

December 9, 2025

Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission
Suite 100, 11510 Kingsway NW
Edmonton, AB T5G 2Y5

Sent Via the Commission's website (abebc.ca/your-voice)

Dear Honourable Justice Dallas Miller and members of the Commission,

Subject: Interim Proposal to Split Beaumont Into Two Proposed Electoral Divisions

On behalf of the City of Beaumont, I am happy to provide this written submission regarding the proposals in the Commission's Interim Report affecting Beaumont constituents and the City.

The City understands the Commission must balance various considerations when proposing electoral divisions. That said, the City has significant concerns with the interim proposal to split Beaumont east and west of 50th Street among two proposed electoral divisions (ridings).

For reasons set out below, I respectfully request that the Commission reverse this and instead propose that all of Beaumont be in a single riding, preferably together with the City of Leduc and a portion of Leduc County. Beaumont's estimated population in 2024 was about 25,000 residents, which is less than half the target population average of 55,000 constituents for each riding. Beaumont is the third fastest-growing community in Alberta. Over the last five years, the city's population has grown 20 per cent and is expected to double in 20 years.

Keeping a municipality whole, when possible, promotes effective representation. Beaumont is a rapidly growing, cohesive urban community whose residents share a common history and distinct social identity. It is one of only four officially bilingual municipalities in Alberta. Keeping the City intact would help ensure constituents' interests and priorities can be clearly and consistently represented through a single Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Moving the eastern portion of Beaumont to a riding centered in Strathcona County would fragment representation for constituents. Beaumont is a highly integrated community where residents share schools, recreation facilities, cultural services, emergency response arrangements, and transportation networks across the City without distinction between west or east of 50th Street.



A key principle for the Commission's work is the need to promote clear and understandable riding boundaries. While 50th Street is a visible roadway, electors generally understand their provincial constituency in terms of municipal boundaries, not internal road alignments. A better boundary choice would be Range Road 241 along Beaumont's eastern municipal boundary.

Beaumont residents orient socially, economically and institutionally more towards Leduc, Nisku and south Edmonton, and much less so toward Sherwood Park. Residents of Beaumont, Leduc County and the City of Leduc share workplaces, school divisions, recreation programs, youth sports and commuting patterns. Keeping our communities together in the same riding would best reflect a coherent 'community of interest'.

Rebalancing the population of the current Leduc-Beaumont riding should be done at its rural periphery, not by splitting Beaumont. The desire for population parity, plus or minus about 5%, is understandable. However, greater deviation from the average is permitted when needed to ensure effective representation. Given the recent rapid growth of Beaumont and across south Edmonton, alternative adjustments are available without dividing a small, fast-growing City.

Beaumont has a long history of regional collaboration with Leduc County and the City of Leduc. Our communities share proximity to the airport, the QEII trade corridor, and surrounding industry, and we rely on interconnected service networks and intermunicipal partnerships. These relationships support collaborative arrangements for growth strategies, integrated planning, water services, waste management, transportation, affordable housing and emergency response services. Aligning all three municipalities within one provincial riding would support effective representation by ensuring that a single MLA can advance the shared priorities of this interconnected region.

The proposed 'Strathcona-Sherwood Park' riding would include a small, reduced area within Sherwood Park, the rest of Strathcona County, a small area of Leduc County and nearly half of Beaumont. This would be a new hybrid riding made up of small portions of multiple municipalities, having little regard for functional regions, shared interests or regional or municipal linkages. For these reasons, the City of Beaumont respectfully requests not to have any portion of its municipality included within the proposed Strathcona-Sherwood Park riding (consistent with the proposed name of this riding).

Electoral boundaries commissions must give effect to the right to effective representation as guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This means riding populations should be reasonably equal, but deviations are permitted when justified by factors like geography (size, remoteness, communications, transportation), community of interest (social, economic and municipal), community history, population growth patterns and minority representation.

Given the importance of effective representation, municipal integrity, community identity, and clarity for electors, the City of Beaumont requests that the Commission revise its proposal by



keeping all of Beaumont in a single riding, preferably with a portion of Leduc County and the City of Leduc.

Thank you for your consideration and careful work on behalf of Alberta electors.

Sincerely,



Lisa Vanderkwaak
Mayor
City of Beaumont

cc: City of Beaumont Council
CAO Mike Schwartz

