

SUBMISSION #11

- 11) Submitted by:** Perry Savoie, Co-Chair, Marsh Lake Local Advisory Council
Date Submitted: February 8, 2018
Electoral District: Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes

Submission:

Thank you for providing the residents of the Marsh Lake this opportunity to respond to the proposed changes to the Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes electoral district.

The interim report provides a logical picture as to why our riding should be changed in order to better accommodate the riding of Pelly-Nisutlin by placing Teslin with Tagish and Carcross, and uniting Mount Lorne and Marsh Lake. It would seem there are two major points in favor of such a re-alignment. One is connected to the “application of Quotient” and the other is one of travel for the member of the riding.

Also noted is the “geographical and cultural ties” between Tagish, Carcross and Teslin and Ross River and Watson Lake. This type of justification seems to show up elsewhere with respect to electoral boundary changes, and seems to be done to align with First Nations language districts. I may be wrong but this level of attention was never taken into consideration in the past and we’re wondering what is driving it in this report.

Yukon is unique when dealing with electoral boundaries using the “application of the Quotient” process. As can be witnessed by some of the existing ridings created in the past this does work very well. The Old Crow riding could be used an example. This may suggest that the quotient isn’t as important as it’s made out to be, and maybe other things could be better used.

Residents in this community have voiced a number of reasons why our current riding should not be changed. Some of these are: similar lifestyles throughout the Southern Lakes Communities: the rural life style throughout the area: water issues: advisory councils who work together to meet the needs of their respective residents which is further strengthened by having a voting sea on the Association of Yukon Communities Board who sits at the pleasure of the South Klondike, Tagish, Mount Lorne, and Marsh Lake Advisory Councils. These four advisory areas face many of the same problems and work together on these problems and share information. Concerns such as staking in country residential areas, woodcutting in forest lands, Southern Lakes water levels to mention a few.

The final concern I have with the proposed change is the potential problem with us combined with Mount Lorne as an electoral district is because it may not have a long life. As Whitehorse population expands the possibility of yet another realignment is very

real. Especially when one considers the population base of this new riding. Marsh Lake and Mount Lorne are probably the second and third largest communities or at least 3 and 4 in population in Yukon. This suggests we will not be the “application of the quotient” and guess what happens.

In closing, if Pelly-Nisutlin needs to be change why not consider placing Teslin with Southern Lakes and Ross River could then go with Watson Lake. However, there’s an old saying my mother always pointed out to me – son if it ain’t broke don’t fix it. This adage seems to fit this situation.

Thank you again for providing our community this opportunity.

Electoral Districts Paper

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