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Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for British Columbia 300 - 1055 West Hastings Street Vancouver, BC V6E 2E9

Sent via email: <u>BC-CB@redecoupage-federal-redistribution.ca</u>

**Dear Commission Members:** 

## <u>Subject: Proposed Changes to Federal Electoral Boundaries</u>

On behalf of Pitt Meadows City Council, I am writing to vehemently oppose the proposed changes to the federal electoral districts in BC, specifically the proposed Pitt Meadows-Fort Langley and Mission-Maple Ridge electoral districts.

As a Council, we are surprised to hear that you have proposed dividing Pitt Meadows into two separate electoral districts. We are a small community of less than 20,000 citizens with a very strong identity that is easily conveyed through our City's Vision Statement: Pitt Meadows Proud<sup>TM</sup>. From our perspective, and from the residents we've heard from thus far, it doesn't make sense to divide our City's voice in Parliament and mix it with the needs and priorities of several other communities that do not necessarily share the same challenges, priorities, strategic directions, and goals that we have.

We do, however, share much in common with the City of Maple Ridge. We are often referred to as the Ridge Meadows area; we share the Ridge Meadows Hospital; we are co-owners of the Pitt Meadows Airport; we share multiple sports teams whose names

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begin with 'Ridge Meadows'; we share a school district (SD42), ; our economic development is inter-connected through the Ridge Meadows Chamber of Commerce; our newspaper is the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows News; our citizens are jointly supported through Ridge Meadows Community Services and the Ridge Meadows Division of Family practice; and the list goes on.

As well from a "regional perspective", at TransLink we are part of the North East Sector sub-region (e.g. Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge), a geographical area separated by the Fraser River.

The current Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge electoral district has served us very well over the past many years. Combined, our population is approaching 120,000 and over the next 20 years, is anticipated to grow another 40,000.

We urgently ask that you reconsider your proposed amendments and find a solution that, at the very minimum, allows Pitt Meadows' voice to be heard as one community in Parliament and, more ideally, allows us to continue our close alliance and liaison work with Maple Ridge at a federal level.

Yours Truly,

Mayor Bill Dingwall

BGS, LL.B., CPHR

cc: Pitt Meadows Council

WS Languar

Maple Ridge Council Port Coquitlam Council

MP Marc Dalton and MP Ron McKinnon

**CAO Mark Roberts**