

November 21, 2022

Preliminary Report  
British Columbia  
Electoral Boundary Commission



Attention: Commission Members

*via email*

---

**RE: District of Barriere, BC – Submission to the Preliminary Report**

---

The District of Barriere understands that the BC Electoral Boundaries Commission is currently working on the electoral district boundaries proposed for the next two provincial elections in BC. We agree that the approved boundaries are important so that each Electoral District is represented by one elected representative (MLA) in the BC legislature.

The District of Barriere appreciates the consultative approach being conducted by the Commission regarding the preliminary report and for the opportunity to submit our concerns with the proposed realignment specifically considering our Electoral District.

Currently: The District of Barriere is within the Existing Electoral District of Kamloops – North Thompson, with population of 59,565 and an area of 21,641 sq km.

Proposed: The District of Barriere to be within the newly proposed Cariboo-North Thompson, with proposed population of 41,267 and an area of 51,239 sq km .

**General Comments:**

The District of Barriere is economically, socially and directly tied to the City of Kamloops. Therefore, our population growth is a function and result of many social and economic factors as a direct result of our proximity to the City of Kamloops. To this end, our “community of interest” is obviously Kamloops and certainly not Williams Lake, as proposed by the boundary changes in the subject report. Furthermore, residents of Barriere are only a short 45 minute drive to IHA’s Royal Inland Hospital and health services. With the current health care trends, Barriere residents will be relying more and more on this medical service and less on the limited services in Barriere. Additionally, families are only a short 30 minute commute to the city limits of Kamloops for shopping and recreational opportunities.

Our geographic boundary/natural land geology leans towards transportation corridors into Kamloops. Access to the proposed north-west boundary of Cariboo-North Thompson is not viable, safe, nor feasible given the vast distances to travel with relatively no economic ties to the proposed new electoral area.

Public concern and optics indicate that the proposed boundary change is a result, not to improve nor support the District of Barriere, but calculated to create additional ridings in the lower mainland and

Vancouver Island, to the detriment of District of Barriere. Over and over, the overwhelming sentiment is to continue with fueling urban growth and isolate rural BC.

Respectfully, the District of Barriere feels strongly that our Provincial representative must remain within Kamloops area. Equally important, is the principle of "effective representation".

In addition, the District of Barriere Elected Council feels that the "Ombudsman role" is just as critical as representation by population, in that we would be significantly better served by the geographical area that we are socially and economically tied to; that being the City of Kamloops.

Please consider this letter of concern, and we request that the Commission contact us to discuss these concerns prior to the submission of your final recommendations to the legislature.

On behalf of the District of Barriere Council,

Mayor Ward Stamer  
District of Barriere  
(250) 672-9751  
[www.barriere](http://www.barriere)