

May 31, 2022

Secretary
Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for British Columbia
1055 West Hastings Street, Suite 300
Vancouver, BC V6E 2E9

BC-CB@redcoupage-federal-redistribution.ca

Re: Redistribution of Federal Electoral Boundaries

To whom it may concern;

The Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce writes regarding the current Federal Electoral Boundaries Redistribution and specifically the impact on the North Okanagan in B.C.'s Interior.

Specifically, our Chamber has significant concerns about the proposal to divide the City of Vernon, District of Coldstream and Electoral Areas B and C of the Regional District of North Okanagan between two separate electoral districts – North Okanagan-Shuswap and Vernon-Lake Country. Our concerns revolve around the following factors:

- Vernon, Coldstream and Areas B and C form what is known as Greater Vernon at the Regional District of North Okanagan. These jurisdictions share common services such as the water utility, trails and cultural services;
- Greater Vernon is a single economic and social unit, with businesses in each jurisdiction supporting consumers in each jurisdiction, and creating employment for residents of all jurisdictions;
- Organizations such as the Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce, as well as vital social service agencies, serve all residents and businesses of Greater Vernon.

We appreciate that the Commission is responding to population growth in B.C. by redistributing boundaries, but our Chamber believes it makes sense for Greater Vernon to have a single common representative at the federal level for the following reasons:

- A single representative will simplify the process for local government to pursue senior government support for joint projects and local services;
- Residents and Businesses Owners will better understand the roles and responsibilities of their representatives within the region known as Greater Vernon when there is one electoral district;

- Organizations such as the Chamber can direct limited resources to a single elected representative when advocating on behalf of their membership and community;
- A single Member of Parliament will be able to provide effective representation for a multi-jurisdictional region such as Greater Vernon.

On behalf of our 600-plus members, we urge the Commission to consider not dividing Greater Vernon into two separate electoral districts.

If there is any further information that we can provide, please contact us. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Robin Cardew
President
Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce

Cc. Mel Arnold, North Okanagan-Shuswap MP
Okanagan Indian Band Chief & Council
City of Vernon Mayor & Council
District of Coldstream Mayor & Council
Regional District of North Okanagan Board of Directors
Okanagan-Shuswap Chambers of Commerce