

Electoral Boundaries

constructive suggestions which reflect the main viewpoints of the community leaders and residents of the historical region of Parkdale.

● (1720)

In 1879, the land area east of the Humber River to Dufferin Street and extending northerly from Lake Ontario was established as the village of Parkdale. In 1979, the people of the old constituency of Parkdale will be celebrating the centennial of the constituency's founding. The electoral district named Parkdale was first established under the redistribution act of 1914. Later, in 1924, it was included in the territory belonging to the city of Toronto. It would be desirable if the new federal constituency of Parkdale-High Park, as proposed by the Ontario boundaries commission and containing approximately 92,000 people, could be extended eastwardly from the Humber River and northwardly along Annette and Dupont Streets, thence to Dufferin Street and southwardly down Dufferin Street to Lake Ontario. The new boundaries which I have proposed will better take into account the community of interest and the nature of the social, political, cultural and geographical characteristics of Parkdale-High Park. The present constituency of Parkdale is populated by slightly more than 96,000 people. These people evince an ever-increasing pride, identity with and interest in the area.

The newly proposed constituency of Parkdale-High Park contains many organizations, groups and churches which are endeavouring to preserve and develop a new sense of community in this neighbourhood. For example, the area contains the Parkdale *Citizen* monthly community newspaper, the Polish language semi-weekly known as *The Alliancer*, and the headquarters of its parent organization. It contains, also, the Parkdale branch of the city of Toronto planning board, the Reymont Foundation, Parkdale Collegiate, the Lithuanian Cultural Centre, Parkdale United church, St. Casimir's church, St. Josephat's cathedral, St. John's Polish National cathedral Church, St. Stanislaus and St. Casimir's Parish Credit Unions, the largest credit union in Canada, I believe, with more than 15,000 members. It contains, also, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Holy Family Parish, St. Joan d'Arc Church, St. James Church, St. Pius X Church, St. Anthony's Church, St. Helen's Church, St. Mark's Anglican Church, St. Jude's Anglican Church, the Church of the Epiphany, and many others.

These community churches and organizations help the people of the area develop a community of interest and provide many services. They help to integrate the people of the area, especially those coming from other countries as well as from other parts of Canada, into one cohesive community. The people of this area are becoming more aware of the historical beginnings of the village of Parkdale which, as I mentioned, was established in 1879.

These newly proposed eastern boundaries would better encompass the historic, reconstituted constituency of Trinity which I represented in the House of Commons during Canada's twenty-third parliament beginning in 1957. I also believe that my proposal would be less disruptive and less artificial. The constituency is urban in nature, and the new proposal would eliminate the highly undesirable boundary of the present CNR line. It is preferable to make a major arterial road a boundary line in urban neighbourhoods of today.

[Mr. Haidasz.]

There is a further consideration, Mr. Speaker. Federal constituencies and their boundaries should serve the people of the constituency and their interests according to law. The slightly enlarged constituency of Parkdale-High Park which is being proposed is a well-knit community with broad, common interests. Approximately half the population consists of new Canadians and their children. This characteristic imposes additional duties involving communication, education, service and representation. There is, therefore, an urgent and important need to involve constituents of the area which transcends artificial boundaries in the democratic, political process.

Another concern of members representing highly pluralistic, multicultural constituencies is this: they must encourage all residents of the riding to develop greater interest in the political process and involve themselves in all activities of our society. By encouraging them to use the legitimate avenues and mechanisms of social action we shall assist them to become full participants in and beneficiaries of the Canadian heritage of democratic institutions. We shall also enable them to participate in the spiritual and material well-being of our great land.

If we are to achieve this goal, our major requirements must be to preserve the community of interest of our people. This, I think, could be more easily encouraged if the members of the Ontario federal boundaries commission were to consider the extended boundaries which I respectfully propose this afternoon for the newly proposed constituency of Parkdale-High Park.

Mr. Cecil Smith (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I think the commission did an excellent job of redesigning electoral boundaries. I rise to support the hon. member for Fort William (Mr. McRae) who said that northern Ontario is to lose one seat in this House. That means that members representing the north will need to cover a wider area and each will be responsible for more constituents. The situation across the border, in Manitoba, is similar. The member for Churchill represents a constituency 171,072 square miles in area. I sympathize with the hon. member who is concerned about the loss of one seat in northern Ontario. In Manitoba, one constituency of 171,072 square miles contains 62,758 people. At least one Manitoba constituency of 35,000 square miles contains 63,000 people. I cite these figures for comparison purposes.

I submit that the commission must examine all relevant factors. If a constituency is too large, its size ought to be adjusted in order to make representation easier. As it is, it is difficult for the member representing the constituency to visit all parts of it. Sometimes you cannot travel by road because there are no roads; you must use aircraft or a boat. If parts of the constituency are inaccessible, the member cannot service all his constituents adequately and, provide the kind of service he could provide if the constituency were smaller.

That is all I want to say. I support the hon. member for Fort William. I know what the loss of a seat in northern Ontario means. The members representing northern constituencies will have their work cut out.