

3:13 p.m.

[Chairman: Mr. Bogle]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay; we'll reconvene our meeting now that we're in the public portion. Bob has several submissions which were received between the time of our last public discussion and now. I'll ask Bob to read those into the record. Once that's been done, we'll move on to a motion.

Bob.

MR. PRITCHARD: Okay. The first submission of this set was from the village of Sangudo, dated September 15, 1992.

Please be advised that at the last Regular Meeting of Council held on September 14, 1992, the above noted matter was discussed.

The Village of Sangudo would like to make the proposal that the County of Lac Ste. Anne and its various urban municipalities be affiliated with the County of Barrhead and the Town of Barrhead.

The Village rationale regarding this proposal is that given the geographics of the area, the trade patterns of the area, the similarities with the business and agricultural communities, and ability for regional co-operation between the various local governments, the interests of the residents within the County of Lac Ste. Anne will be best represented within a Barrhead/Lac Ste. Anne constituency.

Council trusts you will keep their proposal in mind while making any decisions.

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Pamela Nelson
Secretary Treasurer

Second, from the town of Barrhead, dated September 18, 1992:

Council of the Town of Barrhead discussed the present composition of the electoral boundaries at their regular meeting on Monday, September 14, 1992.

I am pleased to advise that Council resolved that they support the concept that the Barrhead Constituency include the total area of the County of Lac Ste. Anne and its various urban municipalities.

I trust this recommendation will receive your consideration during the deliberations.

Yours truly,
Wes Romanchuk
Assistant Municipal Manager

Third, from the summer village of Alberta Beach, dated September 22, 1992:

The Council of the Summer Village at their Regular Meeting held September 16 . . . passed a resolution supporting an initiative of the Village of Onoway. This initiative requested that the County of Lac Ste. Anne and its various urban municipalities be associated with the County of Barrhead in a provincial constituency.

This association would recognize the natural trading patterns as well as the common interests of our various communities. It is Council's opinion that this would be in the best interest of our community.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact myself at 924-3181.

Sincerely,
Judey J. Jackson, Mayor
Summer Village of Alberta
Beach

Next we have a petition that was received from a group of 73 people. The petition reads:

We, the constituents of Bow Valley . . . Polling Station #1 wish to be removed from this district and placed within the boundaries of the Cypress-Redcliff Constituency.

– We conduct all our business in Redcliff and Medicine Hat.

– Our concerns relate closely to the concerns of the Cypress-Redcliff area.

– We are served by the *Cypress Courier and Commentator* newspaper, originating in Bow Island and relating all the Redcliff-Cypress happenings.

– We feel that our needs and concerns would be better served through Cypress-Redcliff due to our close proximity to the Redcliff office.

It's accompanied by the list of 73 signatures with their names, addresses, and telephone numbers.

Next we had a submission from E. Macleay Blades, chairman, ID of Ranchland No. 6., dated September 17, 1992.

It has come to our attention that the "final" report of the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission has been directed to the Committee, which you chair, for a final decision on the issue of electoral boundaries.

On behalf of the Advisory Council for the Improvement District of Ranchland No. 6, I would like to present our position on the boundaries, for your consideration. The normal traffic flow of the residents in the north end of the I.D. for business, hospital, school and senior citizen lodges, has historically been to the east rather than to the south. We therefore request that townships 12 to 15 inclusive, over to the B.C. border, be included in the Highwood constituency. Our first choice would be to have northern section of I.D. No. 6 in the Highwood constituency with our second choice being the Little Bow.

We feel these adjustments would better serve the rural residents of the Improvement District of Ranchland No. 6.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Yours truly,
Mac Blades
Chairman,
Improvement District
of Ranchland No. 6

Finally, from the village of Onoway, dated September 25, 1992:

As elected officials of the undersigned municipalities, we wish to request your serious consideration of the following proposal regarding the establishment of new electoral boundaries.

We strongly feel that there should be one constituency which encompasses the counties of Barrhead No. 11 and Lac Ste. Anne No. 28, including all incorporated Summer Villages, Villages and Towns within these boundaries.

Because of similarities in priorities and concerns of the municipalities within these proposed constituency boundaries, we feel we would be most efficiently and effectively represented by one MLA. The trading patterns, geographic features and local community interests support this position as well. Currently the two counties share hospital and ambulance district boundaries and are similar in terms of economic needs. We believe that any regionalized or coordinated programs between municipalities will be better facilitated by having one MLA for this rural area.

It was stated in the Electoral Boundaries Commission report that municipal boundaries should be considered whenever possible in the establishment of new constituencies. The combined populations of County of Lac Ste. Anne and County of Barrhead meet the population requirements for a constituency.

In consideration of all of these factors, we strongly encourage the Members of the Legislative Assembly to support this recommendation which we feel will benefit the constituents of Lac Ste. Anne and Barrhead.

Sincerely,

The reeve of the county of Barrhead No. 11, the mayor of the town of Barrhead, the mayor of the village of Onoway, the mayor of the summer village of Alberta Beach, the reeve of the county of Lac Ste. Anne No. 28, and the mayor of the village of Sangudo all signed the letter.

That concludes the submissions we've received.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thanks very much, Bob.

The Chair is now open for motions.

MR. DAY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that the Select Special Committee on Electoral Boundaries approve the draft report of recommended legislation changes and proposed electoral divisions for the province of Alberta and further move that the report be printed and then delivered to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in accordance with Motion 24 of June 2, 1992.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Discussion on the motion? Opening comments by the mover?

MR. DAY: I'd like to point out some significant points that I believe really highlight this report. First, we have taken in the 1991 census data and also included the census data from the native list from federal Indian and northern affairs. It should also be noted that there are 83 constituencies being recommended in this report, and of those 83, forty-one are outside of the cities of Calgary and Edmonton, which means that there would be 20 in Calgary and 18 in Edmonton. Four constituencies fall within the clearly accepted guideline of special consideration. Those four constituencies are Lesser Slave Lake, Athabasca-Wabasca, Chinook, and Cardston-Chief Mountain. It's of some interest that those four constituencies alone take in over 37 percent of Alberta's land area, so four very large constituencies there.

In addressing many of the concerns that were brought forward, special attention was paid to suggestions coming from the cities of Calgary and Edmonton that we take particular interest, being careful to watch the community of interest guideline in terms of those cities and their constituencies. I think a look at the report shows that that was accommodated to great length.

Also, in the rural areas some of the overriding concerns were that we carefully look at existing lines and move to municipal lines, and in northern Alberta the lines should be north/south rather than east/west. Again, a study of this report will show that there has been great care to accommodate as far as possible those concerns.

The next redistribution, we recommend, would take place after the year 2001 census, and we'd also recommend that with the next redistribution public hearings be held prior to the interim report.

Those are some of the overlying considerations, Mr. Chairman, in this report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's an excellent consensus of the work and conclusions the committee has drawn on.

Any further discussion? Pat or Mike?

Are you ready for the question?

HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question's been called. All in favour? Opposed? Let the record show that it's carried unanimously. Thank you.

Any further motions?

MRS. BLACK: Mr. Chairman, as we draw to the close of some of our deliberations, I think it would be appropriate to make a special motion of thank you to people who have worked very hard through this process, actually three times around. Special thanks to our senior administrator, Bob Pritchard, and a motion of special thanks to his assistant, Ted Edwards, for their continual support and diligence through this process. I don't know how we would have managed without their assistance and their efforts. So I would like to have a special motion of thanks to those gentlemen go on the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well said, Pat.

Further discussion? Ready for the question? All in favour? Let the record show it carried unanimously.

3:23

MRS. BLACK: One more motion I'd like to put on the record as well is a motion of thanks to you as chairman. You're shaking your head. As usual, I guess the quote is: good job, Bob. I'd like to say that you've done more than a good job; you've done a wonderful job in dealing with the concerns that have come from north, south, east, and west and made sure that many of those concerns have been directly addressed within this report. So a special thanks to you, Bob, as the chairman. It's been a pleasure working with you again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

That really takes my last point. I want to express my appreciation to all of the committee members. This is a process that has lasted a considerable period of time, much longer than any of us believed would be the case.

MRS. BLACK: Hopefully we won't have to ever do it again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hopefully not.

With that, thank you so much.

Ready for a motion to adjourn.

MR. CARDINAL: So moved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All in favour? Carried.

[The committee adjourned at 3:26 p.m.]