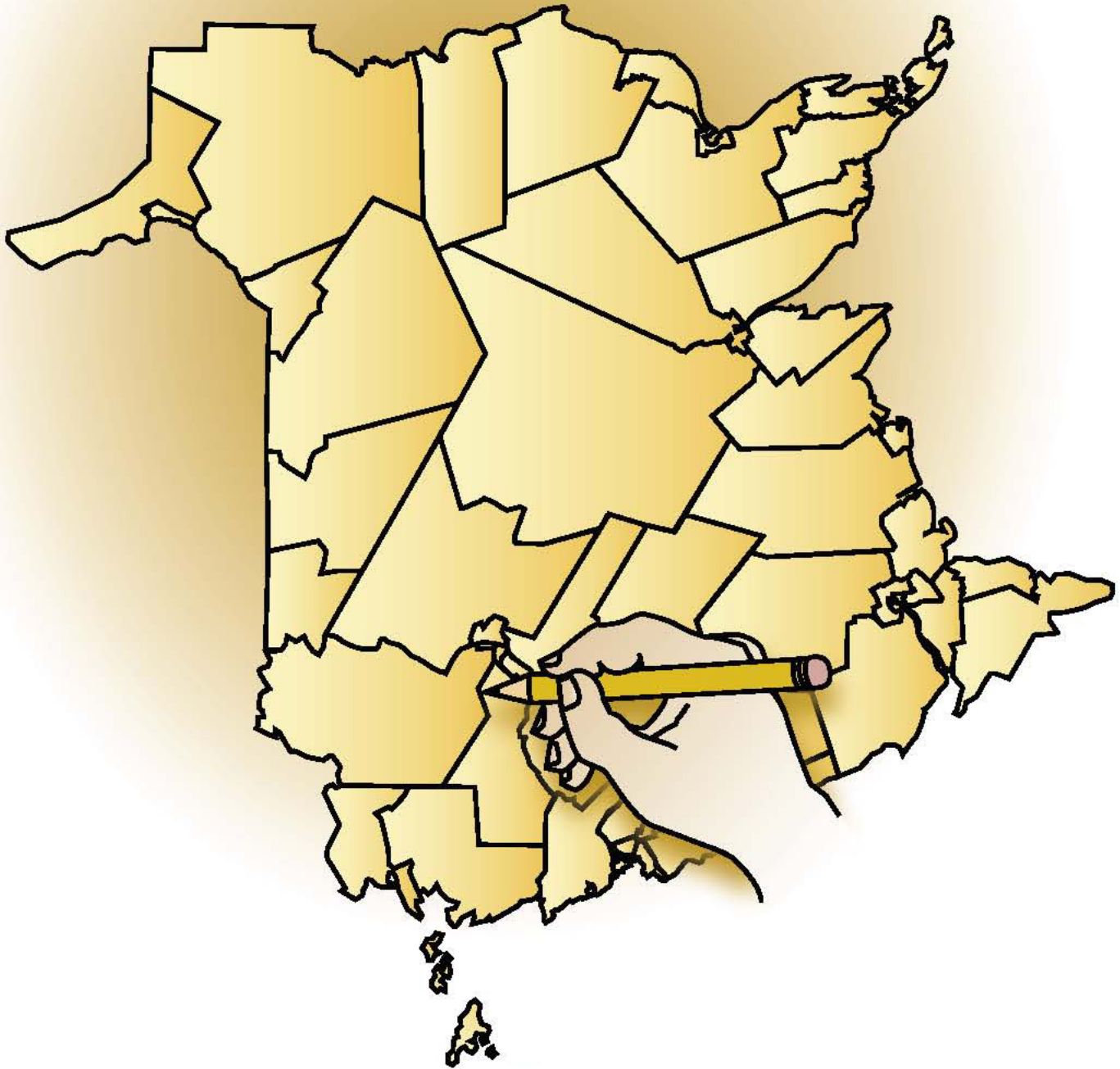


A proposed Electoral Map for New Brunswick

*Preliminary Report of the Electoral Boundaries
and Representation Commission*



Electoral Boundaries
and Representation
Commission



Commission sur la délimitation
des circonscriptions électorales
et la représentation

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électorales et la représentation

November 21, 2005

Ms. Loredana Catalli Sonier
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative Building
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Dear Ms. Catalli Sonier:

Pursuant to s. 16(2) a) of the *Electoral Boundaries and Representation Act*, we are pleased to file with you, a copy of the preliminary report of the Commission.

As prescribed in the *Act*, the recommendations of the report include the division of the Province into 55 electoral districts, the boundary description of each as well as the name proposed for each district.

The report includes a notice to the residents of the Province of the times and locations of the public hearings to address the preliminary report. Appendix A to the report includes the list of communities included in each district and a map indicating the boundaries of the proposed electoral districts.

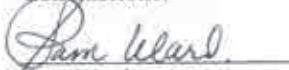
In accordance with s. 17 of the *Act*, we would be grateful if you would immediately forward a copy of the report to each of the members of the Legislative Assembly.

Sincerely,

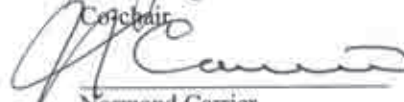

Justice Margaret Larlee
Co-chair


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Introduction

On June 30, 2005, the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick unanimously adopted the *Electoral Boundaries and Representation Act*. For the first time in the history of the Province, electoral redistribution will take place based on legislation.

On August 15, 2005, the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council appointed the first Commission in accordance with the *Act*. The appointments took effect on August 22, 2005. These appointments were the result of the unanimous recommendation of the Legislative Administrative Committee of the Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Administrative Committee was composed of representatives from all three political parties represented in the legislature.

The composition of the Commission is as follows:

Madam Justice Margaret Larlee of Fredericton, co-chair
Madam Justice Brigitte Robichaud of Moncton, co-chair
Mr. David Brown of Saint John
Mr. Normand Carrier of Edmundston
Dr. Richard Myers of Fredericton
Mr. Réginald Paulin of Lamèque
Ms. Pam Ward of the Metepenagiag First Nation

The Commission is required to make its recommendations based on the 2001 Census, supplemented by input from the general public. In that regard, public hearings were held in all regions of the Province in October of 2005 and the Commission also received letters, faxes and emails. Under the legislation, the Commission is required to issue a preliminary report within 90 days after its establishment. This document represents the preliminary report of the Commission.

This report also serves as notice that the Commission will be holding public hearings on the dates in January 2006 and in the locations listed on page 53 in order to receive public input on the contents of the preliminary report. Dates may be rescheduled in the event of inclement weather. If the Commission deems that additional hearings are warranted due to the high number of interventions received, these will be announced at a later date.

All those who wish to submit briefs to the Commission are invited to do so by January 6, 2006.

In accordance with the *Act*, a final report will be filed by mid-February 2006 after which members of the Legislative Assembly will have 14 days to voice in writing any objection to the recommendations of the Commission. The Commission will then have 30 days to consider any objection received. This will be followed by the production of the Commission's final report, with or without amendments. It is anticipated that the work of the Commission will be completed by March 31, 2006.

Historical Overview:

When New Brunswick was established as a separate province in 1784, it was divided into eight counties: Charlotte, Saint John, Kings, Westmorland, Northumberland, York, Sunbury and Queens. Initially, the county of York covered all of northwest New Brunswick while the county of Northumberland included all of northeast New Brunswick and the county of Kent.

New counties were established as the population of various areas of the Province increased. The initial eight counties increased to 15 by 1873, the same number that exists today. Kent became a separate entity in 1814. Gloucester was separated from Northumberland in 1826 and Restigouche became a county in 1837 after being part of Gloucester from 1826 to 1837. Carleton was carved out of York in 1833, Victoria out of Carleton in 1837 and Madawaska out

of Victoria in 1873. Albert became a county in 1845; it included part of Westmorland and a small part of the county of Saint John.

The initial provincial electoral distribution in 1785 was based on counties with each county being accorded seats according to its population. Throughout most of New Brunswick's early history, redistribution was the result of the addition of new counties upon which the boundaries of the electoral districts were based.

From 1785 to 1967, most electoral districts were based on a county system. A first exception was the City of Saint John. The city had seen a number of changes in its method of representation until the adoption of the *Election Act* of 1891 that established the electoral districts of Saint John City with four members and Saint John county with two members. Another exception was the Moncton electoral district that was initially established in 1912 with one member and was increased to two members prior to the 1948 election. Saint Stephen-Milltown and the City of Fredericton were also separate districts from 1924 to 1926 when they were both eliminated as separate districts and re-integrated within their respective counties.

In 1967, each of the Province's 15 counties was a separate electoral district in addition to the cities of Saint John and Moncton that were also districts in their own right. These districts elected members using a bloc voting system (multi-member plurality electoral system) where several representatives could be elected from a single constituency.

The New Brunswick electoral redistribution of 1967 saw the first change to the electoral boundaries of the Province since 1926 as well as the first change in the number of members since 1946. Under the 1967 redistribution all six of New Brunswick's cities became electoral districts. In addition, Saint John County was divided into the separate districts of Saint John East and Saint John West. The redistribution increased the number of the electoral districts to 22 and the number of members of the Legislative Assembly was also increased from 52 to 58.

The 1967 redistribution is as follows:

Albert: Albert County - two members

Bathurst: City of Bathurst - one member

Campbellton: City of Campbellton, Villages of Atholville and Tide Head - one member

Carleton: Carleton County - three members

Charlotte: Charlotte County - four members

Edmundston: City of Edmundston - one member

Fredericton: City of Fredericton - two members

Gloucester: Gloucester County less the City of Bathurst - five members

Kent: Kent County - three members

Kings: Kings County - three members

Madawaska: Madawaska County less the City of Edmundston - three members

Moncton: City of Moncton - three members

Northumberland: Northumberland County - five members

Queens: Queens County - two members

Restigouche: Restigouche County less the electoral district of Campbellton - three members

Saint John Centre: City of Saint John - four members

Saint John East: Saint John County east of the Saint John River and outside of the City of Saint John; two members

Saint John West: Saint John County west of the Saint John River and outside of the City of Saint John - one member

Sunbury: Sunbury County - two members

Victoria: Victoria County - two members

Westmorland: Westmorland County less the City of Moncton - four members

York: York County less the City of Fredericton - two members

The 1970 provincial election was the last one to be held under a bloc voting electoral system. The New Brunswick electoral redistribution of 1973 gave way to perhaps the most radical change of electoral districts in the history of the Province. Under this redistribution, New Brunswick electoral system changed from a bloc voting system to a single-member plurality system, commonly known as the “first past the post” electoral system. While the number of members did not change, multi-member districts were subdivided to form single-member districts. County boundaries were not breached by this redistribution. The following table sets out the comparisons between the 1970 and the 1973 system.

Former electoral districts (1970)	New electoral districts (1973)
Albert	Albert; Riverview
Bathurst	unchanged
Campbellton	unchanged
Carleton	Carleton Centre; Carleton North; Carleton South
Charlotte	Charlotte Centre; Charlotte-Fundy; Charlotte West; St. Stephen-Milltown
Edmundston	unchanged
Fredericton	Fredericton North Fredericton South
Gloucester	Caraquet; Nepisiguit-Chaleur; Nigadoo-Chaleur; Shippagan-les-Îles; Tracadie
Kent	Kent Centre; Kent North; Kent South
Kings	Kings Centre; Kings East; Kings West
Madawaska	Madawaska Centre; Madawaska-les-Lacs; Madawaska South
Moncton	Moncton East; Moncton North; Moncton West
Northumberland	Bay du Vin; Chatham; Miramichi Bay; Miramichi-Newcastle; Southwest Miramichi
Queens	Queens North; Queens South
Restigouche	Dalhousie; Restigouche East; Restigouche West
Saint John Centre	Saint John Harbour; Saint John North; Saint John Park; Saint John South
Saint John East	East Saint John; Saint John Fundy
Saint John West	unchanged
Sunbury	Oromocto; Sunbury
Victoria	Grand Falls; Victoria-Tobique
Westmorland	Memramcook; Petitcodiac; Shediac; Tantramar
York	York North; York South

While the 1973 redistribution created the single-member districts, no attempt was made to balance the number of voters per district. For this reason, the number of voters varied considerably from district to district. The 1974 provincial election was the first to be held under the formula of single-member electoral districts. At that time the number of electors varied from a high of 14,992 in Fredericton South to a low of 3,237 in Charlotte Centre.

In 1991, an order-in-council created the Representation and Electoral District Boundaries Commission with a mandate to hold inquiries into and concerning the number of electoral districts, the average number of voters that should be eligible to vote in an electoral district, the percentage variation from the average number of voters eligible to vote as well as the best approach for ensuring that New Brunswick's First Nations were given representation in the Legislative Assembly.

This order-in-council also created a Committee of the Legislative Assembly to consider the report of the Representation and Electoral District Boundaries Commission.

The Commission recommended the establishment of 54 electoral districts, each having on average 10,000 voters with an allowed variation of $\pm 20\%$. The Committee of the Legislative Assembly responded to the recommendations by adding one seat to create the riding of Fundy Isles and a new average of 9,411 voters for each electoral district with a permitted deviation of $\pm 25\%$.

Under this 1991 order-in-council, the Legislative Assembly had the final authority with respect to the drawing of new boundaries for the electoral districts and accordingly, it made some changes to the recommendations of the Commission. The new boundaries took effect for the 1995 election.

The proposals made by the 1991-1993 Commission produced the following electoral districts:

Electoral Districts Established in 1993

Electoral District	No. of Electors ¹	% Deviation from 9,411
Restigouche West	7,973	-15.3
Campbellton	9,398	-0.1
Dalhousie-Restigouche East	9,621	+2.2
Nigadoo-Chaleur	9,418	+0.07
Bathurst	10,271	+9.1
Nepisiguit	8,417	-10.6
Caraquet	9,254	-1.7
Lamèque-Shippagan-Miscou	9,526	+1.2
Centre-Péninsule	8,161	-13.3
Tracadie-Sheila	8,757	-6.9
Miramichi Bay	8,340	-11.4
Miramichi-Bay du Vin	9,352	-0.6
Miramichi Centre	9,739	+3.5
Southwest Miramichi	8,557	-9.1
Rogersville-Kouchibouguac	8,481	-9.9
Kent	8,372	-11.0
Kent South	10,435	+10.9
Shediac-Cap-Pelé	11,025	+17.2
Tantramar	8,237	-12.5
Dieppe-Memramcook	11,336	+20.5
Moncton East	11,170	+18.7
Moncton South	11,254	+19.6
Moncton North	11,314	+20.2
Moncton Crescent	9,631	+2.3
Petitcodiac	7,907	-16.0
Riverview	10,116	+7.5

Albert	7,862	-16.5
Kings East	9,693	+3.0
Hampton-Belleisle	9,741	+3.5
Kennebecasis	10,251	+8.9
Saint John-Fundy	9,140	-2.9
Saint John-Kings	10,282	+9.3
Saint John Champlain	10,084	+7.2
Saint John Harbour	10,838	+15.2
Saint John Portland	10,768	+14.4
Saint John Lancaster	10,149	+7.8
Grand Bay-Westfield	8,366	-11.1
Charlotte	7,988	-15.1
Fundy Isles	3,375	-64.1
Western Charlotte	8,654	-8.0
Oromocto-Gagetown	9,931	+5.5
Grand Lake	9,243	-1.8
Fredericton North	10,857	+15.4
Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak	11,214	+19.2
Fredericton South	11,332	+20.4
New Maryland	9,964	+5.9
York	9,444	+0.4
Mactaquac	9,436	+0.3
Woodstock	9,624	+2.3
Carleton	9,921	+5.4
Victoria-Tobique	7,402	-21.3
Grand Falls Region	7,424	-21.1
Madawaska-la-Vallée	9,127	-3.0
Edmundston	9,240	-1.8
Madawaska-les-Lacs	8,163	-13.3

¹ The number of electors is as included in the report of the Commission. It does not take into account the changes made by the Legislative Assembly.

Comparison with other Canadian jurisdictions:

Until June 2005, New Brunswick was the only province without legislation for the review of electoral boundaries. In comparison, every other jurisdiction had legislation that prescribed a timeline for the review of the boundaries of its electoral districts. The timing of the reviews varies from every two or three elections, to every 10 years, or after every decennial census.

The corresponding legislation from other Canadian jurisdictions also allows for the deviation of the electoral quotient within each electoral district: while the smallest variation permitted is found in Saskatchewan at 5%, there are 6 other jurisdictions that allow for deviations as high as 25%.

The final authority for the redistribution of the boundaries also differs in the various jurisdictions. Some provinces leave the final authority to the Legislative Assembly while others grant final authority to the commission itself.

While historically New Brunswick has undergone changes to its electoral districts, it nonetheless remains that from this point forward, boundaries commissions will be receiving their mandates pursuant to the *Act*.

The Right to Vote:

The Commission is mindful that the right to vote is enshrined in s.3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. The scope of that right is defined by the Supreme Court of Canada in *Reference Re Provincial Electoral Boundaries* (Sask.) [1991] 2 S.C.R. 158; it is not voting power per se, but the right to “effective representation”. This principal was followed by the Prince Edward Island Supreme Court in *MacKinnon v. Prince Edward Island* (1993) 104 Nfld. & P.E.I.R. 232. The relevant factors to be taken into account in ensuring effective representation have also recently been considered in *Raiche v. Canada (Attorney General)* (F.C.) [2005] 1 F.C.R. 93.

The Electoral Boundaries and Representation Act:

The powers and duties of the Electoral Boundaries and Representation Commission are set out in the *Electoral Boundaries and Representation Act*.

Electoral quotient:

The *Act* requires the Commission to calculate an electoral quotient. This is accomplished by taking the total population of New Brunswick at its last census and dividing it by the total number of districts. For the purpose of the current redistribution exercise, the applicable census is the 2001 Census. The *Act* requires that the total number of electoral districts remain unchanged at 55.

Therefore, the electoral quotient is calculated by dividing 729,498, being the total population of the Province at the 2001 Census by 55, the number of districts. This generates an electoral quotient of 13,263.

In accordance with the *Act*, the Commission is required to create 55 electoral districts that have a population as close as possible to this electoral quotient.

Guiding principles:

The *Act* does permit the Commission to deviate from the electoral quotient by up to a $\pm 10\%$ margin based on the considerations enumerated in s. 12 of the *Act* that reads as follows:

Guiding principles

- 12(1) *Subject to subsections (2), (3) and (4), when dividing the Province into electoral districts, a Commission shall ensure that the population of each electoral district is as close as reasonably possible to the electoral quotient.*
- 12(2) *A Commission may depart from the principle of voter parity as set out in subsection (1) in order to achieve effective representation of the electorate as guaranteed by section 3 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and based upon the following considerations:*
- (a) *communities of interest;*
 - (b) *effective representation of the English and French linguistic communities;*
 - (c) *municipal and other administrative boundaries;*
 - (d) *the rate of population growth in a region;*
 - (e) *effective representation of rural areas;*
 - (f) *geographical features, including the following:*
 - (i) *the accessibility of a region*
 - (ii) *the size of a region; and*
 - (iii) *the shape of a region; and*
 - (g) *any other considerations that the Commission considers appropriate.*

- 12(3) *If a Commission is of the opinion that it is desirable to depart from the principle of voter parity under subsection (2) when establishing an electoral district, the population of the electoral district shall deviate by no greater than 10% from the electoral quotient.*
- 12(4) *Notwithstanding subsection (3), if a Commission is of the opinion that it is desirable to depart from the principle of voter parity under subsection (2) when establishing an electoral district, in extraordinary circumstances the population of the electoral district may be more than 10% less than the electoral quotient.*

While taking these considerations into account, the population of each electoral district cannot exceed 14,589 citizens. According to the *Act*, electoral districts may have a population of less than 11,957 only if the Commission is satisfied that “extraordinary circumstances” exist.

Hearings:

The *Act* requires the Commission to hold two sets of public hearings, one prior to the release of its preliminary report and a second one following its release. These latter hearings provide an opportunity for the general public to comment on the proposals of the Commission set out in its preliminary report.

Reports:

The preliminary report must be filed within 90 days of the establishment of the Commission while the final report must be filed 90 days after the filing of the preliminary report. These reports must contain the 55 electoral districts with their descriptions and their names. The names of the electoral districts must be based on geographic considerations.

Objections to the final report:

Section 20 of the *Act* allows the Commission to receive written objections to the recommendations contained in its final report as long as these objections are submitted within 14 days of the filing of this report. The procedure also requires that any such objections be signed by at least two members of the Legislative Assembly. In such a case, the Commission is required to consider those objections within the next 30 days and finalize its report with or without changes.

Final authority:

Once the final report is filed, the Legislative Assembly Committee has the authority to make amendments to the name of an electoral district or to correct an error in the legal description of its boundaries. The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council is then required to adopt the recommendations of the Commission without making any further change.

Comparison of the current Electoral Boundaries and Representation Commission and the Representation and Electoral Boundaries Commission of 1991-1993:

There are three major differences between the 1991-1993 Commission and the current Commission:

- Electors vs. population

The 1991-1993 Commission was required to refer to the number of electors in determining an electoral quotient. In accordance with the *Act*, the current Commission is required to utilize the total population of the Province in order to determine the electoral quotient.

- Deviation

The 1991-1993 Commission was allowed a maximum deviation of $\pm 25\%$ (Fundy- Isles was an exception). The *Act* requires the current Commission to operate within a deviation of $\pm 10\%$, unless there are “extraordinary circumstances” that can warrant a population lower than minus 10%.

- Role of the Legislative Assembly

The 1991-1993 Commission reported to a committee of the Legislative Assembly. The latter had the authority to make changes to the boundaries proposed by the Commission. The current Commission established under the *Electoral Boundaries and Representation Act*, has the final authority over its recommendations. The Legislative Assembly can only make changes to the names of the electoral districts and correct errors in the legal descriptions of its boundaries.

Public Input:

In accordance with the *Act*, the Commission must hold public hearings throughout the Province in order to receive submissions on the existing electoral districts and the establishment of new ones.

For this reason, the Commission held a series of 12 province-wide public hearings in October of 2005. The particulars of these are as follows:

October 11 – Moncton

October 12 – Fredericton

October 14 – Saint John

October 24 – Richibucto

October 24 - Miramichi

October 25 – Inkerman

October 25 – Bathurst

October 26 – Campbellton

October 26 – Edmundston

October 27 – Grand Falls

October 27 – Woodstock

October 28 – Saint Andrews

As well, the Commission developed a website in order to inform the public of its mandate and highlight the features of the current electoral districts. This website also provides New Brunswickers with a means of communicating to the Commission their views on the redistribution of electoral districts.

Forty-seven presentations were made during the public hearings. The Commission also received in excess of thirty e-mails, facsimiles and letters.

In redistributing the electoral districts, the Commission gave serious consideration to the input received from New Brunswickers whether it arrived through the public hearings, letters, facsimiles or e-mails.

Commentaries

In all, the Commission received numerous opinions on the way in which new boundaries should be drawn. While some were of a provincial scope, others were directed more towards a particular electoral district, a particular community, or a region.

Comments of a provincial nature:

- Many interveners were of the view that the 10% deviation from the electoral quotient allowed by the *Act* was insufficient to allow proper consideration for communities of interest.
- A number of presenters also opined that the communities of interest criteria could not be adequately addressed, even with the extraordinary circumstances exception, because the number of electoral districts was limited to the existing 55.

- The need to respect the communities of interest was emphasized by many interveners.
- A few presenters emphasized the need to treat rural areas differently from urban areas. They stressed that the work of the elected representative of an urban area differed significantly from that of a rural elected representative.
- While drawing the new electoral districts, the Commission was reminded to respect the linguistic communities.
- A few of the interveners urged the Commission to have recourse to the “extraordinary circumstances” clause of the *Act* as often as necessary.
- A number of interveners made reference to First Nations representation without giving specific suggestions.

Public input on the Central region

The following comments were received by the Commission regarding the Oromocto-Gagetown region:

- The Commission received correspondence asking that the portion of the electoral district of Oromocto-Gagetown situated in the county of Queens be transferred into a rural electoral district that would be divided alongside the St. John River and Grand Lake.
- Correspondence also suggested that the village of Gagetown and the town of Oromocto remain in the same electoral district.
- Some other comments proposed that Burton and the Village of Cambridge-Narrows remain in the electoral district of Oromocto-Gagetown.
- Another New Brunswicker proposed that Burton, Geary, and the village of Oromocto remain within one electoral district.
- A resident of Canaan Forks requested that the area be moved into the Petitcodiac electoral district.

The following comments were received regarding the Fredericton region:

- The Commission received the proposal that the subdivisions of Hanwell Road be added to the urban Fredericton electoral districts in order to redistribute the increased population of the Fredericton area.
- Another submission requested that the areas of Douglas and McLeod Hill remain in the electoral district of Mactaquac.
- The Commission was also told that the riding of Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak was not an electoral district with natural boundaries because it encompasses both sides of the St. John River.

The following comments were received regarding the Mactaquac region:

- Some presenters proposed that Upper and Lower Queensbury, Bear Island and Keswick Ridge remain in the same electoral district.
- A request was made that the Mactaquac electoral district include the communities of Keswick Valley, Hainesville and Millville as well as Astle, Taxis River, Parker Ridge, Bloomfield, Holtville and Boiestown.

Comments on the Southeast region

The following comments were received regarding the Kent region:

- A presenter asked the Commission to consider the rural aspect of Kent County when making changes to the boundaries of the electoral districts.

- It was indicated that the electoral district of Kent has a cultural diversity that should be preserved.

The following comments were received regarding the Petitcodiac region:

- It was proposed that the area of Canaan Forks be transferred to Petitcodiac and not remain with the Grand Lake electoral district as it currently is.

The following comments were received regarding the Moncton-Dieppe region:

- It was proposed that the city of Dieppe be split into two electoral districts because of the growing population of that city.
- It was proposed that the city of Moncton have five electoral districts within the city boundaries.

Comments on the Southwest region

The following comments were received regarding the Saint John region:

- The areas of Glen Falls and Forest Hill should be transferred to the electoral district of Saint John-Champlain.

The following comments were received regarding the Hampton-Belleisle region:

- It was proposed that the lower portions of the Kingston Peninsula (polls 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34) be removed from the Hampton-Belleisle electoral district and add the areas of lower Hammond-River Valley communities.
- French Village should be transferred to the electoral district of Hampton-Belleisle.
- It was proposed that the towns in this area not be split and that Darlings Island and Nauwigewauk be kept within the same electoral district. Also, in order to lower the population of this electoral district, it was proposed that the Commission remove that part of the Belleisle area that is closest to the Town of Sussex.

The following comments were received regarding the Rothesay region:

- It was proposed that the town of Rothesay become one electoral district.

The following comments were received regarding the Quispamsis region:

- A presentation was received that if the town of Quispamsis had to be divided, that the part of the town west of Route 1 should be kept as one electoral district.

The following comments were received regarding the Charlotte region:

- It was proposed that the electoral district of Fundy Isles be considered a case of “extraordinary circumstances” and kept intact.
- Another proposal requested that the Commission apply the “extraordinary circumstances” exception of the *Act* to ensure that the county of Charlotte retains its three seats.

Comments on the Northwest region

The following comments were received regarding the Grand Falls region:

- The Town of Grand Falls should remain within a predominantly francophone electoral district.

Comments on the Northeast region

The following comments were received regarding the Northeast region in general:

- The number of seats should remain unchanged.

- A presenter proposed that it was more important to retain the current number of seats in the area rather than try to group together the communities of interest.
- Some interveners proposed that only one electoral district be removed rather than two.
- Presentations were made emphasizing that preserving communities of interest was the most important criteria when redrawing electoral districts.
- It was also suggested that the northern part of the Province be allowed to deviate from the electoral quotient by 20% to 25% instead of the current 10%.

The following comment was received regarding the Restigouche region:

- The Commission was urged to avoid removing an electoral district from the county of Restigouche.

The following comments were received regarding the Acadian Peninsula and Chaleur regions:

- A presenter emphasized the importance of keeping the communities of Allardville and Saint-Sauveur together.
- The Commission was asked to retain the electoral district of Bathurst intact and avoid adding to it.
- Some interveners proposed that Centre-Péninsule be declared a case of “extraordinary circumstances” because of the community of interest factor.
- A presentation was made urging the Commission to keep the municipalities of Paquetville and Saint-Isidore in the same electoral district.

The following comments were received regarding the Miramichi region:

- A presentation was made asking that Tabusintac remain in the electoral district of Miramichi Bay.
- It was also suggested that the municipality of Boiestown should be transferred to the electoral district of Mactaquac.
- An intervener proposed that one seat should be removed and that a francophone electoral district be created with the francophone part of Miramichi Bay-du-Vin grouped with Kouchibouguac and Saint-Louis.
- Some presenters urged the Commission to retain the four Miramichi electoral districts.
- Miramichi Bay should remain a francophone Miramichi electoral district and not become part of the Acadian Peninsula.
- It was suggested that all of Murray Settlement should be included in the electoral district of Rogersville-Kouchibouguac.
- It was also suggested that a portion of the parish of Saint-Charles and Baie-Sainte-Anne be added to the electoral district of Rogersville-Kouchibouguac in order to increase its population.
- An intervener asked that the Commission reintegrate Rogersville into a Miramichi district.
- A number of persons requested that their area should be transferred from the Miramichi-Bay district to a district more centered on the city of Miramichi due to the communities of interest factor.

Regional Approach

On reviewing the population of individual electoral districts, the Commission found that 16 exceeded the maximum population allowed by the *Act* while another 18 were below the minimum allowed. Since so many districts had to undergo changes in their boundaries, the Commission undertook the review region by region rather than district by district. The following table provides an overview of the current situation when the electoral districts are regrouped by economic regions.

Region	2001 Census Population	Electoral Districts	Average Population per District
Central	122,530	8	15,316
Southeast	186,965	13	14,381
Southwest	166,755	13	12,827
Northwest	85,365	7	12,195
Northeast	167,890	14	11,992

Since an electoral district cannot have a population in excess of 14,589, the approach of the Commission was to try to identify, on a priority basis, the areas where the Commission would have to add electoral districts. As an example, the Central region has a total population of 122,530 and eight electoral districts. The average population is 15,316, a number that exceeds the maximum population allowed. In such circumstances it is clear that an electoral district needs to be added since it is impossible to keep the same number of districts and meet the requirements of the *Act* simply by redrawing the boundaries of the existing districts.

The Commission reviewed the regions in the order of the average population per electoral district starting with the region with the highest average population. The analysis and the proposals of the Commission are presented in the same order in this report. The reader should be able to find all the information required on his or her electoral district and the region without reference to other sections of the report. It is for this reason that there is repetition in certain parts of the text.

Central New Brunswick

Provincial Electoral Quotient (P.E.Q.): 13,263

To obtain the Provincial Electoral Quotient, it is necessary to divide the total population of the Province (729,498) by the number of electoral districts (55).

P.E.Q. + 10%: 14,589

P.E.Q. – 10%: 11,937

The following table provides in summary form the current situation of each of the eight electoral districts included in the Central New Brunswick region.

Current Name of Electoral District	2001 Census Population	Difference from P.E.Q. (total)	Percentage Variance from P.E.Q.
Oromocto-Gagetown ¹	17,270	+4,007	+30.2
Grand Lake	12,275	-988	-7.4
Fredericton North ¹	18,495	+5,232	+39.4
Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak	13,310	+47	+0.4
Fredericton South ¹	16,010	+2,747	+20.7
New Maryland ¹	16,100	+2,837	+21.4
York ¹	14,900	+1,637	+12.3
Mactaquac	14,170	+907	+6.8

¹ An electoral district that had a 2001 Census population that exceeds the maximum allowed by the *Act*.

Central New Brunswick

The Central region of New Brunswick encompasses the counties of York, Sunbury and Queens. According to the 2001 Census, the population of the three counties was 124,850. The population at the time of the 1991 Census was 118,420. Therefore there has been an increase of 6,430 (5.4%) during the decade. The Central region currently has eight electoral districts with a combined population of 122,530. (The discrepancy in the two population totals, 124,850 and 122,530, is due to the fact that electoral boundaries differ slightly from county boundaries).

Five of the electoral districts exceed the maximum population allowed under the *Act* while the other three districts are within the 10% deviation allowed by the *Act*. Each member of the Legislative Assembly currently represents an average population of 15,316, a number that exceeds the provincial electoral quotient by 15.5%. Under the circumstances, it is impossible for the Commission to have all of the districts in conformity with the provisions of the *Act* by simply readjusting the boundaries of the existing districts.

Comparison with 1993

It is important to note at the outset that changes in the boundaries of the Province's electoral districts are necessitated by two distinct factors. The first is demographic change. Parts of the Province have experienced significant population growth while other parts have seen a decrease in population since the last distribution of electoral districts in 1993. The 2001 Census serves as the basis for the current redistribution. The second, and most important factor necessitating changes in the boundaries of the Province's electoral districts arises from the legislation governing this redistribution. It has imposed a more stringent standard than the one that existed in 1993. While the 1993 redistribution was based on a maximum deviation of 25%, the *Act* under which the Commission is operating sets the maximum deviation

at 10%. The significance of this more stringent standard is evident when one considers what the 1993 redistribution would have looked like if the standard for that redistribution had been 10%.

The following table provides the conclusions of the 1993 Commission for the electoral districts of Central New Brunswick.

Electoral District	No. of Electors ¹	% Deviation from 9,411
Oromocto-Gagetown	9,931	+5.5
Grand Lake	9,243	-1.8
Fredericton North ²	10,857	+15.4
Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak ²	11,214	+19.2
Fredericton South ²	11,332	+20.4
New Maryland	9,964	+5.9
York	9,444	+0.4
Mactaquac	9,436	+0.3

¹ It should be noted that the 1993 redistribution was based on electors while the 2005 redistribution is based on population. There is no direct correlation between a system based on population and another system based on electors. The comparison is provided for illustrative purposes only.

² An electoral district that would have been over the allowed deviation if the maximum deviation had been plus 10%.

As can be noted from the table above, three of the eight districts as constituted by the Commission of 1993 exceeded the average size for a district by more than 10%. While such a discrepancy was considered acceptable under the rules governing the 1993 redistribution, it is not acceptable under the more stringent standards included in the *Act* proclaimed in 2005.

The Need for an Additional District

As noted above, the eight electoral districts of Central New Brunswick, taken together, exceed the electoral quotient by 15.5%.

In order for the numbers to be within the maximum 10% deviation allowed by the *Act*, it is necessary to add an electoral district to the region. By adding an additional electoral district, the average population would be 13,614 or 2.6% over the provincial electoral quotient. Individual districts would be either above or below the average.

The Commission also looked at the option of adding two new electoral districts to the Central region. Such a scenario would provide an average population of 12,253 or 7.6% below the provincial electoral quotient. Since the population of the region is mainly concentrated in the Greater Fredericton urban area, it seemed more appropriate to the Commission that the average population be above rather than below the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission is applying to the extent possible, the same norm in other urban areas of the province. This approach enables the Commission to have, to the extent possible within the confines of the legislation, rural electoral districts with a population lower than the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission recognizes that citizens located in rural areas have access to fewer elected officials than their counterparts living in incorporated areas. Consequently, the constituency workload of members of the Legislative Assembly representing rural areas is often more onerous than the workload of their colleagues who represent more urban districts.

Based on the foregoing considerations, the Commission has determined that one electoral district should be added to the Central New Brunswick region. This course of action will obviously necessitate the redrawing of most, if not all, of the boundaries of the existing eight electoral districts.

General Approach

The Commission used the following guidelines in drawing the new boundaries for the Central New Brunswick region:

- The Commission proposes to add the new electoral district to the more densely populated region of the Greater Fredericton area. In order to achieve this new scenario, some of the suburban areas around Fredericton would have to become part of the Fredericton districts. This approach means that other outlying more rural districts will have to undergo boundary changes as well in order to accommodate the addition of an electoral district to the overall region.
- To the extent possible, rural districts will have a lower population than more urban districts in recognition of the fact that citizens living in non-incorporated areas of the province do not have access to municipally-elected officials. In addition, rural members of the Legislative Assembly have to travel greater distances to serve their constituents and the communities of interest are often more diverse.
- The Commission proposes to follow, to the extent possible, the natural boundaries, especially the St. John River, in developing the boundaries of the new electoral districts. At the present time, three districts (York, Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak and Oromocto-Gagetown) straddle the river. Canadian Forces Base Gagetown also constitutes a natural boundary since there is a very large geographic area without resident population.

Before attempting to draw the new boundaries, the Commission reviewed the status of neighbouring districts located just outside the Central region. Immediately to the west, the district of Woodstock is currently just above the maximum population allowed by the *Act*. To the north, the population of the Southwest Miramichi electoral district is currently below the number allowed by the *Act*. Canadian Forces Base Gagetown is located in the southern part of the region and establishes a natural divide with the electoral district of Westfield-Grand Bay, making it extremely difficult to transfer population from one area to the other for the purposes of electoral redistribution.

New Electoral Districts

The Commission proposes to establish four electoral districts in the Fredericton area. The total population of the three existing districts of Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak, Fredericton North and Fredericton South is 47,815 for an average of 15,938 or 20.2% above the electoral quotient. The average population, if spread over four districts would be 11,953, almost 10% below the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission considers that urban areas should have a higher population base than rural areas. For this reason, the Commission proposes to include parts of neighbouring districts, generally suburban areas, to the Fredericton area districts in order to increase the population base of the new districts. The Commission also proposes to use the St. John River as a natural divide in the creation of the new districts, with two districts being located on each side of the river.

The four electoral districts would be constituted as follows:

Electoral District # 42 Nashwaaksis

The Commission proposes that the electoral district of Nashwaaksis include:

- the western portion of the current Fredericton North electoral district. (The Ring Road would serve as a major divider between Nashwaaksis and Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak);
- the Douglas and MacLeod Hill areas would be transferred from the current district of Mactaquac to the new district.

The new electoral district would have a population of 14,304 or 7.8% above the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission also proposes **Nashwaaksis** as the name of the new electoral district.

Electoral District # 43 Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak

The Commission proposes that the electoral district of Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak include:

- the eastern portion of the current Fredericton North electoral district. (The Ring Road would serve as a major divider between Nashwaaksis and Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak);
- the portion of the existing Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak electoral district located north of the St. John River;
- the Pepper Creek area from the Grand Lake electoral district;
- Maugerville Parish from the Grand Lake electoral district.

The new electoral district would have a population of 14,302 or 7.8% above the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission also proposes **Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak** as the name of the new electoral district.

Electoral District # 44 Fredericton-Lincoln

The Commission proposes that the electoral district of Fredericton-Lincoln include:

- the portion of the Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak electoral district located south of the St. John River;
- the eastern portion of the existing Fredericton South district (the middle of Regent Street is the dividing line);
- the area from the limits of The City of Fredericton to the limits of the town of Oromocto (Lincoln area).

The population of the new electoral district would be 13,816 or 4.2% above the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission also proposes **Fredericton-Lincoln** as the name of the new electoral district.

Electoral District # 45 – Fredericton-Odell

The Commission proposes that the electoral district of Fredericton-Odell include:

- the western portion of the current district of Fredericton South (the middle of Regent Street is the dividing line);
- Bishop Drive area from the New Maryland district.

The population of the new electoral district would be 13,977 or 5.4% above the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission also proposes **Fredericton-Odell** as the name of the new electoral district.

Electoral District # 48 Mactaquac

The current electoral district of Mactaquac has a population of 14,170, 6.8% above the provincial electoral quotient. While this number is acceptable under the terms of the *Act*, changes are required because of the addition of one new district in the Fredericton area. As already mentioned, the Commission is proposing the following transfer:

- the Douglas and MacLeod Hill areas to the new district of Nashwaaksis.

In order to accommodate the numerical situation in the neighbouring district of Southwest Miramichi, the Commission is proposing the following transfer:

- the McGivney area to the Southwest Miramichi district.

To reflect a natural community of interest, the following areas would be transferred from the York district to the Mactaquac district:

- the town of Nackawic;
- the village of Millville;
- the parish of Southampton.

The cumulative effect of the transfers described above is to leave the population of the electoral district of Mactaquac relatively unchanged (from 14,170 to 14,169) or 6.8% above the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 47 York

The current electoral district of York has a population of 14,900, 12.3% above the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission proposes to transfer that portion of the York district located north of the St. John River to the Mactaquac district. The following areas would be transferred:

- the town of Nackawic;
- the village of Millville;
- the parish of Southampton.

In order to solve a problem of excess population in the Woodstock district, the Commission proposes to transfer into the York district, that portion of York County that is currently in the Woodstock district. This transfer includes:

- the Village of Canterbury and the village of Meductic;
- the parishes of Canterbury and North Lake.

The cumulative effect of the transfers described above is to decrease the population of the electoral district of York from 14,900 to 14,116 or 6.4% above the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 46 New Maryland

The current electoral district of New Maryland has a population of 16,100, 21.4% above the provincial electoral quotient. The population of the district has to be reduced substantially in order to meet the requirements of the *Act* and to assist in the creation of the new electoral districts in the Fredericton area. The Commission is therefore proposing to transfer the following:

- the area from the limits of the City of Fredericton to the limits of the town of Oromocto (Lincoln area) to the new electoral district of Fredericton-Lincoln;
- the Bishop Drive area to the new electoral district of Fredericton-Odell.

The cumulative effect of the transfers described above is to decrease the population of the electoral district from 16,100 to 12,268 or 7.5% above the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 41 – Grand Lake-Gagetown

The current electoral district of Grand Lake has a population of 12,275, 7.4% below the provincial electoral quotient. While the population is acceptable under the terms of the *Act*, changes are required because of the creation of the new districts in the Fredericton area. As indicated earlier, the Commission proposes to transfer the following areas to the new district of Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak:

- the parish of Maugerville;
- the Pepper Creek area.

The Commission also proposes to transfer the following area currently located in the Grand Lake district to the Petiscodiatic district due to the community of interest factor:

- the Brunswick Parish.

The Commission is proposing to add the following areas from the current district of Oromocto-Gagetown to the new district of Grand Lake-Gagetown:

- the Village of Cambridge Narrows and the Village of Gagetown;
- the parishes of Cambridge Narrows, Gagetown, Hampstead, Wickham, and the remaining portion of the parish of Johnston.

The cumulative effect of the transfers described above would be to increase the population of the electoral district from 12,275 to 12,442 or 6.2% below the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission also proposes to change the name of the electoral district from Grand Lake to **Grand Lake-Gagetown** in order to reflect the fact that the Gagetown area would now be part of the new district.

Electoral District # 40 – Oromocto

The current electoral district of Oromocto-Gagetown has a population of 17,270, 30.2% above the provincial electoral quotient. The population of the district has to be reduced substantially in order to meet the requirements of the *Act*. Because Grand Lake is the only adjoining district that is below the electoral quotient, the Commission is proposing to reduce the size of the Oromocto-Gagetown district by transferring the following areas to the new Grand Lake-Gagetown district:

- the Village of Cambridge Narrows and the Village of Gagetown;
- the parishes of Cambridge Narrows, Gagetown, Hampstead, Wickham, and the remaining portion of the parish of Johnston.

The cumulative effect of the transfers described above would be to decrease the population of the electoral district of Oromocto from 17,270 to 14,136 or 6.6% above the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission also proposes to change the name of the electoral district from Oromocto-Gagetown to **Oromocto** in order to reflect the fact that the Gagetown area is now part of another district.

Summary Central Region:

The initial population of the eight districts was 122,530. The combined effect of all the changes described above would be to have nine districts with a total population of 123,530.

The following table provides in summary form the proposals of the Commission for the nine Central New Brunswick electoral districts. Appendix A provides a map as well as a list of the communities included in each electoral district.

New Electoral Districts	Name of District	2001 Census Population	Difference from P.E.Q. (total)	Percentage Variance from P.E.Q.
# 40	Oromocto	14,136	+873	+6.6
# 41	Grand Lake-Gagetown	12,442	-821	-6.2
# 42	Nashwaaksis	14,304	+1,041	+7.8
# 43	Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak	14,302	+1,039	+7.8
# 44	Fredericton-Lincoln	13,816	+553	+4.2
# 45	Fredericton-Odell	13,977	+714	+5.4
# 46	New Maryland	12,268	-995	-7.5
# 47	York	14,116	+853	+6.4
# 48	Mactaquac	14,169	+906	+6.8

The preliminary report of the Commission would have the following impact and its proposals would bring about the following changes to the electoral map of the Central New Brunswick region:

- The number of electoral districts would be increased from eight to nine. Adding one electoral district would decrease the average population of each district from 15,316 (15.5% above the provincial electoral quotient) to 13,726 (3.5% above the provincial electoral quotient).
- Under the current situation, five of the eight electoral districts located in the Central New Brunswick region do not meet the requirements of the *Act*. Under the proposals contained in this Preliminary Report, all of the nine electoral districts would conform to the provisions of the *Act*.
- The new electoral district would be added in the Fredericton urban area. Suburban areas would need to be brought into the central core to provide the numbers required in order to establish the new district. In addition, the boundaries of the three existing Fredericton districts would need to undergo significant changes.
- The variance in the population of the current electoral districts is from plus 39.4% to minus 7.4%. Under the proposals contained in this Preliminary Report, the variance would range from plus 7.8% to minus 6.2%. Under the current distribution, the range is from a population of 5,232 above the provincial electoral quotient to a population of 988 under the quotient. The propositions contained in this Preliminary Report provide a scenario where the district with the highest number has a population of 1,041 above the provincial quotient while the district with the lowest number has a population of 821 below the quotient. In absolute terms, the gap between the districts with the highest and the lowest populations would be narrowed from 6,220 to 1,862.
- Currently, three of the eight electoral districts straddle the St. John River. Under the proposals contained in this Preliminary Report, only one of the nine districts (Grand Lake-Gagetown) would be located on both sides of the river.
- The addition of suburban areas to the Fredericton urban area would have the effect of increasing the rural nature of the outlying electoral districts.

Southeast New Brunswick

Provincial Electoral Quotient (P.E.Q.): 13,263

To obtain the Provincial Electoral Quotient, it is necessary to divide the total population of the Province (729,498) by the number of electoral districts (55).

P.E.Q. + 10%: 14,589

P.E.Q. – 10%: 11,937

The following table provides in summary form the current situation of each of the 13 electoral districts included in Southeast New Brunswick.

Current Name of Electoral District	2001 Census Population	Difference from P.E.Q. (total)	Percentage Variance from P.E.Q.
Rogersville-Kouchibouguac ²	10,200	-3,063	-23.1
Kent ²	11,260	-2003	-15.1
Kent South ¹	15,635	+2,372	+17.9
Shediac-Cap-Pelé ¹	15,725	+2,462	+18.6
Tantramar ²	10,620	-2,643	-19.9
Dieppe-Memramcook ¹	20,250	+6,987	+52.7
Moncton East ¹	16,275	+3,012	+22.7
Moncton South	14,560	+1,297	+9.8
Moncton North ¹	16,235	+2,972	+22.4
Moncton Crescent ¹	17,405	+4,142	+31.2
Petitcodiac	12,055	-1,208	-9.1
Riverview ¹	15,010	+1,747	+13.2
Albert ²	11,735	-1,528	-11.5

¹ An electoral district that had a 2001 Census population that exceeds the maximum allowed by the Act.

² An electoral district that had a 2001 Census population under 11,937. Under the provisions of the Act, only in cases where the Commission deems that there are "extraordinary circumstances" may the population of a district be less than 11,937.

Southeast New Brunswick

The Southeast region encompasses the counties of Westmorland, Kent and Albert. According to the 2001 Census, the population of the three counties was 182,820. The population at the time of the 1991 Census was 172,079. Therefore there has been an increase of 10,741 (6.2%). The Southeast region currently has 13 electoral districts with a combined population of 186,965. Each member of the Legislative Assembly represents on average a population of 14,381, or 8.4% above the provincial electoral quotient. (The discrepancy in the two population totals, 182,820 and 186,965, is due to the fact that electoral boundaries differ slightly from county boundaries).

Seven electoral districts exceed the maximum population allowed by the *Act*, two districts are within the 10% deviation allowed, while the population of the other four districts is below the permissible threshold of 11,937. The four districts that have a population below the minimum allowed by the *Act* are located on the periphery of the region: Rogersville-Kouchibouguac and Kent to the north, Petitcodiac to the west and Tantramar to the east. The seven districts that exceed the maximum population allowed are generally concentrated in the Greater Moncton area. The average population per district (14,381) is below the maximum number allowed by the legislation. Nevertheless, it is not possible to rearrange the boundaries of the existing districts while retaining the same number of electoral districts, given the geographical distribution of the districts that are either above or below the population levels allowed by the *Act*.

Comparison with 1993

It is important to note at the outset that changes in the boundaries of the Province's electoral districts are necessitated by two distinct factors. The first is demographic change. Parts of the Province have experienced significant population growth while other parts have seen a decrease in population since the last distribution of electoral districts in 1993. The 2001 Census serves as the basis for the current redistribution. The second, and most important factor necessitating changes in the boundaries of the Province's electoral districts arises from the legislation governing this redistribution. It has imposed a more stringent standard than the one that existed in 1993. While the 1993 redistribution was based on a maximum deviation of 25%, the *Act* under which the Commission is operating sets the maximum deviation at 10%. The significance of this more stringent standard is evident when one considers what the 1993 redistribution would have looked like if the standard for that redistribution had been 10%.

The following table provides the conclusions of the 1993 Commission for the electoral districts of Southeast New Brunswick.

Electoral District	No. of Electors ¹	% of Deviation from 9,411
Rogersville-Kouchibouguac	8,481	-9.9
Kent ²	8,372	-11.0
Kent South ³	10,435	+10.9
Shediac-Cap-Pelé ³	11,025	+17.2
Tantramar ²	8,237	-12.5
Dieppe-Memramcook ³	11,336	+20.5
Moncton East ³	11,170	+18.7
Moncton South ³	11,254	+19.6
Moncton North ³	11,314	+20.2
Moncton Crescent	9,631	+2.3
Petitcodiac ²	7,907	-16.0
Riverview	10,116	+7.5
Albert ²	7,862	-16.5

¹ It should be noted that the 1993 redistribution was based on electors while the 2005 redistribution is based on population. There is no direct correlation between a system based on population and another system based on electors. The comparison is, therefore, provided for illustrative purposes only.

² An electoral district that would have been over the allowed deviation if the maximum deviation had been minus 10%.

³ An electoral district that would have been over the allowed deviation if the maximum deviation had been plus 10%.

As can be noted from the table above, six of the 13 districts as constituted by the Commission of 1993 exceeded the average size for a district by more than 10%, while four were more than 10% under. While such a discrepancy was considered acceptable under the rules governing the 1993 distribution, it is not acceptable under the more stringent standards included in the *Act* proclaimed in 2005.

Effective Representation of the English and French Linguistic Communities

One of the considerations that the Commission is required to take into account while determining electoral boundaries is the effective representation of the English and French linguistic communities. The following table demonstrates the mother tongue as reported in the 2001 Census:

Electoral District	English (%)	French (%)	Other (%)
Rogersville-Kouchibouguac	12	87	2
Kent	34	53	14
Kent South	18	80	2
Shediac-Cap-Pelé	19	80	1
Tantramar	94	3	2
Dieppe-Memramcook	21	78	2
Moncton East	50	47	3
Moncton South	67	29	4
Moncton North	66	32	3
Moncton Crescent	74	24	2
Petitcodiac	95	4	1
Riverview	92	7	1
Albert	94	4	2

General Approach

The Commission used the following guidelines in drawing the new boundaries for the Southeast New Brunswick region:

- The Commission proposes to follow, to the extent possible, natural boundaries in defining the new electoral districts (in particular the Petitcodiac River).
- To the extent possible, rural districts will have a lower population than more urban districts in recognition of the greater difficulty for rural members of the Legislative Assembly to serve their constituents.
- The Commission will strive to ensure effective representation of the English and French linguistic communities.

Electoral District # 14 – Rogersville-Kouchibouguac

The Rogersville-Kouchibouguac electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 10,200, or 23.1% below the provincial electoral quotient of 13,263. The current situation does not meet the requirements of the *Act*. The Commission is proposing to transfer the following portion of the Kent district to the Rogersville-Kouchibouguac district:

- the remainder of the parish of Saint Charles;
- an area south of the Richibucto River and east of Route 11;

The Commission also proposes to transfer from Miramichi Centre to Rogersville-Kouchibouguac:

- that portion of Murray Settlement located in the parish of Nelson due to the communities of interest factor.

The effect of the transfers would be to increase the population of the Rogersville-Kouchibouguac electoral district from 10,200 to 12,502 or 5.7% below the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 15 – Kent

The Kent electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 11,260, or 15.1% below the provincial electoral quotient of 13,263. The current situation does not meet the requirements of the *Act*. The Commission is proposing to transfer the following portion of the Kent district to the Rogersville-Kouchibouguac district:

- the remainder of the parish of Saint Charles;
- an area south of the Richibucto River and east of Route 11.

The Commission is also proposing to transfer the following areas from Kent South into Kent:

- the town of Bouctouche;
- the remaining part of Saint Maurice and Bouctouche Cove;
- Saint Joseph de Kent;
- part of McIntosh Hill;
- Buctouche No. 16 reserve.

The effect of the transfers would be to increase the population of the Kent electoral district from 11,260 to 12,113 or 8.7% below the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 16 – Kent South

The Kent South electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 15,635, 17.9% above the provincial electoral quotient. This number is higher than allowed by the *Act* and consequently the population of the district must be reduced. The Commission proposes to transfer the following to the Kent district:

- the town of Bouctouche;
- the remaining part of Saint Maurice and Bouctouche Cove;
- Saint Joseph de Kent;
- part of McIntosh Hill;
- Buctouche No. 16 reserve.

The Commission proposes to transfer the following to the Petitcodiac district:

- Indian Mountain (route 490);
- the part of the community of Dundas located in Westmorland.

The Commission proposes to transfer the following area from the Shediac-Cap-Pelé district to the Kent South district:

- an area along the shore northwest of Shediac.

The Commission proposes to transfer the following areas from the Moncton Crescent district to the Kent South district:

- the remaining part of Saint Philippe;
- the remaining part of Irishtown.

The effect of the transfers would be to decrease the population of the Kent South electoral district from 15,635 to 13,706 or 3.3% over the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 17 – Shediac-Cap-Pelé

The Shediac-Cap-Pelé electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 15,635. This number is higher than allowed by the *Act* and consequently the population of the district must be reduced. The Commission proposes to transfer the following to the Kent South district:

- an area along the shore northwest of Shediac.

The Commission also proposes to transfer the following area to the electoral district of Dieppe-Memramcook:

- Scoudouc and Calhoun.

The effect of the transfers would be to decrease the population of the Shediac-Cap-Pelé electoral district from 15,725 to 14,068 or 6.1% over the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 18 – Tantramar

The Tantramar electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 10,620, or 19.9% below the provincial electoral quotient of 13,263. The district does not fall within the 10% deviation as provided for in the *Act*. The Commission initially examined three options to correct the situation:

- combine the Tantramar district with part of the Shediac-Cap-Pelé district;
- combine the Tantramar district with part of the Dieppe-Memramcook district;
- split the Tantramar district in two and combine one part with part of the Shediac-Cap-Pelé district and the other with part of the Dieppe-Memramcook district.

The Commission considers that all three options initially reviewed bring to the forefront the issue of the effective representation of the English and French linguistic communities. The mother tongue of the population of the Tantramar district is predominately English at 94% while the mother tongue of the neighbouring districts of Shediac-Cap-Pelé and Dieppe-Memramcook is French at 80% and 78% respectively.

The Commission considered proposing that the Tantramar district remain undivided and that part of the neighbouring districts of Shediac-Cap-Pelé district or Dieppe-Memramcook district be added to it to bring the population of Tantramar within the 10% deviation from the provincial electoral quotient. The end result would have been that a mainly francophone minority would become part of an essentially anglophone electoral district. Alternatively, the Commission considered proposing that the Tantramar district be divided in two and that one part be combined with part of the neighbouring district of Shediac-Cap-Pelé district and the other with the Dieppe-Memramcook district. Under such a scenario, the end result would have been that the mainly anglophone population of the current Tantramar district would find itself divided into two separate mainly francophone districts.

The Commission does not believe that the three options referred to above would provide effective representation of the English and French linguistic communities. The Commission has not been able to identify an alternative viable option that would on the one hand, bring the electoral district of Tantramar within 10% of the provincial electoral quotient, and on the other hand respect the criteria set out in the *Act*.

The Commission deems that the situation is indeed one of extraordinary circumstances as contemplated by s.12(4) of the *Act*. The Commission therefore proposes to leave the boundaries of the Tantramar electoral district unchanged with a Census 2001 population of 10, 620 or 19.9% below the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 19 - Dieppe –Memramcook

The Dieppe-Memramcook electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 20,250, 52.7% above the provincial electoral quotient. This number is higher than allowed by the *Act* and consequently the population of the district must be reduced. The Commission proposes to transfer the following from the Shediac Cap-Pelé district to the Dieppe-Memramcook district:

- Scoudouc and Calhoun.

The Commission also proposes to transfer the following to the new electoral district of Codiac:

- that part of the city of Dieppe that is located north of the Chartersville Road and Champlain Street.

The effect of the transfers would be to decrease the population of the Dieppe-Memramcook electoral district from 20,250 to 14,236 or 7.3% over the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 20 – Codiac

The Commission is proposing to establish a new electoral district that would include the following:

- that part of the city of Dieppe that is located north of the Chartersville Road and Champlain Street;
- that part of the current Moncton East district located generally east of Mill Road and Lewisville Road but not including the portion east of Elmwood Drive;
- the Harrisville and Lakeville areas currently in Moncton Crescent.

The proposals of the Commission would create an electoral district with a population of 14,419 or 8.7% over the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission also proposes that the name of the new electoral district be **Codiac**.

Electoral District # 21 – Moncton East

The Moncton East electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 16,275, 22.7% above the provincial electoral quotient. This number is higher than allowed by the *Act* and consequently the population of the district must be reduced. The Commission proposes to transfer the following to the new electoral district of Codiac:

- that part of the current Moncton East district located generally east of Mill Road and Lewisville Road but not including the portion east of Elmwood Drive;

The Commission is proposing to transfer the following from the Moncton North District to the Moncton East district:

- the area east of High Street and north of Mountain Road.

The Commission is also proposing to transfer the following from the Moncton South District to Moncton East district:

- the area east of Church Street.

The effect of the transfers would be to decrease the population of the Moncton East electoral district from 16,275 to 13,944 or 5.1% over the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 22 – Moncton South

The Moncton South electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 14,560 or 9.8% above the provincial electoral quotient. This number is acceptable under the terms of the *Act*, however, because of the adjustment required in electoral districts that surround it and the need to bring those other districts within the numbers allowed by the *Act*, it was necessary to transfer the following to the Moncton East district:

- the area east of Church Street.

The effect of the transfer would be to decrease the population of the Moncton South electoral district from 14,560 to 13,731 or 3.5% over the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 23 – Moncton North

The Moncton North electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 16,235, 22.4% above the provincial electoral quotient. This number is higher than allowed by the *Act* and consequently the population of the district must be reduced. The Commission proposes to transfer the following to the Moncton East district:

- the area east of High Street and north of Mountain Road.

The Commission is also proposing to transfer the following from the Moncton North district to the Moncton Crescent district:

- Westbrook Circle.

The effect of the transfers would be to decrease the population of the Moncton North electoral district from 16,235 to 13,867 or 4.6% over the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 24 – Moncton Crescent

The Moncton Crescent electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 17,405, 31.2% above the provincial electoral quotient. This number is higher than allowed by the *Act* and consequently the population of the district must be reduced. The Commission is proposing to transfer the following to the Moncton Crescent district:

- Westbrook circle.

The Commission is proposing to transfer the following area from the Moncton Crescent district to the new Codiac district:

- Harrisville Blvd and Lakeside.

The Commission is proposing to transfer from the Moncton Crescent to the Petitcodiac district the following:

- the community of Ammon;
- the remaining part of Stilesville;
- the remaining part of Lutes Mountain

The Commission proposes to transfer the following areas from the Moncton Crescent district to the Kent South district:

- the remaining part of Saint Philippe;
- the remaining part of Irishtown.

The effect of the transfers would be to decrease the population of the Moncton Crescent electoral district from 17,405 to 14,377 or 8.4% over the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 25 – Petitcodiac

The Petitcodiac electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 12,055, or 9.1% below the provincial electoral quotient of 13,263. The current population meets the requirements of the *Act*. However, the Commission proposes to add the following portion of the Grand Lake district to the Petitcodiac district due to the communities of interest factor:

- Brunswick parish.

The Commission proposes to add the following communities from the Kings East district:

- Head of Millstream, Carsonville and Summerfield.

The Commission proposes to add the following area from the Moncton Crescent district

- the community of Ammon;
- the remaining part of Stilesville;
- the remaining part of Lutes Mountain.

Due to the communities of interest factor, the Commission also proposes to add the following area from the Kent South and Moncton Crescent districts:

- Route 490.

The effect of the transfers would be to increase the population of the Petitcodiac electoral district from 12,055 to 13,249 or 0.1% below the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District #26 – Riverview

The Riverview electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 15,010, or 13.2% above the provincial electoral quotient of 13,263. The current situation does not meet the requirements of the *Act* and consequently the population of the district must be reduced. The Commission had two options: add part of Riverview to a Moncton electoral district or transfer part of Riverview to the district of Albert. Part of the Town of Riverview is

already in the Albert district and for this reason the Commission is proposing to transfer the following portion of the Riverview district to the Albert district:

- that part of the Town of Riverview formerly known as Gunningsville.

Due to the communities of interest factor, the Commission is also proposing to transfer from the Albert district to the Riverview district the following area:

- part of a subdivision located within the limits of the Town of Riverview due to an amalgamation.

The effect of the transfers would be to decrease the population of the Riverview electoral district from 15,010 to 14,093 or 6.3% above the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District #27 – Albert

The Albert electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 11,735, or 11.5% below the provincial electoral quotient of 13,263. The current situation does not meet the requirements of the *Act*. The Commission is proposing to transfer the following portion of the Riverview district to the Albert district:

- that part of the Town of Riverview formerly known as Gunningsville.

Due to the communities of interest factor, the Commission is also proposing to transfer from the Albert district to the Riverview district the following area:

- that part of a subdivision located within the limits of the Town of Riverview due to an amalgamation.

The effect of the transfers would be to increase the population of the Albert electoral district from 11,735 to 12,626 or 4.8% below the provincial electoral quotient.

Summary – Southeast Region

The following table provides in summary form the proposals of the Commission for the Southeast New Brunswick electoral districts. Appendix A provides a map as well as a list of the communities included in each electoral district.

New Electoral Districts	Name of District	2001 Census Population	Difference from P.E.Q. (total)	Percentage Variance from P.E.Q.
# 14	Rogersville-Kouchibouguac	12,502	-761	-5.7
# 15	Kent	12,113	-1,150	-8.7
# 16	Kent South	13,706	+443	+3.3
# 17	Shediac-Cap-Pelé	14,068	+805	+6.1
# 18	Tantramar	10,620	-2,643	-19.9
# 19	Dieppe-Memramcook	14,236	+973	+7.3
# 20	Codiac	14,419	+1,156	+8.7
# 21	Moncton East	13,944	+681	+5.1
# 22	Moncton South	13,731	+468	+3.5
# 23	Moncton North	13,867	+604	+4.6
# 24	Moncton Crescent	14,377	+1,114	+8.4
# 25	Petitcodiac	13,249	-14	-0.1
# 26	Riverview	14,093	+830	+6.3
# 27	Albert	12,626	-637	-4.8

The preliminary report of the Commission would have the following impact and its proposals would bring about the following changes to the electoral map of the Southeast New Brunswick region:

- The number of electoral districts would be increased from 13 to 14. Adding one electoral district would decrease the average population of each district from 14,382 (8.4% above the provincial electoral quotient) to 13,397 (1.0% above the provincial electoral quotient).
- The new electoral district would be added in the Moncton-Dieppe urban area. The boundaries of most of the existing urban districts will need to undergo significant changes.
- Under the current situation, 11 of the 13 electoral districts located in the Southeast New Brunswick region do not meet the requirements of the *Act*. Under the proposals contained in the preliminary report of the Commission, 13 of the 14 electoral districts would come within 10% of the provincial electoral quotient and would conform to the provisions of the *Act*. In the case of the Tantramar electoral district, the Commission proposes to invoke the “extraordinary circumstances” provision of the *Act*. Therefore all 14 districts conform to the provision of the *Act*.
- The variance in the population of the current electoral districts is from plus 52.7% over the provincial electoral quotient to minus 23.1% under the quotient. Under the proposals contained in this preliminary report, the variance would be from plus 8.7% to minus 19.9%. Under the current distribution, the range is from a population of 6,987 above the provincial electoral quotient to a population of 3,063 under the quotient. The propositions contained in this preliminary report provide a scenario where the district with the highest number has a population of 1,156 above the provincial quotient while the district with the lowest number of population is 2,643 below the quotient. In absolute terms the gap between the two districts with the highest and the lowest populations would be narrowed from 10,050 to 3,799.

Southwest New Brunswick

Provincial Electoral Quotient (P.E.Q.): 13,263

To obtain the Provincial Electoral Quotient, it is necessary to divide the total population of the Province (729,498) by the number of electoral districts (55).

P.E.Q. + 10%: 14,589

P.E.Q. – 10%: 11,937

The following table provides in summary form the current situation of each of the 13 electoral districts included in Southwest New Brunswick.

Current Name of Electoral District	2001 Census Population	Difference from P.E.Q. (total)	Percentage Variance from P.E.Q.
Kings East	13,495	+232	+1.7
Hampton-Belleisle ¹	15,045	+1,782	+13.4
Kennebecasis ¹	17,175	+3,912	+29.5
Saint John-Fundy	13,070	-193	-1.5
Saint John-Kings ¹	14,845	+1,582	+11.9
Saint John Champlain	12,165	-1,098	-8.3
Saint John Harbour	12,950	-313	-2.4
Saint John Portland	14,460	+1,197	+9.0
Saint John-Lancaster	13,740	+477	+3.6
Grand Bay-Westfield ²	11,210	-2,053	-15.5
Charlotte ²	10,595	-2,668	-20.1
Fundy Isles ²	4,845	-8,418	-63.5
Western Charlotte	13,160	-103	-0.8

¹ An electoral district that had a 2001 Census population that exceeds the maximum allowed by the *Act*.

² An electoral district that had a 2001 Census population under 11,937. Under the provisions of the *Act*, only in cases where the Commission deems that there are “extraordinary circumstances” may the population of a district be less than 11,937.

Southwest New Brunswick

The Southwest region encompasses the counties of Kings, Saint John, and Charlotte. According to the 2001 Census, the population of the three counties was 167,981. The population at the time of the 1991 Census was 170,191. Therefore there has been a decrease of 2,210 (1.3%) during the decade. However, there were variations within the region. For instance, the population of the county of Saint John decreased by 6.2% while it increased in the counties of Charlotte and Kings by 2.9% and 3.4% respectively. The Southwest region currently has 13 electoral districts with a combined population of 166,755 and each member of the Legislative Assembly represents on average a population of 12,827 or 3.3% below the provincial electoral quotient. (The discrepancy in the two population totals, 167,981 and 166,755, is due to the fact that electoral boundaries differ slightly from county boundaries).

Three of the electoral districts exceed the maximum population allowed under the *Act*, three are below the threshold of 10% while the other seven districts are within the 10% deviation allowed by the *Act*.

Comparison with 1993

It is important to note at the outset that changes in the boundaries of the Province's electoral districts are necessitated by two distinct factors. The first is demographic change. Parts of the Province have experienced significant population growth while other parts have seen a decrease in population since the last distribution of electoral districts in 1993. The 2001 Census serves as the basis for the current redistribution. The second, and most important factor necessitating changes in the boundaries of the Province's electoral districts arises from the legislation governing this redistribution. It has imposed a more stringent standard than the one that existed in 1993. While the 1993 redistribution was based on a maximum deviation of 25%, the *Act* under which the Commission is operating sets the maximum deviation at 10%. The significance of this more stringent standard is evident when one considers what the 1993 redistribution would have looked like if the standard for that redistribution had been 10%.

The following table provides the conclusions of the 1993 Commission for the electoral districts of Southwest New Brunswick.

Electoral District	No. of Electors ¹	% Deviation from 9,411
Kings East	9,693	+3.0
Hampton-Belleisle	9,741	+3.5
Kennebecasis	10,251	+8.9
Saint John-Fundy	9,140	-2.9
Saint John-Kings	10,282	+9.3
Saint John Champlain	10,084	+7.2
Saint John Harbour ²	10,838	+15.2
Saint John Portland ²	10,768	+14.4
Saint John Lancaster	10,149	+7.8
Grand Bay-Westfield ³	8,366	-11.1
Charlotte ³	7,988	-15.1
Fundy Isles ³	3,375	-64.1
Western Charlotte	8,654	-8.0

¹ It should be noted that the 1993 redistribution was based on electors while the 2005 redistribution is based on population. There is no direct correlation between a system based on population and another system based on electors. The comparison is, therefore, provided for illustrative purposes only.

² An electoral district would have been over the allowed deviation if the maximum deviation had been plus 10%.

³ An electoral district would have been over the allowed deviation if the maximum deviation had been minus 10%.

As can be noted from the previous table, two of the 13 districts as constituted by the Commission of 1993 exceeded the average size for a district by more than 10% while three districts were below the 10% threshold. While such discrepancies were considered acceptable under the rules governing the 1993 distribution, it is not acceptable under the more stringent standards included in the *Act* proclaimed in 2005.

General Approach

The Commission used the following guidelines in drawing the new boundaries for the Southwest New Brunswick region:

- The three neighbouring electoral districts of Hampton-Belleisle, Kennebecasis and Saint John-Kings all exceed the maximum population allowed of 14,589. The combined population of the three districts is 47,065. There is insufficient population to create a new district. Therefore, the Commission will have to apportion the excess

population in adjoining districts. This course of action will necessarily bring about changes in the boundaries of districts that are currently within the 10% deviation allowed by the *Act*.

Electoral District # 28 Kings East

The Kings East electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 13,495, or 1.7% above the provincial electoral quotient. While this number is within the guidelines laid out in the *Act*, the Commission proposes to make the following changes in order to enable other districts to conform to the *Act*. The Commission proposes to transfer the following communities from the Kings East district to the Petitcodiac district:

- Head of Millstream, Carsonville and Summerfield.

The Commission also proposes to transfer the following municipality from the Hampton-Belleisle district to the Kings East district:

- the Village of Norton.

The effect of the transfers would be to increase the population of the electoral district of Kings East from 13,495 to 14,515 or 9.4% over the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 29 Hampton-Belleisle

The Hampton-Belleisle district had a 2001 Census population of 15,045, or 13.4% above the provincial electoral quotient. The current situation does not meet the requirements of the *Act*. The Commission proposes to transfer the following municipality from the Hampton-Belleisle district to the Kings East district:

- the Village of Norton.

The Commission proposes to transfer from the Saint John-Fundy district to the Hampton-Belleisle district the following communities:

- Grove Hill, Hanford Brook and the remaining portion of Barnesville.

The Commission also proposes to transfer from the Kennebecasis district, the following:

- the area north of Hammond River.

The effect of the transfers would be to decrease the population of the electoral district of Hampton-Belleisle from 15,045 to 14,470 or 9.1% over the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 30 Quispamsis

The Kennebecasis district had a 2001 Census population of 17,175 or 29.5% above the provincial electoral quotient. The current situation does not meet the requirement of the *Act*. The Commission is proposing to have the boundaries of the electoral district coincide with the boundaries of the municipality of Quispamsis. The following area would be transferred from the Kennebecasis electoral district to the Hampton-Belleisle electoral district:

- the French Village area.

The Commission is also proposing to transfer the following areas to Rothesay-Kings:

- Damascus and Smithtown.

The effect of the transfer would be to decrease the population of the electoral district of Quispamsis from 13,757 to 13,757 or 3.7% over the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission is also proposing to change the name of the electoral district from Kennebecasis to **Quispamsis**.

Electoral District # 31 Saint John-Fundy

The Saint John-Fundy district had a 2001 Census population of 13,070 or 1.5% below the provincial electoral quotient. While this number is within the guidelines laid out in the *Act*, the Commission proposes to make the following changes in order to enable other districts to conform to the *Act*.

The Commission is proposing to transfer to Saint John-Fundy from Rothesay-Kings the following areas:

- the area north of Golden Grove Road and south of the MacKay Highway.

The effect of the transfers would be to increase the population of the electoral district of Saint John-Fundy from 13,070 to 13,888 or 4.7% over the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 32 Rothesay-Kings

The Saint John-Kings district had a 2001 Census population of 14,845 or 11.9% above the electoral quotient and consequently, the population in the electoral district must be reduced.

The Commission proposes to transfer the following area from the Saint John-Kings district to the Saint John East district:

- the area in The City of Saint John south of the Golden Grove Road including Forest Hills.

The Commission proposes to transfer the following area from the Saint John-Kings district to the Saint John-Fundy area:

- the area north of the Golden Grove Road and south of the McKay Highway.

The effect of the transfers would be to decrease the population of the electoral district of Rothesay-Kings from 14,845 to 13,434 or 1.3% over the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission is also proposing to change the name of the electoral district from Saint John-Kings to **Rothesay-Kings**.

Electoral District # 33 Saint John East

The Saint John Champlain district had a 2001 Census population of 12,165, or 8.3% below the provincial electoral quotient. While this number is within the guidelines laid out in the *Act*, the Commission proposes to make the following changes in order to enable other districts to conform to the *Act*. The Commission proposes to transfer the following area from the Rothesay-Kings district to the Saint John Champlain district:

- the area in The City of Saint John south of the Golden Grove Road including Forest Hills.

The Commission also proposes to transfer the following from the Saint John Champlain district to the Saint John Harbour district:

- part of the area located north of the throughway formerly known as the Valley.

The effect of the transfers would be to increase the population of the electoral district of Saint John East from 12,165 to 14,245 or 7.4% over the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission is also proposing to change the name of the electoral district from Saint John Champlain to **Saint John East**.

Electoral District # 34 Saint John Harbour

The Saint John Harbour district had a 2001 Census population of 12,950, or 2.4% below the provincial electoral quotient. While this number is within the guidelines laid out in the *Act*, the Commission proposes to make the following changes in order to enable other districts to conform to the *Act*:

The Commission proposes to transfer from the Saint John Champlain district to the Saint John Harbour District:

- part of the area located north of the throughway formerly known as the Valley.

The effect of the transfer would be to increase the population of the electoral district of Saint John Harbour from 12,950 to 14,107 or 6.4% over the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 35 Saint John Portland

The Saint John Portland district had a 2001 Census population of 14,460, or 9.0% above the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission is not proposing any changes to the boundaries of the electoral district of Saint John Portland as it is within the provisions of the *Act*.

Electoral District # 36 Saint John Lancaster

The Saint John Lancaster district had a 2001 Census population of 13,740 or 3.6% above the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission is not proposing any changes to the boundaries of the electoral district of Saint John Lancaster as it is within the provisions of the *Act*.

Electoral District # 37 Grand Bay-Westfield

The Grand Bay-Westfield district had a 2001 Census population of 11,210 or 15.5% below the provincial electoral quotient. The current situation does not meet the requirements of the *Act*. The Commission is proposing to transfer the following areas from the Charlotte district to the Grand Bay-Westfield district:

- the Parish of Musquash;
- Maces Bay and Little Lepreau.

The effect of the transfers would be to increase the population of the electoral district of Grand Bay-Westfield from 11,210 to 12,919 or 2.6% below the provincial electoral quotient.

General Approach

Charlotte County currently has three electoral districts one of which, the Charlotte district, includes the parish of Musquash from Saint John County. Western Charlotte is the only district of the three that has a population that meets the requirements of the *Act*. Fundy Isles with a population of 4,845 is 63.5% below the provincial electoral quotient of 13,263 while Charlotte is 20.1% below the quotient at 10,995.

The Commission is proposing to return the parish of Musquash to the Saint John County district of Grand Bay-Westfield in order to bring the population base of this district to an acceptable level. This transfer would have the effect that the Charlotte district would then be in the range of 30% below the electoral quotient. Western Charlotte, with a population of 13,160 or 0.8% below the electoral quotient, does not have enough population that could be transferred to the Charlotte district to bring the latter into conformity with the *Act*. The Commission then considered

keeping Musquash in Charlotte and look for another option for Grand Bay-Westfield. Even if the parish of Musquash were to remain in the Charlotte district, the numbers would still not be adequate. Under the circumstances, the only way in which the Commission could maintain the three existing districts would be to invoke the “extraordinary circumstances” provision of the *Act* for two of the three Charlotte districts.

Prior to 1974 the islands in the Bay of Fundy were part of the Charlotte County electoral district that sent four members to the Legislative Assembly. With the advent of single member districts prior to the 1974 election, the islands became part of three separate electoral districts, i.e. St. Stephen-Milltown, Charlotte Centre and Charlotte-Fundy. The current electoral district of Fundy Isles was only created prior to the 1995 election.

The Commission considered the question of access to the islands:

- the only year-round public transportation link from Campobello is by bridge to the state of Maine and then by highway to St. Stephen;
- the access to Grand Manan is by a year-round ferry service from Black’s Harbour;
- a separate ferry service provides access to Deer Island from Letete;
- there is no public transportation linking the islands with each other (a private ferry service operates between Deer Island and Campobello but only in the summer months).

Public access from one island to another is via the mainland in all cases. Consequently, it is actually easier for the resident of any given island to consult a member of the Legislative Assembly on the mainland than it is to consult a member of the Legislative Assembly who resides on a different island. The Commission, therefore, believes that effective representation can in some respects be better achieved by combining the islands with nearby mainland electoral districts.

The Commission also considered the community of interest that exists among the islands and mainland Charlotte County through the fishing and aquaculture industries. Accordingly, a viable option exists for effective representation without invoking the “extraordinary circumstances” provision of the *Act*.

The Commission is proposing to transfer the following areas from the existing Charlotte district to the Grand Bay-Westfield district:

- the Parish of Musquash;
- Maces Bay and Little Lepreau.

The Commission is proposing to establish two new districts in the Charlotte region.

Electoral District # 38 Charlotte-The Isles

The new electoral district of Charlotte-The Isles would consist of:

- the remaining portion of the existing Charlotte district;
- Grand Manan Island;
- Deer Island;
- White Head Island;
- the community of Leverage and a portion of Honeydale currently in the existing Western Charlotte district.

The effect of the proposal would be to create an electoral district with a population of 12,972 or 2.2% below the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission is proposing that the new electoral district be named **Charlotte-The Isles**

Electoral District # 39 Charlotte-Campobello

The new electoral district of Charlotte-Campobello would consist of:

- the remaining portion of the existing Western Charlotte district;
- Campobello Island.

The effect of the proposal would be to create an electoral district with a population of 13,918 or 4.9% over the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission is also proposing that the new electoral district be named **Charlotte-Campobello**.

Summary – Southwest Region

The following table provides in summary form the proposals of the Commission for the Southwest New Brunswick electoral districts. Appendix A provides a map as well as a list of the communities included in each electoral district.

New Electoral Districts	Name of District	2001 Census Population	Difference from P.E.Q. (total)	Percentage variance from P.E.Q.
# 28	Kings East	14,515	+1,252	+9.4
# 29	Hampton-Belleisle	14,470	+1,207	+9.1
# 30	Quispamsis	13,757	+494	+3.7
# 31	Saint John-Fundy	13,888	+625	+4.7
# 32	Rothesay-Kings	13,434	+171	+1.3
# 33	Saint John-East	14,245	+982	+7.4
# 34	Saint John Harbour	14,107	+844	+6.4
# 35	Saint John Portland	14,460	+1,197	+9.0
# 36	Saint John Lancaster	13,740	+477	+3.6
# 37	Grand Bay-Westfield	12,919	-344	-2.6
# 38	Charlotte-The Isles	12,972	-291	-2.2
# 39	Charlotte-Campobello	13,918	+655	+4.9

The preliminary report of the Commission would have the following impact and its proposals would bring about the following changes to the electoral map of the Southwest New Brunswick region:

- The number of electoral districts would be reduced from 13 to 12. Removing one electoral district would increase the average population of each district from 12,827 (3.3% below the provincial electoral quotient) to 13,869 (4.6% above the provincial electoral quotient).
- Under the current situation, six of the 13 electoral districts located in the Southwest New Brunswick region do not meet the requirements of the *Act*. Under the proposals contained in this preliminary report, all of the 12 electoral districts would conform to the provisions of the *Act*.
- The variance in the population of the current electoral districts is from plus 29.5% to minus 63.5%. Under the proposals contained in this preliminary report, the variance would be from plus 9.4% to minus 2.6%. Under the current distribution, the range is from a population of 3,912 above the provincial electoral quotient to a population of 8,418 under the quotient. The propositions contained in this preliminary report provide a scenario where the district with the highest number has a population of 1,252 above the provincial quotient while the district with the lowest number has a population of 344 below the quotient. In absolute terms the gap between the two districts with the highest and the lowest populations would be narrowed from 12,330 to 1,596.

Northwest New Brunswick

Provincial Electoral Quotient (P.E.Q.): 13,263

To obtain the Provincial Electoral Quotient, it is necessary to divide the total population of the Province (729,498) by the number of electoral districts (55).

P.E.Q. + 10%: 14,589

P.E.Q. – 10%: 11,937

The following table provides in summary form the current situation of each of the seven electoral districts included in Northwest New Brunswick.

Current Name of Electoral District	2001 Census Population	Difference from P.E.Q. (total)	Percentage Variance from P.E.Q.
Woodstock ¹	14,590	1,327	+10.0
Carleton	13,990	727	+5.5
Victoria-Tobique ²	11,495	-1,768	-13.3
Grand Falls Region ²	11,865	-1,398	-10.5
Madawaska-la-Vallée ²	10,675	-2,588	-19.5
Edmundston ²	10,840	-2,423	-18.3
Madawaska-les-Lacs ²	11,910	-1,353	-10.2

¹ An electoral district that had a 2001 Census population that exceeds the maximum allowed by the *Act*.

² An electoral district that had a 2001 Census population under 11,937. Under the provisions of the *Act*, only in cases where the Commission deems that there are "extraordinary circumstances" may the population of a district be less than 11,937.

Northwest New Brunswick

The Northwest region of New Brunswick encompasses the counties of Madawaska, Victoria and Carleton. According to the 2001 Census, the population of the three counties was 83,967. The population at the time of the 1991 Census was 83,366. Therefore there has been an increase of 601 (0.7%) over the decade. However, there were variations within the region. For instance, the population of Madawaska County decreased by 2.6% while the population of the counties of Victoria and Carleton increased by 1.9% and 4.4% respectively. The Northwest region currently has seven electoral districts with a combined population of 85,365. Each member of the Legislative Assembly represents on average a population of 12,195, or 8.1% below the provincial electoral quotient. (The discrepancy in the two population totals, 83,967 and 85,365, is due to the fact that electoral boundaries differ slightly from county boundaries).

The electoral district of Woodstock exceeds the maximum population allowed. The population of each of the five most northern districts of the region is below the threshold of 11,937. The electoral district of Carleton is the only district within the guidelines set out in the *Act*. In summary, six of the seven electoral districts in Northwest New Brunswick need boundary changes. The fact that five districts located next to each other are all below the threshold means that it will be difficult, if not impossible, for the Commission to bring these districts into conformity with the provisions of the *Act* while maintaining the same number of districts. The situation is further compounded by the fact that the three neighbouring districts to the east in Restigouche County are also below the acceptable threshold of 11,937.

Comparison with 1993

It is important to note at the outset that changes in the boundaries of the Province's electoral districts are necessitated by two distinct factors. The first is demographic change. Parts of the Province have experienced significant population growth while other parts have seen a decrease in population since the last distribution of electoral districts in 1993. The 2001 Census serves as the basis for the current redistribution. The second, and most important factor, necessitating changes in the boundaries of the Province's electoral districts arises from the legislation governing this redistribution. It has imposed a more stringent standard than the one that existed in 1993. While the 1993 redistribution was based on a maximum deviation of 25%, the *Act* under which the Commission is operating sets the maximum deviation at 10%. The significance of this more stringent standard is evident when one considers what the 1993 redistribution would have looked like if the standard for that redistribution had been 10%.

The following table provides the conclusions of the 1993 Commission for the electoral districts of Northwest New Brunswick.

Electoral District	No. of Electors ¹	% Deviation from 9,411
Woodstock	9,624	+2.3
Carleton	9,921	+5.4
Victoria-Tobique ²	7,402	-21.3
Grand Falls Region ²	7,424	-21.1
Madawaska-la-Vallée	9,127	-3.0
Edmundston	9,240	-1.8
Madawaska-les-Lacs ²	8,163	-13.3

¹ It should be noted that the 1993 redistribution was based on electors while the 2005 redistribution is based on population. There is no direct correlation between a system based on population and another system based on electors. The comparison is, therefore, provided for illustrative purposes only.

² An electoral district that would have been over the allowed deviation if the maximum deviation had been 10%.

As can be noted from the table above, three of the seven districts as constituted by the Commission of 1993 had a deviation exceeding 10%. While such a discrepancy was considered acceptable under the rules governing the 1993 redistribution, it is not acceptable under the more stringent standards included in the *Act* proclaimed in 2005.

Effective Representation of the English and French Linguistic Communities

One of the considerations that the Commission is required to take into account while determining electoral boundaries is the effective representation of the English and French linguistic communities. While Northwest New Brunswick may present a number of common economic characteristics throughout the region, there is a significant difference in terms of the northern and southern portions of the region when it comes to language.

For instance, the mother tongue of the population of the districts of Woodstock, Carleton and Victoria-Tobique is predominately English, ranging from 86% in Victoria-Tobique to 97% in both Carleton and Woodstock. In the case of the population of the four electoral districts from the Grand Falls Region to the Quebec border the mother tongue is predominately French, varying from 84% in the Grand Falls Region district to 96% in the Madawaska-les-Lacs district.

The following table demonstrates the mother tongue as reported in the 2001 Census:

Electoral District	English (%)	French (%)	Other (%)
Woodstock	97	1	1
Carleton	97	2	1
Victoria-Tobique	86	9	5
Grand Falls Region	14	84	2
Madawaska-la-Vallée	4	95	1
Edmundston	6	91	3
Madawaska-les-Lacs	4	96	1

The electoral redistributions of 1973 and 1993 seemed to establish, as best as possible, a natural linguistic boundary between the more anglophone districts to the south and the more francophone districts to the north.

In preparing its proposals to redraw the boundaries of the electoral districts of the Northwest region, the Commission will therefore consider the three primarily anglophone southern districts as a unit and the four primarily francophone northern districts as a separate unit.

Primarily Anglophone Districts

Electoral District # 49 Woodstock

The Woodstock electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 14,590. This number is just higher than the prescribed electoral quotient and consequently, the population in the electoral district must be reduced. While it is only slightly above the 10%, the Commission is of the view that the population of this district should be much closer to the provincial electoral quotient, especially in view of the rural nature of the district. The Commission proposes to return the York County portion currently in the Woodstock district to the York district. The transfer would include:

- the Village of Canterbury and the village of Meductic;
- the parishes of Canterbury and North Lake.

The effect of the transfers would be to decrease the population of the Woodstock electoral district from 14,590 to 13,197 or 0.5% below the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 50 Carleton

The Carleton electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 13,990, or 5.5% above the provincial electoral quotient. While the current situation is within the guidelines laid out in the *Act*, the population is at the high end of the scale for a rural district. The Commission is proposing to transfer the following portion of the Carleton district to the Victoria-Tobique district:

- the area that is located east of the St. John River and north of the Monquart Stream.

The effect of the transfer would be to decrease the population of the Carleton electoral district from 13,990 to 12,491 or 5.8% below the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 51 Victoria-Tobique

The Victoria-Tobique electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 11,495, or 13.3% below the provincial electoral quotient. The current situation does not meet the requirements of the *Act*. The Commission is proposing to transfer the following portion of the Carleton district to the Victoria-Tobique district:

- the area that is located east of the St. John River and north of the Monquart Stream.

Due to the community of interest factor, the Commission is also proposing to transfer the following portion of the Grand Falls Region district to the Victoria-Tobique district:

- the portion of California Settlement currently located in the Region of Grand Falls district.

The effect of the transfers would be to increase the population of the electoral district from 11,495 to 13,137 or 1.0% below the provincial electoral quotient.

Primarily Francophone Districts

Madawaska-les-Lacs, Edmundston, Madawaska-la-Vallée, Grand Falls Region

The four electoral districts of Madawaska-les-Lacs, Edmundston, Madawaska-la-Vallée and the Grand Falls Region all deviate by more than 10% below the provincial electoral quotient. The range is from minus 10.2% in Madawaska-les-Lacs to minus 19.5% in Madawaska-la-Vallée. Under the current situation none of the four districts meet the guidelines of the *Act*. Since all four districts are more than 10% below the electoral quotient, it is impossible to bring them into conformity by simply shifting boundaries among the four. The combined population of the four districts is 45,290, giving an average population of 11,322 or 14.6% below the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission looked at the following three options:

1. Make three districts out of the current four. As stated, the combined population of the four districts is 45,290. Three new districts would have an average population of 15,097 or 13.8% above the provincial electoral quotient. This option is clearly not acceptable under the terms of the *Act*.
2. Add Victoria-Tobique to the other four districts in order to make four new districts out of the previous five. The total population of the five districts would be 56,785. Dividing that total by four would yield an average population of 14,196 or 7% over the provincial electoral quotient. There are two issues with this option. The first is that 7% over the provincial electoral quotient is relatively high for a rural area. The second issue relates to the effective representation of the English and French linguistic communities since one district would combine the largely anglophone district of Victoria-Tobique with a portion of the largely francophone district of the Grand Falls district. In any case, the Commission has found another solution to increase the population of Victoria-Tobique by transferring part of the Carleton district.
3. Combine the four mainly francophone districts with part of the Restigouche West district in order to have four districts that meet the requirements of the *Act*.

The Commission is proposing to select Option 3.

As explained in previous portions of this report, the Commission had to add two electoral districts elsewhere in the Province because of the over-population of certain regions. There are two reasons for this course of action. Firstly, the provisions of the *Act* are more restrictive than the rules under which the 1991-1993 Commission operated (10% maximum deviation versus 25% in 1993). Secondly, there have been population shifts from 1991 to 2001: some regions have grown in population while others have declined. Since the *Act* makes it mandatory for the Commission to maintain the number of electoral districts constant at 55, the obvious conclusion is that for every district added another district has to be eliminated.

When the Commission reviewed the status of individual districts throughout the province it found that eight adjoining districts were all under the 10% threshold allowed by the Act: two in Victoria County, three in Madawaska and three in Restigouche. Under the circumstances, it was impossible to rearrange the boundaries of the eight districts and have them conform to the provisions of the Act. Nor did the Commission feel that invoking the “extraordinary circumstances” clause of the *Act* was warranted in the present circumstances since the issue appeared to be simply one of under-population. The Commission therefore proposes to consider the primarily francophone districts of Grand Falls, the Madawaska districts and the western portion of the Restigouche electoral district as a unit when arriving at its proposals for the area.

The proposal of the Commission would mean that Northwest New Brunswick would share an electoral district with Northeast New Brunswick instead of losing a complete electoral district.

Electoral District # 52 Grand Falls

The Grand Falls electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 11,865, or 10.5% below the provincial electoral quotient of 13,263. The current situation does not meet the requirements of the *Act*.

Due to the community of interest factor, the Commission is proposing to transfer the following portion of the Grand Falls district to the Victoria-Tobique district:

- the portion of California Settlement currently located in the Region of Grand Falls district.

The Commission is also proposing to transfer the following portion of the Madawaska-la-Vallée district to the Grand Falls district:

- the rural area southeast of Saint Leonard.

The effect of the transfers would be to increase the population of the electoral district from 11,865 to 12,411 or 6.4% below the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission also proposes to change the name of the electoral district from Grand Falls Region to **Grand Falls**.

Electoral District # 53 Madawaska-Restigouche

The Commission is proposing the creation of a new electoral district to include a part of the current districts of Madawaska-la-Vallée and Restigouche West. The new district would include the following areas from Restigouche West:

- the town of Saint Quentin;
- the village of Kedgwick;
- the parishes of Saint Quentin and Grimmer;
- the western portion of the parish of Eldon.

The new electoral district would include the current district of Madawaska-la-Vallée, less the following areas that the Commission proposes to transfer to other electoral districts:

- the area formerly known as the village of Saint Basile (now part of the city of Edmundston) to the district of Edmundston;
- the parish of Saint Basile to the Madawaska-les-Lacs district;
- the rural area southeast of Saint Leonard to the Grand Falls district.

The new electoral district would have a population of 12,715 or 4.1% below the provincial electoral quotient. The commission is proposing that the new electoral district be known as **Madawaska-Restigouche**.

Electoral District # 54 Edmundston-Saint Basile

The Edmundston electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 10,840, or 13.3% below the provincial electoral quotient. The current situation does not meet the requirements of the Act. The Commission is proposing to transfer the following portion of the Madawaska-la-Vallée district to the Edmundston district:

- the area formerly known as the village of Saint Basile (now part of the City of Edmundston).

The effect of the transfer would be to increase the population of the electoral district of Edmundston from 10,840 to 13,983 or 5.4% above the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission is also proposing to change the name of the electoral district from Edmundston to **Edmundston-Saint Basile**.

Electoral District # 55 Madawaska-les-Lacs

The Madawaska-les-Lacs electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 11,910, or 10.2% below the provincial electoral quotient. The current situation does not meet the requirements of the Act. The Commission is proposing to transfer the following area from the Madawaska-la-Vallée district to the Madawaska-les-Lacs district:

- the parish of Saint Basile

The effect of the transfer would be to increase the population of the electoral district of Madawaska-les-Lacs from 11,910 to 12,615 or 4.9% below the provincial electoral quotient.

Summary – Northwest Region

The following table provides in summary form the proposals of the Commission for the seven Northwest New Brunswick electoral districts. Appendix A provides a map as well as a list of the communities included in each electoral district.

New Electoral Districts	Name of District	2001 Census Population	Difference from P.E.Q. (total)	Percentage variance from P.E.Q.
# 49	Woodstock	13,197	-66	-0.5
# 50	Carleton	12,491	-772	-5.8
# 51	Victoria-Tobique	13,137	-126	-1.0
# 52	Grand Falls	12,411	-852	-6.4
# 53	Madawaska-Restigouche	12,715	-548	-4.1
# 54	Edmundston-Saint Basile	13,983	+720	+5.4
# 55	Madawaska-les-Lacs	12,615	-648	-4.9

The preliminary report of the Commission would have the following impact and its proposals would bring about the following changes to the electoral map of the Northwest New Brunswick region:

- There are currently seven electoral districts in the region. Under the proposals of the Commission, one of the districts, Madawaska-Restigouche, would be shared between the northwest and the northeast regions.

The changes would increase the average population of each district from 12,195 (8.1% below the provincial electoral quotient) to 12,936 (2.5% below the provincial electoral quotient).

- Under the current situation, six of the seven electoral districts located in the Northwest New Brunswick region do not meet the requirements of the *Act*. Under the proposals contained in this preliminary report, all of the seven electoral districts (including the one shared with the Northeast) would conform to the provisions of the *Act*.
- The variance in the population of the current electoral districts is from plus 10% to minus 19.5%. Under the proposals contained in this preliminary report, the variance would be from plus 5.4% to minus 6.4%. Under the current distribution, the range is from a population of 1,327 above the provincial electoral quotient to a population of 2,588 under the quotient. The propositions contained in this preliminary report provide a scenario where the district with the highest number has a population of 720 above the provincial quotient while the district with the lowest number has a population of 852 below the quotient. In absolute terms the gap between the two districts with the highest and the lowest populations would be narrowed from 3,915 to 1,572.

Northeast New Brunswick

Provincial Electoral Quotient (P.E.Q.): 13,263

To obtain the Provincial Electoral Quotient, it is necessary to divide the total population of the Province (729,498) by the number of electoral districts (55).

P.E.Q. + 10%: 14,589

P.E.Q. – 10%: 11,937

The following table provides in summary form the current situation of each of the 14 electoral districts included in Northeast New Brunswick.

Current Name of Electoral District	2001 Census Population	Difference from P.E.Q. (total)	Percentage Variance from P.E.Q.
Restigouche-West ¹	10,645	-2,618	-19.7
Campbellton ¹	11,765	-1,498	-11.3
Dalhousie-Restigouche East ¹	11,800	-1,463	-11.0
Nigadoo-Chaleur	13,345	+82	+0.6
Bathurst	12,924	-339	-2.5
Nepisiguit	12,485	-778	-5.9
Caraquet ¹	11,840	-1,423	-10.7
Lamèque-Shippagan-Miscou	12,155	-1,108	-8.4
Centre-Péninsule ¹	9,780	-3,483	-26.3
Tracadie-Sheila	12,325	-938	-7.1
Miramichi-Néguac	12,130	-1,133	-8.5
Miramichi-Bay-du-Vin	12,805	-458	-3.5
Miramichi Centre	13,030	-233	-1.8
Southwest Miramichi ¹	10,860	-2,403	-18.1

¹ An electoral district that had a 2001 Census population under 11,937. Under the provisions of the Act, only in cases where the Commission deems that there are “extraordinary circumstances” may the population of a district be less than 11,937.

The Northeast region encompasses the counties of Restigouche, Gloucester and Northumberland. According to the 2001 Census, the population of the three counties was 169,880. The population at the time of the 1991 Census was 179,844; therefore, there has been a decrease of 9,964 (5.6%) during the decade. There are 14 electoral districts in the region with a total population of 167,890 and each member of the Legislative Assembly represents on average a population of 11,992 or 9.6% below the provincial electoral quotient. (The discrepancy in the two population totals, 169,880 and 167,890 is due to the fact that electoral boundaries differ slightly from county boundaries.)

Six of the 14 districts are below the threshold of 10% less than the provincial electoral quotient. All three Restigouche districts are below the 10% while three of the 11 Gloucester and Northumberland districts are in the same situation. (Nigadoo-Chaleur is primarily in Gloucester County but also includes the Belledune area of Restigouche County.)

Comparison with 1993

It is important to note at the outset that changes in the boundaries of the Province's electoral districts are necessitated by two distinct factors. The first is demographic change. Parts of the Province have experienced significant population growth while other parts have seen a decrease in population since the last distribution of electoral districts in 1993. The 2001 Census serves as the basis for the current redistribution. The second, and most important factor necessitating changes in the boundaries of the Province's electoral districts arises from the legislation governing this redistribution. It has imposed a more stringent standard than the one that existed in 1993. While the 1993 redistribution was based on a maximum deviation of 25%, the *Act* under which the Commission is operating sets the maximum deviation at 10%. The significance of this more stringent standard is evident when one considers what the 1993 redistribution would have looked like if the standard for that redistribution had been 10%.

The following table provides the conclusions of the 1993 Commission for the electoral districts of Northeast New Brunswick.

Electoral District	No. of Electors ¹	% Deviation from 9,411
Restigouche West ²	7,973	-15.3
Campbellton	9,398	-0.1
Dalhousie-Restigouche East	9,621	+2.2
Nigadoo-Chaleur	9,418	+0.07
Bathurst	10,271	+9.1
Nepisiguit ²	8,417	-10.6
Caraquet	9,254	-1.7
Lamèque-Shippagan-Miscou	9,526	+1.2
Centre-Péninsule ²	8,161	-13.3
Tracadie-Sheila	8,757	-6.9
Miramichi Bay ²	8,340	-11.4
Miramichi-Bay du Vin	9,352	-0.6
Miramichi Centre	9,739	+3.5
Southwest Miramichi	8,557	-9.1

¹ It should be noted that the 1993 redistribution was based on electors while the 2005 redistribution is based on population. There is no direct correlation between a system based on population and another system based on electors. The comparison is, therefore, provided for illustrative purposes only.

² An electoral district that would have been over the allowed deviation if the maximum deviation had been minus 10%.

As can be noted from the table above, four of the 14 districts as constituted by the Commission of 1993 were below the average size for a district by more than 10%. While such a discrepancy was considered acceptable under the rules governing the 1993 distribution, it is not acceptable under the more stringent standards included in the *Act* proclaimed in 2005

General Approach

As explained in previous portions of this report, the Commission had to add two electoral districts because of the over-population of certain regions. There are two reasons for this course of action. Firstly, the provisions of the *Act* are more restrictive than the rules under which the 1991-1993 Commission operated (10% maximum deviation versus 25% in 1993). Secondly, there have been population shifts from 1991 to 2001: some regions have grown in population while others have declined. Since the *Act* makes it mandatory for the Commission to maintain the number of electoral districts constant at 55, it follows that for every district added one has to be eliminated.

When the Commission reviewed the status of individual districts throughout the province it found that eight adjoining districts were all under the 10% threshold allowed by the *Act*: two in Victoria County, three in Madawaska and three in Restigouche. Under the circumstances, it was impossible to rearrange the boundaries of the eight districts and have them conform to the provisions of the *Act*. Nor did the Commission feel that the invoking of the “extraordinary circumstances” clause of the *Act* was warranted in the present circumstances since the issue appeared to be simply one of under-population. The Commission therefore proposes to consider the Victoria, Madawaska and Restigouche electoral districts as a unit when arriving at its proposals for the area.

The three districts currently located completely in Restigouche County have a total population of 34,210. (Belledune is included in the Nigadoo-Chaleur district). All three districts are below the 10% threshold. However the combined population is too high, at an average of 17,105, to be consolidated into two districts.

For this reason, the Commission is proposing to create a new electoral district that would combine the western part of the existing Restigouche-West district (from Menneval west) with part of the existing district of Madawaska-la-Vallée to create a new district. The Commission is proposing that the new district be called Madawaska-Restigouche. The eastern part of the existing Restigouche West district (Adams Gulch and east), with a population of 4,068, would be added with the population of the two existing districts of Campbellton and Dalhousie-Restigouche East for a total population of 27,633.

The proposal of the Commission would mean that Northeast New Brunswick would share an electoral district with Northwest New Brunswick instead of losing an electoral district.

Electoral District # 1 Campbellton

The Campbellton electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 11,765, or 11.3% below the provincial electoral quotient. The current situation does not meet the requirements of the *Act*. The Commission is proposing to transfer the following portion of the existing Restigouche West district to the Campbellton district:

- Adams Gulch and communities east.

The Commission also proposes to transfer from the Campbellton district to the Dalhousie-Restigouche-East district the following:

- an area east of the City of Campbellton.

The effect of the transfers would be to increase the population of the electoral district of Campbellton from 11,765 to 13,524 or 2.0% over the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 2 Dalhousie-Restigouche East

The Dalhousie-Restigouche East electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 11,800, or 11% below the provincial electoral quotient. The current situation does not meet the requirements of the *Act*. The Commission is proposing to transfer the following portion of the existing Restigouche West district to the Dalhousie-Restigouche East district:

- an area south of the district of Campbellton.

The Commission is also proposing to transfer the following portion of the Campbellton district to the Dalhousie-Restigouche East district:

- an area east of the district of Campbellton.

The effect of the transfers would be to increase the population of the electoral district of Dalhousie-Restigouche East from 11,800 to 14,109 or 6.4% over the provincial electoral quotient.

Gloucester and Northumberland Counties – General Approach

The 11 districts from Gloucester and Northumberland counties had a 2001 Census population of 133,680 for an average of 12,153 (9.2% below the provincial electoral quotient). The Commission considered two options to address the issues arising from the current situation.

First Option - Decrease the number of electoral districts

The first option that the Commission considered was to decrease the number of districts from 11 to 10 thus providing an average population of 13,368 or 3.8% over the provincial electoral quotient. Since the area in question is primarily rural, the Commission considers that, ideally, the numbers should be at or below the provincial electoral quotient. Nevertheless the option is a viable one. Under this option either the Acadian Peninsula or the Miramichi would lose an electoral district.

Some of the interveners at the public hearings suggested that certain areas could be part of electoral districts located outside the region. Specifically, the suggestion was made that the Boiestown area could become part of the Mactaquac district, and Baie Sainte Anne part of the Rogersville-Kouchibouguac district. If the Commission were to accept such proposals, the most likely result would be the elimination of an electoral district in the Gloucester and Northumberland areas.

Second Option - Maintain the current number of electoral districts

The second option that the Commission considered was to try to maintain the existing 11 districts and to redraw the boundaries of each district in such a way that each district could meet the requirements of the *Act*. The task is far from simple. As already stated, the average population of each district is 12,153. This number is only 216 persons, on average, above the minimum population allowed per district (11,937).

The Commission prefers to maintain the number of electoral districts in the Gloucester and Northumberland Counties. The population of the three districts located in the Chaleur region is within the limits prescribed by the *Act*. However certain parts of these districts may be transferred in order to bring other districts up to the minimum population. For this reason the analysis will begin with Southwest Miramichi and the other Miramichi districts, then the Acadian Peninsula and end with the Chaleur region. The changes proposed by the Commission are as follows:

Electoral District # 13 Southwest Miramichi

The Southwest Miramichi electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 10,860, or 18.1% below the provincial electoral quotient. The current situation does not meet the requirements of the *Act*. The Commission is proposing two additions to the district in order to bring it into conformity with the *Act*. The Commission is proposing to transfer the following portion of the Mactaquac district to the Southwest Miramichi district:

- the McGivney area.

In addition, the Commission proposes to transfer the following area from the Miramichi Centre district to the Southwest Miramichi district:

- the parish of Nelson (except the part of Murray Settlement that would be transferred to the Rogersville-Kouchibouguac district due to the communities of interest factor).

The effect of the transfers would be to increase the population of the electoral district of Southwest Miramichi from 10,860 to 12,017 or 9.4% below the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 12 Miramichi Centre

The Miramichi Centre electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 13,030, or 1.8% below the provincial electoral quotient. The district is in conformity with the provisions of the *Act*. However, its boundaries need to be changed as part of the Commission's proposals to bring all of the Gloucester and Northumberland districts in line with the provisions of the *Act*. The Commission, therefore, proposes to transfer the following area from the Miramichi Centre district to the Southwest Miramichi district:

- the Parish of Nelson (except the part of Murray Settlement that would be transferred to the Rogersville-Kouchibouguac district due to the communities of interest factors).

The Commission also proposes to transfer the following area from the Miramichi Centre district to the Miramichi-Neguac district:

- a portion of the area formerly known as Douglstown.

In return, the Commission proposes to transfer the following area from Miramichi-Bay du Vin to Miramichi Centre:

- a portion of the area formerly known as Chatham Head.

The effect of the transfers would be to decrease the population of the electoral district of Miramichi Centre from 13,030 to 11,944 or 9.9% below the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 11 Miramichi-Bay du Vin

The Miramichi-Bay du Vin electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 12,805, or 3.5% below the provincial electoral quotient. The district is in conformity with the provisions of the *Act*. However, its boundaries need to be changed as part of the Commission's proposals to bring all of the Gloucester and Northumberland districts in line with the provisions of the *Act*. The Commission therefore proposes to transfer the following area from the Miramichi-Bay du Vin electoral district to the Miramichi Centre district:

- that part of the area formerly known as Chatham Head.

The effect of the transfer would be to decrease the population of the electoral district of Miramichi-Bay du Vin from 12,805 to 11,949 or 9.9% below the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 10 Miramichi-Neguac

The existing Miramichi Bay electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 12,130, or 8.5% below the provincial electoral quotient. The district is in conformity with the provisions of the *Act*. However, its boundaries need to be changed as part of the Commission's proposals to bring all of the Gloucester and Northumberland districts in line with the provisions of the *Act*.

The Commission therefore proposes to transfer the following area from the Miramichi Centre district to the Miramichi-Neguac district:

- that part of the area formerly known as Douglstown.

The Commission also proposes to transfer the following area from the existing Miramichi Bay district to the Tracadie-Sheila district:

- Haut-Rivière-du-Portage and Rivière-du-Portage.

The effect of the transfers would be to decrease the population of the electoral district of Miramichi-Neguac from 12,130 to 11,966 or 9.8% below the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission is also proposing to change the name of the electoral district from Miramichi Bay to **Miramichi-Neguac**.

Electoral District # 9 Tracadie-Sheila

The Tracadie-Sheila electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 12,325, or 7.1% below the provincial electoral quotient. The district is in conformity with the provisions of the *Act*. However, its boundaries need to be changed as part of the Commission's proposals to bring all of the Gloucester and Northumberland districts in line with the provisions of the *Act*.

The Commission also proposes to transfer the following area from the existing Miramichi Bay district to the Tracadie-Sheila district:

- Haut-Rivière-du-Portage and Rivière-du-Portage.

The Commission proposes to transfer the following area from the Tracadie-Sheila district to the Centre-Péninsule district:

- Pont Landry.

The effect of the transfers would be to decrease the population of the electoral district of Tracadie-Sheila from 12,325 to 12,068 or 9.0% below the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 8 Centre-Péninsule

The Centre-Péninsule electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 9,780, or 26.3% below the provincial electoral quotient. The current situation does not meet the requirements of the *Act*. The Commission is proposing to transfer the following portion of the Tracadie-Sheila district to the Centre-Péninsule district:

- the Pont Landry area.

The Commission also proposes to transfer the following area from the Lamèque-Shippagan-Miscou district to the Centre-Péninsule district:

- Baie de Petit Pokemouche.

In addition, the Commission proposes to transfer the following area from the Nepisiguit district to the Centre-Péninsule district:

- Saint Sauveur.

Meanwhile, the Commission proposes to transfer the portion of a community located in the Centre-Péninsule district to the Caraquet district:

- Burnsville.

The effect of the transfers would be to increase the population of the electoral district of Centre-Péninsule from 9,780 to 12,099 or 8.8% below the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 7 Lamèque-Shippagan-Miscou

The Lamèque-Shippagan-Miscou district had a 2001 Census population of 12,155, or 8.4% below the provincial electoral quotient. The district is in conformity with the provisions of the *Act*. However, its boundaries need to be changed as part of the Commission's proposals to bring all of the Gloucester and Northumberland districts in line with the provisions of the *Act*.

The Commission is therefore proposing to transfer the following area to the Centre-Péninsule district:

- Baie de Petit Pokemouche.

The effect of the transfer would be to decrease the population of the electoral district of Lamèque-Shippagan-Miscou from 12,155 to 11,961 or 9.8% below the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 6 Caraquet

The Caraquet electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 11,840, or 10.7% below the provincial electoral quotient. The current situation does not meet the requirements of the *Act*. The Commission is proposing to transfer the following portion of the Nepisiguit district to the Caraquet district:

- part of the community of Burnsville.

In addition, the Commission proposes to transfer the following area from the Centre-Péninsule district to the Caraquet district:

- part of the community of Burnsville.

The effect of the transfers would be to increase the population of the electoral district of Caraquet from 11,840 to 11,969 or 9.7% below the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 5 Nepisiguit

The Nepisiguit electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 12,485, or 5.9% below the provincial electoral quotient. The district is in conformity with the provisions of the *Act*. However its boundaries need to be changed as part of the Commission's proposals to bring all of the Gloucester and Northumberland districts in line with the provisions of the *Act*. The Commission therefore proposes to transfer the portion of a community located in the Nepisiguit district to the Caraquet district:

- Burnsville.

The Commission also proposes to transfer the following area from the Nepisiguit district to the Centre-Péninsule district:

- Saint Sauveur.

Meanwhile, the Commission proposes to transfer the following area from the City of Bathurst district to the Nepisiguit district:

- that part of the south-eastern portion of the City of Bathurst located south of Route 11 and east of the Nepisiguit River.

The effect of the transfers would be to decrease the population of the electoral district of Nepisiguit from 12,485 to 11,970 or 9.7% below the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 4 Bathurst

The City of Bathurst electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 12,924, or 2.5% below the provincial electoral quotient. The district is in conformity with the provisions of the *Act*. However, its boundaries need to be changed as part of the Commission's proposals to bring all of the Gloucester and Northumberland districts in

line with the provisions of the *Act*. The Commission therefore proposes to transfer the following area from the City of Bathurst district to the Nepisiguit district:

- that part of the south-eastern portion of the City of Bathurst located south of Route 11 and east of the Nepisiguit River.

The effect of the transfer would be to decrease the population of the electoral district of the City of Bathurst from 12,924 to 12,527 or 5.5% below the provincial electoral quotient.

Electoral District # 3 Nigadoo-Chaleur

The Nigadoo-Chaleur electoral district had a 2001 Census population of 13,345, or 0.6% above the provincial electoral quotient. The Commission is not proposing any changes to the boundaries of the electoral district of Nigadoo-Chaleur.

Summary – Northeast Region

As can be deduced from the above description of the second option, the only way in which the existing number of electoral districts of Northumberland and Gloucester can be maintained and still be within the guidelines of the *Act* is by doing changes to ten of the eleven districts in the area. Even then, the population of 9 of the eleven districts ranges from 11,994 to 12,101, just above the threshold of 11,937.

The following table provides in summary form the proposals of the Commission for the Northeast New Brunswick electoral districts. A fourteenth electoral district, Madawaska-Restigouche would be shared between the Northeast and Northwest regions. Appendix A provides a map as well as a list of the communities included in each electoral district.

New Electoral Districts	Name of District	2001 Census Population	Difference from P.E.Q. (total)	Percentage variance from P.E.Q.
# 1	Campbellton	13,524	+261	+2.0
# 2	Dalhousie-Restigouche East	14,109	+846	+6.4
# 3	Nigadoo-Chaleur	13,345	+82	+0.6
# 4	Bathurst	12,527	-736	-5.5
# 5	Nepisiguit	11,970	-1,293	-9.7
# 6	Caraquet	11,969	-1,294	-9.8
# 7	Lamèque-Shippagan-Miscou	11,961	-1,302	-9.8
# 8	Centre-Péninsule	12,099	-1,164	-8.8
# 9	Tracadie-Sheila	12,068	-1,195	-9.0
# 10	Miramichi-Neguac	11,966	-1,297	-9.8
# 11	Miramichi-Bay du Vin	11,949	-1,314	-9.9
# 12	Miramichi Centre	11,944	-1,319	-9.9
# 13	Southwest Miramichi	12,017	-1,246	-9.4

The preliminary report of the Commission would have the following impact and its proposals would bring about the following changes to the electoral map of the Northeast New Brunswick region:

- There are currently 14 electoral districts in the region. Under the proposals of the Commission 13 districts would be maintained and the fourteenth one, Madawaska-Restigouche, would be shared between the Northeast and the Northwest regions. The changes proposed would increase the average population of each district from 11,992 (9.6% below the electoral quotient) to 12,419 (6.6% below the provincial electoral quotient).
- Under the current situation, six of the fourteen electoral districts do not meet the requirements of the Act. Under the proposals contained in this preliminary report, all of the electoral districts would conform to the provisions of the *Act*.
- The variance in the population of the current electoral districts is from plus 0.6% to minus 26.3%. Under the proposals contained in this preliminary report, the variance would be from plus 6.4% to minus 9.9%. Under the current distribution, the range is from a population of 82 above to the provincial electoral quotient to 3,483 below the quotient. The propositions contained in this preliminary report provide a scenario where the district with the highest number has a population of 1,146 above the provincial quotient while the district with the lowest number has a population of 1,393 below the quotient. In absolute terms, the gap between the two districts with the highest and the lowest populations would be narrowed from 3,565 to 2,539.

Notice of Public Hearings to the Residents of the Province of New Brunswick

Since its appointment in late August of this year, the Commission met regularly in order to fulfill its mandate as set out in the *Electoral Boundaries and Representation Act (Act)*. Twelve of these meetings consisted of Public Hearings where the residents of New Brunswick could express their views on how the electoral map of New Brunswick should be redefined. Suggestions and comments were also sent to the office. The Commission also reviewed the *Act* adopted unanimously by the members of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick on June 30, 2005. The *Act* sets forth the conditions and the rules under which this Commission must operate.

The *Act* determines that the number of electoral districts shall remain unchanged at 55. It also stipulates that each electoral district should have a population as close as possible to the electoral quotient. The provincial electoral quotient of 13,263 is determined by dividing the total provincial population of 729,498 (based on the 2001 Statistics Canada Census) by the 55 electoral districts. The *Act* allows the Commission to establish an electoral district that has a population that exceeds the provincial electoral quotient by no more than 10%. In effect this means that an electoral district may not have a population that exceeds 14,589. The *Act* also allows the Commission to establish an electoral district with a population up to 10% below the provincial electoral quotient, i.e. 11,937. The considerations that the Commission may use to deviate from the provincial electoral quotient are spelled out in the *Act* and are detailed in an earlier part of this report.

Members of the Commission familiarized themselves with the *Act* and analyzed the 2001 Census data. The briefs, letters and e-mails received and the submissions made by the interveners at the public hearings, were, to the extent possible, taken into account by the Commission in drafting the proposals contained in this preliminary report. The Commission acknowledges and expresses its gratitude to all those who submitted briefs and comments. The contributions were very valuable to the Commission in the drafting of the preliminary report. The Commission believes that this report represents a comprehensive and well-balanced set of proposals for the consideration of New Brunswickers.

Although readers of this report will first want to know how the boundaries of their own electoral district will be affected they are encouraged to look at the broader picture and to consider the regional and provincial impacts of all the proposals.

The Commission is seeking public input on the proposals contained in its preliminary report. Interested individuals may forward comments or suggestions directly to the Commission by e-mail at commission@gnb.ca, by mail at 590 Queen Street, Suite 100, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 7H9 or by fax at 506 457-6874. The Commission will also hold Public Hearings to receive input from New Brunswickers on the following dates and locations:

Location	Date	Time
Grand Falls	Wednesday, January 11, 2006	7:00 p.m.
Fredericton	Thursday, January 12, 2006	3:00 p.m.
Bathurst	Monday, January 16, 2006	7:00 p.m.
Miramichi	Tuesday, January 17, 2006	11:00 a.m.
Moncton	Wednesday, January 18, 2006	7:00 p.m.
Saint John	Friday, January 20, 2006	11:00 a.m.

The members of the Commission look forward to receiving the comments and suggestions of New Brunswickers on its proposals. The final objective is to develop a set of boundaries consistent with the provisions of the *Act* and that best serve the interests of all New Brunswickers.