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MAY 02 2022

His Worship Brad West
Mayor, City of Port Coquitlam
2580 Shaughnessy St,
Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 3G3

Dear Mayor West,

Today, the Electoral Boundaries Commission for British Columbia released its proposed new electoral boundaries for the province.

The proposed new boundaries result from a statutory requirement under the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*, which provides for drawing constituency boundaries within each province. As British Columbia's provincial population increased, the good news is that British Columbia gained one additional seat in the House of Commons.

However, the bad news is that the Commission recommends that Port Coquitlam be severed into two constituencies, with Port Coquitlam south of Lougheed Highway belonging to a new constituency of Pitt Meadows – Fort Langley. To sever Port Coquitlam in half and include the southern part with Pitt Meadows and Fort Langley does not make any sense, and I will vigorously oppose the Commission's proposal. Attached for your reference is a copy of the proposed boundaries for both constituencies as well as a map.

Fortunately, the Act requires public hearings before issuing its final report, and I encourage the City to make a representation to the Commission. Following those hearings, the Commission will undertake a final report before being submitted to the House of Commons for review.

.../2.

To give some context to redistribution, in the early years of Confederation, after each decennial census, the government would introduce a bill describing the boundaries of each electoral district and then have the bill adopted like any other piece of legislation. That was subject to criticism as a highly biased task focused on maximizing the governing party's electoral successes, often referred to as "gerrymandering." In 1903, Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier altered this procedure by placing the readjustment of constituency boundaries in the hands of a special committee of the House of Commons on which Members from all parties were represented. Each time redistribution of seats was scheduled to occur, as provided for by the *Constitution Act, 1867* and the latest census, the government brought in a bill which did not contain any details about the boundaries of individual ridings. After the bill was read a second time, it was referred to a special committee instructed to "prepare schedules to contain and describe the several electoral divisions entitled to return Members to this House." That process remained highly partisan, and Members were not provided with guidelines on which to base their decisions. That system remained in place until 1964, when non-partisan electoral boundaries commissions were established to draw and readjust the boundaries of electoral constituencies.

While the process described above is meant to be politically neutral, the boundaries recommended are problematic. Therefore, the recommended boundaries must be resolved before the final report lands before the House of Commons and is referred to the Standing Committee on Procedures and House Affairs for consideration.

My office can assist the City in identifying opportunities to ensure that the City's voice is heard throughout the process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. McEnroe', with a stylized, cursive script.

c.c.: His Worship Mike Morden, Mayor, City of Maple Ridge

His Worship Bill Dingwall, Mayor, City of Pitt Meadows

Encl.

Appendix 1 – Proposed boundaries for Coquitlam – Port Coquitlam

Consists of those parts of the Metro Vancouver Regional District comprising:

- (a) that part of the City of Port Coquitlam lying northeasterly of the Lougheed Highway (Highway 7);
- (b) that part of Metro Vancouver Electoral Area A lying easterly of Indian Arm and the Indian River; and
- (c) those parts of the City of Coquitlam:
 - (i) lying northerly of the Lougheed Highway (Highway 7) and the Barnet Highway (Highway 7A);
 - (ii) lying southerly of the Barnet Highway (Highway 7A) and the Lougheed Highway (Highway 7) commencing at the intersection of the Lougheed Highway (Highway 7) and the westerly limit of the City of Port Coquitlam; thence generally southerly along said limit to the northerly boundary of the Coquitlam Indian Reserve No. 2; thence generally southerly along said limit and along the westerly limit of the City of Port Coquitlam to the Fraser River; thence westerly along said river to the Trans-Canada Highway (Highway 1); thence northerly along said highway to the northerly shore of the Fraser River at approximate latitude 49°13'27 "N and longitude 122°48'53 "W; thence northerly in a straight line to the Canadian Pacific Railway at approximate latitude 49°13'39 "N and longitude 122°48'57 "W; thence northerly and northeasterly along said railway to Colony Farm Road; thence northwesterly along said road to Cape Horn Avenue; thence northwesterly in a straight line to a point on Fern Terrace at approximate latitude 49°14'29 "N and longitude 122°49'00 "W; thence northwesterly along said road to Mariner Way; thence northeasterly and northerly along said road to Como Lake Avenue; thence westerly along said avenue to approximate latitude 49°15'47 "N and longitude 122°49'07"W; thence northerly in a straight line to approximate latitude 49°16'20"N and longitude 122°49'10"W; thence northeasterly in a straight line to a point on a transmission line at approximate latitude 49°16'25"N and longitude 122°48'57"W; thence northerly along said transmission line to the Canadian Pacific Railway; thence westerly along said railway to the

limit of the City of Coquitlam; thence northerly along said limit to the Barnet Highway (Highway 7A); thence easterly and southeasterly along said highway to the point of commencement.

Appendix 2 – Proposed boundaries for Pitt Meadows – Fort Langley

Consists of those parts of the Metro Vancouver Regional district comprising:

(a) that part of Metro Vancouver Electoral Area A comprising Barnston Island;

(b) that part of the City of Maple Ridge lying southwesterly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the westerly limit of said City and the Alouette River; thence generally southeasterly along said river to 224 Street; thence southerly along said street and its production to the southerly limit of said City;

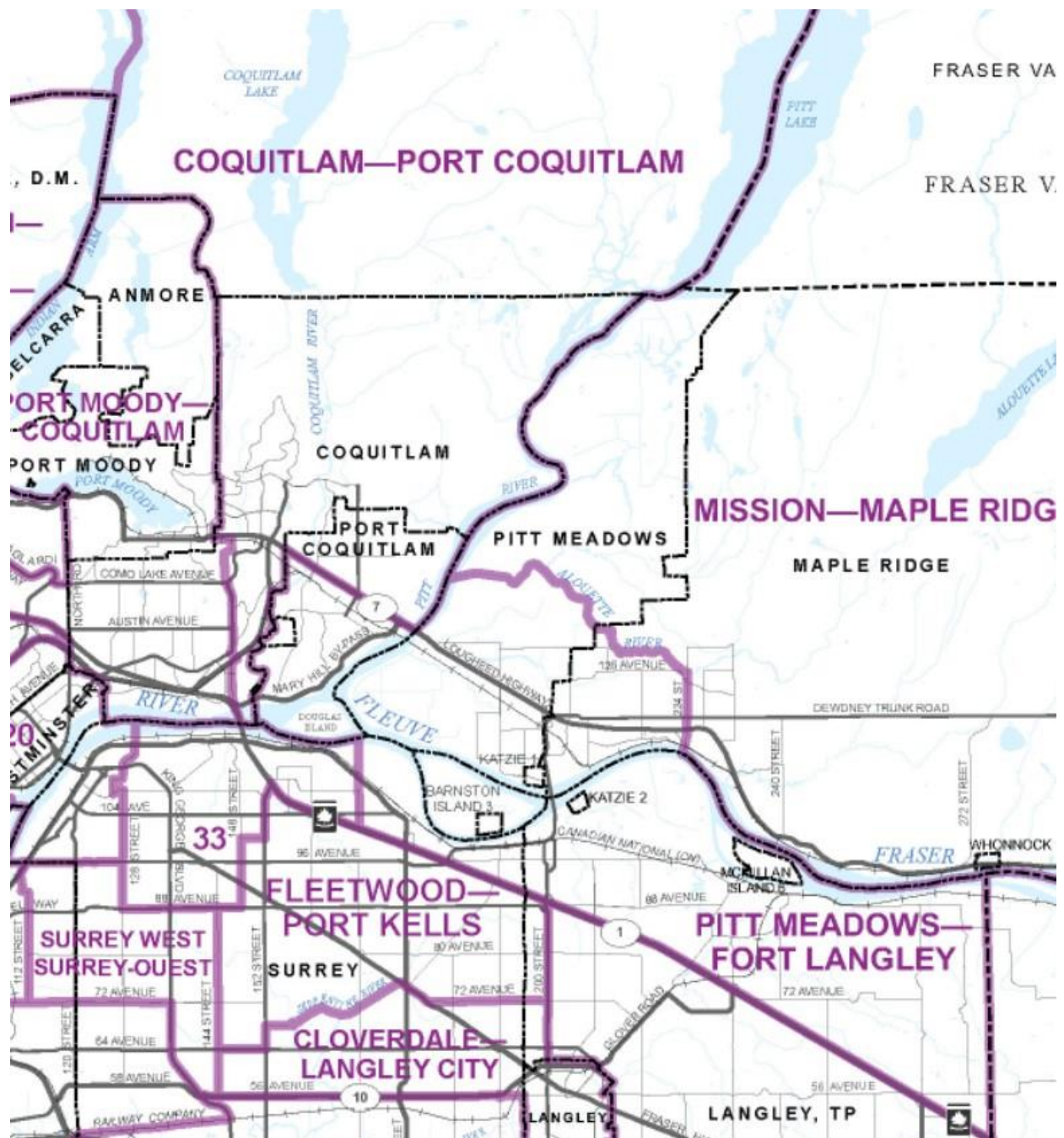
(c) that part of the City of Pitt Meadows lying southwesterly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the easterly limit of said City and the Alouette River; thence generally northwesterly along said river to the westerly limit of said City;

(d) that part of the City of Port Coquitlam lying southwesterly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the easterly limit of said City and the Pitt River Bridge; thence northwesterly along said bridge and Lougheed Highway (Highway 7) to the westerly limit of said City;

(e) that part of the City of Surrey lying northerly and easterly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the easterly limit of said City with the Trans-Canada Highway (Highway 1); thence northwesterly along said highway to its intersection with the production of 168 Street (approximate latitude 49°11'14"N and longitude 122°45'23"W); thence northerly along said street and its production to 108 Avenue; thence northerly in a straight line to the northerly limit of said city (approximate latitude 49°12'54"N and longitude 122°45'24"); and

(f) that part of the Township of Langley lying northerly of the Trans-Canada Highway (Highway 1).

Appendix 3 – Proposed new riding boundaries



Source: Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for British Columbia