

*Electoral Boundaries*

I understand our area may be changed from the Red Deer to the Wetaskiwin constituency. To me this seems to be quite remote as there is no one there that I know. I do my business in Red Deer, we have a Red Deer phone. I hope this does not happen as it would be more inconvenient to keep in touch with our representatives.

Yours truly,

Lawrence McMillan

The next letter reads as follows:

Just a few lines to add my voice to others who want to keep the north boundary of your constituency the same as before.

My land location is N.W. 24—38—26 W 4.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph H. Young

• (0130)

Another reads:

Mr. Towers:

We, the undersigned members of this family, do hereby request that the lands upon which we reside (S½—21—38—25—4) be included in the federal Red Deer riding.

W. B. Linklater

Margeret A. Linklater

E. Bernice Linklater

The next letter reads:

Mr. Gordon Towers,  
Member of Parliament,  
Dear Sir:

In regard to the boundary change in the constituency of Red Deer, we would like to remain in the Red Deer riding as we live eight miles east of the city of Red Deer on the NW ¼35—38—26—W4. We do our banking and most of our business in the city of Red Deer as well as using the recreational facilities of the city of Red Deer. We feel that Red Deer is our home town and for these reasons and the fact that we live as close to Red Deer as we do, we wish to remain in Red Deer riding.

Yours truly,

Bill and Carol Armstrong

I have one more. It reads:

Dear Sir:

We are much concerned about being moved into the Wetaskiwin electoral district. We would much prefer to remain in the Red Deer district. We live about seven miles from Red Deer on the north side of the river. Our home is on the NW23—38—26—W4. We would appreciate very much anything you can do to make our request known to the present government.

Thank you

W. O. and Ruth Armstrong

That is a sample of the letters I have received from people living in that area. Surely the commission representatives will be compassionate and realistic enough to give consideration to the requests of these people. They are logical and certainly deserve consideration.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** It appears there is no further debate on the objections to the Report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the province of Alberta.

The House having considered the objections, it is my duty pursuant to section 20 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act to refer the Report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the province of Alberta, together with a copy of the objections, and also a copy of the *Debates of the House of Commons*, back to the commission for reconsideration thereof.

[Mr. Towers.]

The House will now resume consideration of the objections to the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the province of British Columbia.

OBJECTIONS TO COMMISSION REPORT RESPECTING BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Mrs. Iona Campagnolo (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):**  
Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

**Mrs. Campagnolo:** I thank my colleagues for their warm welcome.

The distribution of population in British Columbia is, to say the least, unequal. Of the 2 ½ million people who live in the province, it is of course well known that more than two million British Columbians are crowded into the metropolis of Vancouver and its southern mainland environs. Only one tenth of the people in my home province live above the 53rd parallel. In fact the two northern ridings of Prince George-Peace River to the east and Skeena to the west have for generations been, together, fully one half of the geography of the great province of British Columbia.

As I rise in my place tonight at this late hour to make a representation to the commission, I am mindful of those who have answered to the name of "the honourable member for Skeena" before me, New Democratic and Liberal alike, who have faced as I have the overwhelming geography of a quarter of the province of British Columbia; half the coastline of the province from Katasoo-Klemtu in the south, taking in the Queen Charlotte Islands, the length of the Alaska panhandle, a broad expanse of the Yukon border, south to Vanderhoof, 70 miles west of Prince George, south again through the historic lakes district, and back once again to the coast. This area contains four provincial electoral ridings. That is the geography of a giant land with a population of under 100,000 people.

The present redistribution divides the north of the province into three parts, divided in a north-south split, which will see the birth of the new constituency, Prince George-Bulkley Valley, and the central city of some 80,000 will be served by two members of parliament, each with an extensive rural area.

In 1978 the electoral boundary of Skeena will be placed between Smithers and Telkwa which have an historic community of interest and, in fact, people often live in one community and work in the other. Smithers is spectacular. It is a small city of some 6,000 people who, through prudent management, have controlled their growth and environment and cast themselves in the role of an alpine paradise.

Although I personally do not acknowledge the validity of the argument of the Smithers Chamber of Commerce in their desire that their city be placed in the new centre riding, it is my duty as their representative to place their concern on the records of this House. It was resolved by the Smithers District Chamber of Commerce that Smithers be included in the proposed Prince George-Bulkley Valley riding rather than in Skeena, and that the western boundary of this riding correspond with the northwestern