



Part 7 – Regional Groupings



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A. British Columbia's Regions

The legislation under which we operate focuses exclusively on individual electoral districts, and instructs us to make our electoral boundary proposals on a district-by-district basis. As you will see in the pages ahead, we have approached our task in that way.

However, we also recognize regional influences. In *Geography of British Columbia*, Capilano College geography instructor Brett McGillivray aptly describes British Columbia as a “region of regions”.⁴⁷

From a regional perspective, British Columbia is a unique province within Canada for a variety of reasons. Physical characteristics set it apart

from all other provinces. It has the youngest and highest mountains in the country and is often described as a vertical landscape. It also has the greatest amount of fresh water in Canada, an essential resource for the five species of Pacific salmon that also provides the potential for hydroelectric power. The highly indented coastline, “punctured by fjords,”

spans some 41,000 kilometres (Dearden 1987, 259). Weather and climate produce other distinctive patterns. The relatively mild, wet west coast, with the warmest winter temperatures in Canada, stands in contrast to the considerably colder and drier interior, with desert conditions in the southern river valleys. The interrelationship of climate,

⁴⁷ McGillivray, Brett, *Geography of British Columbia – People and Landscapes in Transition*, 2nd ed., Vancouver, UBC Press, 2005, pp. 7–8.

soils, and vegetation produces distinctive patterns from west to east in the province and also from the south to north because of the eleven-degree span of latitude. Vertical change due to high mountain ranges produces regional variations similar to latitudinal differences.

B. Previous Commissions' Regions

Since the 1960s, five of B.C.'s seven previous independent electoral boundaries commissions were tasked to reconfigure electoral boundaries across the entire province. In doing so, they made

decisions at an individual electoral district level, but they were also alive to regional issues. Table 3 (below) shows the regional groupings adopted by those commissions.

During our public consultations across the province, when people

TABLE 3: REGIONAL GROUPINGS

	Angus (1966)	Norris (1975)	Eckardt (1978)	Fisher (1988)	Wood (1999)
North	Northern	Northern	Northern	The North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northwest • Peace • Prince George
Kootenays	Kootenays	Kootenays	Kootenays	Kootenays	Kootenays
Cariboo	West Central	Central	Interior	Central Interior and Okanagan Area	Cariboo
Interior					Southern Interior
Okanagan					Okanagan
Fraser Valley	Lower Mainland outside Greater Vancouver	Fraser Valley	Fraser Valley	Lower Mainland	Fraser Valley
Greater Vancouver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coast and North Vancouver • Metropolitan Vancouver 	Greater Vancouver	Vancouver Metro		Greater Vancouver
South Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mackenzie and Northern Vancouver Island 		Coastal	Coastal	South Coast
Vancouver Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Victoria 	Vancouver Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper • Victoria • Metro 	Vancouver Island	Vancouver Island



told us “I am a Northerner,” or “I live in the East Kootenays,” or “I am a renter in Vancouver’s West End,” they were telling us much more than their address. They were positioning themselves as members of a clearly identifiable geographical, economic and cultural community.

We found it useful to group current and proposed electoral districts for several reasons. First, grouping them can tell us a lot about where people live and work, their transportation routes, their shopping and trading patterns and their local governance divisions, such

as municipalities and regional districts. To put it another way, groupings are an important consideration in ascertaining “community interests,” one of the legislative factors we must take into account when drawing boundaries.

Second, regions will take on additional importance during the task of drawing proposed BC-STV boundaries, since these larger political divisions should, as much as possible, reflect regional community interests.

C. Our Regional Groupings

Although our legislative mandate is to set electoral boundaries on an individual electoral district basis, we have found it helpful to group individual electoral districts according to regional groupings during that process, as have previous commissions.

Using a similar approach to past commissions, we initially took the current 79 electoral districts and grouped them into the 12 regions that we have developed (see list on page 55; map on page 56).

As you will see in the pages ahead, the number of electoral districts within some of these regions, and the outer boundaries of these regions, will change as a result of our analysis.

*Current electoral districts**Our Regional groupings*

- The North
 - North Coast
 - Skeena
 - Bulkley Valley–Stikine
 - Prince George–Omineca
 - Prince George North
 - Prince George–Mount Robson
 - Peace River South
 - Peace River North
- Cariboo-Thompson
 - Cariboo North
 - Cariboo South
 - Yale-Lillooet
 - Kamloops
 - Kamloops–North Thompson
- Okanagan
 - Shuswap
 - Okanagan-Vernon
 - Kelowna–Lake Country
 - Kelowna-Mission
 - Okanagan-Westside
 - Penticton–Okanagan Valley
- Columbia-Kootenay
 - Columbia River–Revelstoke
 - East Kootenay
 - Nelson-Creston
 - West Kootenay–Boundary
- Fraser Valley
 - Maple Ridge–Pitt Meadows
 - Maple Ridge–Mission
 - Langley
 - Fort Langley–Aldergrove
 - Abbotsford–Mount Lehman
 - Abbotsford-Clayburn
 - Chilliwack-Sumas
 - Chilliwack-Kent
- Tri-Cities
 - Port Moody–Westwood
 - Burquitlam
 - Coquitlam-Maillardville
 - Port Coquitlam–Burke Mountain
- Surrey
 - Surrey-Whalley
 - Surrey-Green Timbers
 - Surrey-Tynehead
 - Surrey-Newton
 - Surrey–Panorama Ridge
 - Surrey-Cloverdale
 - Surrey–White Rock
- Richmond and Delta
 - Richmond Centre
 - Richmond-Steveston
 - Richmond East
 - Delta South
 - Delta North
- Burnaby and New Westminster
 - Burnaby North
 - Burnaby-Willingdon
 - Burnaby-Edmonds
 - New Westminster
- Vancouver
 - Vancouver-Hastings
 - Vancouver-Kingsway
 - Vancouver-Fraserview
 - Vancouver–Mount Pleasant
 - Vancouver-Kensington
 - Vancouver-Burrard
 - Vancouver-Fairview
 - Vancouver-Langara
 - Vancouver–Point Grey
 - Vancouver-Quilchena
- North Shore
 - North Vancouver–Seymour
 - North Vancouver–Lonsdale
 - West Vancouver–Capilano
 - West Vancouver–Garibaldi
- Vancouver Island and South Coast
 - Powell River–Sunshine Coast
 - North Island
 - Comox Valley
 - Alberni-Qualicum
 - Nanaimo-Parksville
 - Nanaimo
 - Cowichan-Ladysmith
 - Malahat–Juan de Fuca
 - Saanich North and the Islands
 - Saanich South
 - Oak Bay–Gordon Head
 - Victoria–Beacon Hill
 - Victoria-Hillside
 - Esquimalt-Metchosin

Current electoral districts – Our Regional groupings

