
MÉTIS VOICES. OTIPEMISIWAK MÉTIS GOVERNMENT.



MAPS BROCHURE

Journey to Otipemisiwak Métis Government

APRIL 2023





INTRODUCTION

With the Constitution coming into force, Districts have been defined to allow for less ambiguity among elected representatives, to increase local representation, and to combine administrative and electoral constituencies. The defined Districts are designed to be sustainable and reflect the needs and lived experiences of the Métis Nation within Alberta.

TIMELINE:

OVERARCHING CONSIDERATIONS

- The Constitution Commission worked with the Métis Nation of Alberta's (MNA) mapping team to determine District boundaries. They considered several factors, including watersheds, kinships, genealogical research, populations, highways, urban areas, traditional and modern travel routes, and administrative and electoral constituencies.
- The Commission was careful not to draw arbitrary lines without Métis lived experiences speaking to the District boundaries. As such, Citizens' voices were heard through roundtables and various other channels and that feedback was incorporated by the mapping team.

- These are some of the most frequently heard considerations shared by MNA citizens:
 - Balance for rural and urban District representation vs. strict representation based on population
 - Consideration of needs based on location, e.g. rural communities have different needs compared to urban communities
 - Number of Districts in a territory
 - Boundaries within territories being reflective of the connections between communities, in the Peace River, North Saskatchewan River, and Battle River Territories
 - Communities with strong Métis histories and active Locals being able to transition into their own District under the new government

INITIAL DRAFT DISTRICT MAP (Aug 2020)

- The starting point for the initial draft was looking at harvesting areas and Alberta Wildlife Management Units. These initial boundaries followed natural boundaries and harvesting areas and reflected regional Métis communities. However, more input was required to be able to develop the new District boundaries.
- Development of the initial Districts was guided by the following questions:
 - How many Districts are needed for effective and reasonable representation?
 - How to best account for kinship, watersheds, etc.?

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT (Sept 2020 – Aug 2022)

- The Constitution Commission hosted roundtables to gain feedback from participants on what the Commission should prioritize.

RATIFICATION PROCESS (Sept 2022 – Dec 2022)

- Although the District boundaries are not part of the Constitution, a map of the District boundaries was provided at the time of the ratification vote. The province-wide ratification vote was held on the understanding that the proposed District boundary map would be approved by Provincial Council and put into an Otipemisiwak Métis Government law.

CURRENT ITERATION (Feb 2023 – Mar 2023)

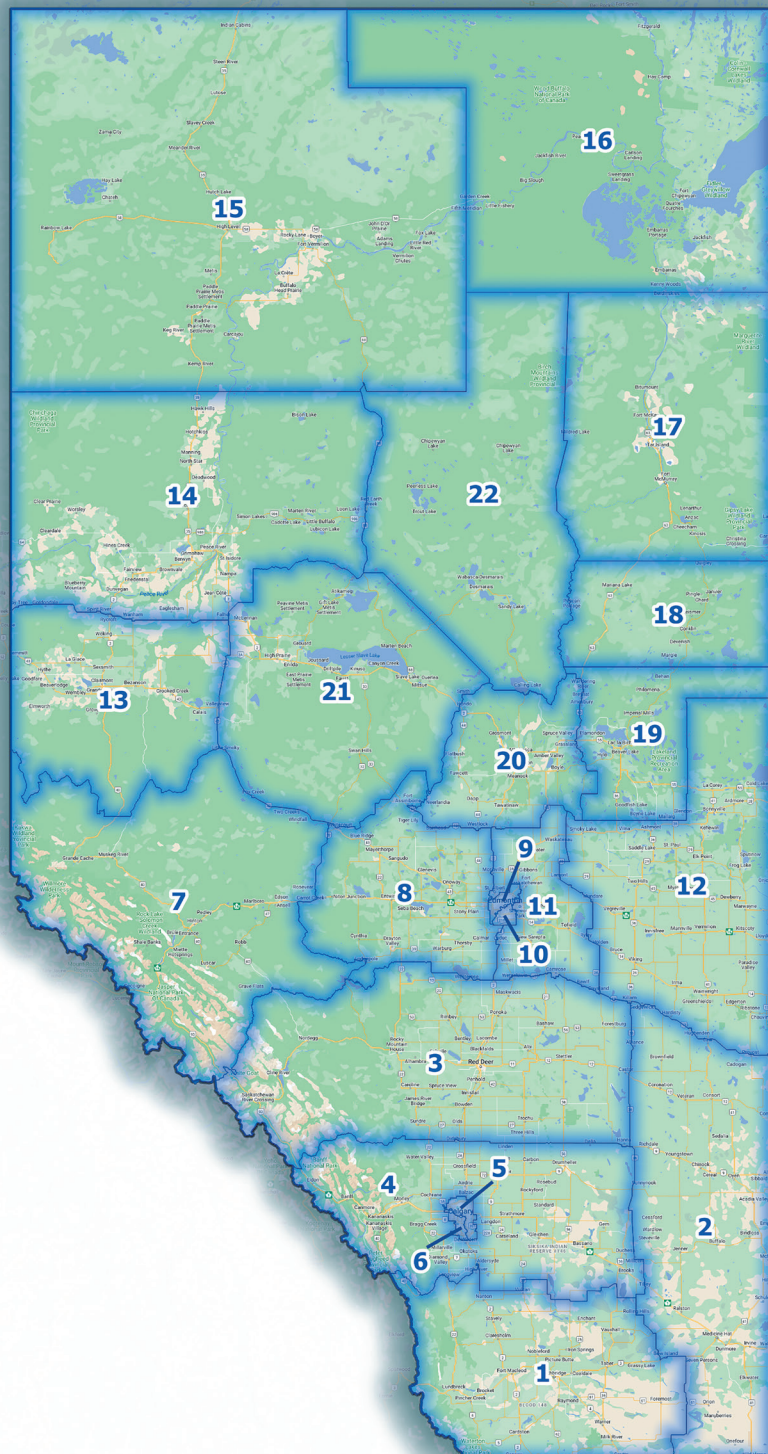
- Minor boundary adjustments were made to support certainty for electoral purposes (e.g., correcting single communities which were bisected by roads, bodies of water and therefore neighbours could be in different districts).

CURRENT DISTRICTS MAP

AS APPROVED BY PROVINCIAL COUNCIL ON MARCH 15, 2023

District # Interim District Name

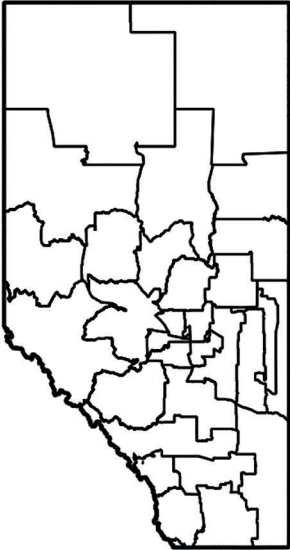
- 1 Foothills Métis District
- 2 Medicine Hat Métis District
- 3 Red Deer Métis District
- 4 Rocky View Métis District
- 5 Calgary Nose Hill Métis District
- 6 Calgary Elbow Métis District
- 7 Jasper House Métis District
- 8 Lac Ste Anne Métis District
- 9 Fort Edmonton Métis District
- 10 Edmonton Whitemud Métis District
- 11 St. Albert Métis District
- 12 St. Paul-Cold Lake Métis District
- 13 Grande Prairie Métis District
- 14 Peace River Métis District
- 15 Fort Vermilion Métis District
- 16 Fort Chipewyan Métis District
- 17 Fort McMurray Métis District
- 18 Conklin Métis District
- 19 Lac La Biche Métis District
- 20 Athabasca Landing Métis District
- 21 Lesser Slave Lake Métis District
- 22 Wabasca-Desmarais Métis District



DISCLAIMER: Each District will need a name that reflects the distinctive features of the land, Métis history, and contemporary Métis experience. The names listed here are interim proposals. Final District names will be determined in consultation with the Citizens of each District.

PREVIOUS VERSIONS

VERSION 1



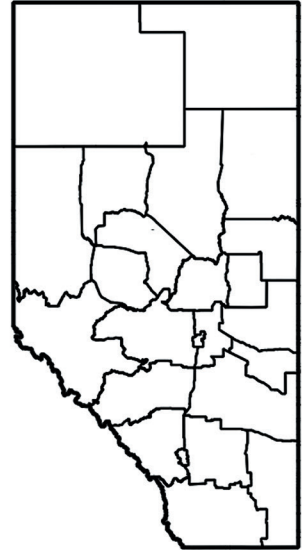
VERSION 2



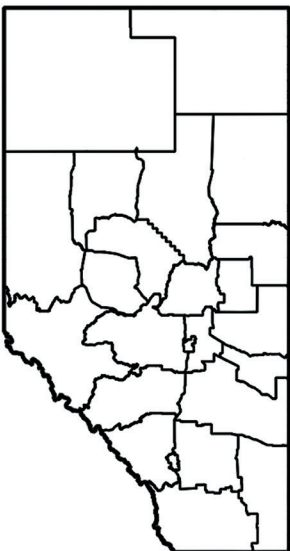
VERSION 3



VERSION 4



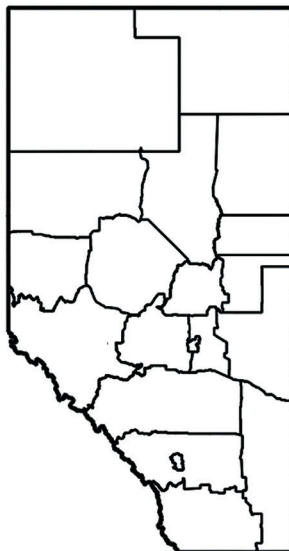
VERSION 5



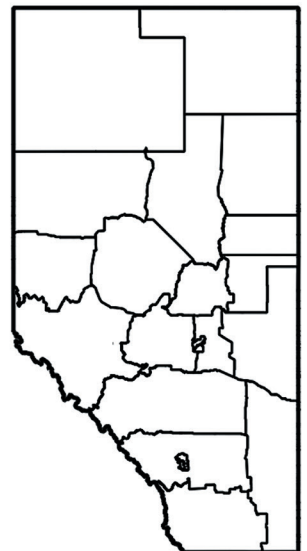
VERSION 6



VERSION 7



VERSION 8



FAQ

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
<p>What was the approval process for the District boundaries?</p>	<p>Initial drafts of the District maps were shared with Citizens through the work of the Constitution Commission. The map was provided to Citizens in the Constitution for information purposes only (it does not form part of the Constitution), which was ratified by Citizens in November 2022. The province-wide ratification vote was held on the understanding that the proposed District boundary map would be put into an Otipemisiwak Métis Government law.</p> <p>Following ratification of the Constitution, minor amendments were made to the maps to address boundary outliers and minor administrative issues. The final map was reviewed by the Transition Committee and subsequently approved by Provincial Council on March 15, 2023.</p>
<p>Can the District boundaries be changed?</p>	<p>Yes. District boundaries will be governed by an Otipemisiwak Métis Government law that will allow the Otipemisiwak Métis Government to change District boundaries if needed.</p>
<p>How were the new Districts designed?</p>	<p>The initial drafts of the Districts were based on harvesting areas and Alberta Wildlife Management Units because their boundaries largely follow natural boundaries and in many cases reflect regional Métis communities.</p> <p>There were two questions that were a top priority for the Constitution Commission during the development of District boundaries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How many Districts are needed for effective and reasonable representation?2. How to best account for kinship, watersheds, etc?

FAQ

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
	<p>The Constitution Commission, with the MNA mapping team, considered watersheds, kinships, genealogical research, populations, highways, urban areas, and traditional and modern travel routes during District development. The Constitution Commission was conscious of not wanting to draw lines without lived experience to speak to the boundaries; as such, roundtables were held to allow for Citizens to voice their concerns. Revised boundaries were informed by the roundtable sessions.</p>
<p>How was it decided whether one location would be in one District or another during the final mapping review?</p>	<p>In most cases, the locations remained in their original District. For locations that changed Districts, there was much deliberation and discussion by MNA administration, the Transition Committee and Provincial Council to inform final edits that would add certainty as to which side of the District boundary an existing town or community was on for the purposes of electoral certainty.</p>
<p>Is the population the same in every District?</p>	<p>No, the population is not the same in every District. While population was a key consideration; based on extensive feedback from Citizens, the Constitution Commission balanced population with other factors, such as geography, mobility, historic Métis presence, and remoteness when determining District boundaries.</p>
<p>If the Districts change, do the territories change?</p>	<p>No, the Territories are distinct from the Districts and, unlike the District boundaries, cannot be changed by an Otipemisiwak Métis Government law. The Territories reflect the historic regional Métis communities in Alberta and are enshrined in the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution. Unlike the District boundaries or current MNA regional boundaries, the Territories do not serve an administrative or electoral purpose.</p>

