



Tri-Cities, Map 1

H. The Tri-Cities Area

The geographical area that we describe as the Tri-Cities region is bounded by Indian Arm on the northwest, Burnaby and New Westminster on the southwest, the Fraser River on the south and the Pitt River on the east. It includes three cities – Port Moody, Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam – as well as the Villages of Anmore and Belcarra.

I. Evolution of the Tri-Cities electoral districts

Immediately prior to the 1966 Angus Commission, there was one single-member electoral district (Dewdney) extending from Indian Arm east to Hope, on the north side of the Fraser River (see Tri-Cities, Map 1).

a. Angus Commission (1966)

The Angus Commission recommended that Dewdney be split into two single-member districts (see Tri-Cities, Map 2). The western portion, extending from Indian Arm and the eastern boundaries of the Burnaby and New Westminster electoral districts eastward to the Pitt River, would be named Coquitlam, encompassing all the area we now refer to as Tri-Cities.

The Legislative Assembly adopted the Angus Commission's recommendations.



Tri-Cities, Map 2



b. The Norris Commission (1975)

Due to population growth and under-representation in the legislature, the Norris Commission recommended (Tri-Cities, Map 3) that the boundaries of the Coquitlam electoral district remain unchanged, but it should become a dual-member district.

The Legislative Assembly did not adopt the Norris Commission's recommendations.

Tri-Cities, Map 3

c. The Eckardt Commission (1978)

Judge Eckardt recommended (see Tri-Cities, Map 4) that the Coquitlam electoral district be divided into two single-member districts:

- Maillardville-Coquitlam would be a comparatively small district, extending from the Burnaby district boundary east to Essondale and from the southern boundary of Port Moody south to the Fraser River.
- Coquitlam-Moody would consist of the municipalities of Port Moody, Port Coquitlam and the remainder of Coquitlam.

The Legislative Assembly adopted Judge Eckardt's recommendations.

d. The Warren Commission (1982)

None of Mr. Warren's recommendations affected these electoral districts.

e. The McAdam Commission (1984)

None of the McAdam Commission's recommendations affected these electoral districts.



Tri-Cities, Map 4



Tri-Cities, Map 5

f. The Fisher Commission (1988)

Judge Fisher recommended (see Tri-Cities, Map 5) that the number of districts be increased from two to three:

- Port Moody–Burnaby Mountain would be bounded on the west by Indian Arm and Duthie Road in Burnaby, on the south by Smith Avenue and Como Lake Avenue, and on the east by the Coquitlam district municipality’s western boundary.
- Port Coquitlam would extend from the Coquitlam district municipality’s western boundary eastward to the Pitt River.
- Coquitlam-Maillardville would be approximately the same as the existing Maillardville-Coquitlam district.

The Legislative Assembly adopted Judge Fisher’s recommendations.

g. The Wood Commission (1999)

In its interim report, the Wood Commission noted that the population of the electoral district of Port Coquitlam had grown by 91 percent in the preceding decade, requiring significant

redrawing of electoral boundaries in the Tri-Cities area (Tri-Cities, Map 6):

- Port Moody–Burnaby Mountain – the commission accepted that there was a community of interest among the people residing in the mountain area on the north shore of Port Moody in Belcarra, Anmore and Heritage Mountain, and in the Eagle Ridge and Westwood Plateau areas of Coquitlam where there had been significant new development. It proposed extending the eastern boundary farther east into Coquitlam (to the Coquitlam River) and moving the southern boundary farther north to the southern municipal boundary of Port Moody, and re-naming the district Port Moody–Westwood.
- Coquitlam-Maillardville – this district would be bounded on the north by the proposed new Port Moody–Westwood district, on the west by the proposed new Burquitlam district, on the south by the Fraser River and on the east by the Coquitlam municipal border.
- Port Coquitlam – this district (which the commission proposed be named Port Coquitlam–Burke Mountain) combined parts of the cities of Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam. The commission heard no significant objection to this arrangement, and



Tri-Cities, Map 6

recommended that the electoral district be preserved in large part, except that the Coquitlam River be used as part of the western boundary.

- Burquitlam – the increase in population also necessitated an electoral district that included parts of Burnaby and Coquitlam, extending eastward to Blue Mountain Street and Gatsensbury Street.

The commission was satisfied that these changes would allow for the continued population growth expected due to development in the Town Centre and northeast areas of Coquitlam. Although the City of Coquitlam requested electoral districts wholly within its municipal boundaries, the fact that Coquitlam’s high population was located adjacent to the smaller communities of Port Moody and Port Coquitlam led the commission to conclude that some overlap of the municipal boundaries was necessary in order to create electoral districts with appropriate populations.

In its final report, the commission considered, but ultimately rejected, several proposed changes:

- The City of Coquitlam expressed dissatisfaction with the degree to which Coquitlam shared electoral districts with adjacent municipalities. It provided the commission with two alternative maps – with three and four electoral districts in the Tri-Cities area, respectively. Although the city accepted the necessity of electoral districts shared with Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Anmore and Belcarra, it urged the commission to avoid creating an electoral district shared between Coquitlam and Burnaby. The Wood Commission concluded that adopting the City of Coquitlam’s proposals for three or four electoral districts in the Tri-Cities area would produce deviations that were too high. The three-district proposal would have two electoral districts in excess of plus 20 percent, and the four-district proposal would have one electoral district at plus 26 percent.
- Residents of Coquitlam-Maillardville living between Guildford Way and the Barnet Highway felt that they should be included in Port Moody–Westwood, as the Barnet Highway would leave them somewhat isolated from Coquitlam-Maillardville. However, the commission concluded that including these 4,000 people would produce too high a positive deviation in Port Moody–Westwood, where continued high growth was expected.
- It was suggested that the western boundary of Coquitlam-Maillardville should run straight along Blue Mountain Street, but the commission concluded that including an additional 3,100 people from the Burquitlam electoral district in this district would produce too high a deviation.
- The western boundary of the Port Coquitlam–Burke Mountain electoral district followed the Coquitlam River, except for one triangular section west of the river, which some people suggested should become part of Coquitlam-Maillardville. However, this boundary followed the Port Coquitlam municipal boundary, and the commission decided that those residents of Port Coquitlam west of the river should most logically be included in an electoral district with other residents of Port Coquitlam.

The Legislative Assembly adopted all the Wood Commission’s recommendations.

2. Our analysis of the Tri-Cities electoral districts

The geographical area that we describe as the Tri-Cities region now has three electoral districts, plus approximately 42 percent of the Burquitlam electoral district (see map on page 190). These electoral districts, with their deviations at the time of the 1996 census, and now, are as follows (see Table 17):

TABLE 17: CURRENT SMP ELECTORAL DISTRICTS IN THE TRI-CITIES

Electoral District	1996 deviation*	2006 deviation**
Port Moody–Westwood	+5%	+30.6%
Coquitlam–Maillardville	+4.9%	-4%
Port Coquitlam–Burke Mountain	+6.9%	+9.4%
Burquitlam	+8.8%	+2.5%

* based on 1996 census data, and assuming 79 electoral districts

** based on 2006 census data, and assuming 79 electoral districts

The total population of the current three Tri-Cities electoral districts is 174,947. We are satisfied that those residents of the current Burquitlam district who live within the City of Coquitlam (pop. 22,331) should be included in a Tri-Cities–based district. That brings the total population of the Tri-Cities region to 197,278. Rebalancing that population among four

electoral districts yields an average deviation of minus 5.3 percent (based on 79 electoral districts), quite appropriate for such a fast-growing urban area. Consequently, we are satisfied that the Tri-Cities region should have four electoral districts.

In deciding how to configure electoral districts within this region, we began with examining the physical configuration of the five municipalities in this region, and how the population is distributed among them:

Coquitlam	114,565
Port Coquitlam	52,687
Port Moody	27,512
Anmore	1,785
Belcarra	676
TOTAL	**197,278

** The total population of our Tri-Cities region (The above total does not include 53 persons on the First Nations Reserve and other unincorporated areas that are a part of the electoral district population for this region.)

Since the 1999 Wood Commission, there has been significant growth in the Westwood Plateau area of Port Moody and Coquitlam, and in the Burke Mountain area of Coquitlam. We were advised that growth in these areas has peaked, and that the most pronounced future growth will take place in the

Coquitlam Town Centre area and in the city’s southwest quadrant.

As mentioned earlier, in urban areas, we attempted to design electoral districts that correspond to municipal boundaries where possible, because in our view municipalities are good indicators of long-standing community interests.

The current Port Moody–Westwood electoral district, with 68,000 people and a deviation of plus 30.6 percent, has too many residents for a single electoral district. We decided to combine all of Port Moody, the Villages of Anmore and Belcarra, a portion of southwest Coquitlam beginning at North Road on the Burnaby–Coquitlam boundary, following the southern boundary east along Austin Avenue to Schoolhouse Street, north along Schoolhouse and Crestwood Streets, then continuing east along Ingersoll and Brookmount Avenues, and Balmoral Street to the Port Moody–Coquitlam municipal boundary. This created a district with 51,539 people, and a deviation of plus 1.5 percent. This approach would bring three municipalities into the one electoral district that we propose be called Port Moody–Coquitlam (see map of proposed Port Moody–Coquitlam electoral district page 192).

The next area we considered was the City of Port Coquitlam. Its 2006 census population is 52,687. If the city were to constitute one electoral district, it would have a deviation of plus 3.8 percent. Given our desire to respect municipal boundaries whenever possible in the development of electoral districts, we are satisfied that the population of the City of Port Coquitlam is close enough to parity to justify its own electoral district. We believe there should be a new Port Coquitlam electoral district that corresponds exactly to the municipal boundaries. The proposed Port Coquitlam electoral district includes the Coquitlam 2 Indian Reserve that has five people (see map of proposed Port Coquitlam electoral district page 193).

We then balanced the remaining Coquitlam population between two electoral districts, using the Canadian Pacific Railway right-of-way as the divider. We propose naming the electoral district in the southwest Coquitlam-Maillardville, and the electoral district in the northwest Coquitlam–Burke Mountain. They will have deviations of minus 8.8 percent and minus 8 percent, respectively (see maps of proposed Coquitlam-Maillardville and Coquitlam–Burke Mountain electoral districts pages 194-195).

3. Conclusion

Accordingly, we propose that there be four electoral districts in the Tri-Cities region, as follows:

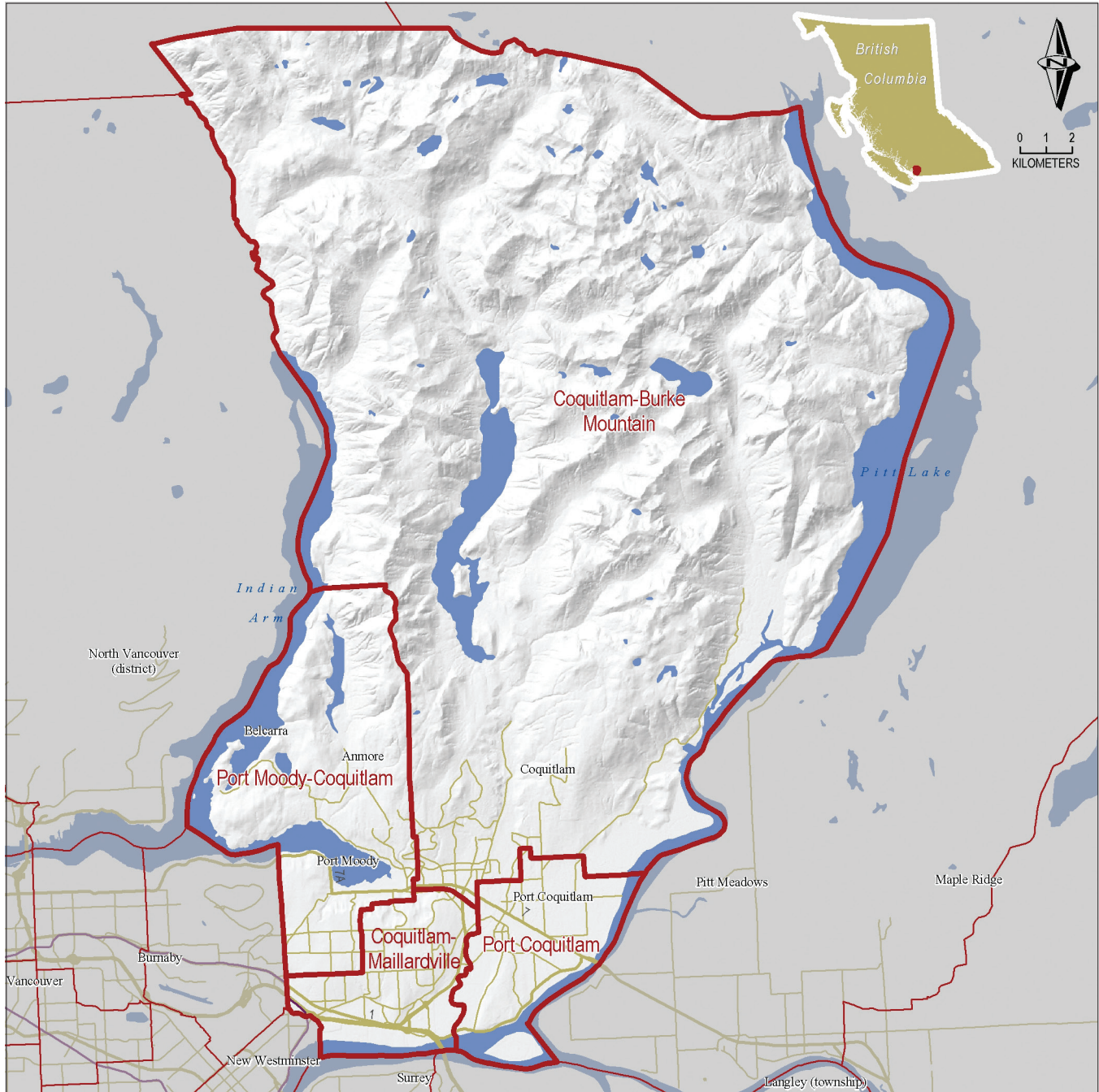
TABLE 18: PROPOSED SMP ELECTORAL DISTRICTS IN THE TRI-CITIES REGION

Electoral District	Sq. Km.	Population	Deviation*
Port Moody–Coquitlam	83	51,539	+1.5%
Coquitlam-Maillardville	30	46,315	-8.8%
Coquitlam–Burke Mountain	615	46,732	-8%
Port Coquitlam	35	52,692	+3.8%
* based on 81 electoral districts, with a provincial electoral quotient of 50,784			

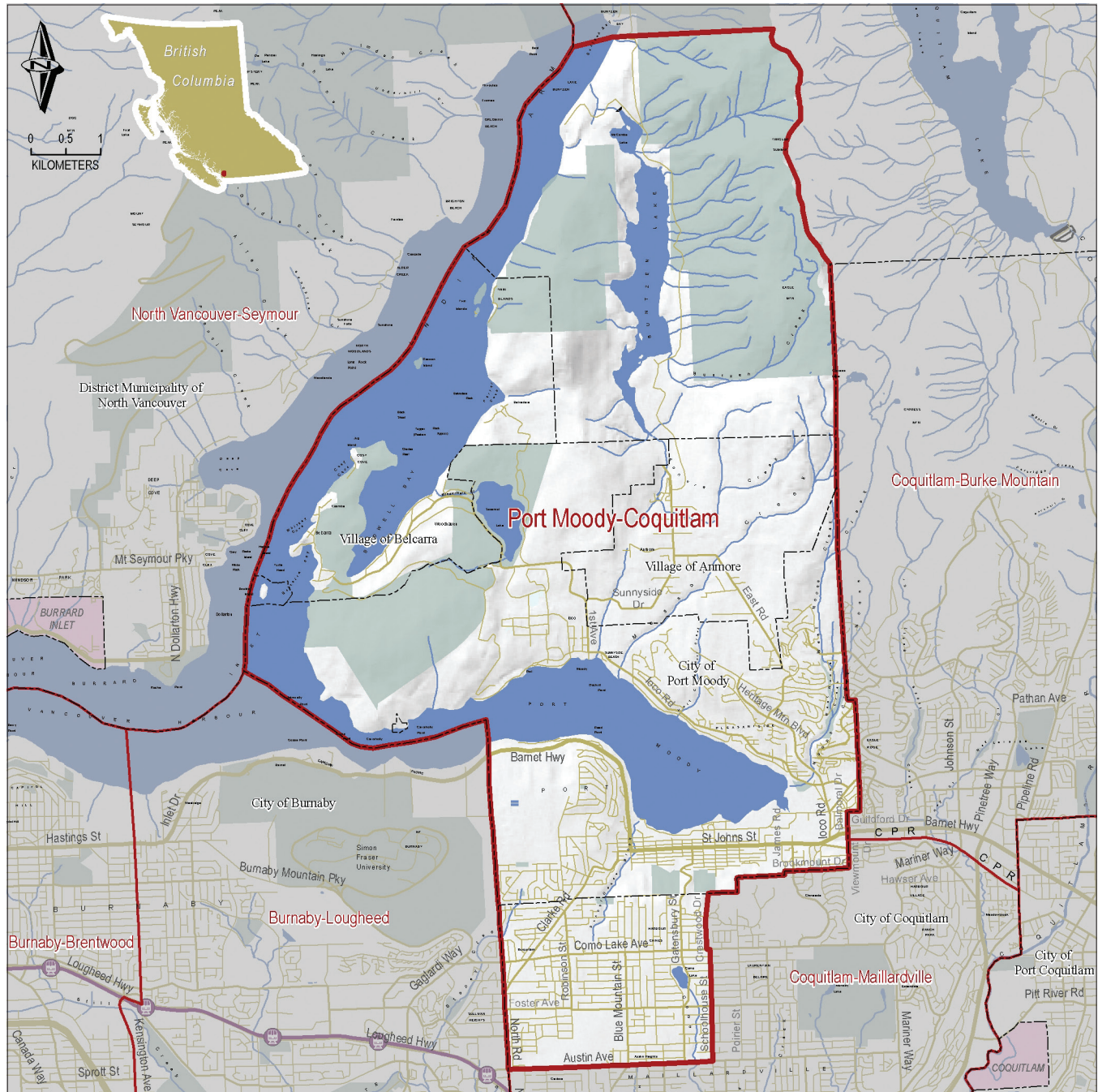
Region: Tri-Cities – Current Electoral Districts



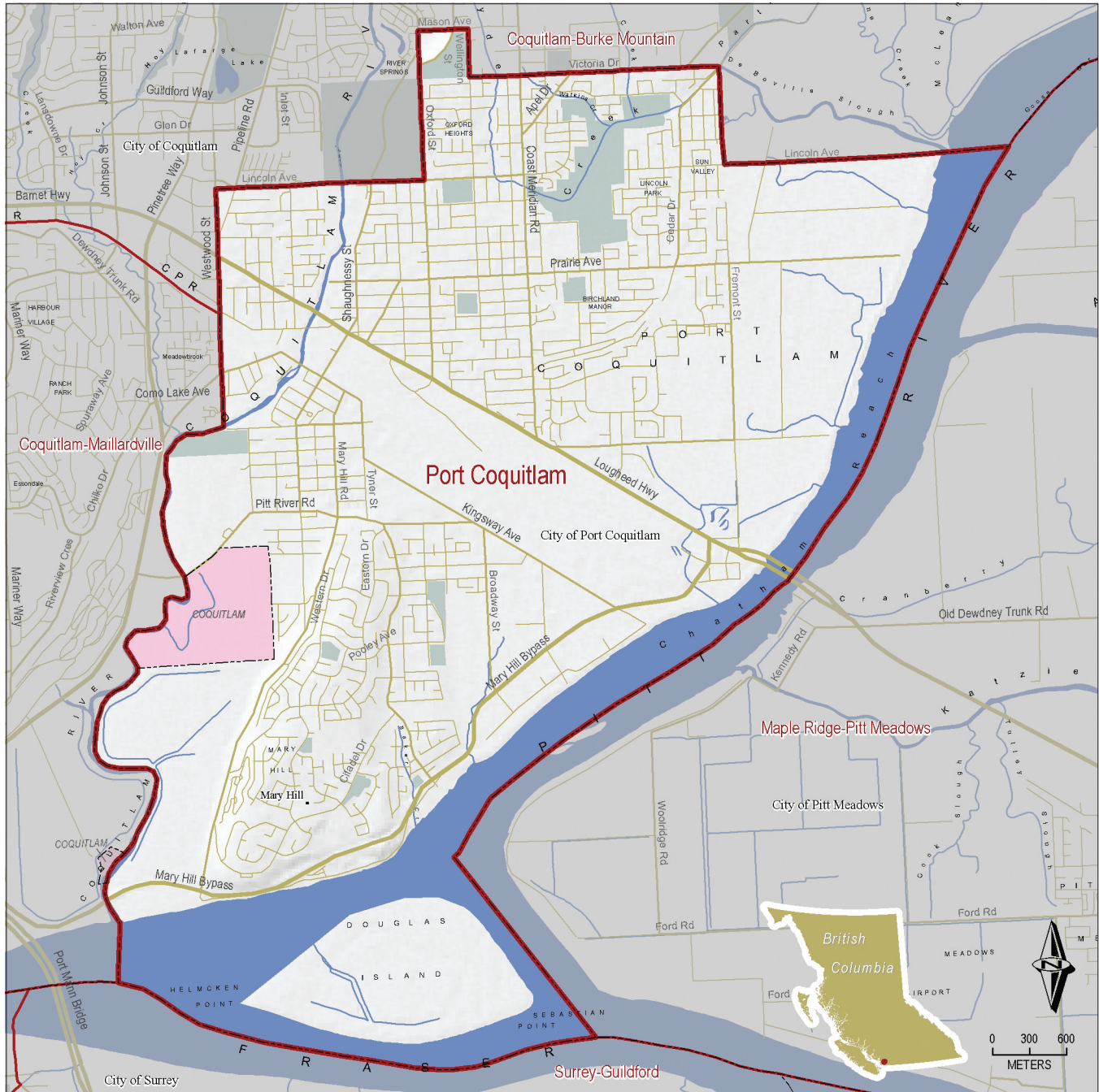
Region: Tri-Cities – Proposed Electoral Districts



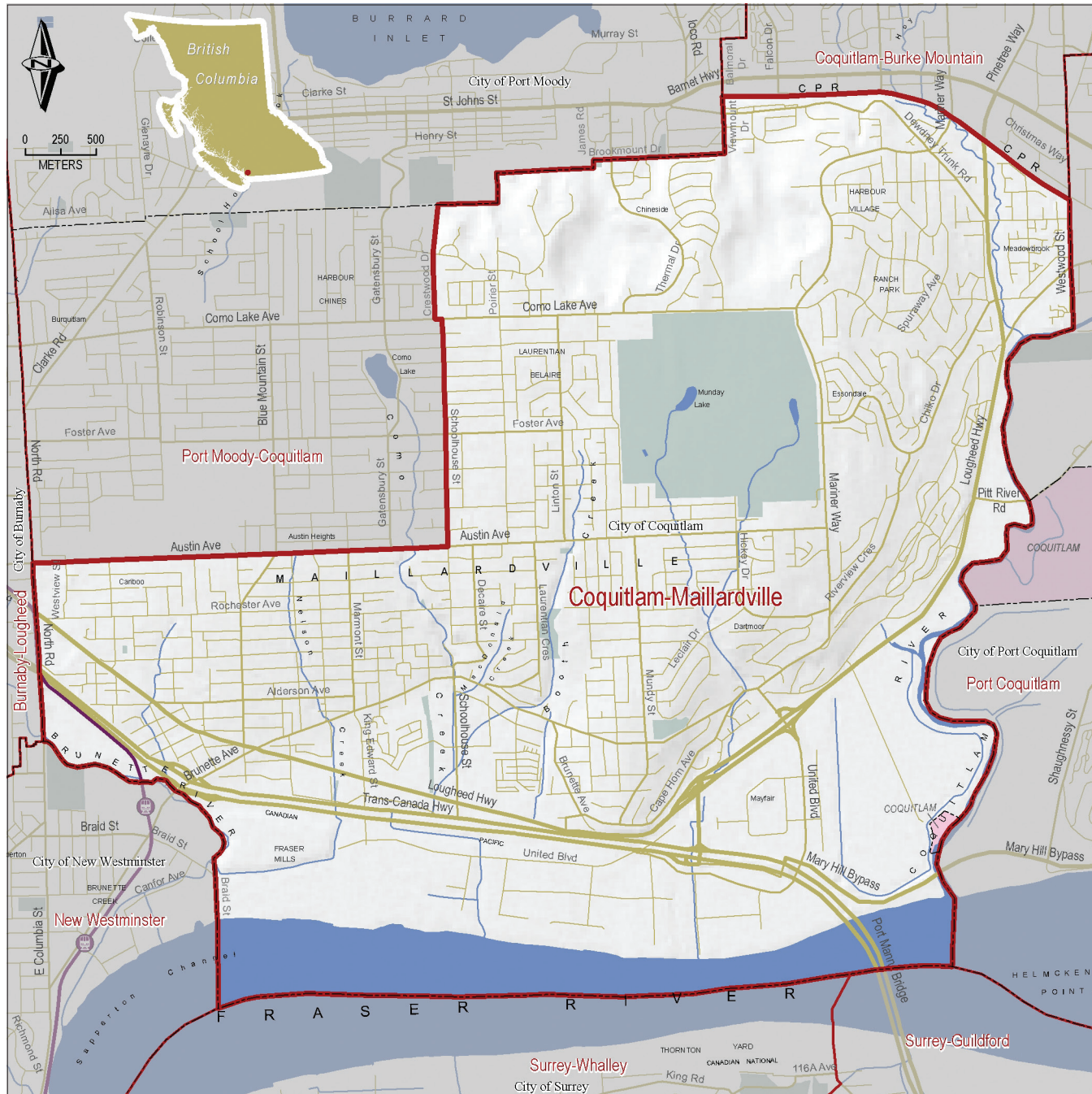
Region: Tri-Cities – Proposed Port Moody–Coquitlam Electoral District



Region: Tri-Cities – Proposed Port Coquitlam Electoral District



Region: Tri-Cities – Proposed Coquitlam-Maillardville Electoral District



PART 9 – PROPOSED SINGLE MEMBER PLURALITY BOUNDARIES

Region: Tri-Cities – Proposed Coquitlam–Burke Mountain Electoral District

