

## Federal Electoral Districts Submission

On behalf of the Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you this evening to provide comment and recommend amendments to the proposed realignment of the Langley Electoral District. Our organization represents approximately 1100 businesses operating within the City and the Township of Langley. The Township of Langley is among one of the four major development areas in southwestern British Columbia with projected population growth to occur within the next 10 years by approximately 33,000.

We understand and appreciate the efforts of the Commission to create uniform electoral districts across Canada, with the understanding there may be circumstances that would warrant deviations from the provincial electoral quota of 105,000 per district. We respectfully submit our recommendations for consideration of such a deviation for Langley.

The combined population of the City and the Township of Langley is approximately 130,000, which is within the deviation of 25 percent more permitted by the Act. The Langley Electoral District is a very manageable geographic size and layout, confirmed by our Member of Parliament Mark Warawa. He has also confirmed they have the capacity to service projected population growth into the near future. As mentioned, it is projected that our region will experience considerable growth within the next 10 to 15 years – about the same time the Act mandates a further review. There are many projections as to anticipated population densities in the region however we are of the opinion the next 5 to 8 years will provide a more accurate indication of real development and densification. For these reasons, the Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests the Commission consider delaying any change to the electoral boundaries for the City and the Township of Langley until the next review period, when we have a more accurate picture of the population growth.

In the event the Commission is unable to consider our recommendation, we would also like to provide comment on the proposed reconfiguration. Specifically, we are concerned that the reconfiguration separates and segregates a portion of the Township of Langley. This will once again create confusing unidentifiable boundaries and would require a Member of Parliament to work with three local governments in the proposed Langley-Cloverdale district (City of Surrey, City of Langley, Township of Langley), and in the proposed Fort Langley-Aldergrove district with two local governments and First Nations (Township of Langley, City of Abbotsford, Kwantlen First Nation, Katsie First Nation). In order to create more identifiable boundaries and streamlined relationships, we respectfully request the Commission realign the Langley-Cloverdale district to include the entire City of Langley, Cloverdale and Port Kells area, and leave the entire Township of Langley as one electoral district. The population represented in both proposals would meet the desired quota of 105,000.

In closing, I wish to confirm that our recommendations are in support of the position of City of Langley Mayor Peter Fassbender, Township of Langley Mayor Jack Froese and

Member of Parliament Mark Warawa. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to provide input into this very important process.