



Report to: General Committee

Date Report Authored: March 12, 2013

---

**SUBJECT:** Information Report – Update on the Federal Electoral Districts Proposal for the Province of Ontario

**PREPARED BY:** S. Huycke, Acting Deputy Clerk (x 4290)

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) THAT the report entitled “Information Report – Update on the Federal Electoral Districts Proposal for the Province of Ontario” be received; and,
- 2) THAT Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the proposal to adjust the boundaries of the federal electoral districts in Ontario.

**BACKGROUND:**

On October 15, 2012, staff provided General Committee with a report on the proposal to adjust the boundaries of Ontario’s federal electoral districts. The proposal was prepared by the *Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario* (the “Commission”), and published on August 27, 2012. (Maps from the August 2012 proposal are included as Attachments H-K for reference purposes)

Council passed the following resolutions on October 16, 2012:

- (1) *That the Mayor be authorized to send a letter to the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario expressing Council’s opinion on the proposed Federal Electoral Boundaries; and,*
- (2) *That the Mayor, or designate, be authorized to attend before the Federal Boundary Commission to express the following concerns:*
  - a. *That historical, social and economic factors are also considered when determining the boundaries;*
  - b. *That the portion of the proposed Markham riding that is west of Highway 404 and east of Bayview Avenue be included in the proposed Vaughan-Thornhill federal electoral district;*
  - c. *That the proposed Vaughan-Thornhill federal electoral district should be called “Thornhill”;*
- (3) *That the proposed Markham riding should also include the area of the City of Markham that is south of Highway 407, west of the York-Durham Line and east of Highway 48; and,*
- (4) *That the Federal Boundary Commission be requested to correct their Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario report to make clear that there are only 4 (four) electoral ridings not 5 (five) that encompass part of the City of Markham;*

---

On October 18, 2012 staff appeared, at the request of the Mayor, at the Commission's public meeting held in Richmond Hill to provide an overview of Council's concerns.

On February 25, 2013, the "*Report of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario*" was tabled in the House of Commons. (Pages 1-32 of the report are included as Attachment "A") The Commission's report includes several changes to the federal electoral boundaries proposed for the City of Markham. The proposed ridings differ from those put forth in the proposal from August 2012.

### **OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:**

The Commission discusses the issue of creating federal electoral districts for York Region at pages 21-23 of the report. The Commission has proposed nine (9) ridings for York Region (see attached map "B"). Five (5) of the nine include at least a portion of the City of Markham. The federal electoral districts proposed for Markham are as follows:

1) *MARKHAM-STOUFFVILLE:*

The riding of *Markham-Stouffville* is comprised of all of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville and a portion of the City of Markham. The boundaries of the Markham portion of the riding are the municipal boundary to the north, the York-Durham Line to the east, and Steeles Avenue to the south. The western boundary travels north from Steeles Avenue along the Rouge River to Highway 407; then west along Highway 407 to McCowan Road; then north along McCowan Road to 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue; then east along 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Highway 48; and then north along Highway 48 to the City's municipal boundary. (see attached map "C").

2) *MARKHAM-THORNHILL*

The riding of *Markham-Thornhill* is located wholly within the City. It is bounded by Steeles Avenue on the south, Bayview Avenue on the west, Highway 407 on the north, and the Rouge River on the east. (see attached map "D").

3) *MARKHAM-UNIONVILLE*

The riding of *Markham-Unionville* is located wholly within the City. Its boundaries are Highway 407 to the south, Highway 404 to the west, and the City's municipal boundary to the north. The eastern boundary of the proposed riding travels south along Highway 48 to 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, then west along 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue to McCowan Road, and then south along McCowan Road to Highway 407. (see attached map "E")

4) *RICHMOND HILL:*

The proposed riding of *Richmond Hill* includes approximately half of the total area of the Town of Richmond Hill, as well as a small portion of the City of Markham. The portion of the proposed riding located in Markham is commonly referred to as Leitchcroft, with boundaries of Highway 407 to the south, Bayview Avenue to the west, Highway 7 to the north, and Highway 404 to the east. (see attached map "F").

---

#### 5) VAUGHAN-THORNHILL-MARKHAM

The proposed riding of *Vaughan-Thornhill-Markham* is comprised of part of the City of Vaughan. In Markham, the proposed riding includes half of Thornhill, with boundaries of Steeles Avenue to the south, Yonge Street to the west, Highway 7 to the north, and Bayview Avenue to the east. (see attached map “G”).

Council’s October 16, 2012 resolution requested that the community of Thornhill be maintained in a single riding, and that the name Thornhill be preserved. The Commission has attempted to preserve the name Thornhill. However, the community of Thornhill continues to be divided, and is now separated into three electoral districts. The majority of Thornhill continues to be divided between the proposed *Vaughan-Thornhill-Markham* and *Markham-Thornhill* electoral districts. The Commission has further divided Thornhill by situating the Leitchcroft area in the *Richmond Hill* riding.

The report acknowledges receipt of submissions requesting that the communities of Milliken Mills and Markham Village be maintained in single ridings. The Commission has addressed these concerns, in-part, by placing the historical Markham Village entirely within the *Markham-Stouffville* riding. The results with respect to Milliken Mills are not as favourable. At General Committee on October 15, 2012, Council expressed the view that the Commission should consider the Milliken Mills community as extending all the way east to the York Durham Line. While the eastern boundary of the proposed *Markham-Thornhill* has been shifted towards the east, it has only moved as far as the Rouge River.

### Response to the Report

The House of Commons has referred the Commission’s report to the *Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs*. In accordance with section 22 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, Members of Parliament can file written objections to the report within 30 days of the report being sent to the Committee, or by **March 27, 2013** for the Ontario report. Any objections must be signed by at least 10 Members of Parliament. The committee is responsible for considering any objections. The report is then returned to the Commission with a copy of the objections and the committees transcripts. Within 30 days after the report is referred back, the Commission considers the objections and decides whether to modify any boundaries or district names. Then the Commission submits its final report to the Speaker of the House of Commons. This final report becomes the basis for the representation orders which create the new electoral boundaries.

If the City objects to the Commission’s proposal, the only recourse available at this time would be to lobby current Members of Parliament encouraging them to object to the proposal. It should be noted that the Committee has already considered objections with respect to the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia and Newfoundland & Labrador. The committee has accepted some of the objections received and forwarded those back to

---

the Commissions as required by the Act. The final outcome of the referral back to the committee will not be known for several weeks.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND TEMPLATE: (external link)**

None

**HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS**

None

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

Not applicable

**BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:**

none

**RECOMMENDED BY:**

3/14/2013

14/03/2013

X 

---

Martha Pettit  
Acting City Clerk

X 

---

Trinela Cane  
Commissioner of Corporate Services

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Attachment A – “Report of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario” \(pp.1-33\)](#)

[Attachment B – Map of York Regions electoral districts](#)

[Attachment C – Map of the electoral district of \*Markham-Stouffville\*](#)

[Attachment D – Map of the electoral district of \*Markham-Thornhill\*](#)

[Attachment E – Map of the electoral district of \*Markham-Unionville\*](#)

[Attachment F – Map of the electoral district of \*Richmond Hill\*](#)

[Attachment G – Map of electoral district of \*Vaughan-Thornhill-Markham\*](#)

[Attachment H – Map of the proposed electoral district of \*Markham\*](#)

[Attachment I – Map of the proposed electoral district of \*Markham-Unionville\*](#)

[Attachment J – Map of the proposed electoral district of \*Markham-Stouffville\*](#)

[Attachment K – Map of the proposed electoral district of \*Vaughan-Thornhill\*](#)