

# Report to Council



**Date:** May 30, 2022  
**To:** Council  
**From:** City Manager  
**Subject:** BC Electoral Boundaries Commission Submission  
**Department:** Office of the City Clerk

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from Office of the City Clerk dated May 30, 2022 regarding BC Electoral Boundaries Commission Submission;

AND THAT Council directs staff to make an online submission in support of amending boundaries to have the City of Kelowna represented by three ridings on the east side of Lake Okanagan.

## **Purpose:**

To direct staff to make an online submission, on behalf of Council, to the BC Electoral Boundaries Commission regarding provincial electoral riding boundaries.

## **Background:**

The BC Electoral Boundaries Commission is seeking public input on changes to existing electoral boundaries. BC currently has 87 electoral districts and the Commission can recommend creating up to six more. The City is currently represented across three ridings: Kelowna-Lake Country, Kelowna-Mission, and Kelowna West (see Attachment A Maps). The Commission considers population growth and other geographic and demographic factors in making its recommendations. This is its first phase of public input with a preliminary report expected in fall 2022.

## **Discussion:**

Provincially, the average population per electoral district is 57,481. Kelowna's ridings have among the highest deviation from the average by population, suggesting the City is underrepresented at the provincial level. The population and deviation is shown by riding in Table 1.

**Table 1: Population and Deviation by Riding**

<b>Riding</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Deviation</b>
Kelowna-Lake Country	75,047	30.6%
Kelowna-Mission	67,994	18.3%
Kelowna West	73,035	27.1%

In 2021, the City's population was 144,576. The 2040 Official Community Plan (OCP) anticipates an average annual growth rate of 1.43% to 2040. The growth rate is higher for the first half of the OCP timeframe, with Kelowna projected to grow by 1.53% annually or approximately 22,500 new residents from now to 2031. Growth is expected to be highest in the Downtown, Capri-Landmark, and Core Central areas followed by Rutland, Glenmore, Midtown, and South Pandosy ([OCP Map 2.1](#)).

Staff recommend that Kelowna be represented by three ridings entirely on the east side of Okanagan Lake. This supports representation more consistent with the provincial average and allows for the high population growth expected over the next several years. Based on population, it is expected the ridings would include some areas outside of City limits.

The Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission also started the separate process of reviewing federal electoral boundaries. In early May the Commission released its proposed recommendations for federal ridings in BC. Staff are reviewing the proposal and will report back to Council. The Commission is holding a public hearing in Kelowna on Tuesday June 14.

**Conclusion:**

Staff recommend making an online submission to the BC Electoral Boundaries Commission in support of amending boundaries to have the City of Kelowna represented by three ridings entirely on the east side of Okanagan Lake.

**Internal Circulation:**

Policy & Planning

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

***Legal/Statutory Authority:***

***Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:***

***Existing Policy:***

***Financial/Budgetary Considerations:***

***External Agency/Public Comments:***

***Communications Comments:***

Submitted by:

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cc:

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