

Presentation to
Ms. Paula Puddy
Commission Secretary
Federal Electoral Boundaries Commissions
for Ontario
September 23, 2022



September 22, 2022

Ms. Paula Puddy
Commission Secretary
Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Ontario
PO Box 37018 Southdale
London, Ontario N6E 3T3

Dear Commission Secretary Puddy,

It is our obligation to present to you and the Commission our opposition to the Proposal of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario.

The Township of Greater Madawaska passed a resolution opposing the proposal at the Special Council meeting on August 26, 2022. The resolution is on page 11 of this document.

One of the concerns with the proposal is the effect it will have on our residents at a personal and political level. The proposal fails to address the impact of the proposal outside of electoral boundaries, therefore leaving the public concerned that the proposal could affect programs, funding, and their daily lives.

Greater Madawaska is a Township made up of small communities but is also part of a larger community, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke. Residents of Greater Madawaska conduct their business, send their children to school, work, do their shopping and so much more all within the electoral district of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke. Residents are familiar with other communities within the electoral district and wish to maintain that close-knit community. Under the proposal, electors from Greater Madawaska would have to travel outside of their community to meet the MP/MPP, causing residents in the western part of the Township an additional hour of driving time each way, to an area they are not.

The Member of Parliament for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke has represented the County of Renfrew, in its entirety for years, which encompasses the Township of Greater Madawaska. The proposal will cause political division in the County of Renfrew, as Greater Madawaska would be fractioned off into another electoral district. This would compromise the effectiveness of coherent communication by our Federal elected leaders, and the service they provide to the County of Renfrew, Township of Greater Madawaska and all the electors.

The proposed boundary changes serve as no benefit to the electors of the Township of Greater Madawaska. By arbitrarily and without any rationale besides an exercise in map creation this community will be torn from their well-established patterns of commerce, social interaction and more significantly from the relationships which benefit their lives, their safety and to some degree their wellbeing. The fascination of chasing the new magic numeric formula of representation regarding the redistribution has failed the test of serving, supporting, and providing knowledgeable, stable representation to the seat of government on behalf of the community. This is a significant and enduring fail with no apparent present or future benefit to a deserving community.

On behalf of Council and the electors of Greater Madawaska, we strongly encourage you not to proceed with boundary changes relating to the Township of Greater Madawaska and the County of Renfrew.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Hunt", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Hunt
Mayor
Township of Greater Madawaska

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Proposal

The Proposal of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario removes the entirety of the Township of Greater Madawaska from the electoral district of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke. The Township of Greater Madawaska under the proposal is added to the electoral district of Lanark-Frontenac, which is currently known as Lanark –Frontenac-Kingston.

Summary of Concerns

- ◇ Increased driving distances for electors to visit MP and/or MPP
- ◇ Hard work to get MP and/or MPP to know our communities and their varying needs
- ◇ What will change aside from the electoral boundary under this proposal (i.e. funding, grants, etc) Are there any benefits to the proposal for Greater Madawaska, because there appears to be none?
- ◇ Services and assistance for Greater Madawaska may be jeopardized
- ◇ Funding and opportunities for ratepayers, businesses, groups and the Township could be compromised (ex. Canada Summer Jobs)
- ◇ Establish new relations with MP and/or MPP, who are not familiar with Greater Madawaska and/or County of Renfrew both at an elector level and/or political level
- ◇ Political Division in the County of Renfrew

Facts

- ◇ Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke had a population in 2021 of 107,420 which is a deviation from the quota of –7.87%, which is less than the plus or minus 10 per cent maximum deviation.
- ◇ The proposal splits the Township of Greater Madawaska out of the municipal boundary of the County of Renfrew.
- ◇ The Township of Greater Madawaska and the County of Renfrew have both passed motions in opposition to the proposal of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission.
- ◇ There is a petition with 441 signatures as of September 22, 2022, signed by concerned citizens who wish for Greater Madawaska to remain in the electoral district of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke.

Recommendation

Therefore, the Township of Greater Madawaska respectfully requests to remain in the electoral district of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Township of Greater Madawaska is located in the southeastern end of The County of Renfrew. The County of Renfrew, founded in 1861, is the largest geographic county in Ontario with a land mass twice the size of Prince Edward Island! The County of Renfrew contains over 7,000 square kilometers.

Greater Madawaska is over 1,000 square kilometers of rugged and beautiful terrain including lakes, forest and a sparse, spread out population. The Crown holds approximately 160,000 acres or over 60 percent of the land mass in Greater Madawaska. This vast acreage affords visitors and residents employment, excellent fishing, hiking and hunting opportunities but creates geographic challenges for ratepayers that are required to commute for various reasons.

Greater Madawaska is located 45 minutes from the western parts of Ottawa and 65 minutes from the seat of Canada's government. Our total population in 2021 was 2,864 people. It is estimated our population swells by between 10,000 and 15,000 over the summer months. The ski hill also has visitors in the range of 180,000 people during the winter.

Our community's population is largely over 50 years of age and increasingly made up of recently retired active people who have an avid interest in their community. We do not have a large commercial sector and are devoid of industrial tax base. Residential assessment is the financial engine funding the Municipality.

THE PROPOSAL

The Proposal of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario removes the entirety of the Township of Greater Madawaska from the electoral district of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke. The Township of Greater Madawaska under the proposal is added to the electoral district of Lanark-Frontenac, which is currently known as Lanark – Frontenac-Kingston.

CONCERNS

- ◆ Electors Concerns
 - ◇ Greater Madawaska is a Township made up of many small tight knit communities. Electors primarily conduct their business, social circles, family gatherings, obtain a variety of services, including health and social services and their children attend school within the Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke electoral district. One may suggest that electors do not need to visit their MP in person, that virtual meetings would suffice, unfortunately, our area suffers from a lack of reliable cell and broadband service and face to face meeting with the MP and staff are the preferred and more reliable option. Coupled with the knowledge that an area such as ours, with lower than provincial average earnings, a significant number one car/ one earner households our citizens may not get the services they should from the new model. If the current proposal proceeds, electors will need to travel outside of the Township and voting community to visit with the MP and/or MPP which would result in an additional hour of driving each way.
 - ◇ The Electoral District of Renfrew-Nipissing Pembroke is a community onto itself, electors from Greater Madawaska attend many social events throughout the voting community which allows them the opportunity to interact and meet the MP and/or MPP. Successes have come from service providers knowing the community and the resources, the municipalities knowing the community, the MP knowing the community, the MPP knowing the community and most importantly from correctly and efficiently utilizing the resources. By changing MP models whereby the new MP has no knowledge of the community, its needs, its successes and its challenges is damaging to the community both small and large.
 - ◇ The proposed electoral change will lump Greater Madawaska into a new grouping of potential service providers which may be slow to extend their services or acknowledge Greater Madawaska for some time as they are significantly smaller in comparison. The new MP and the existing MPP may not have a relationship and that may take time to evolve. At present the existing MP and MPP are located in the same building and hold joint meetings with constituent(s) , cooperate and consult on the shared files.
 - ◇ Electors comments/concerns that have been put forward to Township representatives:
 - ◇ What is the benefit of this proposal to the electors of Greater Madawaska?
 - ◇ Is this the first step of Greater Madawaska being removed from the County of Renfrew?
 - ◇ What programs could be affected? Are there financial implications that could adversely affect funding of programs/subsidies to our electors and the Township?

CONCERNS Continued

- ◇ The redistribution provides challenges to the electors of Greater Madawaska without any offsetting benefits. It appear more voters were needed in Lanark-Frontenac and hence we are being plucked from the community without regard for the concerns of our residents.
- ◇ The challenges that the proposal creates for the electors include but are not limited to:
 - ◇ Increased driving distances for electors to visit MP and/or MPP
 - ◇ Establish new relations with MP and/or MPP, who are not familiar with Greater Madawaska and/or County of Renfrew
 - ◇ Impact for the electors and/or Township of this proposal is unknown
 - ◇ What will change aside from the electoral boundary under this proposal (i.e. funding, grants, etc) Are there any benefits to the proposal for Greater Madawaska, because there appears to be none?
 - ◇ Federal Programs?
- ◆ Representation Concerns
 - ◇ The federal Electoral Boundary change is problematic for Greater Madawaska residents, the County of Renfrew and the municipal partners in our community who deliver services and assistance to the community. Programs and services whether they are stand alone or shared municipal, provincial or federal are often to some degree dependent on existing providers or service models. They often draw on the resources of the community or service providers in new, seconded or well established roles contributing knowledge and stacking funding or staff. This occurs because they understand the community through review of years of service, data drawn from their respective sectors all pooled to provide efficient services.
 - ◇ Funding from the Provincial and Federal governments for community, health or assistive services is often dependent on a wider view of the community. In most instances the wider view encompasses the community within the electoral district, and in fact, we are encouraged to involve the Member of Parliament (MP) and the local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) in our deliberations and to seek letters of support. Their knowledge of the community may involve providing more clarity or current situational information and in some instances there are suggestions of partnerships with Municipalities or service providers, which in turn better serve our community and provides clarity and assistance in receiving funding. It should not be ignored that Federal funding and programing is often assigned after consultation with the Member.

CONCERNS Continued

- ◇ The Electoral District of Renfrew-Nipissing Pembroke is a community onto itself, electors from Greater Madawaska attend many social events throughout the voting community which allows them the opportunity to interact with MP and/or MPP. With the current proposal this opportunity will simply not exist.
- ◇ The MP and/or MPP attend Renfrew County Council meetings at various times throughout the term of Council. This allows an opportunity for representation from the lower tier municipalities to establish relationship and discuss opportunities/ challenges with the MP/MPP. If the proposal of the Commission is approved, Greater Madawaska will not have the same opportunities to form relationships with the MP/MPP as other townships in the County. It is unlikely the MP or MPP from Lanark-Frontenac would attend Renfrew County Council when they solely represent Greater Madawaska.
- ◇ The Township of Greater Madawaska is located in the County of Renfrew. The proposal will lead to political divisions within the County of Renfrew.
 - ◇ For example, the County of Renfrew passed a resolution to maintain the Renfrew County Virtual Triage Assessment Centre (RC VTAC) model for primary healthcare for residents who do not have a family doctor or cannot access their physician. County Council requested all lower tiers to support their resolution and contact MP Gallant and MPP Yakabuski. If the proposal of the Commission were to move forward, Greater Madawaska would forward the resolution to MP Scott Reid, who most likely has very limited or no knowledge of the program.
- ◇ Greater Madawaska has worked very hard to develop strong working relations with the MP and MPP of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke along with various agencies and municipalities, which itself is challenging for a small rural municipality.
 - ◇ For example, upon receiving the proposal of the commission, MP Cheryl Gallant immediately contacted Mayor Hunt. We recognized that MP Gallant and Mayor Hunt may not be elected during the next election but due to proximity and the close-knot community of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, the two positions will likely be filled by individuals familiar with each other.

FACTS

In addition to the concerns raised, there are other factors within the proposal that the Township would like to raise:

- ◆ In the Proposal of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province Ontario document on page 9 (nine), paragraph 7 (seven) it states: *“In creation the proposed redistribution plan, the Commission endeavoured to limit the deviation from the Quota to no more than plus or minus 10 per cent”*. Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke had a population in 2021 of 107,420 which is a deviation from the quota of -7.87%, which is less than the plus or minus 10 per cent.
- ◆ On page 10 (ten) of the proposal, paragraph 2 (two) it states: *“In drawing the boundaries of each electoral district, the Commission referenced major geographical features such as highways, main roads, rail lines, rivers, lakes and other bodies of water, escarpments and municipal boundaries.”* The proposal splits the Township of Greater Madawaska out of the municipal boundary of the County of Renfrew.
- ◆ The Township of Greater Madawaska, County of Renfrew and Town of Petawawa have passed motions in opposition to the proposal of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission. Appendix A, contains copies of resolution in opposition to the proposal from the organizations.
- ◆ Appendix B contains a petition signed by citizens concerned with the proposal to remove Greater Madawaska from the electoral district of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke. There are 441 signatures September 22, 2022.

Appendix A

- Resolution from the Township of Greater Madawaska
- Letter from the County of Renfrew
- Resolution from the Town of Petawawa





Council Resolution Form

Date: 26 Aug 2022 No: Resolution No.200-22
 Moved By: Councillor MacPherson, Seconded Disposition: CARRIED.
by Councillor Frost
 Item No: 3.08.1

Description: Proposal of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission re: Redistribution of Federal Electoral Districts

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act sets out the Commission’s mandate and rules to be applied in redrawing boundaries.

AND WHEREAS the legislation mandates that each electoral district shall, as close as reasonably possible, correspond to the Provincial Electoral Quota.

AND WHEREAS the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Ontario has proposed a new electoral map for consideration at public hearings this fall.

AND WHEREAS the Proposal of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario removes the entirety of the Township of Greater Madawaska from the Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke electoral district and moves then to the electoral district of Lanark-Frontenac, which is known today as Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston.

AND WHEREAS the electors primarily conduct their business, social circles, family gatherings within the Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke electoral district under the boundary proposal would required additional travel time to meet with the MP and/or MPP.

Recorded Vote Requested by:

Page 1 of 2

	Yea	Nay
B. Hunt	_____	_____
L. Perrier	_____	_____
C. Rigelhof	_____	_____
J. Frost	_____	_____
G. MacPherson	_____	_____

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:

.....
 Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s),
 abstained from discussion and did not vote

AND WHEREAS the boundary proposal, if approved, could lead to political division within the County of Renfrew when a motion is before County Council requesting all members reach out to the MP and/or MPP.

AND WHEREAS the Township of Greater Madawaska has developed strong working relationships with the MP and MPP of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke along with various agencies and municipalities, which itself is challenging in rural Eastern Ontario.

AND WHEREAS the current boundary district for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke is -7.87% and the proposal boundary district is -0.27%, the actual fact the population deviation is a mere 9,480 people.

AND WHEREAS the current boundary district for Lanark-Frontenac is -4.43% and the proposal boundary district is -5.84%, the actual fact the population deviation decreases by 1,640.

AND WHEREAS the average population for the current Eastern Ontario Electoral Districts is 111,663 and the proposed Eastern Ontario Electoral district increases to 115,309, for an increase of 3,646, or an increase of 3.25%.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Greater Madawaska strongly opposes the Proposal of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario that would remove the Township of Greater Madawaska from the electoral district of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke.

AND FURTHER THAT the Council of Greater Madawaska feels that the County of Renfrew and all of its municipalities are best represented by one singular political voice as represented by the Member of Parliament for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke.

AND FURTHERMORE this motion be sent to all municipalities within the County of Renfrew

Recorded Vote Requested by:	Yea	Nay
.....		
B. Hunt	_____	_____
L. Perrier	_____	_____
C. Rigelhof	_____	_____
J. Frost	_____	_____
G. MacPherson	_____	_____



MAYOR

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:
.....
Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s),
abstained from discussion and did not vote

Office of the
County Warden



September 12, 2022

Ms. Paula Puddy
Commission Secretary
Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Ontario
PO Box 37018 Southdale
London, ON N6E 3T3

Dear Commission Secretary Puddy,

At the regular meeting of County Council on August 31, 2022, the following resolution was unanimously passed:

THAT County Council support the resolution from the Township of Greater Madawaska opposing the proposal of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario that changes the composition of municipalities within the Federal electoral district of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke including the removal of the Township of Greater Madawaska; AND FURTHER THAT the Warden send a letter/submission to the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission outlining the County's concerns.

The County of Renfrew is comprised of 17 unique and distinct municipalities, and has been represented by one Federal member for decades. The importance and significance of this representation cannot be understated; having one voice for our entire County is integral to our identity as an upper-tier municipality. Fractioning of the district would only serve to be detrimental to the effectiveness of coherent communication by our Federally elected leaders, and the service that they provide to all of the constituents.

The removal of the Township of Greater Madawaska, in the southern region of our County, would mean that residents would have to travel well outside of their region to obtain services, meet with their Member of Parliament, and get access to the MPs staff. Additionally, when County Council seeks answers and responses from our Federal Government, it would require us to seek representation/deputation from possibly two MPs of different parties and geographical allegiances, serving to divide our community even more.

Simply put, the proposed re-alignment of the Federal Electoral Boundaries for the sake of an entirely minute representation shift will cause unneeded disruption within our County.

County Council sees no benefit to the change in boundary lines and, as indicated above, its 17-member municipalities are united in their position that this proposal not move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Debbie Robinson'.

Debbie Robinson, Warden
warden@countyofrenfrew.on.ca

c: Cheryl Gallant, MP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke
John Yakabuski, MPP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke
City of Pembroke
County Council



TOWN OF PETAWAWA

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www.petawawa.ca

September 21, 2022

Robin Emon
Deputy Clerk
Township of Greater Madawaska
19 Parnell Street, PO Box 180
Calabogie, ON K0J 1H0

Dear Ms. Emon:

RE: Support for Resolution No. 200-22

Please be advised that the following resolution was passed at the regular meeting of Council held September 20, 2022:

Resolution #7

Moved by James Carmody

Seconded by Tom Mohns

That Council of the Corporation of the Town of Petawawa supports the resolution from the Township of Greater Madawaska opposing the proposal of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario that changes the composition of municipalities within the Federal electoral district of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke including the removal of the Township of Greater Madawaska.

CARRIED

I trust this is satisfactory. Please contact me should you have any questions or concerns arising from the foregoing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colin Howard".

Colin Howard, Dipl.Bus.Admin, Dipl.M.M
Clerk

Appendix B

- Petition
(please note, signed petition pages have been removed from this public document for privacy purposes)

The Township of Greater Madawaska Contact Information

Mayor

Brian Hunt

Phone: 613-752-2222

Fax: 613-752-2617

e-mail: bhunt@greatermadawaska.com

CAO

Allison Holtzhauer

Phone: 613-752-2240

Fax: 613-752-2617

e-mail: cao@greatermadawaska.com



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