

SUBMISSION #32

32) Submitted by: Paul Dabbs
Date Submitted: March 9, 2018
Electoral District: Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes

Submission:

I have been a full time resident of Tagish since 2006 and in that time have served six years as the Chair, Tagish Local Advisory Committee (LAC) and as Board member and President of the Tagish Community Association. For the past 3 years I have been a member of the Tagish Local Area Plan Steering Committee and an observer on the Tagish River Protected Habitat Planning Committee. In those latter capacities I have been working extensively with members of C/TFN. I am not writing to you however in any formal capacity but rather as a resident whose views have been influenced by this experience.

What I have come to believe over the past 12 years is that the Southern Lakes has a distinct identity which is growing and becoming stronger. It is based on common needs, common problems and common interests which are shared across the four communities and the C/TFN. You have heard this theme in your community meetings so I do not need to repeat the details. The common interests are reinforced by the fact that the boundaries of the four LAC's are now continuous, encompassing the entire Southern Lakes Loop. Any person living along this corridor can now have representation at an LAC.

Part of the reason this identity has been growing is that we can speak with a single voice through our MLA. Splitting our riding would not change who we are or who we wish to become but I think it would detract from our ability to move forward on common issues. Having two MLA's, two First Nations and a mix of incorporated and unincorporated communities within the Southern Lakes electoral districts would create an increased level of complexity and possible tensions which I do not think would be to our longer term advantage.

In putting forward my points in this manner, I realize that I am emphasizing what we would lose as opposed to what might be some of the broader gains territorially of your proposal for change. I do not feel qualified however to speak on the broader issues.

Thank you for the work you are putting into this difficult and complex matter.

Yours truly,

Paul Dabbs