

## SUBMISSION #15

- 15) Submitted by:** Don Hutton, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Mayo-Tatchun  
**Date Submitted:** February 27, 2018  
**Electoral District:** Mayo-Tatchun

### Submission:

Dear Commission:

As the Community meetings are scheduled during the Spring Sitting of the Legislative Assembly I will be unable to attend the meetings in Mayo, Pelly and Carmacks therefore, I am providing this written submission regarding the proposed changes to the Boundaries for the Mayo/Tatchun Riding.

As the incumbent MLA and a Yukoner born and raised in Mayo, I have a unique perspective on the issue at hand. There are very good reasons for the Mayo/Tatchun Boundary as it exists currently. The three Northern Tutchone First Nations of Na Cho Nyak Dun, Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation of Little Salmon/Carmacks share a common history ,language , culture and Traditional way of life, as well as there being many family ties between the three communities. This riding currently is the largest in the Territory which creates some logistical issues in terms of being available to serve constituents in each of these communities. As the MLA for Mayo/Tatchun I can certainly attest to the many hours of driving required to simply get to each of these communities on some kind of regular basis. If Faro was added to this mix I believe there would be negative consequences for all the communities involved. The extra driving time would mean even less time available to reach out in each of the communities. I do not believe this would serve the constituents of this area well. My suggestion to the commission would be to keep Ross River and Faro together and combine them with the existing Riding of Watson Lake. There is an obvious connection between the Kaska people of Ross River and Watson Lake similar to the three Northern Tutchone First Nations shared values and Culture.

The community of Faro is very new to the Yukon when looked at in the context of the First Nations occupation and use of this area for the past 10,000 years. I submit to you that the fates of Faro and Ross River have been inexorably intertwined as a result of the Faro mine and Town site being developed in the heart of the Traditional territory of the Ross River Dene Council. In going forward I believe it is crucially important for these two communities to find common ground and forge a path forward together. As you are likely aware Faro is a predominately non-native community and Ross River is almost exclusively a First nation community, I believe we would be sending an incongruent message to Yukon residents were we to separate these communities for political purposes, as one of our Governments main objectives is to improve relationships with all Yukon First Nations and to foster a culture of collaboration going forward.

The discussions I have had with constituents in the Communities has lead me to believe that there is very little support for including Faro in the Mayo/Tatchun Riding, I suspect this will be confirmed by residents that turn out for your meetings.

In closing I would like to thank Commission for all the good work done so far and I wish you a successful wrap up to the community consultations, and look forward to your final report. Thank-you in advance for your consideration of my comments.

Kind Regards,

Don O. Hutton