



Northwest Territories
**Electoral Boundaries
Commission**
2012 - 2013



Final Report

Electoral Boundaries Commission

May 2013



08 May 2013

Honourable Jackie Jacobson
Speaker
Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Dear Mr. Speaker,

On October 22, 2012, the Legislative Assembly established an Electoral Boundaries Commission. As required by the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* and in keeping with the Guidelines issued by the Legislative Assembly, we are pleased to provide our Final Report outlining our unanimous recommendations for electoral boundaries for 18, 19 or 21 electoral districts in the Northwest Territories.

Hon. Justice Shannon H. Smallwood
Chairperson

Mr. Charles Furlong
Member

Mr. Ian McCrea
Member



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INTRODUCTION

The *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* (the *Act*) of the Northwest Territories requires that the electoral boundaries of the Northwest Territories be reviewed within two years after every second general election. The last report of an electoral boundaries commission was in 2006. Since 2006, there have been two general elections, in 2007 and 2011.

The Legislative Assembly passed a motion on October 22, 2012 that an Electoral Boundaries Commission be established, composed of Justice Shannon H. Smallwood, a judge of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories, as chairperson, and Mr. Charles Furlong and Mr. Ian McCrea as members.

The Commission was directed to complete a final report within seven months of the establishment of the Commission. This final report fulfills the Commission's obligations. The unanimous recommendations contained within are submitted for the consideration of the Legislative Assembly.

MANDATE AND CONTEXT

Electoral boundaries commissions are independent commissions established from time-to-time throughout Canada to review electoral boundaries in a jurisdiction and to make recommendations to a legislature. Changes in population and in society make it necessary to conduct periodic reviews of electoral districts to ensure that electors are effectively represented in the Legislative Assembly.

Pursuant to section 8 of the *Act*, the Commission is mandated to review the area, boundaries, name and representation of the existing electoral districts and to provide the Legislative Assembly with recommendations on proposed changes to electoral districts. As part of this process, the Commission is required to hold public hearings throughout the Northwest Territories in order to hear from the public regarding existing or proposed electoral districts.

The role of the Commission is to make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly, taking into consideration input from the public. The Members of the Legislative Assembly decide which recommendations, if any, to accept.

Previous commissions have held public hearings and submitted a final report to the Legislative Assembly. For this Commission, the Legislative Assembly provided guidelines which required the Commission to prepare an interim report for review by the public and to propose electoral district boundaries for 18, 19 and 21 electoral districts. There are currently 19 electoral districts in the Northwest Territories.

The Commission's Interim Report was released on February 4, 2013 and included a proposal for 18, 19 and 21 electoral districts.

CONSIDERATIONS

Section 9 of the *Act* specifies factors that the Commission must take into consideration. They are:

- (a) demographic factors, including the sparsity, density or rate of growth of the population of any area;
- (b) census data and other information pertaining to population;
- (c) information in the register of electors maintained under the Elections and Plebiscites Act;
- (d) geographic factors, including the accessibility, size or shape of any area;
- (e) community boundaries and boundaries established under lands, resources and self-government agreements, including land claim and treaty land entitlement agreements;
- (f) facilities for and patterns of transportation and communication within and between different areas;
- (g) language, culture and any other special community or diversity of interests of the residents of any part of the Northwest Territories;
- (h) special circumstances relating to any existing electoral districts;
- (i) public input obtained under subsection 8(2);
- (j) the minimum and maximum number of members of the Legislative Assembly authorized by the Northwest Territories Act;
- (k) any guidelines or criteria proposed for the consideration of the Commission by resolution of the Legislative Assembly; and
- (l) any other similar and relevant factors that the Commission considers appropriate.

The Guidelines established by the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to section 9(k) of the *Act*, also establish criteria for the Commission to consider (see Appendix F). They include the following:

2. In keeping with Canadian constitutional conventions and the notion of effective representation, the Commission shall make recommendations to achieve relative parity between electoral districts while balancing community of interest considerations;
3. For greater certainty, relative parity means that the percentage variation between the number of persons in a riding and the average mean should be within plus or minus 25 per cent, except where special circumstances warrant exceptional deviation;

The Commission also considered reports of previous electoral boundaries commissions, the most recent being in 1998 and in 2006. The Commission noted that many of the issues and concerns that were before previous commissions are still present. As with previous commissions, ensuring the effective representation of people in Yellowknife as well as in smaller communities continues to be a concern and a challenge. Land claims and self-government, language, and culture continue to be important to people.



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Section 3 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* guarantees every citizen in Canada the right to vote in an election of members of a legislative assembly. The constitutional right to vote is the right to “effective representation.”

Initially, section 3 of the *Charter* was understood to involve equal voting power to all citizens. In *Dixon v. British Columbia (Attorney General)*, the Supreme Court of British Columbia determined that there are “constitutional limits on the unequal distribution of population between electoral districts.” *Dixon* set the stage for deviations, utilizing plus or minus 25% as the recommended variance acceptable across electoral districts. Electoral boundaries commissions established following *Dixon* observed that while recommendations for variants were outlined by the court, this did not preclude the application of variations greater than 25%. This concept was affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada in the *Reference re Prov. Electoral Boundaries (Sask)* case.

Reference re Saskatchewan remains the leading Canadian authority on the constitutionality of electoral boundaries. The concept of effective representation emerged from that case. The right to vote enshrined in section 3 of the *Charter* is not equality of voting power per se, but the right to effective representation.

The first condition of effective representation is relative parity of voting power. A system that dilutes a vote runs the risk of providing inadequate representation to the citizen whose vote is diluted. This would inevitably result in uneven and unfair representation. But absolute parity is impossible to achieve.

Although parity of voting power is of prime importance, it is not the only factor in need of consideration. Countervailing factors must also be evaluated. Factors such as geography, community history, community interest, and minority representation may all need to be taken into account.

In considering these factors, and where absolute voter parity cannot be achieved, deviations must be justified on the grounds of practical impossibility or the provision of more effective representation. Deviations must contribute to better government of the populace as a whole, taking into consideration regional issues and geographic factors within the territory. Generally, every jurisdiction in Canada, including the Northwest Territories, accepts some diversion from the principle of absolute parity of voting power so as to ensure that smaller populations in more remote regions are effectively represented.

As stated in the Electoral Boundaries Commission Report in 2006 at p. 5:

There is, however, a significant difference between being over-represented (as the less populated regions of the Northwest Territories are currently) and being under-represented (as are the more populated districts, such as those found in Yellowknife). No argument for effective representation for one group justifies under-representation for another group. If one group, because of its large area or small population, is over-represented, that does not mean that people living in an urban area should be under-represented.

In 1999, the Northwest Territories Supreme Court specifically addressed the issues of over-representation of smaller communities and under-representation in Yellowknife in *Friends of Democracy v. Northwest Territories (Attorney General)*. In the decision, the Court stated:

Considering the factors of geography, community history and interests, language differences, difficulties in communication with remote communities and minority representation, not to mention the normal difficulties and expenses of travel between the seat of government at Yellowknife in the various communities outside Yellowknife, I am satisfied that there probably is justification within the ambit of section 3 of the Charter for the present over-representation of the electoral districts whose percentage variations in population are below the average. On the other hand, I am unable to find similar justification for the gross under-representation of those districts where the variations are markedly (25% or more) above the average. This gross under-representation must constitute a clear violation of section 3 of the Charter in the absence of due justification.

More recently, in *Raiche v. Canada (Attorney General)*, the Federal Court applied the same principles as found in *Dixon* and *Reference re Saskatchewan*. The purpose of the right to vote is to afford effective representation and not just parity of voting power. While parity is important in terms of individual representation, the community of interest principle stresses representation of the group. Finding a balance between the two is not an exact science, and therefore the recommendations of an electoral boundaries commission should be respected as long as they are defensible.

Overall, taking the above into account, the Commission subscribed to the following general principles. Voter parity should be the goal, where possible. Where voter parity is not practicable, and there are significant community of interest considerations present, deviations from voter parity can be justified provided that effective representation is not sacrificed. The community of interest considerations include geographical factors, the population distribution in smaller communities, common bonds such as language, culture, and history, land claim and self-government agreements. If inequality between electoral districts cannot be avoided, wherever possible, over-representation is preferable to under-representation.



OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC PROCESS

The Commission developed a communications plan to inform the public about the Commission, its role and proposed changes to the electoral boundaries in the Northwest Territories. The objective was to encourage public participation in hearings and through written submissions to the Commission.

Notices were published in newspapers throughout the Northwest Territories advising of the establishment of the Commission, explaining its purpose and informing the public about the schedule of hearings and contact information.

A news release was issued by the Commission to announce the release of the Interim Report and the public hearing schedule. A technical briefing was given to the media by David Brock, Secretary to the Commission. The Chairperson also conducted several media interviews.

The Commission created a website, www.nwtboundaries.ca, which contained information about the Commission, its mandate, the Interim Report, schedule of public hearings, and other relevant information.

In December 2012, the Commission wrote to the Senior Administrative Officer for every community in the Northwest Territories advising them about the Commission and requesting that they contact the Secretary to the Commission if they wanted the Commission to hold a public hearing in their community.

The Commission established a schedule of public hearings and attempted, within the time available, to visit each community which requested a hearing. The Commission's intention was to attempt to hold a public hearing in every region, in each of the larger communities in the Northwest Territories, and in each electoral district which was affected by the proposals contained within the Interim Report.

The Commission's Interim Report was released on February 4, 2013 and included one proposal for 18, 19 and 21 electoral districts. Copies of the Interim Report were sent to each community upon its release. The Interim Report was intended to present ideas for consideration, to generate discussion and to encourage public input in the hearing process.

The Commission's schedule of public hearings is set out in Appendix H. The Commission held 15 hearings in 14 communities between February 6 and March 13, 2013. Prior to every hearing, notices were placed in the newspapers available in the community and the Commission requested that the Senior Administrative Officer in the community place posters in prominent public places (Northern store, band office, public bulletin boards, etc.) to advise of the date, time and location of the public hearing.

The Commission also instituted a Public Hearings Procedural Protocol (Appendix G) to govern the conduct of the public hearings and to ensure that they were conducted in an open, respectful and orderly format. The protocol also covered translation services which were provided at all hearings when they were requested in advance by community representatives.

Attendance at public hearings varied from a high of 37 persons in Behchokò to 0 attendees in two communities. In total, 149 persons participated in the hearings. Attendance was generally higher in communities where there were changes proposed to the electoral district. At some hearings (and in one case, after the hearing), there were requests to reschedule the hearing, either because of low attendance or because local community leaders had not attended the hearing. The Commission was unable, unfortunately, to add additional hearings after the hearing schedule was finalized. In those instances, individuals were encouraged to provide written submissions and to advise other community members to do the same.

The Commission did not equate low attendance in some communities with a lack of concern or interest in their electoral district. Most individuals who spoke at a hearing, regardless of the number of persons who attended, offered valuable and insightful comments that the Commission appreciated receiving.

In some communities, individuals expressed concern about their perception of the lack of notice they or the community received about the hearing. These concerns were disconcerting, however, advertising and notices preceded each hearing and the Commission arranged all hearings in collaboration with the community well in advance of the hearing date.

Another concern which arose in Łutsel'è was the failure to hold workshops in advance of the public hearing. The Commission concluded that workshops were not necessary given the communications plan, the availability of explanatory materials on the Commission website, and that each hearing began with an explanation of the process and role of the Commission. Also, the Commission Secretariat responded to email and phone calls from the public about the process.

Written submissions were also encouraged by the Commission. The Commission established a deadline of March 28, 2013 to receive written submissions. The Commission received 20 written submissions (one submission was received after the March 28th deadline and was not considered). The list of persons who provided written submissions is included in Appendix I.

Overall, the Commission observed that many individuals, in speaking at the public hearings or in written submissions, had clearly given thought to the issues and spoke or wrote clearly and concisely about the factors which mattered to them. Public input is a valuable part of the process and we were impressed at the quality of the submissions we received.



SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT

There were a number of common themes which emerged at both the public hearings and in written submissions, some of which related to electoral boundaries and some of which were beyond the scope of the Commission’s mandate.

THE STATUS QUO

In several communities, particularly those which are currently over-represented, the Commission heard that the electoral districts should be left the way they are. There were several aspects to this submission. Some individuals questioned the need to undertake the process at all; some did not want any changes which would affect their current electoral district; some believed the process should not occur until all land claims and self-government negotiations are concluded; and some believed that no changes should be made until after devolution is implemented.

Land claims, self-government and devolution are all important processes which will, likely, have a significant impact on the future of the Northwest Territories. The mandate of the Commission, however, requires the Commission to examine the electoral boundaries now and make recommendations. Future commissions will likely be better situated to assess the evolution of these processes and the impact they might have on the electoral districts of the Northwest Territories.

There are currently 19 electoral districts. The table and maps for the current electoral districts is in Appendix A.

The current number of electoral districts that are under-represented is five and there are also five electoral districts that are over-represented. Significantly, there are three electoral districts which vary from the territorial mean by over 40%: Weledeh is under-represented by 42.6%, Tu Nedhe is over-represented by 65.1% and Deh Cho is over-represented by 40.1%; further, Monfwi is under-represented by 39.5%.



The population in the two electoral districts in each of Inuvik and Hay River are inequitably distributed. Of the seven electoral districts in Yellowknife, four are either at or above 25% under-representation.

The current situation does not meet the requirements of effective representation and some effort should be made to address the situation. If unaddressed, one can see that the situation in some electoral districts may be exacerbated over time. For example, the situation before the commission in 2006 was that Monfwi had a population of 2,811 and Tu Nedhe had a population of 935, and each district was significantly under and over-represented, respectively. The Legislative Assembly declined to make any substantive changes following the 2006 Report. As of 2012, Monfwi had increased to 3,183 persons and Tu Nedhe had declined to 797 persons, and the variance from the territorial mean has only increased for each electoral district.

The Commission did not view the status quo as an option given the guidelines and legal framework we were required to consider. The Commission would not be fulfilling its responsibilities by declining to recommend any changes and maintaining the status quo.

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

In many communities, we frequently heard about the need to respect the language and culture of Aboriginal groups. In many cases, individuals advocated that the electoral district should be constituted on the basis that the Member of the Legislative Assembly would be from a certain Aboriginal group or speak a certain language. We heard that communities from different Aboriginal cultures should not be included in the same electoral district, mainly because of the differences in language, culture and traditions between the different groups.

In addition, in several communities, particularly in the electoral districts of Tu Nedhe and Deh Cho, residents were particularly interested in their Aboriginal group or language continuing to be represented in the Legislative Assembly. In order to achieve this, and despite significant over-representation, many were of the view that the electoral boundaries should be left alone.

LAND CLAIMS/SELF GOVERNMENT

The desire to have electoral boundaries respect land claims and/or self-government boundaries was also frequently expressed. This appeared to stem from both historic ties based upon a shared language and culture amongst an Aboriginal group as well as a concern with respecting s. 35 Charter rights. This concern was mainly expressed in communities with concluded land claim and/or self-government negotiations. In communities where these agreements are still under negotiation, the concern was that there should be no changes to electoral districts until the process is concluded.



DEVOLUTION

A number of individuals referred to the devolution process. Many expressed the view that the Commission should take into account the expected devolution of responsibility for the management of lands and resources from the federal to the territorial government. This view was expressed generally by some and by others as justification for adding electoral districts to Yellowknife. As mentioned above, devolution may have a significant impact on the Northwest Territories but it is not currently possible for the Commission to determine how devolution might affect the factors that we are required to consider.



YELLOWKNIFE

There were two themes to comments regarding Yellowknife.

The first, heard at both of the hearings held in Yellowknife, was that Yellowknife is under-represented and should be allocated additional electoral districts on the basis of the territorial population distribution. The percentage of population of Yellowknife in comparison to the rest of the Northwest Territories and in comparison to the electoral districts in Yellowknife was frequently cited as justification for an increase. For example, one speaker noted that Yellowknife had 47% of the population of the Northwest Territories but only has 36% of the seats in the Legislative Assembly. Other factors such as historical under-representation, devolution and future growth were also cited as justifying an increase.

The second theme, heard in many communities was that Yellowknife does not need more electoral districts. The perception which continues to be prevalent in smaller communities is that people in Yellowknife have ready access to their elected members and government resources. The barriers that some members of the Legislative Assembly face in terms of the costs of travel to and from and even within electoral districts were also cited.

NUMBER OF ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

The guidelines issued require the Commission to submit recommendations for 18, 19 or 21 electoral districts. Some individuals who made submissions expressed an opinion on the number of electoral districts. For the most part, people were in favor of fewer electoral districts, expressing a preference for either 18 or 19 electoral districts. The main concern expressed was the perceived cost of two additional electoral districts but we also heard that a population of 40,000 does not need 21 Members in the Legislative Assembly. Support for 21 electoral districts was expressed in Yellowknife on the basis that Yellowknife needs two additional electoral districts because of its population.

Paradoxically, the preference for fewer electoral districts was often voiced in communities where individuals were urging the Commission to give priority to language and culture and to maintain an existing electoral district despite significant over-representation. It is important to recognize that fewer total electoral districts combined with an increased proportion of the territorial population residing in Yellowknife will make it harder for the Legislative Assembly to fully represent Aboriginal languages and cultures while respecting Canadian constitutional conventions.

A few individuals proposed an alternative number of electoral districts. The most prevalent one, which was heard in several communities and with several different configurations, was to consider adopting 20 electoral districts. The Commission gave serious consideration to whether a recommendation for 20 electoral districts should be included in this report before deciding not to include one.

The Commission decided not to deviate from the guidelines provided by the Legislative Assembly and to only provide recommendations for 18, 19 or 21 electoral districts. Prior to coming to this decision, the Commission analyzed several different possibilities for 20 electoral districts, taking into account the public's comments and the guidelines and legal framework. In our view, none of the proposals provided a better solution than the recommendations for 18, 19 or 21 electoral districts. Indeed, several of the proposals for 20 electoral districts were significantly more problematic in terms of over-representation, under-representation and respecting language and culture.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

At many hearings, it was apparent that there was confusion about the role and authority of the various levels of government. Individuals expressed confusion about the roles and responsibilities of the Legislative Assembly and its Members, their land claim and/or self-government agreements, devolution, their community, regional and territorial governments. Inserted into this confusion were the Commission's hearings about electoral boundaries. There were many questions about the Commission, its mandate and its role vis-à-vis various levels of government

It seems clear that, particularly in the smaller communities, public education is needed about the roles of the various levels of government and the role of the Legislative Assembly and its Members. If the public is going to meaningfully participate in the electoral boundaries process and public consultations or hearings in other areas for which the Legislative Assembly is responsible, they need to have a better understanding of the institution.



MISCELLANEOUS

MULTI-MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES

The Commission received several written submissions which proposed multi-member constituencies, where an electoral district has more than one elected member. While the prospect of multi-member constituencies may deserve further consideration, the Commission declines to make any recommendations in this area. The description of an electoral district in the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* precludes multi-member constituencies and states that each electoral district is entitled to return one member to the Legislative Assembly. Further, the consideration of multi-member constituencies is outside the Commission’s mandate.

POPULATION DATA AVAILABLE

The Commission’s Guidelines required the Commission to use the “most recent and accurate census and other population data available.” In the Commission’s view, the 2012 population estimates compiled by the NWT Bureau of Statistics are the most recent and accurate population data available (included in Appendix A). The Commission utilized the 2012 population estimates for all recommendations.

DIGITAL MAPPING TECHNOLOGY

The descriptions of the boundaries of the 19 existing electoral districts are set out in Schedule A of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*. These detailed “metes and bounds” descriptions are in technical legal language and can be difficult to administer. The Commission suggests that the Legislative Assembly consider adopting digital mapping technology to visually depict the boundaries of each constituency, as is done in other jurisdictions in Canada. Future electoral boundaries commissions would benefit from the ability to use this technology.

NAMES OF ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

The Commission received a few suggestions for either naming new electoral districts or re-naming current electoral districts. In Behchokò, there was a suggestion that if a new electoral district was created out of Monfwi, that the two new electoral districts be called Behchokò and Wek’èezhii. The proposed electoral districts and their names were supported by several individuals in Behchokò and Whatì. In Detah, there were several individuals who advocated for renaming the electoral district of Weledeh to Chief Drygeese. In Yellowknife, it was suggested that any new electoral district which encompassed the area of Niven Lake be called Niven.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Prior to completing our recommendations, the Commission came to a number of conclusions that take into consideration the relevant guidelines and principles, and the submissions made by the public.

It is apparent that absolute voter parity between electoral districts is impossible to achieve. Moreover, it is extremely difficult to make any recommendation which would result in all electoral districts being within the plus or minus 25% variance. To do so would result in drastic changes to electoral districts that would not sufficiently take into account the historic configuration of electoral districts, language, culture, geography, land claim or self-government agreements.

We are also of the view that the status quo is not acceptable and changes need to be considered. Some inequities between electoral districts are significant and have increased over time. The concept of effective representation requires that we attempt to reduce those inequities as much as possible.

It seems clear that the issue of the number of electoral districts within Yellowknife versus elsewhere in the Northwest Territories cannot be resolved in a way that accommodates everyone’s concerns. We do not think that effective representation requires that the number of electoral districts in Yellowknife be in perfect accord with Yellowknife’s proportion of the territorial population. At the same time, the situation in Yellowknife cannot be ignored and if additional electoral districts are to be considered, one should be allocated to Yellowknife.





18 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

There are currently 19 electoral districts. In this scenario, there would be one less electoral district. The population of one electoral district is re-distributed into other electoral districts.

Within Inuvik, there are two electoral districts, Inuvik Boot Lake and Inuvik Twin Lakes. The population between the two electoral districts is re-distributed to achieve a more equal balance.

Within Hay River, there are two electoral districts, Hay River North and Hay River South. The population is re-distributed to achieve a more equal balance between the two electoral districts. The electoral district of Hay River North includes the Hay River Reserve (K'at'odeeche First Nation) and the electoral district of Hay River South includes the community of Enterprise.

There are seven electoral districts with residents in Yellowknife. The population is re-distributed to achieve a more equal balance between these seven electoral districts.

The remaining communities from the electoral district of Deh Cho are combined with communities in the electoral district of Tu Nedhe to comprise a single electoral district which includes residents of Fort Providence, Kakisa, Fort Resolution, Lutselk'e and Reliance.

No changes are proposed for the electoral districts of Mackenzie Delta, Monfwi, Nahendeh, Nunakput, Sahtu and Thebacha.

The number of electoral districts that are over-represented has been reduced to four and there is only one electoral district that is under-represented.

The table and maps for 18 electoral districts are in Appendix B.

19 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

In this scenario, the number of electoral districts remains at 19.

Within Inuvik, there are two electoral districts, Inuvik Boot Lake and Inuvik Twin Lakes. The population between the two electoral districts is re-distributed to achieve a more equal balance.

Within Hay River, there are two electoral districts, Hay River North and Hay River South. The population is re-distributed to achieve a more equal balance between the two electoral districts.

There are seven electoral districts with residents in Yellowknife. The areas of Detah and Ndilo are removed from Weledeh and re-distributed into Tu Nedhe. The remaining population of each electoral district in Yellowknife is re-distributed to achieve a more equal balance between them.

No changes are proposed for the electoral districts of Deh Cho, Mackenzie Delta, Monfwi, Nahendeh, Nunakput, Sahtu and Thebacha.

The number of electoral districts that are over-represented remains at five and there are two electoral districts that are under-represented.

The table and maps for 19 electoral districts is located in Appendix C.

21 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

In this scenario, there would be two additional electoral districts.

Within Inuvik, there are two electoral districts, Inuvik Boot Lake and Inuvik Twin Lakes. The population between the two electoral districts is re-distributed to achieve a more equal balance.

Within Hay River, there are two electoral districts, Hay River North and Hay River South. The population is re-distributed to achieve a more equal balance between the two electoral districts.

No changes are proposed for the electoral districts of Deh Cho, Mackenzie Delta, Nahendeh, Nunakput, Sahtu, Thebacha and Tu Nedhe.

Two new electoral districts are created by adding an electoral district in Yellowknife and re-distributing the electoral district of Monfwi into two electoral districts.

There are eight electoral districts with residents in Yellowknife. The overall population is re-distributed across all eight districts to achieve a more equal balance. A new district is created that primarily includes residents near Niven Lake; as well, significant redistribution is proposed to achieve a more equal balance between all eight electoral districts.

The electoral district of Monfwi is re-distributed into two districts, one of which includes the community of Behchokò without Edzo; the other includes Whatì, Gamètì, Wekweètì, and Edzo.

The number of electoral districts that are over-represented is three and there is only one electoral district that is under-represented.

The table and maps for 21 electoral districts is located in Appendix D.



CONCLUSION

In finalizing our recommendations, the Commission took into account the relevant guidelines and principles, as well as the submissions made by the public. It was a challenge to balance competing priorities and interests while adhering to the governing principles. We attempted to accommodate the main concerns that were expressed but not all concerns could be addressed in each scenario. A mandate which requires the elimination of an electoral district under one scenario involves difficult decisions which were not made lightly.

Although in each of our recommendations, there are electoral districts which exceed the variance of plus or minus 25%, the number of electoral districts that do so is fewer, the number of electoral districts that are under-represented has decreased, and the discrepancies between electoral districts are reduced.

It is our view that our recommendations will provide more effective representation for the people of the Northwest Territories.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Commission would like to thank the Commission Secretary, Mr. David Brock, and the staff of Elections NWT, the NWT Bureau of Statistics, and the Centre for Geomatics for their assistance throughout this process. We would also like to thank Justice J.E. Richard and Dr. David E. Smith for sharing their knowledge and insight into the electoral boundaries process.

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A. CURRENT ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

POPULATION BY ELECTORAL DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, POPULATION ESTIMATES (2012)

| NORTHWEST TERRITORIES | | 43,349 | |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Deh Cho | 1,367 | Nunakput | 1,889 |
| Enterprise | 118 | Paulatuk | 329 |
| Fort Providence | 788 | Sachs Harbour | 127 |
| Hay River Reserve | 341 | Tuktoyaktuk | 954 |
| Kakisa | 54 | Ulukhaktok | 479 |
| Region 5 Unorganized | 66 | | |
| | | Sahtu | 2,680 |
| Hay River | 3,601 | Colville Lake | 157 |
| Hay River North | 1,937 | Déjñe | 559 |
| Hay River South | 1,664 | Fort Good Hope | 559 |
| | | Norman Wells | 838 |
| Inuvik | 3,321 | Tulita | 567 |
| Inuvik Boot Lake | 1,838 | | |
| Inuvik Twin Lakes | 1,483 | Thebacha | 2,450 |
| | | Fort Smith | 2,450 |
| Mackenzie Delta | 1,564 | | |
| Aklavik | 628 | Tu Nedhe | 797 |
| Fort McPherson | 808 | Fort Resolution | 497 |
| Tsiigehtchic | 128 | Łutselk'e | 292 |
| | | Reliance | 8 |
| Monfwi | 3,183 | | |
| Behchokò | 2,174 | Yellowknife | 20,270 |
| Gamètì | 320 | Frame Lake | 2,853 |
| Region 6, Unorganized | 29 | Great Slave | 2,908 |
| Wekweètì | 141 | Kam Lake | 2,894 |
| Whatì | 519 | Range Lake | 2,826 |
| | | Weledeh | 3,254 |
| Nahendeh | 2,227 | Yellowknife Centre | 2,835 |
| Fort Liard | 568 | Yellowknife South | 2,700 |
| Fort Simpson | 1,251 | | |
| Jean Marie River | 71 | | |
| Nahanni Butte | 104 | | |
| Region 4, Unorganized | 10 | | |
| Trout Lake | 100 | | |
| Wrigley | 123 | | |

Source: NWT Bureau of Statistics

CURRENT ELECTORAL DISTRICTS - POPULATION AND VARIANCE

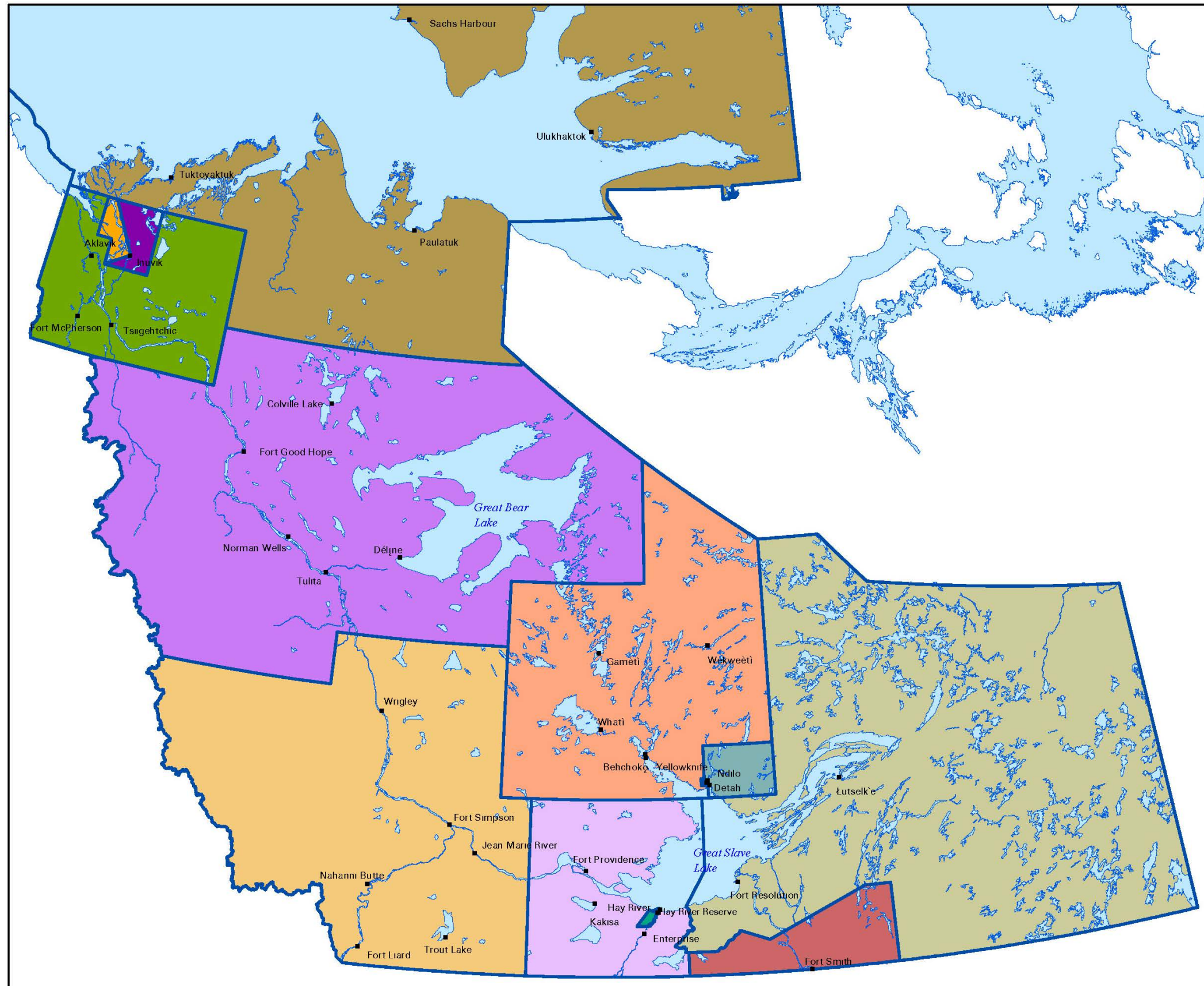
The following electoral districts are listed with their corresponding map colour. The variance indicates the percentage of the population of an electoral district above or below the average number of persons per riding (the territorial mean). The plus (+) or minus (-) indicates that a variance is above (+) or below (-) the territorial mean.

Electoral districts that are above the mean have a population that is under-represented, whereas electoral districts below the mean have a population that is over-represented.

| CURRENT ELECTORAL DISTRICTS | | |
|------------------------------|--|--------------|
| | Territorial Mean | 2,282 |
| | Number of Districts Over-represented (less than -25%) | 5 |
| | Number of Districts Under-represented (more than +25%) | 5 |
| ELECTORAL DISTRICTS | 2012 POPULATION ESTIMATES | VARIANCE (%) |
| NORTHWEST TERRITORIES | 43,349 | -- |
| Nunakput | 1,889 | -17.2 |
| Inuvik Boot Lake | 1,838 | -19.5 |
| Inuvik Twin Lakes | 1,483 | -35.0 |
| Mackenzie Delta | 1,564 | -31.5 |
| Sahtu | 2,680 | +17.4 |
| Nahendeh | 2,227 | -2.4 |
| Hay River North | 1,937 | -15.1 |
| Hay River South | 1,664 | -27.1 |
| Thebacha | 2,450 | +7.4 |
| Monfwi | 3,183 | +39.5 |
| Deh Cho | 1,367 | -40.1 |
| Tu Nedhe | 797 | -65.1 |
| Weledeh | 3,254 | +42.6 |
| Range Lake | 2,826 | +23.8 |
| Yellowknife Centre | 2,835 | +24.2 |
| Great Slave | 2,908 | +27.4 |
| Frame Lake | 2,853 | +25.0 |
| Kam Lake | 2,894 | +26.8 |
| Yellowknife South | 2,700 | +18.3 |



ALL NWT



Current Electoral Districts:

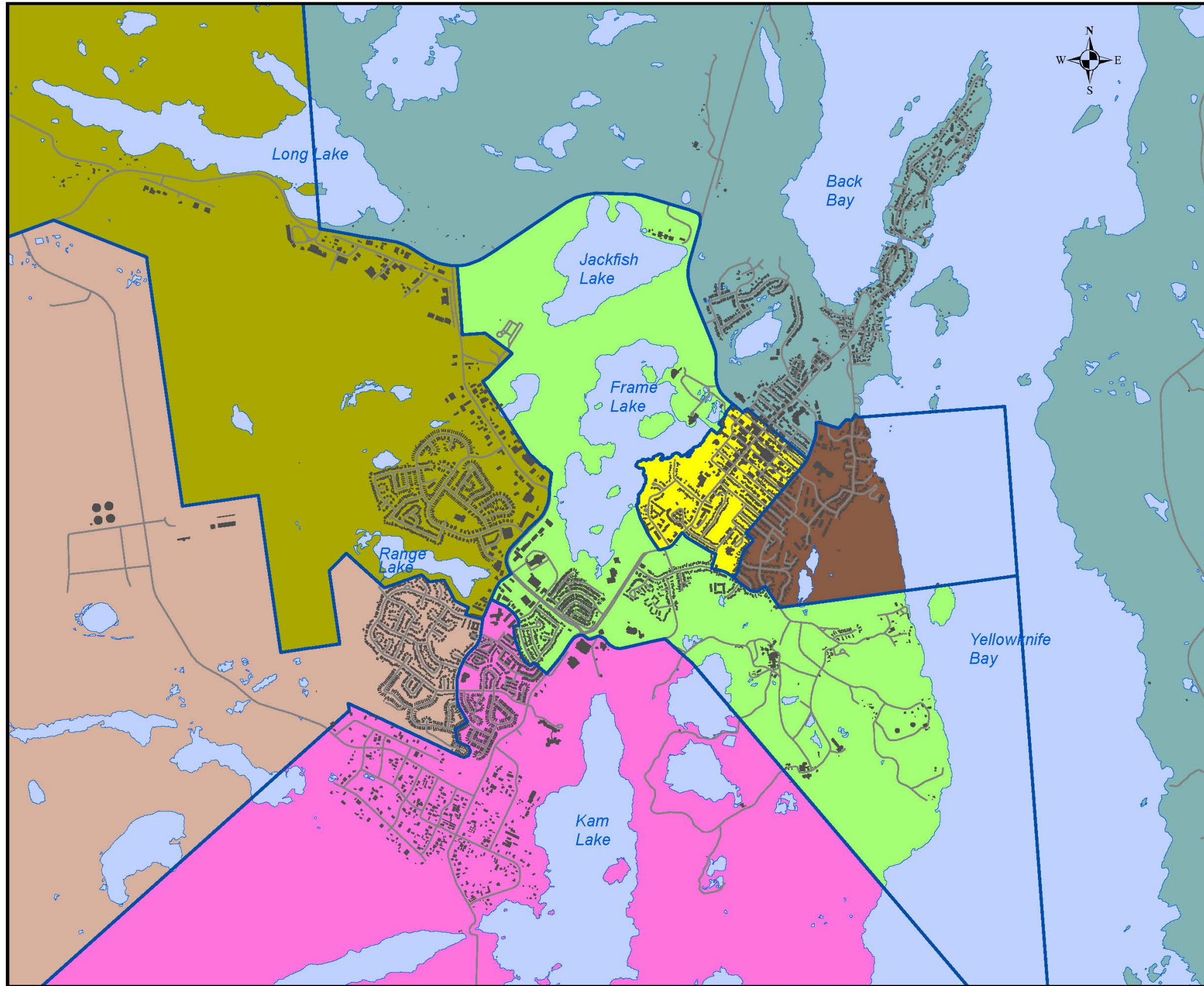
All NWT

Legend

- Nunakput
- Inuvik Boot Lake
- Inuvik Twin Lakes
- Mackenzie Delta
- Sahtu
- Nahendeh
- Hay River North
- Hay River South
- Thebacha
- Monfwi
- Deh Cho
- Tu Nedhe
- Weledeh
- Range Lake
- Yellowknife Centre
- Great Slave
- Frame Lake
- Kam Lake
- Yellowknife South

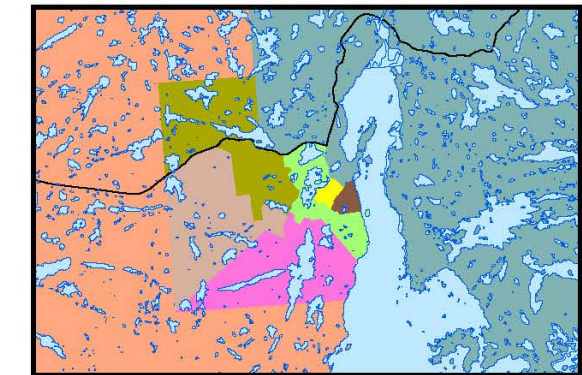


YELLOWKNIFE



Current Electoral Districts:

Yellowknife



Legend

- Monfwi
- Weledeh
- Range Lake
- Yellowknife Centre
- Great Slave
- Frame Lake
- Kam Lake
- Yellowknife South



B. SCENARIO FOR 18 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

OVERVIEW

There are currently 19 electoral districts. In this scenario, there would be one less electoral district. The population of one electoral district is re-distributed into other electoral districts.

Within Inuvik, there are two electoral districts, Inuvik Boot Lake and Inuvik Twin Lakes. The population between the two electoral districts is re-distributed to achieve a more equal balance.

Within Hay River, there are two electoral districts, Hay River North and Hay River South. The population is re-distributed to achieve a more equal balance between the two electoral districts. The electoral district of Hay River North includes the Hay River Reserve (K'at'odeeche First Nation) and the electoral district of Hay River South includes the community of Enterprise.

There are seven electoral districts with residents in Yellowknife. The population is re-distributed to achieve a more equal balance between these seven electoral districts.

The remaining communities from the electoral district of Deh Cho are combined with communities in the electoral district of Tu Nedhe to comprise a single electoral district which includes residents of Fort Providence, Kakisa, Fort Resolution, Lutselk'e and Reliance.

No changes are proposed for the electoral districts of Mackenzie Delta, Monfwi, Nahendeh, Nunakput, Sahtu and Thebacha.

The number of electoral districts that are over-represented has been reduced to four and there is only one electoral district that is under-represented.

The table and maps for 18 electoral districts follow.

18 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS - POPULATION AND VARIANCE

The following electoral districts are listed with their corresponding map colour. The variance indicates the percentage of the population of an electoral district above or below the average number of persons per riding (the territorial mean). The plus (+) or minus (-) indicates that a variance is above (+) or below (-) the territorial mean.

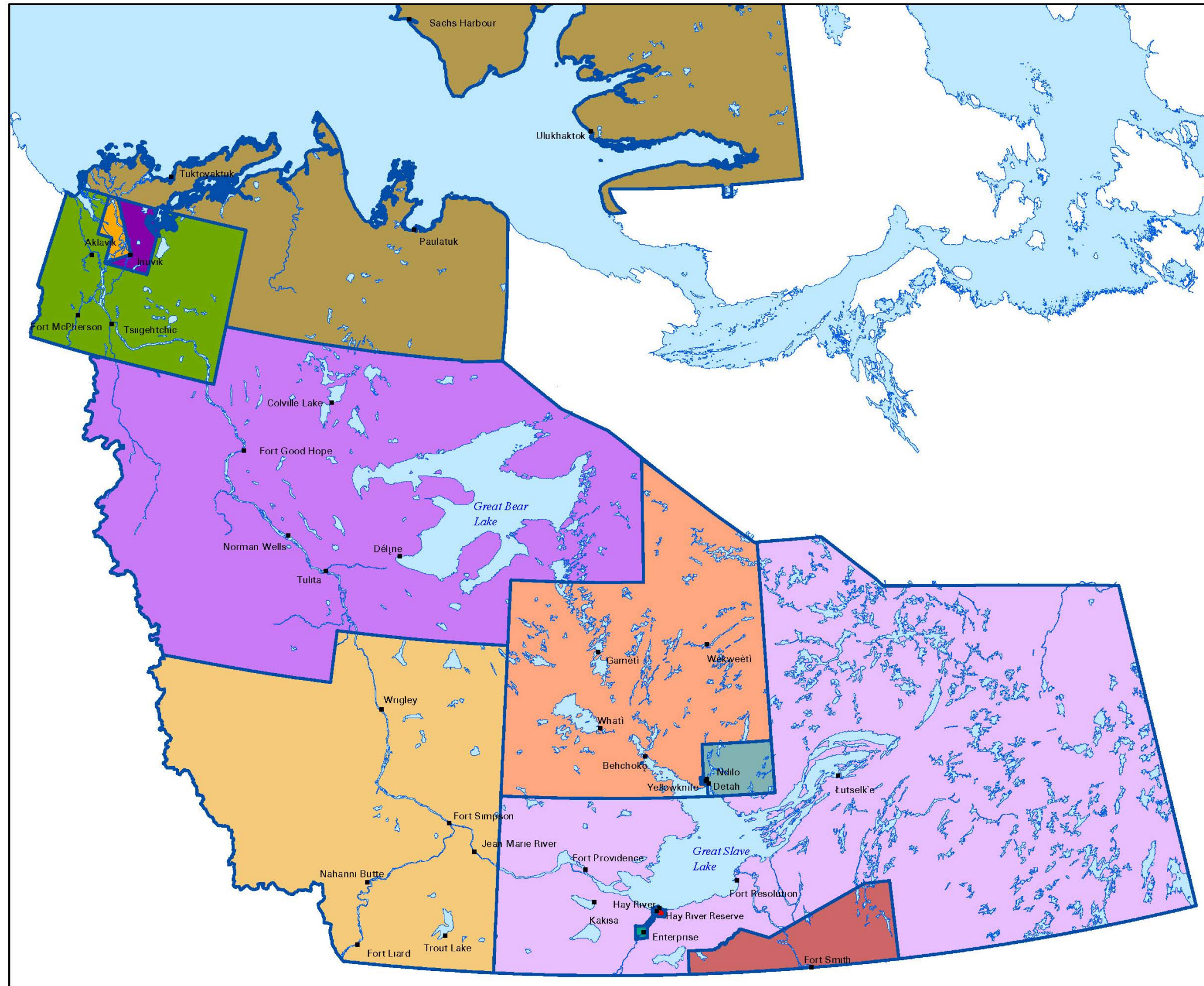
Electoral districts that are above the mean have a population that is under-represented, whereas electoral districts below the mean have a population that is over-represented.

Where an existing electoral district has been substantially altered, it has been given a neutral name.

| SCENARIO FOR 18 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| | Territorial Mean | 2,408 |
| | Number of Districts Over-represented (less than -25%) | 4 |
| | Number of Districts Under-represented (more than +25%) | 1 |
| ELECTORAL DISTRICTS | 2012 POPULATION ESTIMATES | VARIANCE (%) |
| NORTHWEST TERRITORIES | 43,349 | -- |
| Nunakput | 1,889 | -21.6 |
| Inuvik Boot Lake | 1,673 | -30.5 |
| Inuvik Twin Lakes | 1,648 | -31.6 |
| Mackenzie Delta | 1,564 | -35.0 |
| Sahtu | 2,680 | +11.3 |
| Nahendeh | 2,227 | -7.5 |
| Hay River North | 2,063 | -14.3 |
| Hay River South | 1,997 | -17.1 |
| Thebacha | 2,450 | +1.7 |
| Monfwi | 3,183 | +32.2 |
| NWT 1 (formerly Deh Cho & Tu Nedhe) | 1,705 | -29.3 |
| Weledeh | 2,820 | +17.1 |
| Range Lake | 2,826 | +17.4 |
| Yellowknife Centre | 3,007 | +24.9 |
| Great Slave | 2,908 | +20.8 |
| Frame Lake | 2,919 | +21.2 |
| Kam Lake | 2,864 | +18.9 |
| Yellowknife South | 2,926 | +21.5 |



ALL NWT

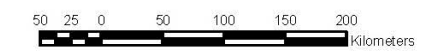


Scenario for 18
Electoral Districts:

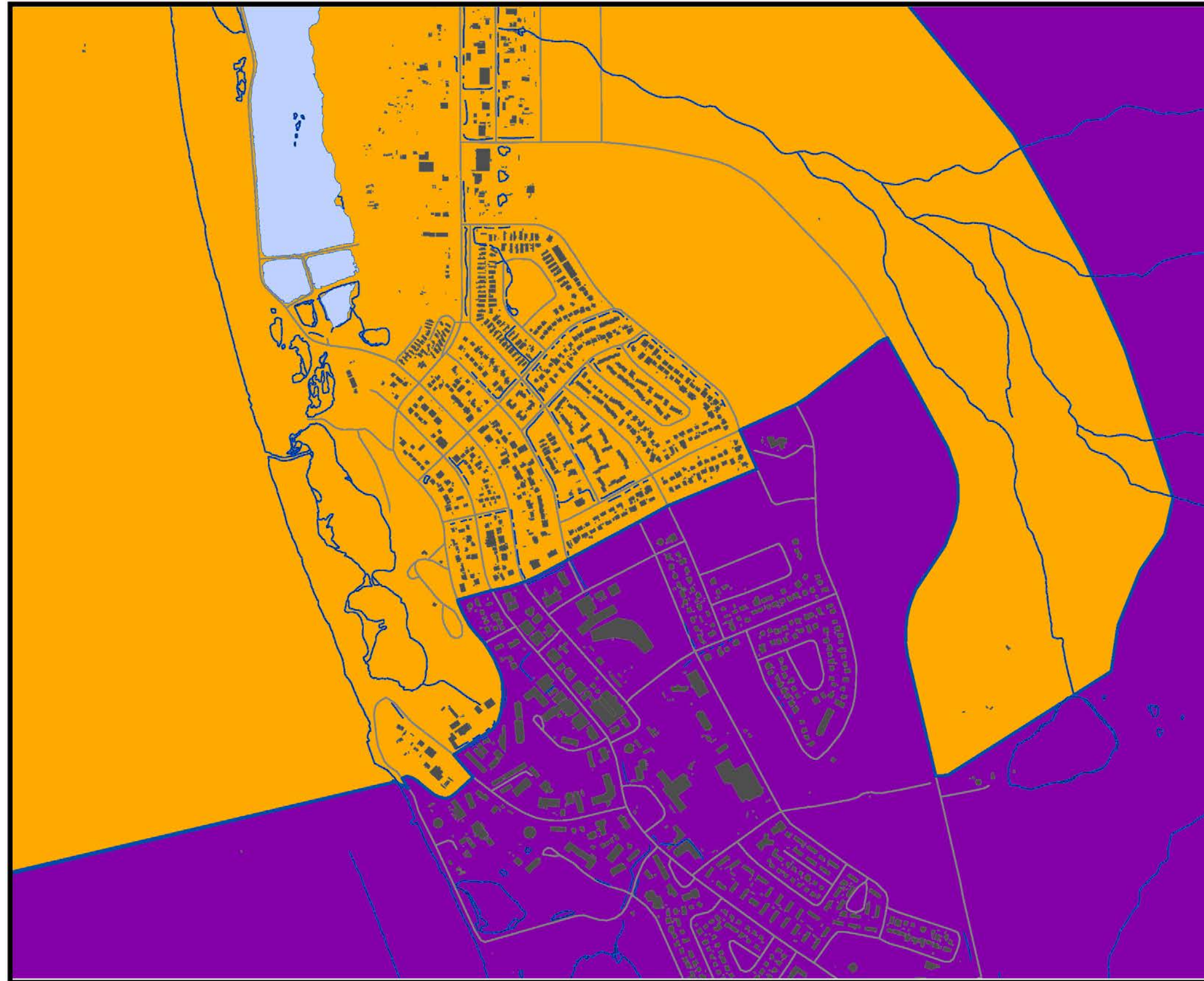
All NWT

Legend

- Nunakput
- Inuvik Boot Lake
- Inuvik Twin Lakes
- Mackenzie Delta
- Sahtu
- Nahendeh
- Hay River North
- Hay River South
- Thebacha
- Monfwi
- NWT 1 (formerly Deh Cho & Tu Nedhe)
- Weledeh
- Range Lake
- Yellowknife Centre
- Great Slave
- Frame Lake
- Kam Lake
- Yellowknife South

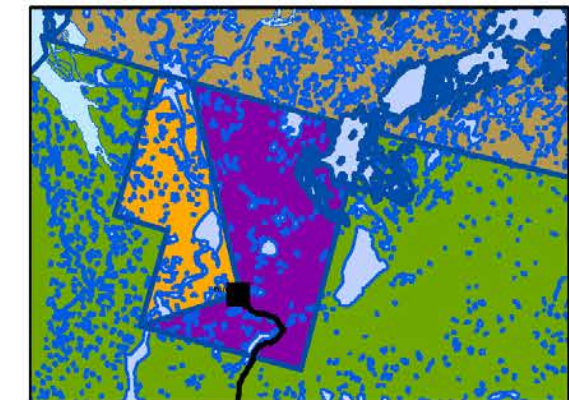


INUVIK



Scenario for 18, 19 and 21 Electoral Districts:

Inuvik



Legend

- Nunakput
- Inuvik Boot Lake
- Inuvik Twin Lakes
- Mackenzie Delta

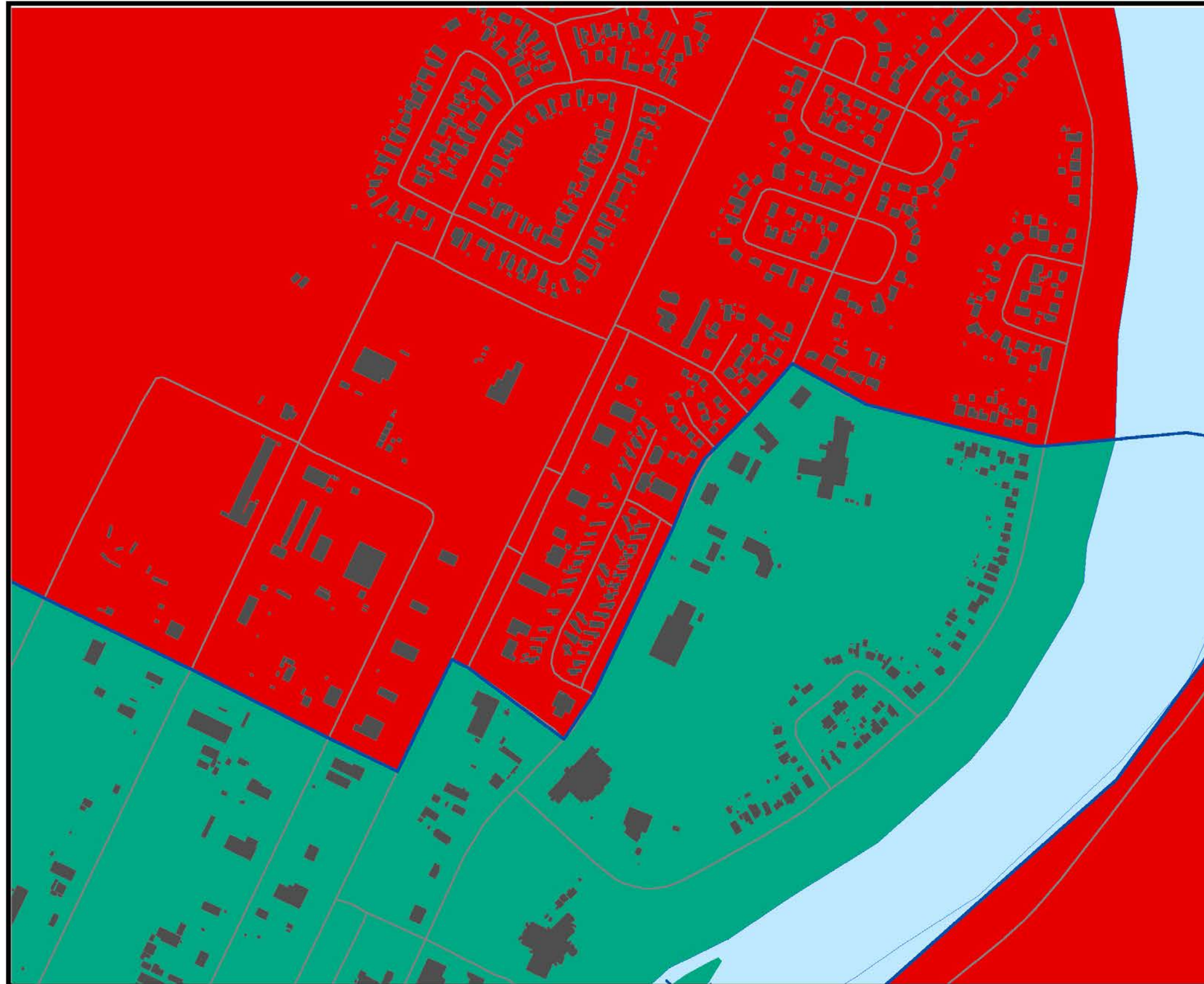


May 3, 2013

Northwest Territories Centre for Geomatics

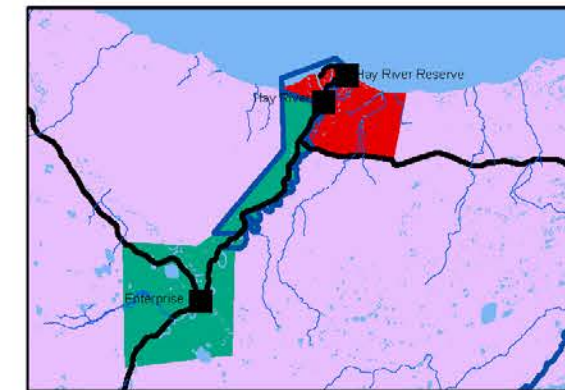


HAY RIVER



Scenario for 18
Electoral Districts:

Hay River

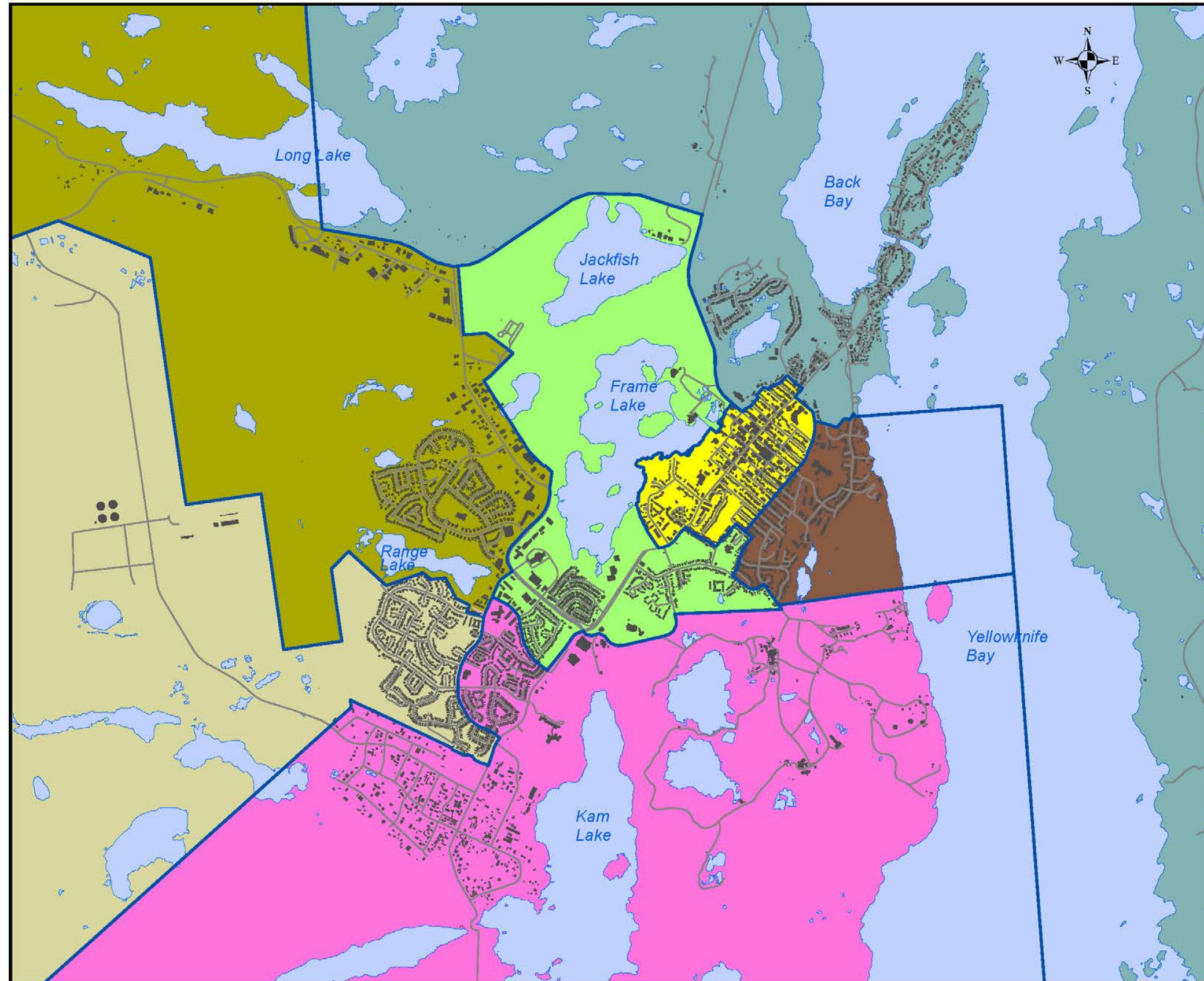


Legend

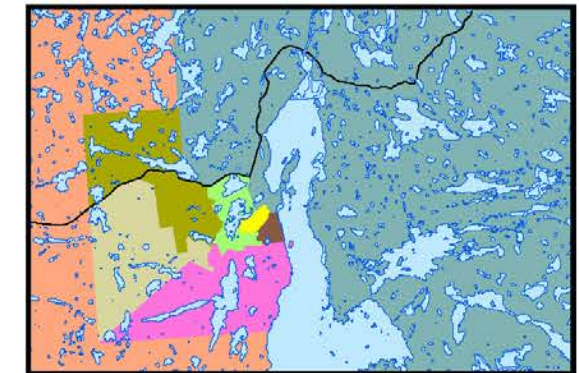
- Hay River North
- Hay River South
- NWT 1 (formerly Deh Cho & Tu Nedhe)



YELLOWKNIFE



Scenario for 18 Electoral Districts: Yellowknife



- Legend**
- Monfwi
 - Weledeh
 - Range Lake
 - Yellowknife Centre
 - Great Slave
 - Frame Lake
 - Kam Lake
 - Yellowknife South

0 0.1250 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Kilometers

C. SCENARIO FOR 19 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

OVERVIEW

In this scenario, the number of electoral districts remains at 19.

Within Inuvik, there are two electoral districts, Inuvik Boot Lake and Inuvik Twin Lakes. The population between the two electoral districts is re-distributed to achieve a more equal balance.

Within Hay River, there are two electoral districts, Hay River North and Hay River South. The population is re-distributed to achieve a more equal balance between the two electoral districts.

There are seven electoral districts with residents in Yellowknife. The areas of Detah and Ndilo are removed from Weledeh and re-distributed into Tu Nedhe. The remaining population of each electoral district in Yellowknife is re-distributed to achieve a more equal balance between them.

No changes are proposed for the electoral districts of Deh Cho, Mackenzie Delta, Monfwi, Nahendeh, Nunakput, Sahtu and Thebacha.

The number of electoral districts that are over-represented remains at five and there are two electoral districts that are under-represented.

The table and maps for 19 electoral districts follow.

19 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS - POPULATION AND VARIANCE

The following electoral districts are listed with their corresponding map colour. The variance indicates the percentage of the population of an electoral district above or below the average number of persons per riding (the territorial mean). The plus (+) or minus (-) indicates that a variance is above (+) or below (-) the territorial mean.

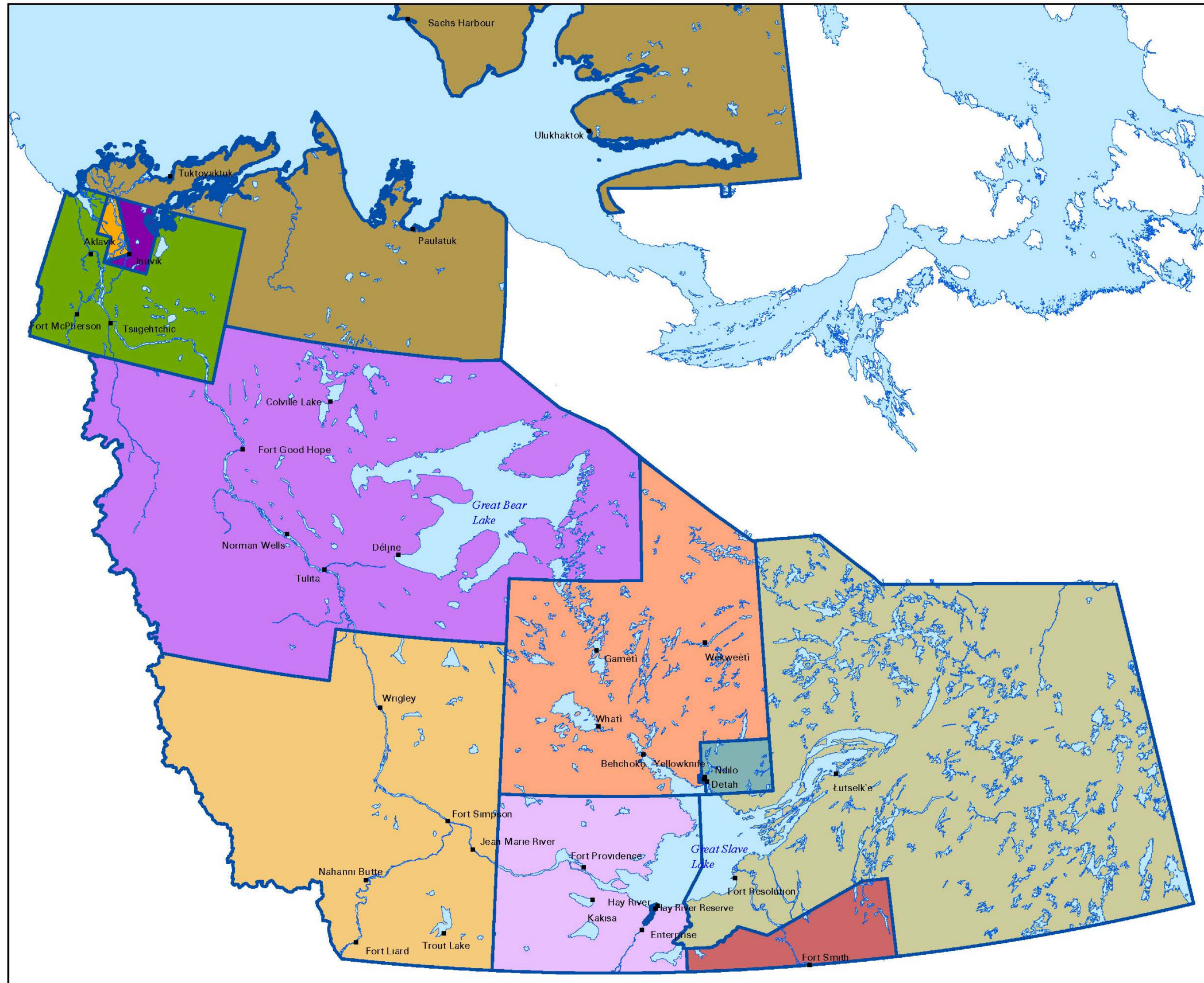
Electoral districts that are above the mean have a population that is under-represented, whereas electoral districts below the mean have a population that is over-represented.

Where an existing electoral district has been substantially altered, it has been given a neutral name.

| SCENARIO FOR 19 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| | Territorial Mean | 2,282 |
| | Number of Districts Over-represented (less than -25%) | 5 |
| | Number of Districts Under-represented (more than +25%) | 2 |
| ELECTORAL DISTRICTS | 2012 POPULATION ESTIMATES | VARIANCE (%) |
| NORTHWEST TERRITORIES | 43,349 | -- |
| Nunakput | 1,889 | -17.2 |
| Inuvik Boot Lake | 1,673 | -26.7 |
| Inuvik Twin Lakes | 1,648 | -27.8 |
| Mackenzie Delta | 1,564 | -31.5 |
| Sahtu | 2,680 | +17.4 |
| Nahendeh | 2,227 | -2.4 |
| Hay River North | 1,778 | -22.1 |
| Hay River South | 1,823 | -20.1 |
| Thebacha | 2,450 | +7.4 |
| Monfwi | 3,183 | +39.5 |
| Deh Cho | 1,367 | -40.1 |
| NWT 1 (formerly Tu Nedhe & Weledeh) | 1,412 | -38.1 |
| NWT 2 (formerly Weledeh) | 2,800 | +22.7 |
| Range Lake | 2,826 | +23.8 |
| Yellowknife Centre | 2,832 | +24.1 |
| NWT 3 (formerly Great Slave) | 2,836 | +24.3 |
| NWT 4 (formerly Frame Lake) | 2,767 | +21.3 |
| Kam Lake | 2,668 | +16.9 |
| Yellowknife South | 2,926 | +28.2 |



ALL NWT



Scenario for 19
Electoral Districts:

All NWT

Legend

- Nunakput
- Inuvik Boot Lake
- Inuvik Twin Lakes
- Mackenzie Delta
- Sahtu
- Nahendeh
- Hay River North
- Hay River South
- Thebacha
- Monfwi
- Deh Cho
- NWT 1 (formerly Tu Nedhe & Weledeh)
- NWT 2 (formerly Weledeh)
- Range Lake
- Yellowknife Centre
- Great Slave
- Frame Lake
- Kam Lake
- Yellowknife South



May 2, 2013

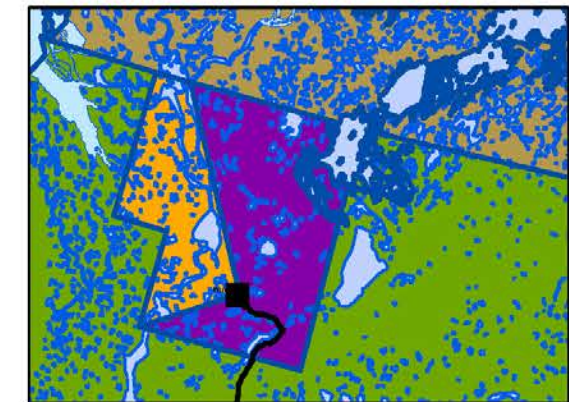


INUVIK



Scenario for 18, 19 and 21 Electoral Districts:

Inuvik

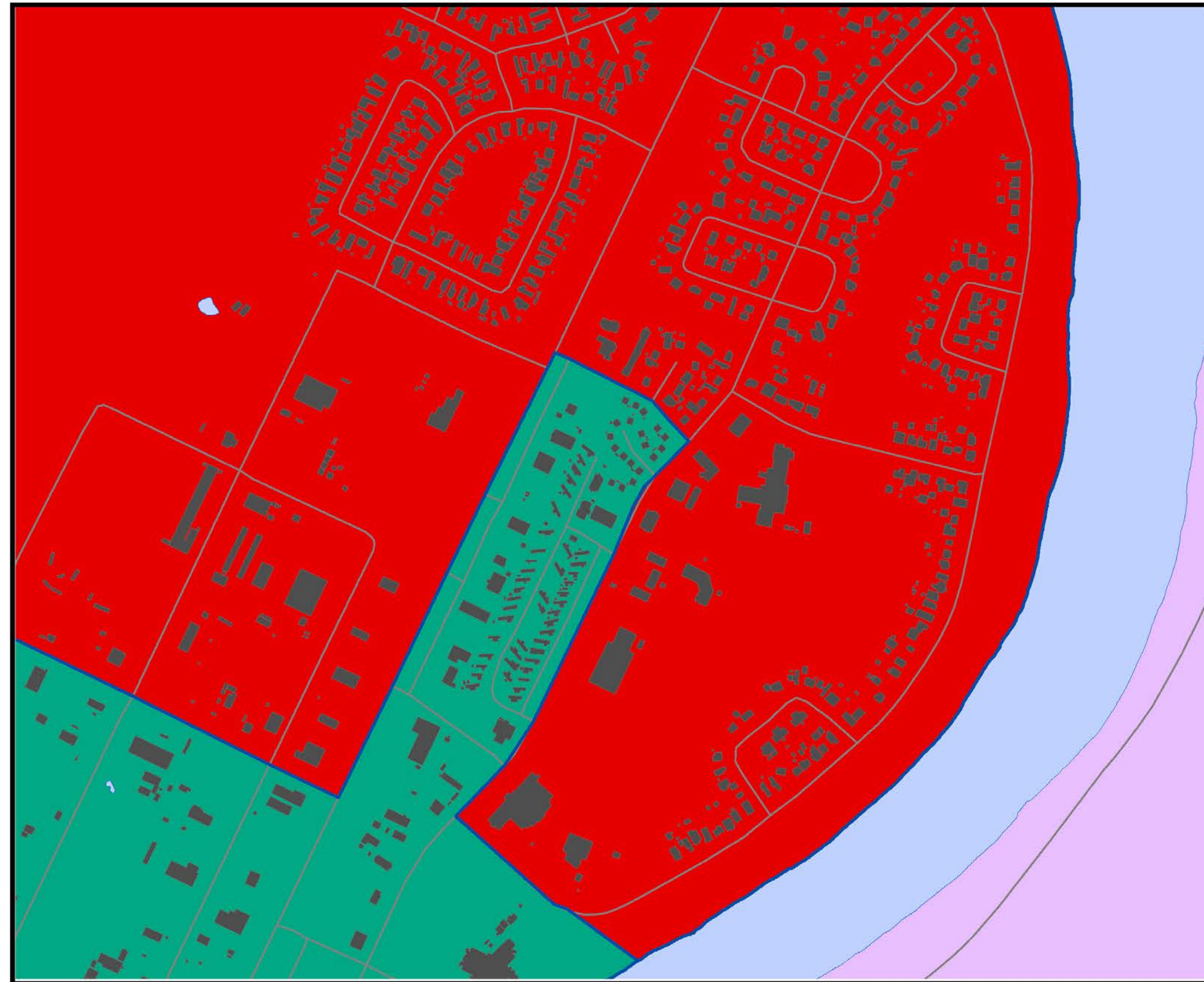


Legend

- Nunakput
- Inuvik Boot Lake
- Inuvik Twin Lakes
- Mackenzie Delta

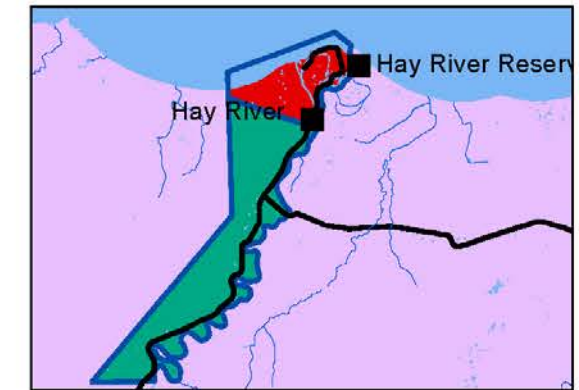


HAY RIVER



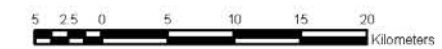
Scenario for 19 and 21
Electoral Districts:

Hay River

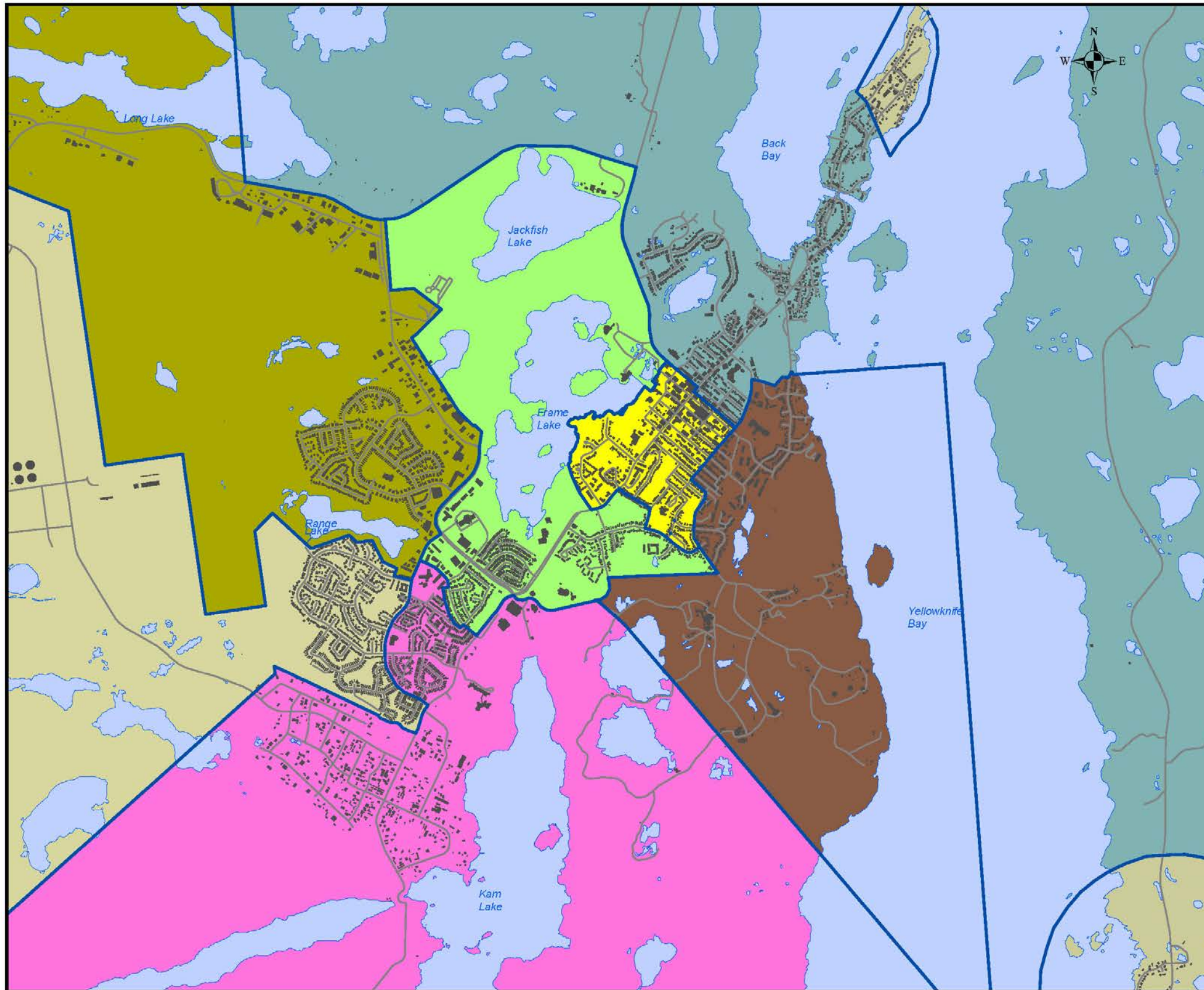


Legend

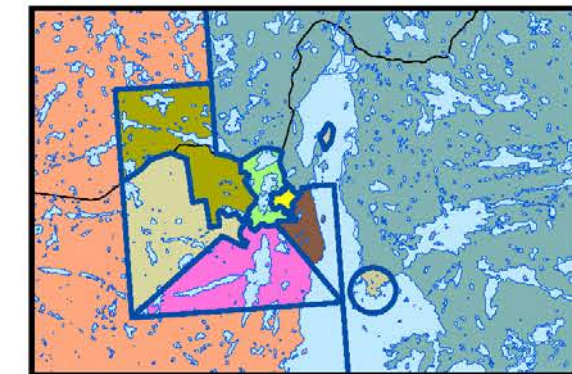
- Deh Cho
- Hay River North
- Hay River South



YELLOWKNIFE

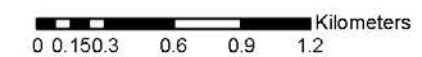


Scenario for 19 Electoral Districts: Yellowknife



Legend

- Monfwi
- NWT 1 (formerly Tu Nedhe & Weledeh)
- NWT 2 (formerly Weledeh)
- Range Lake
- Yellowknife Centre
- NWT 3 (formerly Great Slave)
- NWT 4 (formerly Frame Lake)
- Kam Lake
- Yellowknife South



D. SCENARIO FOR 21 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

OVERVIEW

In this scenario, there would be two additional electoral districts.

Within Inuvik, there are two electoral districts, Inuvik Boot Lake and Inuvik Twin Lakes. The population between the two electoral districts is re-distributed to achieve a more equal balance.

Within Hay River, there are two electoral districts, Hay River North and Hay River South. The population is re-distributed to achieve a more equal balance between the two electoral districts.

No changes are proposed for the electoral districts of Deh Cho, Mackenzie Delta, Nahendeh, Nunakput, Sahtu, Thebacha and Tu Nedhe.

Two new electoral districts are created by adding an electoral district in Yellowknife and re-distributing the electoral district of Monfwi into two electoral districts.

There are eight electoral districts with residents in Yellowknife. The overall population is re-distributed across all eight districts to achieve a more equal balance. A new district is created that primarily includes residents near Niven Lake; as well, significant redistribution is proposed to achieve a more equal balance between all eight electoral districts.

The electoral district of Monfwi is re-distributed into two districts, one of which includes the community of Behchokò without Edzo; the other includes Whatì, Gamètì, Wekweètì, and Edzo.

The number of electoral districts that are over-represented is three and there is only one electoral district that is under-represented.

The table and maps for 21 electoral districts follow.

21 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS - POPULATION AND VARIANCE

The following electoral districts are listed with their corresponding map colour. The variance indicates the percentage of the population of an electoral district above or below the average number of persons per riding (the territorial mean). The plus (+) or minus (-) indicates that a variance is above (+) or below (-) the territorial mean.

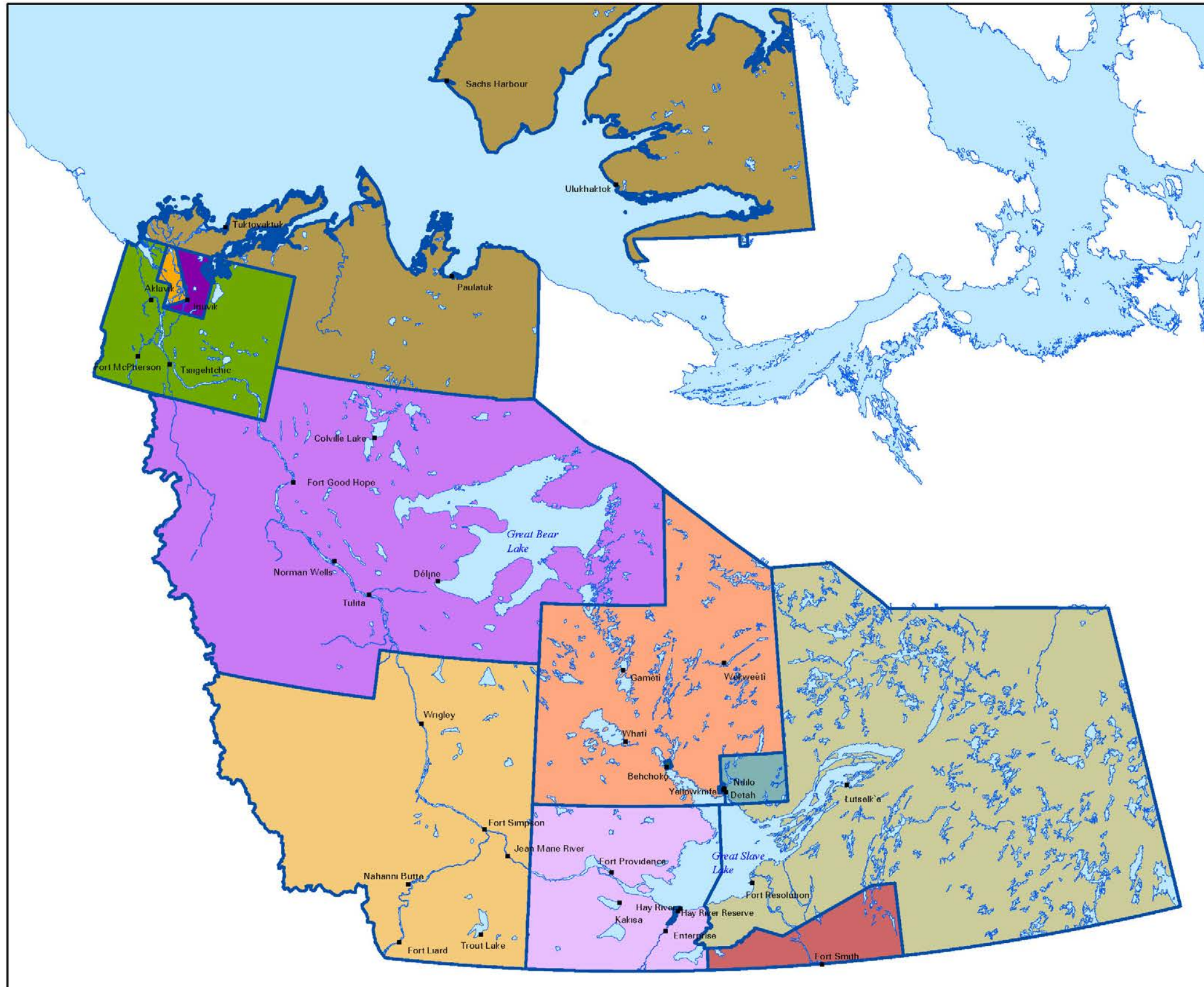
Electoral districts that are above the mean have a population that is under-represented, whereas electoral districts below the mean have a population that is over-represented.

Where an existing electoral district has been substantially altered, it has been given a neutral name.

| SCENARIO FOR 21 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS | | |
|---|--|--------------|
| | Territorial Mean | 2,064 |
| | Number of Districts Over-represented (less than -25%) | 3 |
| | Number of Districts Under-represented (more than +25%) | 1 |
| ELECTORAL DISTRICTS | 2012 POPULATION ESTIMATES | VARIANCE (%) |
| NORTHWEST TERRITORIES | 43,349 | -- |
| Nunakput | 1,889 | -8.5 |
| Inuvik Boot Lake | 1,673 | -18.9 |
| Inuvik Twin Lakes | 1,648 | -20.2 |
| Mackenzie Delta | 1,564 | -24.2 |
| Sahtu | 2,680 | +29.8 |
| Nahendeh | 2,227 | +7.9 |
| Hay River North | 1,778 | -13.9 |
| Hay River South | 1,823 | -11.7 |
| Thebacha | 2,450 | +18.7 |
| NWT 1 (Behchokò) | 1,760 | -14.7 |
| NWT 2 (formerly Monfwi) | 1,423 | -31.1 |
| Deh Cho | 1,367 | -33.8 |
| Tu Nedhe | 797 | -61.4 |
| NWT 3 (formerly Weledeh & Great Slave) | 2,554 | +23.7 |
| Range Lake | 2,513 | +21.8 |
| NWT 4 (formerly Yellowknife Centre) | 2,557 | +23.9 |
| NWT 5 (formerly Great Slave & Frame Lake) | 2,509 | +21.6 |
| Kam Lake | 2,513 | +21.8 |
| Yellowknife South | 2,565 | +24.3 |
| NWT 6 | 2,505 | +21.4 |
| NWT 7 (formerly Frame Lake) | 2,554 | +23.7 |



ALL NWT



Scenario for 21 Electoral Districts:

All NWT

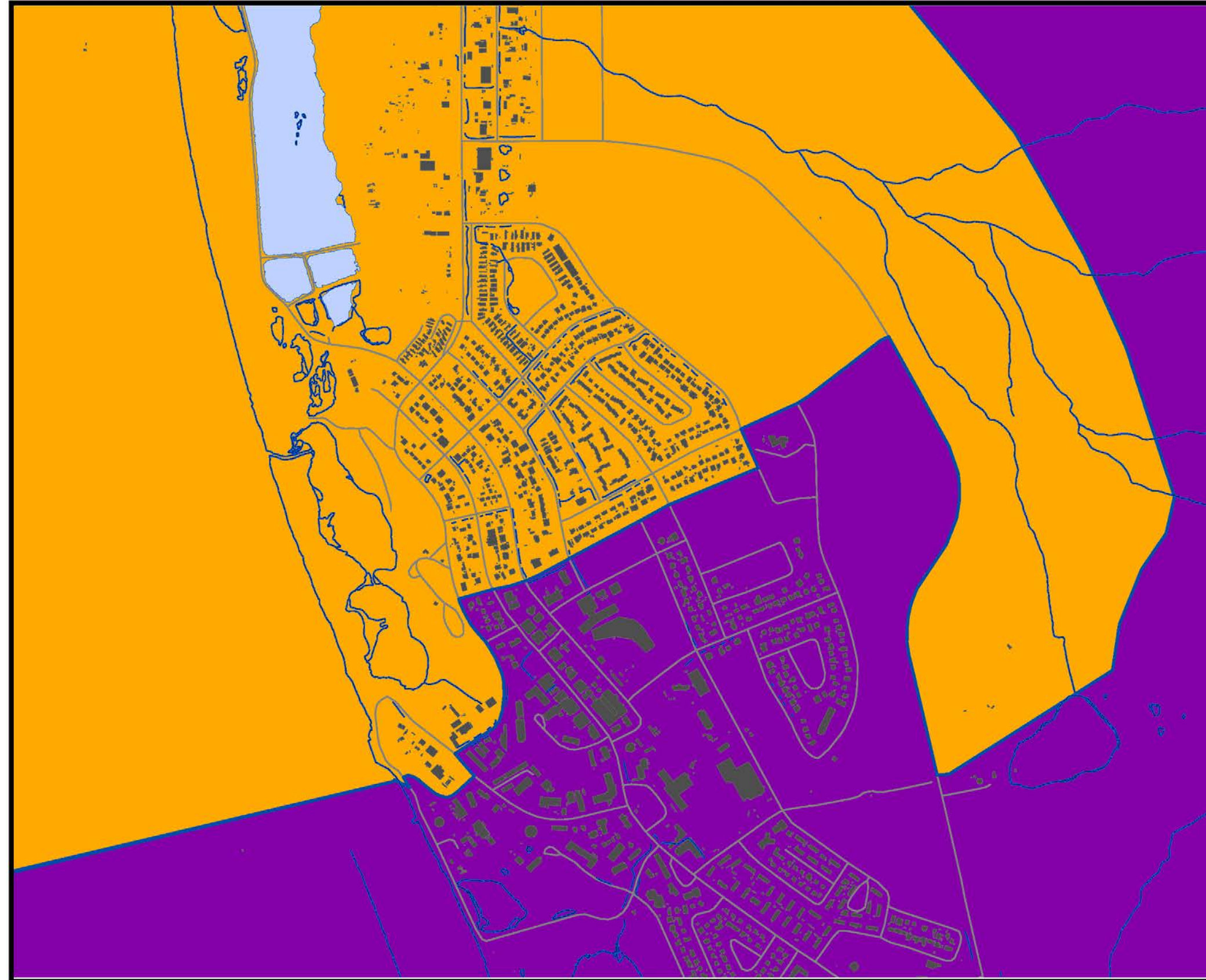
Legend

- Nunakput
- Inuvik Boot Lake
- Inuvik Twin Lakes
- Mackenzie Delta
- Sahtu
- Nahendeh
- Hay River North
- Hay River South
- Thebacha
- NWT 1 (Behchoko)
- NWT 2 (formerly Monfwi)
- Deh Cho
- Tu Nedhe
- NWT 3 (formerly Weledeh & Great Slave)
- Range Lake
- NWT 4 (formerly Yellowknife Centre)
- NWT 5 (formerly Great Slave & Frame Lake)
- Kam Lake
- Yellowknife South
- NWT 6
- NWT 7 (formerly Frame Lake)



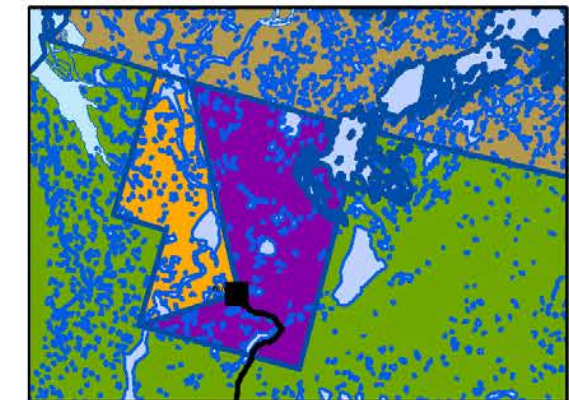
May 2, 2013

INUVIK



Scenario for 18, 19 and 21 Electoral Districts:

Inuvik



Legend

- Nunakput
- Inuvik Boot Lake
- Inuvik Twin Lakes
- Mackenzie Delta

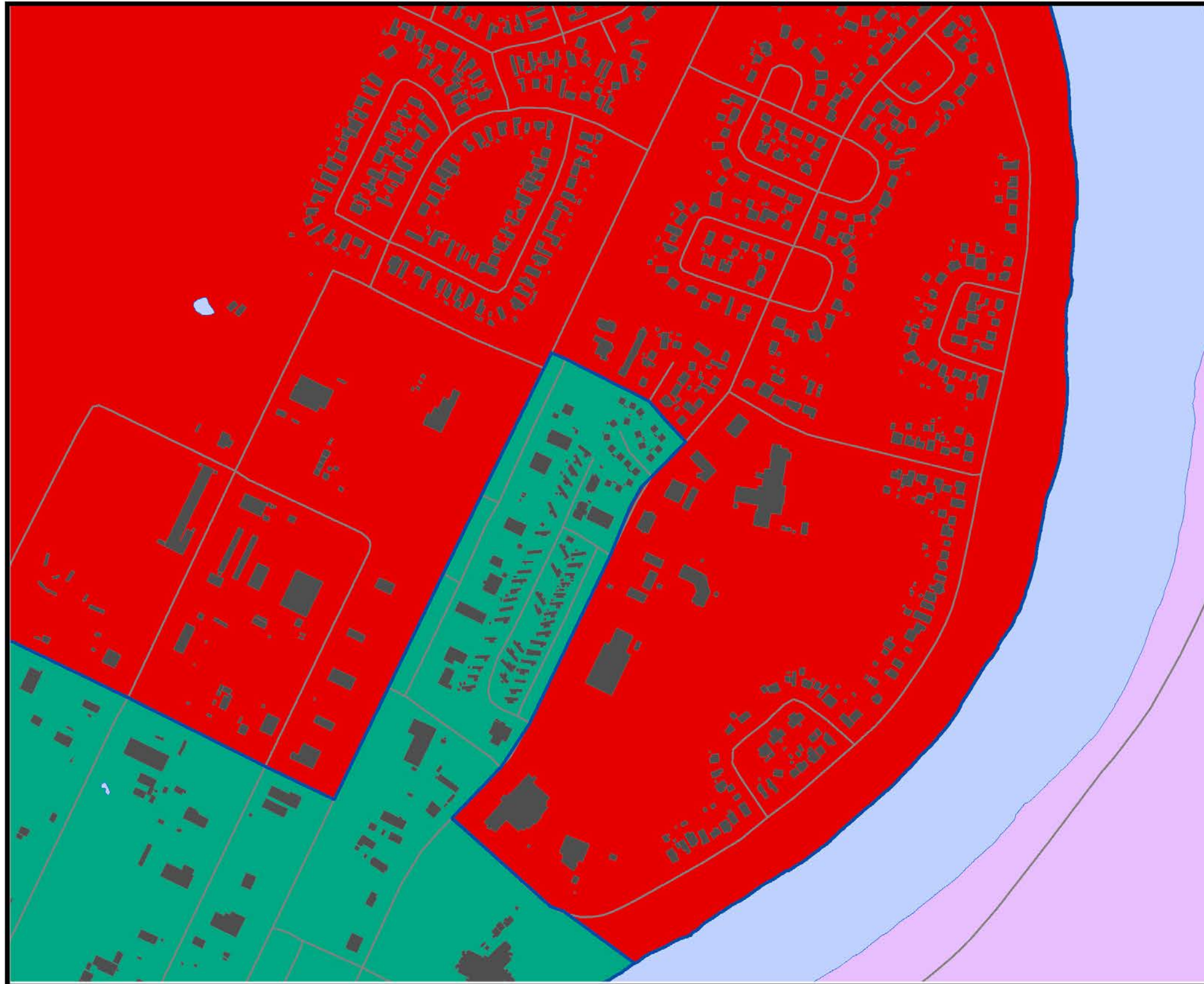
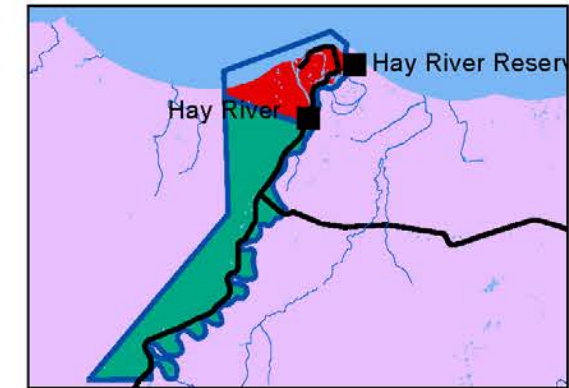


HAY RIVER



Scenario for 19 and 21
Electoral Districts:

Hay River

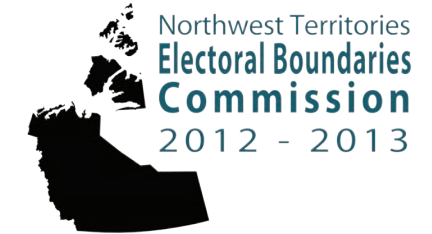


Legend

- Deh Cho
- Hay River North
- Hay River South



BEHCHOKÒ



Scenario for 21
Electoral Districts:

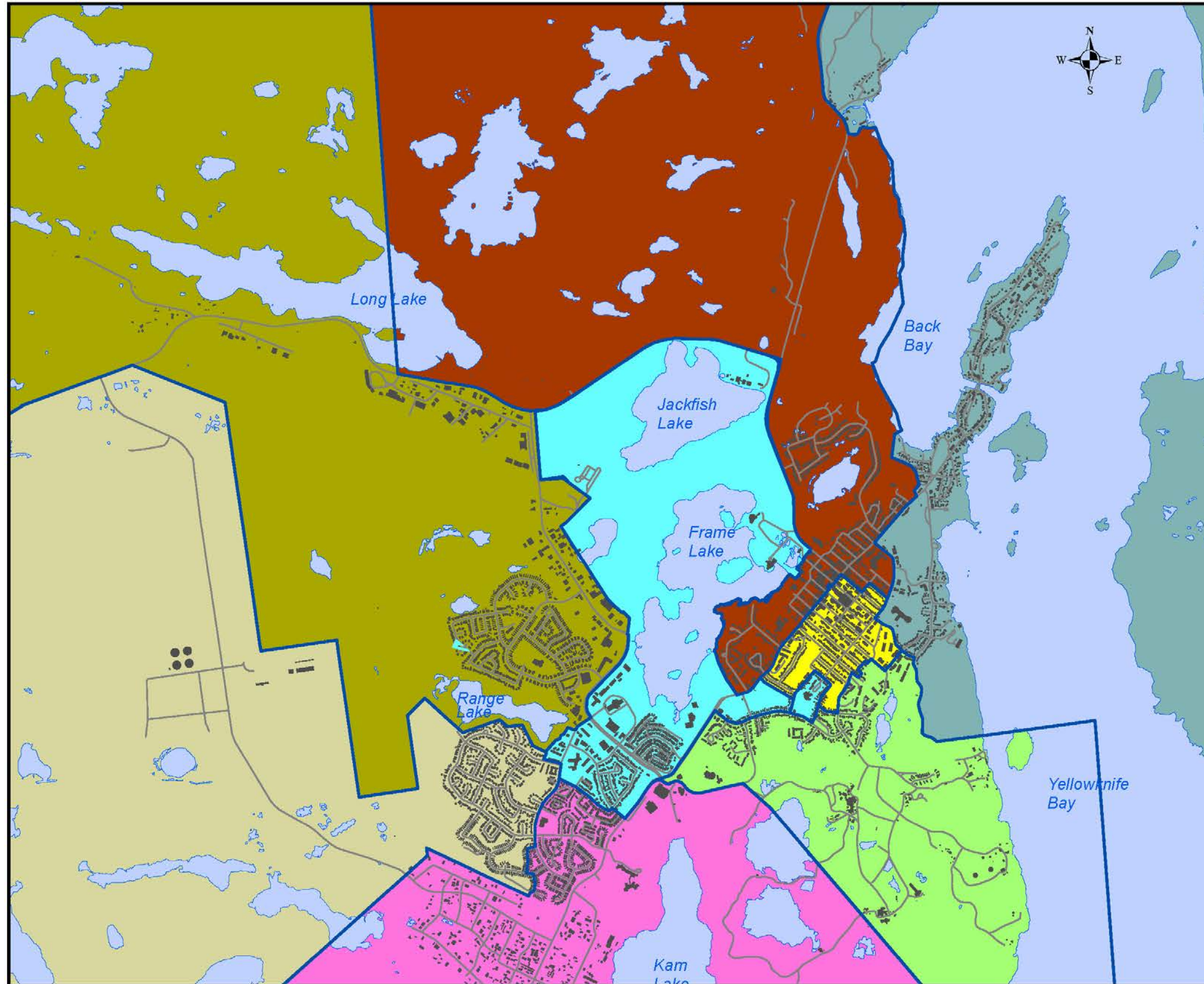
Behchokò

Legend

- NWT 1 (Behchokò)
- NWT 2 (formerly Monfwi)

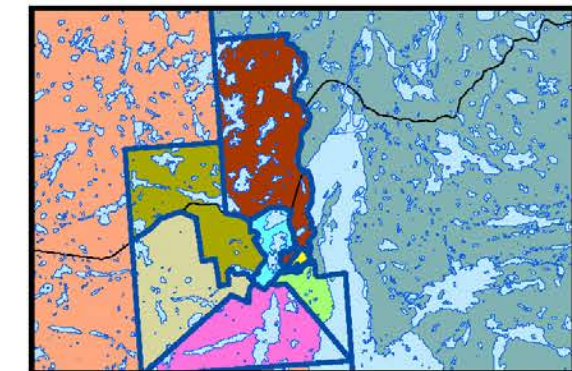


YELLOWKNIFE



Scenario for 21 Electoral Districts:

Yellowknife



Legend

- NWT 2 (formerly Monfwi)
- NWT 3 (formerly Weledah & Great Slave)
- Range Lake
- NWT 4 (formerly Yellowknife Centre)
- NWT 5 (formerly Great Slave & Frame Lake)
- Kam Lake
- Yellowknife South
- NWT 6
- NWT 7 (formerly Frame Lake)



E. SECTIONS OF THE *ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION ACT*

2. (1) An Electoral Boundaries Commission must be established, by resolution of the Legislative Assembly,
(b) within two years after the day fixed for the return of the writs for each second succeeding general election.

8. (1) The Commission shall review the area, boundaries, name and representation of the existing electoral districts and shall, on completion of that review, prepare a report containing recommendations respecting the area, boundaries, name and representation of the electoral districts proposed by the Commission.

(2) The Commission shall, before completing its report, hold public hearings at the times and places in the Northwest Territories that it considers appropriate to hear representations respecting existing or proposed electoral districts.

(3) The Commission may undertake such programs and measures as it considers appropriate to inform the public about the values and principles that underlie the determination of electoral boundaries and about the process that leads to that determination.

9. The Commission, in preparing its report, shall take into consideration:

(a) demographic factors, including the sparsity, density or rate of growth of the population of any area;

(b) census data and other information pertaining to population;

(c) information in the register of electors maintained under the Elections and Plebiscites Act;

(d) geographic factors, including the accessibility, size or shape of any area;

(e) community boundaries and boundaries established under lands, resources and self-government agreements, including land claim and treaty land entitlement agreements;

(f) facilities for and patterns of transportation and communication within and between different areas;

(g) language, culture and any other special community or diversity of interests of the residents of any part of the Northwest Territories;

(h) special circumstances relating to any existing electoral districts;

(i) public input obtained under subsection 8(2);

(j) the minimum and maximum number of members of the Legislative Assembly authorized by the Northwest Territories Act;

(k) any guidelines or criteria proposed for the consideration of the Commission by resolution of the Legislative Assembly; and

(l) any other similar and relevant factors that the Commission considers appropriate. S.N.W.T. 2006,c.15,s.355.

10. (2) The Commission shall submit its report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

(4) The Speaker shall, at the first opportunity, lay a copy of the Commission report before the Legislative Assembly.

F. GUIDELINES

Guidelines Electoral Boundaries Commission 2012 - 2013

Pursuant to section 9(k) of the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*, which enables the Legislative Assembly to establish guidelines or criteria that shall be taken into consideration by the Commission, the following guidelines are set down for the Commission.

1. The Commission shall review the existing electoral districts using the most recent and accurate census and other population data available.
2. In keeping with Canadian constitutional conventions and the notion of effective representation, the Commission shall make recommendations to achieve relative parity between electoral districts while balancing community of interest considerations.
3. For greater certainty, relative parity means that the percentage variation between the number of persons in a riding and the average mean should be within plus or minus 25 per cent, except where special circumstances warrant exceptional deviation.
4. The Commission shall recommend how electoral boundaries should be drawn if the Legislative Assembly comprises (a) eighteen members, or (b) nineteen members, or (c) twenty-one members.
5. The Commission shall prepare an interim report with proposed electoral district boundaries for review by the public and discussion at public hearings.
6. The Commission shall establish a website or other publically accessible mechanism(s), in addition to public hearings, to receive submissions on the existing and/or proposed boundaries.
7. All submissions to the Commission shall be considered public documents.
8. Simultaneous translation of official languages shall be available at public hearings where the use of an official language in a particular community or region is sizable enough to warrant the employ of translation services.
9. If the Commission is not in a position to accomplish its mandate within the existing budget allocated, it may return to the Legislative Assembly for additional funds.
10. The final report of the Commission, complete with recommendations, shall be submitted in English and in French to the Speaker and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly no later than seven months after the Commission is struck.
11. The Chief Electoral Officer shall serve as Secretary to the Commission.



G. PUBLIC HEARINGS PROCEDURAL PROTOCOL

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that public hearings are conducted in an open, respectful, and orderly format.

Schedule

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Commission is responsible for when and where public hearings are held. 2. The Commission will publicize the time and place of a hearing in advance of its occurrence. 3. The Commission may cancel or conclude a hearing at any time. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. The Chair of the Commission or her designate will preside at all hearings. All comments and questions shall be directed through the Chair. 9. Hearings will be conducted in an orderly and professional manner. 10. The Commission may set time limits for oral presentations and questions by any or all participants. |
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Participation

4. Any member of the public may participate in a hearing on his or her own behalf or on behalf of an organization.
5. Any person who wishes to make his or her views known to the Commission may make an oral presentation during those portions of the hearing that have been set aside by the Commission to hear the views of the public.
6. Any members of the public wishing to make a presentation at a public hearing should advise the Secretary to the Commission at the outset of a public hearing or during another designated time. There will also be an open time period for additional comments, subject to any time constraints.

Conduct

7. During the course of a hearing, the Commission may, in addition to this policy, issue directions on procedure to further ensure the orderly and efficient conduct of a hearing.

Languages, Summaries, and Recordings

11. The Commission may, in its discretion, allow for any hearing to be electronically recorded and/or for a summary of the proceedings to be produced.
12. Where appropriate and necessary, simultaneous oral translation will be arranged by the Commission. The Commission has been advised by community representatives as to whether or not it is advisable to provide translation services.

Documentation and Privacy

13. Public hearings will conclude on March 13th and the period for receiving written submissions will close on March 28th.
14. All representations made and documents submitted to the Commission are considered public documents.

H. SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

| Date | Community | Location | Interpreter* | # of Attendees |
|------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------|----------------|
| 06 February 2013 | Fort Providence | Community Hall | Yes | 15 |
| 11 February 2013 | Yellowknife (1) | Northern United Place | N/R | 12 |
| 19 February 2013 | Behchoko | Culture Centre | Yes | 37 |
| 20 February 2013 | Whati | Community Government Chamber | Yes | 6 |
| 25 February 2013 | Wrigley | Recreation Centre | Yes | 5 |
| 26 February 2013 | Fort Simpson | Recreation Centre | N/R | 4 |
| 28 February 2013 | Norman Wells | Dennis Drolet Memorial Community Hall | N/R | 0 |
| 04 March 2013 | Fort Resolution | Deninu School | Yes | 13 |
| 05 March 2013 | Hay River | Don Stewart Memorial Recreation Centre | N/R | 2 |
| 06 March 2013 | Hay River Reserve (KFN) | Chief Lamalice Complex | Yes | 3 |
| 07 March 2013 | Lutselk'e | Zah Lockhart Hall | Yes | 23 |
| 10 March 2013 | Inuvik | Midnight Sun Recreation Centre | N/R | 1 |
| 11 March 2013 | Aklavik | Council Chambers | N/R | 0 |
| 12 March 2013 | Yellowknife (2) | Range Lake North School | N/R | 15 |
| 13 March 2013 | Detah | Chief Drygreese Centre | Yes | 13 |

TOTAL 149

* N/R indicates "None Requested"



I. LIST OF WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

| AUTHOR | DATE |
|---|------------------|
| Alternatives North | 21 January 2013 |
| Carol Bonnetrouge | 07 February 2013 |
| Bob Brooks | 12 February 2013 |
| Henry Zoe | 19 February 2013 |
| Rob Peters | 03 March 2013 |
| J. Michael Miltenberger | 04 March 2013 |
| W.T. Hoggarth | 04 March 2013 |
| Fort Resolution Metis Council | 04 March 2013 |
| Phoebe Parent | 04 March 2013 |
| Fort Providence Combined Council Alliance | 06 March 2013 |
| Hay River Métis Government Council | 08 March 2013 |
| Tom Beaulieu | 11 March 2013 |
| Brendan Bachand | 13 March 2013 |
| City of Yellowknife | 15 March 2013 |
| Samuel Gargan | 20 March 2013 |
| Glen Abernethy | 22 March 2013 |
| Michael Nadli | 26 March 2013 |
| Fort Providence Métis Council | 27 March 2013 |
| Jackson Lafferty | 28 March 2013 |
| Chris Johnson | 28 March 2013 |

J. COMMISSION EXPENSES 2012-2013

The budget for the Electoral Boundaries Commission was managed as part of the overall annual appropriations for the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer. Below is an annotated summary of costs. Because the mandate of the Commission extended through May 2013, some additional costs will be accounted for in fiscal year 2013-2014.

EBC EXPENSES, 2012-2013 (\$)

| Comp & Benefits | Travel & Transport | Materials & Supplies | Purchased Services | Total |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 15,750.00 | 60,138.76 | 12,881.19 | 27,127.85 | 115,897.80 |

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

This accounts for honoraria to each Commissioner, except the chair who is remunerated as a judge.

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

This accounts for the cost of travel to public hearings and to meetings of the Commission in Yellowknife.

MATERIALS & SUPPLIES

This accounts for the cost of printing supplies such as reports and maps.

PURCHASED SERVICES

This accounts for the cost of space for public hearings, translation services, communications, and advertising.



CONTACT INFORMATION

An electronic copy of this report is available on the NWT Electoral Boundaries Commission website at www.nwtboundaries.ca.

To request printed copies of this report, please contact the Legislative Assembly:

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