

# Changes to Federal Electoral Districts

## **Fundy Royal (suggested name: Fundy Royal—Riverview)**

The Commission proposes that the electoral district of Fundy Royal be renamed Fundy Royal—Riverview. It would comprise the current electoral district PLUS that part of the Town of Riverview that is in the current electoral district of Moncton—Riverview—Dieppe; LESS the Parish of Waterborough assigned to the proposed electoral district of Miramichi—Grand Lake; and LESS the Town of Quispamsis, which would be assigned to the proposed electoral district of Saint John—Kennebecasis. The proposed electoral district of Fundy Royal—Riverview has a population of 74,261 and is 4.25% below the provincial electoral quota.

There exists a community of interest as well as historical ties between the Town of Riverview and the riding of Fundy Royal, because approximately 50% of the population of Riverview is already part of the riding of Fundy Royal. In fact, the Commission received comments from a resident of the Town of Riverview expressing her frustration with the fact that the Town of Riverview was divided between two ridings and commenting that many did not seem to know where the dividing line between the districts was situated. The community of identity is obvious, as the riding of Fundy Royal and the Town of Riverview are both heavily populated with majority-Anglophone communities.

The transfer of the remainder of the Town of Riverview to Fundy Royal is also driven by the fact that the current district of Moncton—Riverview—Dieppe, with a variance of 30.53% over the electoral quota, is beyond the allowable variance; therefore, a part of this riding must be transferred to another district. Obviously, similar arguments to those made above could also be used, at least in part, to justify transferring the remainder of Dieppe to the district of Beauséjour. Therefore, in the section dealing with the proposed electoral district of Moncton—Dieppe, we explain further why the Commission is proposing to transfer the remainder of the Town of Riverview to Fundy Royal, instead of transferring the remainder of the City of Dieppe to Beauséjour.

The community of Waterborough adjoins the community of Chipman. We assigned Waterborough to Miramichi—Grand Lake, because of its geographic proximity to the communities of Canning, Minto and Chipman, which are all part of the proposed electoral district of Miramichi—Grand Lake. Its addition to Miramichi—Grand Lake will help increase the population count of that riding. The Commission is also of the view that Waterborough has a community of interest and identity with the communities in the proposed riding of Miramichi—Grand Lake.

Bearing in mind relative voter parity, the Commission has assigned the Town of Quispamsis to the proposed electoral district of Saint John—Kennebecasis. We have more to say about this proposed move in discussing the proposed district of Saint John—Kennebecasis.

The proposed district of Fundy Royal—Riverview, while mostly rural, has a landmass that is less than half the size of the two geographically largest electoral districts, Miramichi—Grand Lake and Tobique—Mactaquac. Therefore, a higher population is justified.

As the entirety of the Town of Riverview will be included in this proposed riding, the Commission proposes that the name of the electoral district be changed to Fundy Royal—Riverview. The new boundary changes dictate a change of name to better reflect the new geographic boundary.

### **Moncton—Riverview—Dieppe (suggested name: Moncton—Dieppe)**

The Commission proposes that the electoral district of Moncton—Riverview—Dieppe be renamed Moncton—Dieppe and comprise the current electoral district PLUS that very small part of the City of Moncton that is in the current electoral district of Beauséjour; LESS that part of the Town of Riverview that is in the current district of Moncton—Riverview—Dieppe, assigned to the proposed electoral district of Fundy Royal—Riverview. The proposed electoral district of Moncton—Dieppe has a population of 91,333 and is 17.76% above the provincial electoral quota.

The Commission recognizes the ties that bind the three communities that form the current riding. These militated strongly thus far in favour of keeping all of them together within one electoral district. However, we are of the view that keeping them together while continuing to chip away parts of Dieppe and Riverview is no longer the most appropriate configuration for this riding when considering the available alternatives for creating an electoral map for New Brunswick.

The population of the current electoral district of Moncton—Riverview—Dieppe grew from 89,484 in 2011 to 101,237 in 2021. Thus, its population is 30.53% over the provincial electoral quota and adjustments are therefore required.

The Commission received a submission from the City of Moncton recognizing that changes to the boundaries of this riding were inevitable, to comply with the Act. It noted that the population count of the City of Moncton is now at 79,470, which is 2.46% above the electoral quota. It stated: Previous Commissions have drawn our federal electoral district boundaries with a goal of respecting the community of interest and identity that is present [...] in the greater Moncton area. Although the merit of this approach is undeniable, our desire to continue to collaborate and share with our regional partners to deliver the best possible services to our combined citizens will continue regardless of the boundaries chosen. In conclusion, it stated that the City of Moncton's preferred option is a Moncton riding that coincides with [the] City's current municipal boundaries. We seriously considered this option but, for reasons explained below, the Commission concluded that the part of the City of Dieppe that is currently in this riding and the City of Moncton should be kept together in the proposed district of Moncton—Dieppe.

Transferring both the remainder of the City of Dieppe and the Town of Riverview to other ridings, as suggested, would require major changes to several other ridings. Transferring the remainder of Dieppe (a population of 11,863) to Beauséjour would increase the population of Beauséjour to 100,353, thus bringing it beyond the allowable limit of 25%, at 29.39% above the electoral quota. As previously explained, we are basically proposing that the electoral district of Beauséjour remain as is, because we found it appropriate in both size and character.

As noted earlier, we also received a submission from the Société de l'Acadie du Nouveau-Brunswick expressing its wish that the riding currently known as Moncton—Riverview—Dieppe remain bilingual after the redistribution process. The Commission is of the view that it is desirable that the riding encompassing the City of Moncton remain bilingual, provided that this can be done within the confines of the law and jurisprudence that govern us.

Statistics Canada will release the data concerning the linguistic diversity and use of English and French in Canada on August 17, 2022. In the meantime, we are using the 2016 data. For that part of Dieppe that remains in the proposed district, this data shows that 60.6% of its population indicate French as the

language spoken most often at home, while 66.6% indicate that their mother tongue is French. For the City of Moncton, this data shows that 23% of its population indicate French as the language spoken most often at home, while 30.7% indicate that their mother tongue is French. By keeping part of the City of Dieppe within the same electoral district as the City of Moncton, these percentages increase to 27.8% and 35.4% respectively. At the end of the last redistribution, these percentages for the current electoral district of Moncton—Riverview—Dieppe were 28.95% and approximately 34.5% respectively.

Notwithstanding the bilingual status of the City of Moncton, the Commission is of the opinion that the dilution of the Francophone critical mass and the loss of a Francophone municipality (Dieppe) would endanger the effective representation of the Francophone minority in the suggested new riding, in that it would weaken that minority's political influence and diminish its ability to voice its concerns effectively.

Furthermore, the Acadians and Francophones of Dieppe and Moncton (in the proposed electoral district of Moncton—Dieppe) represent a community of interest, in that their interests are intrinsically tied in with the substantial Francophone institutional network found in the Moncton area. Keeping Moncton and Dieppe together in the proposed district of Moncton—Dieppe makes it possible to preserve the integrity of the community of interest formed by the Francophone population of Dieppe and Moncton toward the Francophone institutional network located therein, and to preserve a Francophone critical mass in the proposed district of Moncton—Dieppe.

Because the proposed electoral district of Moncton—Dieppe is at most one twenty-fifth the geographic area of the Beauséjour riding, a larger population is to be expected. The variance from the electoral quota for Moncton—Dieppe is high (+17.76%) but, considering the density of the population in a very small area, it should not jeopardize the member of Parliament's ability to represent the people of the riding effectively. We note that, at the end of the previous redistribution process in 2013, this riding was 19.3% above the provincial quota. Urban electoral districts, by virtue of their smaller geographic size and representative accessibility, are justified in having higher positive variances from the electoral quota.

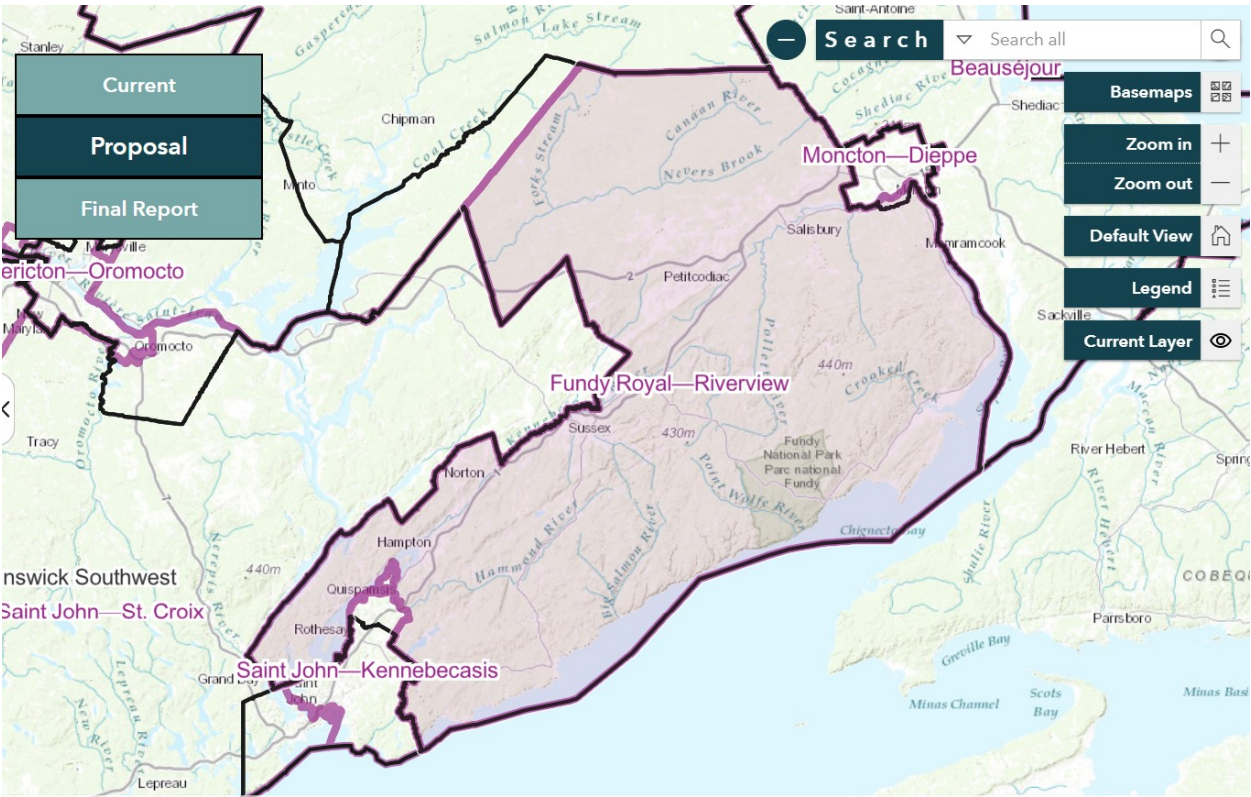
The 2021 Census revealed that Moncton and Dieppe are the province's fastest-growing cities; therefore, it is important to leave some room for both to grow. The proposed changes leave both the electoral districts of Moncton-Dieppe (+17.76%) and Beauséjour (+14.09%) well within the 25% range of deviation permitted by the Act.

In our analysis, we concluded that the factors found in section 15 of the Act, especially the community of interest factor, as well as fair representation for New Brunswick's linguistic minority, militate in favour of keeping part of the City of Dieppe in the same riding as the City of Moncton.

The Commission believes that those factors are, in this case, more important than voter parity is to ensuring effective representation. As stated by the Supreme Court of Canada in *Carter*, to insist on voter parity might deprive citizens with distinct interests of an effective voice in the legislative process as well as of effective assistance from their representatives in their 'ombudsman' role (p. 188).

With the removal of Riverview from the Moncton—Riverview—Dieppe riding, it is incumbent on the Commission to rename the riding Moncton—Dieppe to reflect the changes in the boundary of the riding.

Proposed New Riding



Close-Up of Riverview

