



City of Delta
COUNCIL REPORT
Regular Meeting

F.12

To: **Mayor and Council**

From: **Mayor George V. Harvie**

Date: **May 3, 2022**

Proposed Changes to Federal Electoral Boundaries

▪ **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- A. THAT a letter be sent to the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission to express Delta's opposition to the proposed changes to Delta's electoral boundary and requesting that Delta remain as a single electoral district.
- B. THAT Mayor Harvie be registered to speak at the public hearing on June 9, 2022 in Tsawwassen.
- C. THAT a copy of this report be referred to Delta's MP and MLAs.

▪ **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of proposed changes to Delta's federal electoral boundaries and seek direction to provide feedback to the electoral review process.

▪ **BACKGROUND:**

The reconfiguration of electoral district boundaries takes place every 10 years, after completion of the decennial census. The 2021 census reports an increase of approximately 600,000 residents in BC, therefore, the number of electoral districts is required to be increased by 1, from 42 seats to 43. This translates into 116,300 people per electoral district - the electoral quota – and each electoral district should correspond to this as closely as possible to promote equality of voting power and fair representation across the whole province.

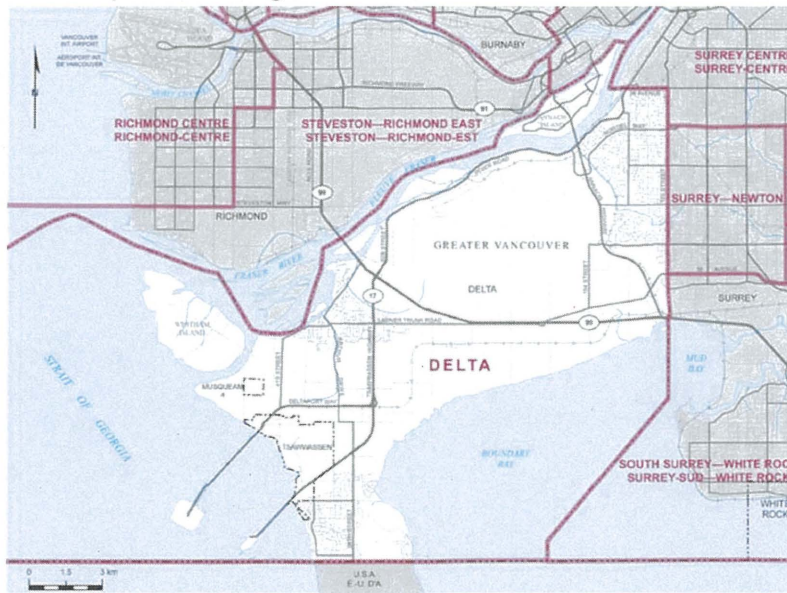
In 2012, Delta supported the consolidation of Delta into a single federal riding to replace the ridings of Delta-Richmond East and Newton-North Delta. These electoral boundaries were established during the 2002 review process, contrary to the wishes of Delta Council which supported retaining a single riding for Delta.

DISCUSSION:

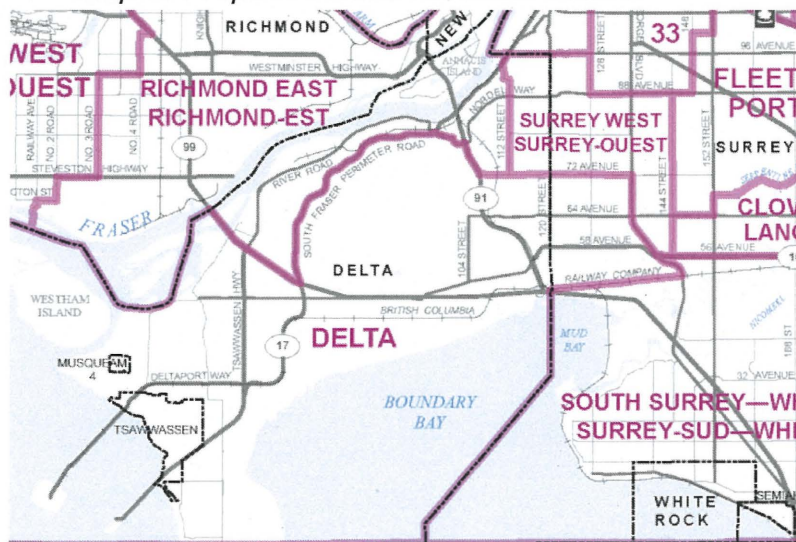
The 2022 Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission (Commission) is proposing to make several electoral boundary changes to address uneven population growth across the province. It is also mandated to create a new electoral district and it is proposing the Vernon—Lake Country electoral district.

Delta is currently a single electoral district, shown on Map 1, and the Commission is proposing the boundary amendments shown on Map 2.

Map 1: Existing Delta Electoral District



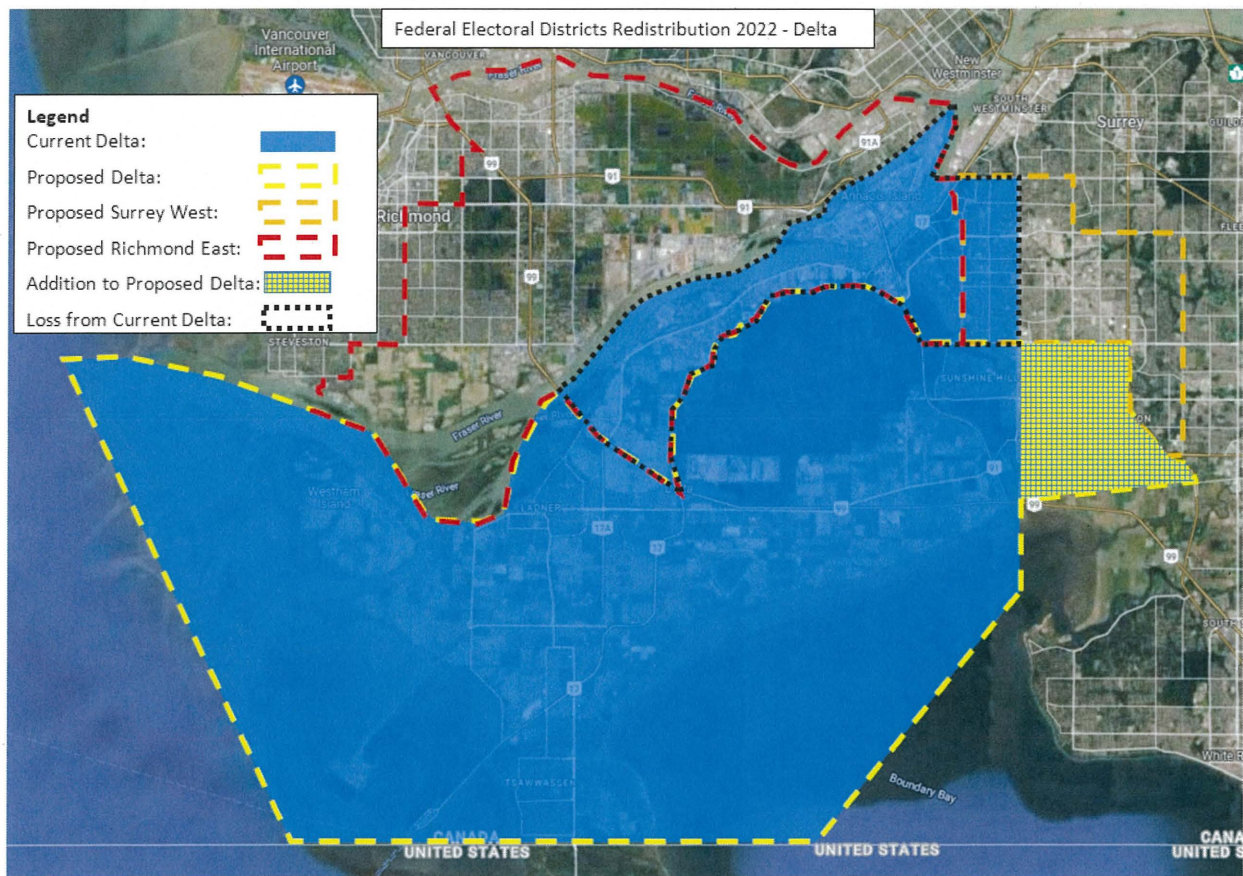
Map 2: Proposed Delta Electoral District



This would result in the following changes, shown on Map 3:

- The area north of Highway 17 and east of Highway 99, including Tilbury, Annacis Island, Nordel and the area north of 72 Avenue west of 112 Street would move to the Richmond East electoral district (area delineated by the red dashed line with blue background on Map 3).
- The area north of 72 Avenue east of 112 Street would move to the Surrey West electoral district (area delineated by the orange dashed line with blue background on Map 3).
- The Delta electoral district would gain a part of Surrey between 72 Avenue to King George Boulevard and along BC Rail (hatched area on Map 3), while losing the area delineated by the black dashed line on Map 3.

Map 3: Proposed Electoral Changes for Delta - Potential Losses and Gains



These proposed changes would, once again, result in the community of Delta being fragmented in terms of electoral representation. Large sections of the North Delta population will be represented by elected officials in Richmond and Surrey, and Delta's MP would also have to represent a large area of west Surrey. Not only would this situation be confusing for Delta voters, it would serve to undermine Delta's identity as a single, united community. A single riding would also help foster a municipal identity and

promote a consistent and focused federal representation on the wide variety of issues that affect the municipality.

It is, therefore, recommended that a written submission be provided to the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission expressing Delta's opposition to the proposed changes to Delta's electoral boundaries. The Commission is also holding a series of public hearings at locations across the province throughout June to September to gain public input to the proposed boundary changes. It is recommended that Mayor Harvie register to attend the public hearing in Tsawwassen on June 9, 2022 to present Delta's opposition to the proposed changes and seek to keep Delta as a single electoral riding.

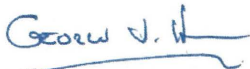
Implications:

Foundation for the Future Implications – a sense of unity between the different communities in Delta is integral to preserving and fostering a sense of community with common goals and priorities.

Financial Implications – none.

▪ **CONCLUSION:**

Should proposed changes to Delta's Federal Electoral Boundaries be approved, Delta will lose its status as a single riding and the community would be fragmented in terms of political representation. This would significantly impact areas of North Delta, Tilbury, Annacis Island and some rural areas, and would also include the addition of a large section of west Surrey to Delta's riding. Consistent with Council's position during the last two electoral boundary reviews in 2002 and 2012, it is recommended that Delta's opposition to the proposed changes be communicated to the Commission in writing and through the Public Hearing process.



George V. Harvie
Mayor