

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OTTAWA, 8th May, 1882.

The undersigned has the honour to report:—

That in his opinion, it is expedient for the convenience of settlers in the North-West Territories, and for postal purposes, that a portion of such Territories should be divided into Provisional Districts, and he recommends that four such districts be at once described and their boundaries settled.

He recommends that the four such districts be named *Assiniboia*, *Saskatchewan*, *Alberta*, and *Athabasca*.

He further recommends that the boundaries of such districts be as follows :

*1st. Assiniboia.*

The District of Assiniboia, about 95,000 square miles in extent, to be bounded on the south by the International boundary line, the 49th parallel ; on the east by the western boundary of Manitoba ; on the north by the 9th correction line of the Dominion Lands system of survey into townships, which is near to the 52nd parallel of latitude ; on the west by the line dividing the 10th and 11th ranges of townships, numbered from the fourth initial meridian of the Dominion Lands system aforesaid.

*2nd. Saskatchewan.*

The District of Saskatchewan, about 114,000 square miles in extent, to be bounded on the south by the District of Assiniboia and by Manitoba ; on the east by Lake Winnipeg and the Nelson River, flowing therefrom into Hudson's Bay ; on the north by the 18th correction line of the Dominion Lands Survey system ; and on the west by the line of that system dividing the 10th and 11th ranges of townships numbered from the fourth initial meridian.

*3rd. Alberta.*

The District of Alberta, about 100,000 square miles in extent, to be bounded on the south by the International boundary ; on the east by the District of Assiniboia ; on the west by the Province of British Columbia ; and on the north by the 18th correction line before mentioned, which is near the 55th parallel of latitude.

*4th. Athabasca.*

The District of Athabasca, about 122,000 square miles in extent, to be bounded on the south by the District of Alberta ; on the east by the line between the 10th and 11th ranges of the Dominion Lands townships, before mentioned, until, in proceeding northward, that line intersects the Athabasca River ; then by that river and the Athabasca Lake and Slave River to the intersection of the last with the northern boundary of the district, which is to be the 32nd correction line of the Dominion Lands township system, and is very nearly on the 60th parallel of north latitude ; westward by the Province of British Columbia.

A map of the proposed districts is hereunto annexed.

All of which is recommended.

(Signed) JOHN A. MACDONALD,  
*Minister of the Interior.*

[1890]

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