

Electoral Boundaries

The commissioners, in proposing a new boundary on the eastern side of this riding, have taken the easterly boundary commencing at the north point of the Ottawa River, proceeding along the Rideau Canal to what we who have lived here all our lives commonly know as the Deep Cut. Then, instead of logically proceeding on along the CP line to Hurdman's Bridge, they take instead a cut to the south or southwest at that point along the Rideau Canal down to Craig Street, at which point they go back in an easterly direction to the Rideau River. The effect of this deletion is to divide what is and has been a community known for as long as this city has existed as the community of Ottawa-East—I refer to it as distinct from the riding of Ottawa-East, which is now Ottawa-Vanier.

● (1740)

This new division line going along the Rideau canal, rather than to Hurdman's bridge, and then following the natural geographic pattern along the river and so on, as in the new boundary, eliminates one half of that which has been an integral part of the city of Ottawa and a living community in itself. It has been a living community in that there is a community of interest as represented by the Ottawa East Community Association, the schools, and indeed the churches, all of which generally are on both sides of Clegg Avenue, or what has commonly been known from time to time as Upper Ottawa East and Lower Ottawa East.

The people of that area community for a long period of time have been represented by the member of parliament from the centre part of the city of Ottawa. It has been a pleasure to represent those people for these past years, and I ask the commissioners very seriously to consider that they continue to be represented by the same member of parliament who represents their neighbours and friends just immediately to the south of them. I also ask that the boundary not be from the Deep Cut to Clegg Avenue along the Rideau canal, but rather along the Rideau river, Hurdman's Bridge, and thence to the Rideau canal and back to the centre of Ottawa and the Ottawa river.

The second submission that I would make to Your Honour is that in extending the boundaries of the riding of Ottawa Centre considerably to the west the commissioners have also deleted from that national extension another community, and community of interest, that exist in the area known as Mechanicsville-Hintonburg. This area of Mechanicsville-Hintonburg, which can be defined in general terms as those lands lying south of Wellington street and between Bayswater Avenue and the CPR to the east and Holland Avenue to the west, also traditionally over the years has been an integral part of the city of Ottawa, but at the same time has formed a community and community of interest unto itself.

With respect, as the commissioners have proceeded along the westerly boundary of the proposed riding of Ottawa Centre, moving northerly along Fisher Avenue to Holland and then to Wellington Street, instead of continuing in a northerly directly, and I would propose, to the centre of the Ottawa river and then along the centre line of the Ottawa river to where it intersects with an extension of the centre line of the Rideau canal—instead of that logical, geographical pattern which would have the effect, that I submit is properly right, of continuing the community of

[Mr. Poulin.]

interest and having those persons in the area represented by the same member of parliament who represented the persons on the south side of Wellington Street, by going from the corner of Holland and easterly along Wellington Street the commissioners have effectively divided this community in two, in a similar manner as they have divided the community of Ottawa East in two.

My submission is that in the best interests of these persons, and in order to avoid confusion as to which member of parliament represents them, it would be more logical from a geographic, demographic, and community of interest point of view for the people residing in the area that Holland Avenue continue to be the westerly boundary, that it continue to proceed northerly to the centre of the Ottawa river, and then along the centre of the Ottawa river as I have earlier described.

I am pleased to have had this opportunity of making these submissions, and I would ask the commissioners to consider very carefully the importance to the people of both communities of not having their communities divided, as well as the positive aspect that the entire communities in each of the Ottawa East and the Mechanicsville-Hintonburg area be represented by the same member of parliament.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I very much welcome the addition of the other areas that have been added to the riding of Ottawa Centre. It will indeed be a challenge to represent such an enlarged area and additional number of people. Although I do not have the exact measurements, I think the land area has just about been doubled and includes those newer areas in this great city of Riverside Park north and south, as well as others in areas south of the city.

Mr. Wm. Andres (Lincoln): Mr. Speaker, may I thank you for the opportunity of participating in this debate. I intend to keep my remarks brief. The purport of my intervention has already been outlined and recorded in *Votes and Proceedings*, but I should just like to re-emphasize a few arguments on behalf of the constituents of the riding of Lincoln and the unique fruit growing area in the Niagara peninsula.

The Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act states very clearly that the commission may depart from a strict application of rules in a case where there is a special community of interest. In my argument I will maintain that the commission has ignored and overlooked the special community of interest found in the Niagara peninsula, especially as it relates to the fruit growing lands in the peninsula.

The commission's submission as it relates to the federal riding of Lincoln does not take into account the rural and agricultural community found therein, with its own economic, social, historic and traditional associations. Lincoln at present follows a long-standing and historic relationship based on its rural fruit growing and agricultural characteristics.

The Niagara fruitlands present a unique and essential industry and agronomy in Canada, especially as it relates to the Niagara peninsula. The fruit industry is beset with many problems and will not be served well if divided into five different ridings as proposed at the present time by the commission. It is agreed that the fruit industry must be