



**YUKON
ELECTORAL DISTRICT
BOUNDARIES COMMISSION
2024**

Final Report

October 9, 2024

Kluane

*Lake/Lac
Laberge*

*Watson Lake -
Ross River
- Faro*

*Southern
Lakes
/Lacs du Sud*

Marsh Lake -



YUKON ELECTORAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES COMMISSION 2024

October 9, 2024

The Honourable Jeremy Harper
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Box 2703, A-9
Whitehorse, YT

Dear Honourable Speaker Harper,

Pursuant to s. 415(2) of the *Elections Act*, the Electoral District Boundaries Commission submits to you its Final Report to set out the proposed boundaries, number, and names of the electoral districts of the Yukon.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honourable Suzanne Duncan
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Yukon
Commission Chair

Patricia Cuning
Commissioner

Elizabeth Hanson
Commissioner

Warren Holland
Commissioner

H. Maxwell Harvey
Commissioner

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Key Terms

Electoral Quotient

The electoral quotient (EQ) is the number of electors, or voters, in each electoral district if all electoral districts had the same elector population. This number will increase as population increases.

It is obtained by dividing the total elector population of the Yukon by the number of electoral districts.

The current electoral quotient in the Yukon is 33,411 electors. This number will change as population and elector numbers change.



Electors Population		Number of Proposed Electoral Districts		Electoral Quotient (EQ)
	\div		$=$	
33411 electors	divided by	21 electoral districts	equals	1591 electors per electoral district

Voter Parity

Relative voter parity is achieved when the number of electors in each electoral district is roughly the same as the electoral quotient. Relative voter parity means the weight of each citizen's vote is nearly the same among all electoral districts. Absolute voter parity is where each electoral district has exactly the same number of voters. It is impossible to achieve because electoral district boundary lines cannot be drawn in a way that guarantees exactly the same number of voters in each electoral district. The number of voters changes constantly as people move, die, or become eligible to vote.

Variation/Variances/Deviation

Variation, variance, or deviation is a measure reported as a percentage of the difference in the number deviation of up to 25% from the electoral quotient has been considered acceptable in Canada.

Electors Population		Electoral Quotient		Variance
	\div		$=$	

Population in an electoral district divided by the electoral quotient = Variance from the average (converted to a percentage).

Examples based on an electoral quotient of 1591: a 25% variance means 398 electors above or below the electoral quotient. The range of electors within a 25% variance is between 1193 and 1989 where the average is 1591.

- **Zero Variance:** 0% - Absolute voter parity – An electoral district with 1591 electors has 0% variance.

- **Positive Variance:** +25% - Relative voter parity – underrepresentation. An electoral district with 1592 to 1989 electors has a positive variance which indicates underrepresentation but within relative voter parity.
- **Negative Variance:** -25% - Relative voter parity – overrepresentation. An electoral district with 1193 to 1590 electors has a negative variance which indicates overrepresentation but within relative voter parity.

Executive Summary

The 2024 Electoral District Boundaries Commission (the Commission) is established under the Yukon *Elections Act*. It is mandated to review the existing electoral districts established under the *Electoral District Boundaries Act* and to make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly for changes to the boundaries, number, and names of the electoral districts of the Yukon.

The current Yukon electoral district boundaries have not changed since 2008 and have been used over the last three elections - 2011, 2016, and 2021. Between 2008 and 2024, significant population growth has occurred in the Yukon, especially in Whitehorse. The changes the Commission is proposing are in part a result of this unprecedented growth.

The changes proposed are:

- Two new electoral districts created in Whistle Bend: Whistle Bend North and Whistle Bend South
- Watson Lake-Ross River-Faro is one electoral district
- Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes is divided into two electoral districts and Golden Horn is added: Southern Lakes and Marsh Lake-Mount-Lorne-Golden Horn
 - Southern Lakes includes Carcross-Tagish-Teslin
 - Marsh Lake-Mount Lorne-Golden Horn adds Golden Horn which is currently part of Copperbelt South electoral district
- Various relatively minor changes to electoral districts within the City of Whitehorse to reflect population changes throughout the city.

These proposed changes result in an increase of two electoral districts, from the current 19 to 21 electoral districts. 13 of the proposed electoral districts are in Whitehorse; 8 are outside of Whitehorse.

Effective representation relates to the ability of a member of a legislative assembly to represent the people in their electoral district. It is a legally defined concept arising from s. 3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* that requires consideration first of the population in each electoral district to strive towards relative voter parity, or as close as possible to an equal number of voters in each electoral district, so that each citizen's vote has equal weight. Deviations or variances from the average number of voters in each electoral district in many cases are desirable or necessary to help achieve effective representation because of factors such as geography, community history, community interests, language, culture, and minority representation that need to be considered. The accepted deviation in Canada from the average in electoral districts to achieve effective representation is +/- 25%.

Currently 11 of the 19 electoral districts in the Yukon have numbers of voters outside of the 25% variance. Five electoral districts outside of Whitehorse are overrepresented and five electoral districts within Whitehorse are underrepresented. The percentage deviation in these electoral districts is high – the five outside of Whitehorse range from 36% to 88%, and the five within Whitehorse range from 34% to 77%. No other province or territory in Canada has such a large proportion of electoral districts with the number of voters outside of the 25% variance, and so far outside the 25% variance. Many jurisdictions in Canada have average variances much lower than 25%.

The Commission's Final Report recommendation reduces the number of electoral districts with variances beyond 25% from 11 to 5, not counting the three districts with variances at 26%, which are expected to be reduced to 25% before the next scheduled election, and not counting the Whistle Bend North district at 40% as it is expected it will be reduced soon as the Whistle Bend North population grows.

Significantly, the amount of deviation for those electoral districts outside of 25% is reduced. The variance percentage amounts of the four electoral districts outside of Whitehorse are 31%, 32%, 33%, and 88%, and within Whitehorse are 26%, 29% and 40%.

Proposed Changes to the 19 Current Electoral District (ED) Boundaries

The chart below provides an overview of the changes to the current 19 electoral districts to create the Final Report proposal for 21 electoral districts. With 21 electoral districts variances are changed due to the decrease in the electoral quotient. The percentages highlighted in yellow are those expected to fall within 25% variance before the fall of 2025.

Proposed Changes To Current Electoral Districts

Current ED	Proposed ED	Change Status	Current Variance (8/19 EDs EQ =1758))	Proposed Variance (8/21 EDs EQ=1591)
Vuntut Gwitchin	Vuntut Gwitchin	No change	-89%	-88%
Klondike	Klondike	No change	+2%	+13%
Mayo-Tatchun	Mayo-Tatchun	Minor Change	-40%	-33%
Pelly-Nisutlin	Dissolved and redistributed	Significant Change	-40%	n/a
Watson Lake	Watson Lake-Ross River-Faro	Significant Change	-39%	+7%
Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes	Marsh Lake-Mount Lorne-Golden Horn	Significant Change	-4%	-21%
Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes	Southern Lakes	Significant Change	-4%	-32%
Kluane	Kluane	No Change	-36%	-30%
Lake Laberge	Lake Laberge	No Change	+6%	+17%
Porter Creek Centre	Whistle Bend North	Significant Change	+101%	-40%
Porter Creek Centre	Whistle Bend South	Significant Change	+101%	-21%
Porter Creek Centre	Porter Creek Centre	Significant Change	+101%	+16%
Porter Creek North	Porter Creek North	Moderate Change	+37%	+16%
Porter Creek South	Porter Creek South	Moderate Change	-41%	+16%
Takhini-Kopper King	Takhini	Moderate Change	+39%	+26%
Whitehorse Centre	Whitehorse Centre	Moderate Change	+33%	+29%
Riverdale North	Riverdale North	No Change	+6%	+17%
Riverdale South	Riverdale South	No Change	+7%	+19%
Mountainview	Mountainview	Minor Change	+4%	+15%
Whitehorse West	Whitehorse West	Minor Change	+5%	+23%
Copperbelt North	Copperbelt North	Moderate Change	+37%	+26%
Copperbelt South	Copperbelt South	Moderate Change	+11%	+26%

The Commission and Its Work

Mandate

The Commission is established under the Yukon *Elections Act*. It operates independent of government. The role of the Commission is limited to reviewing the boundaries, number, and names of the existing electoral districts and making recommendations for changes to ensure that voters have effective representation in the Yukon Legislative Assembly. The recommendations are based on statutory requirements, governing law, jurisdictional reviews, the principles established by the Commission, and information about the current Yukon context and anticipated changes. Input from the public, stakeholders, and experts, was considered by the Commission to ensure the boundaries provide for the fair and effective representation of people in each electoral district.

The Commission has no mandate to make recommendations about anything beyond this, and specifically, has no role in making recommendations about electoral reform.

Boundaries of Electoral Districts

The boundaries of an electoral district determine the communities and population of people represented by a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). The number of people in each electoral district is an important consideration. In addition, for this determination there are specific requirements in the *Elections Act* (s. 419) and other factors that must be considered to ensure effective representation.

Number of Electoral Districts

The Commission is to consider if the current number of electoral districts in the Yukon should remain the same, be increased, or be decreased. There is no specific statutory requirement for the minimum or maximum number of electoral districts to be proposed.

Names of Electoral Districts

The Commission is to consider changing the names of electoral districts where necessary, to reflect new or adjusted electoral districts. Where name changes are required, names of electoral districts are aligned with significant geography or major community names. There is no specific statutory requirement related to names.

Timing of Appointment of Commission and Commission Scope

Generally, Commissions are appointed within six months of the election day after every second general election. No Commission may be appointed earlier than six years after the appointment of the last Commission.

The 2024 Commission was appointed six years after the May 3, 2017 appointment of the previous Commission, (the 2018 Commission) following the November 2016 election. But it does not follow the pattern of appointment after a second general election. The recommendations of the 2018 Commission were included in a bill to amend the *Electoral District Boundaries Act*, introduced in the legislature in November 2018. That bill was defeated in the legislature and as a result the boundaries were not changed.

Consequently, the same electoral district boundaries have been in place in the Yukon since 2008. The general election of April 2021 was the third general election to use the boundaries established in 2008. Given the degree of growth and change in the Yukon since 2008, the legislators recognized that changes to the boundaries, number, and names needed to be considered sooner rather than later. Amendments to the *Election Act* were passed in 2023 to allow for a new Commission to be established immediately, instead of waiting until six months after the next election, currently fixed by legislation for November 3, 2025.

Based on fixed election dates, the next Commission is likely to be appointed six months after the November 5, 2029, election. The 2024 Commission's scope and mandate is therefore to apply to a period between now and 2030. The effect on boundaries of any anticipated growth and change past 2030 will be the work of the next Commission.

The five members of the 2024 Commission were appointed by Order of the Commissioner-in-Executive Council on December 14, 2023. The Commission submitted to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly its Interim Report on May 9, 2024, as required, within seven months of its appointment date. This Final Report is to be submitted to the Speaker on October 9, 2024, as required, five months after the submission of the Interim Report.

Upon receipt of these Final Report recommendations, the government is required to introduce legislation to establish the electoral districts as recommended. If that proposed legislation is passed by the end of the fall 2024 sitting, new boundaries will be in effect by late spring 2025. If the proposed legislation is passed by end of the spring 2025 sitting, new boundaries will be in effect by fall 2025.

Membership

The *Elections Act* specifies that the members of the Commission shall include the chief electoral officer, a judge or retired judge of the Supreme Court of Yukon as chair, and a representative of each registered political party represented in the Legislative Assembly at the time of the appointment.

The members appointed to the 2024 Commission are:

- Suzanne M. Duncan, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Yukon and Chair
- H. Maxwell Harvey, Chief Electoral Officer
- Patricia Cuning, representative of the Yukon Liberal Party
- Elizabeth (Liz) Hanson, representative of the Yukon New Democratic Party
- Warren Holland, representative of the Yukon Party

The term of membership ends on the date of submission of the Final Report to the Speaker.

Guiding Principles

The Commission developed a series of principles to provide guidance for members in their evaluation of the circumstances and material in arriving at their recommendations about the boundaries, number, and names of the electoral districts. The following principles help to ensure the appropriate factors and rules are considered and assist the Commission in deliberating fairly, effectively, rationally, and transparently:

- The Commission operates in an independent and non-partisan way. The potential for personal or political gain is not a relevant factor for consideration.
- Effective representation is the applicable legal test for recommending electoral district boundaries and the number of electoral districts. This means that deviations, also called variances, from the average number of voters in the proposed electoral district boundaries that reduce voter equality, also called relative voter parity, are permitted as long as they are justified on the basis they contribute to better governance of the Yukon Territory.
- Valid reasons for variances that result in reduced voter equality include but are not limited to geography, urban and rural characteristics, minority representation, cultural identity, community history and interests, including Indigenous interests.
- The acceptable degree of variance is within 25% of the average number of electors in each electoral district. A variance higher or lower than this percentage may only occur where there are special circumstances related to effective representation. Special circumstances are not defined in the statute or the law but are generally understood to be extraordinary. They will be decided on a case-by-case basis.
- Public consultation and engagement during the Commission's mandate is essential to ensure the recommendations take into consideration the views of the electorate. This will include consultation on the draft Final Report before it is finalized and submitted to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.
- To ensure transparency, all written and oral submissions to the Commission shall be made public.
- Recognizing this Commission's recommendations, if accepted, will be in effect for the next two elections, projections for growth and development beyond 2030 will be given less consideration.
- Where change is not needed existing boundaries will be maintained.
- The Commission will be guided by judicial decisions related to electoral boundaries in Canada.
- The Commission will consider the deliberations of previous Commissions.
- Boundary names will be changed only where necessary. Names will reflect location and be clear and unambiguous.

Legal Parameters

Representation by an MLA involves two main functions. First, the MLA provides their voice in the Legislative Assembly, where laws are debated and made. Second, the MLA listens and responds to their constituents' concerns, grievances, and requests.

The legal test of effective representation was developed by the courts as a result of challenges to electoral district boundary recommendations under section 3 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (the "Charter"). Section 3 of the Charter guarantees that every citizen of Canada has the right to vote in an election of members of a legislative assembly. The right to vote has been interpreted by the courts as the right to effective representation.

In an ideal democratic world, all electoral districts would have the same number of voters, giving each person's vote equal weight. This is voter parity and is related to representation based purely on population. Clearly, this is impossible to achieve because the number of people and voters in a certain electoral district is never static. Further, there are other factors like geography, community history, community interest, culture, language, and minority representation, that properly and necessarily create deviations, or variances, from the average number of electors in certain electoral districts. A deviation or variance occurs when the number of voters in an electoral district is more or less than the average number of voters in each electoral district.

The Supreme Court of Canada's leading decision in the 1991 Saskatchewan Reference case, which remains the law today, described the conditions of effective representation:

"...The first is relative voter parity of voting power...But parity of voting power, though of prime importance, is not the only factor to be taken into account...**it is a practical fact that effective representation cannot be achieved without taking into account countervailing factors**....Relative parity as may be possible of achievement may prove undesirable because it has the effect of detracting from the primary goal of effective representation...deviations from absolute voter parity may be justified on the grounds of practical impossibility or the provision of more effective representation. Beyond this, dilution of one citizen's vote as compared with another's should not be countenanced" [emphasis added].

In other words, attempting to achieve voter parity is the first condition of effective representation. But effective representation does not end there. For example, in order for a MLA to represent effectively a vast, sparsely populated area, there may need to be a smaller number of electors in that kind of electoral district. Otherwise, citizens may be deprived of an effective voice in the legislature and may not receive needed assistance from their representative. Effective representation has to take into account these countervailing factors to voter parity.

Legislation in other jurisdictions in Canada allows for a 25% deviation from the average in an electoral district in pursuit of effective representation. Many jurisdictions have actual deviations much lower than this, closer to 10% or less. The courts have not endorsed any particular percentage deviation limit and appear to accept the +/- 25% deviation limit as a general rule. The larger the deviations, the more scrutiny from the courts to determine if they are justified by the requirements of effective representation.

In the Yukon, this +/- 25% deviation is not legislated and was not included in any terms of reference provided to the 2024 Commission, as has occurred in other jurisdictions. The Commission did recognize in its guiding principles that the accepted degree of variance is +/-25% and the proposed changes to electoral district boundaries in the Interim Report reflect that objective. The Final Report recommendations also improve the variances over the current situation. The Commission also recognized that additional rationale is required where deviations are proposed to exceed 25%.

The Yukon *Elections Act* in s. 419 sets out specific factors the Commission must consider:

- a) the density and rate of growth of the population of any area;
- b) the accessibility, size and physical characteristics of any area;
- c) the facilities and patterns of transportation and communication within and between different areas;
- d) available census data and other demographic information;
- e) the number of electors in the electoral districts appearing on the most recent official lists of electors;
- f) any special circumstances relating to the existing electoral districts;
- g) the boundaries of municipalities and First Nations governments;
- h) public input obtained under section 416;
- i) any other reasons or information relied on by the Commission

The Yukon Context – 2024

General – Role of MLA

Electoral district boundaries define the geographical constituency whose voters elect an MLA to represent them in the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

Representation by a member of the legislature involves the following activities:

- listening and responding to their constituents' concerns, grievances, and requests
- raising issues in the Legislative Assembly or with individual cabinet ministers, concerning the MLA's constituents
- presenting a petition on constituents' behalf, or assisting in solving a problem a constituent has with the Government of the Yukon
- communicating with their constituents through in person contact, meetings, by phone, by writing letters, emails, and mass mailings
- participating as a caucus member to help plan and implement caucus strategy, and develop expertise in certain subject areas
- participating in the Legislative Assembly debates about proposed legislation, and serving as a member on various standing, select, and special committees

MLAs divide their time between work in their electoral districts and in the Legislative Assembly and its committees.

Contextual Challenges Affecting Electoral District Boundaries

The Commission identified the following unique aspects of the Yukon context affecting our review and proposals. While all the statutory factors were considered, these aspects were significant. They are:

- unprecedented recent and projected population growth in Whitehorse and high percentage of the Yukon population centralized in Whitehorse
- widely dispersed communities and smaller population outside of Whitehorse
- communities of First Nations people, especially outside of Whitehorse
- the large proportion of electoral districts well outside of the 25% variance

i) Unprecedented Recent and Projected Population Growth in Whitehorse and Centralization in Whitehorse

As noted above, the population of the Yukon has increased significantly over the last several years and this trend is expected to continue. Notably, three of every four newcomers to the Yukon are expected to settle in Whitehorse. This is evidenced by the rapid growth of the Whitehorse population as the Yukon's population increases. Conversely, over the same period, the population of communities outside of Whitehorse has remained stable or has modestly increased.

The Yukon's population distribution is unique in Canada. No other jurisdiction in Canada has such a high-density population centralized in one city, as the Yukon has with Whitehorse. The Yukon Bureau

of Statistics estimates the current Yukon population as 46,260 with 32,740 in or near Whitehorse. Approximately 80% of the Yukon's population lives in or near one community, Whitehorse, with the rest of the 20% of the population living in other parts of the 482,443 km² of the Territory.

This unique situation of having so much of the Territory's population centred in or near one urban location presents challenges for representation in the Legislature. Those in Whitehorse need to be effectively represented and the larger the population of each electoral district in Whitehorse, the more underrepresented they become. Yet, those living outside of Whitehorse also need to be represented, and their interests are different from the interests of those in Whitehorse and can also be different among the various communities. The need for the Legislative Assembly to include representation of individuals throughout the Yukon is essential. Finding that balance when such a high percentage of the population lives in Whitehorse is a challenge.

ii) Widely Dispersed Communities Outside of Whitehorse

There are 21 communities outside of Whitehorse with populations of over 100. They range from a population of 111 (Beaver Creek) to 2374 (Dawson City).

Many electoral districts outside of Whitehorse consist of a number of smaller communities along a major highway. The smaller communities do not have the same degree of readily accessible services, costs are generally higher, and transportation and communication can be challenging.

These smaller numbers have resulted in significant overrepresentation in five current electoral districts which are below the 25% variance. One electoral district, Vuntut Gwitchin, is at 89% variance, with 188 electors. There are limited population centres outside of Whitehorse from which to adjust the electoral district boundaries to include more or less people in an electoral district without creating variation imbalances elsewhere.

iii) Communities of First Nations

Recent information from the Yukon Bureau of Statistics provides that 42.2% of the population outside of Whitehorse is Indigenous and 15.6% of the population in Whitehorse is Indigenous. This corrects an error of the Commission in its Interim Report which stated those percentages were 46% and 17%.

There are 14 First Nations in the Yukon. 11 of the 14 are self-governing First Nations with their own tri-partite Final and Self-government Agreements based on the Umbrella Final Agreement. These agreements were negotiated between 1973 and 2003, with the majority of the negotiation occurring in the few years leading up to 1993, when the Umbrella Final Agreement and the Agreements of the first four self-governing Yukon First Nations were signed, and then over the time period between 1993 and 2005, when the last Yukon First Nations' Agreements were signed. Three Yukon First Nations – Ross River Dena Council, Liard First Nation, and White River First Nation- have not signed agreements with the governments of Yukon and Canada.

The 11 self-governing First Nations have government to government relationships with the government of the Yukon. There are several regular Yukon First Nation and Yukon Government forums each year where issues of concern and mutual interest are discussed. There are also many informal points of communication and contact between the Yukon First Nations and government of the Yukon. This is a change of the governance landscape. For most of the 20th century, Yukon First Nations peoples were not represented in the Yukon Legislative Assembly. As “Indian Act Bands” their primary governmental relationship was with the federal government, notwithstanding the fact there were few Indian reserves in the Yukon.

The development of the law of consultation over the last 25 or so years means that governments have a constitutional obligation to consult First Nations, and if appropriate, accommodate them, before undertaking any activity that may adversely affect them. These legal obligations have given Yukon First Nations an additional formal legal avenue to inform governments about their interests and concerns, and to have an influence on proposed activities in their traditional territory. The consultation requirements extend to all Yukon First Nations – those with or without Agreements. This is a contextual factor that has changed the nature and dynamic of the relationship between the government of the Yukon and Yukon First Nations.

Despite these changes in the governance landscape for Yukon First Nations, their voices need representation in the Yukon legislature. First Nations governments are not a substitute for this.

While this is a generalization, as members of all Yukon First Nations live throughout the Yukon, many Yukon First Nations citizens with similar language groups are located in the same regions: for example – Carmacks-Pelly-Mayo are Northern Tutchone; Carcross-Tagish-Teslin are Tlingit and Tagish; Watson Lake and Ross River are Kaska; Old Crow is Gwich'in; and Dawson is primarily Hän with some Gwich'in. These groupings can create communities of interest that are a unique aspect of the Yukon context.



Modified from http://www.gov.yk.ca/pdf/indigenous_languages_map.pdf
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iv) Electoral District Variances

The 2024 Commission is concerned about the need to improve voter parity. The Final Report proposal reduces the number of districts with variances and significantly reduces the degree of variances.

The Challenge

How can effective representation best be achieved in the Yukon with our unique population distribution and geography? If we consider voter parity as the prime, but not exclusive, condition of effective representation as the law requires, then areas with more voters, like Whitehorse, have more representatives, unless there are circumstances that are necessary and justifiable to achieve effective representation. How do we, in our Yukon context, balance the democratic and legal principle of peoples' votes throughout the Yukon having the same weight, with the democratic and legal principle of ensuring the Legislative Assembly represents all of the Yukon?

Between 1978 and 1989 in the Yukon, there was consensus in the Legislature to the over-representation of people living outside of Whitehorse. In fact, the rural areas held the majority of seats, despite the larger population in Whitehorse, even at that time. In 1991, with the Supreme Court of Canada decision and a mandate given to the 1991 Commission to consider "the principle of equality of voting power amongst electoral districts," for the first time the Whitehorse area had more seats than the rural areas. All electoral districts except for Old Crow were within the +/- 25% deviation. One consequence of this was the creation of some very large rural electoral districts containing several very different communities (e.g. Ross River-Carcross-Tagish-Teslin).

In the 2018 Commission recommendations, which were not accepted by the Legislature, the Commission chose to weigh the factor of population, or voter parity, no more heavily than the other considerations. One consequence of this approach was that 11 of the 20 electoral districts proposed were outside of the +/- 25% variance. This appeared to be one of the reasons why the Legislature voted against the bill to implement the 2018 Commission's recommendations.

Currently, given the population growth in the Yukon since 2018, and the fact that the 2008 boundaries are still in effect, the number of electoral districts outside of the +/-25% variance is 11 of 19. Nowhere else in Canada does such a large proportion of electoral districts with significant deviations exist.

In its Interim Report, the 2024 Commission strove to reduce the number of electoral districts with high deviations from the average, as well as the degree of those deviations. The Commission was concerned about the current electoral district situation's marked departure from voter parity. The 2024 Commission's Interim Report shows the result of trying to achieve greater voter parity in the Yukon.

After hearing from the public, both during the public hearings and through the written submissions, and after further vigorous discussion, reflection and consideration, including of the legal parameters, and past Commission reports, the Commission members are of the view that there are good reasons to change some of the proposals made in the Interim Report, even though those changes will create an increase in deviations from voter parity in the Interim Report. The deviations - both the number of electoral districts and the amount of the percentage deviation - are lower than the current deviations.

The consistent concern the Commission heard in response to the Interim Report recommendations was the detrimental effect of the reduction of seats outside Whitehorse from 8 to 6, especially with

the increase in seats within Whitehorse from 11 to 13. The concern expressed was that the Legislature would be overwhelmingly Whitehorse based and Whitehorse focussed, and the peoples' voices outside of Whitehorse would be reduced or lost. The interests and concerns of those in communities outside Whitehorse were seen as very different from those in Whitehorse, as well as different from those in other communities. The centralization of government priorities, attention and funding in Whitehorse is perceived to have increased in recent years; frustrations are significant; and the Commission's Interim Report recommendations were perceived by some to exacerbate this existing and troubling trend.

The Commission accepts there are unique factors in the Yukon that provide justifications for greater deviations from voter parity: the Yukon population distribution, its geography and size, the presence of 14 Yukon First Nations throughout the Yukon and predominantly outside of Whitehorse, the number of communities, and the responsibilities of the MLAs outside of Whitehorse to represent a broad range of interests and concerns.

Other reasons for maintaining 8 electoral districts outside of Whitehorse are:

- MLAs outside of Whitehorse have more challenges of travel, geography and communication to reach their constituents than the MLAs within Whitehorse.
- MLAs outside of Whitehorse may also have more issues to address than their Whitehorse counterparts, as well as issues of greater complexity due to location, such as significant land use planning, roads, essential services, fire prevention, infrastructure, tourism, food security, waste management, and wildlife management.
- Although Yukon First Nations have their own governments, these are not a substitute for their representation in the Yukon legislature – they are citizens of the Yukon Territory; their voices need to be heard on the issues for which the Yukon government is responsible; their concerns in their communities need to be addressed; and the changes attempt to contribute to reconciliation.
- The ability of the Yukon Legislature to be representative of the entire Yukon could be at risk with the reduction in rural seats to 6.

One member of the Commission, Chief Electoral Officer Maxwell Harvey, does not support the maintenance of 8 rural electoral districts, and in particular, that Vuntut Gwitchin be retained as a separate electoral district. He supports 20 electoral districts with Vuntut Gwitchin merged with another electoral district. His minority statement is attached at Appendix 3.

Background Work and Information Sources

The initial Commission meeting was held on December 21, 2023. Since then, the Commission has held regular meetings, including mapping sessions and meetings with the Electoral District Boundaries Commission Working Group.

Information Sources

The Commission received and reviewed the following information:

- relevant statutory guidance and common law legal principles
- analysis and conclusions of past Yukon Commissions
- reports from and consultations with Commissions in other jurisdictions

- presentations from two academic experts who have participated in Commissions in other jurisdictions
- legal opinion and advice

Commission Working Group

An Electoral District Boundaries Commission Working Group (Working Group) was formed, consisting of the people from the Yukon Bureau of Statistics, Yukon government Geomatics, Yukon Community Services Land Development, and the City of Whitehorse.

The Working Group provided the Commission with statistics, maps, analytics, and briefings about:

- population – existing and anticipated growth within and outside of Whitehorse
- proposed new residential developments and anticipated timelines within and outside of Whitehorse
- status of developments in the Whistle Bend subdivision
- number of electors in the Territory and in each electoral district

Population Growth

Yukon Population (March 2024) And Projected Growth

Yukon Bureau of Statistics provided population data for the Yukon, demographic data, and growth projections over the next six years based on low, medium and high growth scenarios. The Commission based its analysis on a medium growth projection.

	Population (Mar 2024)	Low Growth	Medium Growth	High Growth
Whitehorse ¹	32,740	34,210	37,460	40,480
Outside Whitehorse ²	13,519	14,070	14,310	14,860
Yukon	46,259	48,280	51,770	55,340

^{1,2} 'Whitehorse' and 'Outside Whitehorse' populations are based on Whitehorse municipal boundaries.

* Scenarios were provided by Bureau of Statistics and projections of population growth scenarios used was medium growth.

As noted above, population growth in the Yukon since 2008, especially in Whitehorse, has been significant. Between 2008 and June 2023, the population of the Yukon increased by 37% and the population of Whitehorse increased by over 40%. Approximately 80% of the Yukon population lives in or near Whitehorse. This has resulted in significant underrepresentation in six of 11 electoral districts in Whitehorse.

By 2030 the population of Whitehorse is expected to increase by 14.4%. The population outside of Whitehorse is expected to increase by 5.6% by 2030. Over the next 6 years, the Yukon population is expected to increase overall by 11.9%.

Ongoing and Future Residential Developments

Population growth has been considered along with land development and residential construction projects both in and outside of Whitehorse. Projected growth, particularly with the ongoing

development in Whistle Bend, was considered conservatively because of the possibility of delays in both construction and uptake.

Development Outside of Whitehorse

Outside of Whitehorse, over the next six years, projects of 50 units or more are planned for the communities of Dawson, Carmacks, Haines Junction, and Watson Lake.

Development in Whitehorse

In downtown Whitehorse, several projects are planned or underway.

In Whitehorse subdivisions, over the next six years, several projects of 50 units or more are planned.

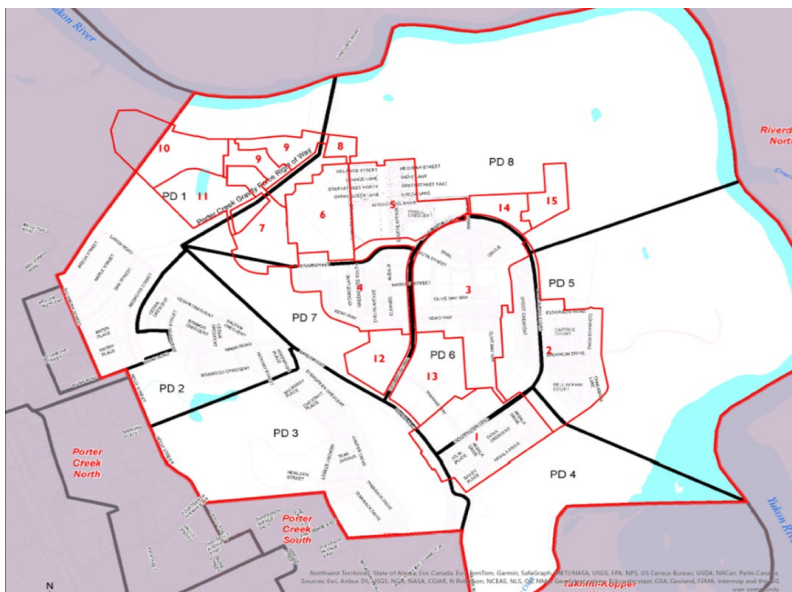
The Whistle Bend Development

Whistle Bend is the fastest growing neighbourhood in the Yukon. Currently, all of Whistle Bend is part of the Porter Creek Centre electoral district. This is the largest electoral district in the Yukon with approximately 3,500 electors. The Whistle Bend portion represents over half the electors in the current Porter Creek Centre electoral district.

The Commission conducted extensive consultations with the City of Whitehorse planning, Yukon Bureau of Statistics, Yukon Land Planning, and builders to forecast growth patterns and rates, realistic completion and occupancy dates, and electors by the fall of 2025 and up to 2030.

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics estimates the March 31, 2024 population is 3760 in Whistle Bend. Typically, this would represent approximately 2632 electors. The current elector count in Whistle Bend is lower at 2201 registered electors. However, it is a new community where registrations are lower and a significant number of populated areas and streets have no or few electors registered yet.

It is expected that by the end of 2025, both proposed Whistle Bend districts will be within a 25% variance, with considerably more growth before the following election. By 2030, the estimated population of the Whistle Bend neighbourhood is 8,000 – 10,000 people.



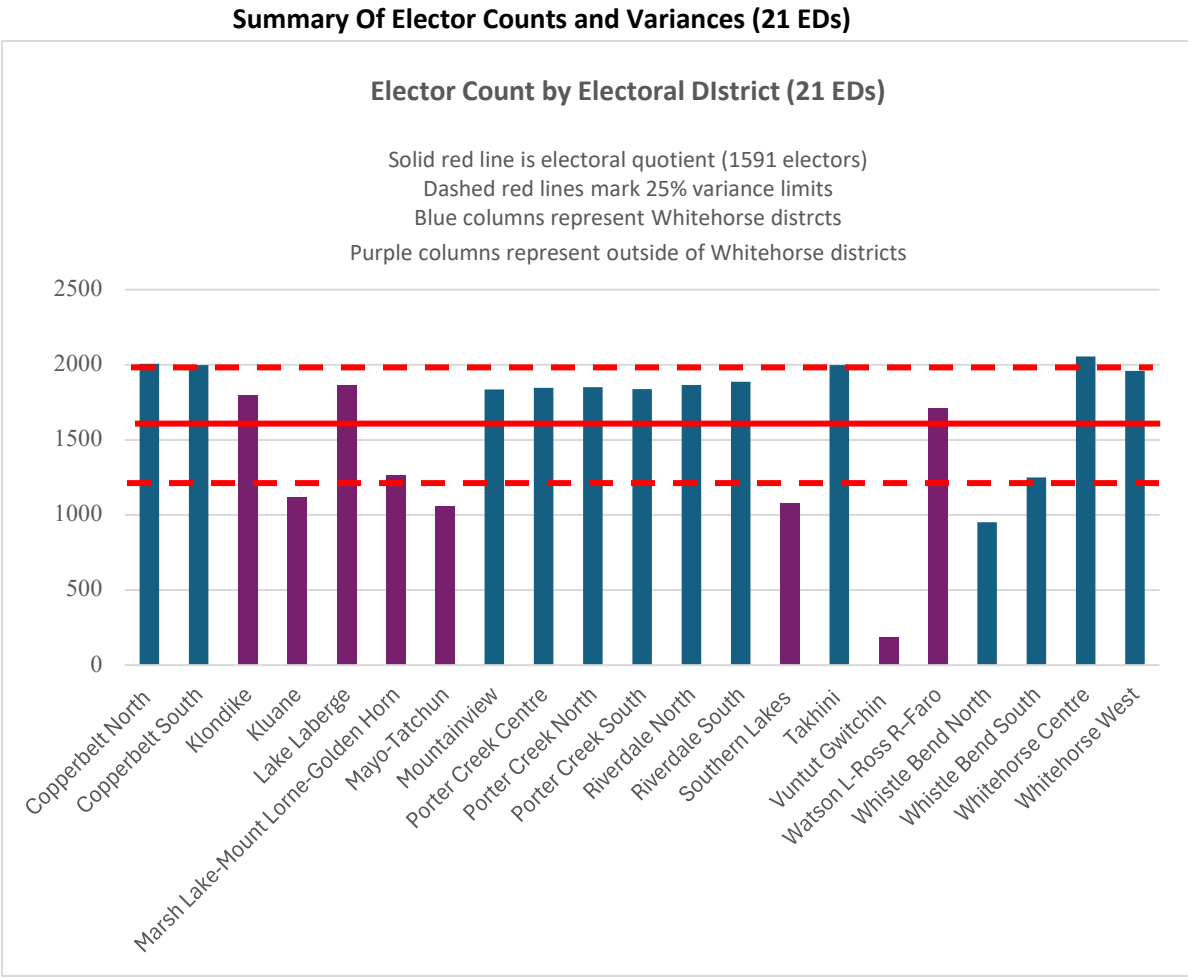
Electors

The number of electors in the Territory or in an electoral district is estimated on the basis of the best information gathered at the time. The projections are necessarily tied to the population estimates. The Commission accepts that the number of electors generally may be underestimated because of the lag time between voter registration and data collection, and the volatile nature of the numbers given people moving, dying, and attaining voter age or qualifications. Changes to population and voter numbers will

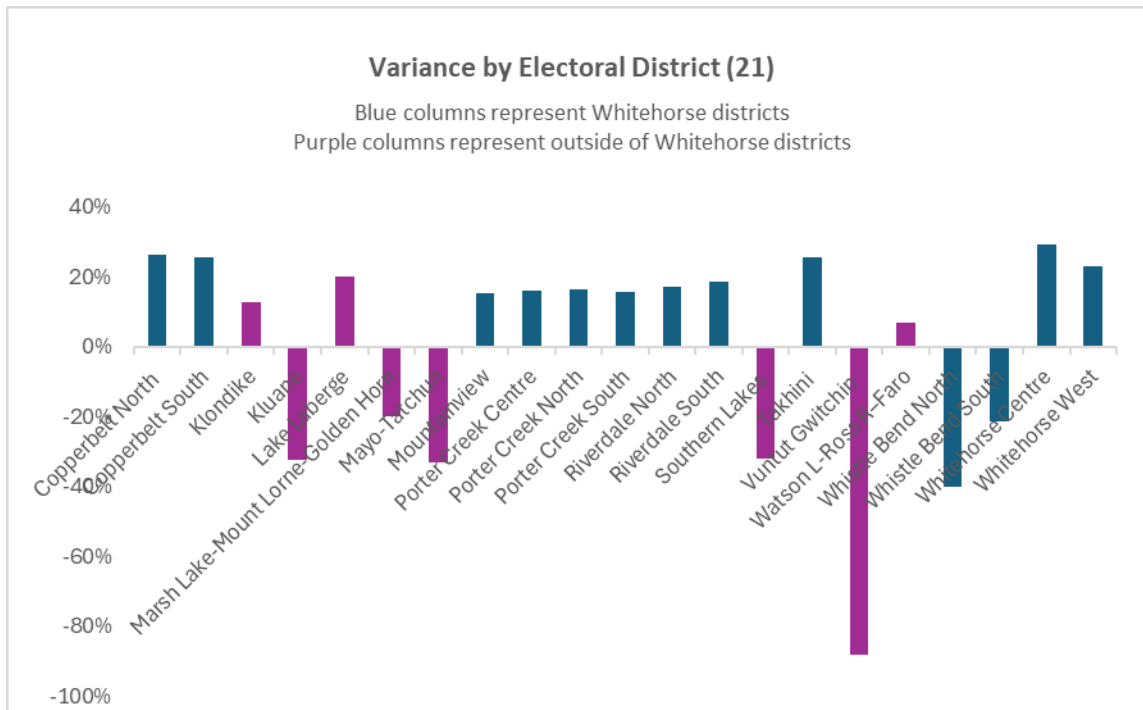
occur during the time period the proposed boundaries are in effect. The Commission accepts that all projections are well-informed estimates.

The Commission has used the Yukon Bureau of Statistics medium growth population estimate of 14% over the next six years as its estimate. A similar elector increase would result in approximately 36,067 electors by 2030.

The following charts describe current elector totals; the dotted lines above and below indicate the elector range within a 25% variance.



Summary Of Variances (21 EDs)

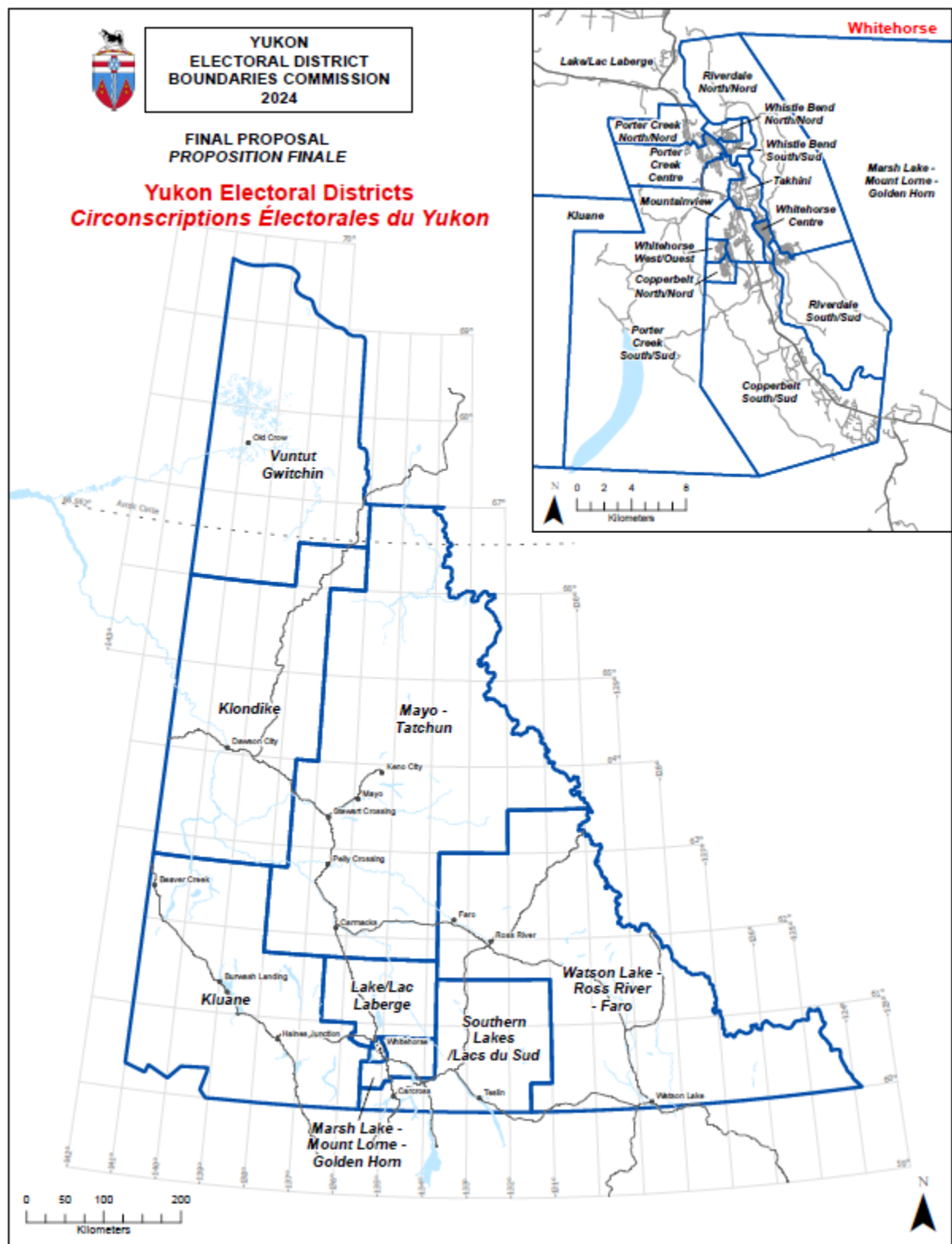


Public Consultation

The following sets out the public engagement in which the Commission has engaged to date (additional details in Appendix 2):

- **Written Submissions Before Interim Report:** The Commission invited written submissions from the public between January 8 and April 9, 2024. 20 submissions were received and reviewed.
- **Written Submissions After Interim Report:** The Commission invited further written submissions between May 9 and August 26, 2024. 49 submissions were received and reviewed.
- **Public Hearings:** The Commission held 15 public hearings throughout the Yukon between May 22 and June 18, 2024. Virtual hearings were held on July 23 and August 13, 2024, for anyone to provide feedback. A virtual hearing with the Association of Yukon Communities was held on July 15, 2024. In total 194 people attended the public hearings.
- **Submissions invited in writing and through virtual hearing before Final Report:** A summary of the Commission's proposed changes between the Interim Report and the Final Report was released on September 6, 2024. Written submissions were invited until September 27 and a virtual hearing was held on September 25, 2024. 38 written submissions were received and reviewed. 4 people attended the virtual hearing.
- **Website:** The Commission introduced an interactive website, yukonboundaries.ca, that outlined information about the Commission, provided information resources including previous reports, maps, statutory provisions, and described the ways in which the public could continue to participate in the review of the boundaries.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** The Commission directly contacted over 150 partners and stakeholders to invite their input, including First Nations governments, municipal councils, other local governments, MLAs, and other non-governmental agencies.
- **Social Media:** The Commission used social media to share information and to encourage participation.
- **Advertising:** Print and online advertising was used to inform Yukoners about the opportunity to provide input. Radio interviews provided more information about the Commission process and invited submissions.

Proposed Electoral Districts



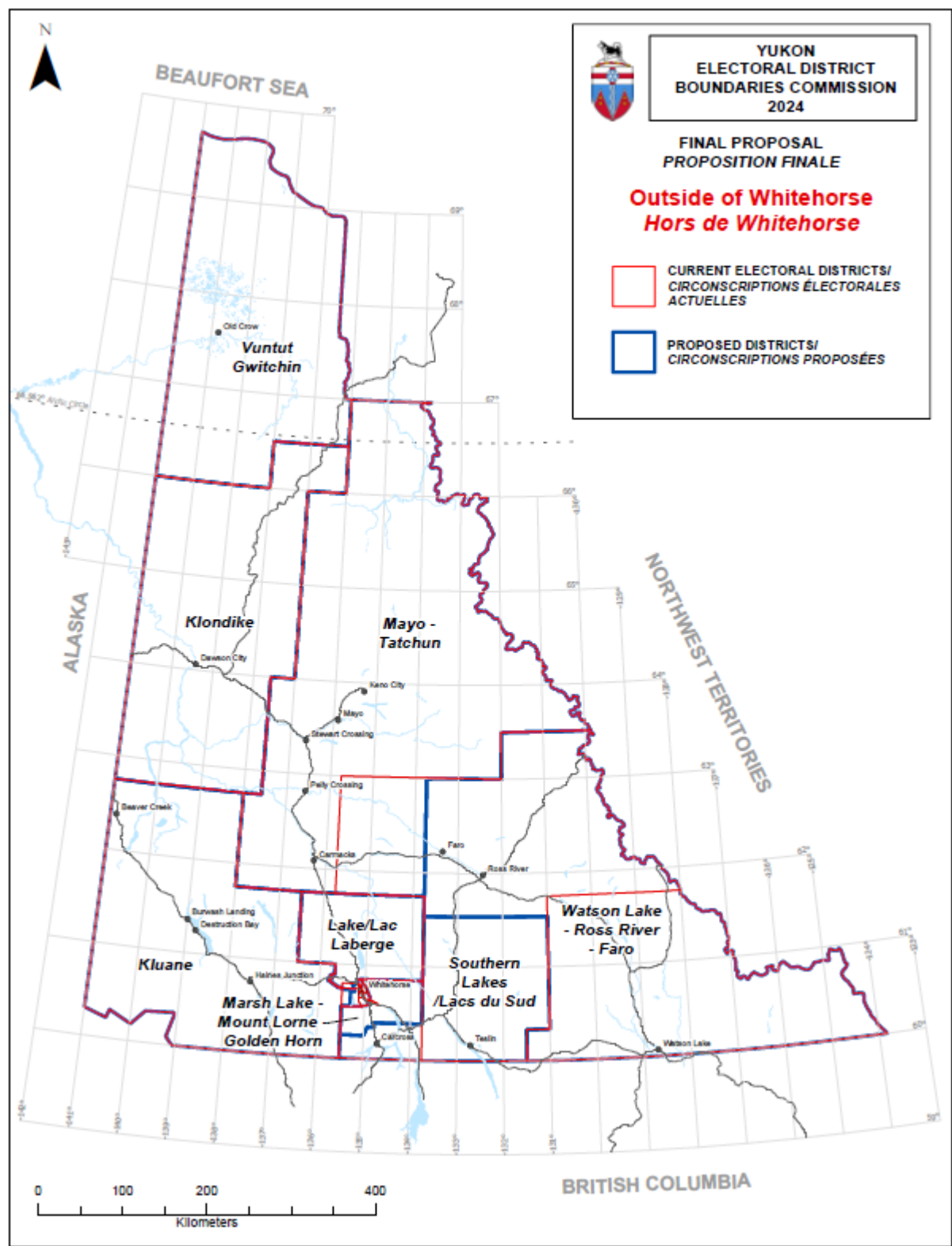
Current and Proposed Electoral District Variances

Current Electoral Districts (19)			Proposed Electoral Districts (21)		
Electoral district	Electors	Variation	Electoral district	Electors	Variation
Klondike	1,795	+2%	Klondike	1,795	+13%
Kluane	1,118	-36%	Kluane	1,118	-30%
Lake Laberge	1,869	+6%	Lake Laberge	1,861	+17%
Mayo-Tatchun	1,059	-40%	Mayo-Tatchun	1,059	-33%
Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes	1,697	-3%	Marsh Lake-Mount Lorne-Golden Horn	1,264	-21%
Pelly-Nisutlin	1,060	-40%	Southern Lakes	1,074	-32%
Vuntut Gwitchin	188	-89%	Watson Lake-Ross River-Faro	1,710	+7%
Watson Lake	1,066	-39%	Vuntut Gwitchin	188	-88%
Sub Total	9,852		Sub Total	10,069	
Copperbelt North	2,405	+37%	Copperbelt North	2,007	+26%
Copperbelt South	1,953	+11%	Copperbelt South	1,997	+26%
Mountainview	1,836	+4%	Mountainview	1,836	+15%
Porter Creek Centre	3,538	+101%	Porter Creek Centre	1,846	+16%
Porter Creek North	2,411	+37%	Porter Creek North	1,851	+16%
Porter Creek South	1,030	-41%	Porter Creek South	1,838	+16%
Riverdale North	1,866	+6%	Riverdale North	1,866	+17%
Riverdale South	1,887	+7%	Riverdale South	1,887	+19%
Takhini-Kopper King	2,450	+39%	Takhini	1,998	+26%
Whitehorse West	1,853	+5%	Whistle Bend North	951	-40%
Whitehorse Centre	2,330	+33%	Whistle Bend South	1,250	-21%
Sub Total	23,559		Whitehorse Centre	2,056	+29%
			Whitehorse West	1,959	+23%
			Sub Total	23,342	
TOTAL	33,411		TOTAL	33,411	

Note:

- Variances in **red** are more or less than 25%.
- Variances in **yellow** are very close to 25%, except for Whistle Bend North, which for reasons outlined in this report is expected to fall into variance well before 2030 based on growth in Whistle Bend. The other three at 26% are also expected to be within variance shortly because of population increase. The variance of 29% in Whitehorse Centre may decrease but may not fall within variance.

Electoral Districts Outside of Whitehorse



Changes to Electoral Districts Outside of Whitehorse

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS OUTSIDE OF WHITEHORSE (8)				
Proposed Electoral Districts	Change from Current Boundaries *	Population	Electors	Variance
Vuntut Gwitchin	No change	250	188	-88%
Klondike	No change	2,410	1,795	+13%
Mayo-Tatchun	Minor change	1,450	1,059	-33%
Watson Lake-Ross River-Faro.	Significant change	2,310	1,710	+7%
Marsh Lake-Mount Lorne-Golden Horn	Significant change	1,820	1,264	-21%
Southern Lakes	Significant change	1,400	1,074	-32%
Kluane	No change*	1,590	1,118	-30%
Lake Laberge	No change*	2,630	1,861	+17%
Electoral Districts outside of Whitehorse		13,860	10,069	

*Small changes to boundaries that do not affect communities or populated areas.

Vuntut Gwitchin

General Description

This electoral district consists of the community of Old Crow, Vuntut National Park, Ivvavik National Park, Herschel Island, and part of the Dempster Highway. It is the fourth largest electoral district at 70,530 km².

Commission Considerations

In its Interim Report, the Commission proposed merging the Vuntut Gwitchin electoral district with the Klondike electoral district, which includes the communities of Dawson and Eagle Plains. Its reasons were that the population and number of electors in the electoral district of Vuntut Gwitchin is far below the territorial average. At 188 electors, it has the lowest number of electors in the country. Vuntut Gwitchin, as it currently is, creates an unbalanced weight of the vote to a small number of electors. The Interim Report proposed new boundaries for more balanced voter parity across the territory. Some of the special circumstances of the Vuntut Gwitchin electoral district, which have supported its existence since 1978, in particular remoteness, and limited communication and transportation access, have been mitigated by advances in technology, more reliable communication, and improvements in travel. Further, since 1995, Vuntut Gwitchin has been a self-governing First Nation and has demonstrated a strong and powerful voice throughout Canada, Alaska and Europe on environmental issues, especially related to the Porcupine Caribou herd.

During the public hearings, there was opposition to the Commission's proposal in the Interim Report, from people in all parts of the Yukon. The written submissions were similar. In particular, the submissions from those who spoke from Old Crow were powerful and persuasive. While there were also some individuals in other parts of the Yukon who supported the Interim Report proposal for some of the reasons set out by the Commission in its Interim Report, those views appeared to be in the minority.

After much discussion and consideration, the Commission changed its recommendation from the Interim Report and now recommends leaving Vuntut Gwitchin as its own electoral district. The reasons included:

- Geographically remote and isolated, this is the only community in the Yukon without road access, even with improved transportation and communication links
- Predominantly, it is Vuntut Gwitchin people who live in Old Crow and not in any other community, and who have maintained and continue to maintain their strong and traditional culture, language, and lifestyle, deeply connected to the land, water, fish and wildlife, especially caribou, in the northern Yukon
- Vuntut Gwitchin people are likely to be disenfranchised if their electoral district is combined with Klondike
- Vuntut Gwitchin interests and values especially as they relate to the land are very different from the land development interests of many in the Klondike

Questions related to the viability of maintaining Vuntut Gwitchin as a separate electoral district are not new. This has been discussed by previous electoral district boundaries commissions. The 2018 Commission received significant public input that the boundaries of Vuntut Gwitchin should be revisited. The 2024 Commission was not unanimous with the recommendation to leave Vuntut Gwitchin as its own electoral district. One member has provided a written dissent to this recommendation which is attached as Appendix 3.

The special circumstances of the electoral district, along with geography, community interest, transportation, communication, culture, language, and responsibility for environmental and land interests justify this high degree of variance in the view of the majority of the Commission.

Variance

The variance of this proposed electoral district is -88%.

Boundary Description

The areas and boundaries as described in the Official Digital Version of the Electoral District Maps of the Yukon 2024 dated October 9, 2024, and issued under the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Electoral Map of Vuntut Gwitchin



Klondike

General Description

This electoral district consists of Dawson City and area, Forty Mile, Sixty Mile, Bear Creek, Rock Creek, Fleuve Yukon, Tombstone National Park and Eagle Plains. It is the 3rd largest electoral district at 70,899 km².

Commission Considerations

As noted in the description of the considerations for leaving the Vuntut Gwitchin as its own electoral district, in its Interim Report, the Commission recommended combining Klondike with Vuntut Gwitchin. However, the Commission received many submissions opposing this recommendation, including from the community of Dawson. They expressed concern about the ability of an MLA from Dawson having the legitimacy and ability to represent people of Old Crow. As well they expressed concern about disenfranchisement of the community of Old Crow, given the much larger population of Dawson. The Commission proposes that Klondike remain its own electoral district and the reasons are set out in description of the Vuntut Gwitchin considerations.

In addition, Klondike has a relatively large population for one community (the largest community outside of Whitehorse) and has many needs and interests related to land development, mining, tourism, services, infrastructure, fish and wildlife, transportation to West Dawson. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation is a significant part of the community.

One member of the Commission has provided a written dissent to this recommendation which is attached as Appendix 3.

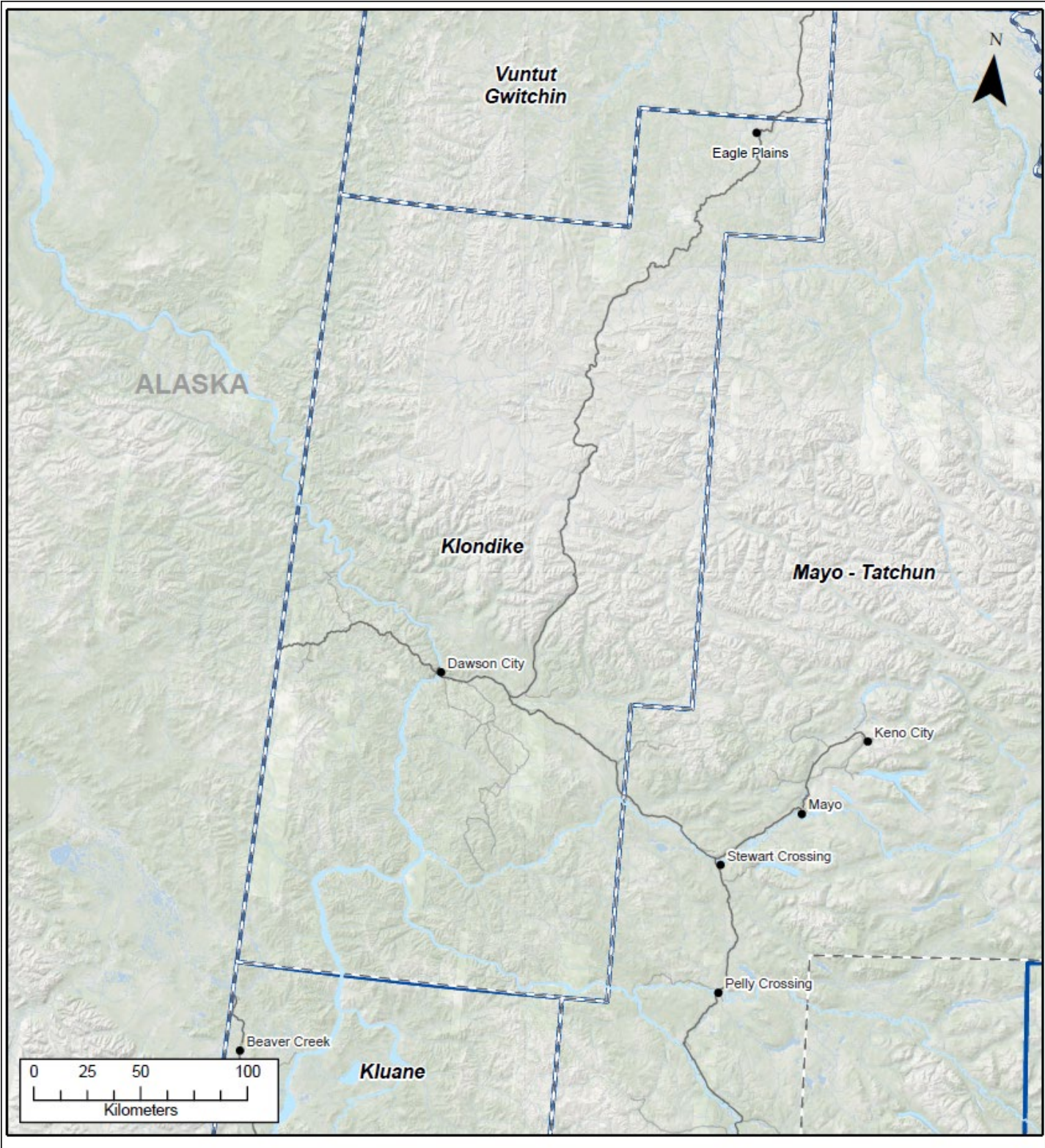
Variance

The variance of this electoral district is +13%. The increase from the variation of the current boundary results from the increase in the number of electoral districts and the reduced average number of electors in each electoral district. The variance will improve slightly as the overall Yukon population increases.

Boundaries

The areas and boundaries as described in the Official Digital Version of the Electoral District Maps of the Yukon 2024 dated October 9, 2024, and issued under the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Electoral Map of Klondike



Mayo-Tatchun

General Description

This proposed electoral district includes the communities of Mayo, Carmacks, Little Salmon, Pelly Crossing, Keno, Elsa, Stewart Crossing, Fort Selkirk, Drury Creek, and Silver Trails. The electoral district boundary is adjusted to extend to 281 km east of Carmacks along the Robert Campbell Highway (km post 432) and approximately 50 km west of Faro. It is the largest electoral district in the Yukon at 129,275 km².

Commission Considerations

The proposed extension of the electoral district is to include the community of Little Salmon. This respects the historical relationships of the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.

The electoral district is the largest in area in the Yukon with the population spread along the main highway corridors in a number of smaller communities. It contains settlement land within the traditional territories of three Northern Tutchone First Nations who share historic, family and cultural connections: the Selkirk First Nation, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, and the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.

The existence of several communities in this district over a large area, makes options to split it or to enlarge it further either impractical or compromising of the effective representation of adjacent electoral districts and communities of interest. The variance of this electoral district is justified based on special circumstances – in particular geography and community interest.

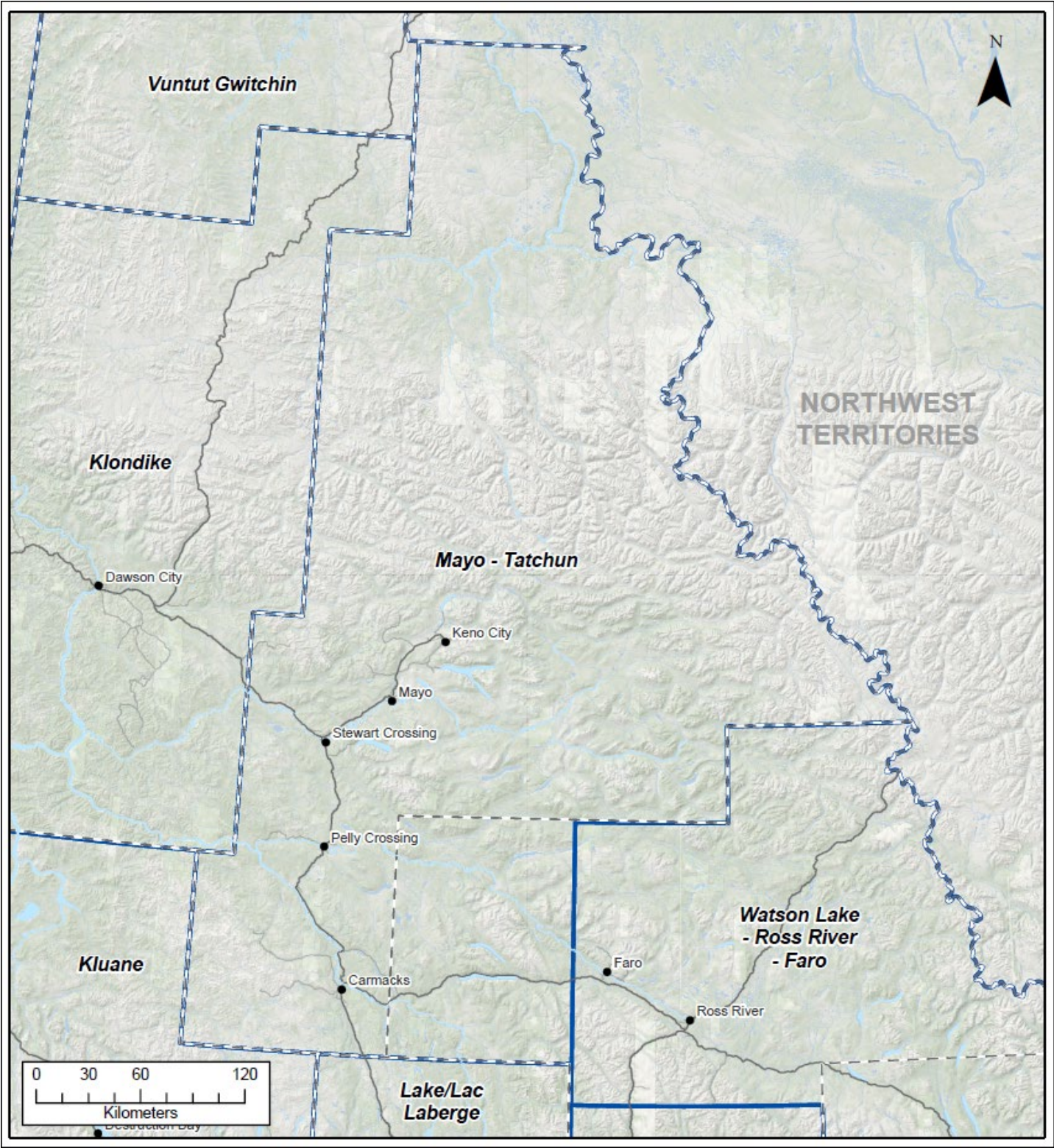
Variance

The variance of this proposed electoral district is -33%. This negative variance is expected to increase slightly over the next six years as the electoral quotient increases.

Boundary Description

The areas and boundaries as described in the Official Digital Version of the Electoral District Maps of the Yukon 2024 dated October 9, 2024, and issued under the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Electoral Map of Mayo-Tatchun



Watson Lake-Ross River-Faro

General Description

This proposed electoral district includes the communities of Watson Lake, Faro and Ross River (previously part of Pelly-Nisutlin electoral district), Upper Liard, Swift River and Rancheria. The electoral district boundary is 311 km west of Watson Lake and 44 km west of Faro (km post 432). They are linked by the Robert Campbell Highway. It is the 2nd largest electoral district at 98,861 km².

Commission Considerations

The current electoral district of Watson Lake has a relatively low number of electors and is one of 11 electoral districts outside of the 25% variance to voter parity.

The Commission recognizes the historic connections between the communities as well as the relationship among the Kaska Dena. The Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation are part of the Kaska Dena, along with three First Nation communities in British Columbia. They have deep historical and current connections. These First Nations are not signatories to Final and Self-governing Agreements. There are also historic, geographic and economic links between Faro and Ross River.

During the public hearings and in written submissions, the Kaska in both Watson Lake and Ross River expressed support for the Commission's proposal. However, many members of the non-First Nation communities of Watson Lake and Faro were opposed to this recommendation. The Watson Lake and Faro communities say they have different needs, interests, and characteristics from one another, and as a result one MLA would be challenged to represent all of their interests. People in the town of Faro were not opposed to being part of an electoral district combined with Ross River, if Ross River were not opposed. However, many in Faro preferred to be included in an electoral district with Carmacks, a community with whom they have more similar interests, rather than with Watson Lake. Watson Lake's preference was to remain its own electoral district because of its unique status as the "Gateway" community to the Yukon and its specific needs and interests.

The other significant reason for the opposition to the Commission's recommendation from these communities was the poor condition of the Robert Campbell Highway between Watson Lake and Ross River. At approximately 423 km, it is mostly gravel, other than the 108 km stretch between Watson Lake and the Nahanni Range Road, which is chipseal, and the 72 km stretch between Faro and Ross River, which is partially chipseal. The road is remote and isolated, raising safety concerns. The seasonal character of the South Canol Road makes the Robert Campbell Highway the primary connector route. The other option is for the MLA to travel from Watson Lake through Whitehorse and north on the North Klondike Highway to Carmacks and then Robert Campbell Highway from Carmacks to Faro and Ross River (or the reverse).

The Commission recognizes the transportation challenges. Notably, however, the First Nations did not identify the road condition as an insurmountable challenge, observing that many of their members live along that Highway between Ross River and Watson Lake and they are accustomed to dealing with it. Other electoral districts have similar challenges of long distances and isolated road conditions, such as Mayo-Tatchun and Kluane.

Differences in character, needs and interests among communities in the same electoral district is also not unique to this proposed electoral district and does not preclude one MLA from representing them

effectively. Electoral districts are designed to take into account multiple communities of interest. There are benefits to the communities, especially the Kaska Dena, of combining the three communities into one electoral district.

Finally, the community interest of Carmacks, predominantly Little Salmon-Carmacks First Nation members, lies with the other self-governing Northern Tutchone First Nations – Selkirk First Nation in Pelly Crossing and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun in Mayo – rather than with Faro and part of the Kaska Dena in Ross River. In addition, the number of people in an electoral district of Faro, Ross River and Carmacks would be far below a 25% variance and would create an even greater variance for the rest of the electoral district of Mayo-Tatchun.

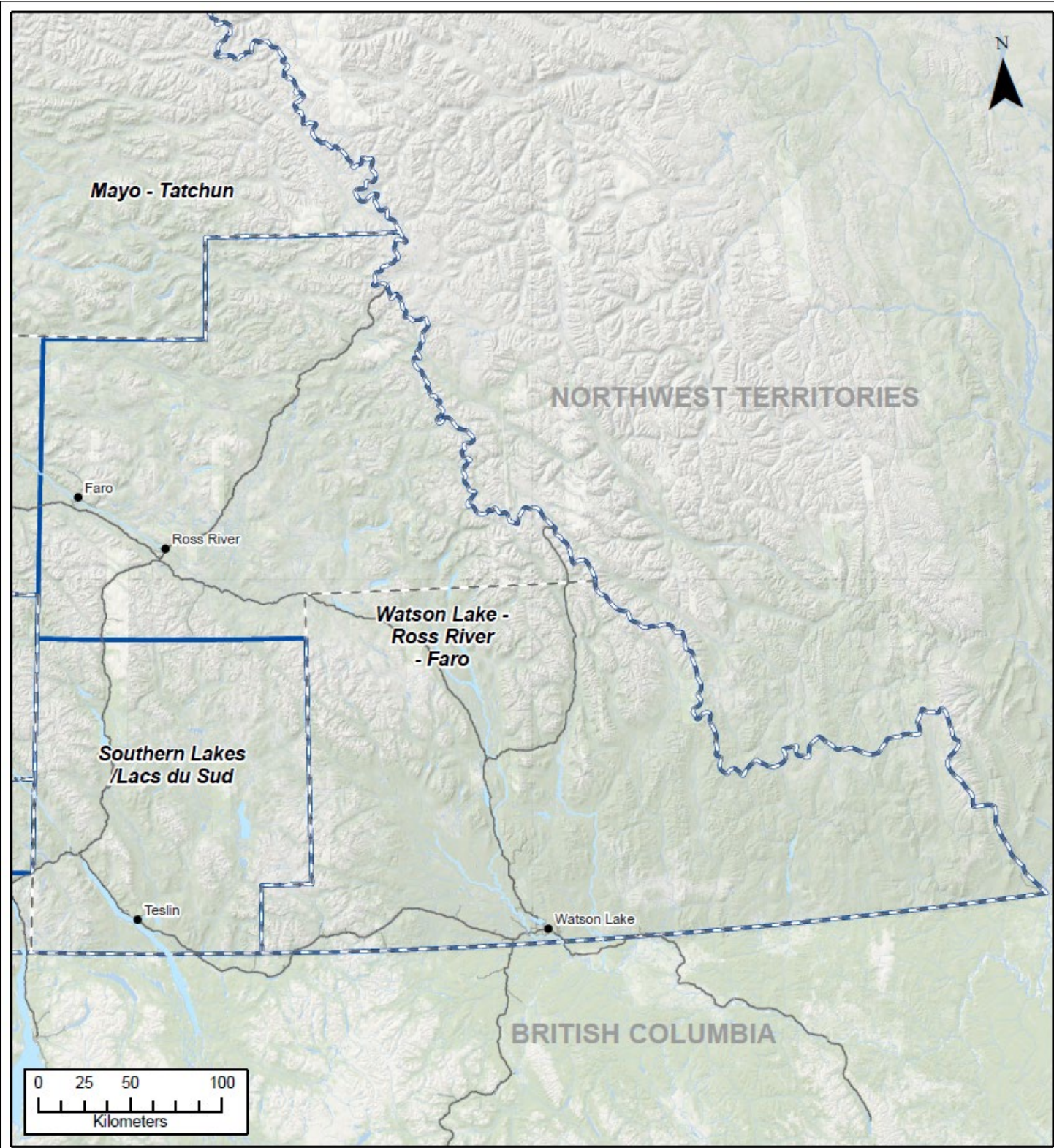
Variance

The variance of the proposed electoral district is +7%. It is expected to decrease slightly over the boundary cycle as the electoral quotient increases.

Boundary Description

The areas and boundaries as described in the Official Digital Version of the Electoral District Maps of the Yukon 2024 dated October 9, 2024, and issued under the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Electoral Map of Watson Lake-Ross River-Faro



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Southern Lakes

General Description

This proposed electoral district includes the communities of Carcross, Jake's Corner, Tagish, Johnson's Crossing, Teslin, Crag Lake, and Atlin Road area. This is the 6th largest electoral district at 28,329 km². It is created from a split of the current electoral district of Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes with the addition of Teslin (previously part of the Pelly-Nisutlin electoral district).

Commission Considerations

This proposed electoral district will include the traditional territories of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and of the Teslin Tlingit Council. The Commission recognizes the historic and current relationships between these First Nations.

This proposal is also a recognition of the Southern Lakes community connections. The ready access provided by the travel networks and proximity to Whitehorse support the expansion of the current electoral district. Its variance is justified based on community interest and geography.

Variance

The variance of the proposed electoral district is -32%. It is expected to increase slightly over the next six years as the electoral quotient increases.

Boundary Description

The areas and boundaries as described in the Official Digital Version of the Electoral District Maps of the Yukon 2024 dated October 9, 2024, and issued under the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer.



Kluane

General Description

This electoral district includes the communities along the Alaska Highway of Mendenhall, Haines Junction, Burwash Landing, Destruction Bay, Aishihik, Champagne, and Beaver Creek. The border between Kluane electoral district and Lake Laberge electoral district is km post 1459 on the Alaska Highway. It is the 5th largest electoral district at 67,943 km².

Commission Considerations

This electoral district includes the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Kluane First Nation, and the White River First Nation.

In its Interim Report, this Commission proposed extended the Kluane boundary to the east to include the community of the Ibex Valley. This was to increase the elector counts in the electoral district to achieve a better variance within the region and the territory. Ibex Valley was a logical addition as it is located on the Alaska Highway between Whitehorse and Haines Junction.

After public hearings, particularly in the Ibex Valley and Haines Junction, and reviewing written submissions, the Commission has withdrawn this proposal. Adding the Ibex Valley community to an already complex and geographically large constituency would make effective representation more difficult. Further, people who live in the Ibex Valley are more effectively represented as part of the Lake Laberge electoral district, most of which consists of people who live a rural lifestyle but are closer to Whitehorse than those who live in the Kluane electoral district.

The variance in this electoral district is justified by geography and community interest.

Variance

The variance of this electoral district is –30%. The negative variance is expected to increase slightly over the next six years as the electoral quotient increases.

Boundary Description

The areas and boundaries as described in the Official Digital Version of the Electoral District Maps of the Yukon 2024 dated October 9, 2024, and issued under the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Electoral Map of Kluane



Lake Laberge

General Description

This electoral district consists of communities along the North Klondike Highway including Hidden Valley/MacPherson (Whitehorse subdivisions), the Mayo Road, Grizzly Valley, and Lake Laberge as far as Braeburn Lodge, as well as Takhini Hot Springs Road, Takhini River Road, Pilot Mountain, Ibex Valley, Forestview (Cousins Airstrip Road). This is the 2nd smallest electoral district outside of Whitehorse at 14,450 km².

Commission Considerations

In its Interim Report this Commission proposed adding the Ibex Valley to Kluane but after public hearings and receiving written submissions now recommends leaving it in Lake Laberge. Adding Ibex Valley to an already complex and geographically large electoral district would make effective representation more difficult. Further, people who live in the Ibex Valley are more effectively represented as part of the Lake Laberge electoral district, most of which consists of people who live a rural lifestyle but are closer to Whitehorse than those who live in the Kluane electoral district.

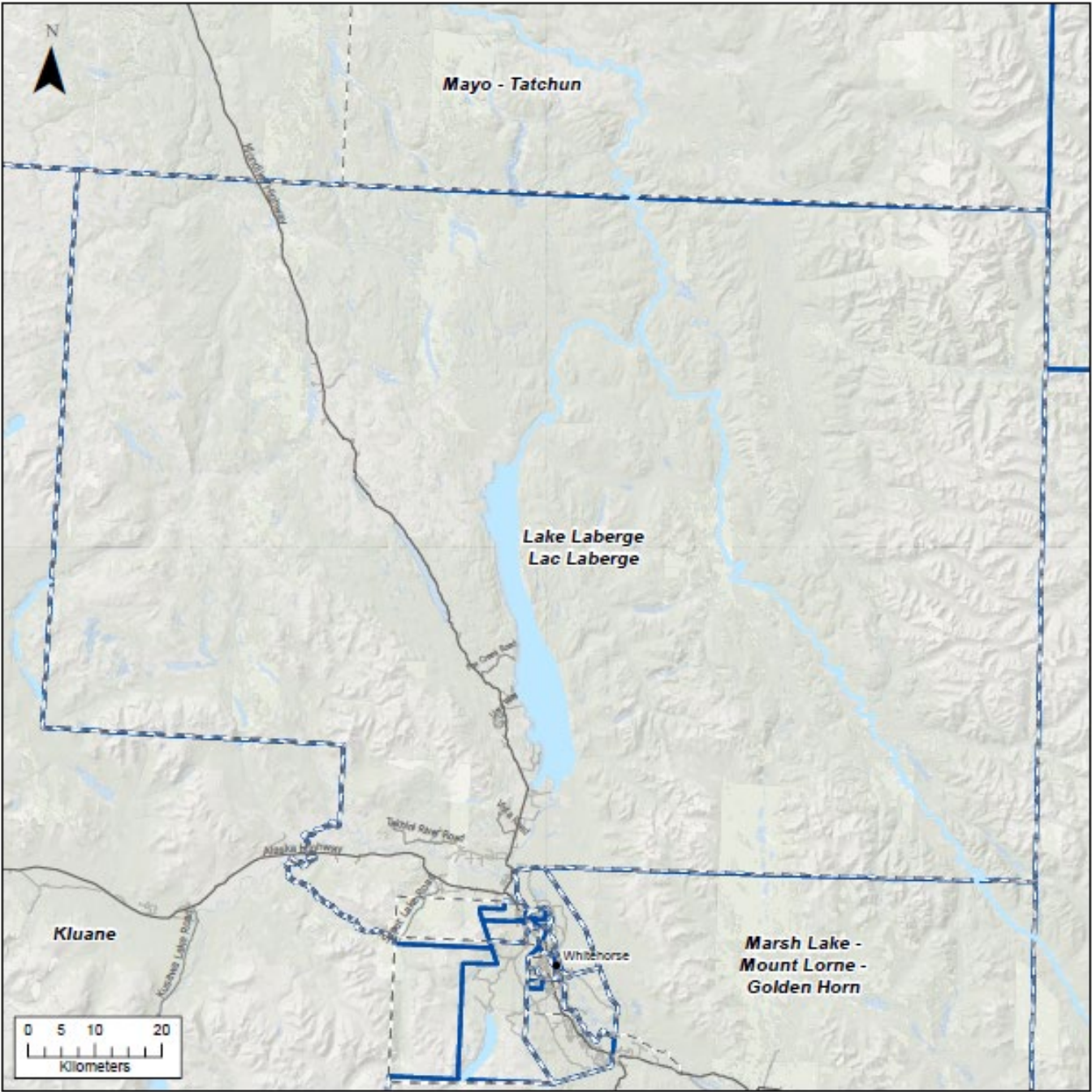
Variance

The variance of the proposed electoral district is +17%. It is expected to decrease slightly over the next six years as the electoral quotient increases.

Boundary Description

The areas and boundaries as described in the Official Digital Version of the Electoral District Maps of the Yukon 2024 dated October 9, 2024, and issued under the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Electoral Map of Lake Laberge



Marsh Lake-Mount Lorne-Golden Horn

General Description

This proposed electoral district includes the communities of Marsh Lake, Little Squanga, Mount Lorne, Golden Horn, Carcross Cutoff area, Annie Lake Road, Lewes Lake, and the Robinson subdivision. This is the smallest electoral district outside of Whitehorse at 4,460 km². It is created from a split of the current Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes electoral district with the addition of Golden Horn, previously part of Copperbelt South electoral district.

Commission Considerations

In its Interim Report, the Commission proposed one electoral district in the Southern Lakes area, adding Teslin to the existing Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes electoral district.

During the public hearings and in the written submissions, a recurring theme was the concern about the loss of the voices of electors outside of Whitehorse. The Commission reflected further on the distribution of MLAs within Whitehorse and outside of Whitehorse. The population in the current Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes is sufficiently large to allow for the creation of two electoral districts, especially with the addition of Teslin to Southern Lakes and Golden Horn to Marsh Lake and Mount Lorne. Many people in Marsh Lake, Mount Lorne, and Golden Horn commute regularly to Whitehorse for work, leisure, or other activities. They have similar interests, perspectives, and concerns, that benefit from their own MLA, separate from Whitehorse and the other communities in the Southern Lakes area, which are farther away from Whitehorse.

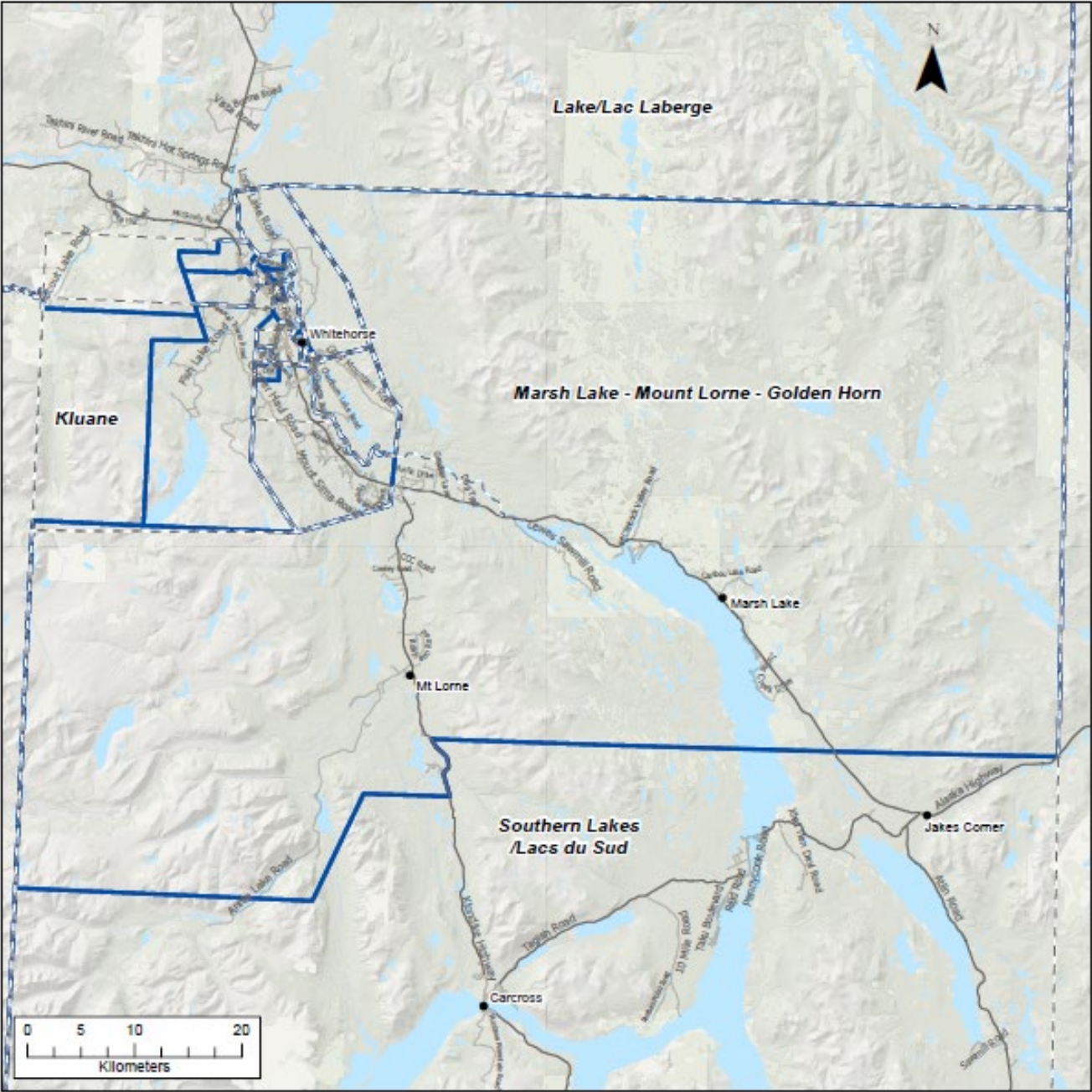
Variance

The variance of the proposed electoral district is -21%. It is expected to increase slightly over the next six years as the electoral quotient increases.

Boundary Description

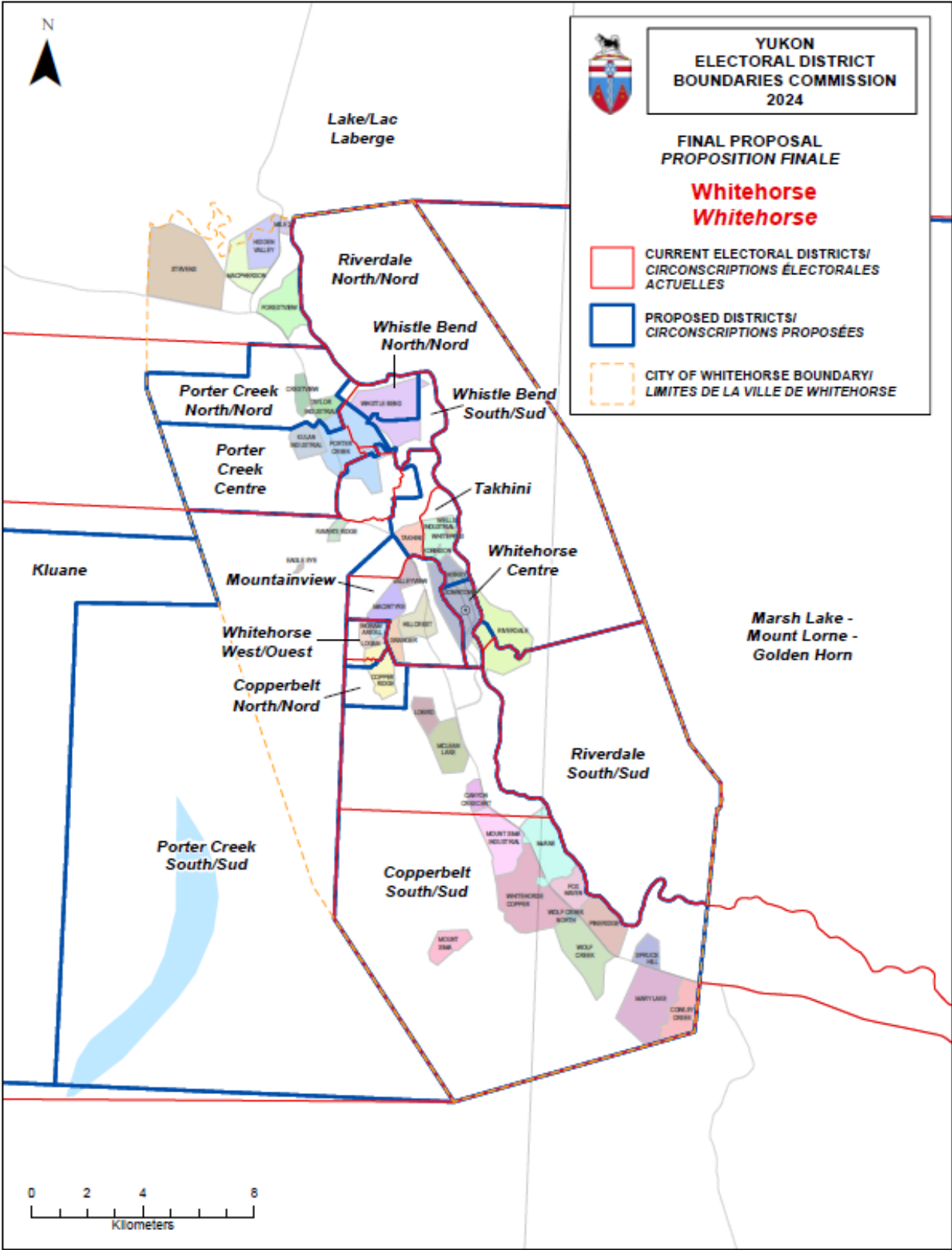
The areas and boundaries as described in the Official Digital Version of the Electoral District Maps of the Yukon 2024 dated October 9, 2024, and issued under the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Electoral Map of Marsh Lake-Mount Lorne-Golden Horn



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Proposed Electoral Districts – Whitehorse



Electoral Districts in Whitehorse

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS IN WHITEHORSE (13)				
Proposed Electoral District	Change from Current Boundaries	Population	Electors	Variance
Whistle Bend North	Significant Change	1,910	951	-40%
Whistle Bend South	Significant Change	1,850	1,250	-21%
Porter Creek Centre	Significant Change	2,520	1,846	+16%
Porter Creek North	Moderate Change	2,160	1,851	+16%
Porter Creek South	Moderate Change	2,010	1,838	+16%
Takhini	Moderate Change	2,890	1,998	+26%
Whitehorse Centre	Moderate Change	3,180	2,056	+29%
Riverdale North	No change	2,750	1,866	+17%
Riverdale South	No change	2,840	1,887	+19%
Mountainview	Minor Change	2,450	1,836	+15%
Whitehorse West	Minor Change	2,790	1,959	+23%
Copperbelt North	Moderate Change	2,600	2,007	+26%
Copperbelt South	Moderate Change	2,450	1,997	+26%
Electoral districts in Whitehorse		32,400	23,342	

Note:

- Variances in **yellow** are very close to 25%, except for Whistle Bend North, which for reasons outlined in this report is expected to fall into variance well before 2030 based on growth in Whistle Bend. The other three at 26% are also expected to be within variance shortly because of population increase. The variance of 29% in Whitehorse Centre may decrease but may not fall within variance.

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Whistle Bend North

General Description

This is one of two new electoral districts for Whitehorse: both are in Whistle Bend. This proposed electoral district is north of Eldorado Drive, northside of Keno Way and includes new developments on the western side. Whistle Bend North extends west to encompass a small part of Porter Creek North on the Whistle Bend side. This is the 4th smallest electoral district at 3.6 km².

Commission Considerations

Whistle Bend is a major growth area of Whitehorse with Whistle Bend North not as developed as Whistle Bend South.

The Whistle Bend North boundaries form an electoral district that has lower current elector numbers than Whistle Bend South. Projections are for over 1700 electors by fall 2025 and over 3000 electors by 2030 in Whistle Bend North, given the actual and expected rate of development. The boundaries of this electoral district are set to improve voter parity.

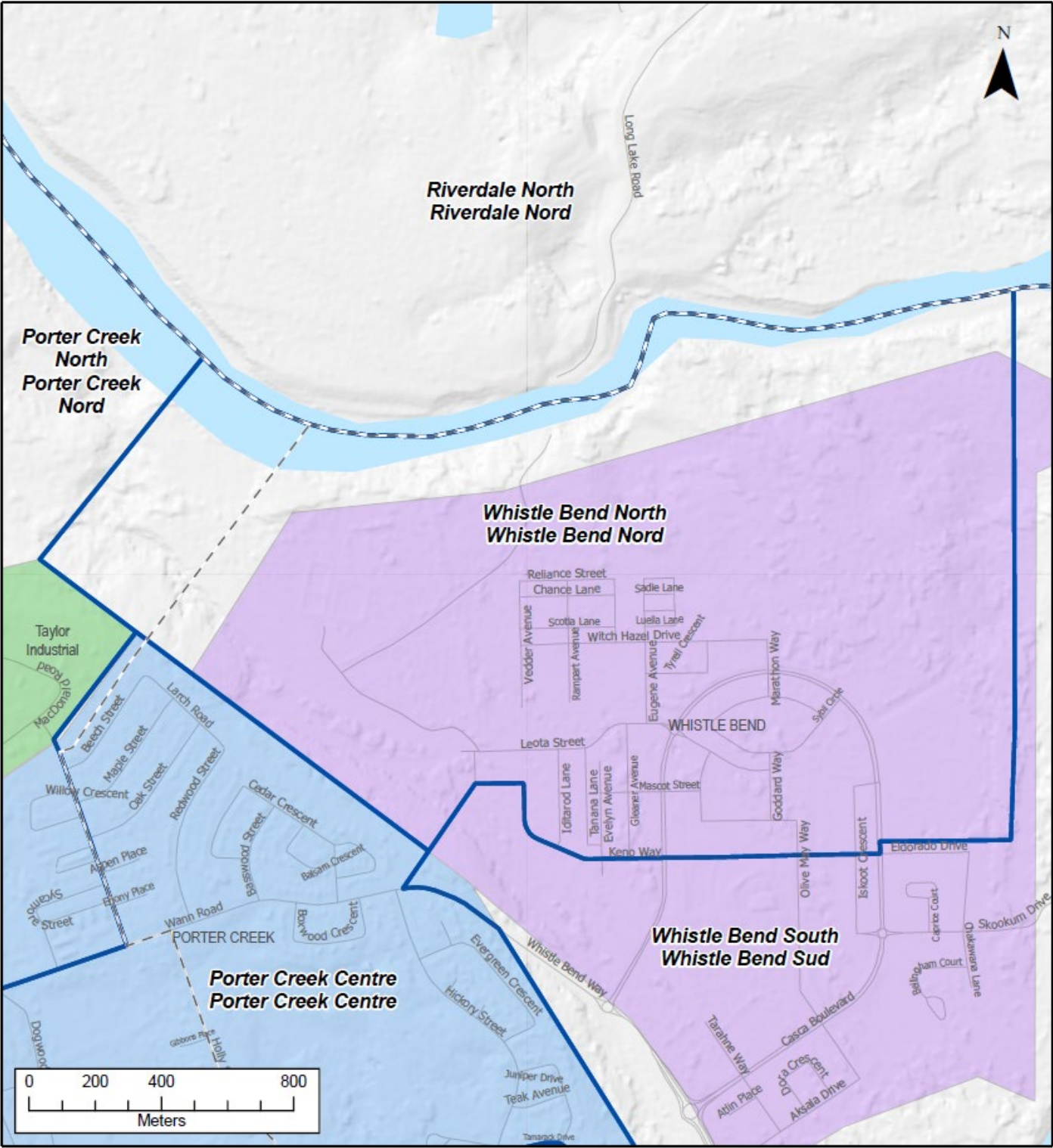
Variance

The variance of the proposed electoral district is -40%. The high variance and special circumstance are considered temporary. As new builds are occupied and elector undercounts mitigated, the variance will further decrease and is expected to be within a 25% variance by the fall of 2025.

Boundary Description

The areas and boundaries as described in the Official Digital Version of the Electoral District Maps of the Yukon 2024 dated October 9, 2024, and issued under the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer

Electoral Map of Whistle Bend North



Whistle Bend South

General Description

This is one of two new electoral districts for Whitehorse: both are in Whistle Bend. The proposed electoral district includes all of Eldorado Drive southside of Keno Way and the Mountain View Golf Course. This is the 5th smallest electoral district at 3.6 km².

Commission Considerations

The Whistle Bend South boundaries reflect a higher short term growth rate to the fall 2025 as earlier phases are already completed and occupied.

Projections are for over 2000 electors by fall 2025 and over 3000 electors by 2030 in Whistle Bend South. The boundaries of this electoral district are set to improve voter parity.

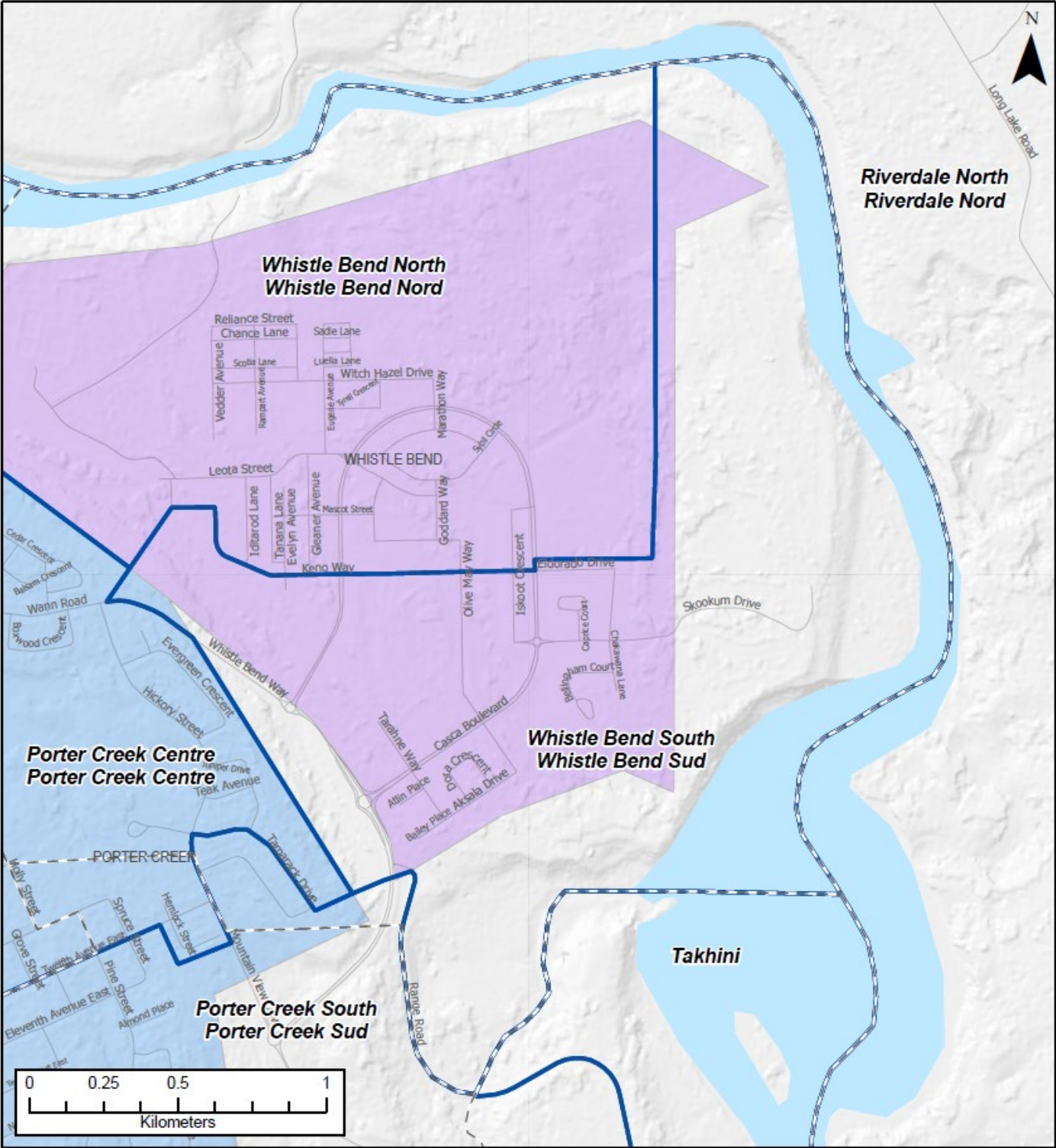
Variance

The variance of the proposed electoral district is -21%. As new builds are occupied and elector undercounts mitigated, the variance will further decrease.

Boundary Description

The areas and boundaries as described in the Official Digital Version of the Electoral District Maps of the Yukon 2024 dated October 9, 2024, and issued under the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Electoral Map of Whistle Bend South



Porter Creek Centre

General Description

This proposed electoral district is one of three Porter Creek electoral districts. It includes Kulan Industrial area, western portion of the Alaska Highway to Wann Road to east of Sycamore Street, north to the southern boundary of Taylor Industrial area, bounded by Whistle Bend North border to Tamarack Drive (46-96), Hickory Street to south of Hemlock Street, north portion of 12th Avenue and including Centennial Street to the Alaska Highway, then to the Alaska Highway to north of Raven's Ridge and out to the municipal boundary. It is the 5th largest of Whitehorse electoral districts at 21.1 km².

Commission Considerations

There are significant changes to this electoral district which currently has the highest elector counts in the Yukon. With the creation of two new Whistle Bend electoral districts the boundaries have been adjusted to increase and balance elector counts in the adjacent electoral districts.

In its Interim Report, this Commission proposed adding Valleyview to Porter Creek Centre to improve voter parity and because of its location. However, after the public hearings and reviewing the written submissions, the Commission now recommends that Valleyview remain in the electoral district of Mountainview. Valleyview and its neighbouring Hillcrest subdivisions have common community interests, in part from their historic provision of housing to federal government employees, as well as their proximity to a current large development proposal. The boundaries of this electoral district are set to improve voter parity.

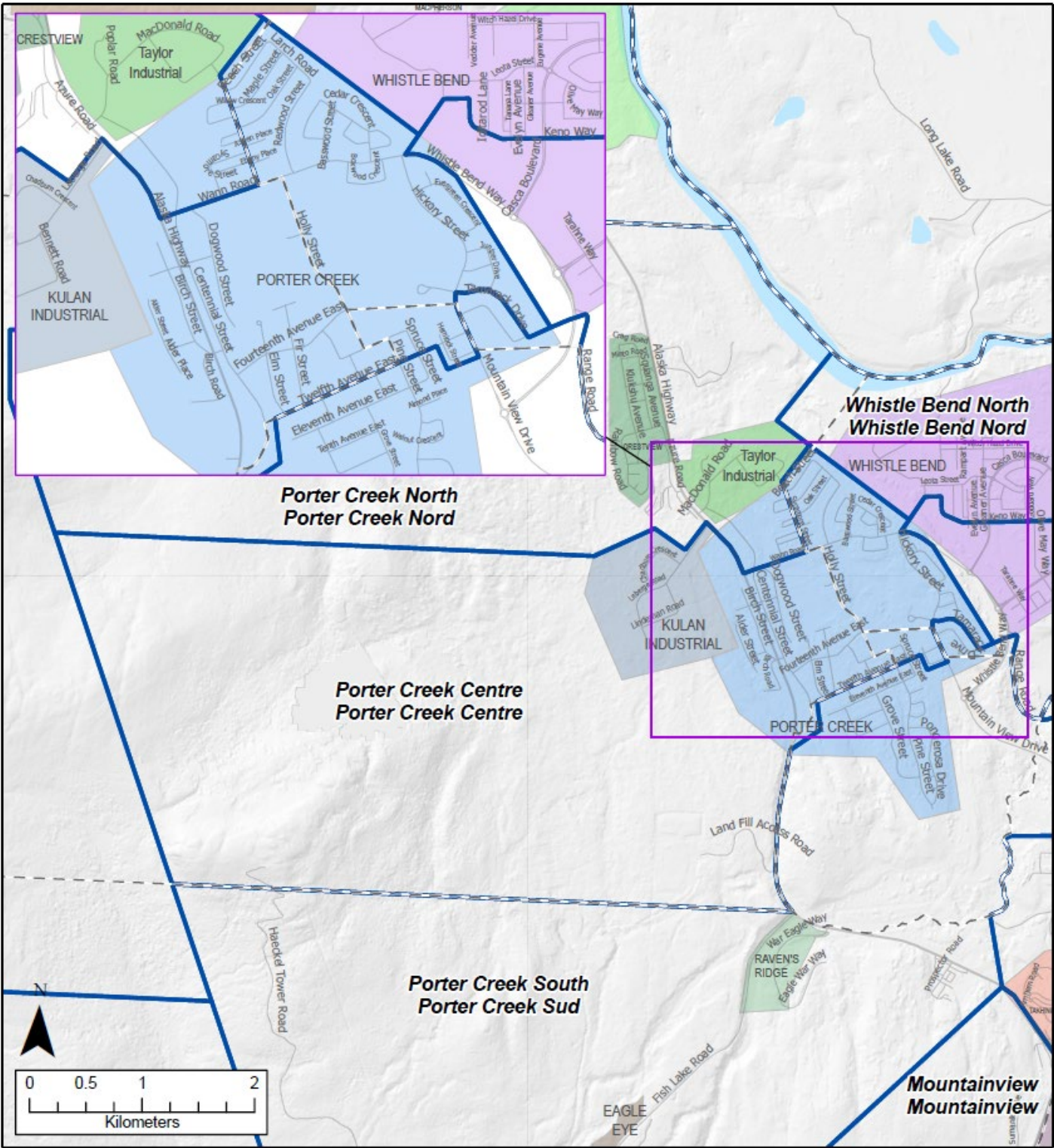
Variance

The variance of this electoral district is +16%. It is expected to decrease slightly over the next six years as the electoral quotient increases.

Boundary Description

The areas and boundaries as described in the Official Digital Version of the Electoral District Maps of the Yukon 2024 dated October 9, 2024, and issued under the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Electoral Map of Porter Creek Centre



Porter Creek North

General Description

This proposed electoral district is one of three Porter Creek electoral districts. It covers the northern boundary km 1435 and includes Crestview, Taylor Industrial area, and is bounded by Sycamore Street northside of Wann Road east side of the Alaska Highway and across to the north of Kulan Industrial area and extending to the municipal boundary. It is the 6th largest of Whitehorse electoral districts at 16 km².

Commission Considerations

The boundaries of this electoral district are set to improve voter parity.

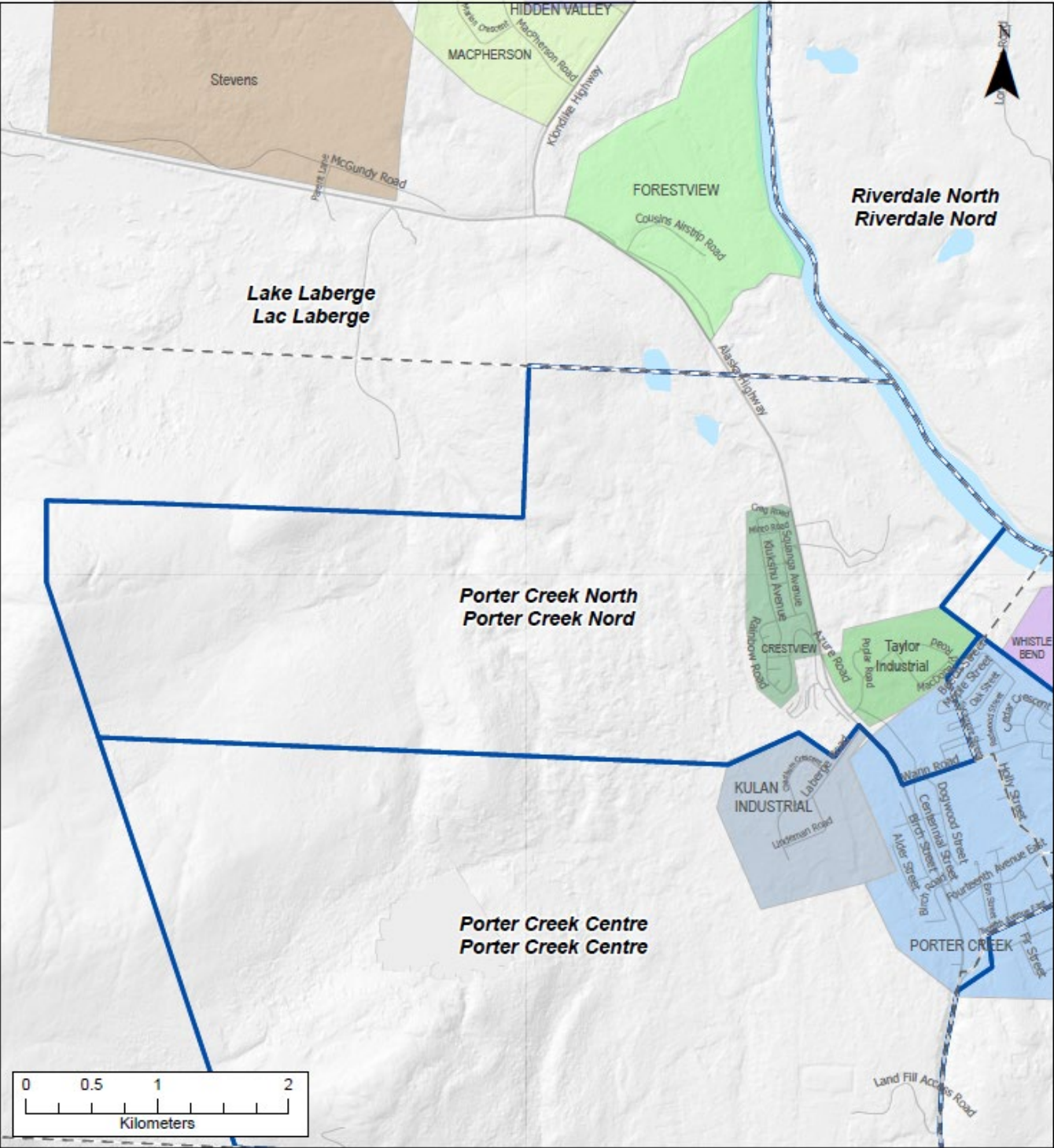
Variance

The variance of this electoral district is +16%. It is expected to decrease slightly and remain within acceptable variances over the next six years as the electoral quotient increases.

Boundary Description

The areas and boundaries as described in the Official Digital Version of the Electoral District Maps of the Yukon 2024 dated October 9, 2024, and issued under the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Electoral Map of Porter Creek North



Porter Creek South

General Description

This proposed electoral district is one of three Porter Creek electoral districts. It is south of Range Road extension, intersection of Range Road and Whistle Bend Way south on Range Road south of Northland Mobile Home Park, west of Yukon University, south to the intersection of the Alaska Highway, south of the Kopper King Mobile Home Park to include Raven's Ridge, Fish Lake Road, and north and extending to the municipal boundaries. It is the largest of Whitehorse electoral districts at 210 km².

Commission Considerations

Porter Creek South electoral district currently has the second lowest elector count in the territory. With the creation of the Whistle Bend electoral districts, high populations in the former Takhini-Kopper King electoral district also required a rebalance and parts have been included in this electoral district. The boundaries of this electoral district are set to improve voter parity.

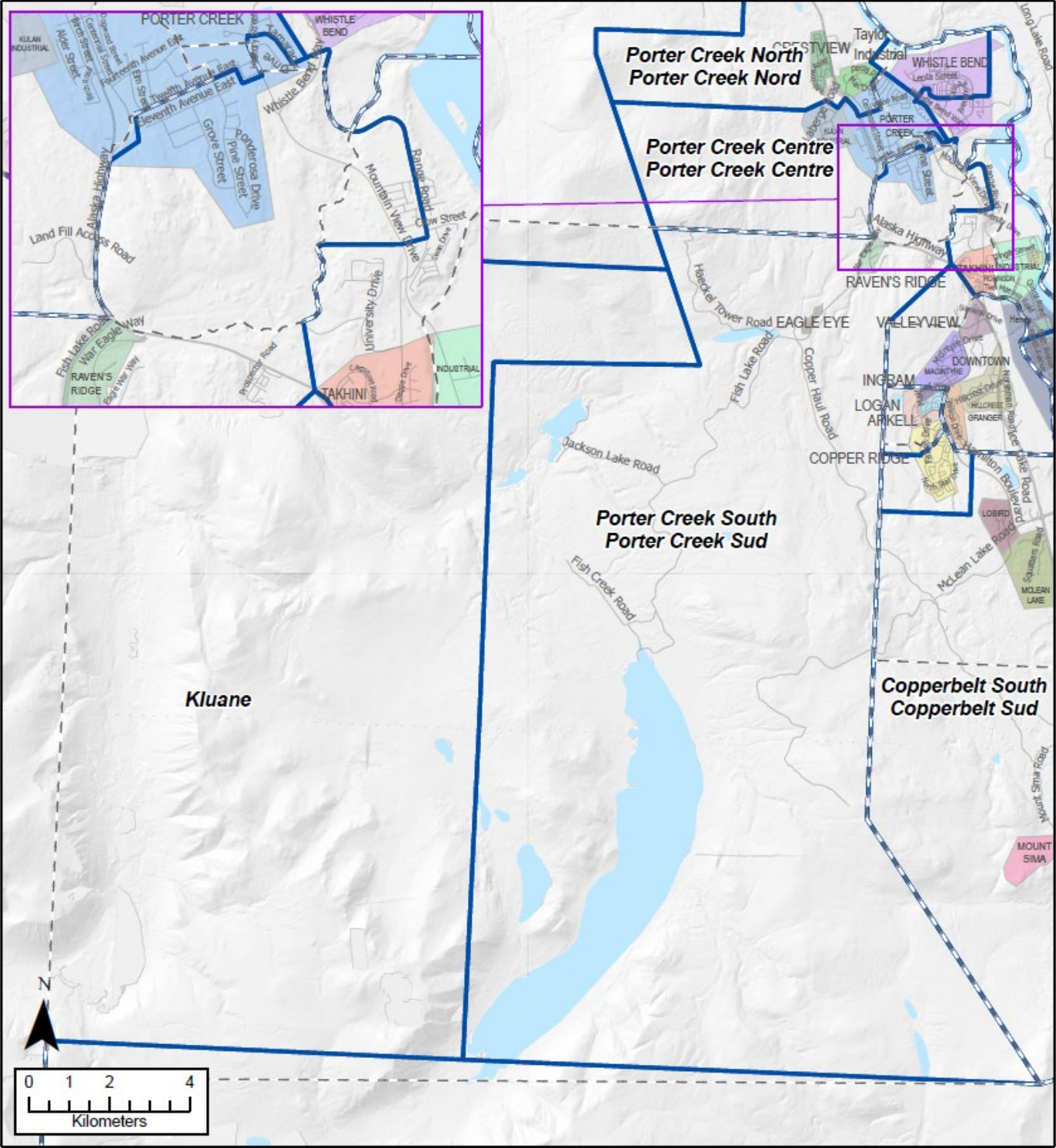
Variance

The variance of this electoral district is +16%. It is expected to decrease slightly and remain within acceptable variances over the next six years as the electoral quotient increases.

Boundary Description

The areas and boundaries as described in the Official Digital Version of the Electoral District Maps of the Yukon 2024 dated October 9, 2024, and issued under the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer

Electoral Map of Porter Creek South



Takhini

General Description

This proposed electoral district is bounded by the Yukon River to the east and includes the eastern side of Range Road to the south of Northland Mobile Home Park across to the west to include the Yukon University area on the southern side and south to the Alaska Highway to the Two Mile Hill and the eastern side of the escarpment to Ogilvie Street. It is the 8th largest Whitehorse electoral district at 7.2 km².

Commission Considerations

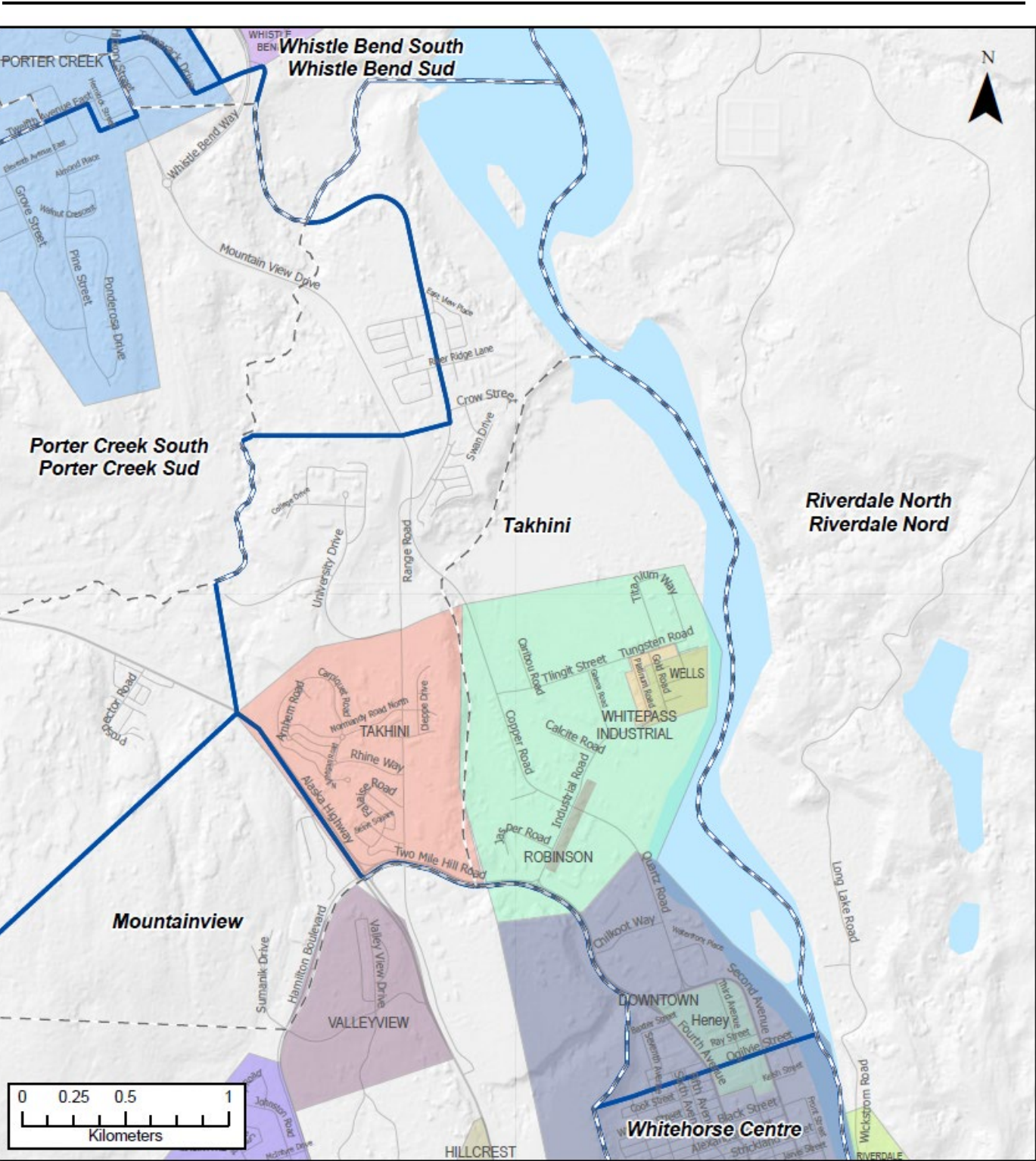
The current Takhini-Kopper-King electoral district has high elector counts and is adjacent to Whitehorse Centre which also has high elector counts. The boundaries of this electoral district are set to improve voter parity. It no longer includes Kopper King. The Commission recommends its name be changed to Takhini.

Variance

The variance of this electoral district is +26%. It is expected to decrease slightly and remain within acceptable variances over the next six years as the electoral quotient increases.

Boundary Description

The areas and boundaries as described in the Official Digital Version of the Electoral District Maps of the Yukon 2024 dated October 9, 2024, and issued under the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer.



Whitehorse Centre

General Description

This proposed electoral district is bounded by the Yukon River and the south side of Ogilvie Street following the escarpment to the Whitehorse Power Plant. It is the 2nd smallest electoral district at 2.4 km².

Commission Considerations

The boundaries of this electoral district are set to improve voter parity. The community interest of downtown Whitehorse justifies the increased variance.

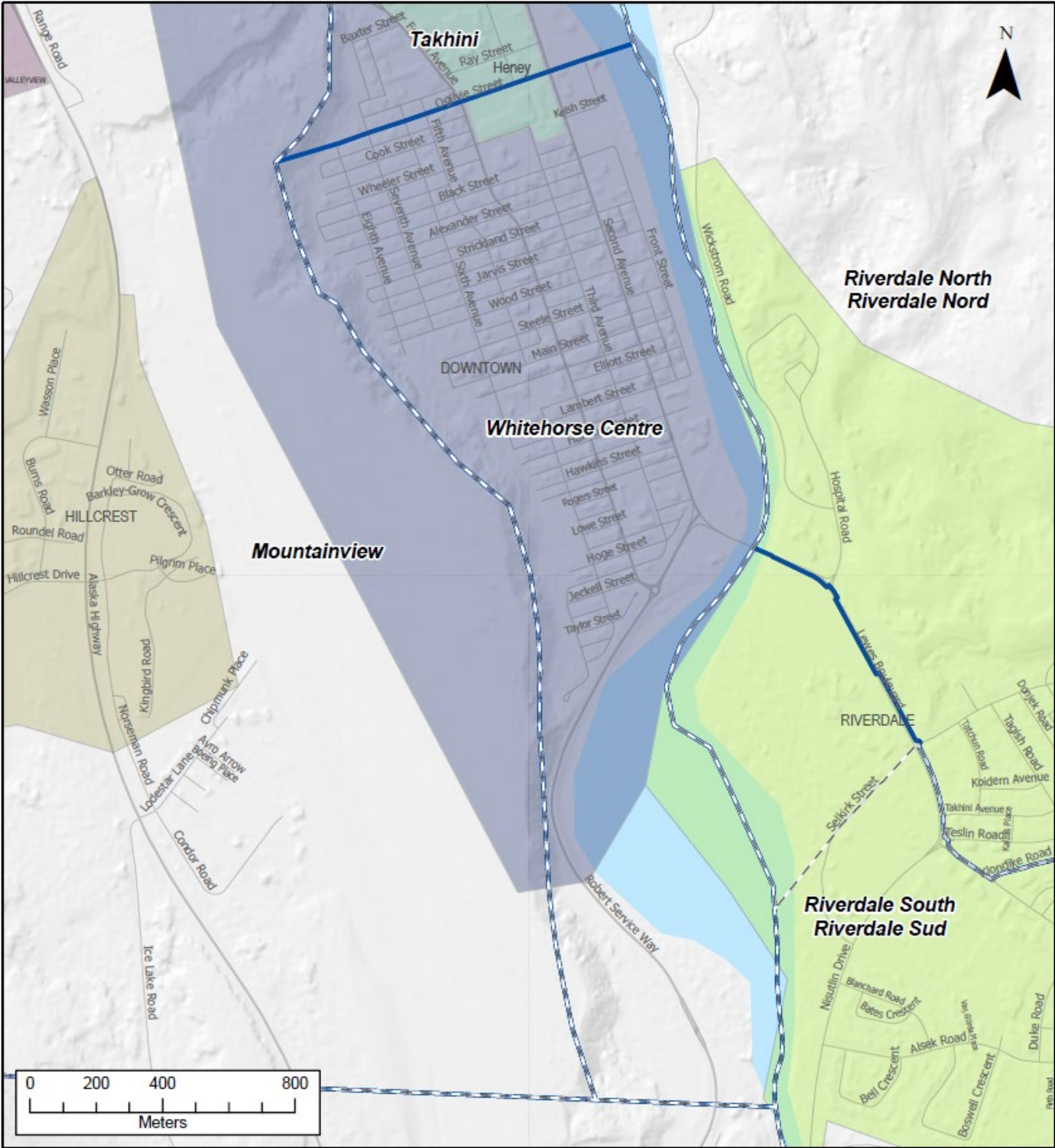
Variance

The variance of this electoral district is +29%. It is expected to remain relatively stable.

Boundary Description

The areas and boundaries as described in the Official Digital Version of the Electoral District Maps of the Yukon 2024 dated October 9, 2024, and issued under the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Electoral Map of Whitehorse Centre



Riverdale North

General Description

This electoral district includes Long Lake Road, western boundary of the Yukon River to Lewes Boulevard, east on Klondike Road to Peel Road, southwest on Alsek Road to Hyland Crescent, northeast on Pelly Road and across to the municipal boundaries to abut the Lake Laberge electoral district. It is the 3rd largest electoral district in Whitehorse at 85.2 km².

Commission Considerations

There are no changes to this electoral district. The boundaries of this electoral district are set to maintain voter parity.

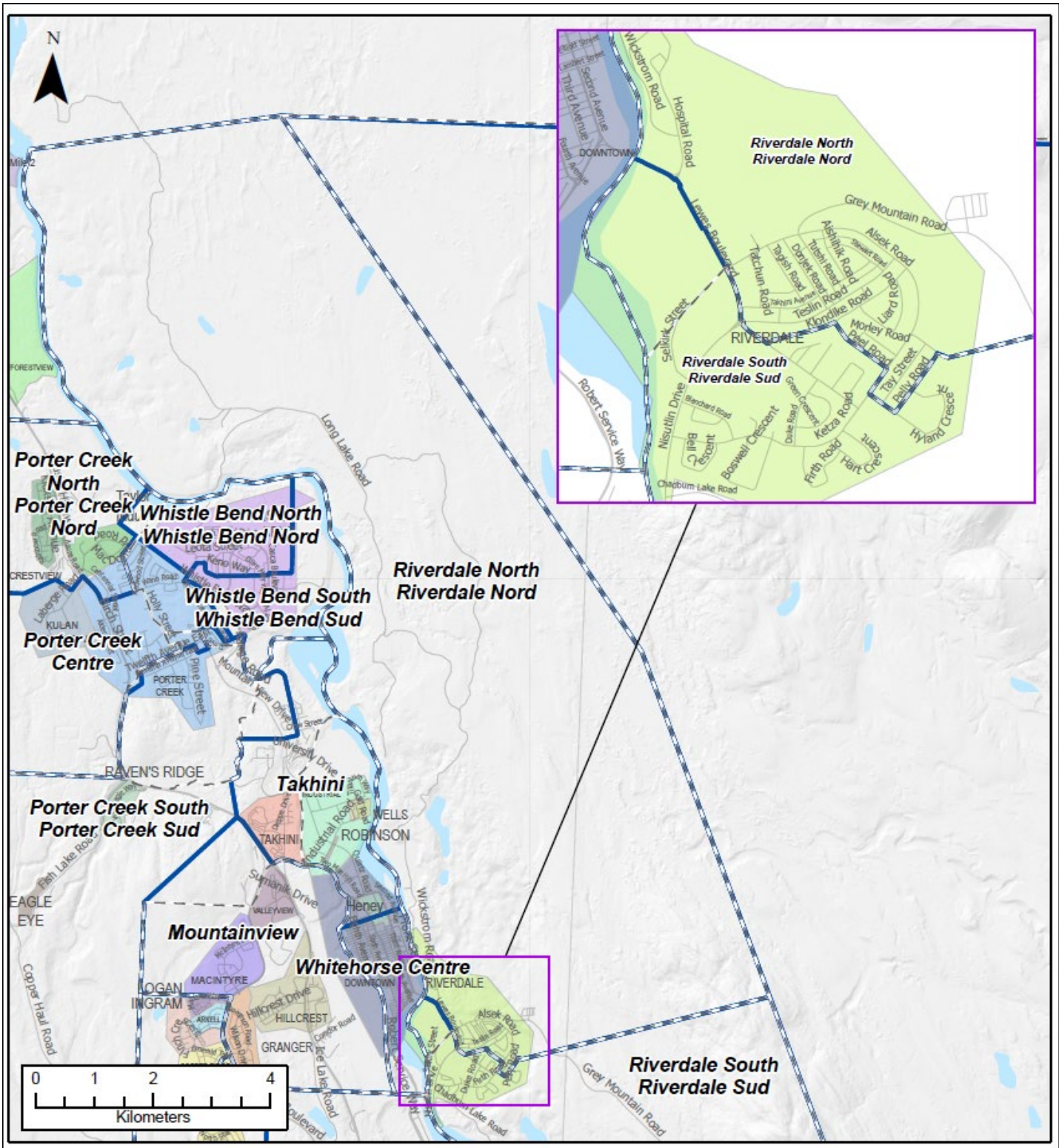
Variance

The variance of this electoral district is +17%. It is expected to decrease slightly over the next six years as the electoral quotient increases.

Boundary Description

The areas and boundaries as described in the Official Digital Version of the Electoral District Maps of the Yukon 2024 dated October 9, 2024, and issued under the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Electoral Map of Riverdale North



Riverdale South

General Description

This electoral district includes the southern portion of Lewes Boulevard, Klondike Road, southwest Peel Road, Pelly Road, northwest Alsek Road and Hyland Crescent, Chadburn Lake Road and south to the municipal boundary where it joins the Yukon River to abut the Copperbelt South electoral district. It is the 4th largest electoral district in Whitehorse at 58.9 km².

Commission Considerations

There are no changes to this electoral district. The boundaries of this electoral district are set to maintain voter parity.

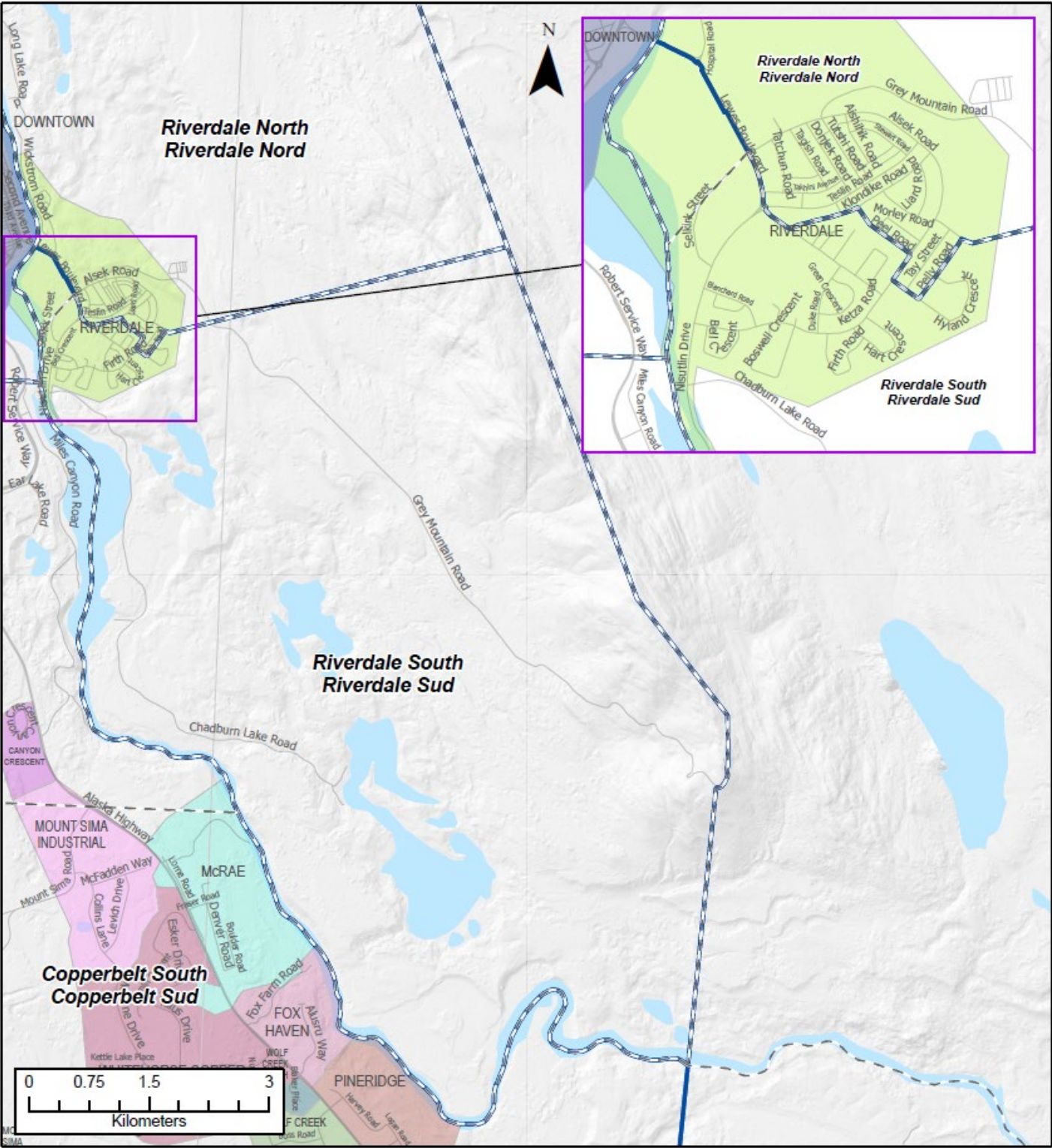
Variance

The variance of this electoral district is +19%. It is expected to decrease slightly and remain within acceptable variances over the next six years as the electoral quotient increases.

Boundary Description

The areas and boundaries as described in the Official Digital Version of the Electoral District Maps of the Yukon 2024 dated October 9, 2024, and issued under the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Electoral Map of Riverdale South



Whitehorse West

General Description

This proposed electoral district includes the subdivisions of Ingram, Arkell, Logan, the north part of Copper Ridge bounded by Lazulite Drive to Tiger Eye cutting across to the north of Ruby Lane and extending to the boundary of Porter Creek South electoral district. It is the smallest electoral district in Whitehorse at 2.4 km².

Commission Considerations

The boundaries were slightly adjusted to reflect boundary changes in adjacent electoral districts and to decrease elector counts. The boundaries of this electoral district are set to improve voter parity.

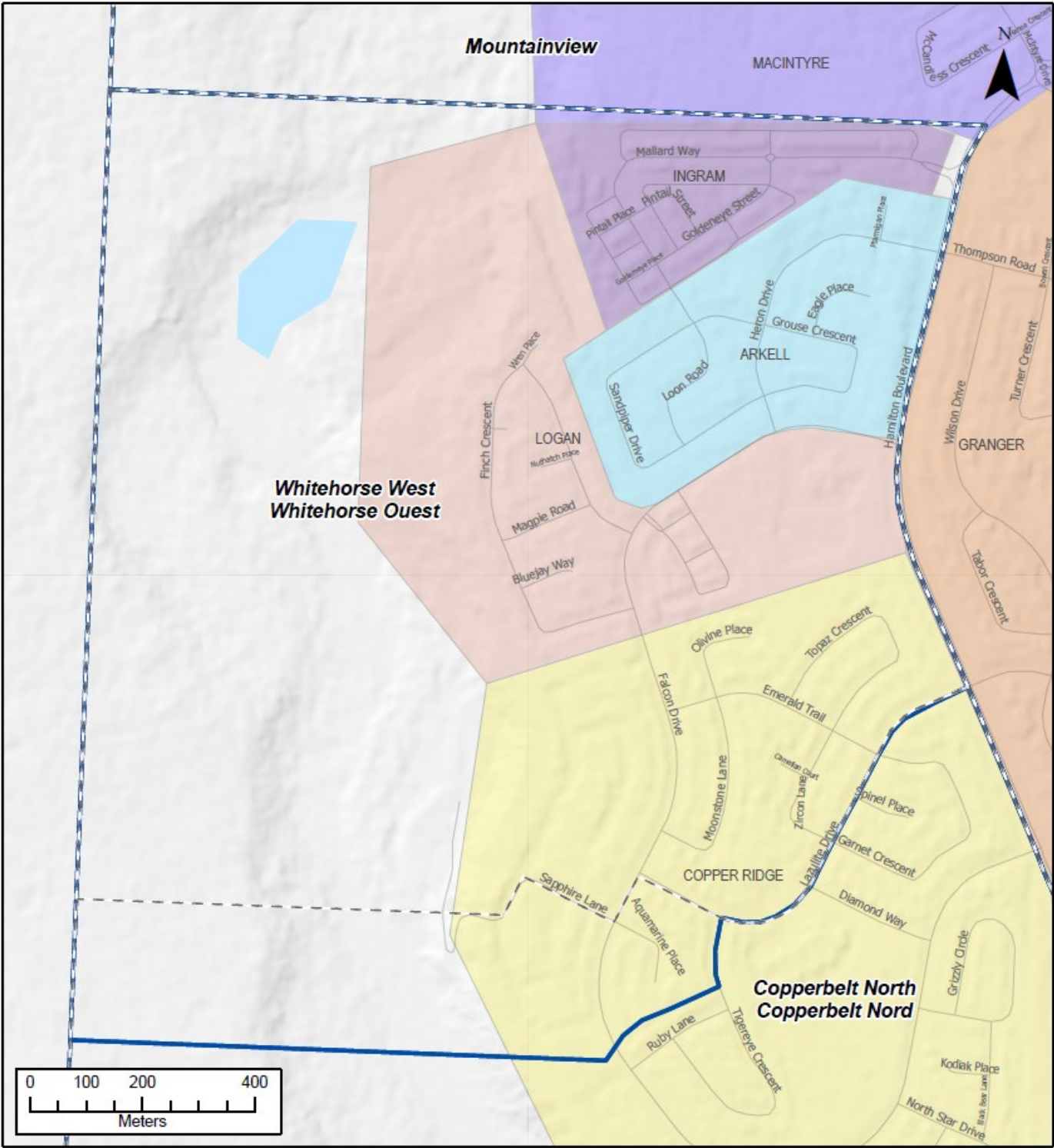
Variance

The variance of this electoral district is +23%. It is expected to remain stable over the next six years as the electoral quotient increases.

Boundary Description

The areas and boundaries as described in the Official Digital Version of the Electoral District Maps of the Yukon 2024 dated October 9, 2024, and issued under the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Electoral Map of Whitehorse West



Mountainview

General Description

This proposed electoral district includes subdivisions of Valleyview, McIntyre, Hillcrest, Granger, and extends to the Copperbelt South electoral district (km 1421) bounded by the Alaska Highway and the Two Mile Hill to the escarpment. It is the 7th largest electoral district in Whitehorse at 12.6 km².

Commission Considerations

The boundaries of this electoral district are set to improve voter parity.

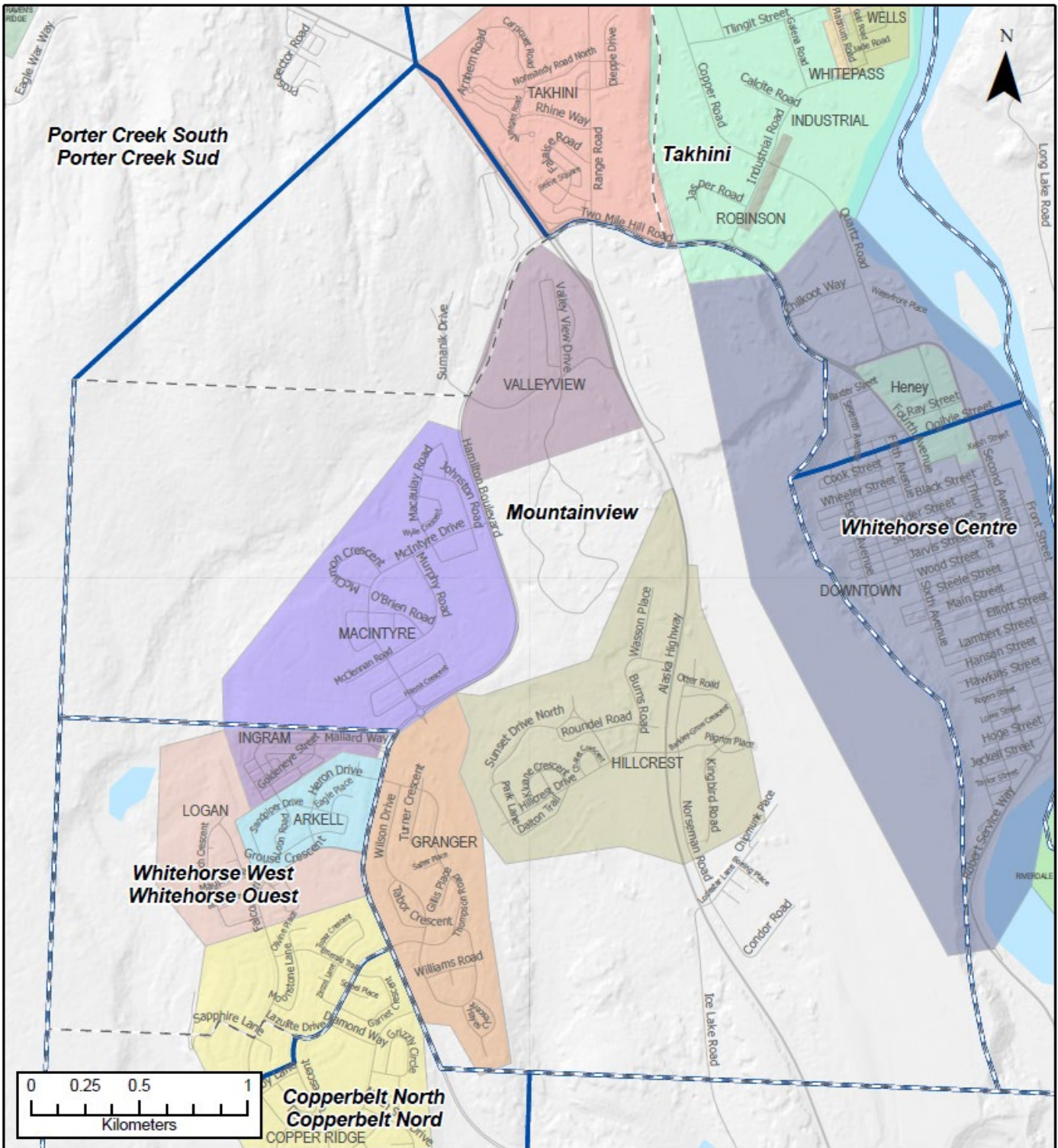
Variance

The variance of this electoral district is +15%. It is expected to decrease slightly over the next six years as the electoral quotient increases.

Boundary Description

The areas and boundaries as described in the Official Digital Version of the Electoral District Maps of the Yukon 2024 dated October 9, 2024, and issued under the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Electoral Map of Mountainview



Copperbelt North

General Description

This proposed electoral district comprises the southern portion of the Copper Ridge subdivision. It is the 3rd smallest electoral district in Whitehorse at 3.6 km².

Commission Considerations

These proposed changes are to adjust for voter parity by maintaining the integrity of subdivisions to the north and the changes to the Copperbelt South electoral district due to the redistribution of Golden Horn from Copperbelt South.

The boundaries of this electoral district are set to improve voter parity.

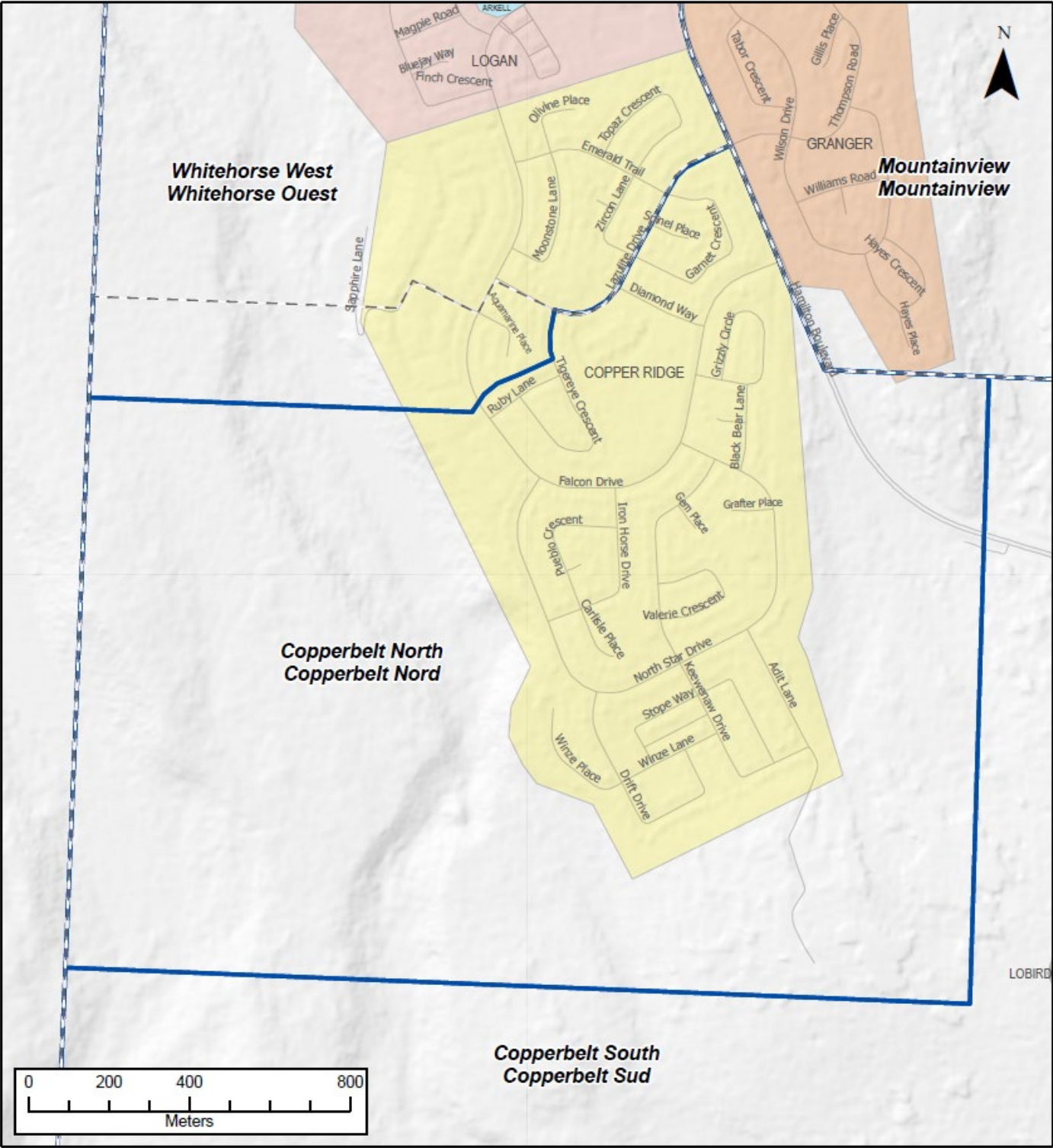
Variance

The variance of this electoral district is +26%. It is expected to decrease by mid 2025 as the population increases.

Boundary Description

The areas and boundaries as described in the Official Digital Version of the Electoral District Maps of the Yukon 2024 dated October 9, 2024, and issued under the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Electoral Map of Copperbelt North



Copperbelt South

General Description

This proposed electoral district includes the subdivisions of Lobird, McLean Lake, Ear Lake Road, Canyon Crescent, Mount Sima, MacRae, Wolf Creek, Fox Haven, Pineridge, Spruce Hill, Mary Lake, Cowley Creek, Whitehorse Copper and extends south to km 1405 on the Alaska Highway. It is the 2nd largest electoral district in Whitehorse at 123.2 km².

Commission Considerations

The Golden Horn area outside of Whitehorse municipal limits is proposed to be added to the Marsh Lake-Mount Lorne-Golden Horn electoral district. This has reduced the elector counts and for voter parity this proposed electoral district was expanded northward to take in the communities to the south of Copper Ridge. The boundaries of this electoral district are set to improve voter parity.

Variance

The variance of this electoral district is +26%. It is expected to decrease by mid 2025 as the population increases.

Boundary Description

The areas and boundaries as described in the Official Digital Version of the Electoral District Maps of the Yukon 2024 dated October 9, 2024, and issued under the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer.



Observations and General Recommendations

The Commission would like the Legislature to consider future amendments to the *Elections Act* related to concerns that arose during the Commission process.

There were two significant challenges for the Commission: first, the Vuntut Gwitchin electoral district, given its very small number of electors, and the special nature of the community; and second, the effect of the high percentage of population in and around Whitehorse compared to the population outside of Whitehorse. The Commission recommends that the Legislature consider amendments to the *Elections Act* to address both challenges, in order to prevent future Commissions from difficult and repetitive deliberation and consultation efforts on these same issues, and to provide clarity and certainty to the electorate. Neither of these challenges will be disappearing in the foreseeable future.

First, almost every Commission since the 1991 decision of the Supreme Court of Canada that set out relative voter parity as the first condition of effective representation, has grappled with the challenge of the Vuntut Gwitchin electoral district. This Commission spent a considerable amount of time discussing the recommendation about this electoral district and in the end were unable to achieve a unanimous view. An extensive part of the public hearing process and many written submissions were about the Vuntut Gwitchin electoral district and Old Crow. Many Vuntut Gwitchin people from Old Crow, including the current Chief and councillors, former Chiefs and councillors, and concerned citizens, wrote and spoke passionately about the importance of maintaining their own electoral district. This is not the first time they have been compelled to make these arguments. The concern of others about retaining the status quo is related to the disproportionate voting power of those in the Vuntut Gwitchin electoral district. The debate is bound to continue and will no doubt be an issue again for the next Commission, especially as the population of the Yukon grows and the disparity increases.

Second, the perceived imbalance of power between those people who live outside of Whitehorse and those within Whitehorse was a significant concern to people throughout the Yukon. While the concept of effective representation requires that voter parity be a primary condition, it also contemplates deviation from voter parity based on many other factors, including but not limited to geography, community history, community interest, culture, language, and minority representation. The interests of those who live in communities outside of Whitehorse need to be represented in the Legislature. The continuing trend of high population growth in Whitehorse and surrounding area makes this more and more challenging.

Other jurisdictions have adopted changes to their legislation that allow for significant geographical and demographic factors to be addressed. We suggest that the Yukon legislature examine the approaches taken in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland and Labrador. Legislation in these jurisdictions take different approaches that allow for greater deviations than the accepted 25% in certain areas of their respective provinces, where the population is lower but effective representation requires ongoing representation from those areas. Some jurisdictions have legislatively protected certain electoral districts outside of the 25% deviation that have particular characteristics or interests.

Acknowledgements

The Commission would like to thank all who have been part of this important democratic process to date.

The Commission wishes to sincerely thank and recognize the following individuals for their ongoing expertise and support:

Commission Support Team

Helen Fitzsimmons, Executive Director

Colleen Madore, Assistant Chief Electoral Officer

Carrie Jackson, Administrative Services Coordinator

Commission Working Group

Niki Parry, Geomatics Yukon

Kaitlyn McNeil, Geomatics Yukon

Laura Grieve, Geomatics Yukon

Bishnu Saha, Yukon Bureau of Statistics

Rebecca Johnson, Yukon Bureau of Statistics

Mathieu Marois, City of Whitehorse

Karmen Whitbread, City of Whitehorse

Laura Prentice, Community Services

Supporting Agencies and Personnel

Véronique Lafond, Communications Advisor, French Language Services Directorate (FLSD)

Mark Burns, Electronic Services, Highways and Public Works and his team

Recognition

The Commission acknowledges the important groundwork of previous Commissions. The Commission also acknowledges and thanks the Yukoners who made submissions at this Interim Report stage.

Appendix 1 - The Commission

Commission Member Biographies



Suzanne Duncan

Chief Justice

Justice Duncan holds a B.A. (1982) and an LL.B. (1985) from Queen's University, and an LL.M. (2000) from Osgoode Hall Law School. She began practising in 1987 with McCarthy Tétrault in Toronto in the areas of civil litigation, labour and employment, and immigration. In 2001, she joined the civil litigation section of the federal Department of Justice in Toronto. In December 2005, she relocated permanently to the Yukon after spending the summers of 2004 and 2005 working and living in the Yukon. She continued to work for Justice Canada in the areas of Aboriginal law and Crown liability. In early 2018, she became the in-house legal counsel for the Kwanlin Dün First Nation government in Whitehorse.

On November 29, 2018, she was appointed to the Supreme Court of Yukon, and on October 1, 2020, she was appointed as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Yukon. Chief Justice Duncan served on the Executive of the Law Society of Yukon as First Vice President and Chair of Discipline. She has been a member and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Yukon Legal Services Society and Chair of the Yukon Employment Standards Board. Chief Justice Duncan previously served as Chair of the Board of Homes First Society, an agency in Toronto that provides shelter and support to individuals who are among the hardest to house. She is a former co-author of the book *The Law of Privilege in Canada*.



Maxwell Harvey

Chief Electoral Officer

Max was appointed as Chief Electoral Officer in May 2018. He has over 20 years of experience in senior electoral administration positions at federal and territorial levels. He is passionate about the administration of the democratic processes that determine political power in the Yukon.

Before joining Elections Yukon, his career included service as an officer with the Royal Canadian Navy, as an Assistant Deputy Minister with the government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and in business as an entrepreneur, consultant, and executive coach. He has a Master of Business Administration degree from Memorial University.



Patricia Cuning

Representative of the Yukon Liberal Party

Patricia has been a lifelong activist for political ideas, citizen engagement and women in politics. She believes that the institutions matter and that understanding our rights as well as our obligations as citizens is important. Engagement in the public process is necessary to protect our democracy.

Patricia is the Executive Director of MacBride Museum where she has led the organization through a long period of growth and community engagement. She is an advocate for identity, stories, and narrative as well as a presenter, exhibit designer, author and music producer.

Patricia is a past board member of the Yukon Historical and Museums Association, the Yukon Convention Bureau, the Yukon Foundation, the Yukon Historic Resources Board and Main Street Society. She has volunteered at Dawson, Atlin and Breakout West music festivals.

She graduated from Queen's University with a B.A. (Hons).



Warren Holland

Representative of the Yukon Party

Warren has served in a number of leadership roles during his career and is currently Director of Governance with the Kwanlin Dun First Nation. He was Executive Director of Quality and Strategy with Yukon Hospitals from 2013 to 2023, and Director of Finance with the Department of Health and Social Services from 2011 to 2013. He also served on the political staff of Premier Dennis Fentie's Yukon Party government, as an Executive Assistant to several ministers and as Deputy Principal Secretary.

Warren has a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Victoria and a master's degree in Leadership from Royal Roads University. He and his wife Brenda Stehelin have four children and eight grandchildren and have called Whitehorse and the Yukon home for most of their lives.



Elizabeth (Liz) Hanson

Representative of the Yukon New Democratic Party

Liz moved to the Yukon in 1978 to work as the Regional Social Worker (Old Crow to Good Hope Lake) for INAC. After eight years in Nanaimo and Ottawa (1981 to 1989) she returned to Whitehorse as part of the federal self-government negotiations team, subsequently becoming the Director of Claims and Self Government. She retired as Regional Director General INAC in 2007.

Liz was elected to the Yukon Legislative Assembly in the 2010 byelection, and the 2011 and 2016 general elections representing Whitehorse Centre.

Appendix 2 - Schedule of Public Hearings

Community and Date	Public Hearing Location
Mayo Wed May 22, 2024	Mayo Community Hall 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Faro Fri May 24, 2024	Faro Recreation Centre 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Ross River Fri May 24, 2024	Hope Centre 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Watson Lake Tue Jun 4, 2024	Watson Lake Recreation Centre 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Pelly Crossing Wed Jun 5, 2024	Eliza Van Bibber School (Library) 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Carmacks Wed Jun 5, 2024	Carmacks Recreation Centre 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Teslin Thu Jun 6, 2024	Teslin Recreation Centre 1:00 – 3:00 PM
Tagish Thu Jun 6, 2024	Tagish Community Centre 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Whitehorse Mon Jun 10, 2024	Mount McIntyre Recreational Centre 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Ibex Valley Tue Jun 11, 2024	Ibex Valley Fire Hall 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Whitehorse Thu Jun 13, 2024	Sternwheeler Hotel 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Marsh Lake Fri Jun 14, 2024	Marsh Lake Community Centre 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Haines Junction Tue Jun 18, 2024	St. Elias Convention Centre 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Old Crow Mon Jun 17, 2024	Darius Elias Community Centre 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Dawson City Mon Jun 17, 2024	Downtown Hotel 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Schedule of Public Hearings

Community and Date	Public Hearing Location
Whitehorse Tue Jul 23, 2024	Virtual Hearing 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Whitehorse Tue Aug 13, 2024	Virtual Hearing 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Whitehorse Wed Sept 25, 2024	Virtual Hearing 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Appendix 3 - Minority View on Vuntut Gwitchin

My minority view is that the electoral districts of Vuntut Gwitchin and Klondike should be merged and that 20 electoral districts for the Yukon be proposed. I consider that this proposal meets the requirement for the effective representation of Old Crow and Dawson. This would correct an unacceptably high degree of legislative power for one electoral district, Vuntut Gwitchin, and improve voter parity. It would still provide for significant overrepresentation to outside of Whitehorse constituents. I do not agree with the majority that there is risk of disenfranchisement of Old Crow electors with a merger with Dawson.

Old Crow is the 19th largest community/population area in the Yukon. It is unquestionably a community of unique character and contribution. It holds a special place in the Yukon and for Yukoners. Like many communities in the Yukon, as well as most Canadian jurisdictions, there are unique issues, challenges, and real concerns.

Some Yukoners believe there are many factors which justify Vuntut Gwitchin as a separate electoral district and the accordant voting power. Others believe it unfairly favours one community. This difference of views was apparent in the submissions we received.

The extent to which any individual area or community is special for electoral boundary purposes is inevitably controversial. Arguably, every community is unique. Claims for special treatment by small and dispersed communities are as true of the Yukon as it is for other provinces and territories in Canada. It is not surprising that some constituents of Dawson City and Old Crow spoke out to resist the idea of changed, shared, or adjusted representation. This was also the case with public hearings and submissions in other electoral districts.

It is commonplace in the Yukon for electoral districts with multiple communities to share one MLA to represent their different interests. Effective representation allows for differing cultures, values, and issues within a community and an electoral district. Old Crow is the only community outside of Whitehorse that does not share an MLA with another community. Dawson and Old Crow certainly have differences, but there are also many commonalities and relationships. This is the same for a number of electoral districts with communities that have very different characters, concerns, and perspectives.

Vuntut Gwitchin has the most voting power of any electoral district in Canada. Since 1978, special circumstances have provided for the electoral district of Vuntut Gwitchin. Vuntut Gwitchin provides less than 1% of Yukon electors (.056%) to represent almost 5% of the legislature (4.76%) as 1/21 electoral districts. My view is that for Vuntut Gwitchin, the -88% deviation from parity is extreme and unduly dilutes the votes of other Yukoners.

Since 1992 there have been 8 territorial elections. Each of the three major political parties have represented the Vuntut Gwitchin electoral district. Voting has been close, with 4 elections won by less than 10 votes, including two that ended in a tie. There have been two court cases challenging results. It is an important and competitive electoral district in which their electors have a large voice in determining political power in the Yukon.

Challenge to the status of Vuntut Gwitchin is not new. The 2018 Commission report noted that the boundaries of Vuntut Gwitchin should be revisited given public input and the improved circumstances of technology, travel, and communication. Much has changed since 1978 when the Vuntut Gwitchin electoral district was first established.

In the Yukon, there is no legislative mandate or guidance to the Commission on matters such as the number of electoral districts to propose, direction on relative parity or variance limits, or maximum allowable number of electoral districts of special circumstances. There has never been legislative direction provided to any Commission to protect the Vuntut Gwitchin electoral district or to provide it with a special status.

My view is that a maintaining Vuntut Gwitchin as a separate electoral district and accepting such an extreme departure from relative parity is rightfully a decision for the Legislature. I consider the special voting power accorded to a single electoral district so that their votes count far more than all others is prejudicial to the effective representation of Yukon electors in other electoral districts. I believe this wide disparity in relative voter parity unreasonably and unduly allows for the dilution of voting power of electors throughout the territory.

As such, I do not support the majority position to propose Vuntut Gwitchin as a separate electoral district. Unless otherwise directed by the legislature, Old Crow should be included in an enlarged Klondike electoral district (or some other option) as part of a 20-electoral district proposal.

H. Maxwell Harvey
Chief Electoral Officer
Commissioner



YUKON
ELECTORAL DISTRICT
BOUNDARIES COMMISSION
2024

THANK YOU!

The term of the Electoral District Boundaries Commission ended with the submission of this Final Report to the Speaker of the legislative Assembly on October 9, 2024.

The Commission wishes to express their sincere appreciation to the many Yukoners who provided valuable input, wisdom, and perspective into the production of this report. Thank you.

Digital copies of this report and proposed electoral district maps are available at electionsyukon.ca