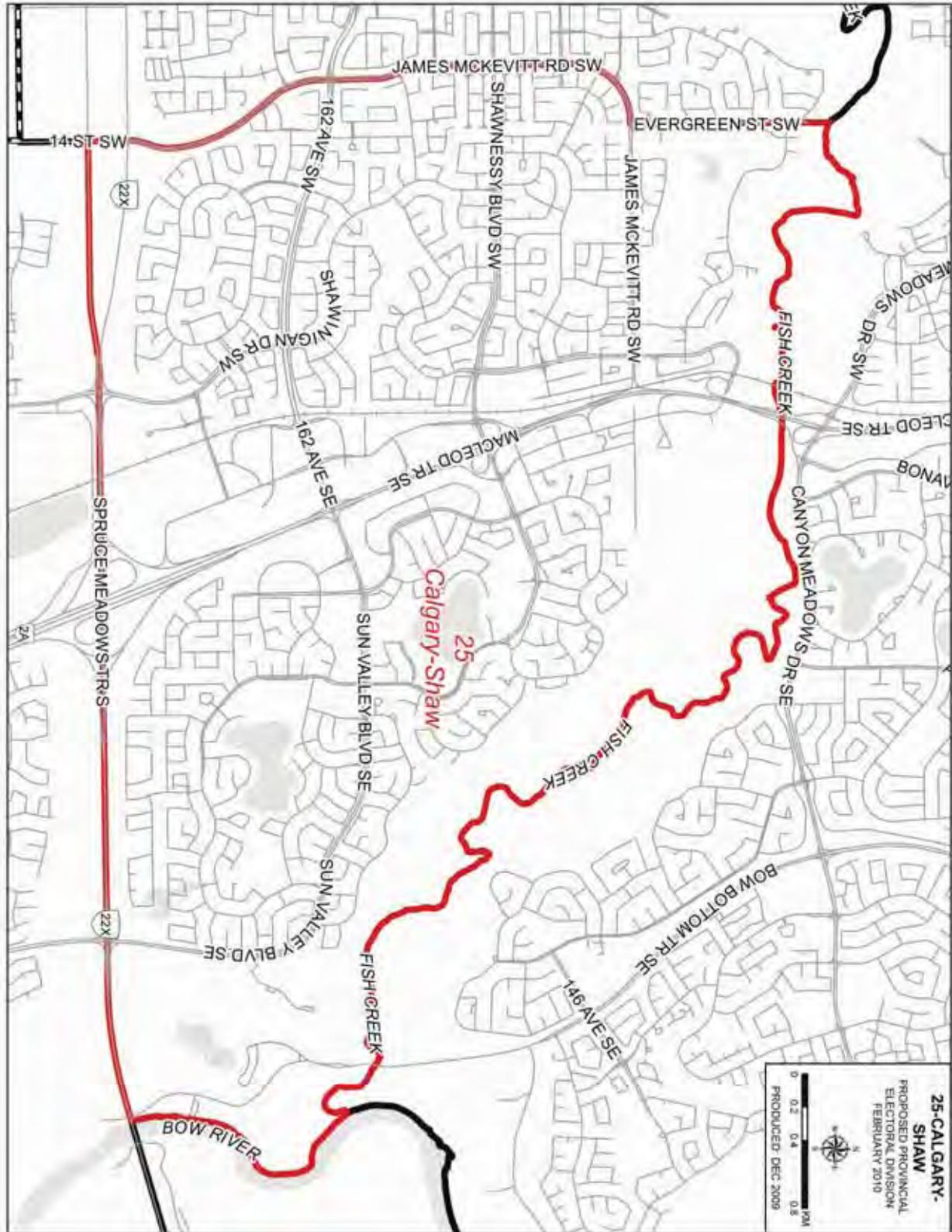


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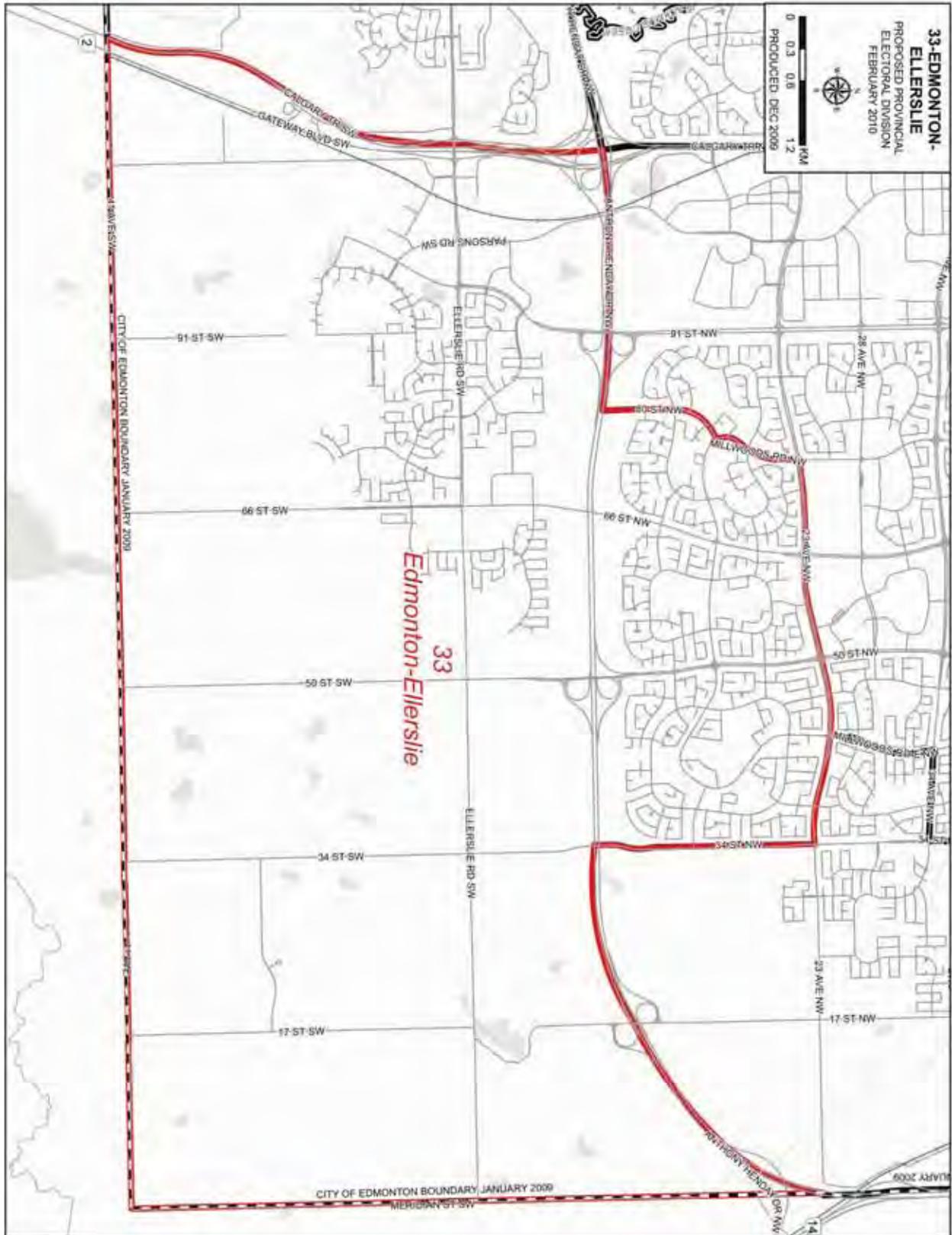




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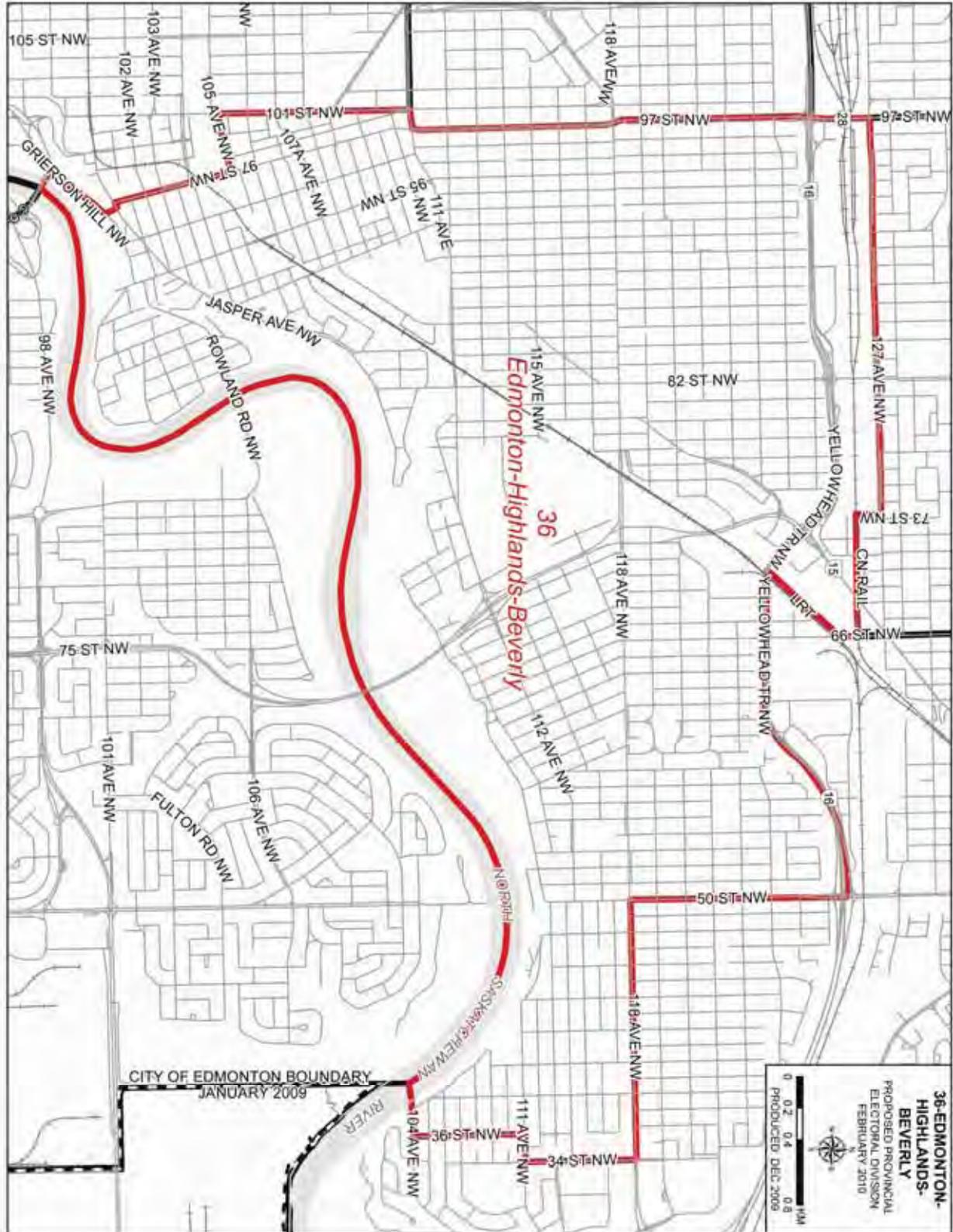


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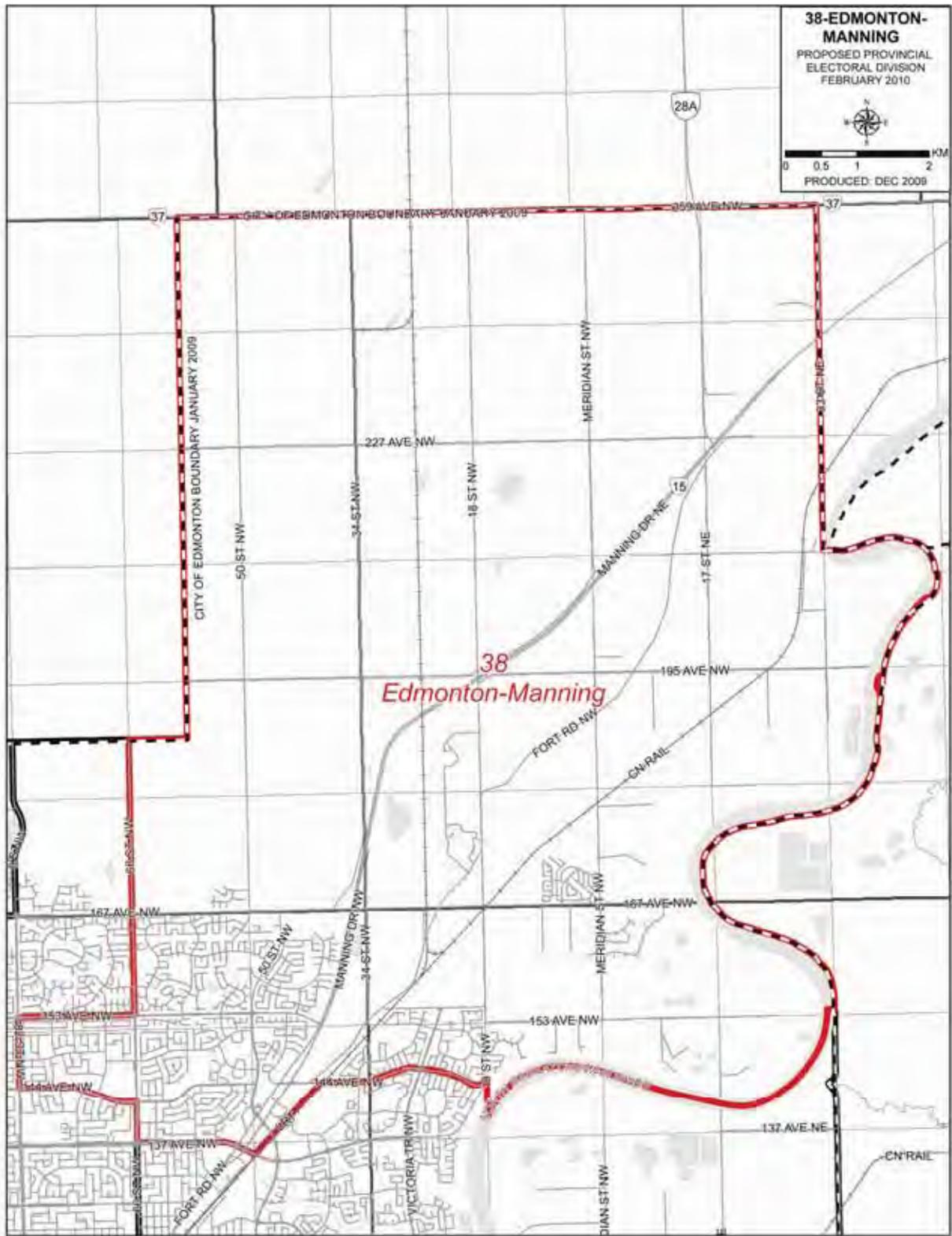
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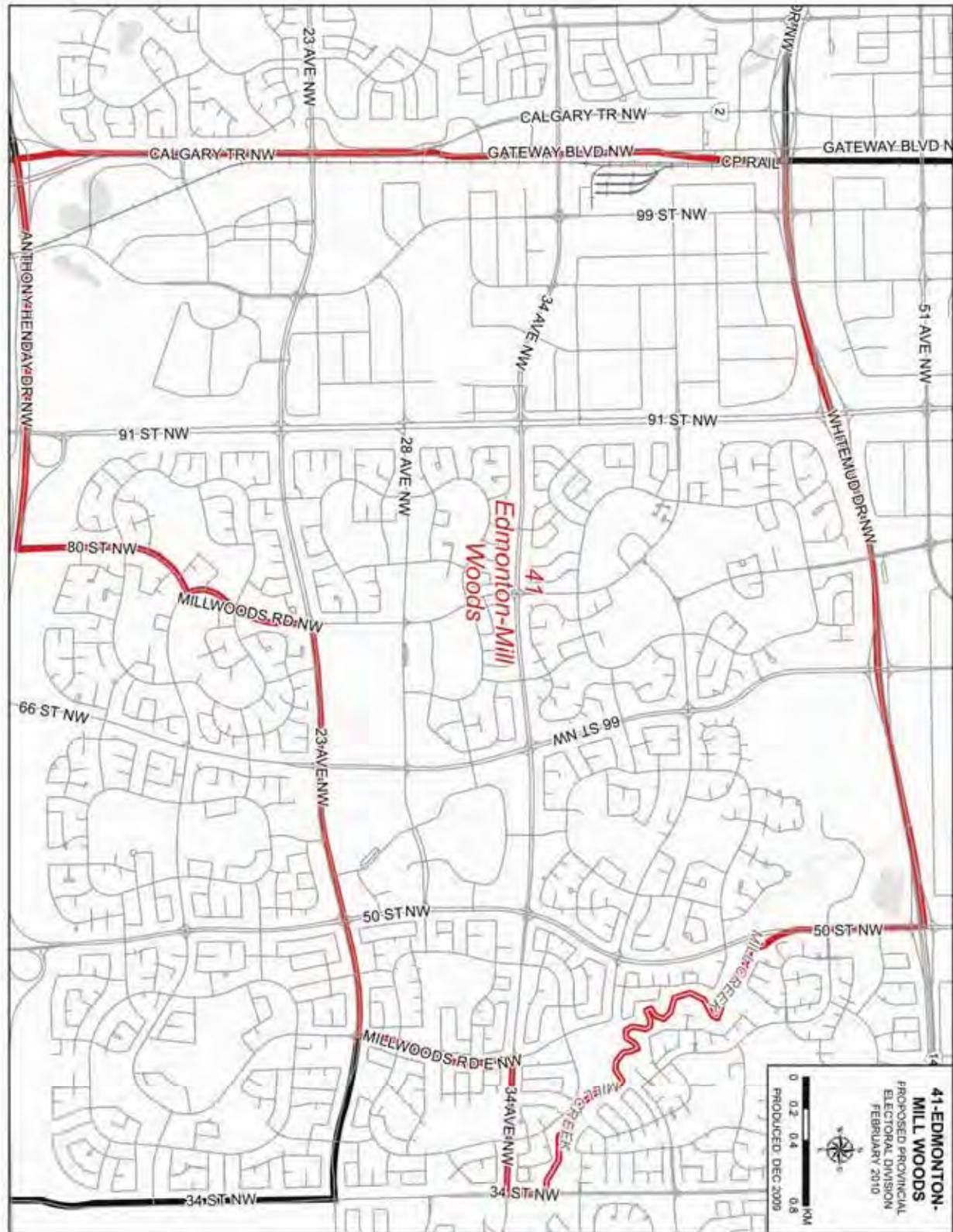




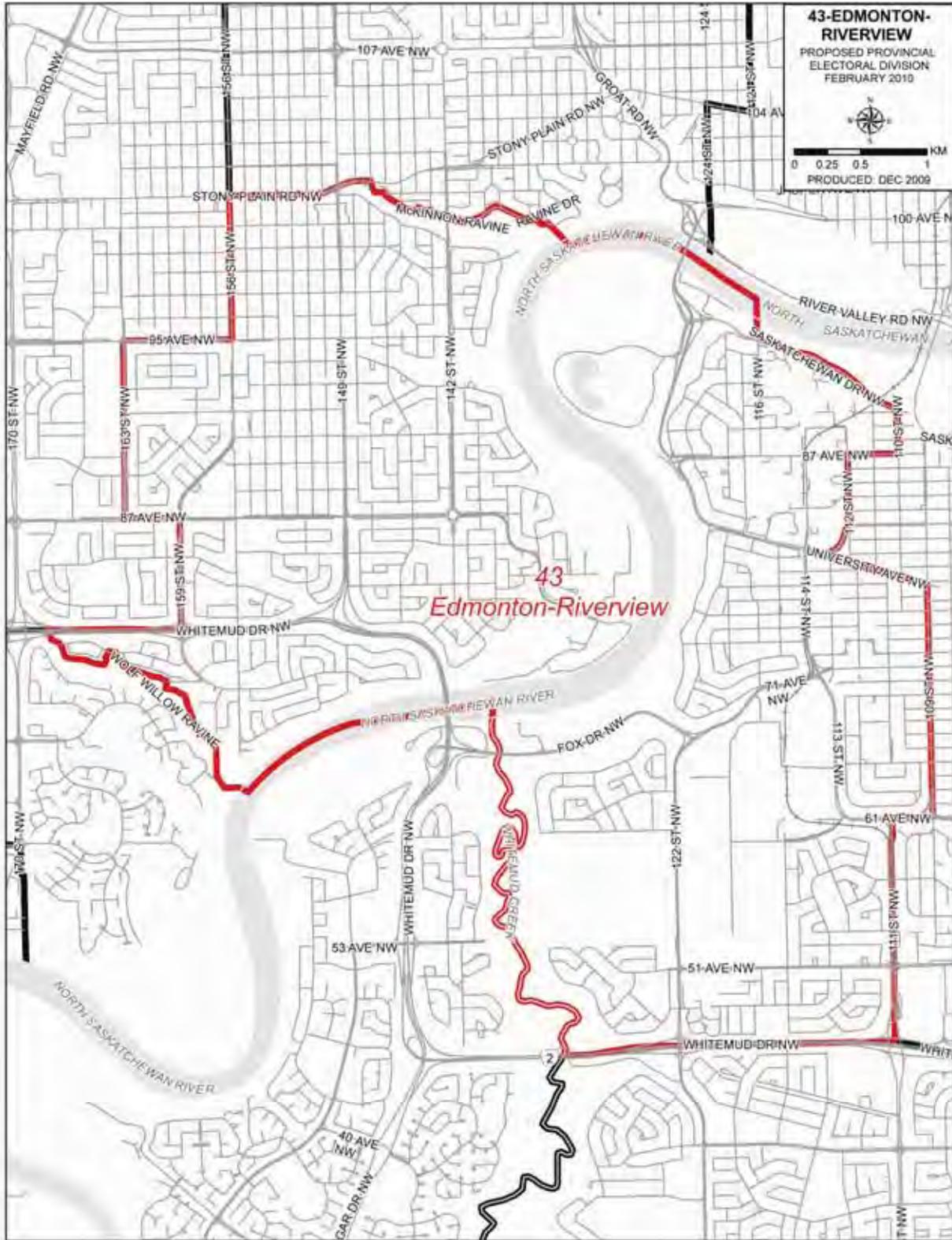
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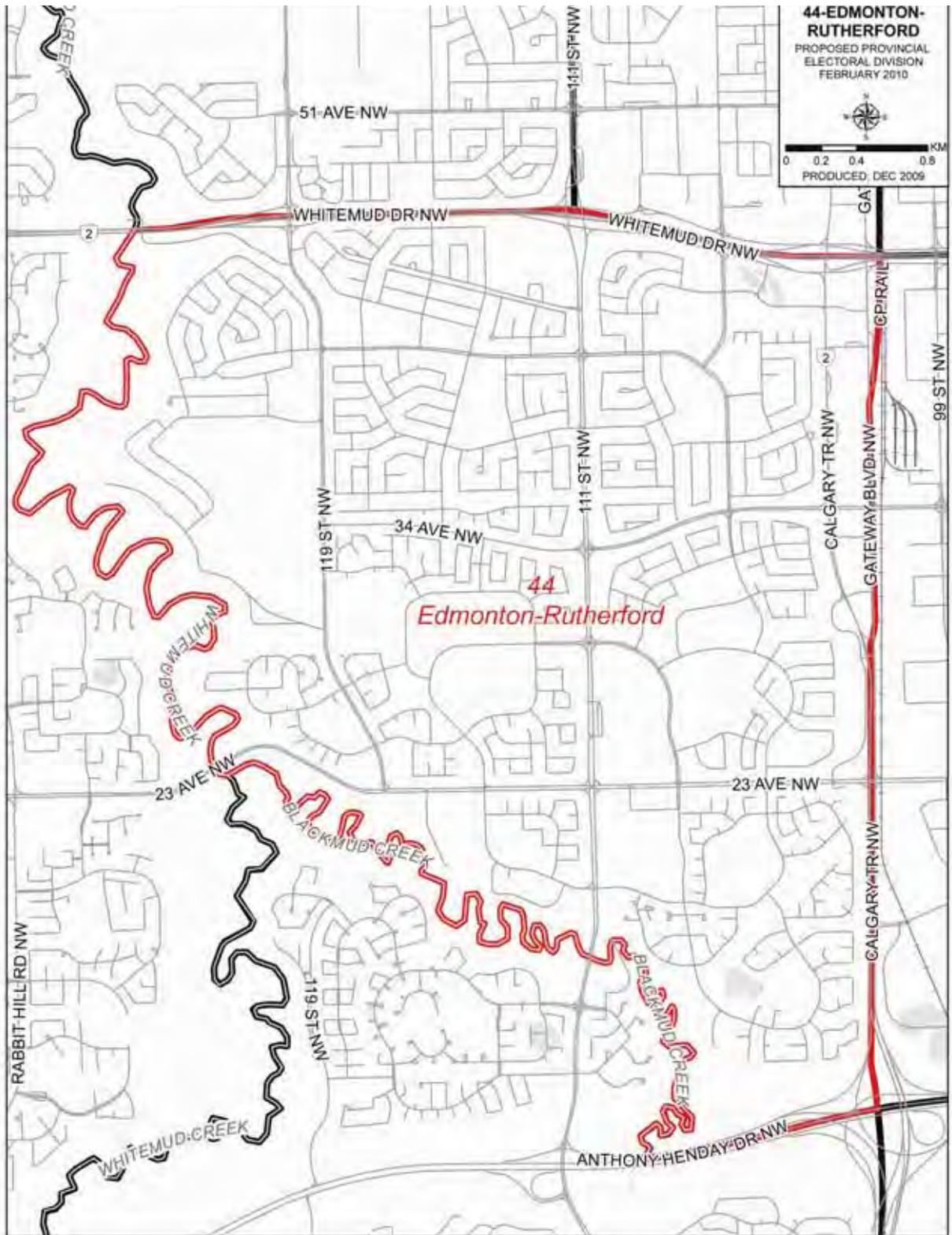
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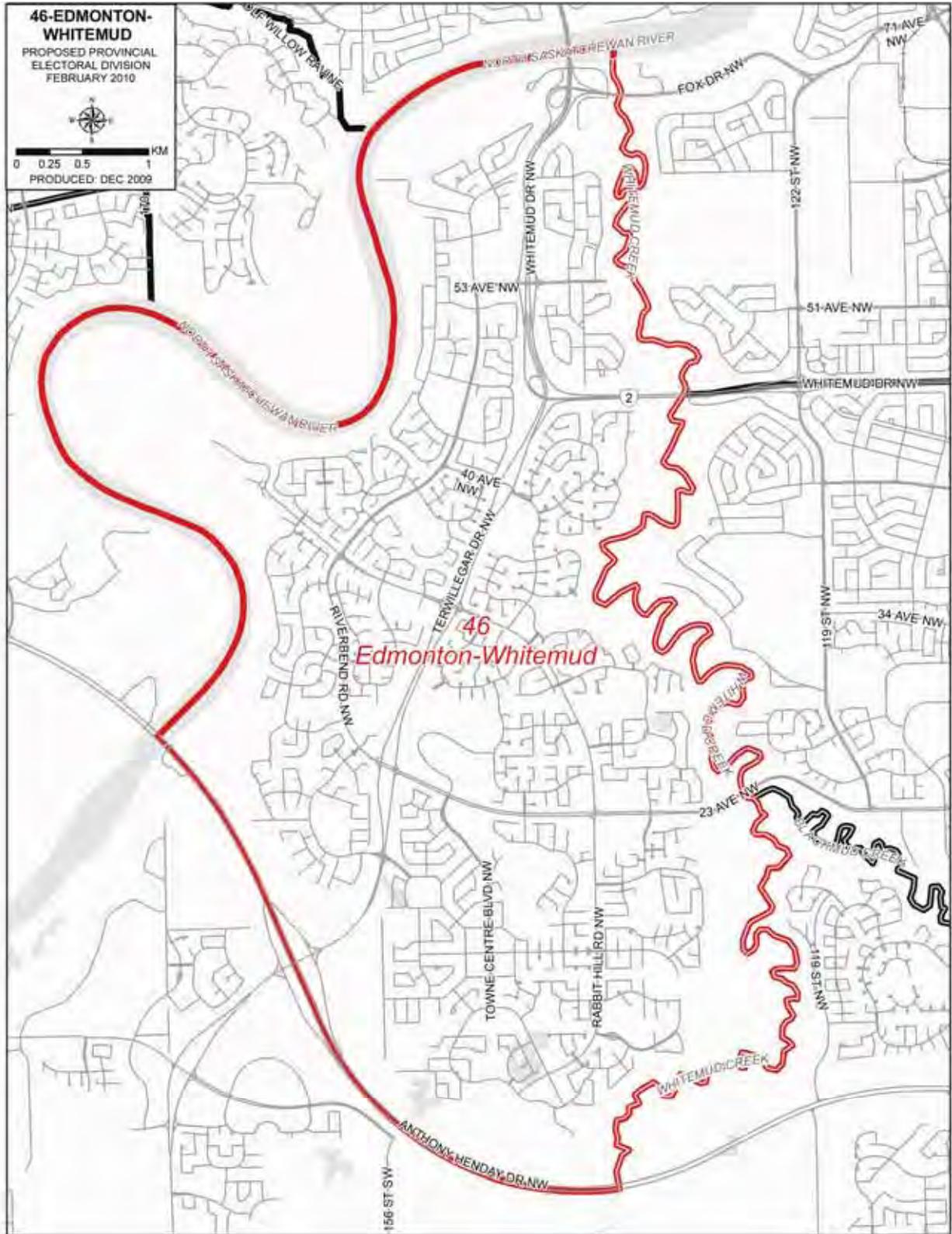
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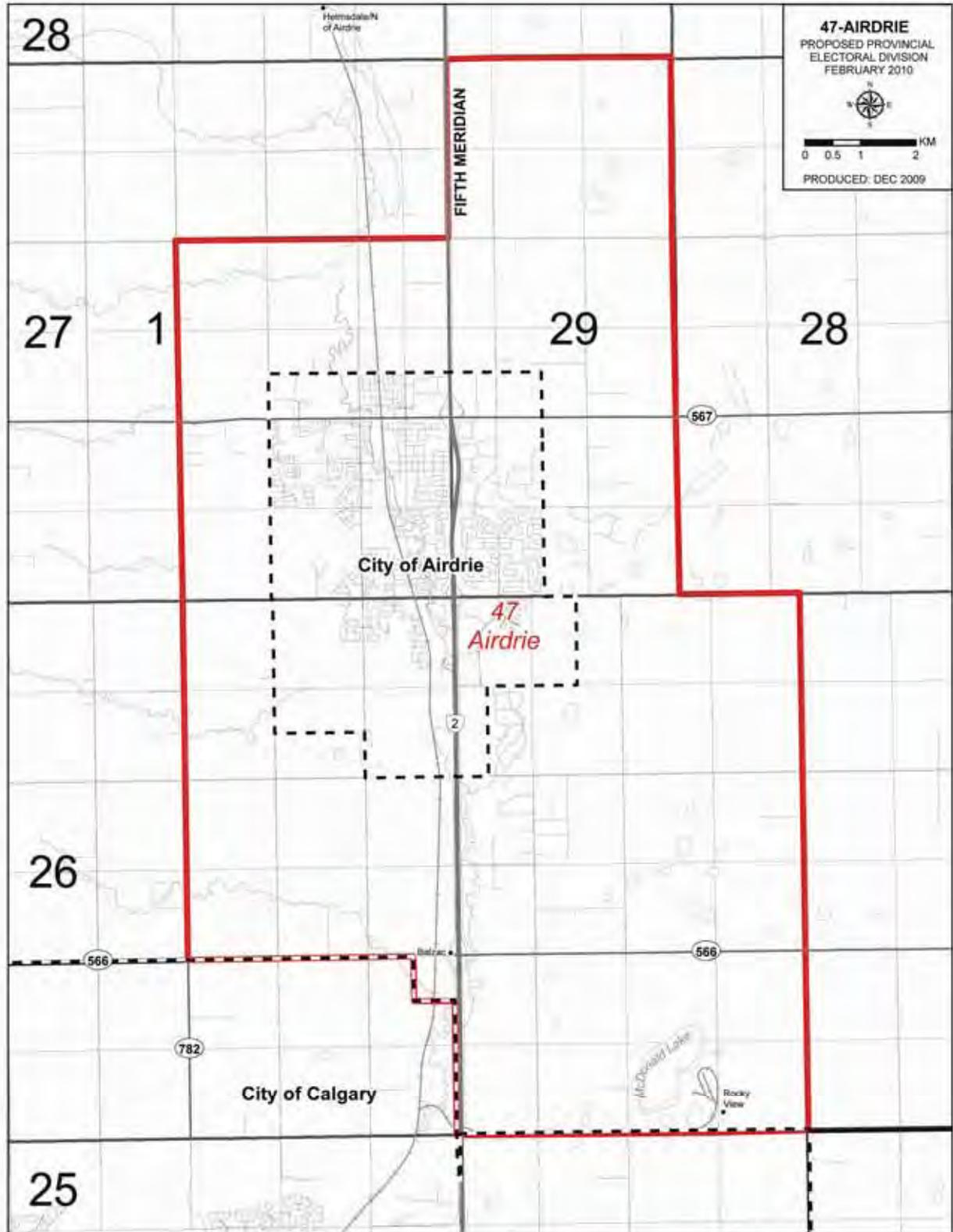
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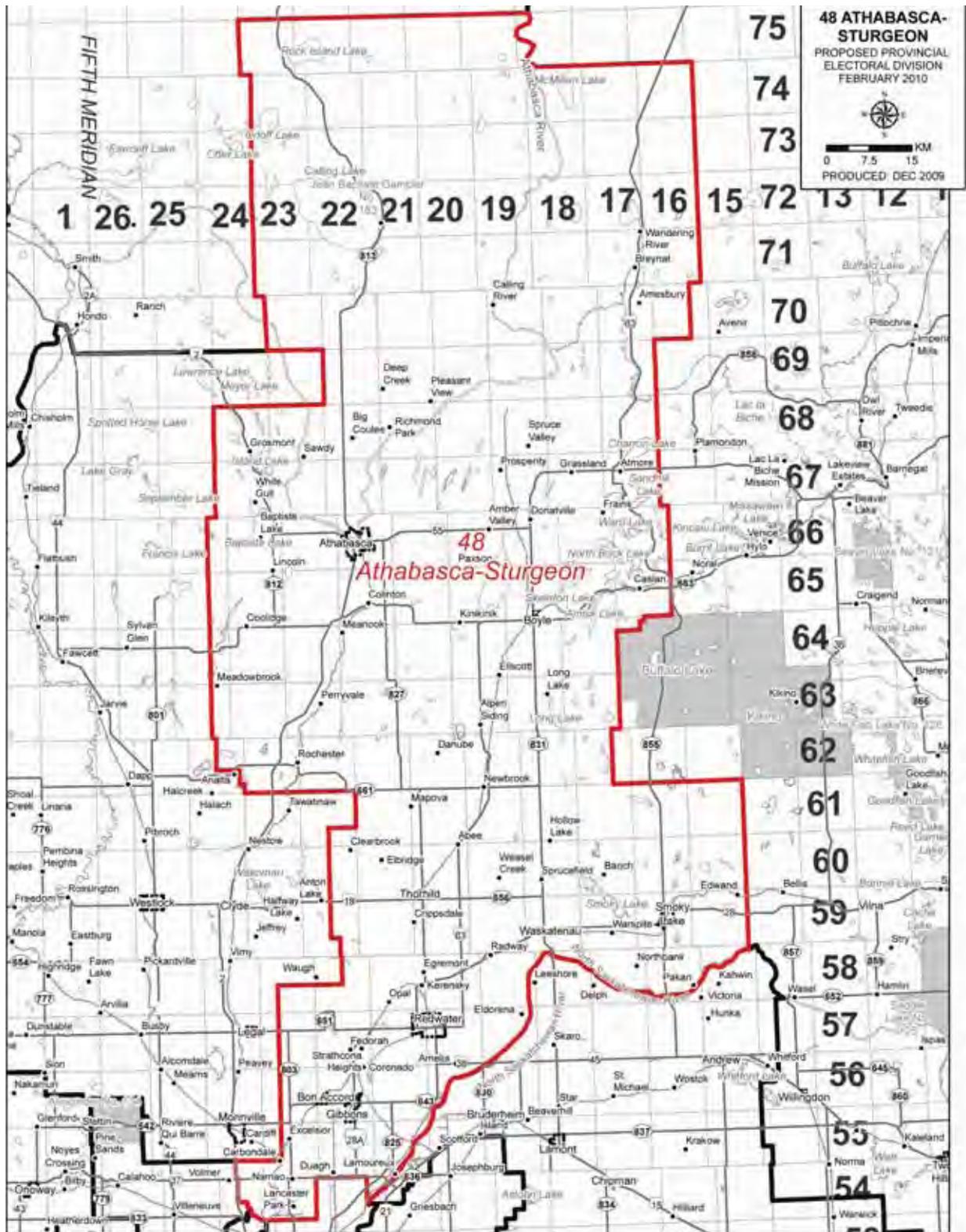
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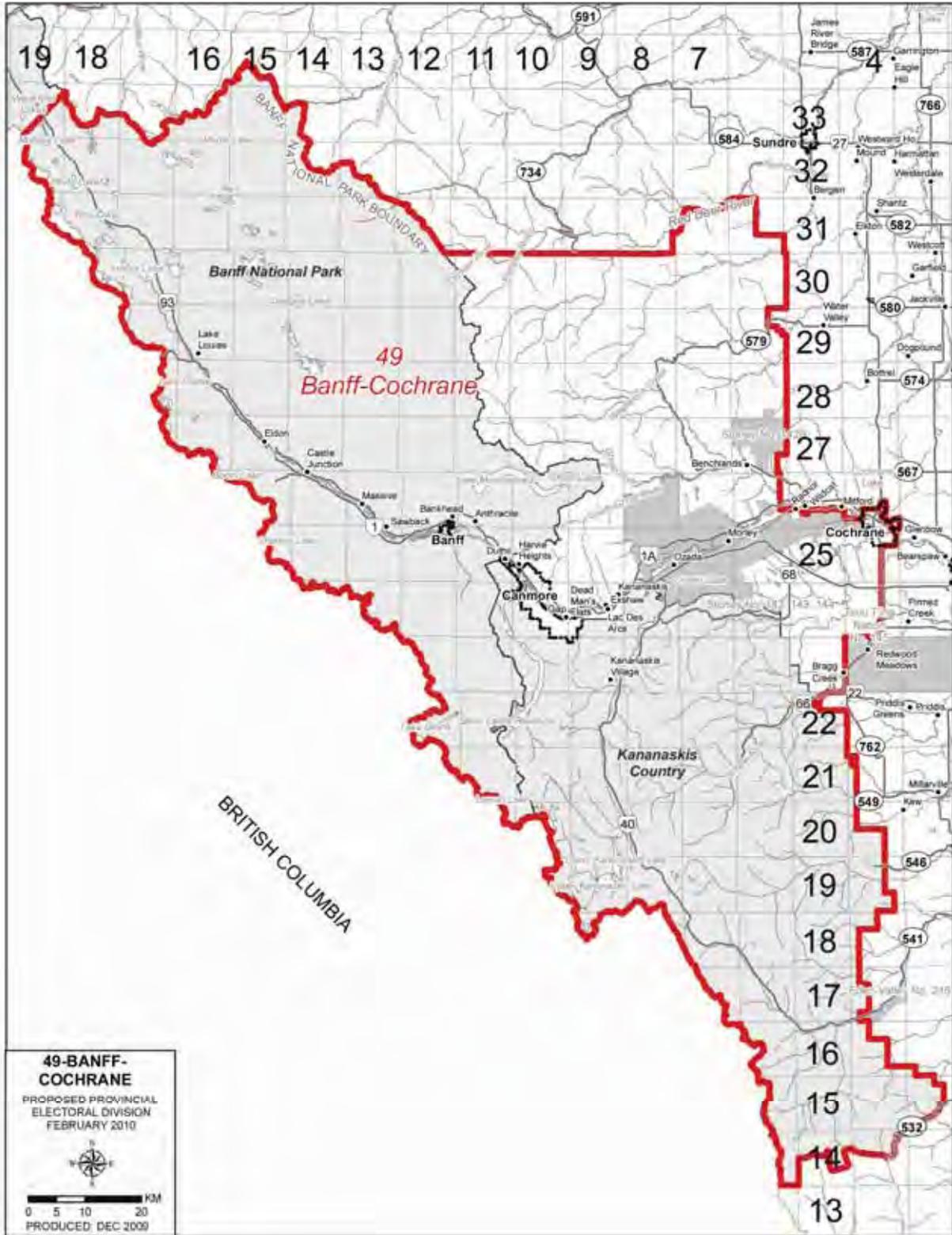
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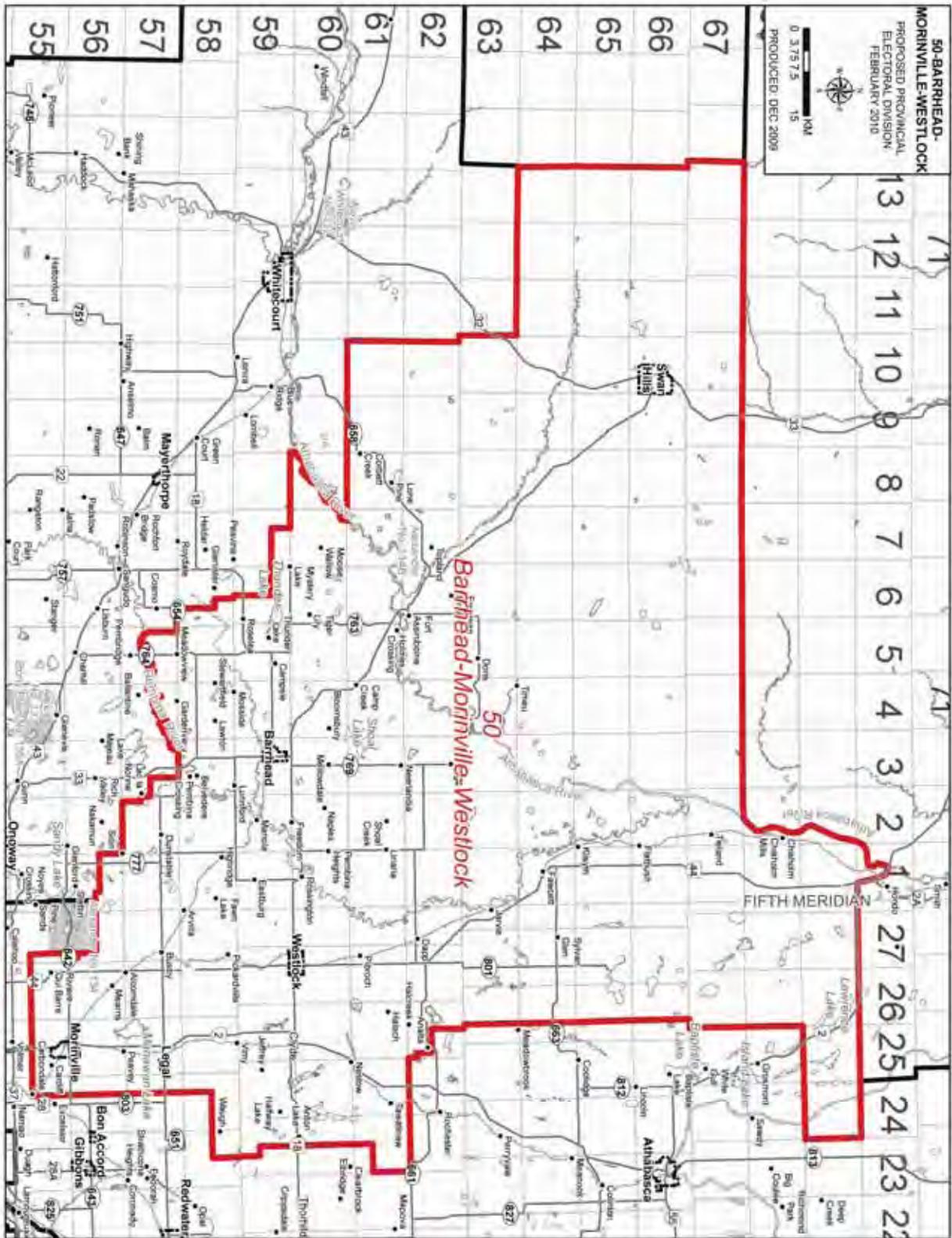
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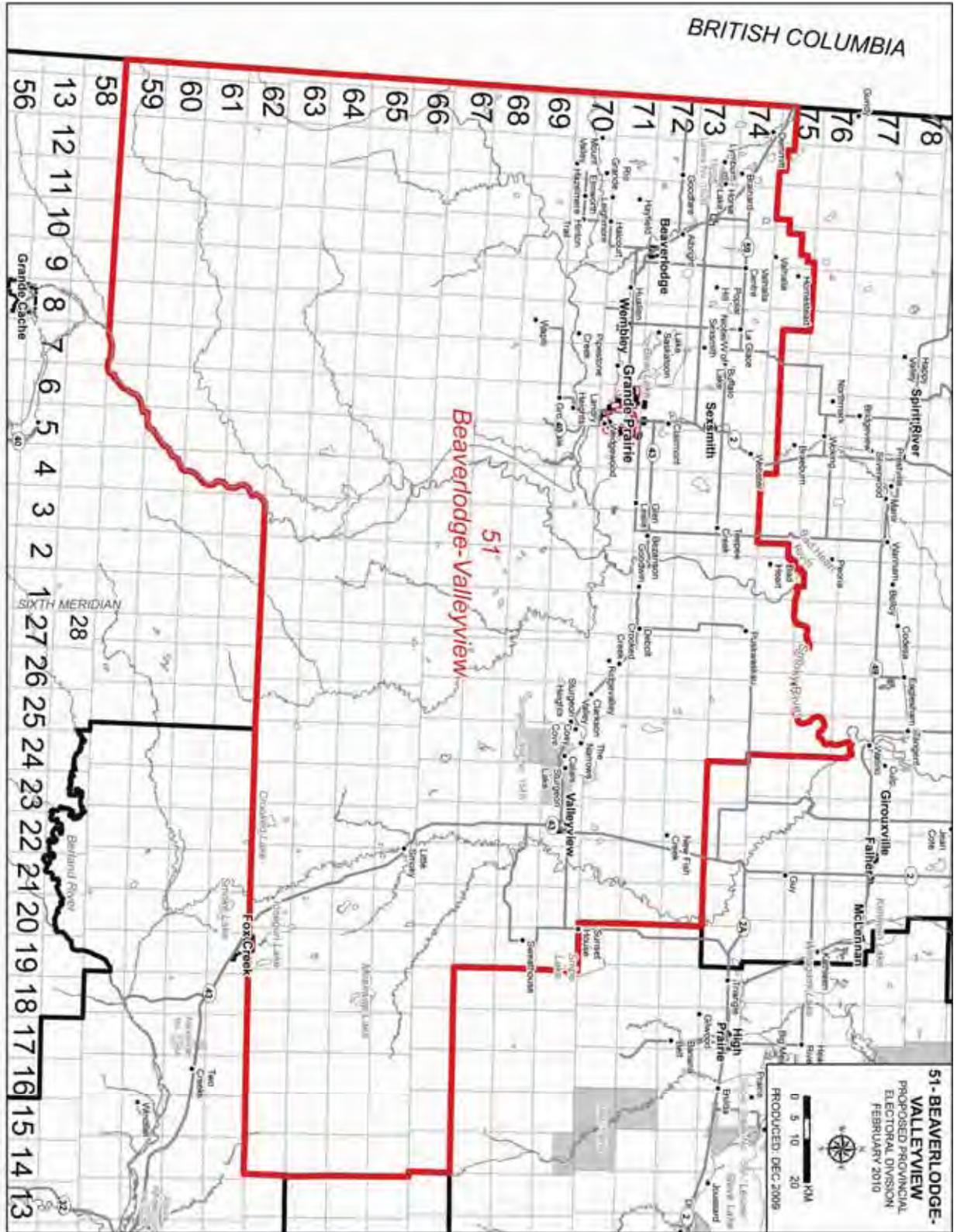


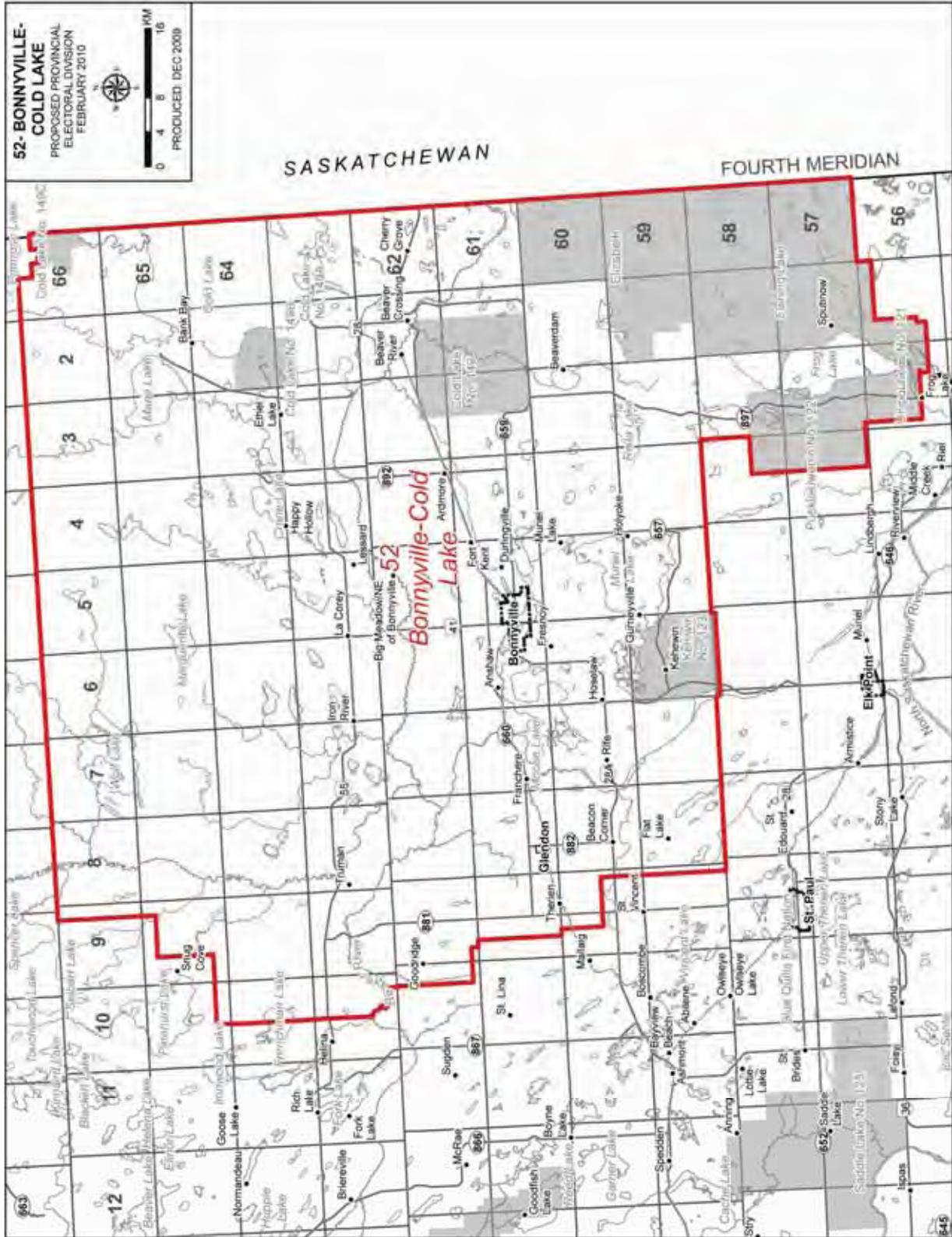
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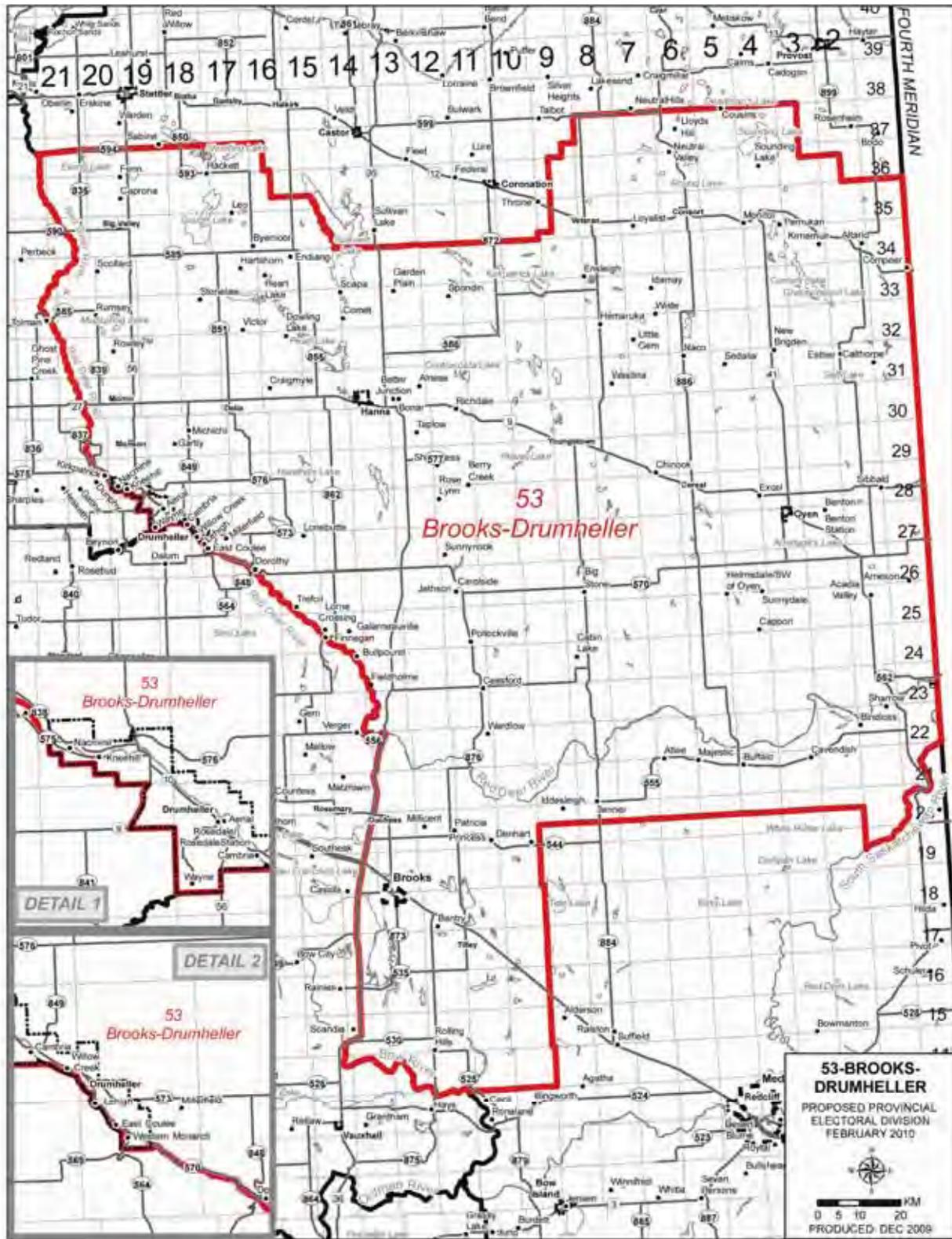
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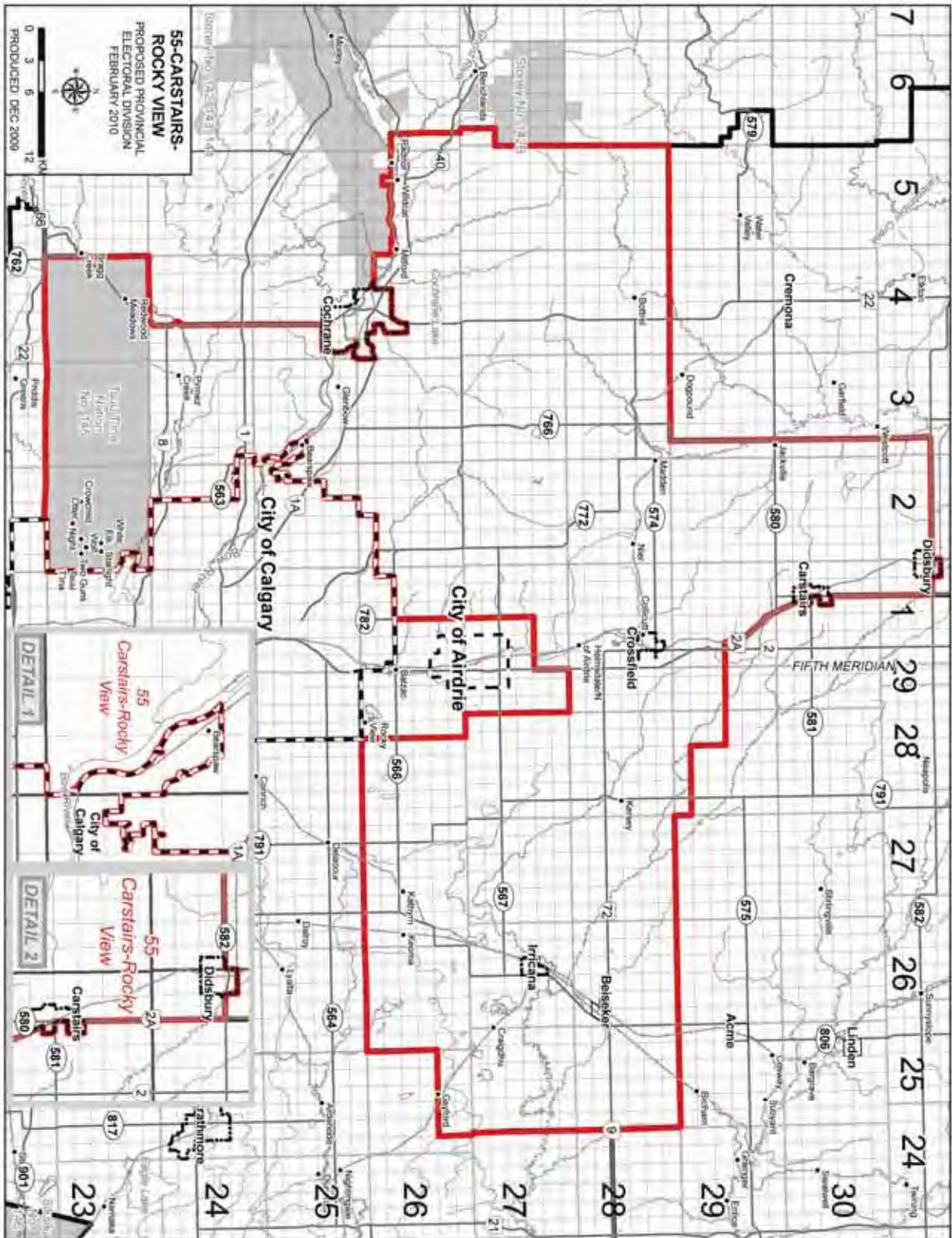


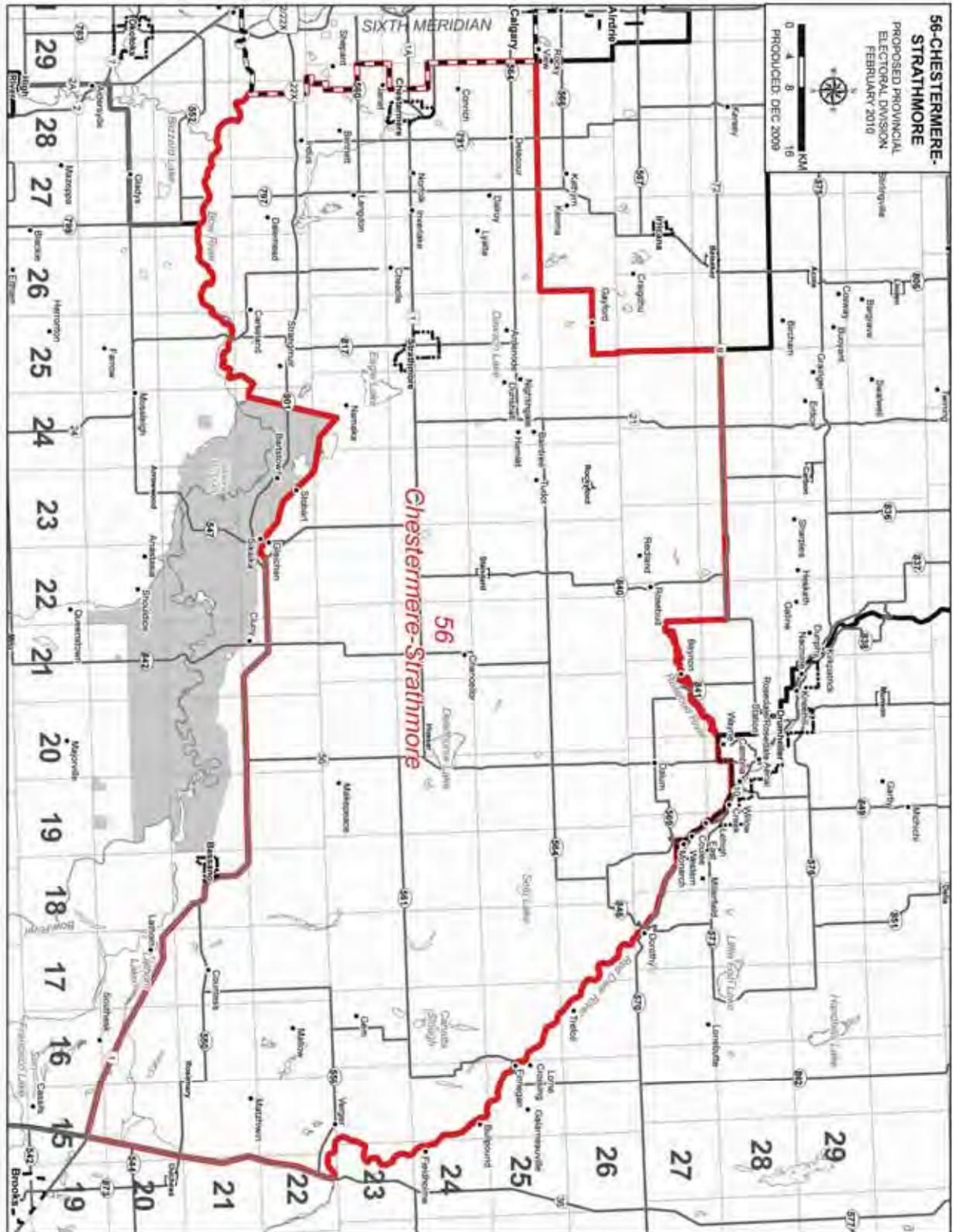


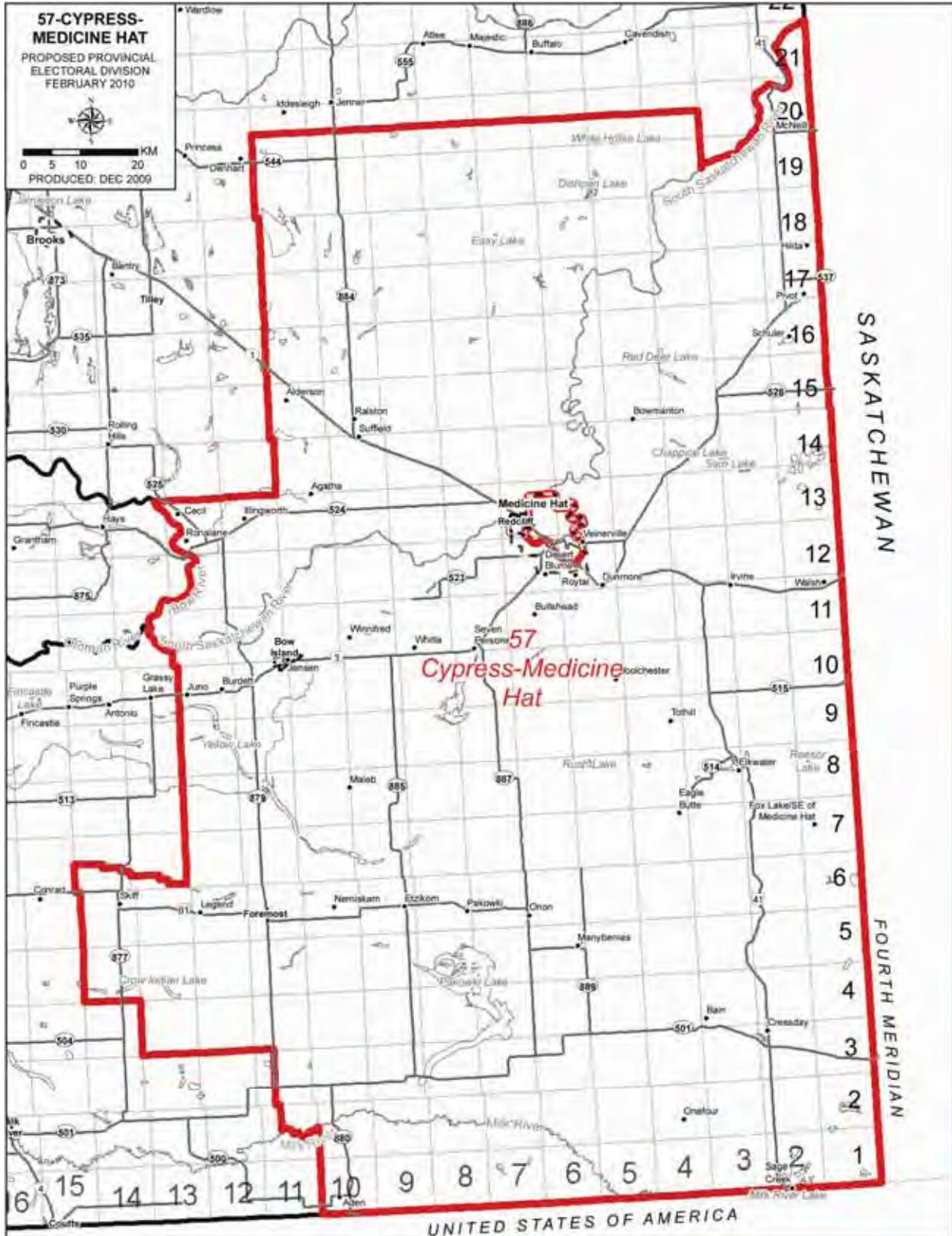
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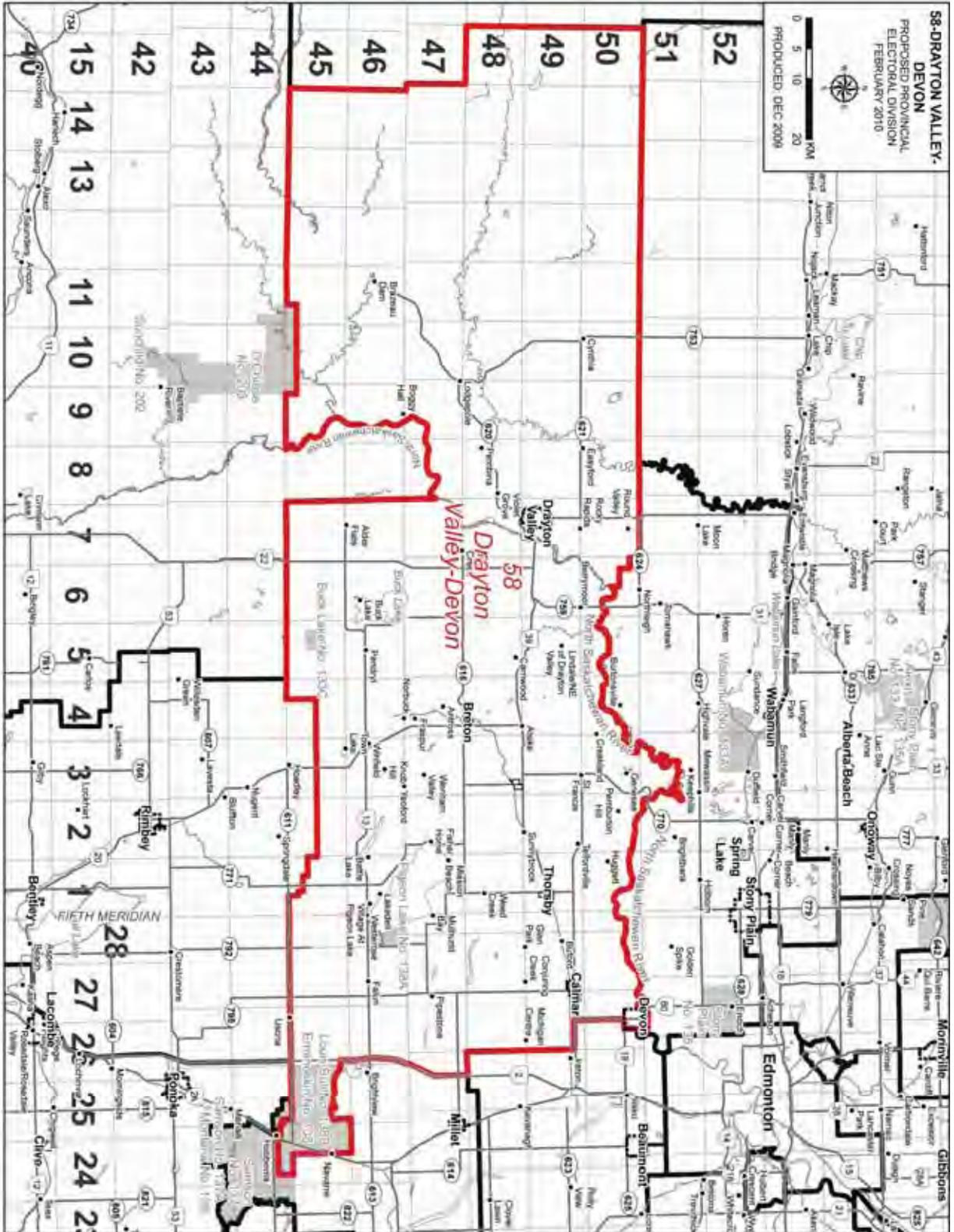
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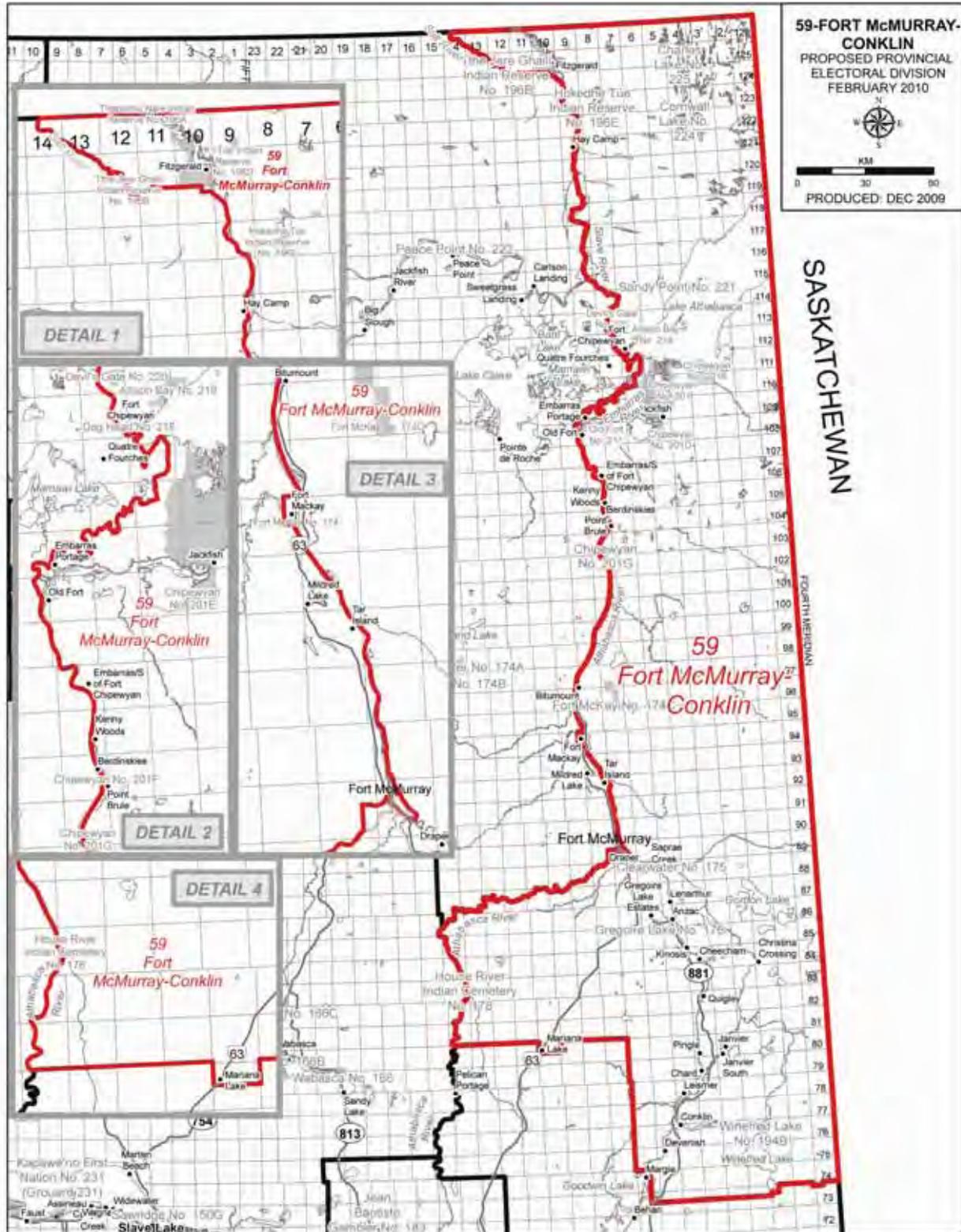




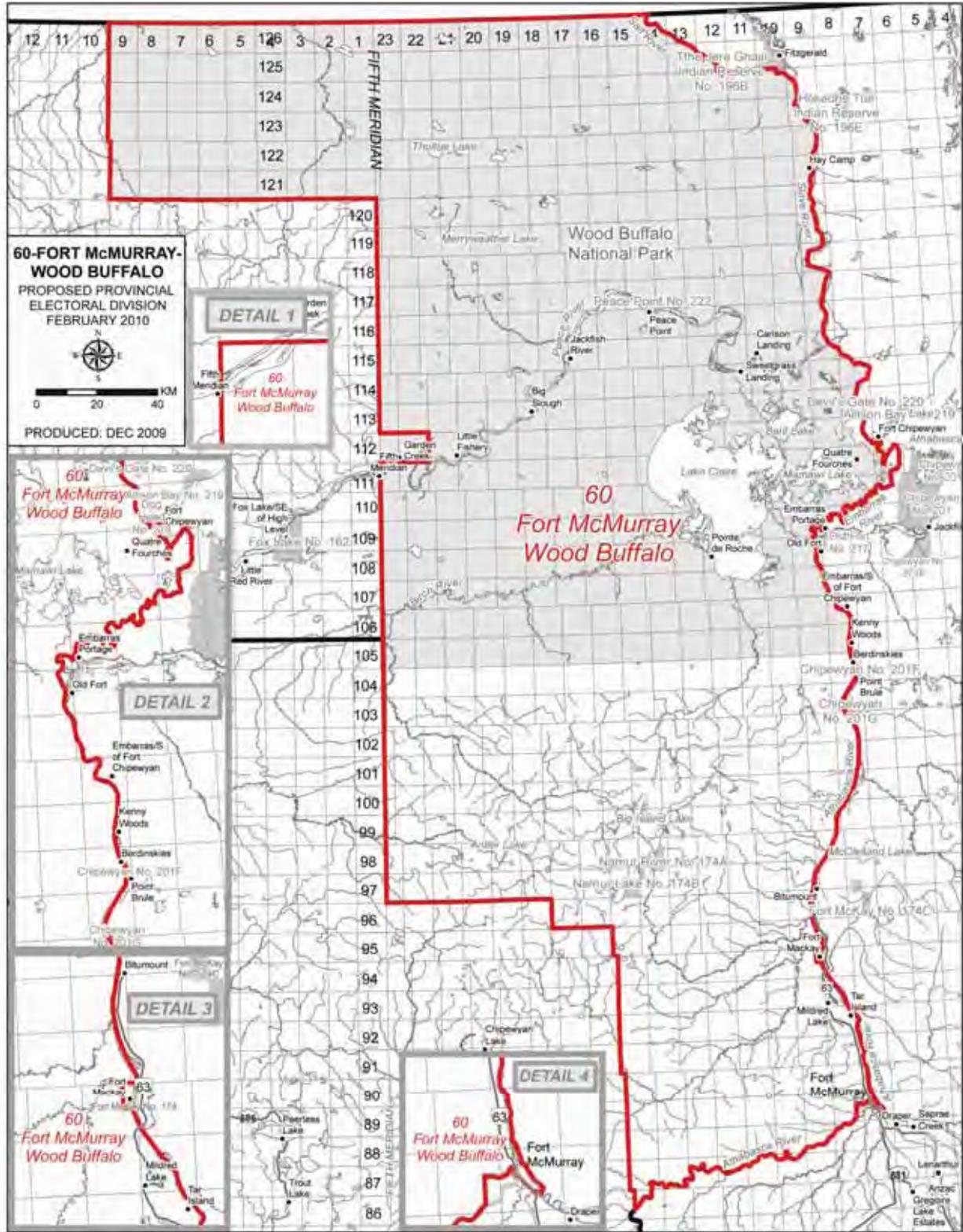


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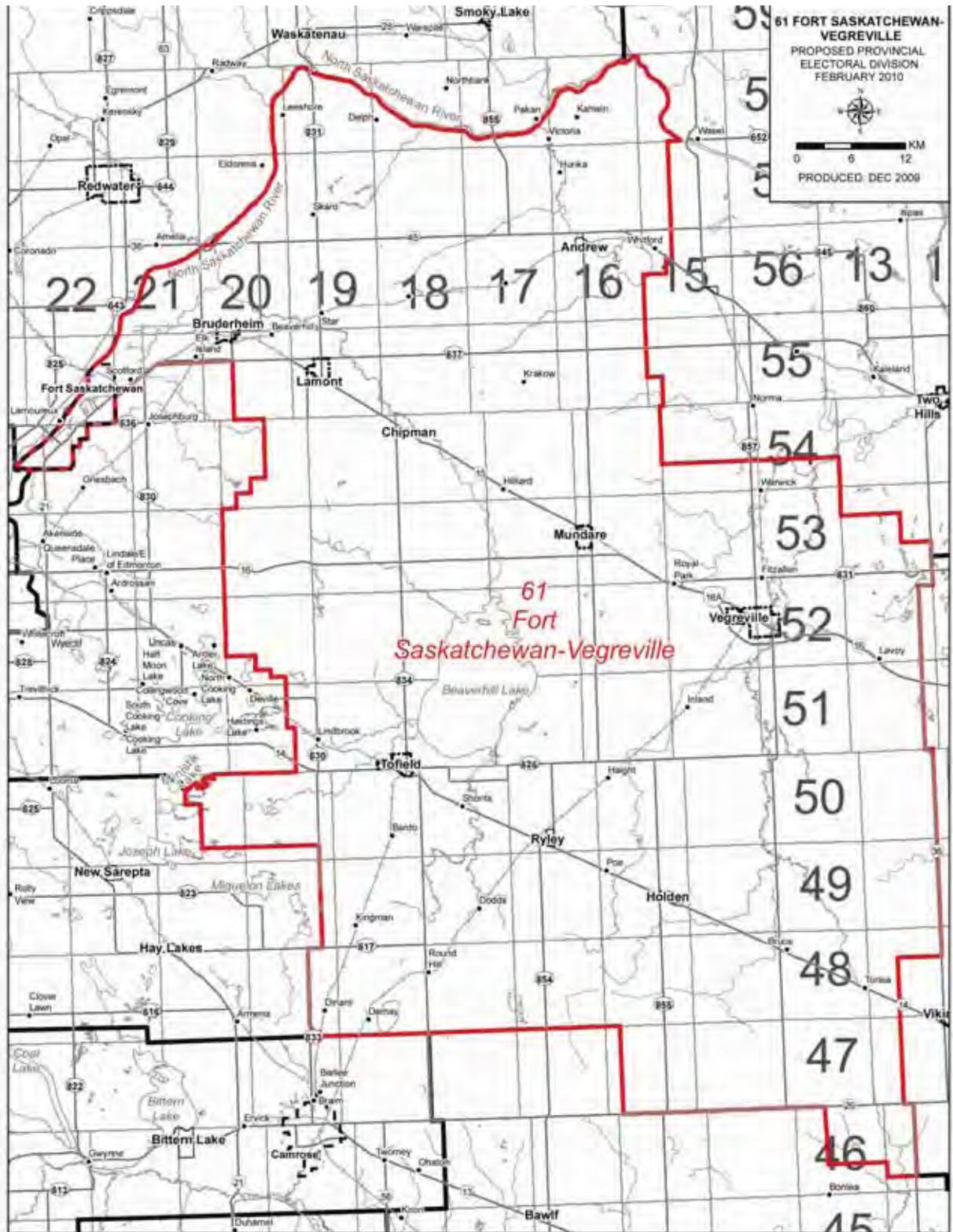




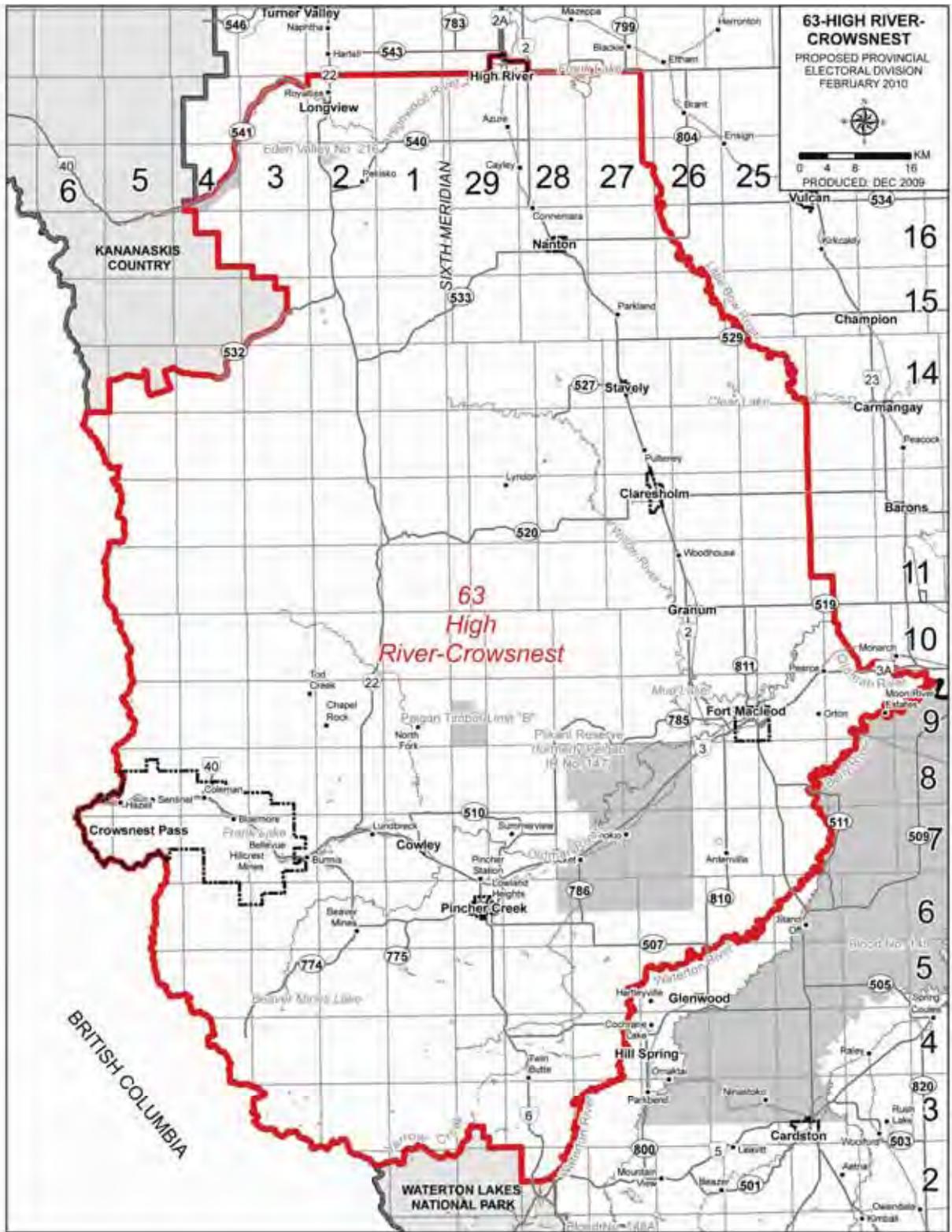
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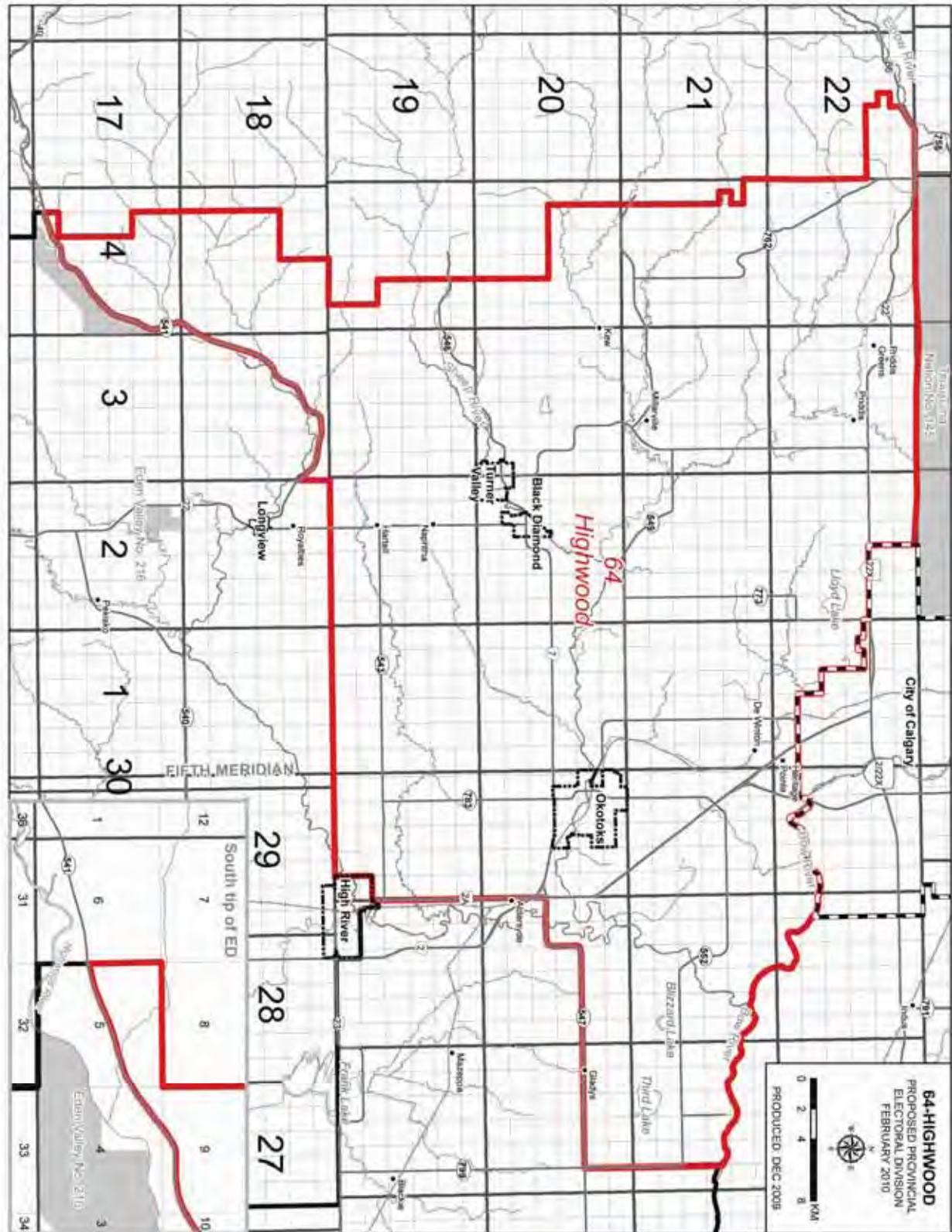
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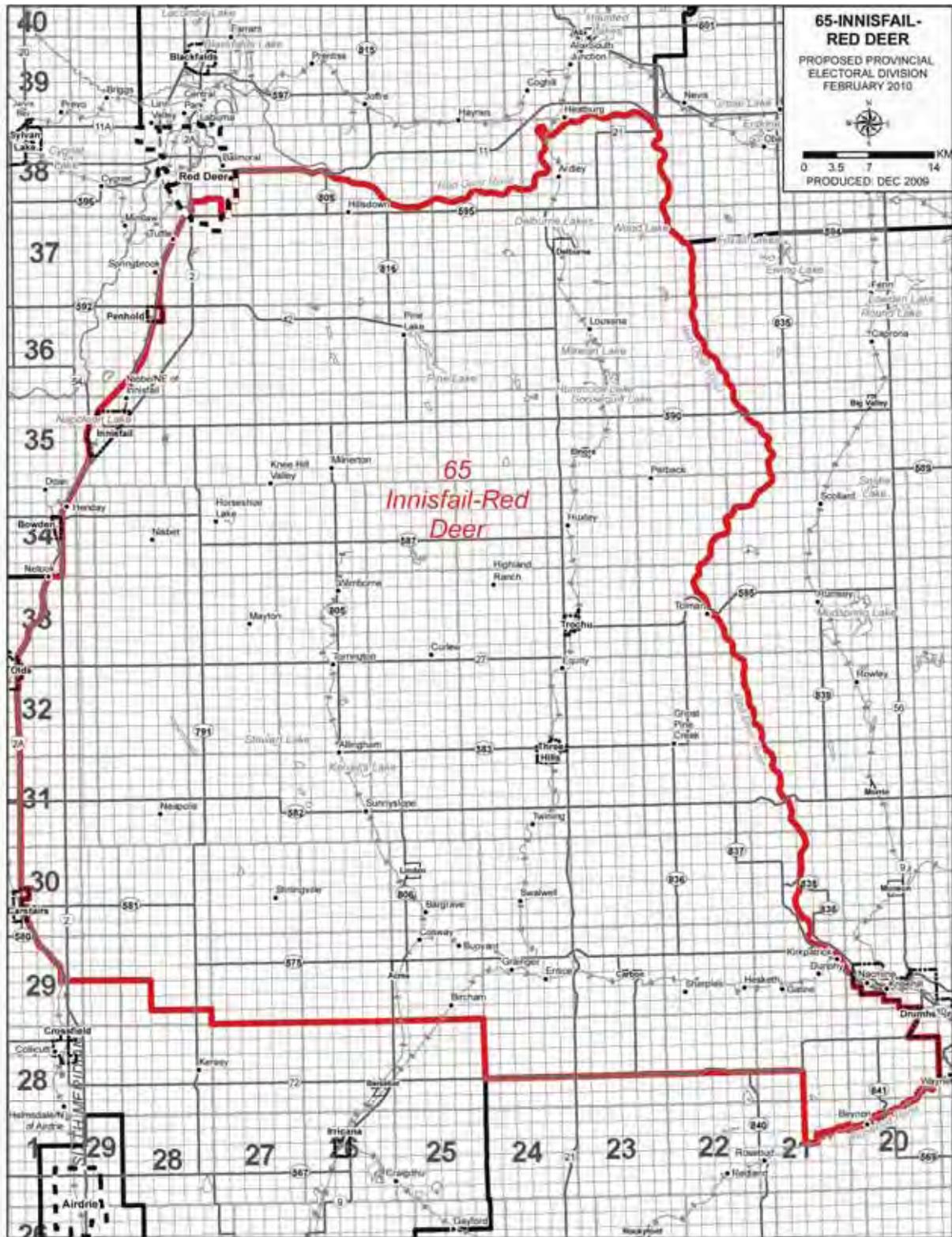


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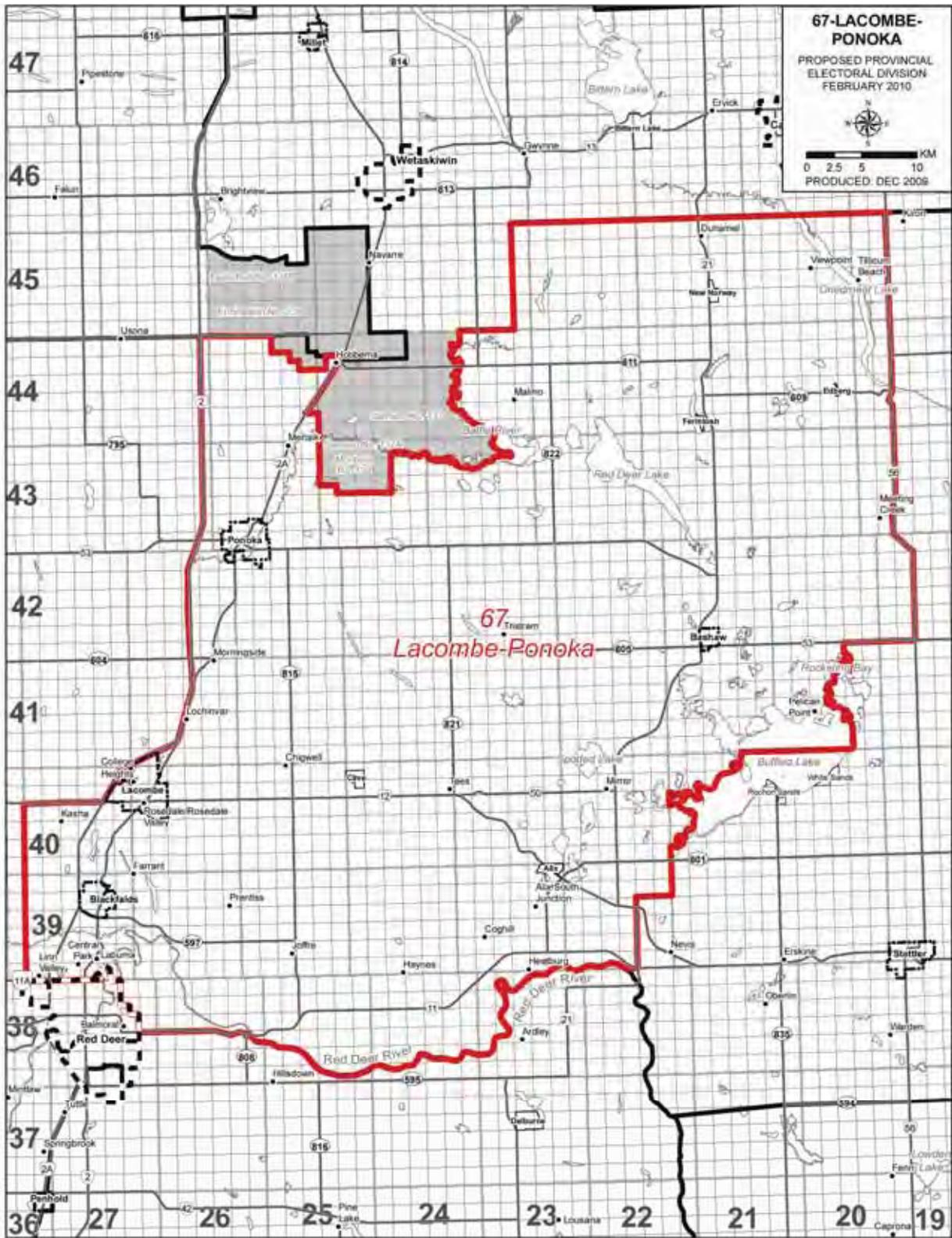


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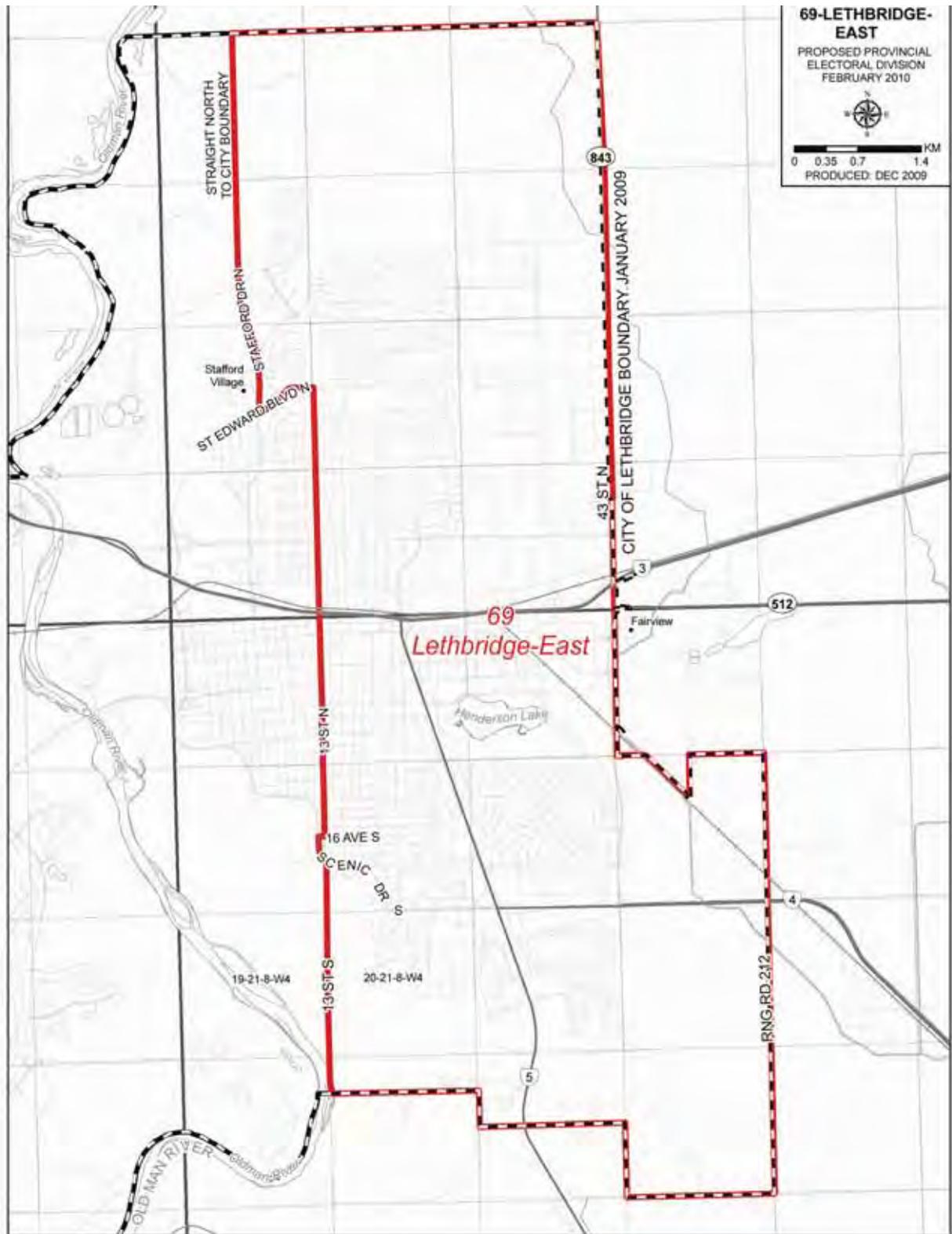




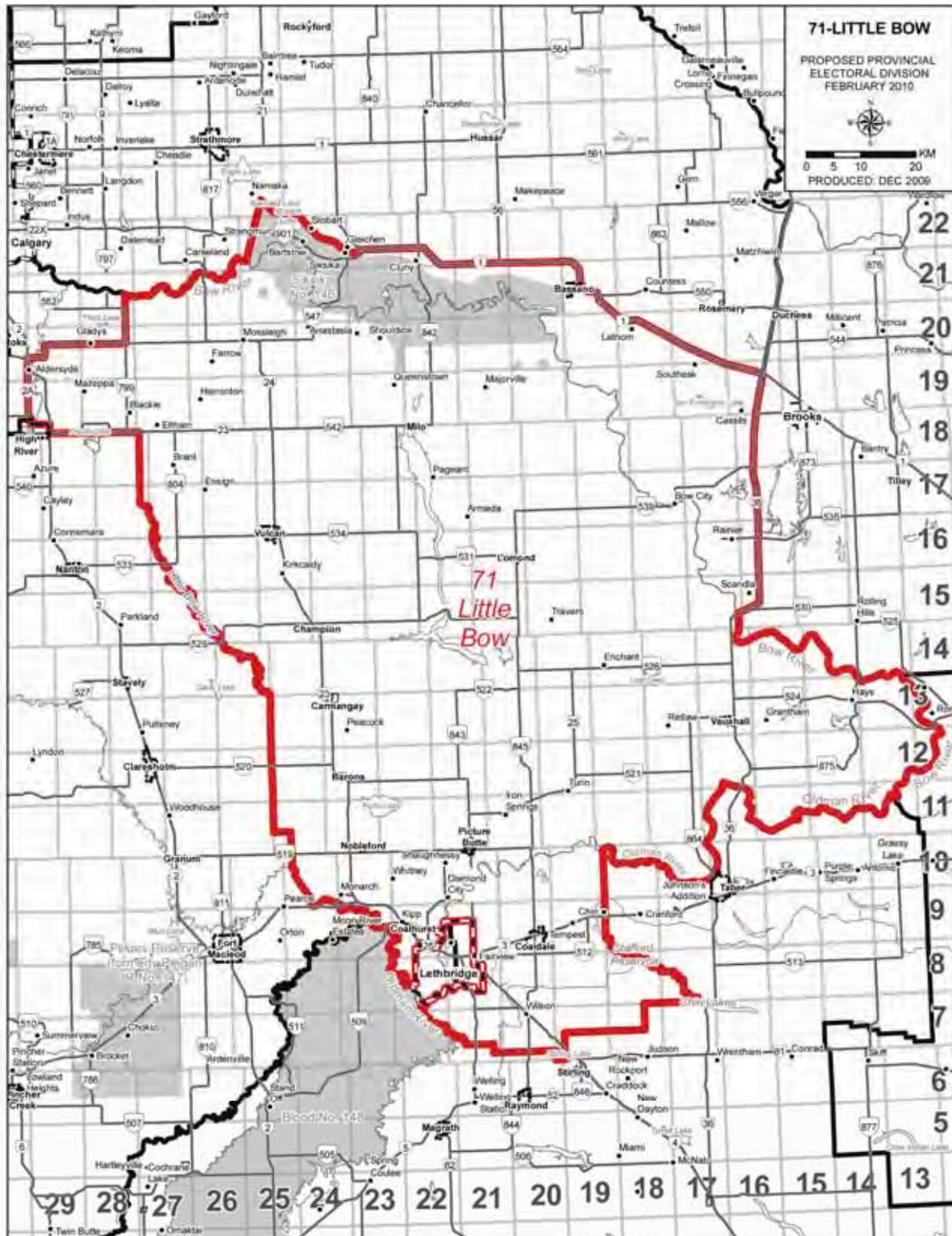
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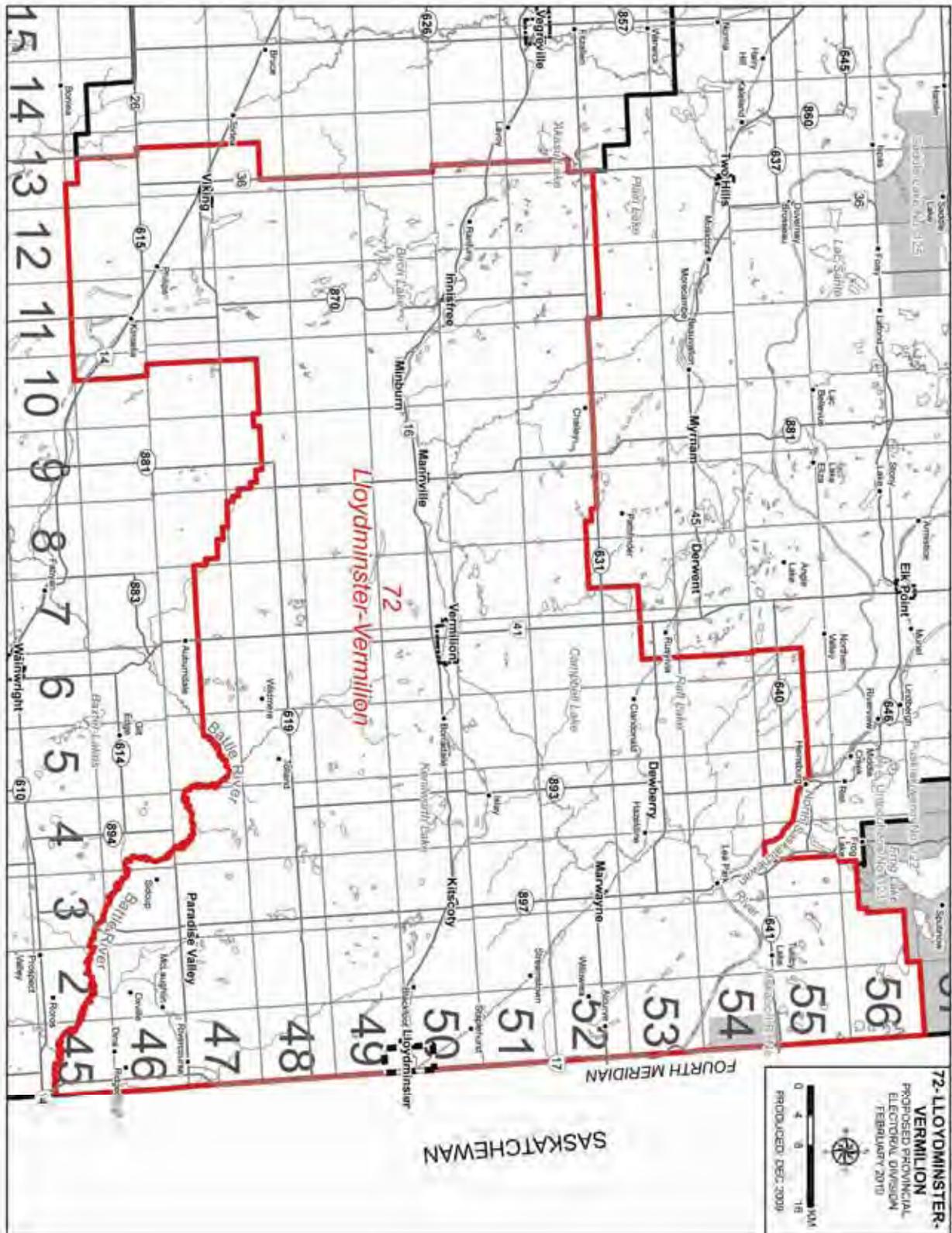
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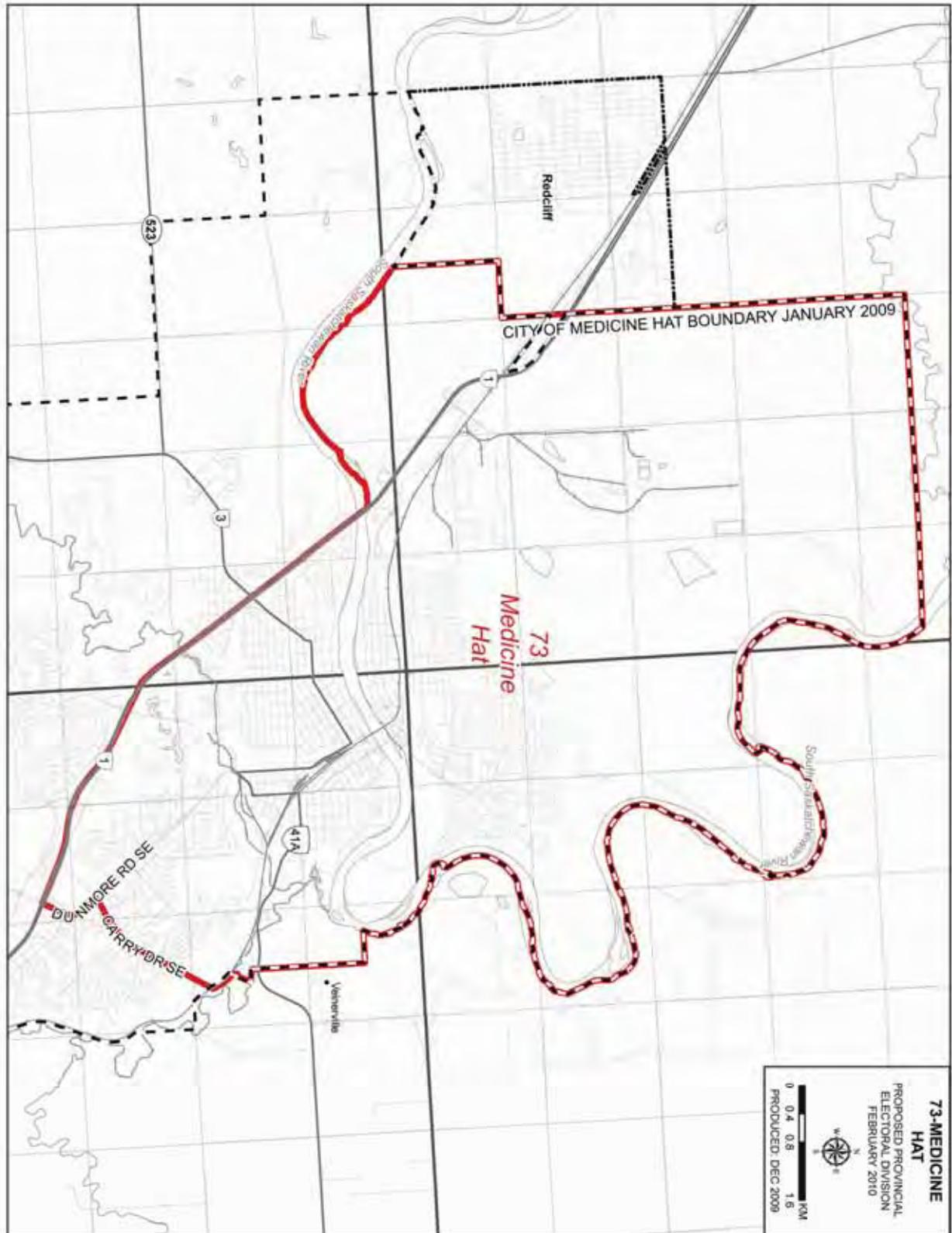


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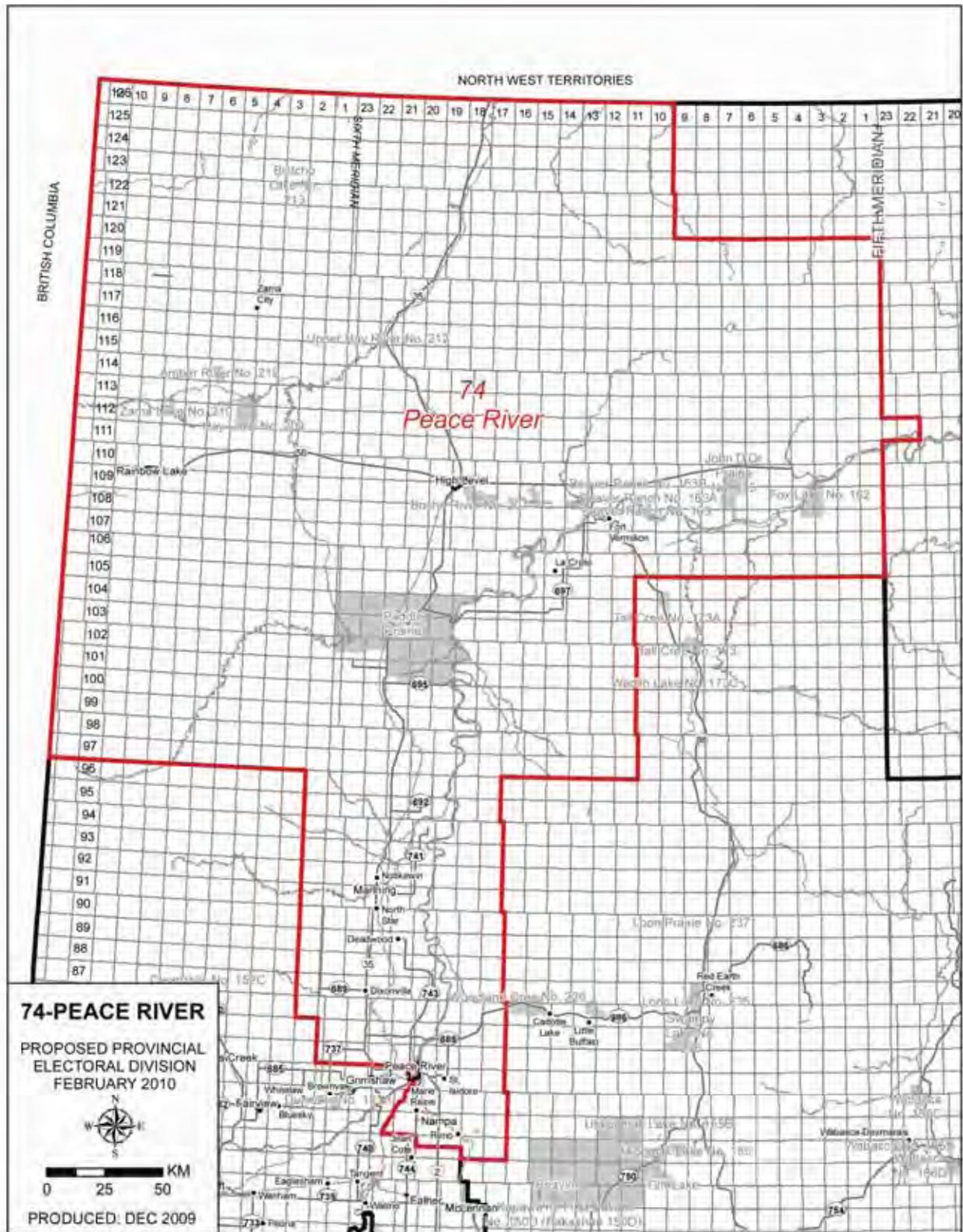


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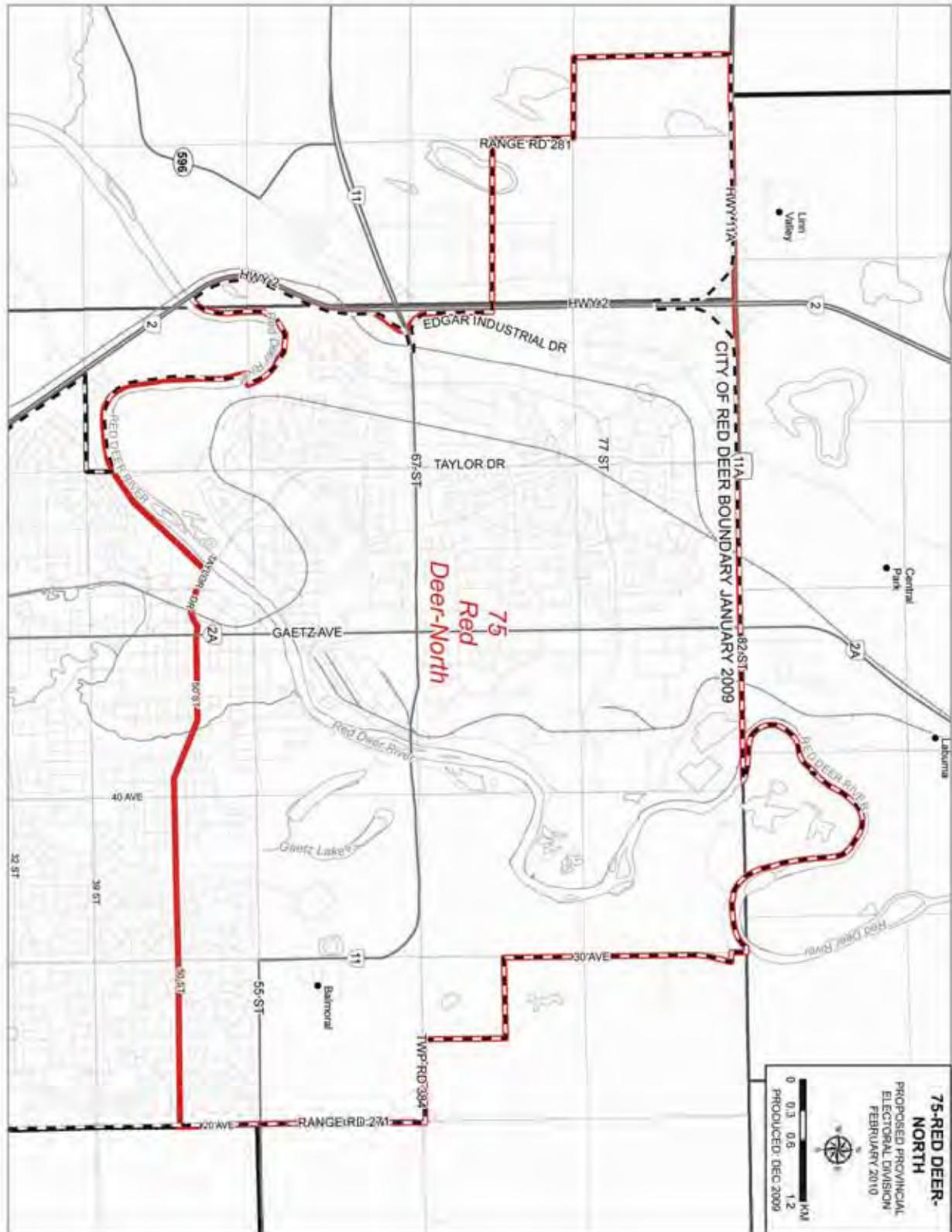




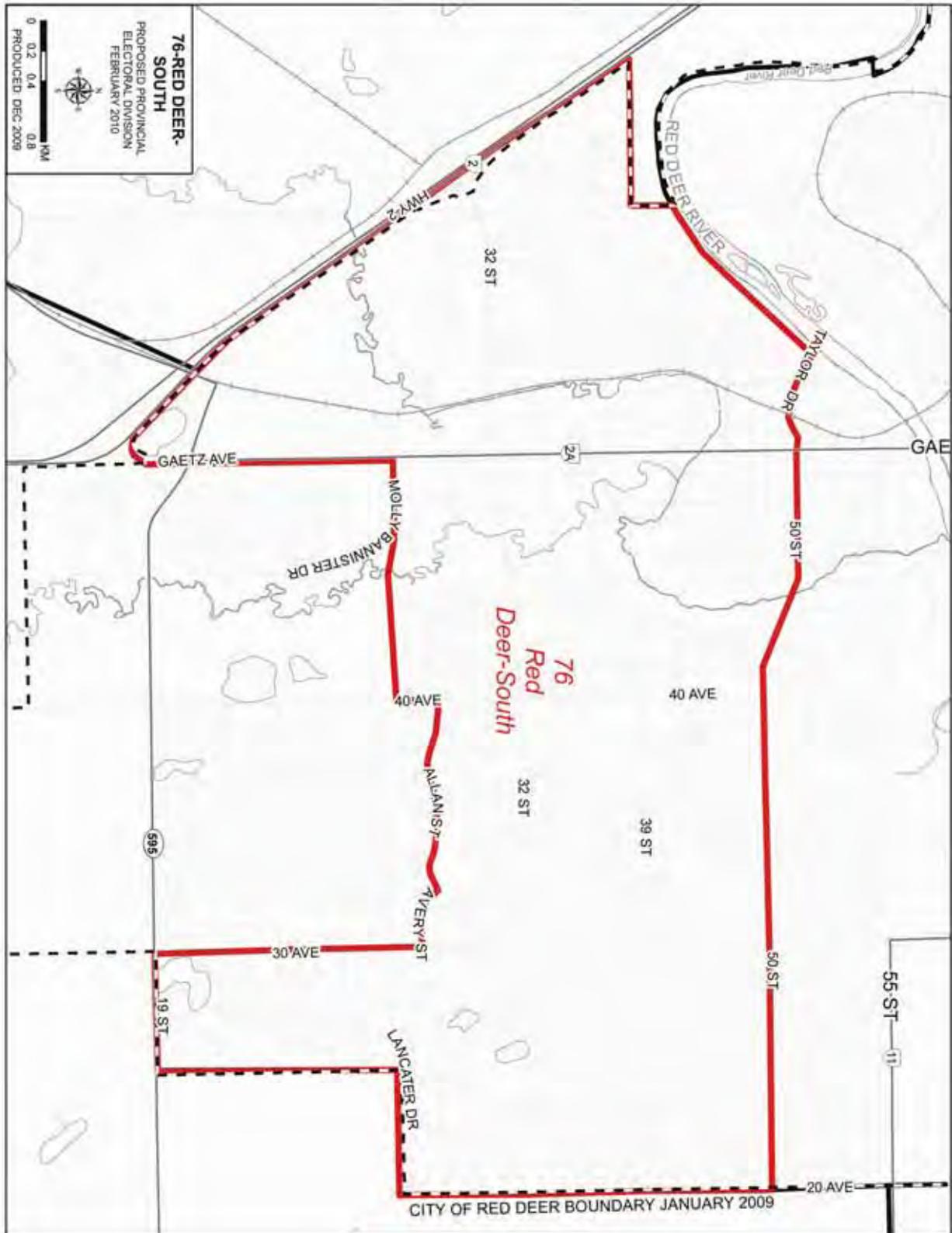
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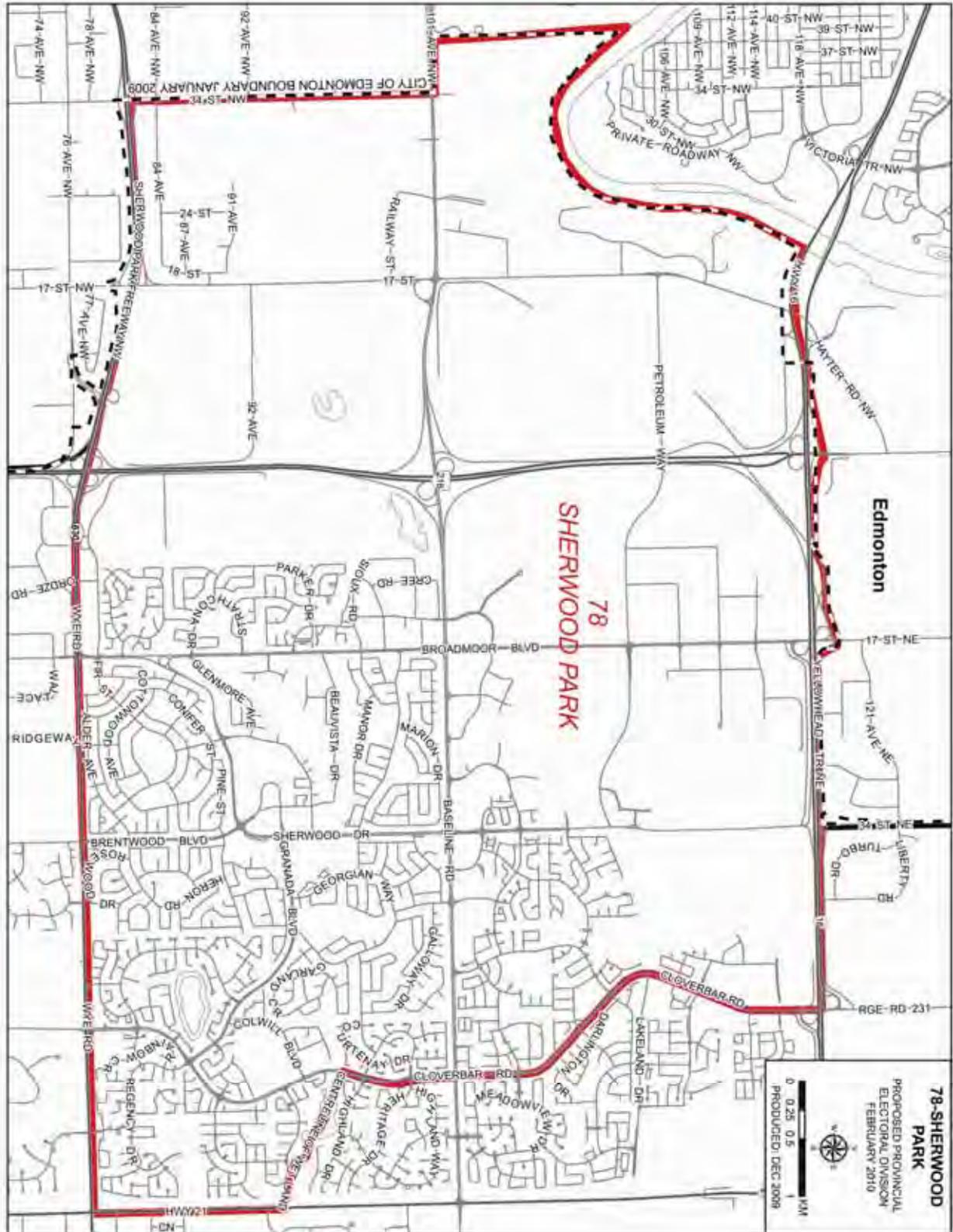
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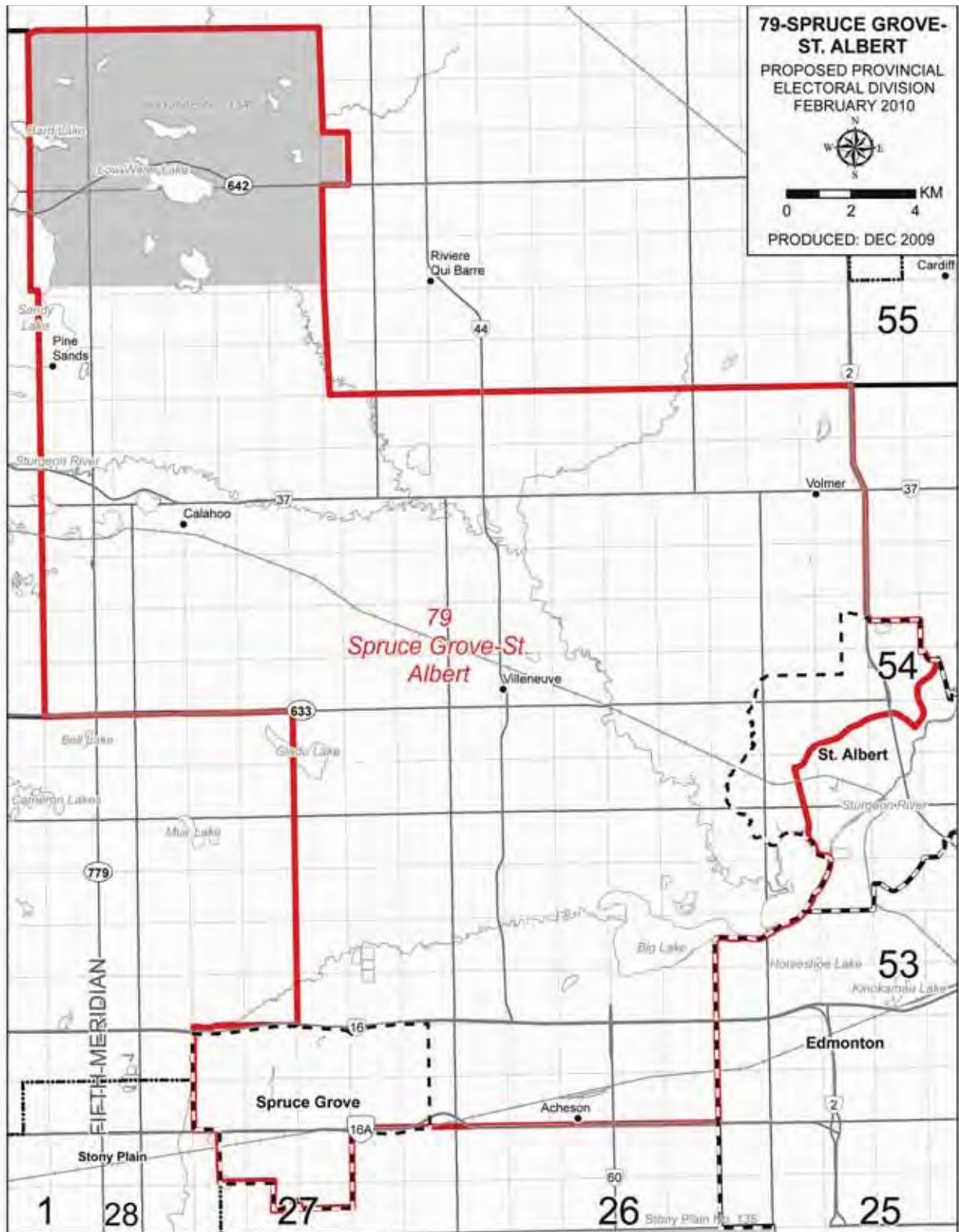


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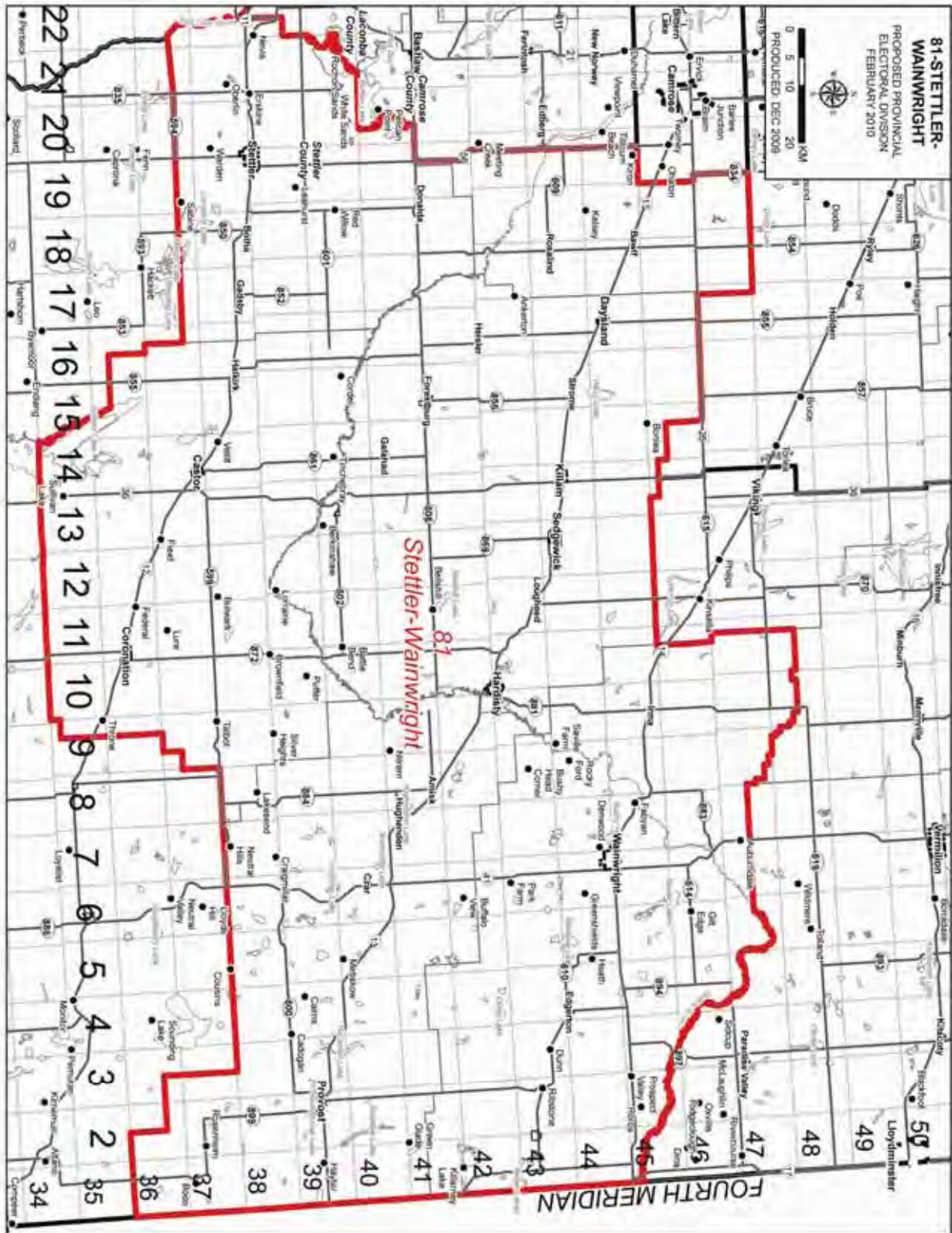


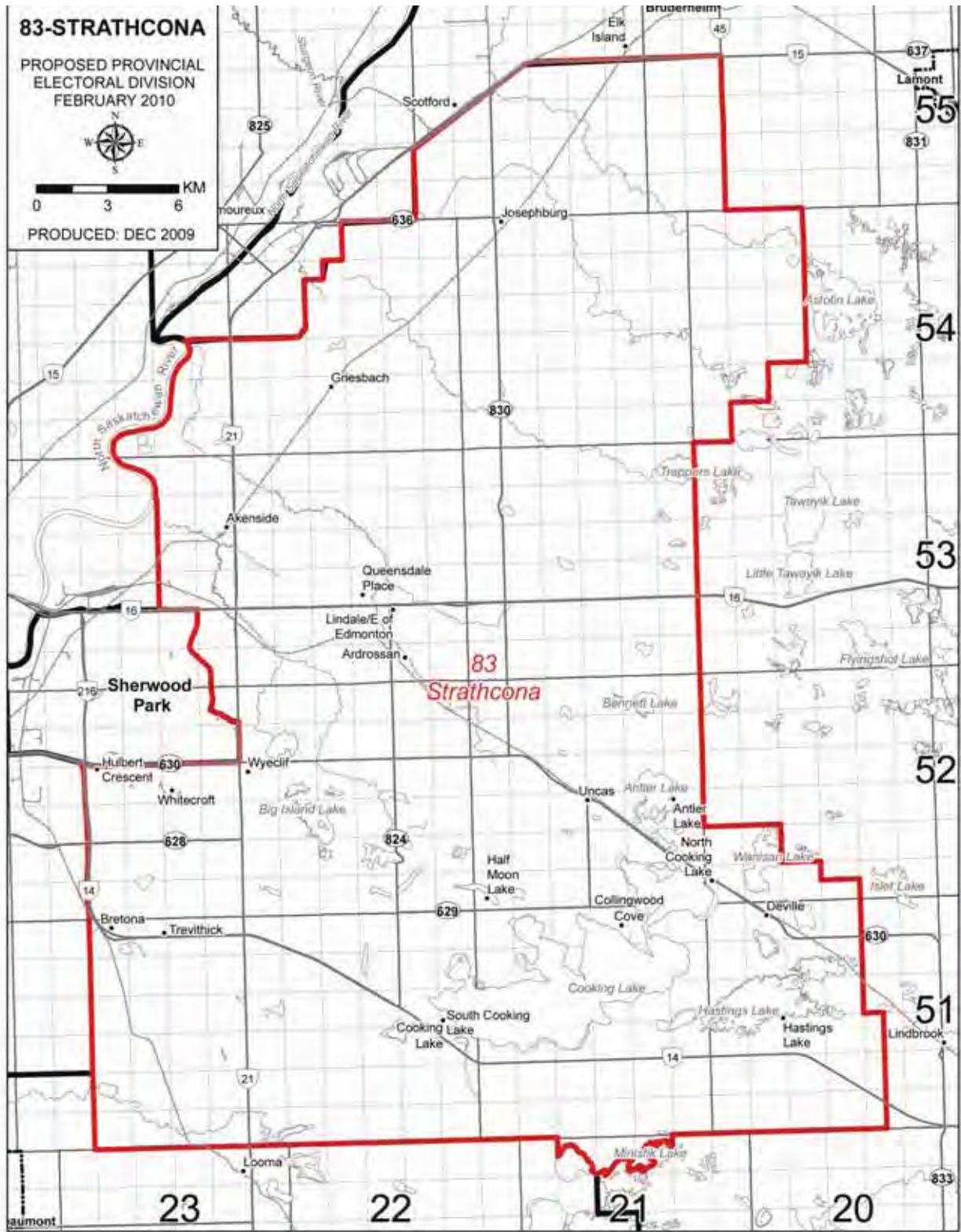
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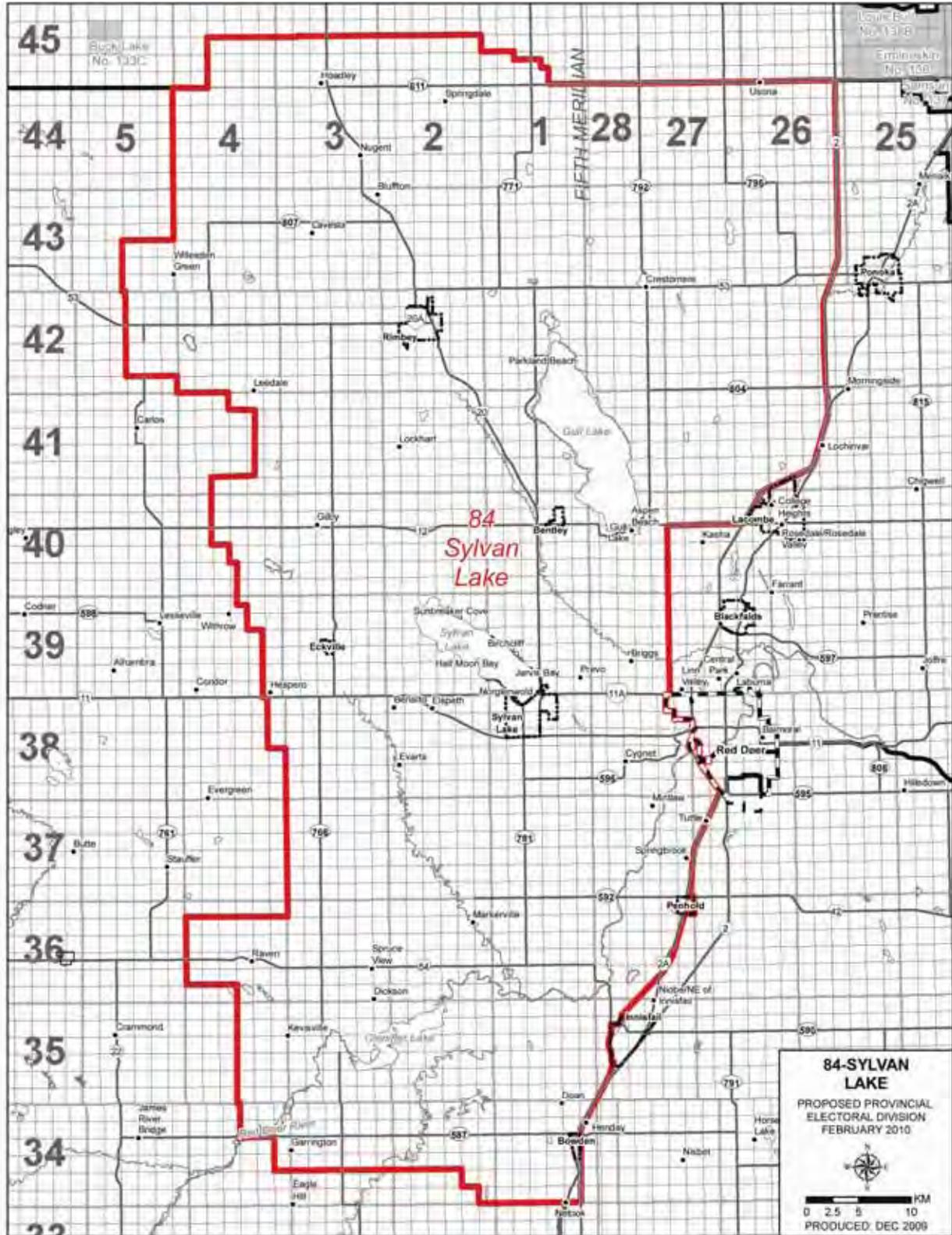


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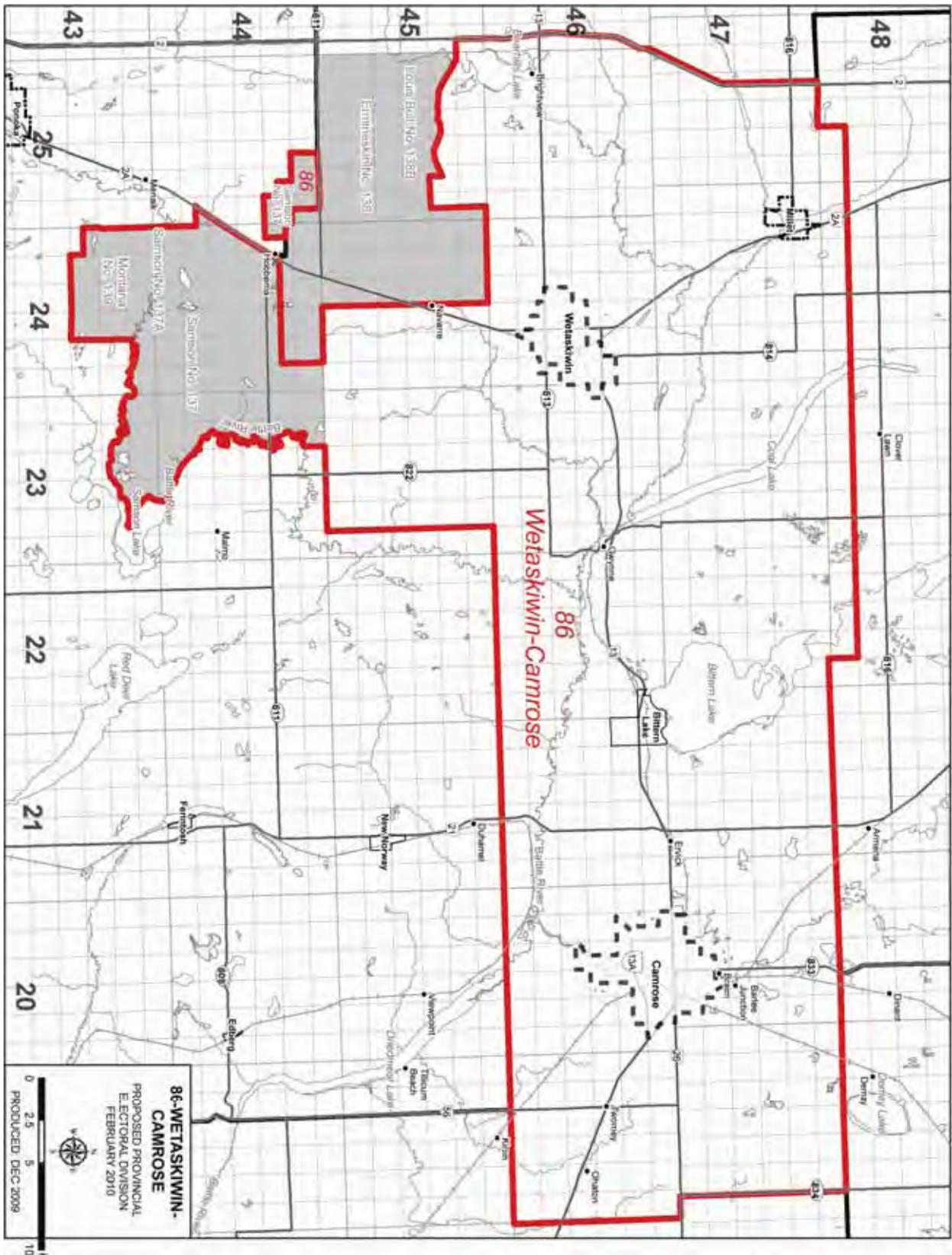


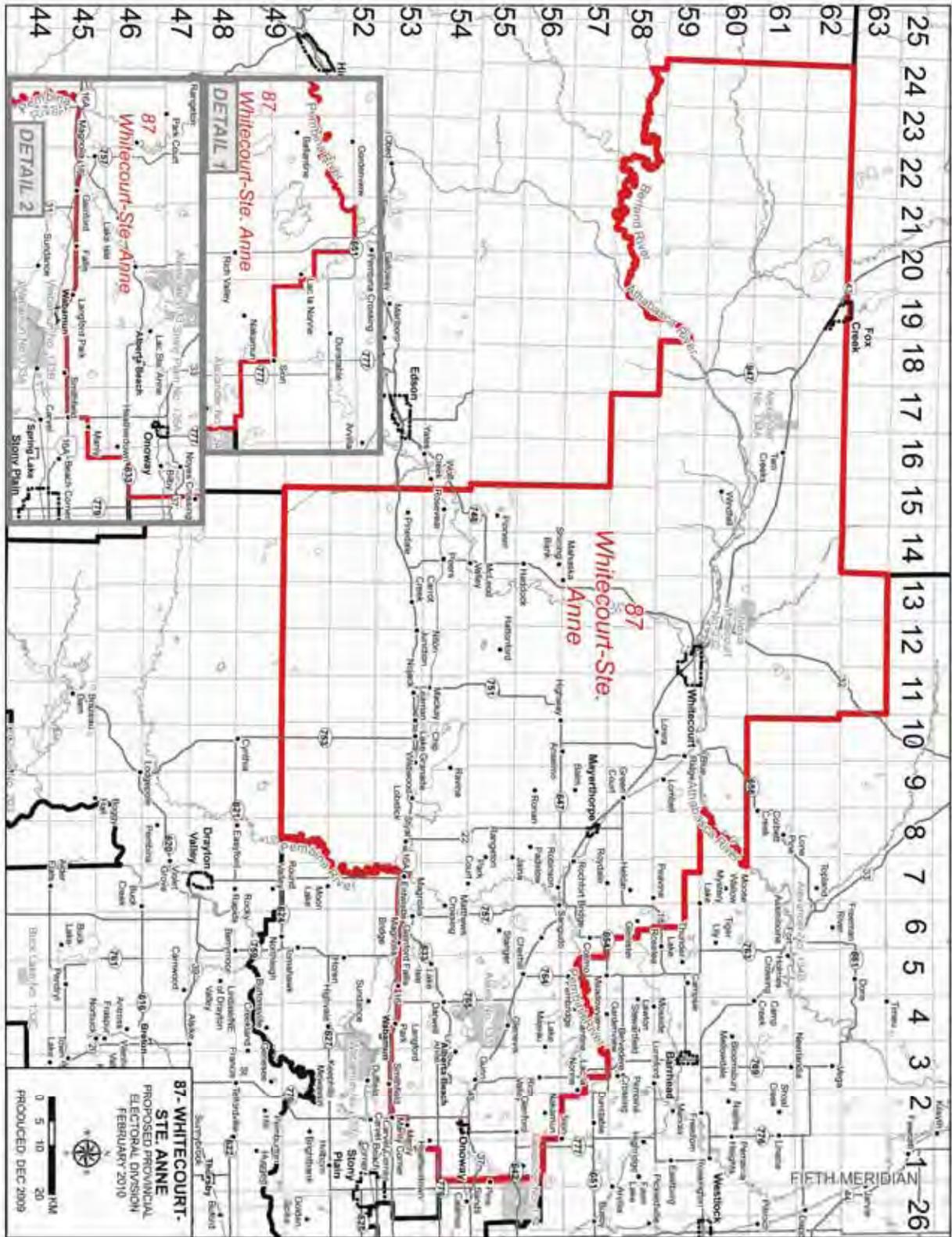


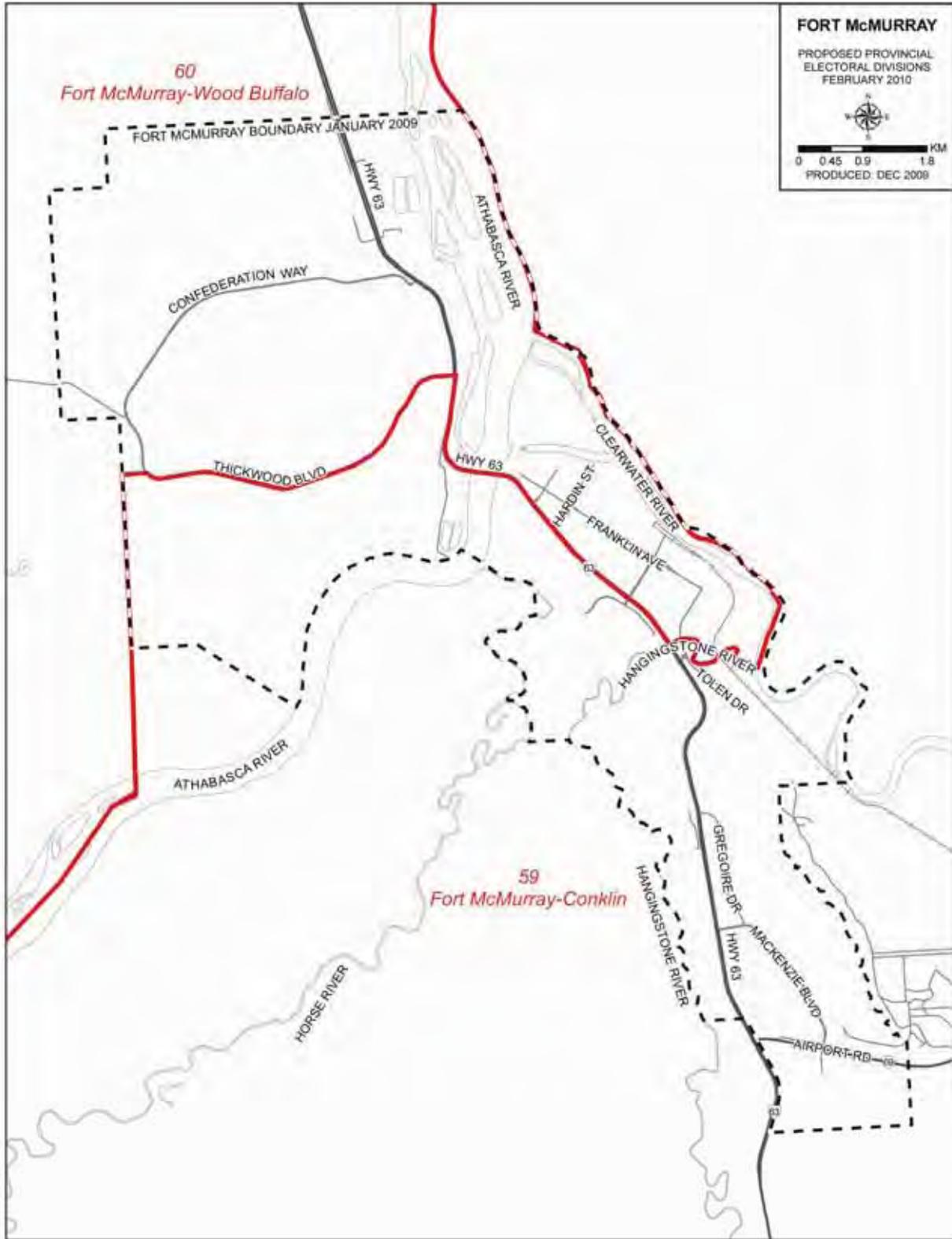
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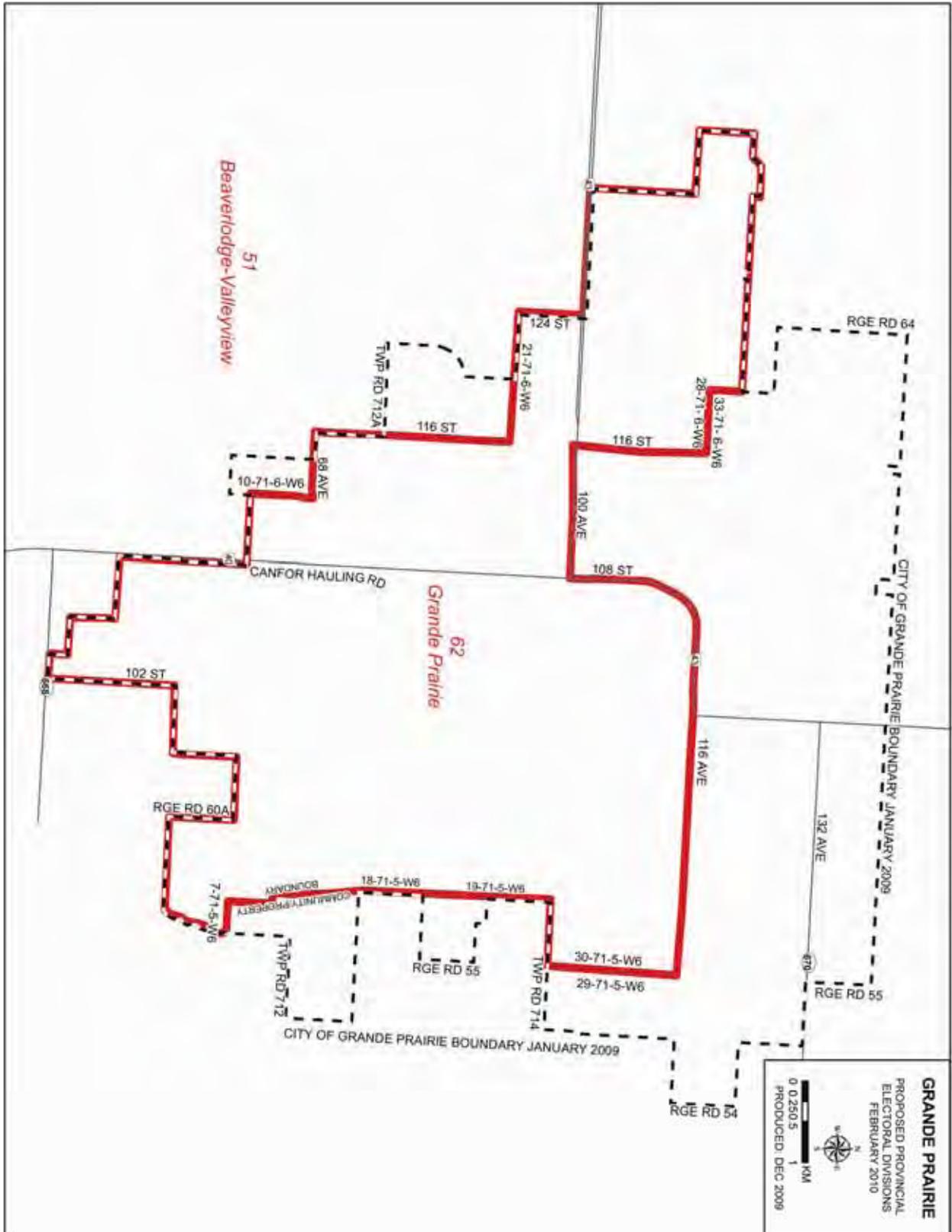
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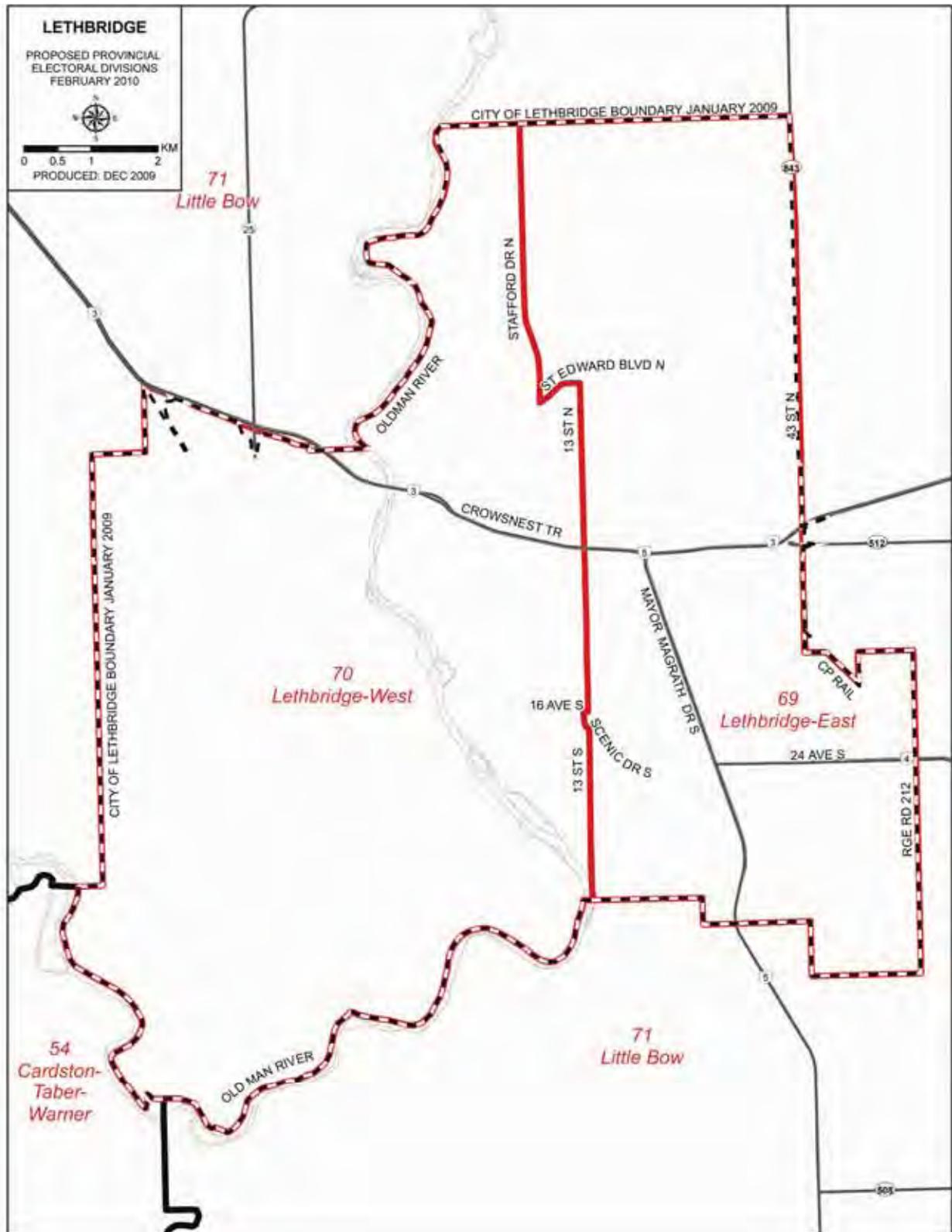




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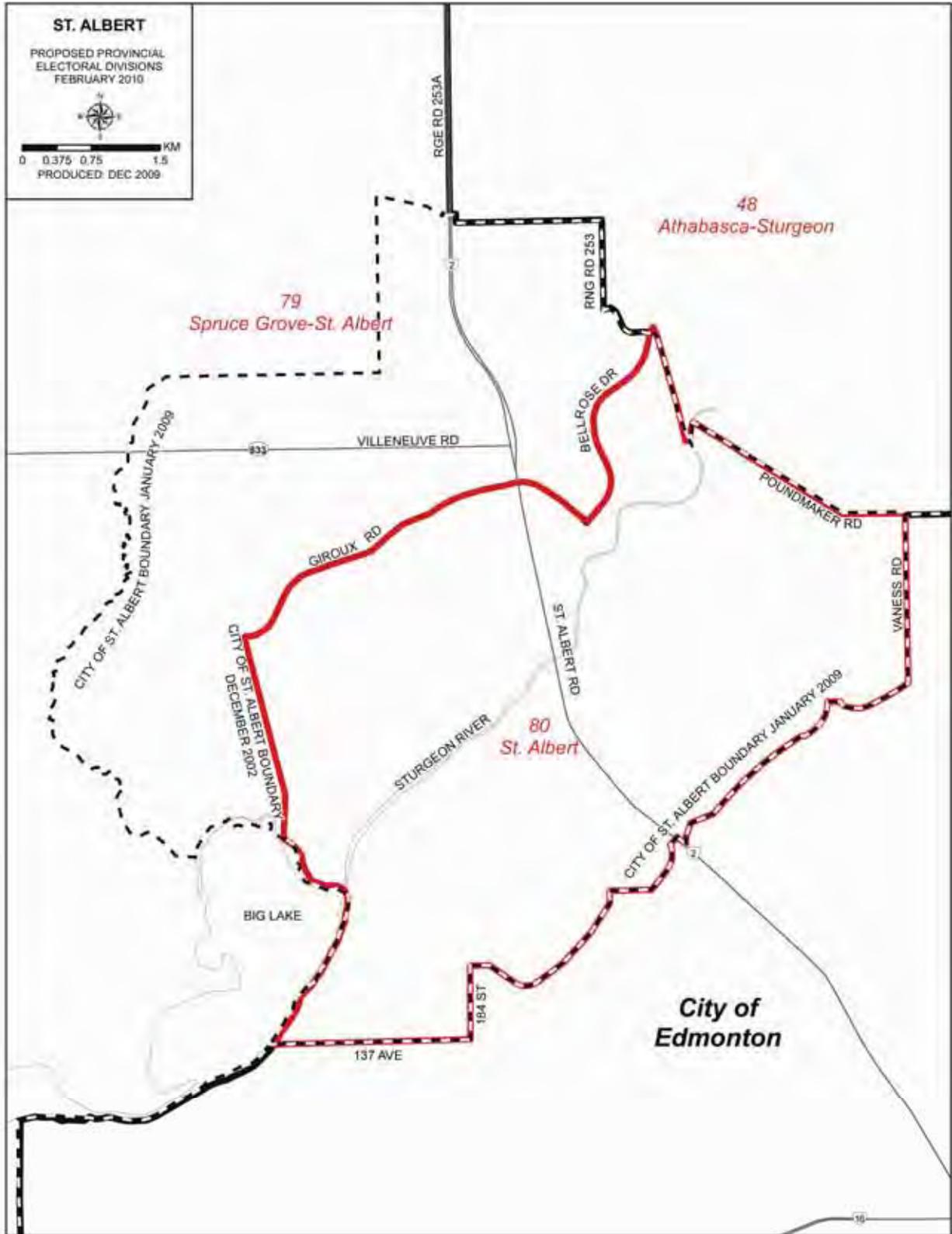
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