PEOPLE ARE MOVING
THE ELECTORAL
MAP IS
CHANGING

Step II: **Revised Delimitation**
Proposal
Second Report

November 2010

Commission de la représentation
électorale du Québec

Québec, November 11, 2010

Mr. Yvon Vallières
President of the National Assembly
Hôtel du Parlement
1045, rue des Parlementaires
Québec (Québec) G1A 1A4

Dear Mr. Vallières,

Pursuant to the provisions of section 28 of the Election Act, the Commission de la représentation électorale is honoured to submit to you its second report on the delimitation of Québec's electoral divisions.

This report follows the tour of 24 public hearings that the Commission de la représentation électorale held in the spring of 2008 in all regions of Québec on the subject of the preliminary delimitation proposal. This proposal was also submitted for the consideration of the Committee on the National Assembly at a session held in Parliament on September 14 and 15, 2010.

Section 28 of the Election Act also stipulates that within five days of its tabling, the second report shall be the subject of a debate in the National Assembly limited to five hours. The Commission de la représentation électorale shall then establish the final boundaries of the electoral divisions not later than the tenth day following this debate.

Yours respectfully,

Mr. Marcel Blanchet
President

Serge Courville
Commissioner

John Zacharias
Commissioner

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In its preliminary report of March 12, 2008, the Commission de la représentation électorale proposed a major revision of Québec's electoral map with a view to reducing the inequalities in representation of the current map. In the face of the finding that on the one hand, twenty electoral divisions were in an exception situation owing to the fact that they no longer respected the numerical criterion of ±25% from the provincial average of 45,207 electors and that on the other hand, a further sixteen electoral divisions could rapidly find themselves in the same situation, the Commission proposed changes to 86 divisions. Among these changes, note should be made of the withdrawal of three divisions from the Gaspésie, Bas-Saint-Laurent and Chaudière-Appalaches regions as well as the addition of three new divisions to the Montérégie, Laurentides-Lanaudière and Laval regions, all of which have been experiencing strong demographic growth.

The need to make an in-depth revision of the current electoral map is still just as essential today to ensure a fair and equitable representation of all electors of Québec. In this respect, the examination of more recent data, as of July 31, 2010, indicates that seven other divisions have joined the twenty exceptional divisions identified initially, namely as of November 30, 2007. Consequently, this report once again provides for the withdrawal of three divisions from over-represented regions and the addition of three divisions in under-represented regions.

However, the revised proposal contains numerous changes in comparison with the delimitation found in the preliminary report, changes that were made in response to the comments and proposals heard by the Commission during the 24 public hearings held in 23 cities of Québec. In addition, the holding of the Committee on the National Assembly also allowed the Commission to obtain a host of additional information from Members of the National Assembly (MNAs). In some cases, the Commission deemed it appropriate to return to the current situation. In others, the Commission preferred to make minor or substantial adjustments in order to take into account specific requests or general comments on the delimitation proposed in a region. Finally, the Commission also made note of the changes proposed in its preliminary report which satisfied the public.

The delicate exercise arising from the taking into consideration of the different points of view expressed during its tour of Québec led the Commission to allow, in addition to the exceptional division of Îles-de-la-Madeleine already provided for under the Election Act, three other exceptional divisions. Aside from the electoral division of Ungava, the Commission grants an exception status to the divisions of Gaspé and Abitibi-Est, whereas those of Abitibi-Ouest and René-Lévesque have also seen the deviation of their number of electors exceed the minimum threshold of -25% in recent months.

Here are the changes that the Commission made to its preliminary proposal for each region:

Abitibi-Témiscamingue–Nord-du-Québec

- the boundaries of the electoral division of Ungava are adjusted to practically match those of the administrative region of Nord-du-Québec;

- the electoral division of Abitibi-Ouest corresponds to the regional county municipalities (RCMs) of Abitibi and Abitibi-Ouest;

- the Cadillac sector of the Ville de Rouyn-Noranda remains within the electoral division of Abitibi-Est.

Bas-Saint-Laurent

• no change is proposed in this region in comparison with the preliminary delimitation proposal.

Capitale-Nationale

• the municipalities of Baie-Sainte-Catherine and Saint-Siméon as well as the unorganized territories of Mont-Élie and Sagard are brought back into the division, whose proposed name is Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré;

• boundary adjustments are proposed between the electoral divisions of La Peltrie and Louis-Hébert, between those of Chauveau and Vanier, which it is proposed to rename Vanier-Les Rivières, as well as between the divisions of Jean-Talon and Taschereau in order to take into account the changes made to the boroughs of the Ville de Québec in 2008 and 2009.

Chaudière-Appalaches

• the electoral divisions of Beauce-Nord, Beauce-Sud and Chutes-de-la-Chaudière retain their current boundaries;

• the regional county municipality of Lotbinière is joined to the major part of the regional county municipality of Les Appalaches within a new electoral division which it is proposed to name Lotbinière-Frontenac;

• the municipalities of Beaulac-Garthby, Disraeli (Ville and Paroisse) and Sainte-Praxède are grafted to the proposed division of Mégantic.

Côte-Nord

• the existing boundaries of the electoral division of René-Lévesque are maintained.

Estrie−Centre-du-Québec

• the electoral division of Orford once again has its name and its mountain; it comprises the entire regional county municipality of Memphrémagog as well as the municipalities of Bonsecours, Lawrenceville and Sainte-Anne-de-la-Rochelle;

• the borough of Rock-Forest–Saint-Élie–Deauville joins the electoral division of Richmond as do all of the regional county municipalities of Les Sources and Val-Saint-François, with the exception of four municipalities including that of Stoke;

• this latter municipality is added to the electoral division of Mégantic which also includes the municipalities of Beaulac-Garthby, Disraeli (Ville and Paroisse) and Sainte-Praxède as well as the regional county municipality of Haut-Saint-François and the major part of that of Granit;

• the boroughs of Brompton, Fleurimont and Lennoxville form, with the regional county municipality of Coaticook, the division of Saint-François;

- in the case of the electoral division of Johnson, the part of the Ville de Drummonville located to the southwest of the boulevard Saint-Joseph is added, whereas the municipalities of the regional county municipality of Drummond located to the east of the rivière Saint-François as well as those of Warden, Waterloo and Shefford are withdrawn;

- as for the northeastern part of the Ville de Drummondville, it forms, with the municipalities of the regional county municipality of Drummond located to the east of the rivière Saint-François, those of the regional county municipality of Arthabaska that are in the current division of Richmond as well as the municipalities of Chesterville and Sainte-Hélène-de-Chester, the new electoral division named Drummond–Bois-Francs;

- the municipalities of Saint-Louis-de-Blandford and Villeroy are added to the other municipalities of the regional county municipality of L'Érable in the electoral division of Arthabaska.

Gaspésie

- the regional county municipality of Avignon remains in the electoral division of Bonaventure which is expanded slightly eastward by incorporating the Ville de Chandler;

- the regional county municipality of Haute-Gaspésie is joined to the electoral division of Gaspé;

- the regional county municipalities of Matane, Matapédia and La Mitis make up the division of Matane-Matapédia.

Île-de-Montréal

- the electoral division of Jacques-Cartier once again includes the Ville de Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, and the Village of Senneville is added to this division;

- the Ville de Kirkland in its entirety is included in the electoral division of Nelligan, which requires a slight reduction in the eastern part of this division to the benefit of the division of Robert-Baldwin;

- the toponym Louis-Riel is added to the name of the electoral division of Anjou.

Laurentides-Lanaudière

- the new division of La Plaine is replaced with the reintegration of the division of L'Assomption;

- the Ville de Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines is kept in the electoral division of Blainville and consequently, a part of the Ville de Blainville is transferred to the electoral division of Groulx;

- the electoral division of Masson is reduced to the Ville de Mascouche and the northern part of the Ville de Terrebonne (La Plaine sector) is added to the division; the part of the Ville de Terrebonne located to the east of the montée Dumais as well as the Le Gardeur sector of the Ville de Repentigny are transferred to the electoral division of L'Assomption;

- this latter electoral division also comprises the municipalities of Charlemagne, L'Assomption and L'Épiphanie;

- the new electoral division of Repentigny is maintained and comprises the territory of the former Ville de Repentigny as well as the Paroisse de Saint-Sulpice;

- the electoral division of Bertrand once again comprises the municipalities of Entrelacs, Notre-Dame-de-la-Merci and Saint-Donat, but the Municipalité de Saint-Hippolyte is withdrawn from the division and added to that of Rousseau;

- the electoral division of Rousseau assumes on a more compact form following the withdrawal of the municipalities of L'Assomption and L'Épiphanie in its southern part and those of Entrelacs, Notre-Dame-de-la-Merci and Saint-Donat in its northern part, and the addition of the municipalities of Saint-Calixte, Saint-Lin–Laurentides, Saint-Hippolyte and Sainte-Sophie.

Laval

- the electoral division of Laval-des-Rapides is one again expanded up to the autoroute Papineau, which is the eastern boundary of sector no. 2 of the Ville de Laval;

- the electoral division of Fabre is extended somewhat eastward by following the boulevard Saint-Martin and the 100e Avenue northwards up to the autoroute Laval (440);

- the electoral division of Vimont corresponds in full to administrative sector no. 6 of the Ville de Laval;

- the name of the new electoral division of Marc-Aurèle-Fortin is changed to that of Sainte-Rose.

Mauricie

- the northern part of the Ville de Trois-Rivières (Les Forges sector) returns to the electoral division of Trois-Rivières;

- only the sector of the former Ville de Trois-Rivières-Ouest located to the south of the autoroute Félix-Leclerc (40) and to the east of the autoroute de l'Énergie (55) is joined to the electoral division of Trois-Rivières.

Montérégie

- the municipalities of Shefford, Warden and Waterloo are added to the electoral division of Brome-Missisquoi and its boundaries are adjusted to the administrative region;

- the municipalities of Saint-Mathias-sur-Richelieu and Richelieu are reintegrated in the electoral division of Chambly, which is henceforth centered around the bassin de Chambly;

- the Ville de Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville forms, together with the Ville de Boucherville, the electoral division of Marguerite-D'Youville;

- the electoral division of Verchères is made up of all of the municipalities of the regional county municipality of Lajemmerais, including the Ville de Sainte-Julie;

- the municipalities of Saint-Marc-sur-Richelieu, Saint-Charles-sur-Richelieu, Sainte-Madeleine and Sainte-Marie-Madeleine are added to the electoral division of Borduas;

- the municipalities of Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu and Saint-Denis-sur-Richelieu are added to the electoral division of Richelieu;

- the proposed name for the new electoral division is Sanguinet; it includes the municipalities of Sainte-Catherine, Saint-Constant, Saint-Mathieu and Saint-Rémi.

Outaouais

- the ward of the Ville de Gatineau, known under the name of Parc Champlain, is joined to the electoral division of Pontiac.

Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean

- the electoral divisions of Chicoutimi and Dubuc retain their current boundaries;

- the Village de Saint-André-du-Lac-Saint-Jean is joined to the electoral division of Roberval in order to group together all of the regional county municipality of Domaine-du-Roy in this division; a part of the unorganized territory of Passes-Dangereuses, that corresponds to the township of Hudon, is also joined to the electoral division of Roberval.

Four electoral divisions in an exception situation

- **the electoral division of Îles-de-la-Madeleine:** the Act grants the Îles-de-la-Madeleine an exception status. As a result, the Commission has no jurisdiction over the delimitation of this division;

- **the electoral division of Ungava:** the Commission has granted the division of Ungava an exception status since 1988. This division covers a vast territory inhabited by a small population dispersed across several points of varying importance. Owing to this division's very special geographical and historical context, the Commission considers it appropriate to maintain the division of Ungava in its current exception status;

- **the electoral division of Abitibi-Est:** by recognizing the very special situation of the division of Ungava, the Commission's leeway for the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region is limited due, among other things, to its geographical situation and the large size of this region. The Commission examined the options available to it, from the withdrawal of one division to the splitting up of the Ville de Rouyn-Noranda among the region's three divisions. However, the Commission considers that the solution that best respects the natural communities is the granting of an exception status to the division of Abitibi-Est, which is, with its 30,000 km^2, one of the biggest divisions of Québec;

- **the electoral division of Gaspé:** in the case of the division of Gaspé, its special geographical situation is such that the only way to add a sufficient number of electors would be to expand it westward by moving its boundary beyond the administrative region of Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine up to the Ville de Matane. The Commission favoured a boundary between the divisions of Gaspé and Matane-Matapédia which better respects the natural communities and adheres to the boundaries of the administrative regions and the regional county municipalities. It appears that with only one exceptional division on the Gaspésie peninsula, in comparison with the current four, the inequalities in representation are significantly reduced.

The special situation of the electoral divisions of Abitibi-Ouest and René-Lévesque

- **the electoral division of Abitibi-Ouest:** as in the case of the electoral division of Abitibi-Est, the Commission has given up the idea of significantly expanding the electoral division of Abitibi-Ouest northward. The existing alternatives to correct its elector deficit once and for all would go too much against the natural communities present. That is why the Commission proposes only adjusting the electoral division of Abitibi-Ouest to the boundaries of the regional county municipality of Abitibi by adding the Municipalité de Barraute and a part of the unorganized territory of Lac-Despinassy. While this change reduces the deviation of the number of electors of this division just below the minimum threshold of -25%, the examination of recent data as of July 31, 2010 shows that this deviation has increased to -25.2% since then. Despite this fact, the Commission maintains its decision concerning the electoral division of Abitibi-Ouest, which remains one of the largest and most remote electoral divisions of Québec. The Commission will pay special attention to the demographic outlook of the electoral division of Abitibi-Ouest in order to monitor the evolution of its exception situation;

- **the electoral division of René-Lévesque:** in recognizing the rivière Saguenay as a major boundary at the junction of the Côte-Nord, Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean and Capitale-Nationale administrative regions, the Commission has abandoned the idea of correcting the elector deficit of the division of René-Lévesque by expanding it to the south of this river. The Commission also examined the possibility of expanding this division at the expense of the only other division located in the Côte-Nord region, that of Duplessis. However, as this latter division also has an elector deficit, this solution would only arbitrarily shift the problem to Duplessis. Moreover, the current boundary between these two divisions already perfectly adheres to the boundaries of the existing regional county municipalities. Its small population density, its surface area of close to 50,000 km^2 and the concentration of its population along the shore are all elements that show the special character of the division of René-Lévesque. The Commission therefore opts for maintaining this division's current boundaries despite the fact that its critical situation as of November 30, 2007 has evolved into an exception situation in recent months. The deviation of its number of electors from the provincial average reached -26.1% as of July 31, 2010.

Public hearings

Themes addressed

A large number of interventions were made during the Commission's public hearing process and at the time of the holding of the Committee on the National Assembly. Many of them allowed the Commission to improve its electoral division delimitation proposal. However, for various reasons explained further on in this report, the Commission was unable to follow up on all of the suggestions that were made. After having made a commitment to the public, the Commission considers it appropriate to submit to the National Assembly some of these concerns. Here is the list of the main themes that were addressed during the public consultation:

1) the wish to maintain the status quo;

2) respect for the administrative boundaries;

3) the economic difficulties of some regions;

4) the role of a Member of the National Assembly;

5) the adoption of a new voting system;

6) the decentralization of powers to the regions;

7) amendments to the Election Act.

Effective representation: the complementary application of two criteria

During the public hearings, many interventions dealt with the theme of the effective representation of electors and the Commission's obligation to take this aspect into account in the delimitation of the divisions. But what is effective representation?

Effective representation was recognized in 1991 by the Supreme Court of Canada in the *Carter* case as a right guaranteed to electors under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. For the Supreme Court, the first condition of effective representation is relative parity of voting power. The Court adds that "A system which dilutes one citizen's vote unduly as compared with another citizen's vote runs the risk of providing inadequate representation to the citizen whose vote is diluted. [...]. The result will be uneven and unfair representation".

The Supreme Court considers, however, that this condition, while essential and of prime importance, is not the only factor to be taken into account. On the one hand, the Court indicates that absolute parity is impossible and, on the other hand, it points out that "factors like geography, community history, community interests and minority representation may need to be taken into account to ensure that our legislative assemblies effectively represent the diversity of our social mosaic".

The Supreme Court also adds that "the problems of representing vast, sparsely populated territories, for example, may dictate somewhat lower voter populations in these districts" or "thus the goal of effective representation may justify somewhat lower voter populations in rural areas".

In light of this Supreme Court interpretation, the Commission considers that the relative equality of the votes of electors is not a notion that is separate from that of effective representation, but rather forms an integral part thereof. Moreover, it is worthwhile recalling that the delimitation criteria found in the Election Act were revised following this important decision of the Supreme Court, without it having been deemed necessary to change them fundamentally.

The Commission considers that the sections of the Election Act, which establish the legislative framework that the Commission must follow within the context of the process for revising Québec's electoral map, adhere to the principles set out by the Supreme Court in the important ruling handed down in 1991 in the *Carter* case. On the one hand, section 15 of the Election Act stipulates that the divisions must represent natural communities established on the basis of demographical, geographical and sociological considerations, such as the shape of the region and the natural local boundaries. As for section 16, it stipulates that each division must have a number of electors that does not deviate by more than 25% from the provincial average, namely the quotient obtained by dividing the total number of electors in Québec by the total number of divisions.

A division is therefore not solely the reflection of a precise number of electors or the reflection of a natural community. It does not ensue from a choice made between these two criteria, but rather from the complementary application of them.

A few avenues of reflection

Several citizens suggested legislative amendments in order to redefine the basic principles of electoral representation in Québec. Suggestions notably included maintaining electoral divisions in remote areas or in areas where the demographic weight is on the decline. With a desire to be constructive, the Commission analyzed ten of the proposals which in many cases were often made during the public hearings. Whether the proposal involves creating new exceptional divisions in the Election Act like that of Îles-de-la-Madeleine, increasing the total number of divisions or using a differentiated numerical criterion according to the regions, one common finding emerges: the proposals do not necessarily make it possible to maintain the divisions which the Commission proposes withdrawing from some regions. Indeed, to preserve these divisions, it would be necessary to amend the Election Act and to substantially increase the number of electors. Without such an increase, greater inequalities in representation would necessarily have to be accepted.

The next steps

Following the tabling of this report, a debate limited to five hours shall be held in the National Assembly. As stipulated in the Act, this debate must take place within five days of the tabling of the report. However, if the National Assembly is not sitting, the debate shall be held in the Committee on the National Assembly within ten days from the tabling of the report.

Not later than the tenth day following the debate, the Commission shall establish the boundaries of the electoral divisions of Québec and assign names to them. The list of the divisions will be published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*. The new electoral map will thus come into force upon the dissolution of the National Assembly, namely when the next general election is called. However, this dissolution must occur at least three months after the date of publication of the new electoral map in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*. In the opposite case, the election must be held using the previous delimitation, namely that established in 2001.

INTRODUCTION

On March 27, 2007, following two general elections held since the delimitation made in 2001, the Commission de la représentation électorale began the revision of Québec's electoral map, as stipulated in the Election Act. Since then, a few important steps of the process have been completed. On March 12, 2008, the Commission made public its preliminary report, which contained a delimitation proposal for all 125 electoral divisions of Québec. The analysis of the situation clearly revealed the extent of the inequalities in representation between certain regions of Québec. That is why the proposed changes were major and sought a better balance.

The Commission went on to initiate a public consultation process in order to gather new information likely to improve its preliminary delimitation proposal. During the 24 public hearings held by the Commission in 23 municipalities of Québec, Members of the National Assembly, interested citizens and organizations expressed their comments and made their suggestions concerning the electoral map proposal. The electoral map proposal was also submitted to the Committee on the National Assembly for consideration. Following this process, the Commission is today able to suggest significant improvements to its proposal for Québec's new electoral map.

In this second report, the Commission makes known its revised delimitation proposal for the 125 electoral divisions. The revision of the current electoral map appears to be just as essential as ever. Indeed, the inequalities in representation have simply become too great. In addition to looking for a better balance between the electoral divisions, the Commission is convinced that the adjustments go a long way to ensuring that natural communities will be better respected. These adjustments were directly inspired by the comments made by the public and by elected members.

This report is divided into three parts. Part One briefly describes the Commission de la représentation électorale as well as the revision process leading to the final delimitation of a new electoral map in Québec. It also presents the legislative framework that governs the Commission's work. Part One is completed by an analysis of Québec's current electoral portrait.

Part Two presents the revised delimitation proposal for all of the electoral divisions. For each region, the main representation stakes are described, a reminder of the changes proposed in the preliminary report is given and finally, the changes retained following the public consultation process are presented. Part Two also takes stock of the suggestions, findings and comments made during the public hearings, which contributed to the Commission's work, but for which no follow-up was possible, owing to their nature or because they fell under the responsibility of other authorities.

Finally, Part Three offers avenues of reflection concerning changes that could be made to the Election Act. This part is, in several respects, a reflection of the concerns which many participants brought to the Commission's attention on the subject of electoral representation. The ten proposals that are described in detail in this section can certainly contribute to enriching the debate on this question.
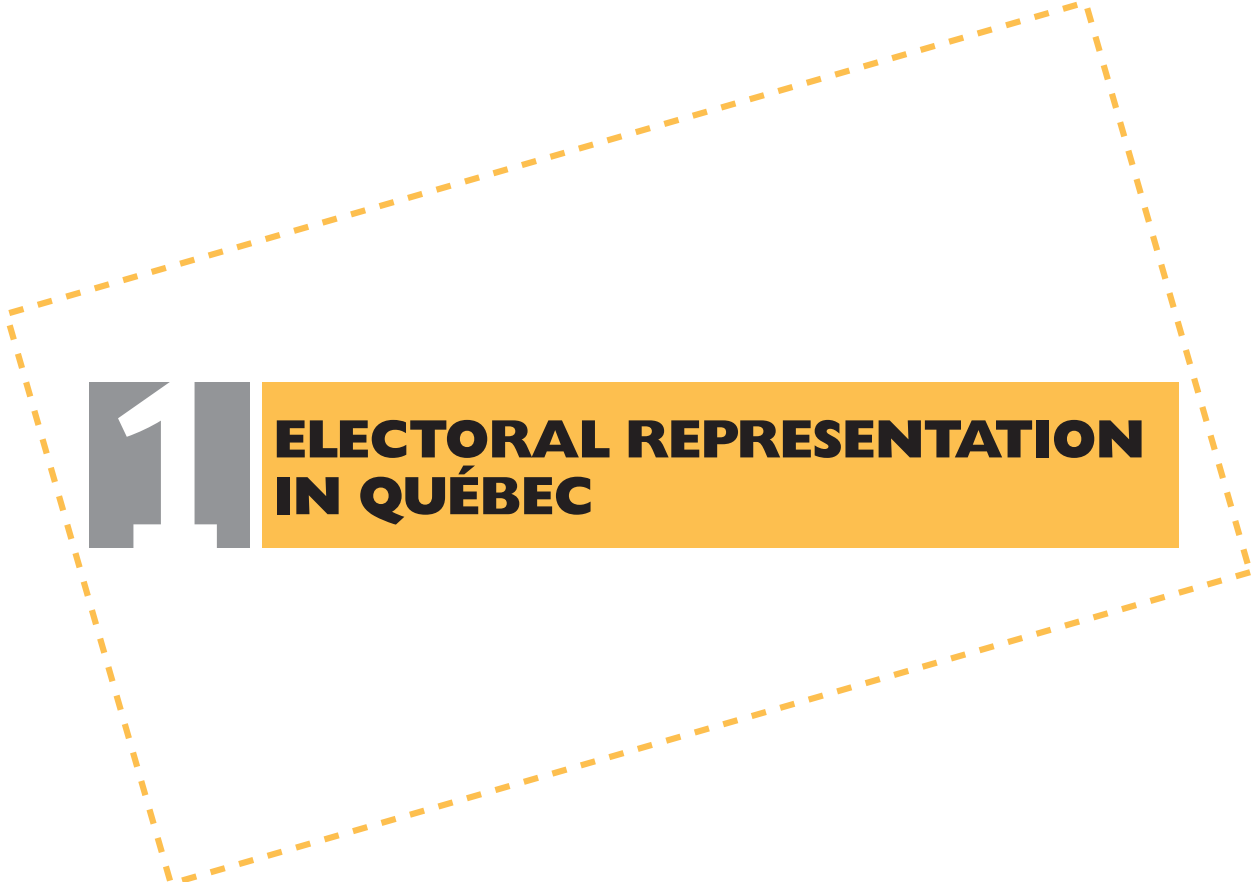
1 ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION IN QUÉBEC

I. WORK OF THE COMMISSION DE LA REPRÉSENTATION ÉLECTORALE

1.1 Mandate and composition of the Commission

The Commission de la représentation électorale is an independent institution that reports directly to the National Assembly. The mission of the Commission is to draw up Québec's electoral map after every second general elections in order to ensure a fair and equitable representation of the electors of Québec.

The Commission has also been entrusted with the mission of ensuring the application of the chapters of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities as well as those of the Act respecting school elections dealing with the division of the territories into electoral districts and electoral divisions. Finally, the Commission carries out every other mandate that the National Assembly entrusts to the Commission.

Neutrality and impartiality characterize the Commission in the performance of its duties. These two aspects are ensured, among other things, by the commissioner appointment method, which requires the consent of two-thirds of the Members of the National Assembly. The Commission's decisions are final.

The Commission de la représentation électorale is chaired by Marcel Blanchet, Chief Electoral Officer. It also has two commissioners: Serge Courville, geographer-historian, emeritus professor of Université Laval, and John Zacharias, geographer and professor of urban planning at Concordia University. The Chief Electoral Officer provides all the necessary assistance, including the contribution of his staff, to the Commission in the accomplishment of its mandate.

The preparation of a new electoral map in Québec unfolds in several steps established in the Election Act. In tabling this second report, the Commission has completed an additional step towards the final objective of implementing Québec's new electoral map.

1.2 A look back at the work done

Preparation of a proposal and tabling of the preliminary report

Québec's current electoral map was published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* in 2001. This map was used for three general elections, namely those of April 14, 2003, March 26, 2007 and December 8, 2008. The Election Act stipulates that the electoral map shall be revised after every second general elections. That is why the Commission began its work after the March 26, 2007 general elections with a view to being able to table in the National Assembly a first delimitation proposal within the twelve-month period stipulated in the Act. For this purpose, the Commission tabled its preliminary report in the National Assembly on March 12, 2008.

The holding of general elections in December 2008 resulted in the use, for a third time, of the electoral map drawn up in 2001.

At the time of the tabling of the preliminary report, the Commission held a press conference in Parliament in the presence of several media representatives in order to adequately disseminate the information. That very same day, the Commission put on-line a web-site (www.lacartechange.qc.ca) in order to make its preliminary report and all of the information pertaining to the public hearings more accessible.

At the same time, it launched the *Historical Atlas*, which permits the consultation of a host of information dealing with Québec's electoral map since 1972. Aside from these means of communication, the Commission published advertisements in various newspapers to inform the public of the holding of public hearings. In addition, the members of the Commission and their spokespersons granted more than 75 interviews to various media representatives.

Holding of public hearings

The Commission went on to make a tour of the various regions of Québec in order to hear the representations of the individuals and organizations interested in the preliminary delimitation proposal. Indeed, the Act stipulates that in the six-month period following the tabling of the preliminary report, the Commission shall hear the representations made by Members of the National Assembly, by interested citizens and organizations.

This public hearing tour began on April 21 and 22, 2008 in Québec City and ended close to two months later in the City of Trois-Rivières on June 13, 2008. Finally, on September 14 and 15, 2010, the Committee on the National Assembly took the Commission's preliminary report into consideration.

Table 1: Public hearings

Municipality visited	Date (2008)	Number of interventions
Québec (La Cité)	April 21	3
Québec (Sainte-Foy–Sillery)	April 22	11
Saint-Joseph-de-Beauce	April 23	32
Montmagny	April 24	8
Saint-Jérôme	April 29	11
Charlemagne	April 30	8
Laval	May 1	5
Saint-Constant	May 6	8
Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville	May 7	3
Sherbrooke	May 8	18
Gatineau	May 13	6
Val-d'Or	May 14	8
Chibougamau	May 15	8
New Richmond	May 27	21
Matane	May 28	29
Gaspé	May 29	17
Lévis	May 30	13
Cabano	June 3	33
Rivière-du-Loup	June 3	12
Saint-Siméon	June 4	12
Saguenay	June 5	10
Drummondville	June 10	11
Montréal	June 12	17
Trois-Rivières	June 13	6
Committee on the National Assembly	September 14-15 (2010)	32

This public consultation stage was crucial for the Commission. Already at the time of the tabling of its preliminary report, the Commission mentioned that the public consultation process would enable it to obtain additional information with a view to improving its proposal for a new electoral map of Québec. Aside from the representations heard during the public hearings and at the time of the holding of the Committee on the National Assembly, the Commission obtained numerous documents allowing it to enrich its knowledge of Québec's territory. Finally, the Commission examined the concerns of citizens described in this report. Where necessary, the Commission also made visits in the field to clarify its perception of a specific territory.

The public consultation process provided the Commission with a host of new information from all across Québec. Indeed, the Commission organized the public hearing tour in order to visit the different regions of Québec. In addition, the choice of the municipalities visited was made based on the urban areas present in each region and also according to the sectors most altered by the delimitation proposal. Table 2 presents a summary of the public consultation process.

Table 2: Assessment of the public consultation

Public hearings	Number
Hearings	24
Municipalities visited	23
Interventions heard	310
Committee of the National Assembly	
Interventions heard	32
Documents tabled	
Letters and e-mails	589
Briefs	219
Resolutions	259
Opinion questionnaires via the Internet	140
Petitions	13
Others	13
Total number of documents	1233

Dated October 1st, 2010.

1.3 Steps to come

Examination of the second report by the National Assembly

Following the tabling of this report describing the revised delimitation proposal for the electoral divisions, a debate limited to five hours shall be held in the National Assembly. As stipulated in section 28 of the Election Act, this debate shall be held within five days from the tabling of the Commission's report. However, if the National Assembly is not in sitting, the debate shall be held in the Committee on the National Assembly in the ten days following the tabling of the report.

Establishment of the final boundaries of the electoral divisions

Not later than the tenth day following the debate in the National Assembly, the Commission shall establish the final boundaries of the electoral divisions of Québec and assign names to them. For this purpose, the Commission shall request the opinion of the Commission de toponymie du Québec in order to obtain its comments and suggestions concerning the new electoral division toponyms. The list of electoral divisions is then published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*.

Entry into force of the new electoral map

Finally, Québec's new electoral map enters into force at the dissolution of the National Assembly, i.e. when the next general elections are called. However, if this dissolution were to occur prior to the expiry of a three-month time period following the publication of the new electoral map in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*, the general elections would then be held using the current map, namely the one drawn up in 2001.

2. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Effective representation

Section 14 of the Election Act indicates that the electoral divisions are delimited in such a way as to ensure that the principle of effective representation of electors is respected while taking into account the principle that the vote of each elector is of equal weight. In addition, this section sets at 125 the maximum number of electoral divisions.

During the public hearings, several participants mentioned the obligation for the Commission de la représentation électorale to respect the principle of effective representation, while often ignoring the obligation for the Commission to take into account a major component of this effective representation, namely that the vote of each elector shall be of equal weight.

What is effective representation?

Effective representation was recognized in 1991 by the Supreme Court of Canada in the *Carter* case[1] as a right guaranteed to electors under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This Supreme Court decision dealt with the constitutional validity of the electoral map of Saskatchewan. The Supreme Court had to determine if the variances in size of voter population among constituencies infringed the right to vote guaranteed by section 3 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The Saskatchewan Act of 1989 allowed the Commission in charge of proposing new electoral division boundaries to deviate, at the time of the delimitation of the electoral divisions, by ±25% from the electoral quotient, which is obtained by dividing the province's total population by the number of electoral divisions. The previous legislation had only permitted a deviation of ±15%. The Supreme Court therefore had to determine if the proposed deviation of ±25% infringed section 3 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. For the majority of the Supreme Court judges, the answer was "no". However, three judges felt that the answer was "yes". The dispute notably involved the question of urban representation in comparison with rural representation. In rural areas it was necessary to have a larger deviation in order to respect, among other things, natural communities.

For the Supreme Court, the first condition of effective representation lies in a relative parity of voting power. In its opinion, "a system which dilutes one citizen's vote unduly as compared with another citizen's vote runs the risk of providing inadequate representation to the citizen whose vote is diluted. [...]. The result will be uneven and unfair representation." (p.183)

The Supreme Court considers that although essential and of prime importance, this condition is not the only factor to be taken into account. Moreover, the Court states that absolute parity is impossible and, what is more, points out that "factors like geography, community history, community interests and minority representation may need to be taken into account to ensure that our legislative assemblies effectively represent the diversity of our social mosaic." (p.184)

The Supreme Court also adds that "The problems of representing vast, sparsely populated territories, for example, may dictate somewhat lower voter populations in these districts (p.188) or that, "thus the goal of effective representation may justify somewhat lower voter populations in rural areas." (p.195)

[1] *A.G. of Saskatchewan v. Roger Carter (Reference re Prov. Electoral Boundaries (Sask.),* [1991] 2 S.C.R. 158.

It is therefore very clear from this important Supreme Court ruling that the relative equal weight of the votes of electors is not a notion that is separate from that of effective representation, but rather an integral part thereof.

It is worthwhile recalling that the delimitation criteria found in the Election Act were re-examined following this Supreme Court decision in the *Carter* case, without it having been deemed necessary to make major changes to these criteria at the time. It was determined that sections 15 and 16 of the Act, the one dealing with natural communities and the other concerning the relative equal weight of the votes of electors, followed along the very same lines as this court decision.

It should also be noted that on three occasions Canadian courts have ruled that overly large disparities between electoral divisions, not justified by relevant factors from the standpoint of effective representation as defined by the Supreme Court, infringed on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms[2].

Natural communities

Section 15 of the Election Act stipulates that electoral divisions must represent natural communities established on the basis of demographical, geographical and sociological considerations, such as the population density, the relative growth rate of the population, the accessibility, area and shape of the region, the natural local boundaries and the territories of local municipalities. However, these elements are not restrictive. That is why the Commission also takes into account, within the context of its work, other factors such as the feeling of belonging, the community of interests, the recognition of regional development centres, the cultural and historical heritage, the limits of urban wards and the various administrative limits on the territory.

None of these criteria may be taken in isolation. That explains why a rigorous and meticulous analysis of a series of elements is necessary and why the information and comments gathered during the public hearings are invaluable. The Commission must rely on a series of factors to determine the boundaries of the electoral divisions in order to define coherent geographical entities and to group communities with common interests.

Equal weight of the votes of electors

Section 16 stipulates that each electoral division shall be delimited in such a way that the number of electors does not deviate by more than 25% from the quotient obtained by dividing the total number of electors by the number of electoral divisions. It is this leeway, which incidentally is among the greatest in Canada, which allows the Commission to take into account natural communities and to ensure effective representation.

Electoral divisions in an exception situation

Under section 17, the Commission has the power to depart from the numerical criterion established in section 16. This power may only be used in exceptional cases and when respecting the ±25% numerical deviation does not make it possible to achieve the purpose of the Act: effective representation. Moreover, this decision must be in writing and give reasons. These provisions clearly demonstrate the legislator's wish to limit the number of electoral divisions in an exception situation.

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[2]*Dixon v. A.G. British Columbia,* (1989) 59 D.L.R. (4th) 247 (S.C. B.C.); *Mackinnon v Prince Edward Island,* (1993) 101 D.L.R. (4th) 362 (S.C. P.E.I.); *Friends of Democracy v Northwest Territories Attorney general,* (1999) 171 D.L.R. (4th) 551 (S.C. NWT.).

In conclusion

The Commission considers that sections 14 to 17 of the Election Act, which establish the legislative framework that the Commission must follow in its electoral map revision work, respect the principles established by the Supreme Court in the important decision that it handed down in 1991 in the *Carter* case. These sections grant the Commission sufficient leeway to take into account the various demographical, geographical and sociological aspects necessary for the fair delimitation of the electoral divisions.

3. ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT ELECTORAL DIVISIONS

When the Commission de la représentation électorale began its work with a view to revising Québec's electoral map, it made an in-depth analysis of each of the 125 electoral divisions. The purpose of this chapter is to present the most significant elements revealed by that analysis. These elements are the main reasons having prompted the Commission to propose such a revision of the electoral map.

The twenty electoral divisions in an exception situation

Based on the data of the electoral population as of November 30, 2007 used by the Commission for the purpose of this revision, the current electoral map, drawn up in 2001, comprises twenty electoral divisions in an exception situation. These are electoral divisions whose number of electors exceeds by ±25% the provincial average of 45,207 electors. Only the electoral division of Îles-de-la-Madeleine benefits from a special status granted by the Election Act, allowing it to depart from the numerical rule.

Among these electoral divisions, seven have a deviation of their number of electors from the provincial average that is above the maximum limit of +25%, whereas thirteen have a deviation from the provincial average that is below the minimum limit of -25%.

Several electoral divisions also stand out due to their deviation from the provincial average which is close to the minimum limit or the maximum limit permitted under the Act. Based on data from the same period, sixteen electoral divisions reveal a deviation from the provincial average which is less than 5% from either one of these two numerical limits. These electoral divisions are considered to be in a critical situation. Among these divisions, several could see their number of electors rapidly exceed the ±25% numerical criterion and, as a result, join the other electoral divisions in an exception situation.

In all, more than one quarter of the 125 electoral divisions are either in an exception situation or a critical situation. This finding clearly illustrates the inequalities in representation of the current electoral map. Table 3 presents the electoral divisions in an exception situation and those in a critical situation as of November 30, 2007.

Table 3: Current electoral divisions in an exception situation or a critical situation

| Current electoral divisions (2001) | Electors as of November 30, 2007 | | Current electoral divisions (2001) | Electors as of November 30, 2007 | |
	Number	Deviation*		Number	Deviation*
In a positive exception situation			**In a negative exception situation**		
Masson	**60,762**	**+34.4%**	**Îles-de-la-Madeleine**	**10,600**	**-76.6%**
Chambly	**59,947**	**+32.6%**	**Ungava**	**23,819**	**-47.3%**
Fabre	**58,591**	**+29.6%**	**Gaspé**	**27,569**	**-39.0%**
Prévost	**57,896**	**+28.1%**	**Matane**	**27,904**	**-38.3%**
L'Assomption	**57,124**	**+26.4%**	**Bonaventure**	**28,908**	**-36.1%**
Drummond	**56,939**	**+26.0%**	**Matapédia**	**29,773**	**-34.1%**
La Prairie	**56,735**	**+25.5%**	**Montmagny-L'Islet**	**32,057**	**-29.1%**
Total: 7			**Abitibi-Ouest**	**32,585**	**-27.9%**
			Charlevoix	**33,156**	**-26.7%**
In a critical situation			**Abitibi-Est**	**33,180**	**-26.6%**
Châteauguay	56,256	+24.4%	**Frontenac**	**33,285**	**-26.4%**
Terrebonne	56,255	+24.4%	**Mégantic-Compton**	**33,706**	**-25.4%**
Blainville	56,142	+24.2%	**Rivière-du-Loup**	**33,843**	**-25.1%**
Taillon	55,776	+23.4%	*Total: 13*		
Vimont	55,744	+23.3%			
Saint-Jean	55,468	+22.7%	**In a critical situation**		
Shefford	55,221	+22.2%	Lotbinière	33,980	-24.8%
Mille-Îles	55,081	+21.8%	Laviolette	34,213	-24.3%
Chomedey	55,026	+21.7%	René-Lévesque	34,341	-24.0%
Papineau	54,695	+21.0%	Kamouraska-Témiscouata	34,426	-23.8%
Total: 10			Nicolet-Yamaska	34,498	-23.7%
			Bellechasse	34,542	-23.6%
			Total: 6		
Provincial average	*45,207*	*–*	*Provincial average*	*45,207*	*–*
Minimum limit (-25%)	*33,905*	*–*	*Minimum limit (-25%)*	*33,905*	*–*
Maximum limit (+25%)	*56,509*	*–*	*Maximum limit (+25%)*	*56,509*	*–*

* Deviation of the number of electors from the provincial average.

The demographic trend in Québec

As the population moves on Québec's territory and as the demographic growth varies from one region to another, it has become essential to rebalance the number of electors by electoral division. The aim of this important objective is to ensure that the principle of effective representation is respected and, as was previously explained, one of its essential conditions which is the relative equal weight of the votes of electors.

For several years, the Greater Montréal region has experienced a growth that has been faster than the provincial average, due notably to the immigrant population which has settled here in greater numbers and an increased population movement from peripheral regions to the metropolitan area and more specifically, to the municipalities forming its periphery. At the same time, Ville de Montréal has been gradually losing its electoral population in favour of these same suburbs.

This reality may be observed in several electoral divisions of Québec. Six of the seven electoral divisions in a positive exception situation, namely whose number of electors is above the maximum limit of +25%, are located in the rapidly growing regions of Laurentides-Lanaudière, Laval and Montérégie. Moreover, everything points to continued growth in these regions over the next few years.

Conversely, eleven of the thirteen electoral divisions, whose number of electors is below the minimum limit of -25%, are located in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue–Nord-du-Québec, Bas-Saint-Laurent, Chaudière-Appalaches and Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine regions. All of these regions should experience either a decline in population or a population growth that is below the Québec average in the years to come. In addition to these regions, there are those of Mauricie, Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean and the Côte-Nord which find themselves in a similar demographic situation. In some of these regions, it has become impossible to respect the ±25% criterion, owing to the absence of some numerical leeway.

Furthermore, population movements have also been observed within each of the regions in recent years. In particular, the rural population of some regions has tended to concentrate around their regional poles. For example, in the Chaudière-Appalaches region, Ville de Lévis is the main urban pole and has attracted a considerable share of the region's rural population with the passage of time.

Finally, as in the case of Montréal, the other large urban centres of Québec have seen part of their population leave the downtown area to settle in the suburbs. In the case of Gatineau and Québec, some of their most outlying sectors have become significantly urbanized in recent years.

Analysis of recent data

To ensure continuity with the preliminary report, the Commission has used November 30, 2007 as a reference date in this report. However, it seems relevant to examine more recent data in order to find out the evolution of the current and proposed electoral divisions since the start of the revision work. A complete list of the current electoral divisions and another list of the proposed electoral divisions are presented in appendices III and IV of this report. These lists show the number of electors and the deviations from the average for each electoral division as of July 31, 2010.

A first look at these data indicates that, among the seven electoral divisions in a positive situation and the thirteen electoral divisions in a negative situation, all have remained exceptions. In fact, almost all of the deviations from the provincial average have grown. For example, the electoral division of Masson saw its number of electors in comparison with the provincial average exceed the +43% mark in July 2010, whereas that of the electoral division of Gaspé reached -40%.

Many other electoral divisions have also evolved into an exception situation since then. Of the sixteen electoral divisions identified as critical as of November 30, 2007, seven of them have seen the deviation of their number of electors exceed ±25% over the last few months. In this respect, there can be no doubt that the inequalities in representation identified by the Commission in its preliminary report and once again in this report have not corrected themselves. On the contrary, these equalities have generally grown in scope.

Table 4 presents the electoral divisions in an exception situation and those in a critical situation as of July 31, 2010.

Table 4: Current electoral divisions in an exception situation or a critical situation (recent data)

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of July 31, 2010		Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of July 31, 2010	
	Number	Deviation*		Number	Deviation*
In a positive exception situation			*In a negative exception situation*		
Masson	**66,543**	**+43.4%**	**Îles-de-la-Madeleine**	**10,843**	**-76.6%**
Chambly	**62,817**	**+35.4%**	**Ungava**	**25,207**	**-45.7%**
Fabre	**61,331**	**+32.2%**	**Gaspé**	**27,661**	**-40.4%**
Prévost	**61,099**	**+31.7%**	**Matane**	**27,786**	**-40.1%**
Blainville	**60,023**	**+29.4%**	**Bonaventure**	**29,397**	**-36.6%**
Terrebonne	**59,974**	**+29.3%**	**Matapédia**	**29,869**	**-35.6%**
Châteauguay	**59,751**	**+28.8%**	**Montmagny-L'Islet**	**31,991**	**-31.0%**
La Prairie	**59,727**	**+28.8%**	**Abitibi-Ouest**	**33,146**	**-28.6%**
Vimont	**59,392**	**+28.0%**	**Frontenac**	**33,264**	**-28.3%**
L'Assomption	**59,303**	**+27.8%**	**Charlevoix**	**33,656**	**-27.5%**
Drummond	**59,270**	**+27.8%**	**Abitibi-Est**	**34,106**	**-26.5%**
Total: 11			**Laviolette**	**34,144**	**-26.4%**
			René-Lévesque	**34,297**	**-26.1%**
In a critical situation			**Rivière-du-Loup**	**34,330**	**-26.0%**
Chomedey	57,905	+24.8%	**Mégantic-Compton**	**34,407**	**-25.8%**
Rousseau	57,843	+24.7%	**Kamouraska-Témiscouata**	**34,453**	**-25.7%**
Orford	57,655	+24.3%	*Total: 16*		
Saint-Jean	57,574	+24.1%			
Papineau	57,367	+23.7%	*In a critical situation*		
Shefford	57,228	+23.4%	Lotbinière	35,251	-24.0%
Vanier	57,133	+23.2%	Bellechasse	35,293	-23.9%
Mille-Îles	57,040	+23.0%	Nicolet-Yamaska	35,377	-23.7%
Taillon	56,814	+22.5%	Saint-Maurice	36,579	-21.2%
La Pinière	56,310	+21.4%	Richmond	36,896	-20.5%
Chauveau	55,935	+20.6%	*Total: 5*		
Berthier	55,844	+20.4%			
Montmorency	55,829	+20.4%			
Bertrand	55,772	+20.2%			
Total: 14					
Provincial average	*46,390*	*–*	*Provincial average*	*46,390*	*–*
Minimum limit (-25%)	*34,793*	*–*	*Minimum limit (-25%)*	*34,793*	*–*
Maximum limit (+25%)	*57,988*	*–*	*Maximum limit (+25%)*	*57,988*	*–*

* Deviation of the number of electors from the provincial average.

Need for an in-depth revision of the electoral map

The last major revision in Québec dates back to 1980. At the time, twelve new electoral divisions had been added, including several in the Greater Montréal region. In 1988, another two electoral divisions were added in this region. At the time, the number of electoral divisions in Québec rose to 125, namely the maximum permitted under the Act.

Since then, population movements from remote regions to the Greater Montréal region, and in particular to its suburban municipalities, have continued, even intensified. In addition, the Island of Montréal has begun to see its electoral population move towards these same municipalities, the effect of which has been to increase the number of electors significantly there.

Due to this demographic context, the revision of the electoral maps of 1992 and 2001 involved the transfer of five electoral divisions from the Island of Montréal to the regions of Laurentides-Lanaudière and Montérégie. However, no electoral division was withdrawn from the remote regions, despite a demographic weight which has been declining steadily within Québec; a situation that has been going on for more than 35 years.

Since the last revision in 2001, several regions of Québec have seen their demographic context evolve greatly. However, unlike the Greater Montréal region, some of these regions only witnessed minor changes at the time of the past revisions. The Commission believes that the electoral map must now be reviewed in its entirety so that the electoral divisions better reflect the new demographic and territorial realities of Québec.

New administrative realities

Over the last few years, several municipalities of Québec have been involved in an administrative reorganization process geared to the amalgamation of their territory. The new municipal portrait is reflected notably by the presence of reconstituted cities and boroughs within a city. It should be noted that the Election Act requires that the delimitation of electoral divisions respect natural communities by relying on considerations of a demographical, geographical and sociological order including the territory of local municipalities

As the process has now been completed, the Commission has endeavoured, in its revised delimitation proposal, to respect wherever possible the new portrait of the local municipalities in Québec. Moreover, other elements such as the boundaries of the administrative regions and of the regional county municipalities have been considered. Furthermore, these boundaries are important indicators that help the Commission understand the dynamics of a region.

2 ELECTORAL DIVISIONS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. THE REVISED DELIMITATION PROPOSAL

The revised delimitation proposal contains 125 electoral divisions. The Commission de la représentation électorale has maintained its decision to withdraw three electoral divisions from the Chaudière-Appalaches, Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie regions. The elector deficit observed in too great a proportion of the electoral divisions must be corrected. As of November 30, 2007, eleven of the sixteen divisions either had an exceptional negative deviation or were rapidly about to find themselves in such a situation. The recent data of 2010 show us that among these electoral divisions, the division of Kamouraska-Témiscouata have joined the eight electoral divisions that already have an exceptional negative deviation.

The Commission is keenly aware of the importance of its proposal and of its impact on the communities in question. However, the Commission believes that these withdrawals have today become necessary in order to take a significant step towards correcting the inequalities in representation that have grown in these three regions over a period of more than 35 years.

Moreover, as stipulated in the preliminary report, the revised delimitation proposal includes the addition of one electoral division in each of the regions surrounding the Island of Montréal. These regions are Laurentides-Lanaudière, Laval and Montérégie. Generally, this proposal has been well received by these communities and continues to be just as necessary today for the fair representation of their electors. Indeed, the addition of three electoral divisions in these regions makes it possible to bring their number of electoral divisions to a level that is more representative of their demographic weight within Québec. Furthermore, this solution helps correct the six divisions having an exceptional positive deviation. As of July 31, 2010, the number of divisions having an exceptional deviation has even reached ten for these regions.

The revised delimitation proposal also contains a major reconfiguration of the Estrie–Centre-du-Québec region, which differs somewhat from the Commission's initial proposal. During the public hearings and again at the time of the holding of the Committee on the National Assembly, the Commission heard several interventions that enabled it to improve its assessment of this region. Generally, the new proposed changes respond favourably to several of the comments and recommendations made to the Commission.

As for the other regions of Québec, the Commission found it appropriate in some cases to return to the current situation. In other cases, the Commission preferred to make minor or more substantial changes, as the case may be, in order to take into account specific requests or general comments on the delimitation proposed for a given region. Finally, the Commission also made note of the changes proposed in its preliminary report which satisfied the public.

With the figures of November 30, 2007, the revised delimitation proposal contains four divisions having an exceptional deviation: those of Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Ungava, Abitibi-Est and Gaspé. Moreover, with the figures of July 31, 2010, the electoral divisions of Abitibi-Ouest and René-Lévesque are added to this list. The electoral division of Îles-de-la-Madeleine is already considered an exception under the Election Act, whereas those of Ungava, Abitibi-Est and Gaspé are granted such a status by the Commission due to their particular context and their current demographic portrait. The Commission will have to pay special attention to the evolution of these electoral divisions between now and the next revision of the electoral map.

The proposed changes are presented, region by region, in Chapter 5. Table 5 presents some data pertaining to the current delimitation proposal.

Table 5: Numerical data underlying the revised electoral division delimitation proposal

Number of electors according to the permanent list of electors as of November 30, 2007	5,650,910
Number of proposed electoral divisions	125
Average number of electors by electoral division	45,207
−Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905
−Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509
Number of electoral divisions whose proposed delimitation differs from the current delimitation (2001)	86
Number of electoral divisions that are unchanged in relation to the current electoral map (2001)	39

4.1 Electoral divisions in an exception situation

This section presents the reasons that have led the Commission to grant, under the powers vested in it by section 17 of the Election Act, an exception status to the following electoral divisions: Ungava, Abitibi-Est and Gaspé. As for the electoral division of Îles-de-la-Madeleine, it is already recognized as such by the Act.

Îles-de-la-Madeleine

Since the Act already makes provision for the electoral division of Îles-de-la-Madeleine, the Commission has no jurisdiction over the delimitation of this division. Its number of electors stands at 10,600, giving it a -76.6% deviation from the provincial average.

Ungava

The Commission has granted the electoral division of Ungava an exception status since 1988. The Commission considers that the strict application of the numerical criterion of ±25% does not make it possible to adequately ensure an effective representation of the electors of this division.

Indeed, this division covers a vast territory inhabited by a small population dispersed across several points of varying importance. Due to the large distances that must be covered, the absence of road links between municipalities located on the periphery and the possibility of a chain reaction that would adversely impact neighbouring regional fabrics, the Commission believes that maintaining the current exception status of this electoral division is the best solution.

Abitibi-Est

The Commission also deems that the electoral division of Abitibi-Est must depart from the numerical rule. In light of the interventions made during the public hearings, the Commission considers that the boundary constituted by the 49th parallel must be respected. Indeed, north of this boundary, the electoral division of Ungava has a unique character in Québec. The Commission has renounced the idea of extending the electoral divisions of the Abitibi region northward in order to increase their number of electors.

The administrative region of Abitibi-Témiscamingue is hence located south of the 49th parallel. This region is currently made up of three electoral divisions, including two having an exceptional negative deviation. It appears inappropriate to withdraw a division from this region, which has too many electors to have only two divisions. The result would be electoral divisions with very large surface areas and whose deviations from the provincial average would be very great, which is unusual for such vast divisions.

The Commission thus wishes to maintain three electoral divisions in the administrative region of Abitibi-Témiscamingue. However, a delimitation with three electoral divisions having roughly an equal number of electors while respecting the minimum limit of the Act could not be made without dividing the urban core of the Ville de Rouyn-Noranda.

The members of the Commission have therefore opted for a delimitation that is more respectful of the geographical context, the natural communities concerned and the various administrative boundaries present. In light of this choice, the electoral division of Abitibi-Est continues to have an exceptional negative deviation.

In other respects, it is important to point out that with a surface area of close to 30,000 km^2, the electoral division of Abitibi-Est ranks among the biggest divisions of Québec. Furthermore, the demographic outlook points to a slight increase in its electoral population, which would indicate that its situation should not deteriorate over the next few years.

Gaspé

The division of Gaspé has also been granted an exception status. With one less electoral division, the Gaspésie region has a number of divisions that better corresponds to its demographic weight. The balance of the region in relation to the rest of Québec has therefore been restored. However, the average deviation of the number of electors by electoral division (-15.9%) remains below the provincial average. Consequently, the Commission's leeway is more limited when determining the boundaries of the three electoral divisions of the region.

Moreover, the main grounds that justify this exception situation are reasons of a geographical order and the need to take into account the natural communities. Indeed, owing to the particular geographical context of the division of Gaspé, which is located at the eastern tip of the peninsula, the only possible way of adding electors is to expand the division westward. It would thus be necessary to move the boundary of the division of Gaspé up to the Ville de Matane. The distances that would have to be covered for this division would thus be very great and the delimitation would result in the division of the inhabited territories around Matane.

Furthermore, during the public hearings, several participants asserted that the administrative region of Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine represents the existing natural communities well, notably for the northern portion of the Gaspésie peninsula. Clearly, this is a decisive boundary for this territory as well as for the population and elected representatives, who made reference to it several times. In its proposal, the Commission puts forward a delimitation between the electoral divisions of Gaspé and Matane-Matapédia that is more respectful of the natural communities and the boundaries of the administrative regions and of the regional county municipalities.

Finally, it is important to note that with only one electoral division in an exception situation in the Gaspésie peninsula, in comparison with the four current ones, the inequalities in representation would be greatly reduced.

The detailed description of the proposed electoral division of Îles-de-la-Madeleine as well as those of Ungava, Abitibi-Est and Gaspé is found in Chapter 5.

4.2 Special situation of the electoral divisions of Abitibi-Ouest and René-Lévesque

Abitibi-Ouest

The reference data as of November 30, 2007 indicate that the electoral division of Abitibi-Ouest does not appear in a negative exception situation in this delimitation proposal. The proposed addition of the Municipalité de Barraute to ensure that the boundaries of the regional county municipalities of this sector are respected in full gives this division a deviation from the provincial average just below the minimum threshold of -25% according to these data, namely -24.6%. However, the examination of more recent data as of July 31, 2010 shows that this deviation has increased to -25.2% since that time.

As we mentioned previously, in response to several comments heard at the public hearings which underscored the importance of the boundary with the administrative region of Nord-du-Québec, the Commission considers that the boundary of the 49th parallel must be respected. However, the Commission has given up on the idea of significantly correcting their elector deficit. Otherwise, the alternatives in the south involve either dividing the core of the Ville de Rouyn-Noranda between the three electoral divisions of Abitibi-Témiscamingue or withdrawing an electoral division from this region. Furthermore, this latter solution would leave room for two overly large divisions, whose number of electors would be unusually high in such a situation.

Consequently, while under the revised proposal the electoral division of Abitibi-Est will remain in a negative exception situation and that of Abitibi-Ouest will have a deviation from the provincial average near the minimum threshold allowed by the Act, the members of the Commission have decided to maintain this proposal. They favour a delimitation that better respects the geographical context, the existing natural communities and the various administrative boundaries of the region.

Moreover, the electoral division of Abitibi-Ouest has certain special characteristics on its territory, including its surface area of more than 10,000 km^2 as well as the high number of municipalities that make up this division. In addition, its northern position puts it among the most outlying divisions of Québec. The Commission will pay special attention to the demographic outlook of its electoral population in the coming years in order to monitor the evolution of the negative exception situation of the electoral division of Abitibi-Ouest.

René-Lévesque

As of November 30, 2007, namely the reference date used by the Commission, the division of René-Lévesque is in a critical situation, posting a deviation from the provincial average of -24.0%. However, this critical situation has turned into an exception situation in recent months, with a deviation from the provincial average that reaches -26.1% as of July 31, 2010.

In its preliminary delimitation proposal, the Commission had tried to extend the division of René-Lévesque south of the rivière Saguenay with a view to correcting its elector deficit. Following the public hearings, the Commission considers that the boundary that this major river represents must be respected. Moreover, it marks the junction between the administrative regions of the Côte-Nord, the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean and the Capitale-Nationale.

Furthermore, the Commission does not find it appropriate to correct the division of René-Lévesque to the detriment of that of Duplessis. Indeed, the latter also has an elector deficit, revealing a deviation from the provincial average of -18.9%. Such a change would therefore only result in arbitrarily moving the exception situation. In addition, the current delimitation between these two divisions perfectly respects the boundaries of the regional county municipalities of Manicouagan and of Sept-Rivières.

Consequently, the Commission proposes that the division of René-Lévesque retain its current delimitation in light of certain particular characteristics of its territory. Owing to its surface area of close to 50,000 km^2, this division ranks third after the electoral divisions of Ungava and Duplessis and has a small population density. In addition, this population is spread out along the shore of the fleuve Saint-Laurent resulting in major distances that must be covered.

The detailed description of the proposed electoral divisions of Abitibi-Ouest and René-Lévesque is found in Chapter 5.

4.3 New toponyms

The revised delimitation proposal contains certain changes that have led the Commission to submit new toponyms for some electoral divisions. Sixteen new toponyms were already proposed in the preliminary report stage. Since then the names of some of these electoral divisions have given rise to comments during the public consultation process. As a result, some toponyms are once again proposed, while others have been replaced with alternative toponyms.

On this subject, the Commission sought the opinion of the Commission de toponymie du Québec. This opinion will be very useful to the Commission as it reflects on the final choice of the toponyms to be assigned to the divisions.

Here is the list of the proposed electoral divisions whose toponym is new, along with a brief description of the origin of each new toponym.

Electoral division of Anjou–Louis-Riel

This electoral division is located on the Island of Montréal. The toponym "Louis-Riel" has been added to the name of the division in order to be more representative of the population residing on its territory. This addition refers to the part of the electoral division that overlaps the Louis-Riel sector of the Ville de Montréal. Moreover, a request along these lines was made during the public hearing held in Montréal.

Louis Riel (1844-1885) was a Canadian politician and leader of the Métis people who was active in the Canadian Prairies.

Electoral division of Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré

This electoral division results from the expansion of the division of Charlevoix up to the edge of the Ville de Québec. It comprises the regional county municipalities of L'Île-d'Orléans, La Côte-de-Beaupré, Charlevoix and Charlevoix-Est in their entirety.

Pierre-François-Xavier de Charlevoix (1682-1761) was a Jesuit Father in New France and his name has been attributed to an electoral division since 1855. The addition of the toponym "Côte-de-Beaupré" is meant to represent the portion of the electoral division that is located at the foot of the Laurentian mountain chain. This is a historical territory in the development of the Québec City region, the first settlements of which date back to 1636.

Electoral division of Côte-du-Sud

This new electoral division serves as a bridge between the administrative regions of Chaudière-Appalaches and Bas-Saint-Laurent. Its territory covers the regional county municipalities of Montmagny, L'Islet and Kamouraska.

The Côte-du-Sud region played a decisive role in the populating of the St. Lawrence River Valley. The name "Côte-du-Sud" dates as far back as the 1600s and at that time its territory extended from the Seigneurie de Lauzon, located just east of Lévis, up to the gates of Rivière-du-Loup.

Still today, this toponym is mentioned in several regards by the region's population. The territory covered by the electoral division corresponds in large part to the historical region of Côte-du-Sud.

Electoral division of Drummond–Bois-Francs

This new division is formed from the eastern part of Drummondville and a group of municipalities, for the most part rural, located to the east of rivière Saint-François. The division of Drummond–Bois-Francs is entirely located on the territory of the administrative region of Centre-du-Québec.

The toponym "Drummond" was attributed to an electoral division for the first time in 1829. It refers to the regional county municipality bearing the same name as well as to the Ville de Drummondville, a regional metropolis, in which are found the main public institutions. As for the toponym "Bois-Francs", it calls to mind the former administrative region of Mauricie–Bois-Francs, which existed from 1987 to 1997. Its use in the name of the electoral division makes it possible to re-establish a major centre of Québec's geographical nomenclature and one that is well known to the local population.

Electoral division of Granby

The electoral division of Shefford has been modified in this delimitation proposal to contain only the Ville de Granby. This division corresponds in full to the territory of this city and, as a result, no longer comprises the Canton de Shefford. That is why the toponym of Granby has been proposed for this division.

The Ville de Granby, as it is known today, results from a 2007 merger with the township bearing the same name. It was in the early 1800s that the toponym of Granby first made its appearance, due notably to the recognition of a township territory in 1803.

Electoral division of Lotbinière-Frontenac

This new division results from the merger of two electoral divisions, those of Lotbinière and Frontenac. Indeed, its territory covers the regional county municipality of Lotbinière and almost all of that of Les Appalaches.

The toponym "Lotbinière" was assigned to the division in 1829 and calls to mind Henri-Gustave Joly de Lotbinière. He was named seignior of Lotbinière in 1860 and held the position of Québec Premier from 1878 to 1879. Moreover, the division of Frontenac has existed since 1912 and its name refers to Louis de Buade de Frontenac. An important figure in New France, he was governor on two occasions, the first time from 1672 to 1682 and the second from 1689 to 1698, the year of his death in Québec City.

Electoral division of Matane-Matapédia

This new electoral division originates from the merger of two divisions each bearing a portion of the name. The division of Matane-Matapédia mainly comprises the triangle formed by the towns of Amqui, Mont-Joli and Matane.

The division of Matane has existed in Québec since 1890 and today refers mainly to the regional metropolis bearing the same name. It was in 1603 that the toponym "Mantanne" was used for the first time by Samuel de Champlain to designate the rivière Matane. The second toponym, "Matapédia", was assigned to an electoral division in 1922. It originally refers to Lac Matapédia, which welcomed this region's first families in the mid-1800s.

Electoral division of Mégantic

This electoral division has been extended slightly and above all consolidated in its northern part in this delimitation proposal. It now covers only a portion of the Compton sector. That explains why its name has been shortened to Mégantic.

With this change, this electoral division has reassumed its original name, which existed between 1829 and 1972. Since then, the division of Compton was merged with that of Mégantic which explains the name of Mégantic-Compton. The toponym "Mégantic" comes from the Ville de Lac-Mégantic, but also from the Lac Mégantic and the Mont Mégantic, which both have shaped the landscape of this region.

Electoral division of Nicolet-Bécancour

This electoral division corresponds in large part to the current division of Nicolet-Yamaska. It has been renamed Nicolet-Bécancour due to its new delimitation, which includes the entire regional county municipality of Bécancour. Moreover, the two main municipalities on its territory are those of Nicolet and Bécancour.

Historically, the toponym "Nicolet" was first assigned to the river, whose course passes over the territory of the Ville de Nicolet. The name comes from Nicolet de Belleborne, who explored the region in the 1600s. The toponym "Bécancour" refers to Pierre Robineau de Bécancour (1654-1729), who so named his seigniory when it was granted to him in 1684.

Electoral division of Repentigny

This new electoral division has been created from part of the division of L'Assomption. It comprises the core of the Ville de Repentigny, located to the south of rivière L'Assomption, as well as the Paroisse de Saint-Sulpice. This new electoral division has been given this name due to the concentration of the population found in Repentigny. This toponym calls to mind Pierre Legardeur de Repentigny, who gave the seigniory this name when it was granted to him in 1647.

Electoral division of Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata

This new electoral division is the result of the southward expansion of the division of Rivière-du-Loup along Route 185, with a view to adding to it the regional county municipality of Témiscouata.

An electoral division bearing the name of Rivière-du-Loup has existed since 1930, but the first uses of this name date back to the 1600s. It referred to the seigniory and the river. Today, "Rivière-du-Loup" is first used to designate the regional metropolis. As for the toponym "Témiscouata", it is borrowed from the division of Kamouraska-Témiscouata and has been added to the name of the new electoral division in order to better represent this hinterland of Rivière-du-Loup. Incidentally, Témiscouata formed an electoral division from 1853 to 1972.

Electoral division of Sainte-Rose

This electoral division represents the sixth division of the île Jésus, in Laval. It has been created in the northern part of the island from the electoral divisions of Fabre and Vimont. Furthermore, its territory is very similar to sector 5 of the Ville de Laval; this territory use to include the former Ville de Sainte-Rose. The toponym "Sainte-Rose" refers to Saint Rose of Lima.

Electoral division of Saint-Jérôme

This electoral division originates from a part of the division of Prévost and corresponds in full to the Ville de Saint-Jérôme. The current territory of the Ville de Saint-Jérôme, the county seat of the administrative region of Les Laurentides, results from a merger that occurred in 2001 and 2002. However, the establishment of this municipality dates back to the 1800s. As for the toponym "Saint-Jérôme", it was perhaps borrowed from Jérôme de Longpré, a pioneer of the region in the 1800s.

Electoral division of Sanguinet

The division of Sanguinet is created within the Montérégie region, southwest of the Ville de Longueuil. It is made up of the municipalities of Sainte-Catherine, Saint-Constant, Saint-Mathieu and Saint-Rémi. This toponym calls to mind the Sanguinet family, of which three generations of brothers played an important role in the development of this part of the region. Beginning in 1782, they were owners of the Seigniory of La Salle during various periods.

Electoral division of Vanier-Les Rivières

This electoral division, formerly known as Vanier, has been modified slightly in this delimitation proposal. Its territory henceforth corresponds entirely to that of the borough of Les Rivières of the Ville de Québec, which explains the addition of the toponym "Les Rivières" in the name of the electoral division.

The toponym Vanier refers to Major-General Georges-Philéas Vanier (1888-1967), who was Governor General of Canada from 1959 to 1967.

5. THE NEW ELECTORAL MAP, REGION BY REGION

This chapter provides a detailed description of the proposed changes to the electoral divisions. To facilitate the presentation of these changes, the electoral divisions are grouped by "electoral region". While electoral regions are similar to Québec's administrative regions, they are not identical to them. Indeed, administrative regions are permanent in nature, whereas electoral regions are not. Moreover, electoral regions have no official basis. They merely represent a grouping of electoral divisions to facilitate their presentation.

The following sections begin with a table presenting the regional demographic situation. This introduction, referred to as *Portrait of the situation*, is followed by a reminder of the changes proposed in the preliminary report (*Preliminary delimitation proposal*) and is completed by a section bringing together the new proposed changes, with this latter section being entitled *Revised delimitation proposal*. Finally, a detailed description of the revised electoral divisions is presented.

Readers should keep in mind that the electoral population data used are those of November 30, 2007. The municipalities, Indian reserves and settlements, reserved lands, unorganized territories as well as their boundaries are those which also existed as of July 31, 2010.

It is important to emphasize that when the words "autoroute", "avenue", "boulevard", "chemin", "côte", "rue", "railway line", "overhead electric power line", "canal", "lac", "fleuve" and "rivière" are used, reference is made to their center line, except where stipulated otherwise. Moreover, when necessary, the description of the boundaries of the proposed electoral divisions is made in a clockwise manner.

At the end of this report there is a revised version of the map illustrating the proposed electoral divisions and the changes made in relation to the current delimitation (2001). All of the electoral divisions are shown on the front of this map, whereas enlargements of the most urban sectors appear on the back. A complete list of the current divisions and another of the proposed divisions are also presented in appendices I and II of this report.

5.1 Abitibi-Témiscamingue–Nord-du-Québec

Portrait of the situation

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Abitibi-Est	**33,180**	**-26.6%**
Abitibi-Ouest	**32,585**	**-27.9%**
Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue	42,634	-5.7%
Ungava	**23,819**	**-47.3%**
Provincial average	*45,207*	*-*
Minimum level (-25%)	*33,905*	*-*
Maximum level (+25%)	*56,509*	*-*

The Abitibi-Témiscamingue–Nord-du-Québec region comprises four electoral divisions. Covered in large part by the electoral division of Ungava, this region is Québec's biggest region by far. The region's electoral population has witnessed only very limited growth between 2000 and 2007 with a growth rate of 0.1%. During this period, Québec posted a growth rate of 5.8%. Furthermore, the Abitibi-Témiscamingue–Nord-du-Québec region is characterized by a large Aboriginal presence. The region is home to seven Algonquin communities, fourteen Inuit municipalities and nine Cree villages.

Of the region's four electoral divisions, three currently have an exceptional negative deviation. First, the electoral divisions of Abitibi-Est and Abitibi-Ouest have witnessed a respective growth rate of 0.1% and -2.1% between 2000 and 2007. To the south of these two electoral divisions lies that of Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue. While its growth rate has been negative during the same period, namely -1.2%, its number of electors today remains fairly close to the provincial average.

Finally, the third exceptional electoral division is that of Ungava and its number of electors is well below the minimum limit permitted under the Election Act. Nevertheless, its territory covers close to 900,000 square kilometres and no road link serves the part located north of the 55th parallel. As for the part located to the south, it is basically made up of a few municipalities and the Ville de Chibougamau, which are generally isolated from one another and are served by a few rare road links. Furthermore, the electoral division of Ungava stands out by the growth of its electoral population, the rate of which has been 5.4% between 2000 and 2007.

Preliminary delimitation proposal

	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	**Deviation**
Abitibi-Est	39,213	-13.3%
Abitibi-Ouest	37,810	-16.4%
Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue	43,205	-4.4%
Ungava	**11,990**	**-73.5%**
Provincial average	*45,207*	*-*
Minimum level (-25%)	*33,905*	*-*
Maximum level (+25%)	*56,509*	*-*

In its preliminary report, the Commission first sought to correct the exception situation of the two electoral divisions of Abitibi. It proposed expanding them northward up to the 50th parallel, by adding to them a part of the territory located at the southern tip of the current division of Ungava. The towns of Chapais and Chibougamau as well as the Aboriginal communities of Oujé-Bougoumou and Waswanipi were added to the electoral division of Abitibi-Est. Moreover, the towns of Lebel-sur-Quévillon and Matagami as well as certain localities included in the Municipalité de Baie-James, namely those of Valcanton and Villebois, were added to the electoral division of Abitibi-Ouest.

The Commission suggested an additional change between these two electoral divisions to better respect the boundaries of the regional county municipality of Abitibi. The Municipalité de Barraute and a part of the unorganized territory of Lac-Despinassy were added to the proposed electoral division of Abitibi-Ouest

Another proposed change consisted of slightly expanding the electoral division of Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue in order to group the entire new territory of the Ville de Rouyn-Noranda within this electoral division.

In order to better respect the administrative boundaries, the Commission also suggested transferring the unorganized territories of Caniapiscau and Lac-July to the division of Duplessis in the Côte-Nord region from that of Ungava. No elector were affected by this change.

Under the preliminary delimitation proposal for this region, only one electoral division with an exceptional negative deviation, namely that of Ungava, would be maintained due to its particular characteristics.

Revised delimitation proposal

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Abitibi-Est	31,674	-29.9%
Abitibi-Ouest	34,091	-24.6%
Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue	42,634	-5.7%
Ungava	23,819	-47.3%
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum level (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum level (+25%)	56,509	-

The Commission heard several interventions during its visit to the Abitibi-Témiscamingue–Nord-du-Québec region. Following the analysis of these interventions, it has decided to make some significant changes to its preliminary delimitation proposal.

First, regarding the electoral division of Ungava, several participants demonstrated to the Commission the importance of respecting this division's current boundaries and, in so doing, their natural community. Moreover, the current electoral division of Ungava respects almost perfectly the boundaries of the Nord-du-Québec administrative region. The Commission thus proposes maintaining in the electoral division of Ungava the part located at the southern tip. In its preliminary report, the Commission had suggested adding this part to the electoral divisions of Abitibi. This portion of territory notably comprises the Ville de Chibougamau and certain Aboriginal communities. Nevertheless, the proposed electoral division of Ungava retains its exception status. The reasons justifying the exception status of the electoral division of Ungava are given in Chapter 4.

In addition, the Commission once again proposes transferring the unorganized territories of Caniapiscau and Lac-Juillet from the electoral division of Ungava to that of Duplessis.

The maintaining of the current southern boundary of the electoral division of Ungava results in changes to the electoral divisions of Abitibi-Est and Abitibi-Ouest, which can henceforth no longer be extended northward.

The Commission proposes maintaining the exception status of the electoral division of Abitibi-Est. In fact, to avoid such a situation, the only other apparent solution would involve adding a significant portion of the Ville de Rouyn-Noranda, an option which the Commission considers as one that does not respect the existing natural communities. Furthermore, the electoral division of Abitibi-Est spans a surface area that puts it among the biggest electoral divisions of Québec. The reasons justifying the exception status of this electoral division are also given in Chapter 4.

Aside from the withdrawal of the Municipalité de Barraute and of a part of the unorganized territory of Lac-Despinassy, a return to the current delimitation in the western part of the proposed electoral division of Abitibi-Est is suggested. The sector known under the name of "Cadillac" thus remains as it currently stands. Between now and the next revision of the electoral map, the Commission will pay special attention to the evolution of the electoral division of Abitibi-Est, with its -29.9% deviation from the provincial average. Incidentally, the demographic outlook points to a small increase in this division's electoral population.

As for the electoral division of Abitibi-Ouest, the addition of the Municipalité de Barraute, as proposed in the preliminary report, allows this division to obtain a number of electors just below the threshold permitted under the Act according to the reference data as of November 30, 2007. Moreover, with the addition of the eastern part of the unorganized territory of Lac-Despinassy, the boundaries of the regional county municipalities of Abitibi and Abitibi-Ouest are respected in full. However, the demographic evolution of the electoral division of Abitibi-Ouest has once again given it an exception status, indicating a deviation from the provincial average of -25.2% as of July 31, 2010. The reasons justifying this exception situation are presented in Chapter 4.

Finally, it is proposed that the electoral division of Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue return to its current delimitation, thus giving it a number of electors that is balanced nonetheless

Description of the proposed electoral divisions

ABITIBI-EST

31,674 electors (-29.9% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Abitibi-Est would comprise the following municipalities:

Belcourt (M)	Senneterre (P)
Malartic (V)	Senneterre (V)
Rivière-Héva (M)	Val-d'Or (V)

This electoral division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Rouyn-Noranda that corresponds to the Ville de Cadillac and to the unorganized territories of Lac-Montanier, Lac-Surimau and Rapide-des-Cèdres as they existed on December 31, 2001.

It would also comprise the Indian reserve of Lac-Simon.

It would also comprise the Indian settlement of Kitcisakik.

Finally, it would comprise the following unorganized territories:

Lac-Granet	Matchi-Manitou
Lac-Metei	Réservoir-Dozois

Change made

The electoral division would thus be formed based on the current division of Abitibi-Est (33,180 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of Abitibi-Est (1,506 electors) including the Municipalité de Barraute and the part of the unorganized territory of Lac-Despinassy made up of the townships of Bartouille (part), Ducros (part) and Laas (part).

ABITIBI-OUEST

34,091 electors (-24.6% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Abitibi-Ouest would comprise the following municipalities:

Amos (V)	Macamic (V)
Authier (M)	Normétal (M)
Authier-Nord (M)	Palmarolle (M)
Barraute (M)	Poularies (M)
Berry (M)	Preissac (M)
Champneuf (M)	Rapide-Danseur (M)
Chazel (M)	Rochebaucourt (M)

Clermont (CT)	Roquemaure (M)
Clerval (M)	Saint-Dominique-du-Rosaire (M)
Duparquet (V)	Saint-Félix-de-Dalquier (M)
Dupuy (M)	Sainte-Germaine-Boulé (M)
Gallichan (M)	Sainte-Gertrude-Manneville (M)
La Corne (M)	Sainte-Hélène-de-Mancebourg (P)
La Morandière (M)	Saint-Lambert (P)
La Motte (M)	Saint-Marc-de-Figuery (P)
La Reine (M)	Saint-Mathieu-d'Harricana (M)
La Sarre (V)	Taschereau (M)
Landrienne (CT)	Trécesson (CT)
Launay (CT)	Val-Saint-Gilles (M)

This division would also comprise the Indian reserve of Pikogan.

It would also comprise the following unorganized territories:

Lac-Chicobi	Lac-Duparquet
Lac-Despinassy	Rivière-Ojima

Change made

The electoral division would thus be formed based on the current division of Abitibi-Ouest (32,585 electors) and the following change:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Abitibi-Est (1,506 electors) including the Municipalité de Barraute and the part of the unorganized territory of Lac-Despinassy made up of the townships of Bartouille (part), Ducros (part) and Laas (part).	None.

ROUYN-NORANDA–TÉMISCAMINGUE

42,634 electors (-5.7% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue would comprise the following municipalities:

Angliers (VL)	Lorrainville (M)
Béarn (M)	Moffet (M)
Belleterre (V)	Nédélec (CT)
Duhamel-Ouest (M)	Notre-Dame-du-Nord (M)
Fugèreville (M)	Rémigny (M)
Guérin (CT)	Saint-Bruno-de-Guigues (M)
Kipawa (M)	Saint-Édouard-de-Fabre (P)
Laforce (M)	Saint-Eugène-de-Guigues (M)
Latulipe-et-Gaboury (CU)	Témiscaming (V)
Laverlochère (M)	Ville-Marie (V)

This electoral division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Rouyn-Noranda that corresponds to the following municipalities as they existed on December 31, 2001:

Arntfield (M)	Évain (M)
Bellecombe (M)	McWatters (M)
Clericy (M)	Montbeillard (M)
Cloutier (M)	Mont-Brun (M)
D'Alembert (M)	Rollet (M)
Destor (M)	Rouyn-Noranda (V)

It would also comprise the following Indian reserves:

Kebaowek	Timiskaming

It would also comprise the following Indian settlements:

Hunter's Point	Winneway

Finally, it would comprise the following unorganized territories:

Laniel	Les Lacs-du-Témiscamingue

The proposed division of Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue would be identical to the current division.

UNGAVA

23,819 electors (-47.3% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Ungava would comprise the following municipalities:

Akulivik (VN)	Lebel-sur-Quévillon (V)
Aupaluk (VN)	Matagami (V)
Baie-James (M)	Mistissini (VC)
Chapais (V)	Nemaska (VC)
Chibougamau (V)	Puvirnituq (VN)
Chisasibi (VC)	Quaqtaq (VN)
Eastmain (VC)	Salluit (VN)
Inukjuak (VN)	Tasiujaq (VN)
Ivujivik (VN)	Umiujaq (VN)
Kangiqsualujjuaq (VN)	Waskaganish (VC)
Kangiqsujuaq (VN)	Waswanipi (VC)
Kangirsuk (VN)	Wemindji (VC)
Kuujjuaq (VN)	Whapmagoostui (VC)
Kuujjuarapik (VN)	

This division would also comprise the Indian settlement of Oujé-Bougoumou.

It would also comprise the following reserved lands:

Akulivik (TI)	Kuujjuarapik (TI)
Aupaluk (TI)	Mistissini (TC)
Chisasibi (TC)	Nemaska (TC)
Eastmain (TC)	Quaqtaq (TI)
Inukjuak (TI)	Salluit (TI)
Kangiqsualujjuaq (TI)	Tasiujaq (TI)
Kangiqsujuaq (TI)	Umiujaq (TI)
Kangirsuk (TI)	Waskaganish (TC)
Kiggaluk (TI)	Waswanipi (TC)
Killiniq (TI)	Wemindji (TC)
Kuujjuaq (TI)	Whapmagoostui (TC)

In addition, it would also comprise the unorganized territory of Baie-d'Hudson.

Finally, it would comprise the unorganized territory of Rivière-Koksoak minus the part included between 55°00' and 55°20' northern latitude, 67°10' western longitude and the boundary of Québec.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Ungava (23,819 electors) and the following change:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
None.	Part of the current division of Ungava (no elector) including the unorganized territories of Caniapiscau and Lac-Juillet.

5.2 Bas-Saint-Laurent

Portrait of the situation

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Kamouraska-Témiscouata	34,426	-23.8%
Rimouski	43,110	-4.6%
Rivière-du-Loup	**33,843**	**-25.1%**
Provincial average	*45,207*	*-*
Minimum limit (-25%)	*33,905*	*-*
Maximum limit (+25%)	*56,509*	*-*

The Bas-Saint-Laurent region comprises three electoral divisions and the growth of its electoral population has only been 1.8% between 2000 and 2007. This growth is below that observed in Québec for the same period, namely 5.8%.

Among the three electoral divisions of this region, that of Rivière-du-Loup has witnessed the highest growth of its electoral population with a rate of 4.0% between 2000 and 2007. Nevertheless, its number of electors has not increased sufficiently to avoid this division finding itself in an exception situation today. In addition, the electoral division of Kamouraska-Témiscouata is fast on the way to being in a similar exception situation owing to its negative population growth and its already critical number of electors; an observation that recently materialized, when this division's deviation from the provincial average reached -25.7% as of July 31, 2010.

In fact, only the electoral division of Rimouski has a number of electors that is fairly close to the provincial average.

Preliminary delimitation proposal

	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Côte-du-Sud	50,767	+12.3%
Rimouski	42,191	-6.7%
Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata	50,478	+11.7%
Provincial average	*45,207*	*-*
Minimum limit (-25%)	*33,905*	*-*
Maximum limit (+25%)	*56,509*	*-*

In its preliminary report, the Commission presented a major revamping of the electoral divisions of the Bas-Saint-Laurent region. It was proposed to withdraw one division in order to better balance the region's electoral divisions. The number of electoral divisions was thus better adjusted to the demographic weight of the Bas-Saint-Laurent region.

Regarding the exception situation of the division of Rivière-du-Loup, it was first suggested to add to the division all of the municipalities of the regional county municipality of Témiscouata to form the new electoral division of "Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata".

As for Kamouraska, it was proposed to incorporate all of the municipalities that are part of the regional county municipality in the new electoral division named "Côte-du-Sud". The regional county municipality of Kamouraska was thus added to the territory of the current electoral division of Montmagny-L'Islet.

Finally, as the electoral division of Rimouski is already balanced, it was suggested to only adjust it to the boundaries of the regional county municipality of Rimouski-Neigette.

Revised delimitation proposal

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Côte-du-Sud	50,767	+12.3%
Rimouski	42,191	-6.7%
Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata	50,478	+11.7%
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

Regarding the Bas-Saint-Laurent region, the Commission considers that the delimitation proposed in its preliminary report is the best solution to balance the electoral divisions, while avoiding the splitting up of the natural communities constituted by the regional county municipalities. In addition, with this proposal, it is possible to obtain a number of electoral divisions that is more representative of the region's demographic weight. With this new balance, the Bas-Saint-Laurent should not witness such major changes for several years to come.

It should be recalled that it is in the western part of the Bas-Saint-Laurent region that the elector deficit is of greatest concern. The division of Kamouraska-Témiscouata, which has a -23.8% deviation from the provincial average, is currently bounded by two electoral divisions in an exception situation: Rivière-du-Loup (-25.1%) and Montmagny-L'Islet (-29.1%). In addition, the recent data of July 2010 indicate that the division of Kamouraska-Témiscouata already finds itself in an exception situation owing to its declining population.

Due to this succession of electoral divisions having an elector deficit, it appears to be impossible to balance them with one another. Moreover, the Commission does not favour changing, farther to the east, the proposed electoral division of Rimouski, which is already balanced and which corresponds in full to the regional county municipality of Rimouski-Neigette.

During the public hearings held in the region, many participants requested the status quo and, as a result, that their electoral division be maintained in the current exception situation. However, the Commission cannot allow itself to increase the number of negative exceptions in a region such as the Bas-Saint-Laurent when other regions that are similar in terms of their remoteness, such as that of the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean, have no negative exceptions.

While the Commission still plans to withdraw one electoral division from the region, it considers that under the circumstances its preliminary delimitation proposal remains the most balanced and the most representative of the local population. This delimitation perfectly respects the boundaries of the regional county municipalities, which is in keeping with a request expressed on numerous occasions during the public hearings.

The proposed electoral division of Rimouski thus corresponds to the regional county municipality of Rimouski-Neigette. Next, the Commission suggests adding to the current electoral division of Rivière-du-Loup all of the municipalities of the regional county municipality of Témiscouata. This new electoral division would henceforth bear the name of "Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata".

Finally, the proposed electoral division of "Côte-du-Sud" comprises all of the municipalities of the regional county municipalities of Kamouraska, L'Islet and Montmagny. The name of this electoral division refers to the historical region of Côte-du-Sud, comprised in large part in the electoral division. The description of the division of Côte-du-Sud is presented in the section devoted to the Chaudière-Appalaches region.

Description of the proposed electoral divisions

RIMOUSKI

42,191 electors (-6.7% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Rimouski would comprise the following municipalities:

Esprit-Saint (M)	Saint-Fabien (P)
La Trinité-des-Monts (P)	Saint-Marcellin (P)
Rimouski (V)	Saint-Narcisse-de-Rimouski (P)
Saint-Anaclet-de-Lessard (P)	Saint-Valérien (P)
Saint-Eugène-de-Ladrière (P)	

This division would also comprise the unorganized territory of Lac-Huron.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Rimouski (43,110 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of Rimouski (919 electors) including the following municipalities: Biencourt (M) and Lac-des-Aigles (M).

RIVIÈRE-DU-LOUP–TÉMISCOUATA

50,478 electors (+11.7% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata would comprise the following municipalities:

Auclair (M)	Saint-Épiphane (M)
Biencourt (M)	Saint-Eusèbe (P)
Cabano–Notre-Dame-du-Lac (V)	Sainte-Françoise (P)
Cacouna (M)	Saint-François-Xavier-de-Viger (M)
Dégelis (V)	Saint-Guy (M)
Lac-des-Aigles (M)	Saint-Honoré-de-Témiscouata (M)
Lejeune (M)	Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup (M)
L'Isle-Verte (M)	Saint-Jean-de-Dieu (M)
Notre-Dame-des-Neiges (M)	Saint-Jean-de-la-Lande (M)
Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs (P)	Saint-Juste-du-Lac (M)
Notre-Dame-du-Portage (M)	Saint-Louis-du-Ha! Ha! (P)
Packington (P)	Saint-Marc-du-Lac-Long (P)
Pohénégamook (V)	Saint-Mathieu-de-Rioux (P)
Rivière-Bleue (M)	Saint-Médard (M)
Rivière-du-Loup (V)	Saint-Michel-du-Squatec (P)
Saint-Antonin (P)	Saint-Modeste (M)

Saint-Arsène (P)	Saint-Paul-de-la-Croix (P)
Saint-Athanase (M)	Saint-Pierre-de-Lamy (M)
Saint-Clément (P)	Sainte-Rita (M)
Saint-Cyprien (M)	Saint-Simon (P)
Saint-Éloi (P)	Trois-Pistoles (V)
Saint-Elzéar-de-Témiscouata (M)	

This division would also comprise the following Indian reserves:

Cacouna	Whitworth

It would also comprise the unorganized territory of Lac-Boisbouscache.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Rivière-du-Loup (33,843 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Rimouski (919 electors) including the following municipalities: Biencourt (M) and Lac-des-Aigles (M).	None.
Part of the current division of Kamouraska-Témiscouata (15,716 electors) including the following municipalities: Auclair (M), Cabano–Notre-Dame-du-Lac (V), Dégelis (V), Lejeune (M), Packington (P), Pohénégamook (V), Rivière-Bleue (M), Saint-Athanase (M), Saint-Elzéar-de-Témiscouata (M), Saint-Eusèbe (P), Saint-Honoré-de-Témiscouata (M), Saint-Jean-de-la-Lande (M), Saint-Juste-du-Lac (M), Saint-Louis-du-Ha! Ha! (P), Saint-Marc-du-Lac-Long (P), Saint-Michel-du-Squatec (P) and Saint-Pierre-de-Lamy (M).	

5.3 Capitale-Nationale

Portrait of the situation

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	**Deviation**
Charlesbourg	50,847	+12.5%
Charlevoix	**33,156**	**-26.7%**
Chauveau	52,407	+15.9%
Jean-Lesage	48,145	+6.5%
Jean-Talon	40,159	-11.2%
La Peltrie	52,568	+16.3%
Louis-Hébert	51,529	+14.0%
Montmorency	52,739	+16.7%
Portneuf	44,424	-1.7%
Taschereau	47,146	+4.3%
Vanier	54,087	+19.6%
Provincial average	*45,207*	*-*
Minimum limit (-25%)	*33,905*	*-*
Maximum limit (+25%)	*56,509*	*-*

The Capitale-Nationale region is based on a set of eleven divisions in which the electoral population has grown by 6.4% between 2000 and 2007. This growth rate slightly exceeds that witnessed by Québec during the same period, namely 5.8%.

With three-quarters of the electoral population, the Ville de Québec is the main pole of the Capitale-Nationale region and it is on the periphery of this city that the region's fastest growing and most populous electoral divisions are found. They are the divisions of Chauveau, Montmorency, and Vanier and, to a lesser extent, those of La Peltrie and Louis-Hébert. With a deviation of the number of electors from the provincial average of close to +20%, the division of Vanier is the most likely division to rapidly approach the maximum limit permitted under the Election Act.

Conversely, the electoral divisions of Jean-Lesage, Jean-Talon and Taschereau have experienced weaker demographic growth since 2000. They form an urban network organized around downtown Québec City. Their number of electors remains fairly close to the provincial average.

Finally, two electoral divisions in a rural setting complete the region's electoral portrait. To the west, the electoral division of Portneuf comprises a number of electors that is close to the provincial average. To the east, the division of Charlevoix is, however, confronted with an elector deficit and its small

demographic growth is insufficient to overcome its exception situation. Changes are therefore needed to this division.

Preliminary delimitation proposal

	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Beaupré-Charlevoix	46,761	+3.4%
Charlesbourg	50,847	+12.5%
Chauveau	50,081	+10.8%
Jean-Lesage	46,960	+3.9%
Jean-Talon	47,693	+5.5%
La Peltrie	51,232	+13.3%
Louis-Hébert	40,390	-10.7%
Montmorency	50,383	+11.4%
Portneuf	37,334	-17.4%
Taschereau	50,396	+11.5%
Vanier-Les Rivières	51,815	+14.6%
Provincial average	*45,207*	*-*
Minimum limit (-25%)	*33,905*	*-*
Maximum limit (+25%)	*56,509*	*-*

In its preliminary report, the Commission set as an objective to balance the electoral divisions of the Capitale-Nationale region while ensuring the best possible adjustment of the boundaries of the divisions to those of the boroughs of the Ville de Québec.

It was first proposed to correct the elector deficit of the electoral division of Charlevoix by expanding it westward up to the limits of the Ville de Québec to comprise all of the municipalities of the regional county municipality of La Côte-de-Beaupré and those of the regional county municipality of L'Île-d'Orléans. The division was renamed "Beaupré-Charlevoix". In addition, it should be noted that certain municipalities located at the eastern tip of the electoral division were withdrawn for the benefit of René-Lévesque, in the Côte-Nord region, in order to correct its own elector deficit.

Among the other changes, the Commission proposed that the divisions of Chauveau, La Peltrie, Montmorency and Vanier be significantly reduced owing to their high number of electors. Specifically, the division of Vanier was adjusted to the borough of Les Rivières and was renamed "Vanier-Les Rivières".

It was also proposed to review the delimitation of the electoral division of Taschereau to have it correspond perfectly to the borough of La Cité. Consequently, the division of Jean-Talon was moved

slightly westward up to the high-voltage transmission line that runs alongside boulevard Pie-XII, like that of Louis-Hébert which henceforth included the Ville de Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures. Moreover, it was suggested that the borough of Limoilou be entirely consolidated within one electoral division, namely that of Jean-Lesage.

Finally, the proposed electoral division of Portneuf was adjusted to the boundaries of the regional county municipality bearing the same name, while the electoral division of Charlesbourg remained unchanged.

Revised delimitation proposal

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Charlesbourg	50,801	+12.4%
Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré	48,258	+6.7%
Chauveau	51,930	+14.9%
Jean-Lesage	47,006	+4.0%
Jean-Talon	47,696	+5.5%
La Peltrie	48,915	+8.2%
Louis-Hébert	42,651	-5.7%
Montmorency	50,383	+11.4%
Portneuf	37,334	-17.4%
Taschereau	50,394	+11.5%
Vanier-Les Rivières	50,021	+10.6%
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

By and large the preliminary delimitation proposal in the Capitale-Nationale region was well received by the public. During the public hearings, some participants mentioned that they had clearly grasped the objective of better adjusting the boundaries of the divisions to those of the boroughs of the Ville de Québec. Moreover, the delimitation proposed by the Commission appeared to respect the natural communities present in the region. Indeed, the only sector where there was strong opposition to the proposal was that of Charlevoix.

The comments of the various participants having denounced the division of Charlevoix were heard and well understood by the Commission. With the objective of ensuring the best possible respect for the natural communities, the Commission proposes re-establishing the eastern boundary of this electoral division at the rivière Saguenay, reincorporating in the division the municipalities of

Baie-Sainte-Catherine and Saint-Siméon as well as the unorganized territories of Mont-Élie and Sagard. With the addition of île d'Orléans and the municipalities of Côte-de-Beaupré, the number of electors of the electoral division will be balanced for several years. In addition, the name of "Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré" has been suggested for this division.

As for the region's other electoral division in a rural setting, i.e. the division of Portneuf, it is proposed that this division retain the same delimitation as that proposed in the preliminary report. This electoral division covers in full the regional county municipality of Portneuf.

Moreover, the Commission had to deal with another element that obliged it to make a few adjustments to its new proposal: the new delimitation of the boroughs of the Ville de Québec. In its preliminary report, the Commission had paid special attention to the boundaries of the boroughs of the Ville de Québec. However, in 2008 and 2009, Bills no. 93 and no. 45 amending the Charter of the Ville de Québec were passed by the National Assembly. As a result, the number of the city's boroughs was established at six instead of eight, and their delimitation was modified accordingly.

In order to ensure the best harmony with the new boroughs of the Ville de Québec, here are the proposed adjustments to the electoral divisions in relation to the delimitation found in the preliminary report.

It is suggested to withdraw a portion of the territory in the southern part of the electoral division of La Peltrie so that the latter is based on the boundary between the new boroughs of Sainte-Foy–Sillery–Cap-Rouge and La Haute-Saint-Charles. This portion of territory is thus added to the division of Louis-Hébert. On the eastern side, the division of Louis-Hébert follows in part the route de l'Aéroport and the autoroute Duplessis (autoroute 540) after which it runs alongside the boulevard Pie-XII. It should also be noted that the eastern boundary of the division of Jean-Talon has been moved slightly. This division thus follows the delineation of the new borough of Sainte-Foy–Sillery–Cap-Rouge. For the division of Taschereau, the delimitation has thus been moved significantly to follow the western boundary of the new borough of La Cité–Limoilou. For the same reason, the industrial sector located to the north of the autoroute Charest has been withdrawn from this division.

Another adjustment concerns the divisions of Chauveau and Vanier-Les Rivières. It is proposed to withdraw the electoral division of Vanier-Les Rivières, a residential sector located to the north of the boulevard Bastien and of the rue Auguste-Renoir, as well as the portion of territory located to the north of the rivière du Berger. This new delimitation makes it possible to respect the layout of the new borough of La Haute-Saint-Charles and borough of Les Rivières. In so doing, the proposed division of Chauveau is also adjusted to respect the boundary between these two boroughs. In addition, the boundary at the western tip of the division of Chauveau is adjacent in part to the autoroute Henri-IV (autoroute 573).

Finally, it should be noted that the electoral divisions of Charlesbourg, Jean-Lesage and Montmorency remain almost intact in comparison with the delimitation proposed in the preliminary report.

Description of the proposed electoral divisions

CHARLESBOURG

50,801 electors (+12.4% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Charlesbourg would comprise the part of the Ville de Québec situated in borough of Charlesbourg and bounded as follows: the rue de la Faune, the avenue du Zoo, in a

northern direction, the boulevard Henri-Bourassa, the rue Saint-Aubert, the extension of the rue Saint-Aubert, the rivière des Roches and the boundary of borough of Charlesbourg.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Charlesbourg (50,847 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of Charlesbourg (46 electors) situated in borough of La Cité-Limoilou and bounded as follows: the boundary of the former borough of Charlesbourg as it existed on June 17, 2008 and the avenue du Bourg-Royal.
	Part of the current division of Charlesbourg (no elector) situated in borough of La Cité-Limoilou and bounded as follows: the autoroute Félix-Leclerc (40), the boundary of the former borough of Charlesbourg as it existed on June 17, 2008 and the boulevard Henri-Bourassa.

CHARLEVOIX–CÔTE-DE-BEAUPRÉ

48,258 electors (+6.7% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré would comprise the following municipalities:

Baie-Sainte-Catherine (M)	Sainte-Famille (P)
Baie-Saint-Paul (V)	Saint-Ferréol-les-Neiges (M)
Beaupré (V)	Saint-François-de-l'Île-d'Orléans (M)
Boischatel (M)	Saint-Hilarion (P)
Château-Richer (V)	Saint-Irénée (P)
Clermont (V)	Saint-Jean-de-l'Île-d'Orléans (M)
La Malbaie (V)	Saint-Joachim (P)
L'Ange-Gardien (M)	Saint-Laurent-de-l'Île-d'Orléans (M)
Les Éboulements (M)	Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague-du-Cap-Tourmente (P)
L'Isle-aux-Coudres (M)	Sainte-Pétronille (VL)
Notre-Dame-des-Monts (M)	Saint-Pierre-de-l'Île-d'Orléans (M)

Petite-Rivière-Saint-François (M)	Saint-Siméon (M)
Saint-Aimé-des-Lacs (M)	Saint-Tite-des-Caps (M)
Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré (V)	Saint-Urbain (P)

This division would also comprise the following unorganized territories:

Lac-Jacques-Cartier	Sagard
Lac-Pikauba	Sault-au-Cochon
Mont-Élie	

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Charlevoix (33,156 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Montmorency (15,102 electors) including the following municipalities: Boischatel (M), Château-Richer (V), L'Ange-Gardien (M), Sainte-Famille (P), Saint-François-de-l'Île-d'Orléans (M), Saint-Jean-de-l'Île-d'Orléans (M), Saint-Laurent-de-l'Île-d'Orléans (M), Sainte-Pétronille (VL) and Saint-Pierre-de-l'Île-d'Orléans (M). Part of the current division of Chauveau (no elector) including part of the unorganized territory of Lac-Jacques-Cartier comprised in this division.	None.

CHAUVEAU

51,930 electors (+14.9% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Chauveau would comprise the following municipalities:

Lac-Beauport (M)	Stoneham-et-Tewkesbury (CU)
Lac-Delage (V)	

This electoral division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Québec situated in borough of Charlesbourg and bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Québec, the boundary of borough of Charlesbourg, the rivière des Roches, the extension of the rue Saint-Aubert, the rue Saint-Aubert, the boulevard Henri-Bourassa, the avenue du Zoo in a southern direction, the rue de la Faune and the boundary of borough of Charlesbourg.

This electoral division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Québec situated in borough of La Haute-Saint-Charles and bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Québec, the boundary of borough of La Haute-Saint-Charles, the boulevard de l'Ormière, the southward extension of the rue Monseigneur-Cooke, the rue Monseigneur-Cooke, the rue du Petit-Vallon, the overhead electric power line and the autoroute Henri-IV (573).

Moreover, it would also comprise the Indian reserve of Wendake.

Finally, it would comprise the unorganized territory of Lac-Croche.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Chauveau (52,407 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Vanier (2,085 electors) situated in borough of La Haute-Saint-Charles and bounded as follows: the overhead electric power line, the boundary of borough of La Haute-Saint-Charles and the boulevard de l'Ormière. Part of the current division of Vanier (1,782 electors) situated in borough of La Haute-Saint-Charles and bounded as follows: the boundary of the former borough of Les Rivières as it existed on June 17, 2008, the rue Auguste-Renoir and the boulevard Bastien. Part of the current division of Vanier (28 electors) situated in borough of La Haute-Saint-Charles and bounded as follows: the boundary of the former borough of Les Rivières as it existed on June 17, 2008 and the rivière du Berger. Part of the current division of La Peltrie (53 electors) situated in borough of La Haute-Saint-Charles and bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Québec, the boundary of the former borough of La Haute-Saint-Charles as it existed on June 17, 2008, the overhead electric power line and the autoroute Henri-IV (573).	Part of the current division of Chauveau (4,411 electors) including the following municipalities: Shannon (M) and Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier (M) in addition to the part of the unorganized territory of Lac-Jacques-Cartier comprised in this electoral division.

JEAN-LESAGE

47,006 electors (+4.0% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Jean-Lesage would comprise the part of the Ville de Québec that corresponds to the part of borough of La Cité–Limoilou situated to the north of the rivière Saint-Charles.

This electoral division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Québec situated in borough of Beauport and bounded as follows: the avenue Saint-David, the autoroute Félix-Leclerc (40), the rivière Beauport, the limit of the Ville de Québec in the fleuve Saint-Laurent and the boundary of borough of Beauport.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Jean-Lesage (48,145 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Taschereau (11,561 electors) situated in borough of La Cité–Limoilou and bounded as follows: the avenue Lamontagne, the 18e Rue, the railway line of the Canadian National Railway Company, the boundary of the former borough of Limoilou as it existed on June 17, 2008 and the boulevard Wilfrid-Hamel. Part of the current division of Charlesbourg (46 electors) situated in borough of La Cité–Limoilou and bounded as follows: the boundary of the former borough of Limoilou as it existed on June 17, 2008 and the avenue du Bourg-Royal. Part of the current division of Charlesbourg (no elector) situated in borough of La Cité–Limoilou and bounded as follows: the autoroute Félix-Leclerc (40), the boundary of the former borough of Limoilou as it existed on June 17, 2008 and the boulevard Henri-Bourassa.	Part of the current division of Jean-Lesage (12,746 electors) situated in borough of Beauport and bounded as follows: the autoroute Félix-Leclerc (40), its extension, the limit of the Ville de Québec in the fleuve Saint-Laurent and the rivière Beauport.

JEAN-TALON

47,696 electors (+5.5% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Jean-Talon would comprise a part of the Ville de Québec situated in borough of Sainte-Foy–Sillery–Cap-Rouge and bounded as follows: the boundary of borough of Sainte-Foy–Sillery–Cap-Rouge, the limit of the Ville de Québec in the fleuve Saint-Laurent, the overhead electric power line situated to the west of the boulevard Pie-XII and the autoroute Duplessis (540).

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Jean-Talon (40,159 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Louis-Hébert (23,921 electors) situated in borough of Sainte-Foy–Sillery–Cap-Rouge and bounded as follows: the autoroute Robert-Bourassa (740), the chemin des Quatre-Bourgeois, the autoroute Henri-IV (73), the limit of the Ville de Québec in the fleuve Saint-Laurent, the overhead electric power line situated west of the boulevard Pie-XII, the autoroute Duplessis (540) and the boundary of borough of Sainte-Foy–Sillery–Cap-Rouge.	Part of the current division of Jean-Talon (16,382 electors) situated in borough of La Cité–Limoilou and bounded as follows: the boulevard Charest, the avenue Saint-Sacrement, the côteau Sainte-Geneviève, the eastern limit of the property of pavillon St-Vallier of the Institut Saint-Joseph, the chemin Sainte-Foy, the avenue des Érables, the Grande Allée Ouest, the Grande Allée Est, the fortification wall, the cliff and the boundary of borough of La Cité–Limoilou.

Part of the current division of Jean-Talon (2 electors) situated in borough of Les Rivières and bounded as follows: the boundary of the former borough of La Cité as it existed on June 17, 2008 and the autoroute Félix-Leclerc (40). |

LA PELTRIE

48,915 electors (+8.2% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of La Peltrie would comprise the following municipalities:

Fossambault-sur-le-Lac (V)	Sainte-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier (V)
Lac-Saint-Joseph (V)	Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier (M)
L'Ancienne-Lorette (V)	Shannon (M)

This electoral division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Québec situated in borough of La Haute-Saint-Charles and bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Québec, the autoroute Henri-IV (573), the overhead electric power line, the rue du Petit-Vallon, the rue Monseigneur-Cooke, its extension, the boulevard de l'Ormière and the boundary of borough of La Haute-Saint-Charles.

It would also comprise the part of the Ville de Québec that corresponds to the part of borough of Sainte-Foy–Sillery–Cap-Rouge situated east of the route de l'Aéroport.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of La Peltrie (52,568 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Portneuf (5,272 electors) including the following municipalities: Fossambault-sur-le-Lac (V), Lac-Saint-Joseph (V) and Sainte-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier (V).	Part of the current division of La Peltrie (12,779 electors) including the Ville de Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures.
Part of the current division of Chauveau (4,411 electors) including the following municipalities: Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier (M) and Shannon (M).	Part of the current division of La Peltrie (2,264 electors) situated in borough of Sainte-Foy–Sillery–Cap-Rouge and bounded as follows: the boundary of borough of Sainte-Foy–Sillery–Cap-Rouge, the route de L'Aéroport, the boulevard Wilfrid-Hamel and the limit of the Ville de Québec.
Part of the current division of Vanier (1,760 electors) situated in borough of La Haute-Saint-Charles and bounded as follows: the boulevard de l'Ormière, the boundary of the former borough of La Haute-Saint-Charles as it existed on June 17, 2008 and the overhead electric power line.	Part of the current division of La Peltrie (53 electors) situated in borough of La Haute-Saint-Charles and bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Québec, the boundary of the former borough of La Haute-Saint-Charles as it existed on June 17, 2008, the overhead electric power line and the autoroute Henri-IV (573).

LOUIS-HÉBERT

42,651 electors (-5.7% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Louis-Hébert would comprise the Ville de Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures.

This electoral division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Québec situated in borough of Sainte-Foy–Sillery–Cap-Rouge and bounded as follows: the boundary of borough of Sainte-Foy–Sillery–Cap-Rouge, the route de L'Aéroport, the autoroute Duplessis (540), the overhead electric power line to the west of the boulevard Pie-XII, the limit of the Ville de Québec in the fleuve Saint-Laurent and the limit of the Ville de Québec.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Louis-Hébert (51,529 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of La Peltrie (15,043 electors) including the Ville de Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures. Also the part of the Ville de Québec situated in borough of Sainte-Foy–Sillery–Cap-Rouge and bounded as follows: the boundary of borough of Sainte-Foy–Sillery–Cap-Rouge, the route de L'Aéroport, the boulevard Wilfrid-Hamel and the limit of the Ville de Québec.	Part of the current division of Louis-Hébert (23,921 electors) situated in borough of Sainte-Foy–Sillery–Cap-Rouge and bounded as follows: the autoroute Robert-Bourassa (740), the chemin des Quatre-Bourgeois, the autoroute Henri-IV (73), the limit of the Ville de Québec in the fleuve Saint-Laurent, the overhead electric power line to the west of the boulevard Pie-XII, the autoroute Duplessis (540) and the boundary of borough of Sainte-Foy–Sillery–Cap-Rouge.

MONTMORENCY

50,383 electors (+11.4% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Montmorency would comprise the Municipalité de Sainte-Brigitte-de-Laval.

This electoral division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Québec situated in borough of Beauport and bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Québec, the limit of the Ville de Québec in the fleuve Saint-Laurent, the rivière Beauport, the autoroute Félix-Leclerc (40), the avenue Saint-David and the boundary of borough of Beauport.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Montmorency (52,739 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Jean-Lesage (12,746 electors) situated in borough of Beauport and bounded as follows: the autoroute Félix-Leclerc (40), its extension, the limit of the Ville de Québec in the fleuve Saint-Laurent and the rivière Beauport.	Part of the current division of Montmorency (15,102 electors) including the following municipalities: Boischatel (M), Château-Richer (V), L'Ange-Gardien (M), Sainte-Famille (P), Saint-François-de-l'Île-d'Orléans (M), Saint-Jean-de-l'Île-d'Orléans (M), Saint-Laurent-de-l'Île-d'Orléans (M), Sainte-Pétronille (VL) and Saint-Pierre-de-l'Île-d'Orléans (M).

PORTNEUF

37,334 electors (-17.4% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Portneuf would comprise the following municipalities:

Cap-Santé (V)	Saint-Basile (V)
Deschambault-Grondines (M)	Saint-Casimir (M)
Donnacona (V)	Sainte-Christine-d'Auvergne (M)
Lac-Sergent (V)	Saint-Gilbert (P)
Neuville (V)	Saint-Léonard-de-Portneuf (M)
Pont-Rouge (V)	Saint-Marc-des-Carrières (V)
Portneuf (V)	Saint-Raymond (V)
Rivière-à-Pierre (M)	Saint-Thuribe (P)
Saint-Alban (M)	Saint-Ulbade (M)

This division would also comprise the following unorganized territories:

Lac-Blanc	Linton
Lac-Lapeyrère	

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Portneuf (44,424 electors) and the following change:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
None.	Part of the current division of Portneuf (7,090 electors) including the following municipalities: Fossambault-sur-le-Lac (V), Lac-aux-Sables (P), Lac-Saint-Joseph (V), Notre-Dame-de-Montauban (M) and Sainte-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier (V).

TASCHEREAU

50,394 electors (+11.5% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Taschereau would comprise the Paroisse de Notre-Dame-des-Anges.

This electoral division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Québec that corresponds to the part of borough of La Cité–Limoilou situated to the south of the rivière Saint-Charles.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Taschereau (47,146 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Jean-Talon (16,382 electors) situated in borough of La Cité–Limoilou and bounded as follows: the boulevard Charest, the avenue Saint-Sacrement, the côteau Sainte-Geneviève, the eastern limit of the property of pavillon St-Vallier of the Institut Saint-Joseph, the chemin Sainte-Foy, the avenue des Érables, the Grande Allée Ouest, the Grande Allée Est, the fortification wall, the cliff and the boundary of borough of La Cité–Limoilou.	Part of the current division of Taschereau (11,561 electors) situated in borough of La Cité–Limoilou and bounded as follows: the avenue Lamontagne, the 18e Rue, the railway line of the Canadian National Railway Company, the boundary of the former borough of Limoilou as it existed on June 17, 2008 and the boulevard Wilfrid-Hamel. Part of the current division of Taschereau (1,573 electors) situated in borough of Les Rivières and bounded as follows: the boulevard Wilfrid-Hamel, the boundary of borough of Les Rivières and the limit of the Ville de Vanier as it existed on December 31, 2001.

VANIER-LES RIVIÈRES

50,021 electors (+10.6% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Vanier-Les Rivières would comprise the part of the Ville de Québec that corresponds to borough of Les Rivières.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Vanier (54,087 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Taschereau (1,573 electors) situated in borough of Les Rivières and bounded as follows: the boulevard Wilfrid-Hamel, the boundary of borough of Les Rivières and the limit of the Ville de Vanier as it existed on December 31, 2001. Part of the current division of Jean-Talon (2 electors) situated in borough of Les Rivières and bounded as follows: the boundary of the former borough of La Cité as it existed on June 17, 2008 and the autoroute Félix-Leclerc (40).	Part of the current division of Vanier (3,845 electors) situated in borough of La Haute-Saint-Charles and bounded as follows: the boundary of the former borough of La Haute-Saint-Charles as it existed on June 17, 2008 and the overhead electric power line. Part of the current division of Vanier (1,782 electors) situated in borough of La Haute-Saint-Charles and bounded as follows: the boundary of the former borough of Les Rivières as it existed on June 17, 2008, the rue Auguste-Renoir and the boulevard Bastien. Part of the current division of Vanier (28 electors) situated in borough of La Haute-Saint-Charles and bounded as follows: the boundary of the former borough of Les Rivières as it existed on June 17, 2008 and the rivière du Berger.

5.4 Chaudière-Appalaches

Portrait of the situation

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Beauce-Nord	39,694	-12.2%
Beauce-Sud	46,511	+2.9%
Bellechasse	34,542	-23.6%
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière	51,593	+14.1%
Frontenac	**33,285**	**-26.4%**
Lévis	50,733	+12.2%
Lotbinière	33,982	-24.8%
Montmagny-L'Islet	**32,057**	**-29.1%**
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

The Chaudière-Appalaches region currently has eight electoral divisions. It has witnessed a growth of its electoral population on the order of 5.6% between 2000 and 2007, which is fairly close to that of Québec for the same period (5.8%).

However, this growth has not prevented the region from witnessing the appearance of an elector deficit in four of its eight electoral divisions, all located in the peripheral area of Chaudière-Appalaches. They are the electoral divisions of Bellechasse, Frontenac, Lotbinière and Montmagny-L'Islet. Those of Frontenac and Montmagny-L'Islet already find themselves in an exception situation due to their number of electors which is below the minimum limit allowed under the Election Act. As for the electoral divisions of Bellechasse and Lotbinière, they have a critical number of electors, which could quickly fall below the -25% limit.

Conversely, the electoral divisions of Beauce-Nord, Beauce-Sud, Chutes-de-la-Chaudière and Lévis are more balanced. They correspond to the highest growth sectors of Chaudière-Appalaches. To some extent, these four divisions have benefited from a population shift from the peripheral area of this region.

Preliminary delimitation proposal

	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	**Deviation**
Beauce-Amiante	47,296	+4.6%
Beauce-Sud	51,061	+12.9%
Bellechasse	40,801	-9.7%
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière	46,332	+2.5%
Côte-du-Sud	50,767	+12.3%
Lévis	44,474	-1.6%
Lotbinière	48,525	+7.3%
Provincial average	*45,207*	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	*33,905*	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	*56,509*	-

In its preliminary report, the Commission suggested withdrawing one electoral division from the Chaudière-Appalaches region in order to correct the elector deficit present in half of the divisions. This solution also made it possible to have a number of electoral divisions that better corresponds to the region's demographic weight.

In summary, the Commission first proposed extending the division of Frontenac by adding to it certain municipalities of the electoral division of Beauce-Nord, including those of Saint-Joseph-de-Beauce and Vallée-Jonction. This division was given the name of "Beauce-Amiante". The municipalities of Beauceville, Saint-Alfred and Saint-Victor were added to the proposed electoral division of Beauce-Sud.

Other changes sought to better balance the number of electors between the electoral divisions of Bellechasse and Lotbinière and those of Chutes-de-la-Chaudière and Lévis. The Commission thus proposed incorporating part of the Ville de Lévis in the electoral divisions of Bellechasse and Lotbinière to correct their elector deficit.

The electoral division of Lévis retained the former Ville de Lévis and Ville de Saint-Romuald. The electoral division of Chutes-de-la-Chaudière still retained a part of the Ville de Lévis, but henceforth ran alongside the rivière Chaudière up to the Ville de Sainte-Marie.

Finally, the Commission suggested adding the western part of the division of Kamouraska-Témiscouata to the division of Montmagny-L'Islet. Named "Côte-du-Sud" in reference to the historical region, this electoral division was perfectly adjusted to the boundaries of the regional county municipalities of Kamouraska, L'Islet and Montmagny.

Revised delimitation proposal

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Beauce-Nord	39,694	-12.2%
Beauce-Sud	46,511	+2.9%
Bellechasse	40,801	-9.7%
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière	51,595	+14.1%
Côte-du-Sud	50,767	+12.3%
Lévis	44,474	-1.6%
Lotbinière-Frontenac	51,795	+14.6%
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

In light of the public hearings held in the Chaudière-Appalaches region, the Commission suggests changes to its preliminary proposal in response to the requests made by participants. Notwithstanding these adjustments, the revised proposal continues to provide for the withdrawal of one electoral division, which is essential to correct the elector deficit present in half of the electoral divisions of this region.

First, the Commission proposes maintaining the electoral division of Beauce-Nord and its natural community. Following the public hearings, the Commission decided to distinguish, wherever possible, the urban environment of the Ville de Lévis from the other more rural environments of Chaudière-Appalaches. Consequently, it is proposed to maintain the electoral division of Beauce-Nord with its current boundaries and to do likewise with that of Chutes-de-la-Chaudière, aside from a minor boundary adjustment that involves no elector.

In so doing, the Commission also proposes no longer integrating the division of Lotbinière in the territory of Lévis. Nevertheless, to correct its elector deficit, it is proposed to expand this division towards another electoral division confronted with an elector deficit, namely that of Frontenac. It is suggested to name this new division "Lotbinière-Frontenac".

The Commission is aware of the importance of the changes for these communities. However, after having carefully analyzed the possible alternatives following the holding of the Committee on the National Assembly, the Commission considers that this is the best solution to correct, once and for all, the elector deficit that is present in this western part of the region. Indeed, an eastward expansion would upset the electoral divisions of Beauce-Sud, Beauce-Nord and Chutes-de-la-Chaudière, all three of which already respect the numerical criterion of the Act. A westward expansion would have major repercussions on a significant number of divisions of the Centre-du-Québec and Estrie regions and in addition would require extending beyond the boundary of the administrative region of Chaudière-Appalaches. As for this proposal, it ensures that the boundary of this latter region is better respected.

In order to limit the size of the new electoral division and to ensure a certain balance there, it is proposed that the division no longer include all of the territories of the regional county municipality of Les Appalaches. The municipalities of Beaulac-Garthby, Disraeli (Ville and Paroisse) and Sainte-Praxède are added to the proposed electoral division of Mégantic. On the other hand, those of Saint-Fortunat, Saint-Jacques-le-Majeur-de-Wolfestown and Saint-Julien can be repatriated in the electoral division of Lotbinière-Frontenac without compromising its balance.

As for the proposed divisions of Bellechasse and Lévis, they remain unchanged in relation to the preliminary proposal. While a part of the Ville de Lévis has been added to the electoral division of Bellechasse, the Commission considers that this solution remains the best one to significantly correct its elector deficit. What is more, this proposal was generally well received by the community. For its part, the electoral division of Lévis retains the former Lévis and the ward of Saint-Romuald.

Another proposed change consists of re-establishing the boundaries of the current division of Beauce-Sud. This change is in response to the requests concerning the municipalities of Courcelles, Sainte-Clotilde-de-Beauce, Saint-Ludger and Saint-Robert-Bellarmin, which underscored their citizens' attachment to the Beauce region.

Finally, it is proposed to create the electoral division of "Côte-du-Sud". This new division comprises all of the municipalities belonging to the regional county municipalities of Kamouraska, L'Islet and Montmagny. The Commission considers that by being perfectly adjusted to the boundaries of the regional county municipalities, the proposed electoral division of Côte-du-Sud remains representative of the local population. Despite the fact that some citizens are opposed to the toponym "Côte-du-Sud", the Commission also received comments from citizens in favour of it.

Description of the proposed electoral divisions

BEAUCE-NORD

39,694 electors (-12.2% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Beauce-Nord would comprise the following municipalities:

Beauceville (V)	Saint-Jules (P)
Frampton (M)	Saint-Lambert-de-Lauzon (P)
Saint-Alfred (M)	Sainte-Marguerite (P)
Saints-Anges (P)	Sainte-Marie (V)
Saint-Bernard (M)	Saint-Odilon-de-Cranbourne (P)
Saint-Elzéar (M)	Saint-Séverin (P)
Saint-Frédéric (P)	Saint-Victor (M)
Sainte-Hénédine (P)	Scott (M)

Saint-Isidore (M)	Tring-Jonction (VL)
Saint-Joseph-de-Beauce (V)	Vallée-Jonction (M)
Saint-Joseph-des-Érables (M)	

The proposed division of Beauce-Nord would be identical to the current division.

BEAUCE-SUD

46,511 electors (+2.9% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Beauce-Sud would comprise the following municipalities:

Courcelles (P)	Saint-Georges (V)
Lac-Poulin (VL)	Saint-Hilaire-de-Dorset (P)
La Guadeloupe (VL)	Saint-Honoré-de-Shenley (M)
Notre-Dame-des-Pins (P)	Saint-Ludger (M)
Sainte-Aurélie (M)	Saint-Martin (P)
Saint-Benjamin (M)	Saint-Philibert (M)
Saint-Benoît-Labre (M)	Saint-Prosper (M)
Sainte-Clotilde-de-Beauce (M)	Saint-René (P)
Saint-Côme–Linière (M)	Saint-Robert-Bellarmin (M)
Saint-Éphrem-de-Beauce (M)	Saint-Simon-les-Mines (M)
Saint-Évariste-de-Forsyth (M)	Saint-Théophile (M)
Saint-Gédéon-de-Beauce (M)	Saint-Zacharie (M)

The proposed division of Beauce-Sud would be identical to the current division.

BELLECHASSE

40,801 electors (-9.7% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Bellechasse would comprise the following municipalities:

Armagh (M)	Saint-Lazare-de-Bellechasse (M)
Beaumont (M)	Saint-Léon-de-Standon (P)
Honfleur (M)	Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague (M)
Lac-Etchemin (M)	Saint-Luc-de-Bellechasse (M)
La Durantaye (P)	Saint-Magloire (M)
Notre-Dame-Auxiliatrice-de-Buckland (P)	Saint-Malachie (P)
Saint-Anselme (M)	Saint-Michel-de-Bellechasse (M)
Saint-Camille-de-Lellis (P)	Saint-Nazaire-de-Dorchester (P)
Saint-Charles-de-Bellechasse (M)	Saint-Nérée (P)
Sainte-Claire (M)	Saint-Philémon (P)
Saint-Cyprien (P)	Saint-Raphaël (M)
Saint-Damien-de-Buckland (P)	Sainte-Rose-de-Watford (M)
Saint-Gervais (M)	Sainte-Sabine (P)
Saint-Henri (M)	Saint-Vallier (M)
Sainte-Justine (M)	

This electoral division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Lévis situated in the borough of Desjardins and bounded as follows: the part of the borough of Desjardins situated to the south of the autoroute Jean-Lesage (20).

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Bellechasse (34,542 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Lévis (6,259 electors) situated in the borough of Desjardins and bounded as follows: the part of the borough of Desjardins situated to the south of the autoroute Jean-Lesage (20).	None.

CHUTES-DE-LA-CHAUDIÈRE

51,595 electors (+14.1% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Chutes-de-la-Chaudière would comprise the part of the Ville de Lévis situated in the borough of Chutes-de-la-Chaudière-Est and bounded as follows: the part of the borough of Chutes-de-la-Chaudière-Est situated to the south of the autoroute Jean-Lesage (20).

This electoral division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Lévis that corresponds to the borough of Chutes-de-la-Chaudière-Ouest.

Change made

The electoral division would thus be formed based on the current division of Chutes-de-la-Chaudière (51,595 electors) and the following change:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Lévis (no elector) situated in the borough of Chutes-de-la-Chaudière-Est and bounded as follows: the autoroute Jean-Lesage (20), the boundary of the borough of Chutes-de-la-Chaudière-Est and the rivière Etchemin.	None.

CÔTE-DU-SUD

50,767 electors (+12.3% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Côte-du-Sud would comprise the following municipalities:

Berthier-sur-Mer (M)	Sainte-Félicité (M)
Cap-Saint-Ignace (M)	Saint-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud (M)
Kamouraska (M)	Saint-Gabriel-Lalemant (M)
La Pocatière (V)	Saint-Germain (P)
Lac-Frontière (M)	Sainte-Hélène (M)
L'Islet (M)	Saint-Jean-Port-Joli (M)
Mont-Carmel (M)	Saint-Joseph-de-Kamouraska (P)
Montmagny (V)	Saint-Just-de-Bretenières (M)
Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire (M)	Sainte-Louise (P)

Rivière-Ouelle (M)	Sainte-Lucie-de-Beauregard (M)
Saint-Adalbert (M)	Saint-Marcel (M)
Saint-Alexandre-de-Kamouraska (M)	Saint-Omer (M)
Saint-André (M)	Saint-Onésime-d'Ixworth (P)
Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière (P)	Saint-Pacôme (M)
Saint-Antoine-de-l'Isle-aux-Grues (P)	Saint-Pamphile (V)
Sainte-Apolline-de-Patton (P)	Saint-Pascal (V)
Saint-Aubert (M)	Saint-Paul-de-Montminy (M)
Saint-Bruno-de-Kamouraska (M)	Sainte-Perpétue (M)
Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard (P)	Saint-Philippe-de-Néri (P)
Saint-Damase-de-L'Islet (M)	Saint-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud (P)
Saint-Denis (P)	Saint-Roch-des-Aulnaies (P)
Sainte-Euphémie-sur-Rivière-du-Sud (M)	Tourville (M)
Saint-Fabien-de-Panet (P)	

This division would also comprise the following unorganized territories:

Petit-Lac-Sainte-Anne	Picard

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Montmagny-L'Islet (32,057 electors) and the following change:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Kamouraska-Témiscouata (18,710 electors) including the following municipalities: Kamouraska (M), La Pocatière (V), Mont-Carmel (M), Rivière-Ouelle (M), Saint-Alexandre-de-Kamouraska (M), Saint-André (M), Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière (P), Saint-Bruno-de-Kamouraska (M), Saint-Denis (P), Saint-Gabriel-Lalemant (M), Saint-Germain (P), Sainte-Hélène (M), Saint-Joseph-de-Kamouraska (P), Sainte-Louise (P), Saint-Onésime-d'Ixworth (P), Saint-Pacôme (M), Saint-Pascal (V), Saint-Philippe-de-Néri (P), Saint-Roch-des-Aulnaies (P) and the unorganized territories of Petit-Lac-Sainte-Anne and Picard.	None.

LÉVIS

44,474 electors (-1.6% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Lévis would comprise the part of the Ville de Lévis situated in the borough of Desjardins and bounded as follows: the part of the borough of Desjardins situated to the north of the autoroute Jean-Lesage (20).

This electoral division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Lévis situated in the borough of Chutes-de-la-Chaudière-Est and bounded as follows: the part of the borough of Chutes-de-la-Chaudière-Est situated to the north of the autoroute Jean-Lesage (20).

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Lévis (50,733 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of Lévis (6,259 electors) situated in the borough of Desjardins and bounded as follows: the part of the borough Desjardins situated to the south of the autoroute Jean-Lesage (20).
	Part of the current division of Lévis (no elector) situated in the borough of Chutes-de-la-Chaudière-Est and bounded as follows: the autoroute Jean-Lesage (20), the boundary of the borough of Chutes-de-la-Chaudière-Est and the rivière Etchemin.

LOTBINIÈRE-FRONTENAC

51,795 electors (+14.6% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Lotbinière-Frontenac would comprise the following municipalities:

Adstock (M)	Saint-Édouard-de-Lotbinière (P)
Dosquet (M)	Saint-Flavien (M)
East Broughton (M)	Saint-Fortunat (M)
Irlande (M)	Saint-Gilles (P)
Kinnear's Mills (M)	Saint-Jacques-de-Leeds (M)
Laurier-Station (VL)	Saint-Jacques-le-Majeur-de-Wolfestown (P)

Leclercville (M)	Saint-Janvier-de-Joly (M)
Lotbinière (M)	Saint-Jean-de-Brébeuf (M)
Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Cœur-d'Issoudun (P)	Saint-Joseph-de-Coleraine (M)
Sacré-Cœur-de-Jésus (P)	Saint-Julien (M)
Saint-Adrien-d'Irlande (M)	Saint-Narcisse-de-Beaurivage (P)
Saint-Agapit (M)	Saint-Patrice-de-Beaurivage (M)
Sainte-Agathe-de-Lotbinière (M)	Saint-Pierre-de-Broughton (M)
Saint-Antoine-de-Tilly (M)	Saint-Sylvestre (M)
Saint-Apollinaire (M)	Thetford Mines (V)
Sainte-Croix (M)	Val-Alain (M)

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Frontenac (33,285 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Lotbinière (21,573 electors) including the following municipalities: Dosquet (M), Laurier-Station (VL), Leclercville (M), Lotbinière (M), Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Cœur-d'Issoudun (P), Saint-Agapit (M), Sainte-Agathe-de-Lotbinière (M), Saint-Antoine-de-Tilly (M), Saint-Apollinaire (M), Sainte-Croix (M), Saint-Édouard-de-Lotbinière (P), Saint-Flavien (M), Saint-Gilles (P), Saint-Janvier-de-Joly (M), Saint-Narcisse-de-Beaurivage (P), Saint-Patrice-de-Beaurivage (M), Saint-Sylvestre (M) and Val-Alain (M).	Part of the current division of Frontenac (3,280 electors) including the following municipalities: Disraeli (P), Disraeli (V) and Sainte-Praxède (P).
Part of the current division of Richmond (217 electors) including the Municipalité de Saint-Fortunat.	

5.5 Côte-Nord

Portrait of the situation

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	**Deviation**
Duplessis	36,665	-18.9%
René-Lévesque	34,341	-24.0%
Provincial average	*45,207*	*-*
Minimum limit (-25%)	*33,905*	*-*
Maximum limit (+25%)	*56,509*	*-*

The Côte-Nord region is made up of two electoral divisions and covers a large territory of more than 250,000 square kilometres. This region has witnessed a significant decline of its electoral population between 2000 and 2007. It has posted the most negative growth rate among the regions of Québec, namely -3.3%.

Of the two electoral divisions of the region, that of René-Lévesque is the most problematic. It has witnessed a sharp population decline on the order of 4.2% between 2000 and 2007 and its number of electors currently puts the division in a critical situation. The recent data of 2010 even indicate that this division finds itself in an exception situation.

As for the division of Duplessis, it has a slightly higher number of electors and a higher growth rate, which was -2.4% during the reference period. This electoral division should not see its number of electors fall below the minimum limit permitted under the Election Act in the near term.

Preliminary delimitation proposal

	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	**Deviation**
Duplessis	36,665	-18.9%
René-Lévesque	36,461	-19.3%
Provincial average	*45,207*	*-*
Minimum limit (-25%)	*33,905*	*-*
Maximum limit (+25%)	*56,509*	*-*

The preliminary proposal for the Côte-Nord region first sought to correct the critical situation of the electoral division of René-Lévesque. Given the fact that the division of Duplessis also comprises a small number of electors, the expansion of the division of René-Lévesque in its southwestern part was favoured.

The Commission proposed adding to the division of René-Lévesque the municipalities of Baie-Sainte-Catherine and Saint-Siméon as well as the unorganized territories of Sagard and Mont-Élie, which are

part of the current division of Charlevoix. The Municipalité de Petit-Saguenay, which is located in the current division of Dubuc, was also added to René-Lévesque.

The other change proposed in the preliminary report consisted of adding to the division of Duplessis the unorganized territories of Caniapiscau and Lac-Juillet, which are currently part of the division of Ungava. In so doing, the Commission wanted to include the entire regional county municipality of Caniapiscau in the electoral division of Duplessis in order to better adhere to the regional county municipality boundaries. No elector were affected by this change.

Revised delimitation proposal

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Duplessis	36,665	-18.9%
René-Lévesque	34,341	-24.0%
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

In the Côte-Nord region, the most significant change proposed in the preliminary report was to add to the division of René-Lévesque certain municipalities located to the south of the rivière Saguenay. However, after having listened to the interventions of MNAs, citizens and organizations of this region during the public hearings, the Commission understands that such a change does not adequately respect the existing natural communities.

While the Commission has always been aware of the importance of the rivière Saguenay on the territory, the expansion of the electoral division of René-Lévesque to the south of this river initially appeared to be an interesting solution to correct the critical situation of the electoral division.

Indeed, the municipalities of Baie-Sainte-Catherine and Saint-Siméon as well as the adjacent unorganized territories have closer affinities with the division of Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré. Furthermore, the Municipalité de Petit-Saguenay is much more identified with the Saguenay– Lac-Saint-Jean region.

The Commission therefore proposes maintaining the current boundaries of the electoral division of René-Lévesque in order to ensure that the natural communities on both sides of the rivière Saguenay are respected. In addition, this boundary marks the junction between the administrative regions of Côte-Nord, Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean and Capitale-Nationale.

Otherwise, the Commission considered a northeastward expansion of the division of René-Lévesque at the expense of the division of Duplessis in order to correct the elector deficit. However, this latter division also finds itself with an elector deficit. As a result, such a change would only arbitrarily shift the problem. The Commission is therefore maintaining the boundaries between these two electoral divisions which perfectly adhere to the delimitation of the regional county municipalities of Manicouagan and Sept-Rivières.

Moreover, while the number of electors of the division of René-Lévesque placed it in a critical situation as of the reference date, November 30, 2007, its demographic evolution during the following months caused the division to evolve into an exception situation. As of July 31, 2010, its deviation

from the provincial average stands at -26.1%. The reasons justifying this exception situation are presented in Chapter 4.

As for the division of Duplessis, the Commission reiterates its preliminary proposal. It suggests adding two portions of territory to the northwest, which have no elector, in order to better adjust the electoral division to the boundaries of the regional county municipality of Caniapiscau and, incidentally, of the Côte-Nord administrative region.

Description of the proposed electoral divisions

DUPLESSIS

36,665 electors (-18.9% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Duplessis would comprise the following municipalities:

Aguanish (M)	L'Île-d'Anticosti (M)
Baie-Johan-Beetz (M)	Longue-Pointe-de-Mingan (M)
Blanc-Sablon (M)	Natashquan (CT)
Bonne-Espérance (M)	Port-Cartier (V)
Côte-Nord-du-Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent (M)	Rivière-au-Tonnerre (M)
Fermont (V)	Rivière-Saint-Jean (M)
Gros-Mécatina (M)	Saint-Augustin (M)
Havre-Saint-Pierre (M)	Schefferville (V)
Kawawachikamach (VK)	Sept-Îles (V)

This division would also comprise the reserved land of Kawawachikamach, the Indian settlement of Pakuashipi and the following Indian reserves:

La Romaine	Mingan
Lac-John	Natashquan
Maliotenam	Uashat
Matimekosh	

It would also comprise the following unorganized territories

Caniapiscau	Lac-Walker
Lac-Jérôme	Petit-Mécatina
Lac-Juillet	Rivière-Mouchalagane
Lac-Vacher	Rivière-Nipissis

In addition, it would comprise the part of the unorganized territory of Rivière-Koksoak included between 55°00' and the 55°20' latitude north, 67°10' longitude west and the boundary of Québec.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Duplessis (36,665 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Ungava (no elector) including the following unorganized territories: Caniapiscau and Lac-Juillet.	None.

RENÉ-LÉVESQUE

34,341 electors (-24.0% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of René-Lévesque would comprise the following municipalities

Baie-Comeau (V)	Les Escoumins (M)
Baie-Trinité (VL)	Longue-Rive (M)
Chute-aux-Outardes (VL)	Pointe-aux-Outardes (VL)
Colombier (M)	Pointe-Lebel (VL)
Forestville (V)	Portneuf-sur-Mer (M)
Franquelin (M)	Ragueneau (P)
Godbout (VL)	Sacré-Coeur (M)
Les Bergeronnes (M)	Tadoussac (VL)

This division would also comprise the following Indian reserves:

Essipit	Pessamit

It would also comprise the following unorganized territories

Lac-au-Brochet	Rivière-aux-Outardes

The proposed electoral division of René-Lévesque would be identical to the current division.

5.6 Estrie–Centre-du-Québec

Portrait of the situation

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Arthabaska	48,915	+8.2%
Drummond	**56,939**	**+26.0%**
Johnson	43,485	-3.8%
Mégantic-Compton	**33,706**	**-25.4%**
Nicolet-Yamaska	34,498	-23.7%
Orford	54,123	+19.7%
Richmond	36,254	-19.8%
Saint-François	45,151	-0.1%
Sherbrooke	48,374	+7.0%
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

The Estrie–Centre-du-Québec region comprises nine divisions and has seen its electoral population increase between 2000 and 2007. This region has witnessed a growth rate of 6.8% during this period as compared to a growth rate of 5.8% for Québec.

This growth has mainly been felt around the three poles of this region, namely Drummondville, Sherbrooke and Victoriaville. It is therefore not surprising that the electoral division of Drummond is, with its 56,939 electors, the most populous division of this region and consequently has an

exceptional positive deviation. In addition, the division of Orford is also very populous. Due to its steady growth between 2000 and 2007, on the order of 15.3%, the division of Orford will also find itself in an exception situation in the very near term.

Conversely, four of the nine divisions of this region have experienced a growth smaller than that of Québec during the reference period. Among these divisions, that of Mégantic-Compton is the most problematic. Its number of electors, currently below the minimum limit of -25%, places it in an exception situation. What is more, the electoral division of Nicolet-Yamaska also has an elector deficit and is rapidly headed toward the same exception situation.

Finally, in the past, representations have been made to the Commission de la représentation électorale requesting that the boundaries of the electoral divisions be better harmonized with those of the administrative regions and of the regional county municipalities. In this regard, it should be noted that some divisions, such as that of Johnson, overlap several regional county municipalities and administrative regions.

Preliminary delimitation proposal

	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Arthabaska	53,238	+17.8%
Drummond	52,306	+15.7%
Johnson	43,962	-2.8%
Mégantic-Compton	43,940	-2.8%
Memphrémagog	50,760	+12.3%
Nicolet-Bécancour	39,070	-13.6%
Richmond	45,287	+0.2%
Saint-François	44,654	-1.2%
Sherbrooke	48,374	+7.0%
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

In its preliminary report, the Commission proposed a delimitation for the Estrie-Centre-du-Québec region which sought to correct the two exceptional divisions, while paying special attention to adjusting the boundaries of the divisions to those of the regional county municipalities and the administrative regions.

To correct the exception situation of the division of Drummond, it was proposed that this division only comprise the Ville de Drummondville and its 52,306 electors.

As for the region's other exceptional division, that of Mégantic-Compton, it was suggested to increase its number of electors by adding to it the municipalities of the regional county municipality

of Coaticook. Moreover, this change resulted in the electoral division of Saint-François being moved northward.

The electoral division of Orford was also redelimited to avoid any possible exception situation. It was proposed to withdraw from this division certain municipalities, including Canton d'Orford, and to rename the division "Memphrémagog".

The Commission suggested redelimiting the electoral division of Johnson in a north-south rather than east-west axis, by grouping municipalities such as Roxton Pond and Waterloo with municipalities located in the suburban area of Drummondville. That way, the proposed division of Johnson would cover only two administrative regions, just like that of Richmond, which the Commission proposed expanding to the southwest, up to the boundary of the administrative region of Estrie.

Next, the division of Nicolet-Yamaska was expanded to the east in order to adjust it to the boundaries of the regional county municipality of Bécancour and the administrative region of Centre-du-Québec. This division was renamed "Nicolet-Bécancour". As for the proposed division of Arthabaska, it was also expanded to encompass the large majority of the electors belonging to the regional county municipality of L'Érable.

Revised delimitation proposal

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Arthabaska	55,141	+22.0%
Drummond–Bois-Francs	47,141	+4.3%
Johnson	52,990	+17.2%
Mégantic	37,534	-17.0%
Nicolet-Bécancour	37,978	-16.0%
Orford	37,390	-17.3%
Richmond	53,260	+17.8%
Saint-François	52,967	+17.2%
Sherbrooke	48,374	+7.0%
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

In its revised proposal for the Estrie-Centre-du-Québec region, the Commission makes a number of changes to take into account the comments expressed by citizens during the public hearings on their feeling of belonging. The representations heard at the time of the Committee on the National Assembly were also very useful in the final preparation of the revised delimitation proposal. Moreover, special attention has also been paid to ensuring that the administrative boundaries are respected.

First, the Commission proposes re-establishing the name of the electoral division of Orford, while maintaining the Canton d'Orford in this division. This request was clearly expressed by the community. To reduce its number of electors, the Commission suggests instead withdrawing from it the borough of Rock-Forest–Saint-Élie–Deauville of the Ville de Sherbrooke. This change makes it possible to adjust the division of Orford to the boundaries of the regional county municipality of Memphrémagog. In addition, the municipalities of Bonsecours, Lawrenceville and Sainte-Anne-de-la-Rochelle are added to the division. It should be noted that the negative deviation of the electoral division of Orford in relation to the provincial average, namely -17.3%, should improve quickly due to the sustained growth of this sector.

It is proposed to join the borough of Rock-Forest–Saint-Élie–Deauville with the majority of the municipalities of the regional county municipality of Val-Saint-François within the division of Richmond. To complete the changes, the Commission suggests adding the entire regional county municipality of Les Sources. This division follows, in large part, the boundary of the electoral division of Estrie.

As for the division of Saint-François, some participants from the community asserted that the regional county municipality of Coaticook has more affinities with the Ville de Sherbrooke than with the division of Mégantic-Compton. The Commission therefore proposes redelimiting the electoral division of Saint-François in its north-south axis by incorporating the boroughs of Brompton, Fleurimont and Lennoxville of the Ville de Sherbrooke as well as all of the municipalities of the regional county municipality of Coaticook.

While the electoral division of Mégantic-Compton is reduced in its southern part, it is proposed that other municipalities be added to this division to correct its exception situation, beginning with those located around lakes Aylmer and Saint-François. With this new delimitation, the Commission proposes naming the division "Megantic".

In its preliminary report, the Commission proposed making the Ville de Drummondville a single electoral division. Following the public hearing that was held there, the Commission noted however that the links between the city and the rural environment, located on the periphery, are particularly strong. In addition, participants mentioned that the division of Drummondville, as proposed, would not be able to last long due to its already high number of electors, which stands at 52,306. In this respect, they would prefer to see the division split up, if this can ensure the long-term sustainability of the electoral divisions and allow other municipalities of the regional county municipality of Drummond to maintain a privileged tie with their central city.

Following these interventions, the Commission proposes joining the southwestern part of the Ville de Drummondville, from the Boulevard Saint-Joseph, to the municipalities of the regional county municipality of Drummond located to the west of the rivière Saint-François, except for those of Saint-Bonaventure, Saint-Guillaume and Saint-Pie-de-Guire, which are already in the renamed division of Nicolet-Bécancour. The municipalities located in the western part of the current division of Johnson are added to this new division whose toponym is maintained.

To complete this idea, the Commission suggests joining the northeastern part of the Ville de Drummondville to the rural area situated to the east of the rivière Saint-François. The proposed electoral division comprises a set of municipalities made up, among others, of Saint-Cyrille-de-Wendover, Warwick and Ham-Nord. This new electoral division entirely located in the administrative region of Centre-du-Québec is named "Drummond–Bois-Francs" and extends up to the eastern boundary of the administrative region.

As for the electoral divisions of Arthabaska and Nicolet-Bécancour, they remain roughly the same as those proposed in the preliminary report. Among the proposed adjustments, the municipalities of Saint-Louis-de-Blandford and Villeroy are withdrawn from the division of Nicolet-Bécancour in order

to be added to that of Arthabaska to better take into account the territory covered by the regional county municipalities of Bécancour and L'Érable. Both these electoral divisions still adhere to the boundaries of the administrative region of Centre-du-Québec.

Finally, the electoral division of Sherbrooke remains unchanged in relation to the current map and the preliminary proposal. This division comprises the boroughs of Jacques-Cartier and Mont-Bellevue of the Ville de Sherbrooke.

Description of the proposed electoral divisions

ARTHABASKA

55,141 electors (+22.0% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Arthabaska would comprise the following municipalities:

Inverness (M)	Saint-Louis-de-Blandford (M)
Laurierville (M)	Saint-Norbert-d'Arthabaska (M)
Lyster (M)	Saint-Pierre-Baptiste (P)
Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes (P)	Saint-Rosaire (P)
Plessisville (P)	Sainte-Sophie-d'Halifax (M)
Plessisville (V)	Saint-Valère (M)
Princeville (V)	Victoriaville (V)
Saint-Christophe-d'Arthabaska (P)	Villeroy (M)
Saint-Ferdinand (M)	

Changes made

The electoral division would thus be formed based on the current division of Arthabaska (48,915 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Lotbinière (7,127 electors) including the following municipalities: Inverness (M), Laurierville (M), Lyster (M), Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes (P), Saint-Ferdinand (M), Saint-Louis-de-Blandford (M), Saint-Pierre-Baptiste (P), Sainte-Sophie-d'Halifax (M) and Villeroy (M).	Part of the current division of Arthabaska (901 electors) including the municipalities of Chesterville (M) and Sainte-Hélène-de-Chester (M).

DRUMMOND–BOIS-FRANCS

47,141 electors (+4.3% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Drummond–Bois-Francs would comprise the following municipalities:

Chesterville (M)	Saint-Félix-de-Kingsey (M)
Ham-Nord (CT)	Sainte-Hélène-de-Chester (M)
Kingsey Falls (V)	Saint-Lucien (P)
Notre-Dame-de-Ham (M)	Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens (P)
Notre-Dame-du-Bon-Conseil (P)	Saint-Rémi-de-Tingwick (P)
Notre-Dame-du-Bon-Conseil (VL)	Saint-Samuel (P)
Saint-Albert (M)	Sainte-Séraphine (P)
Sainte-Clotilde-de-Horton (M)	Tingwick (M)
Saint-Cyrille-de-Wendover (M)	Warwick (V)
Sainte-Élizabeth-de-Warwick (M)	

This electoral division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Drummondville situated to the northeast of the boulevard Saint-Joseph.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Drummond (56,939 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Nicolet-Yamaska (569 electors) including the part of the Ville de Drummondville that corresponds to the Paroisse de Saint-Joachim-de-Courval as it existed on July 6, 2004.	Part of the current division of Drummond (29,559 electors) including the following municipalities: Saint-Edmond-de-Grantham (P), Saint-Eugène (M), Saint-Germain-de-Grantham (M), Saint-Majorique-de-Grantham (P) and the part of the Ville de Drummondville situated to the southwest of the boulevard Saint-Joseph.
Part of the current division of Richmond (18,291 electors) including the following municipalities: Ham-Nord (CT), Kingsey Falls (V), Notre-Dame-de-Ham (M), Notre-Dame-du-Bon-Conseil (P), Notre-Dame-du-Bon-Conseil (VL), Saint-Albert (M), Sainte-Clotilde-de-Horton (M), Saint-Cyrille-de-Wendover (M), Sainte-Élizabeth-de-Warwick (M), Saint-Félix-de-Kingsey (M), Saint-Lucien (P), Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens (P), Saint-Rémi-de-Tingwick (P), Saint-Samuel (P), Sainte-Séraphine (P), Tingwick (M) and Warwick (V).	
Part of the current division of Arthabaska (901 electors) including the following municipalities: Chesterville (M) and Sainte-Hélène-de-Chester (M).	

JOHNSON

52,990 electors (+17.2% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Johnson would comprise the following municipalities:

Acton Vale (V)	Saint-Eugène (M)
Béthanie (M)	Saint-Germain-de-Grantham (M)
Durham-Sud (M)	Sainte-Hélène-de-Bagot (M)
L'Avenir (M)	Saint-Joachim-de-Shefford (P)
Lefebvre (M)	Saint-Majorique-de-Grantham (P)
Roxton (CT)	Saint-Nazaire-d'Acton (P)
Roxton Falls (VL)	Saint-Théodore-d'Acton (P)
Roxton Pond (M)	Saint-Valérien-de-Milton (M)
Sainte-Cécile-de-Milton (M)	Upton (M)

| Sainte-Christine (P) | Wickham (M) |
| Saint-Edmond-de-Grantham (P) | |

This electoral division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Drummondville situated to the southwest of the boulevard Saint-Joseph.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Johnson (43,485 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Drummond (29,559 electors) including the following municipalities: Saint-Edmond-de-Grantham (P), Saint-Eugène (M), Saint-Germain-de-Grantham (M), Saint-Majorique-de-Grantham (P) and the part of the Ville de Drummondville situated to the southwest of the boulevard Saint-Joseph.	Part of the current division of Johnson (20,054 electors) including the following municipalities: Maricourt (M), Racine (M), Saint-Denis-de-Brompton (P), Saint-François-Xavier-de-Brompton (P), Stoke (M), Ulverton (M), Valcourt (CT), Valcourt (V), Val-Joli (M) and Windsor (V) and the part of the Ville de Sherbrooke that corresponds to the borough of Brompton.

MÉGANTIC

37,534 electors (-17.0% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Mégantic would comprise the following municipalities:

Ascot Corner (M)	Milan (M)
Audet (M)	Nantes (M)
Beaulac-Garthby (M)	Newport (M)
Bury (M)	Notre-Dame-des-Bois (M)
Chartierville (M)	Piopolis (M)
Cookshire-Eaton (V)	Saint-Augustin-de-Woburn (P)
Disraeli (P)	Sainte-Cécile-de-Whitton (M)
Disraeli (V)	Saint-Isidore-de-Clifton (M)
Dudswell (M)	Sainte-Praxède (P)
East Angus (V)	Saint-Romain (M)
Frontenac (M)	Saint-Sébastien (M)

Hampden (CT)	Scotstown (V)
Lac-Drolet (M)	Stoke (M)
Lac-Mégantic (V)	Stornoway (M)
Lambton (M)	Stratford (CT)
La Patrie (M)	Val-Racine (P)
Lingwick (CT)	Weedon (M)
Marston (CT)	Westbury (CT)

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Mégantic-Compton (33,706 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Richmond (774 electors) including the Municipalité de Beaulac-Garthby. Part of the current division of Johnson (2,065 electors) including the Municipalité de Stoke. Part of the current division of Frontenac (3,280 electors) including the following municipalities: Disraeli (P), Disraeli (V) and Sainte-Praxède (P).	Part of the current division of Mégantic-Compton (2,261 electors) including the following municipalities: Dixville (M), East Hereford (M), Martinville (M), Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton (CT), Saint-Herménégilde (M), Saint-Malo (M) and Saint-Venant-de-Paquette (M).

NICOLET-BÉCANCOUR

37,978 electors (-16.0% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Nicolet-Bécancour would comprise the following municipalities:

Aston-Jonction (M)	Saint-Célestin (M)
Baie-du-Febvre (M)	Saint-Célestin (VL)
Bécancour (V)	Saint-Elphège (P)
Daveluyville (V)	Sainte-Eulalie (M)
Deschaillons-sur-Saint-Laurent (M)	Saint-François-du-Lac (M)

Fortierville (M)	Sainte-Françoise (M)
Grand-Saint-Esprit (M)	Saint-Guillaume (M)
La Visitation-de-Yamaska (M)	Saint-Léonard-d'Aston (M)
Lemieux (M)	Sainte-Marie-de-Blandford (M)
Maddington (CT)	Sainte-Monique (M)
Manseau (M)	Sainte-Perpétue (P)
Nicolet (V)	Saint-Pie-de-Guire (P)
Parisville (P)	Saint-Pierre-les-Becquets (M)
Pierreville (M)	Sainte-Sophie-de-Lévrard (P)
Sainte-Anne-du-Sault (M)	Saint-Sylvère (M)
Saint-Bonaventure (M)	Saint-Wenceslas (M)
Sainte-Brigitte-des-Saults (P)	Saint-Zéphirin-de-Courval (P)
Sainte-Cécile-de-Lévrard (P)	

This division would also comprise the following Indian reserves:

Odanak	Wôlinak

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Nicolet-Yamaska (34,498 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Lotbinière (5,280 electors) including the following municipalities: Deschaillons-sur-Saint-Laurent (M), Fortierville (M), Lemieux (M), Manseau (M), Parisville (P), Sainte-Cécile-de-Lévrard (P), Sainte-Françoise (M), Sainte-Marie-de-Blandford (M), Sainte-Sophie-de-Lévrard (P) and Saint-Pierre-les-Becquets (M).	Part of the current division of Nicolet-Yamaska (1,797 electors) including the following municipalities: Saint-David (P), Saint-Gérard-Majella (P), Saint-Marcel-de-Richelieu (M), the part of the Ville de Drummondville that corresponds to the Paroisse de Saint-Joachim-de-Courval as it existed on July 6, 2004 and a section of the Municipalité de Yamaska (3 electors) following a change to its municipal boundaries.

ORFORD

37,390 electors (-17.3% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Orford would comprise the following municipalities:

Austin (M)	Ogden (M)
Ayer's Cliff (VL)	Orford (CT)
Bolton-Est (M)	Potton (CT)
Bonsecours (M)	Sainte-Anne-de-la-Rochelle (M)
Eastman (M)	Saint-Benoît-du-Lac (M)
Hatley (CT)	Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley (M)
Hatley (M)	Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton (M)
Lawrenceville (VL)	Stanstead (CT)
Magog (V)	Stanstead (V)
North Hatley (VL)	Stukely-Sud (VL)

Changes made

The electoral division would thus be formed based on the current division of Orford (54,123 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Brome-Missisquoi (7,091 electors) including the following municipalities: Austin (M), Bolton-Est (M), Bonsecours (M), Eastman (M), Lawrenceville (VL), Potton (CT), Sainte-Anne-de-la-Rochelle (M), Saint-Benoît-du-Lac (M), Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton (M) and Stukely-Sud (VL).	Part of the current division of Orford (23,820 electors) including the following municipalities: Barnston-Ouest (M), Stanstead-Est (M), the part of the Ville de Sherbrooke that corresponds to the borough of Rock-Forest–Saint-Élie–Deauville and a part of the Municipalité de Racine (4 electors) following a change to the municipal boundaries.

RICHMOND

53,260 electors (+17.8% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Richmond would comprise the following municipalities:

Asbestos (V)	Saint-Denis-de-Brompton (P)
Cleveland (CT)	Saint-François-Xavier-de-Brompton (P)
Danville (V)	Saint-Georges-de-Windsor (M)
Kingsbury (VL)	Saint-Joseph-de-Ham-Sud (P)
Maricourt (M)	Ulverton (M)
Melbourne (CT)	Valcourt (CT)
Racine (M)	Valcourt (V)
Richmond (V)	Val-Joli (M)
Saint-Adrien (M)	Windsor (V)
Saint-Camille (CT)	Wotton (M)
Saint-Claude (M)	

This electoral division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Sherbrooke that corresponds to the borough of Rock-Forest–Saint-Élie–Deauville.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Richmond (36,254 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Johnson (13,365 electors) including the following municipalities: Maricourt (M), Racine (M), Saint-Denis-de-Brompton (P), Saint-François-Xavier-de-Brompton (P), Ulverton (M), Valcourt (CT), Valcourt (V), Val-Joli (M), Windsor (V). Part of the current division of Orford (22,919 electors) including the part of the Ville de Sherbrooke that corresponds to the borough of Rock-Forest–Saint-Élie–Deauville and a part of the Municipalité de Racine (4 electors) following a change to the municipal boundaries.	Part of the current division of Richmond (19,282 electors) including the following municipalities: Beaulac-Garthby (M), Ham-Nord (CT), Kingsey Falls (V),Notre-Dame-de-Ham (M), Notre-Dame-du-Bon-Conseil (P), Notre-Dame-du-Bon-Conseil (VL), Saint-Albert (M), Sainte-Clotilde-de-Horton (M), Saint-Cyrille-de-Wendover (M), Sainte-Élizabeth-de-Warwick (M), Saint-Félix-de-Kingsey (M), Saint-Fortunat (M), Saint-Lucien (P), Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens (P), Saint-Rémi-de-Tingwick (P), Saint-Samuel (P), Sainte-Séraphine (P), Tingwick (M) and Warwick (V).

SAINT-FRANÇOIS

52,967 electors (+17.2% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Saint-François would comprise the following municipalities:

Barnston-Ouest (M)	Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton (CT)
Coaticook (V)	Saint-Herménégilde (M)
Compton (M)	Saint-Malo (M)
Dixville (M)	Saint-Venant-de-Paquette (M)
East Hereford (M)	Stanstead-Est (M)
Martinville (M)	Waterville (V)

This electoral division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Sherbrooke that corresponds to the boroughs of Brompton, Fleurimont and Lennoxville.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Saint-François (45,151 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Orford (901 electors) including the following municipalities: Barnston-Ouest (M) and Stanstead-Est (M).	None.
Part of the current division of Mégantic-Compton (2,261 electors) including the following municipalities: Dixville (M), East Hereford (M), Martinville (M), Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton (CT), Saint-Herménégilde (M), Saint-Malo (M) and Saint-Venant-de-Paquette (M).	
Part of the current division of Johnson (4,654 electors) including the part of the Ville de Sherbrooke that corresponds to the borough of Brompton.	

SHERBROOKE

48,374 electors (+7.0% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Sherbrooke would comprise the part of the Ville de Sherbrooke that corresponds to the boroughs of Jacques-Cartier and Mont-Bellevue.

The proposed electoral division would be identical to the current division

5.7 Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine

Portrait of the situation

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	**Deviation**
Bonaventure	28,908	-36.1%
Gaspé	27,569	-39.0%
Îles-de-la-Madeleine	10,600	-76.6%
Matane	27,904	-38.3%
Matapédia	29,773	-34.1%
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

In addition to Îles-de-la-Madeleine which is an electoral division recognized under the Election Act, the region comprises four electoral divisions, all located on the Gaspésie peninsula. The region has witnessed a decline of its electoral population on the order of 1.7% between 2000 and 2007. Considering the province's growth rate during the same period, which stood at 5.8%, the Gaspésie region has seen its demographic weight decline in relation to the rest of Québec.

This downward demographic trend has been observed in each of the electoral divisions of the Gaspésie region. The four divisions were already in an exception situation in 2000 and have seen their deviation from the provincial average grow further since then. The division of Gaspé is the most problematic with a growth rate of its electoral population of -4.9% between 2000 and 2007. Its number of electors is well below the minimum limit permitted under the Act.

Generally, the Gaspésie region has seen its average deviation of the number of electors by electoral division go from -22.7% in 1992 to -32.0% in 2000. As of November 30, 2007, the average deviation by electoral division stood at -36.9% and based on the recent data of July 2010 it has reached -38.2%. Over the years, the Gaspésie peninsula has become the most over-represented region of Québec.

Preliminary delimitation proposal

	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Bonaventure-Percé	37,511	-17.0%
Îles-de-la-Madeleine	**10,600**	**-76.6%**
Matane-Gaspé	40,067	-11.4%
Matapédia-Mitis	36,567	-19.1%
Provincial average	*45,207*	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	*33,905*	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	*56,509*	-

In its preliminary report, the Commission proposed a revamping of the boundaries of all of the electoral divisions located on the Gaspésie peninsula. Three divisions were proposed instead of four in order to obtain a number of electors by electoral division that respects the numerical criterion of the Act. In other words, the number of divisions of the region corresponded better to its demographic weight within Québec.

The proposal consisted of adding the northern part of the division of Gaspé to that of Matane to form the new electoral division named "Matane-Gaspé". It was suggested to do likewise with its southern part by annexing it to the electoral division of Bonaventure with a view to forming the new electoral division of "Bonaventure-Percé".

Finally, it was suggested to expand the electoral division of Matapédia to the north up to the Municipalité de Saint-Ulric and also to the southeast up to the Municipalité de Pointe-à-la-Croix. This division was named "Matapédia-Mitis".

Revised delimitation proposal

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Bonaventure	35,373	-21.8%
Gaspé	**31,046**	**-31.3%**
Îles-de-la-Madeleine	**10,600**	**-76.6%**
Matane-Matapédia	47,735	+5.6%
Provincial average	*45,207*	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	*33,905*	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	*56,509*	-

As was the case at the time of the last revision of Québec's electoral map in 2000-2001, the proposal of withdrawing one electoral division from the Gaspésie region elicited strong reactions from the community. While the Commission is aware of this opposition, it cannot escape the need to search for balance between the various divisions of Québec with a view to ensuring all electors a fair and equitable delimitation, while taking into account the geographical, demographical and sociological characteristics of a region.

The Commission considers that the delimitation of the Gaspésie peninsula in four electoral divisions makes it impossible to respect this balance due to the deviation of their number of electors which is well below the provincial average; they vary between -34.1% and -39.0%. On the other hand, with three electoral divisions in the region, the average deviation of the number of electors drops to -15.8%, a figure that is closer to the provincial average. It is important to note that despite this withdrawal, the Gaspésie region remains among the most over-represented regions of Québec.

At the time of the public hearings in the Gaspésie region, several participants asked to keep the four exceptional divisions due to certain elements, including the remoteness of the region, the economic difficulties and the already large surface area of the electoral divisions. Nevertheless, over time not only has the Gaspésie region seen the deviation from the provincial average of its electoral divisions go well below the -30% mark, it has also outpaced the other remote regions of Québec.

While the Commission is sensitive to the difficulties that a remote region such as the Gaspésie peninsula may face, the Commission cannot isolate this region and consider it separately from the other regions of Québec. On the other hand, the revised proposal presents significant adjustments in comparison with the preliminary proposal. The revised proposal draws inspiration from the comments and the suggestions made by the community during the public hearings held in this region.

It is first proposed to re-establish the division of Bonaventure with its current boundaries and to add to it the Ville de Chandler. This addition allows the division to respect the numerical criterion of the Election Act, while keeping all of the municipalities of the regional county municipality of Avignon in the division of Bonaventure. In so doing, the Commission is responding to a key request of the community concerning the attachment that these municipalities feel toward the Baie des Chaleurs sector. It should also be noted that with this change, the boundary between the administrative regions of Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine is respected.

The delimitation also includes the presence of one electoral division with an exceptional negative deviation: Gaspé. The deviation of its number of electors from the provincial average stands at -31.3%. With the exception of the Ville de Chandler, it is suggested that the division of Gaspé comprise all of the municipalities of the regional county municipalities of Haute-Gaspésie, Côte-de-Gaspé and Rocher-Percé. As a result, the western boundary of the division is adjusted perfectly to the boundary between the administrative regions of Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine. The reasons explaining the exception status of the division of Gaspé are given in Chapter 4.

This adherence to the boundaries of the administrative regions leads the Commission to propose an electoral division that groups the regional county municipalities of Matane, Matapédia and La Mitis. This division thus consolidates the triangle formed by the poles of Amqui, Mont-Joli and Matane. Fully comprised within the administrative region of Bas-Saint-Laurent, but a stakeholder in the Gaspésie tourism region, this new electoral division is the gateway to the Gaspésie peninsula. It is proposed to name this division "Matane-Matapédia".

Description of the proposed electoral divisions

BONAVENTURE

35,373 electors (-21.8% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Bonaventure would comprise the following municipalities:

Bonaventure (V)	Nouvelle (M)
Caplan (M)	Paspébiac (V)
Carleton-sur-Mer (V)	Pointe-à-la-Croix (M)
Cascapédia–Saint-Jules (M)	Port-Daniel–Gascons (M)
Chandler (V)	Ristigouche-Partie-Sud-Est (CT)
Escuminac (M)	Saint-Alexis-de-Matapédia (M)
Hope (CT)	Saint-Alphonse (M)
Hope Town (M)	Saint-André-de-Restigouche (M)
L'Ascension-de-Patapédia (M)	Saint-Elzéar (M)
Maria (M)	Saint-François-d'Assise (M)
Matapédia (M)	Saint-Godefroi (CT)
New Carlisle (M)	Saint-Siméon (P)
New Richmond (V)	Shigawake (M)

This electoral division would also include the Indian reserves of Listuguj and of Gesgapegiag.

It would also comprise the following unorganized territories:

Rivière-Bonaventure	Ruisseau-Ferguson
Rivière-Nouvelle	

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Bonaventure (28,908 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Gaspé (6,465 electors) including the Ville de Chandler.	None.

GASPÉ

31,046 electors (-31.3% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Gaspé would comprise the following municipalities:

Cap-Chat (V)	Murdochville (V)
Cloridorme (CT)	Percé (V)
Gaspé (V)	Petite-Vallée (M)
Grande-Rivière (V)	Rivière-à-Claude (M)
Grande-Vallée (M)	Sainte-Anne-des-Monts (V)
La Martre (M)	Sainte-Madeleine-de-la-Rivière-Madeleine (M)
Marsoui (VL)	Saint-Maxime-du-Mont-Louis (M)
Mont-Saint-Pierre (VL)	Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé (M)

This division would also comprise the following unorganized territories:

Collines-du-Basque	Mont-Alexandre
Coulée-des-Adolphe	Rivière-Saint-Jean
Mont-Albert	

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Gaspé (21,104 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Matane (9,942 electors) including the following municipalities: Cap-Chat (V), La Martre (M), Marsoui (VL), Mont-Saint-Pierre (VL), Rivière-à-Claude (M), Sainte-Anne-des-Monts (V), Sainte-Madeleine-de-la-Rivière-Madeleine (M), Saint-Maxime-du-Mont-Louis (M) and the unorganized territories of Coulée-des-Adolphe and Mont-Albert.	Part of the current division of Gaspé (6,465 electors) including the Ville de Chandler.

ÎLES-DE-LA-MADELEINE

10,600 electors (-76.6% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Îles-de-la-Madeleine includes the following municipalities:

Grosse-Île (M)	Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine (M)

The division of Îles-de-la-Madeleine is defined by the Election Act.

MATANE-MATAPÉDIA

47,735 electors (+5.6% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Matane-Matapédia would comprise the following municipalities:

Albertville (M)	Sainte-Flavie (P)
Amqui (V)	Sainte-Florence (M)
Baie-des-Sables (M)	Saint-Gabriel-de-Rimouski (M)
Causapscal (V)	Sainte-Irène (P)
Grand-Métis (M)	Saint-Jean-de-Cherbourg (P)
Grosses-Roches (M)	Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc (P)
La Rédemption (P)	Saint-Joseph-de-Lepage (P)

Lac-au-Saumon (M)	Saint-Léandre (P)
Les Hauteurs (M)	Saint-Léon-le-Grand (P)
Les Méchins (M)	Sainte-Luce (M)
Matane (V)	Sainte-Marguerite (M)
Métis-sur-Mer (V)	Saint-Moïse (P)
Mont-Joli (V)	Saint-Noël (VL)
Padoue (M)	Saint-Octave-de-Métis (P)
Price (VL)	Sainte-Paule (M)
Saint-Adelme (P)	Saint-René-de-Matane (M)
Saint-Alexandre-des-Lacs (P)	Saint-Tharcisius (P)
Sainte-Angèle-de-Mérici (M)	Saint-Ulric (M)
Saint-Charles-Garnier (P)	Saint-Vianney (M)
Saint-Cléophas (P)	Saint-Zénon-du-Lac-Humqui (P)
Saint-Damase (P)	Sayabec (M)
Saint-Donat (P)	Val-Brillant (M)
Sainte-Félicité (M)	

This division would also comprise the following unorganized territories:

Lac-à-la-Croix	Rivière-Bonjour
Lac-Alfred	Rivière-Patapédia-Est
Lac-Casault	Rivière-Vaseuse
Lac-des-Eaux-Mortes	Routhierville
Lac-Matapédia	Ruisseau-des-Mineurs

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Matapédia (29,773 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Matane (17,962 electors) including the following municipalities: Baie-des-Sables (M), Grosses-Roches (M), Les Méchins (M), Matane (V), Saint-Adelme (P), Sainte-Félicité (M), Saint-Jean-de-Cherbourg (P), Saint-Léandre (P), Sainte-Paule (M), Saint-René-de-Matane (M), Saint-Ulric (M) and the unorganized territory of Rivière-Bonjour.	None.

5.8 Île-de-Montréal

Portrait of the situation

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Acadie	48,301	+6.8%
Anjou	44,683	-1.2%
Bourassa-Sauvé	49,157	+8.7%
Bourget	47,103	+4.2%
Crémazie	46,779	+3.5%
D'Arcy-McGee	40,749	-9.9%
Gouin	43,057	-4.8%
Hochelaga-Maisonneuve	40,489	-10.4%
Jacques-Cartier	47,448	+5.0%
Jeanne-Mance–Viger	48,201	+6.6%
LaFontaine	39,185	-13.3%
Laurier-Dorion	46,345	+2.5%
Marguerite-Bourgeoys	46,320	+2.5%
Marquette	49,074	+8.6%
Mercier	40,442	-10.5%
Mont-Royal	41,491	-8.2%
Nelligan	52,921	+17.1%
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce	39,025	-13.7%
Outremont	39,893	-11.8%
Pointe-aux-Trembles	40,321	-10.8%
Robert-Baldwin	50,309	+11.3%
Rosemont	51,885	+14.8%

	Number	Deviation
Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne	51,264	+13.4%
Saint-Laurent	51,126	+13.1%
Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques	41,710	-7.7%
Verdun	46,587	+3.1%
Viau	41,954	-7.2%
Westmount–Saint-Louis	39,611	-12.4%
Provincial average	*45,207*	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	*33,905*	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	*56,509*	-

The Île-de-Montréal region represents the most populous pole of the province of Québec: it has more than 1.2 million electors, distributed over 28 electoral divisions. Confronted with a shift of electors towards the regions of Laurentides-Lanaudière, Laval and Montérégie, the growth observed on the Island of Montréal has been virtually nil between 2000 and 2007, whereas that for Québec as a whole has been much higher, namely on the order of 5.8%.

Despite this fact, the electoral divisions of the Île-de-Montréal region are balanced. Out of all 28 electoral divisions, none has a number of electors that is close to the minimum or maximum limits permitted under the Election Act. Consequently, no division should find itself in an exception situation in the near future. The number of divisions present in this region corresponds to its demographic weight within the province.

Moreover, it is important to recall that a major redelimitation initiative was completed in 2000-2001 when the Commission had withdrawn two electoral divisions from the island to add them to the regions of Laurentides-Lanaudière and Montérégie. In addition, in 1992, three electoral divisions were withdrawn from the Île-de-Montréal region for the benefit of these same two regions. These past revisions have contributed to the balance that exists among the current electoral divisions of the Île-de-Montréal region.

Preliminary delimitation proposal

	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	**Deviation**
Acadie	48,301	+6.8%
Anjou	44,683	-1.2%
Bourassa-Sauvé	49,157	+8.7%
Bourget	47,103	+4.2%
Crémazie	46,779	+3.5%
D'Arcy-McGee	40,749	-9.9%
Gouin	43,057	-4.8%
Hochelaga-Maisonneuve	40,489	-10.4%
Jacques-Cartier	53,854	+19.1%
Jeanne-Mance–Viger	48,201	+6.6%

LaFontaine	39,185	-13.3%
Laurier-Dorion	46,345	+2.5%
Marguerite-Bourgeoys	52,177	+15.4%
Marquette	43,217	-4.4%
Mercier	40,442	-10.5%
Mont-Royal	41,491	-8.2%
Nelligan	49,503	+9.5%
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce	39,016	-13.7%
Outremont	39,893	-11.8%
Pointe-aux-Trembles	40,321	-10.8%
Robert-Baldwin	47,321	+4.7%
Rosemont	51,885	+14.8%
Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne	51,273	+13.4%
Saint-Laurent	51,126	+13.1%
Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques	41,710	-7.7%
Verdun	46,587	+3.1%
Viau	41,954	-7.2%
Westmount–Saint-Louis	39,611	-12.4%
Provincial average	*45,207*	*-*
Minimum limit (-25%)	*33,905*	*-*
Maximum limit (+25%)	*56,509*	*-*

In its preliminary report, the Commission proposed minor changes for the Île-de-Montréal region. The aim of the proposed changes was to adjust the boundaries of a few divisions to ensure a better harmony with the administrative boundaries, while maintaining these divisions' numerical balance.

In summary, it was proposed to include the entire territory of the Ville de Kirkland in a single division, that of Jacques-Cartier, which required the addition of the Ville de Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue to the division of Nelligan. An adjustment was also suggested to the electoral division of Robert-Baldwin in order to better harmonize it with the boundaries of the Ville de Dollard-Des Ormeaux. The division of Marguerite-Bourgeoys was adjusted perfectly to the boundaries of the borough of LaSalle. Finally, the borough of Sud-Ouest was consolidated within a single electoral division, that of Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne.

Revised delimitation proposal

Proposed electoral divisions	*Electors as of November 30, 2007*	
	Number	**Deviation**
Acadie	48,301	+6.8%
Anjou–Louis-Riel	44,683	-1.2%

Bourassa-Sauvé	49,157	+8.7%
Bourget	47,103	+4.2%
Crémazie	46,779	+3.5%
D'Arcy-McGee	40,749	-9.9%
Gouin	43,057	-4.8%
Hochelaga-Maisonneuve	40,489	-10.4%
Jacques-Cartier	42,934	-5.0%
Jeanne-Mance–Viger	48,201	+6.6%
LaFontaine	39,185	-13.3%
Laurier-Dorion	46,345	+2.5%
Marguerite-Bourgeoys	52,177	+15.4%
Marquette	43,217	-4.4%
Mercier	40,442	-10.5%
Mont-Royal	41,491	-8.2%
Nelligan	54,306	+20.1%
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce	39,016	-13.7%
Outremont	39,893	-11.8%
Pointe-aux-Trembles	40,321	-10.8%
Robert-Baldwin	53,438	+18.2%
Rosemont	51,885	+14.8%
Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne	51,273	+13.4%
Saint-Laurent	51,126	+13.1%
Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques	41,710	-7.7%
Verdun	46,587	+3.1%
Viau	41,954	-7.2%
Westmount–Saint-Louis	39,611	-12.4%
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

In light of the public hearing held in Montréal and the comments received by the Commission, its preliminary delimitation proposal proved satisfactory for the community. Some participants expressed their agreement with the greater harmony with the administrative boundaries on the island; others appreciated seeing the number of electoral divisions remain stable at 28. Indeed, these participants consider that this number is representative of the region's demographic weight.

Following along the lines of its preliminary report, the Commission is thus proposing a few minor changes to the electoral divisions of the Île-de-Montréal region.

First of all, it is suggested to reintegrate the Ville de Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue in the division of Jacques-Cartier. In addition, the Village de Senneville is added to this division. The participants from both municipalities demonstrated to the Commission that the municipalities have more affinities with this electoral division than with that of Nelligan.

As for the Ville de Kirkland, the Commission still favours consolidating its territory in a single electoral division. However, by virtue of the addition of two municipalities in the division of Jacques-Cartier, it is suggested to instead include the Ville de Kirkland in the division of Nelligan. To facilitate this change and to better balance the number of electors between the divisions of Nelligan and Robert-Baldwin, it is also proposed to expand the latter division somewhat in its western part.

Moreover, it is still proposed that the division of Marguerite-Bourgeoys correspond in full to the borough of LaSalle and that the borough of Sud-Ouest be entirely consolidated within the electoral division of Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne. Finally, the change of name of the division of Anjou to "Anjou–Louis-Riel" is notably in response to a request made during the public hearing in Montréal with the objective of better representing the territory of this division.

Description of the proposed electoral divisions

ACADIE

48,301 electors (+6.8% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Acadie would comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Ahuntsic-Cartierville and bounded as follows: the part of the borough of Ahuntsic-Cartierville situated between the autoroute des Laurentides (15) and the boulevard Saint-Laurent and the extension of this boulevard.

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Saint-Laurent and bounded as follows: the avenue O'Brien, the boundary of the borough of Saint-Laurent, the avenue Sainte-Croix and the boulevard de la Côte-Vertu.

The proposed division of Acadie would be identical to the current division.

ANJOU–LOUIS-RIEL

44,683 electors (-1.2% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Anjou–Louis-Riel would comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal that corresponds to the borough of Anjou.

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Mercier–Hochelaga-Maisonneuve and bounded as follows: the autoroute Transcanadienne (25), the rue Sherbrooke Est and the boundary of the borough of Mercier–Hochelaga-Maisonneuve.

The proposed division of Anjou–Louis-Riel would be identical to the current division of Anjou.

BOURASSA-SAUVÉ

49,157 electors (+8.7% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Bourassa-Sauvé would comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Montréal-Nord and bounded as follows: the rivière des Prairies, the boundary of the borough of Montréal-Nord, the boulevards Saint-Michel, Henri-Bourassa and Pie-IX.

The proposed division of Bourassa-Sauvé would be identical to the current division.

BOURGET

47,103 electors (+4.2% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Bourget would comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Mercier–Hochelaga-Maisonneuve and bounded as follows: the autoroute Transcanadienne (25), the boundary of the borough of Mercier–Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, the limit of the Ville de Montréal in the fleuve Saint-Laurent, the extension of the railway line of the Canadian National Railway Company, this railway line and its extension and the rue Sherbrooke Est.

The proposed division of Bourget would be identical to the current division.

CRÉMAZIE

46,779 electors (+3.5% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Crémazie would comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Ahuntsic-Cartierville and bounded as follows: the boundary of the borough of Ahuntsic-Cartierville, the boulevard Saint-Laurent and its extension, the rivière des Prairies including the île de la Visitation.

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Montréal-Nord and bounded as follows: the boundary of the borough of Montréal-Nord in the rivière des Prairies including the île du Cheval de Terre, the boulevards Pie-IX, Henri-Bourassa and Saint-Michel and the boundary of the borough of Montréal-Nord.

The proposed division of Crémazie would be identical to the current division.

D'ARCY-McGEE

40,749 electors (-9.9% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of D'Arcy-McGee would comprise the following municipalities:

Côte-Saint-Luc (V)	Hampstead (V)

This division would also comprise a part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and bounded as follows: the autoroute Décarie (15), the chemin de la Côte-Saint-Luc and the boundary of the borough of Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

It would also comprise a part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and bounded as follows: the boundary of the borough of Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and the avenue Fielding.

The proposed division of D'Arcy-McGee would be identical to the current division.

GOUIN

43,057 electors (-4.8% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Gouin would comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Rosemont–La Petite-Patrie and bounded as follows: the boundary of the borough of Rosemont–La Petite-Patrie, the 6e Avenue and the rue Masson.

The proposed division of Gouin would be identical to the current division.

HOCHELAGA-MAISONNEUVE

40,489 electors (-10.4% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Hochelaga-Maisonneuve would comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Mercier–Hochelaga-Maisonneuve and bounded as follows: the part of the borough of Mercier–Hochelaga-Maisonneuve situated to the southwest of the railway line of the Canadian National Railway Company and its northwest and southeast extensions.

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Rosemont–La Petite-Patrie and bounded as follows: the part of the borough of Rosemont–La Petite-Patrie situated to the east of the rue Rachel Est.

It would also comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Ville-Marie and bounded as follows: the part of the borough of Ville-Marie situated to the northeast of the rue Frontenac and of the extension of this street.

It would also comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Le Plateau-Mont-Royal and bounded as follows: the rue Rachel Est, the boundary of the borough of Le Plateau-Mont-Royal and the rue Frontenac.

The proposed division of Hochelaga-Maisonneuve would be identical to the current division.

JACQUES-CARTIER

42,934 electors (-5.0% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Jacques-Cartier would comprise the following municipalities:

Baie-D'Urfé (V)	Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue (V)
Beaconsfield (V)	Senneville (VL)
Pointe-Claire (V)	

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Jacques-Cartier (47,448 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Nelligan (700 electors) including the Village de Senneville.	Part of the current division of Jacques-Cartier (5,214 electors) including the part of the Ville de Kirkland bounded as follows: the autoroute Félix-Leclerc (40), the chemin Sainte-Marie, the boulevard Saint-Charles, the boulevard Hymus and the limit of the Ville de Kirkland.

JEANNE-MANCE–VIGER

48,201 electors (+6.6% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Jeanne-Mance–Viger would comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal that corresponds to the borough of Saint-Léonard.

The proposed division of Jeanne-Mance–Viger would be identical to the current division.

LAFONTAINE

39,185 electors (-13.3% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of LaFontaine would comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Rivière-des-Prairies–Pointe-aux-Trembles and bounded as follows: the rivière des Prairies including the îles Boutin, Rochon, Lapierre and Gagné, the autoroute Félix-Leclerc (40), the boulevard Henri-Bourassa Est and the boundary of the borough of Rivière-des-Prairies–Pointe-aux-Trembles.

The proposed division of LaFontaine would be identical to the current division.

LAURIER-DORION

46,345 electors (+2.5% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Laurier-Dorion would comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension and bounded as follows: the part of the borough of Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension situated to the southwest of the avenue Papineau.

The proposed division of Laurier-Dorion would be identical to the current division.

MARGUERITE-BOURGEOYS

52,177 electors (+15.4% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Marguerite-Bourgeoys would comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal that corresponds to the borough of LaSalle including the île Rock, the île aux Chèvres, the île au Diable, the île aux Hérons and Les Sept Sœurs.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Marguerite-Bourgeoys (46,320 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Marquette (5,857 electors) situated in the borough of LaSalle and bounded as follows: the boundary of the borough of LaSalle, the avenue Dollard, the boulevard Newman and the railway line of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.	None.

MARQUETTE

43,217 electors (-4.4% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Marquette would comprise the following municipalities:

Dorval (V)	L'Île-Dorval (V)

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal that corresponds to the borough of Lachine.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Marquette (49,074 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of Marquette (5,857 electors) situated in the borough of LaSalle and bounded as follows: the boundary of the borough of LaSalle, the avenue Dollard, the boulevard Newman and the railway line of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

MERCIER

40,442 electors (-10.5% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Mercier would comprise a part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Le Plateau-Mont-Royal and bounded as follows: the boundary of the borough of Le Plateau-Mont-Royal, the rue Rachel Est and the rue Rachel Ouest, the avenue de l'Esplanade, the avenue du Mont-Royal Ouest, the avenue de l'Esplanade, the avenue Fairmount Ouest, the avenue de l'Esplanade and its extension.

The proposed division of Mercier would be identical to the current division.

MONT-ROYAL

41,491 electors (-8.2% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Mont-Royal would comprise the Town of Mont-Royal.

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and bounded as follows: the boundary of the borough Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, the chemin de la Côte-Sainte-Catherine and the autoroute Décarie (15).

The proposed division of Mont-Royal would be identical to the current division.

NELLIGAN

54,306 electors (+20.1% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Nelligan would comprise the Ville de Kirkland.

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal that corresponds to the borough of L'Île-Bizard–Sainte-Geneviève.

It would also comprise a part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Pierrefonds-Roxboro and bounded as follows: the boundary of the borough of Pierrefonds-Roxboro, the extension of the boulevard des Sources, the boulevard des Sources, the boulevard de Pierrefonds, the boulevard Jacques-Bizard and the southern boundary of the borough of Pierrefonds-Roxboro.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Nelligan (52,921 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Jacques-Cartier (5,214 electors) including the part of the Ville de Kirkland bounded as follows: the autoroute Félix-Leclerc (40), the chemin Sainte-Marie, the boulevard Saint-Charles, the boulevard Hymus and the limit of the Ville de Kirkland.	Part of the current division of Nelligan (3,829 electors) including the Village de Senneville and the part of the borough of Pierrefonds-Roxboro bounded as follows: the boulevard de Pierrefonds, the boulevard Saint-Jean, the boundary of the borough of Pierrefonds-Roxboro and the boulevard Jacques-Bizard.

NOTRE-DAME-DE-GRÂCE

39,016 electors (-13.7% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce would comprise the Ville de Montréal-Ouest.

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and bounded as follows: the chemin de la Côte-Saint-Luc, the boundary of the borough of Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and the avenue Fielding.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (39,025 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (9 electors) situated in the borough of Le Sud-Ouest bounded as follows: the autoroute Ville-Marie (720), the autoroute Décarie (15), the canal de Lachine and the boundary of the borough of Le Sud-Ouest.

OUTREMONT

39,893 electors (-11.8% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Outremont would comprise a part of the Ville de Montréal that corresponds to the borough of Outremont.

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal located in the borough of Plateau-Mont-Royal and bounded as follows: the boundary of the borough of Plateau-Mont-Royal, the extension of the avenue de l'Esplanade, this avenue, avenue Fairmount Ouest, avenue de l'Esplanade and avenue du Mont-Royal Ouest

It would also comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Ville-Marie and bounded as follows: the part of the borough of Ville-Marie situated to the west of the voie Camillien-Houde.

In addition, it would comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and bounded as follows: the chemin of Côte-Sainte-Catherine, the boundary of the borough of Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, the chemin of Côte-Saint-Luc and the autoroute Décarie (15).

The proposed division of Outremont would be identical to the current division.

POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES

40,321 electors (-10.8% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Pointe-aux-Trembles would comprise the Ville de Montréal-Est.

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Rivière-des-Prairies–Pointe-aux-Trembles and bounded as follows: the autoroute Félix-Leclerc (40), the limit of the Ville de Montréal in the rivière des Prairies and in the fleuve Saint-Laurent, the boundary of the borough of Rivière-des-Prairies–Pointe-aux-Trembles and the boulevard Henri-Bourassa Est.

The proposed division of Pointe-aux-Trembles would be identical to the current division.

ROBERT-BALDWIN

53,438 electors (+18.2% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Robert-Baldwin would comprise the Ville de Dollard-Des Ormeaux.

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Pierrefonds-Roxboro and bounded as follows: the boulevard de Pierrefonds, the boulevard des Sources, the extension of this boulevard, the boundary of the borough of Pierrefonds-Roxboro and the boulevard Jacques-Bizard.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Robert-Baldwin (50,309 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Nelligan (3,129 electors) situated in the borough of Pierrefonds-Roxboro and bounded as follows: the boulevard de Pierrefonds, the boulevard Saint-Jean, the boundary of the borough of Pierrefonds-Roxboro and the boulevard Jacques-Bizard.	None.

ROSEMONT

51,885 electors (+14.8% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Rosemont would comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Rosemont–La Petite-Patrie and bounded as follows: the boundary of the borough of Rosemont–La Petite-Patrie, the rue Rachel Est, the boundary of the borough of Rosemont–La Petite-Patrie, the rue Masson and the 6e Avenue.

The proposed division of Rosemont would be identical to the current division.

SAINT-HENRI–SAINTE-ANNE

51,273 electors (+13.4% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne would comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal that corresponds to the borough of Le Sud-Ouest.

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Ville-Marie and bounded as follows: the rue Saint-Antoine Ouest, the rue Square Victoria, the rue McGill and the rue de la Commune Ouest and the boundary of the borough of Ville-Marie.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne (51,264 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (9 electors) situated in the borough of Le Sud-Ouest and bounded as follows: the autoroute Ville-Marie (720), the autoroute Décarie (15), the canal de Lachine and the boundary of the borough of Le Sud-Ouest. Part of the current division of Westmount–Saint-Louis (no elector) situated in the borough of Le Sud-Ouest and bounded as follows: the rue Saint-Antoine Ouest and the boundary of the borough of Le Sud-Ouest.	None.

SAINT-LAURENT

51,126 electors (+13.1% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Saint-Laurent would comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Ahuntsic-Cartierville and bounded as follows: the part of the borough of Ahuntsic-Cartierville situated to the southwest of the autoroute des Laurentides (15) including the île aux Chats.

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Saint-Laurent and bounded as follows: the boundary of the borough of Saint-Laurent, the avenue O'Brien, the boulevard de la Côte-Vertu and the avenue Sainte-Croix.

The proposed division of Saint-Laurent would be identical to the current division.

SAINTE-MARIE–SAINT-JACQUES

41,710 electors (-7.7% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques would comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Ville-Marie and bounded as follows: the boundary of the borough of Ville-Marie, the rue Frontenac and its extension, the fleuve Saint-Laurent including the îles Sainte-Hélène and Notre-Dame, the pont Victoria, the boundary of the borough of Ville-Marie, the rue de la Commune Ouest, the rue McGill, the rue Square Victoria, the rue Saint-Antoine Ouest and the rue Saint-Antoine Est, the extension of the rue Sanguinet, the rue Sanguinet, the boulevard René-Lévesque Est and the boulevard Saint-Laurent.

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Le Plateau-Mont-Royal and bounded as follows: the rue Rachel Est and the rue Frontenac, the boundary of the borough of Le Plateau-Mont-Royal and the boulevard Saint-Laurent.

The proposed division of Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques would be identical to the current division.

VERDUN

46,587 electors (+3.1% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Verdun would comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal that corresponds to the borough of Verdun.

The proposed division of Verdun would be identical to the current division.

VIAU

41,954 electors (-7.2% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Viau would comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension and bounded as follows: the part of the borough of Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension situated to the northeast of the avenue Papineau.

The proposed division of Viau would be identical to the current division.

WESTMOUNT–SAINT-LOUIS

39,611 electors (-12.4% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Westmount–Saint-Louis would comprise the Town of Westmount.

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Ville-Marie and bounded as follows: the voie Camillien-Houde, the boundary of the borough of Ville-Marie, the boulevard Saint-Laurent and the boulevard René-Lévesque Est, the rue Sanguinet and its extension, the rue Saint-Antoine Est and the rue Saint-Antoine Ouest and the boundary of the borough of Ville-Marie.

It would also comprise a part of the Ville de Montréal situated in the borough of Le Plateau-Mont-Royal and bounded as follows: the avenue du Mont-Royal Ouest and the avenue de l'Esplanade, the rue Rachel Ouest, the boulevard Saint-Laurent and the boundary of the borough of Le Plateau-Mont-Royal.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Westmount–Saint-Louis (39,611 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of Westmount–Saint-Louis (no elector) situated in the borough of Le Sud-Ouest and bounded as follows: the rue Saint-Antoine Ouest and the boundary of the borough Le Sud-Ouest.

5.9 Laurentides-Lanaudière

Portrait of the situation

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Argenteuil	39,979	-11.6%
Berthier	53,778	+19.0%
Bertrand	53,225	+17.7%
Blainville	56,142	+24.2%
Deux-Montagnes	45,576	+0.8%
Groulx	48,906	+8.2%
Joliette	51,076	+13.0%
Labelle	45,363	+0.3%
L'Assomption	**57,124**	**+26.4%**
Masson	**60,762**	**+34.4%**
Mirabel	47,814	+5.8%
Prévost	**57,896**	**+28.1%**
Rousseau	52,804	+16.8%
Terrebonne	56,255	+24.4%
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

The Laurentides-Lanaudière region has witnessed by far the biggest growth rate among the regions of Québec. Its electoral population has grown by 16.9% between 2000 and 2007. This demographic growth has been observed in each of the region's fourteen divisions. All of them have posted a growth rate superior to that of the province. In other words, each division has seen the deviation of its number of electors from the provincial average progress toward the maximum limit of +25% permitted under the Election Act. In some cases, this limit has even been exceeded.

Indeed, three divisions of the Laurentides-Lanaudière region have a number of electors that does not respect the numerical criterion of the Election Act. Two of them are located in the most urban zone of the region, which surrounds the regions of Laval and Île-de-Montréal. They are the divisions of L'Assomption and Masson. The latter comprises the Ville de Charlemagne and the Ville de Mascouche

as well as the northern part of the Ville de Repentigny and of the Ville de Terrebonne. It is the most populous electoral division in Québec and its elector surplus must be corrected. The electoral division of L'Assomption, which is located immediately to the east, also has an elector surplus which must be corrected.

Within the same urban zone, the divisions of Blainville and Terrebonne post a deviation of their number of electors from the provincial average that is about to exceed the maximum limit of +25%. The data of July 31, 2010 confirm that both divisions now have an exceptional positive deviation. They are located just to the southwest of another exceptional division, that of Masson.

The Laurentides-Lanaudière region also includes other urban poles that are located more on the periphery of the region, notably the Ville de Saint-Jérôme. Incidentally, the region's third electoral division in an exception situation comprises the Ville de Saint-Jérôme and the Ville de Prévost. It is the electoral division of Prévost. Like the other two exceptional divisions, its number of electors must be reduced to respect the numerical criterion of the Act.

Finally, other divisions, whose number of electors is near the maximum limit permitted under the Election Act, also deserve attention. For example, due to their steady growth, the more rural divisions of Berthier, Bertrand and Rousseau could see their number of electors approach the maximum limit set under the Election Act.

In summary, the Laurentides-Lanaudière region does not have a sufficient number of divisions in relation to its demographic weight within Québec. That is why so many divisions currently have such a large elector surplus.

Preliminary delimitation proposal

| | Electors as of November 30, 2007 | |
	Number	Deviation
Argenteuil	39,979	-11.6%
Berthier	52,775	+16.7%
Bertrand	52,517	+16.2%
Blainville	46,683	+3.3%
Deux-Montagnes	45,576	+0.8%
Groulx	48,906	+8.2%
Joliette	52,079	+15.2%
Labelle	45,363	+0.3%
La Plaine	47,267	+4.6%
Masson	48,412	+7.1%
Mirabel	47,814	+5.8%
Repentigny	51,902	+14.8%

Rousseau	47,553	+5.2%
Saint-Jérôme	50,157	+10.9%
Terrebonne	49,717	+10.0%
Provincial average	*45,207*	*-*
Minimum limit (-25%)	*33,905*	*-*
Maximum limit (+25%)	*56,509*	*-*

The Commission provided for a major revamping of the boundaries of the electoral divisions of the Laurentides-Lanaudière region in its preliminary report. The proposal first entailed adding a fifteenth division, named "La Plaine", formed from parts of the divisions of Blainville, Masson and Rousseau. It comprised the municipalities of Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines, Saint-Calixte, Saint-Lin–Laurentides and Sainte-Sophie as well as the northern part of the Ville de Terrebonne. As a result of the creation of the new division of La Plaine, it was possible to correct the exception situation of the division of Masson and to help alleviate that of Blainville.

The division of Masson was moved slightly eastward to include the Ville de Mascouche, the part of the Ville de Repentigny located to the north of the rivière L'Assomption and the eastern part of the Ville de Terrebonne. With this action, the situation of the division of Terrebonne improved, as the deviation of its number of electors from the provincial average was reduced to a more balanced level.

The purpose of another change was to reduce the number of electors of the division of L'Assomption by withdrawing an important part from it, namely the southern part of the Ville de L'Assomption, and by adding to the division the Ville de Charlemagne. Since the Ville de L'Assomption is no longer part of the division, its name was changed to that of its main city, namely "Repentigny".

The Commission proposed a change to the division of Prévost in order to limit it to solely the Ville de Saint-Jérôme. Consequently, the name of "Saint-Jérôme" was proposed for this division. With this change, the deviation of its number of electors from the provincial average fell below the maximum limit set under the Election Act.

Finally, other changes completed the preliminary delimitation proposal. It was suggested to restructure the division of Rousseau in a north-south axis, following in large part the route 125 and consolidating all of the Ville de L'Assomption. In addition, the proposed delimitation led to better harmony with the boundaries of the administrative regions of Laurentides and Lanaudière.

Moreover, the Municipalité de Sainte-Marcelline-de-Kildare was added to the division of Berthier in order to ensure a better adjustment with the boundaries of the regional county municipalities. Similarly, the Municipalité de Sainte-Mélanie was added to the division of Joliette.

Revised delimitation proposal

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Argenteuil	39,979	-11.6%
Berthier	52,775	+16.7%
Bertrand	51,526	+14.0%
Blainville	51,213	+13.3%
Deux-Montagnes	45,576	+0.8%
Groulx	53,835	+19.1%
Joliette	52,079	+15.2%
Labelle	45,363	+0.3%
L'Assomption	45,435	+0.5%
Masson	40,849	-9.6%
Mirabel	47,814	+5.8%
Repentigny	47,307	+4.6%
Rousseau	53,075	+17.4%
Saint-Jérôme	50,157	+10.9%
Terrebonne	49,717	+10.0%
Provincial average	*45,207*	*-*
Minimum limit (-25%)	*33,905*	*-*
Maximum limit (+25%)	*56,509*	*-*

The Commission still proposes adding one division in the Laurentides-Lanaudière region. It considers that this new division is essential to correct the existing elector surplus in several divisions located in the southern part of this region.

The public consultation in the Laurentides-Lanaudière region allowed the Commission to better appreciate the natural communities present. In light of the testimonies heard, it seemed appropriate to make a few significant changes to the preliminary proposal.

First, it should be mentioned that the new division of La Plaine was the subject of several comments because it brings together municipalities associated with the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal and other municipalities that are more rural in nature. Following the holding of the Committee on the National Assembly, the Commission envisages keeping the Ville de Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines in the electoral division of Blainville in light of its close affinities with the regional county municipality

of Thérèse-De Blainville. To reduce its overly high number of electors, it is suggested to withdraw the part of the Ville de Blainville located to the south of the boulevards of la Seigneurie Ouest and la Seigneurie Est and to the west of the railway line and to add this part to another electoral division entirely comprised in the regional county municipality of Thérèse-De Blainville, namely that of Groulx. Further to the east, the proposed division of Masson comprises the Ville de Mascouche as well as the northern part of the Ville de Terrebonne. All of these territories are part of the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal.

While the Commission is maintaining the new division of Repentigny, it suggests reintegrating that of L'Assomption. It is proposed to move this division's boundaries slightly northward in comparison with its current delimitation. That way, the division comprises in full the Ville de L'Assomption. It also encompasses the municipalities of Charlemagne and L'Épiphanie as well as the Le Grandeur sector of the Ville de Repentigny and the part of the Ville de Terrebonne located to the east of the montée Dumais. Moreover, with this change, the critical situation of the electoral division of Terrebonne is corrected.

The reinsertion of the electoral division of L'Assomption results in adjustments to the division of Rousseau which the Commission considers beneficial. On this subject, some participants denounced the delimitation of the division of Rousseau as proposed in the preliminary report, claiming that it brings together communities having different interests. They also criticized the very elongated shape, from north to south, of the proposed division of Rousseau, going from the Ville de L'Assomption to the Municipalité de Saint-Donat. In response to these comments, the Commission suggests a more compact delimitation for this division.

In other respects, it should be noted that the new delimitation of the division of Rousseau makes it possible to split the territory of the regional county municipality of Montcalm between two electoral divisions, instead of three as was initially proposed in the preliminary report. Notably, the municipalities of this regional county municipality that are already part of the division of Joliette remain in the division.

Next, the Commission once again proposes reducing the division of Prévost to encompass solely the Ville de Saint-Jérôme and consequently renaming this division "Saint-Jérôme". Despite the opposition to the withdrawal of the Ville de Prévost from this division, this solution is the best compromise with a view to correcting the division's exception situation. The proposed division of Saint-Jérôme thus has a more balanced deviation from the provincial average and the delimitation respects in full the municipal boundaries.

As for the Ville de Prévost, it is suggested to add it to the division of Bertrand, which thus finds itself with almost the same boundaries as is currently the case. To permit this addition, it should be noted that the municipalities of Chertsey and Saint-Hippolyte have been added to the proposed division of Rousseau.

Finally, the Commission reiterates its proposal of exchanging municipalities between the divisions of Berthier and Joliette. The transfer of the municipalities of Sainte-Marcelline-de-Kildare to Berthier and of Sainte-Mélanie to Joliette ensures better harmony with the boundaries of the regional county municipalities, without compromising the balance between these two divisions.

In the case of the electoral divisions of Argenteuil, Deux-Montagnes, Groulx, Labelle and Mirabel, they retain their current delimitation.

Description of the proposed electoral divisions

ARGENTEUIL

39,979 electors (-11.6% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Argenteuil would comprise the following municipalities:

Arundel (CT)	Mille-Isles (M)
Barkmere (V)	Montcalm (M)
Brownsburg-Chatham (V)	Morin-Heights (M)
Gore (CT)	Saint-Adolphe-d'Howard (M)
Grenville (VL)	Saint-André-d'Argenteuil (M)
Grenville-sur-la-Rouge (M)	Saint-Colomban (M)
Harrington (CT)	Wentworth (CT)
Lac-des-Seize-Îles (M)	Wentworth-Nord (M)
Lachute (V)	

The proposed division of Argenteuil would be identical to the current division.

BERTHIER

52,775 electors (+16.7% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Berthier would comprise the following municipalities:

Berthierville (V)	Sainte-Élisabeth (P)
La Visitation-de-l'Île-Dupas (M)	Sainte-Émélie-de-l'Énergie (M)
Lanoraie (M)	Sainte-Geneviève-de-Berthier (P)
Lavaltrie (V)	Saint-Félix-de-Valois (M)
Mandeville (M)	Saint-Gabriel (V)

Saint-Alphonse-Rodriguez (M)	Saint-Gabriel-de-Brandon (P)
Saint-Barthélemy (P)	Saint-Ignace-de-Loyola (P)
Sainte-Béatrix (M)	Saint-Jean-de-Matha (M)
Saint-Cléophas-de-Brandon (M)	Sainte-Marcelline-de-Kildare (M)
Saint-Côme (P)	Saint-Michel-des-Saints (M)
Saint-Cuthbert (M)	Saint-Norbert (P)
Saint-Damien (P)	Saint-Zénon (M)
Saint-Didace (P)	

This division would also comprise the Indian reserve of Manawan.

It would also comprise the following unorganized territories:

Baie-Atibenne	Lac-Legendre
Baie-de-la-Bouteille	Lac-Matawin
Baie-Obaoca	Lac-Minaki
Lac-Cabasta	Lac-Santé
Lac-Devenyns	Saint-Guillaume-Nord
Lac-du-Taureau	

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Berthier (53,778 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Joliette (1,098 electors) including the Municipalité de Sainte-Marcelline-de-Kildare.	Part of the current division of Berthier (2,101 electors) including the Municipalité de Sainte-Mélanie.

BERTRAND

51,526 electors (+14.0% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Bertrand would comprise the following municipalities:

Entrelacs (M)	Sainte-Anne-des-Lacs (P)
Estérel (V)	Saint-Donat (M)
Ivry-sur-le-Lac (M)	Sainte-Lucie-des-Laurentides (M)
Lantier (M)	Sainte-Marguerite-du-Lac-Masson (V)
Notre-Dame-de-la-Merci (M)	Saint-Sauveur (V)
Piedmont (M)	Val-David (VL)
Prévost (V)	Val-des-Lacs (M)
Sainte-Adèle (V)	Val-Morin (M)
Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts (V)	

This division would also comprise the unorganized territory of Lac-des-Dix-Milles.

This division would also comprise the Indian reserve of Doncaster.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Bertrand (53,225 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Prévost (7,737 electors) including the Ville de Prévost and a section of the Paroisse de Sainte-Anne-des-Lacs (2 electors) following a change to its municipal boundaries.	Part of the current division of Bertrand (9,438 electors) including the following municipalities: Chertsey (M) and Saint-Hippolyte (M).

BLAINVILLE

51,213 electors (+13.3% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Blainville would comprise the following municipalities:

Bois-des-Filion (V)	Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines (V)
Lorraine (V)	

This division would also comprise the Ville de Blainville except for the part of this city located both to the south of the Boulevard de la Seigneurie Ouest and the Boulevard de la Seigneurie Est and to the west of the railway line of the Agence métropolitaine de transport.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Blainville (56,142 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of Blainville (4,929 electors) including the part of the Ville de Blainville located both to the south of the boulevard de la Seigneurie Ouest and the boulevard de la Seigneurie Est and to the west of the railway line of the Agence métropolitaine de transport.

DEUX-MONTAGNES

45,576 electors (+0.8% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Deux-Montagnes would comprise the following municipalities:

Deux-Montagnes (V)	Saint-Eustache (V)

The proposed division of Deux-Montagnes would be identical to the current division.

GROULX

53,835 electors (+19.1% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Groulx would comprise the following municipalities:

Boisbriand (V)	Sainte-Thérèse (V)
Rosemère (V)	

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Blainville located both to the south of the Boulevard de la Seigneurie Ouest and the Boulevard de la Seigneurie Est and to the west of the railway line of the Agence métropolitaine de transport.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Groulx (48,906 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Blainville (4,929 electors) comprising the part of the Ville de Blainville located both to the south of the boulevard de la Seigneurie Ouest and the boulevard de la Seigneurie Est and to the west of the railway line of the Agence métropolitaine de transport.	None.

JOLIETTE

52,079 electors (+15.2% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Joliette would comprise the following municipalities:

Crabtree (M)	Saint-Liguori (P)
Joliette (V)	Sainte-Marie-Salomé (P)
Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes (M)	Sainte-Mélanie (M)
Notre-Dame-des-Prairies (V)	Saint-Paul (M)
Saint-Ambroise-de-Kildare (P)	Saint-Pierre (VL)
Saint-Charles-Borromée (M)	Saint-Thomas (M)
Saint-Jacques (M)	

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Joliette (51,076 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Berthier (2,101 electors) including the Municipalité de Sainte-Mélanie.	Part of the current division of Joliette (1,098 electors) including the Municipalité de Sainte-Marcelline-de-Kildare.

LABELLE

45,363 electors (+0.3% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Labelle would comprise the following municipalities:

Amherst (CT)	Lac-Supérieur (M)
Brébeuf (P)	Lac-Tremblant-Nord (M)
Chute-Saint-Philippe (M)	L'Ascension (M)
Ferme-Neuve (M)	Mont-Laurier (V)
Huberdeau (M)	Mont-Saint-Michel (M)
Kiamika (M)	Mont-Tremblant (V)
La Conception (M)	Nominingue (M)
La Macaza (M)	Notre-Dame-de-Pontmain (M)
La Minerve (M)	Notre-Dame-du-Laus (M)
Labelle (M)	Rivière-Rouge (V)
Lac-des-Écorces (M)	Saint-Aimé-du-Lac-des-Îles (M)
Lac-du-Cerf (M)	Sainte-Anne-du-Lac (M)
Lac-Saguay (VL)	Saint-Faustin–Lac-Carré (M)
Lac-Saint-Paul (M)	

This division would also comprise the following unorganized territories:

Baie-des-Chaloupes	Lac-Douaire
Lac-Akonapwehikan	Lac-Ernest
Lac-Bazinet	Lac-Marguerite
Lac-De La Bidière	Lac-Oscar
Lac-de-la-Maison-de-Pierre	Lac-Wagwabika
Lac-de-la-Pomme	

The proposed division of Labelle would be identical to the current division.

L'ASSOMPTION

45,435 electors (+0.5% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of L'Assomption would comprise the following municipalities:

Charlemagne (V)	L'Épiphanie (V)
L'Assomption (V)	L'Épiphanie (P)

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Repentigny situated to the northwest of the rivière L'Assomption.

It would also comprise a part of the Ville de Terrebonne bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Terrebonne from where it meets the rivière Mascouche, the limit of the Ville de Terrebonne in the rivière des Prairies and the rivière des Mille Îles, the extension of the rear line of the sites fronting on the rue Samson, formerly "Marc" (east side), this rear line, the montée Dumais, the autoroute 640 and the rivière Mascouche.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of L'Assomption (57,124 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Terrebonne (6,538 electors) including the part of the Ville de Terrebonne bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Terrebonne from where it meets the rivière Mascouche, the limit of the Ville de Terrebonne in the rivière des Prairies and the rivière des Mille Îles, the extension of the rear line of the sites fronting on the rue Samson, formerly "Marc" (east side), this rear line, the montée Dumais, the autoroute 640 and the rivière Mascouche.	Part of the current division of L'Assomption (47,307 electors) including the Paroisse de Saint-Sulpice and the part of the Ville de Repentigny situated to the southeast of the rivière L'Assomption.
Part of the current division of Masson (19,913 electors) including the Ville de Charlemagne and the part of the Ville de Repentigny situated to the northwest of the rivière L'Assomption.	
Part of the current division of Rousseau (9,167 electors) including the following municipalities: L'Épiphanie (P), L'Épiphanie (V) and the part of the Ville de L'Assomption that corresponds to the former Paroisse de Saint-Gérard-Majella as it existed on June 30, 2000.	

MASSON

40,849 electors (-9.6% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Masson would comprise the Ville de Mascouche.

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Terrebonne bounded as follows: the part of the Ville de Terrebonne that corresponds to the former Ville de La Plaine as it existed on June 26, 2001.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Masson (60,762 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of Masson (19,913 electors) including the Ville de Charlemagne and the part of the Ville de Repentigny bounded as follows: the part of the Ville de Repentigny situated to the northwest of the rivière L'Assomption.

MIRABEL

47,814 electors (+5.8% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Mirabel would comprise the following municipalities:

Mirabel (V)	Saint-Joseph-du-Lac (M)
Oka (M)	Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac (V)
Pointe-Calumet (M)	Saint-Placide (M)

This division would also comprise the Indian settlement of Kanesatake.

The proposed division of Mirabel would be identical to the current division.

REPENTIGNY

47,307 electors (+4.6% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Repentigny would comprise the Paroisse de Saint-Sulpice.

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Repentigny situated to the southeast of the rivière des Prairies and the rivière L'Assomption.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of L'Assomption (57,124 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of L'Assomption (9,817 electors) that corresponds to the former Ville de L'Assomption as it existed on June 30, 2000.

ROUSSEAU

53,075 electors (+17.4% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Rousseau would comprise the following municipalities:

Chertsey (M)	Saint-Hippolyte (M)
Rawdon (M)	Sainte-Julienne (M)
Saint-Alexis (P)	Saint-Lin−Laurentides (V)
Saint-Alexis (VL)	Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan (M)
Saint-Calixte (M)	Saint-Roch-Ouest (M)
Saint-Esprit (M)	Sainte-Sophie (M)

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Rousseau (52,804 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Bertrand (9,438 electors) including the following municipalities: Chertsey (M) and Saint-Hippolyte (M).	Part of the current division of Rousseau (9,167 electors) including the following municipalities: L'Épiphanie (P), L'Épiphanie (V) and the part of the Ville de L'Assomption that corresponds to the former Paroisse de Saint-Gérard-Majella as it existed on June 30, 2000.

SAINT-JÉRÔME

50,157 electors (+10.9% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Saint-Jérôme would comprise the Ville de Saint-Jérôme.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Prévost (57,896 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of Prévost (7,737 electors) including the Ville de Prévost and a section of the Paroisse de Sainte-Anne-des-Lacs (2 electors) following a change to its municipal boundaries.

TERREBONNE

49,717 electors (+10.0% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The electoral division of Terrebonne would comprise a part of the Ville de Terrebonne bounded as follows: the boundary between the Ville de Terrebonne and the former Ville de La Plaine as it existed on June 26, 2001, the limit of the Ville de Terrebonne, the rivière Mascouche, the autoroute 640, the montée Dumais, the rear line of the sites fronting on the rue Samson, formerly "Marc" (east side), the extension of this rear line, the limit of the Ville de Terrebonne in the rivière des Mille Îles and the limit of the Ville de Terrebonne.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Terrebonne (56,255 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of Terrebonne (6,538 electors) including the part of the Ville de Terrebonne bounded as follows: thep limit of the Ville de Terrebonne from where it meets the rivière Mascouche, the limit of the Ville de Terrebonne in the rivière des Prairies and in the rivière des Mille Îles, the extension of the rear line of the sites fronting on the rue Samson, formerly "Marc" (east side), this rear line, the montée Dumais, the autoroute 640 and the rivière Mascouche.

5.10 Laval

Portrait of the situation

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Chomedey	55,026	+21.7%
Fabre	**58,591**	**+29.6%**
Laval-des-Rapides	48,429	+7.1%
Mille-Îles	55,081	+21.8%
Vimont	55,744	+23.3%
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

The Laval region corresponds in full to the territory of the Ville de Laval. Currently, it has five electoral divisions with a growth rate of its electoral population of 8.9% between 2000 and 2007, one of the highest in Québec. Like the bordering region of Laurentides-Lanaudière, the Laval region has seen its demographic weight grow steadily within Québec.

Today, the Laval region has become the most underrepresented region in Québec with an average deviation of the number of electors per division of +20.7%. Consequently, the number of divisions of this region no longer corresponds to its demographic weight. Specifically, the division of Fabre is currently in an exception situation. Its number of electors far exceeds the maximum limit allowed under the Election Act and, based on projections, this number will continue to grow. As a result, the delimitation of this division must be re-examined.

Moreover, the division of Fabre is bordered by two other divisions, whose deviation of the number of electors from the provincial average is high, namely those of Chomedey and Vimont. Incidentally, it is the latter that is most problematic. Given its growth rate of 15.3% during the reference period, the division of Vimont has even seen its deviation from the provincial average exceed +25% according to the recent data as of July 31, 2010.

Finally, the division of Mille-Îles also has a significantly high number of electors. Its deviation from the provincial average of +21.8% currently places this division in a critical situation. In fact, only the division of Laval-des-Rapides has a deviation of the number of electors from the provincial average that is close to said average.

Preliminary delimitation proposal

| | Electors as of November 30, 2007 | |
	Number	Deviation
Chomedey	53,651	+18.7%
Fabre	41,470	-8.3%
Laval-des-Rapides	52,539	+16.2%
Marc-Aurèle-Fortin	45,242	+0.1%
Mille-Îles	38,834	-11.9%
Vimont	40,135	-11.2%
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

In the preliminary report, the delimitation proposal for the Laval region included changes to the boundaries of all of the electoral divisions. Moreover, it was proposed to add a sixth division so that the number of divisions corresponds to this region's demographic weight.

In delimiting the region in six electoral divisions, the Commission sought to respect, as much as possible, the delimitation of the six administrative sectors of the Ville de Laval.

The new electoral division, the proposed name of which was "Marc-Aurèle-Fortin", was formed in the northern part of the island, from the divisions of Fabre and Vimont, namely the region's two most populous divisions.

Next, it was suggested that the western boundary of the division of Mille-Îles now be based on the avenue Papineau and the autoroute Papineau (autoroute 19). As a result, the eastern boundary of the division of Laval-des-Rapides has also become the autoroute Papineau. Finally, a last change was proposed between the divisions of Fabre and Chomedey to slightly reduce the number of electors of this latter division.

Revised delimitation proposal

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	**Deviation**
Chomedey	52,885	+17.0%
Fabre	42,236	-6.6%
Laval-des-Rapides	52,539	+16.2%
Mille-Îles	38,799	-14.2%
Sainte-Rose	45,242	+0.1%
Vimont	41,170	-8.9%
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

First of all, the Commission still proposes adding a sixth division on the territory of the Ville de Laval. The Commission considers that this addition is the only solution to correct the imbalance present in this region. It is important to keep in mind that the Laval region is the most under-represented region of Québec; the average deviation of its number of electors by electoral division is +20.7%. With six divisions, the number of divisions corresponds well to the region's demographic weight. What is more, this proposal was well received by the community.

The addition of a new division makes it possible to better balance the number of electors in the divisions of Vimont and Fabre, with the latter currently finding itself in an exception situation. As was the case in its preliminary report, the Commission suggests creating this new division from those of Vimont and Fabre in the northern part of the island. This basically corresponds to sector no. 5 of the Ville de Laval. As for the name of this new electoral division, the Commission proposes choosing the name "Sainte-Rose", instead of "Marc-Aurèle-Fortin", notably to avoid all possible confusion with the riding of the same name at the federal level.

The Commission also proposes slightly revising the delimitation between the divisions of Mille-Îles and Vimont in order to ensure that the boundaries of the administrative regions of the Ville de Laval are respected. The division of Vimont henceforth corresponds in full to sector no. 6 of the city.

In addition, the Commission also suggests an adjustment between the divisions of Chomedey and Fabre in relation to the delimitation of its preliminary report. The Commission proposes withdrawing a slightly bigger sector from the division of Chomedey in its northwestern part in order to add this sector to the division of Fabre. The division of Chomedey will thus have a small number of electors, which will leave some room in anticipation of future residential developments.

Finally, while the Commission envisaged, for similar reasons, re-establishing the division of Laval-des-Rapides with its current boundaries, the Commission instead reiterates its preliminary proposal which entails expanding this division eastward. The holding of the Committee on the National Assembly and the updating of data in 2010 revealed that the residential densification projects planned in the sector have not had the anticipated effect on the number of electors. The leeway for the division of Laval-des-Rapides therefore appears to be sufficient to permit an extension up to the eastern boundary of sector no. 2 of the city, namely the autoroute Papineau (autoroute 19).

Description of the proposed electoral divisions

CHOMEDEY

52,885 electors (+17.0% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Chomedey would comprise a part of the Ville de Laval bounded as follows: the autoroute Laval Ouest (440), the autoroute des Laurentides (15), the limit of the Ville de Laval in the rivière des Prairies, the autoroute Chomedey (13), the boulevard Notre-Dame and the overhead electric power line, the boulevard Saint-Martin Ouest, the 100e Avenue and its extension.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Chomedey (55,026 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of Chomedey (2,141 electors) including the part of the Ville de Laval bounded as follows: the autoroute Laval (440), the extension of the 100^e Avenue, the 100^e Avenue, the boulevard Saint-Martin Ouest, and the overhead electric power line, the boulevard Notre-Dame and the autoroute Chomedey (13).

FABRE

42,236 electors (-6.6% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Fabre would comprise a part of the Ville de Laval bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Laval in the rivière des Mille Îles, the autoroute Chomedey (13), the autoroute Laval Ouest (440), the extension of the 100e Avenue, the 100e Avenue, the boulevard Saint-Martin Ouest, the overhead electric power line, the boulevard Notre-Dame, the autoroute Chomedey (13), the limit of the Ville de Laval in the rivière des Prairies and the lac des Deux Montagnes.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Fabre (58,591 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Chomedey (2,141 electors) including the part of the Ville de Laval bounded as follows: the autoroute Laval (440), the extension of the 100ᵉ Avenue, the 100ᵉ Avenue, and the overhead electric power line, the boulevard Notre-Dame and the autoroute Chomedey (13).	Part of the current division of Fabre (18,496 electors) including the part of the Ville de Laval bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Laval in the rivière des Mille Îles, the autoroute des Laurentides (15), the boulevard Dagenais Ouest, the rue Félix, the rue Foster, the rue Edgar, the rue Édith, the rue Isabelle, the rue Justin, and the overhead electric power line, the autoroute Laval (440) and the autoroute Chomedey (13).

LAVAL-DES-RAPIDES

52,539 electors (+16.2% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Laval-des-Rapides would comprise the part of the Ville de Laval bounded as follows: the autoroute Laval (440), the autoroute Papineau (19), the limit of the Ville de Laval in the rivière des Prairies and the autoroute des Laurentides (15).

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Laval-des-Rapides (48,429 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Mille-Îles (4,110 electors) including a part of the Ville de Laval bounded as follows: the boulevard Saint-Martin Est, the autoroute Papineau (19), the limit of the Ville de Laval in the rivière des Prairies, the extension of the boulevard Lévesque Est, the boulevard Lévesque Est and the rue Notre-Dame-de-Fatima.	None.

MILLE-ÎLES

38,799 electors (-14.2% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Mille-Îles would comprise the part of the Ville de Laval bounded as follows: the boundary of the Ville de Laval in the rivière des Mille Îles then in the rivière des Prairies, the autoroute Papineau (19), the avenue Papineau, and the overhead electric power line, the montée Saint-François, the avenue des Perron, the boulevard Sainte-Marie and its extension, the rivière des Mille Îles, a boundary between the île Saint-Joseph and the île Forget up to the municipal boundary.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Mille-Îles (55,081 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of Mille-Îles (12,172 electors) including the part of the Ville de Laval bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Laval in the rivière des Mille Îles, a boundary between the île Saint-Joseph and the île Forget, the rivière des Mille Îles, the extension of the boulevard Sainte-Marie, the boulevard Sainte-Marie, the avenue des Perron, the montée Saint-François, and the overhead electric power line, the avenue Papineau, the avenue des Lacasse, the boulevard des Laurentides, the boulevard Sainte-Rose Est, the railway line of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, the extension of the rear line of the sites fronting on the rue Saint-Paul (east side), this rear line and its extension.
	Part of the current division of Mille-Îles (4,110 electors) including a part of the Ville de Laval bounded as follows: the boulevard Saint-Martin Est, the autoroute Papineau (19), the limit of the Ville de Laval in the rivière des Prairies, the extension of the boulevard Lévesque Est, the boulevard Lévesque Est and the rue Notre-Dame-de-Fatima.

SAINTE-ROSE

45,242 electors (+0.1% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Sainte-Rose would comprise the part of the Ville de Laval bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Laval in the rivière des Mille Îles, the extension of the rear line of the sites fronting on the rue Saint-Paul (east side), this rear line and its extension, the railway line of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, the autoroute Laval (440) and the autoroute Chomedey (13).

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Vimont (55,744 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Fabre (18,496 electors) including the part of the Ville de Laval bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Laval in the rivière des Mille Îles, the autoroute des Laurentides (15), the boulevard Dagenais Ouest, the rue Félix, the rue Foster, the rue Edgar, the rue Édith, the rue Isabelle and the rue Justin, and the overhead electric power line, the autoroute Laval (440) and the autoroute Chomedey (13).	Part of the current division of Vimont (28,998 electors) including the part of the Ville de Laval bounded as follows: the boulevard Sainte-Rose Est, the boulevard des Laurentides, the avenue des Lacasse, the avenue Papineau, the autoroute Papineau (19), the autoroute Laval (440) and the railway line of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

VIMONT

41,170 electors (-8.9% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Vimont would comprise the part of the Ville de Laval bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Laval in the rivière des Mille Îles, a boundary between the île Saint-Joseph and the île Forget, the rivière des Mille Îles, the extension of the boulevard Sainte-Marie, the boulevard Sainte-Marie, the avenue des Perron, the montée Saint-François, and the overhead electric power line, the avenue Papineau, the autoroute Papineau (19), the autoroute Laval (440), the railway line of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, the extension of the rear line of the sites fronting on the rue Saint-Paul (east side), this line and its extension.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Vimont (55,744 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Mille-Îles (12,172 electors) including the part of the Ville de Laval bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Laval in the rivière des Mille Îles, a boundary between the île Saint-Joseph and the île Forget, the rivière des Mille Îles, the extension of the boulevard Sainte-Marie, the boulevard Sainte-Marie, the avenue des Perron, the montée Saint-François, and the overhead electric power line, the avenue Papineau, the avenue des Lacasse, the boulevard des Laurentides, the boulevard Sainte-Rose Est, the railway line of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, the extension of the rear line of the sites fronting on the rue Saint-Paul (east side), this line and its extension.	Part of the current division of Vimont (26,746 electors) including the part of the Ville de Laval bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Laval in the rivière des Mille Îles, the extension of the rear line of the sites fronting on the rue Saint-Paul (east side), this line and its extension, the railway line of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, the autoroute Laval (440), and the overhead electric power line, the rue Justin, the rue Isabelle, the rue Édith, the rue Edgar, the rue Foster and the rue Félix, the boulevard Dagenais Ouest and the autoroute des Laurentides (15).

5.11 Mauricie

Portrait of the situation

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Champlain	46,981	+3.9%
Laviolette	34,213	-24.3%
Maskinongé	49,539	+9.6%
Saint-Maurice	36,432	-19.4%
Trois-Rivières	36,747	-16.5%
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

The Mauricie region comprises a set of five divisions. The growth of its electoral population has been on the order of 3.1% between 2000 and 2007. However, this growth is less than that observed in Québec during the same period, namely 5.8%.

In other respects, four of the five divisions of the Mauricie region have witnessed a growth of their electoral population that is less than that of Québec since 2000. They are the divisions of Laviolette, Saint-Maurice, Trois-Rivières and, to a lesser extent, that of Champlain. As the first three divisions post an already negative deviation from the provincial average, they have approached the minimum level of -25% permitted under the Election Act. Among these divisions, that of Laviolette warrants special attention. It is currently in a negative growth phase and with a deviation of its number of electors from the provincial average of -24.3%, it will soon have an exceptional negative deviation. As of July 31, 2010, the deviation of its number of electors from the provincial average reached -26.4%.

The division of Maskinongé is the only one that had a growth higher than the Québec average. It has witnessed a growth rate of 7.0% between 2000 and 2007. This increase has basically been observed in the western part of the Ville de Trois-Rivières. This division is also the one that has the greatest number of electors in the Mauricie region.

Preliminary delimitation proposal

	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Champlain	46,981	+3.9%
Laviolette	36,031	-20.3%
Maskinongé	42,501	-6.0%

	Number	Deviation
Saint-Maurice	36,432	-19.4%
Trois-Rivières	44,785	-0.9%
Provincial average	*45,207*	*-*
Minimum limit (-25%)	*33,905*	*-*
Maximum limit (+25%)	*56,509*	*-*

In its preliminary report, the Commission proposed changes to the boundaries of three divisions. The first change concerned the critical situation of the division of Laviolette. It was proposed to add to this division the municipalities of Lac-aux-Sables and Notre-Dame-de-Montauban, currently located in the division of Portneuf. That way, the Commission brought together all of the municipalities of the regional county municipality of Mékinac within the division of Laviolette and, in so doing, the delimitation was perfectly adjusted to the boundaries of the administrative region of Mauricie.

The objective of the second change was to increase the number of electors of the division of Trois-Rivières by modifying the boundary which it shared with the division of Maskinongé. In so doing, the two divisions became better balanced. The boundary used no longer corresponded to the municipal boundary that once separated the former Ville de Trois-Rivières and the former municipalities of Pointe-du-Lac and Trois-Rivières-Ouest.

Finally, it should be noted that the divisions of Champlain and Saint-Maurice remained unchanged.

Revised delimitation proposal

Proposed electoral divisions	*Electors as of November 30, 2007*	
	Number	**Deviation**
Champlain	46,981	+3.9%
Laviolette	36,031	-20.3%
Maskinongé	44,755	-1.0%
Saint-Maurice	36,432	-19.4%
Trois-Rivières	42,531	-5.9%
Provincial average	*45,207*	*-*
Minimum limit (-25%)	*33,905*	*-*
Maximum limit (+25%)	*56,509*	*-*

The revised delimitation proposal in the Mauricie region once again provides for changes to three electoral divisions.

In the division of Laviolette, the Commission still proposes adding to it the municipalities of Lac-aux-Sables and Notre-Dame-de-Montauban. The Commission considers that this is the best solution to avoid an exception situation in the near future. Furthermore, this change ensures full harmony with the boundaries of the regional county municipality of Mékinac and the administrative region of Mauricie.

As for the delimitation between the divisions of Maskinongé and Trois-Rivières, the preliminary proposal proved satisfactory in part. Indeed, the majority of participants who spoke during the public hearing held in Trois-Rivières mentioned that they understood the objective of seeking a balance between the most populous division, namely Maskinongé, and that of Trois-Rivières. However, these same participants denounced the resulting overly large transfer of electors to achieve this objective.

The Commission thus wishes to slightly modify its preliminary proposal in light of these comments and of a proposal that was submitted to the Commission by a few participants at the public hearing held in Trois-Rivières. It is suggested to add only one sector of the former municipality of Trois-Rivières-Ouest to the division of Trois-Rivières. It is the sector located to the south of the autoroute Félix-Leclerc (autoroute 40) and to the east of the autoroute de l'Énergie (autoroute 55). In addition, the Commission proposes reintegrating the northern part of the Ville de Trois-Rivières in the division bearing the same name in keeping with this sector's natural affinities. This change allows the Commission to no longer base the delimitation on the former municipal boundaries.

In this revised proposal, the divisions of Champlain and Saint-Maurice retain their current delimitation.

Description of the proposed electoral divisions

CHAMPLAIN

46,981 electors (+3.9% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Champlain would comprise the following municipalities:

Batiscan (M)	Saint-Maurice (P)
Champlain (M)	Saint-Narcisse (P)
Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade (M)	Saint-Prosper (P)
Sainte-Geneviève-de-Batiscan (P)	Saint-Stanislas (M)
Saint-Luc-de-Vincennes (M)	

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Trois-Rivières situated to the east of the rivière Saint-Maurice excluding the île de Blonville, the île de Sable, the île La Poterie, the île Ogden, the île Saint-Christophe and the île Saint-Quentin.

The proposed division of Champlain would be identical to the current division.

LAVIOLETTE

36,031 electors (-20.3% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Laviolette would comprise the following municipalities:

Grandes-Piles (VL)	Saint-Adelphe (P)
Hérouxville (P)	Saint-Roch-de-Mékinac (P)
La Bostonnais (M)	Saint-Séverin (P)
Lac-aux-Sables (P)	Sainte-Thècle (M)
Lac-Édouard (M)	Saint-Tite (V)
La Tuque (V)	Trois-Rives (M)
Notre-Dame-de-Montauban (M)	

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Shawinigan that corresponds to the following municipalities as they existed on December 31, 2001:

Grand-Mère	Saint-Jean-des-Piles
Saint-Georges	

It would also comprise the following Indian reserves:

Coucoucache	Wemotaci
Obedjiwan	

In addition, it would comprise the following unorganized territories:

Lac-Boulé	Lac-Normand
Lac-Masketsi	Rivière-de-la-Savane

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Laviolette (34,213 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Portneuf (1,818 electors) including the following municipalities: Lac-aux-Sables (P) and Notre-Dame-de-Montauban (M).	None.

MASKINONGÉ

44,755 electors (-1.0% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Maskinongé would comprise the following municipalities:

Charette (M)	Saint-Étienne-des-Grès (P)
Louiseville (V)	Saint-Justin (P)
Maskinongé (M)	Saint-Léon-le-Grand (P)
Saint-Alexis-des-Monts (P)	Saint-Paulin (M)
Sainte-Angèle-de-Prémont (M)	Saint-Sévère (P)
Saint-Barnabé (P)	Sainte-Ursule (P)
Saint-Édouard-de-Maskinongé (M)	Yamachiche (M)
Saint-Élie-de-Caxton (M)	

This division would also comprise a part of the Ville de Trois-Rivières bounded as follows: the autoroute de l'Énergie (55), the overhead electric power line situated directly to the north of the boulevard des Chenaux, the railway line, the autoroute Félix-Leclerc (40), the autoroute l'Énergie (55), the limit of the Ville de Trois-Rivières in the fleuve Saint-Laurent and the limit of the Ville de Trois-Rivières.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Maskinongé (49,539 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Trois-Rivières (83 electors) including the part of the Ville de Trois-Rivières bounded as follows: the autoroute de l'Énergie (55), the overhead electric power line situated directly to the north of the boulevard des Chenaux, the railway line, the autoroute Félix-Leclerc (40) and the limit of the Ville de Trois-Rivières as it existed on December 31, 2001.	Part of the current division of Maskinongé (5,645 electors) including the part of the Ville de Trois-Rivières bounded as follows: the autoroute Félix-Leclerc (40), the limit of the Ville de Trois-Rivières-Ouest as it existed on December 31, 2001, the limit of the Ville de Trois-Rivières in the fleuve Saint-Laurent and the autoroute de l'Énergie (55).

SAINT-MAURICE

36,432 electors (-19.4% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Saint-Maurice would comprise the following municipalities:

Notre-Dame-du-Mont-Carmel (P)	Saint-Mathieu-du-Parc (M)
Saint-Boniface (M)	

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Shawinigan that corresponds to the following municipalities as they existed on December 31, 2001:

Lac-à-la-Tortue	Shawinigan
Saint-Gérard-des-Laurentides	Shawinigan-Sud

The proposed division of Saint-Maurice would be identical to the current division.

TROIS-RIVIÈRES

42,531 electors (-5.9% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Trois-Rivières would comprise the part of the Ville de Trois-Rivières bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Trois-Rivières, the rivière Saint-Maurice including the île de Blonville, the île de Sable, the île La Poterie, the île Ogden, the île Saint-Christophe and the île Saint-Quentin, the limit of the Ville de Trois-Rivières in the fleuve Saint-Laurent, the autoroute de l'Énergie (55), the autoroute Félix-Leclerc (40), the railway line, the overhead electric power line situated directly to the north of the boulevard des Chenaux and the autoroute de l'Énergie (55).

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Trois-Rivières (37,747 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Maskinongé (5,645 electors) including the part of the Ville de Trois-Rivières bounded as follows: the autoroute Félix-Leclerc (40), the limit of the Ville de Trois-Rivières-Ouest as it existed on December 31, 2001, the limit of the Ville de Trois-Rivières in the fleuve Saint-Laurent and the autoroute de l'Énergie (55).	Part of the current division of Trois-Rivières (831 electors) including the part of the Ville de Trois-Rivières bounded as follows: the autoroute de l'Énergie (55), the overhead electric power lines situated directly to the north of the boulevard des Chenaux, the railway line, the autoroute Félix-Leclerc (40) and the limit of the Ville de Trois-Rivières as it existed on December 31, 2001.

5.12 Montérégie

Portrait of the situation

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Beauharnois	43,580	-3.6%
Borduas	41,806	-7.5%
Brome-Missisquoi	50,234	+11.1%
Chambly	**59,947**	**+32.6%**
Châteauguay	56,256	+24.4%
Huntingdon	44,133	-2.4%
Iberville	45,780	+1.3%
La Pinière	53,592	+18.6%
Laporte	45,543	+0.7%
La Prairie	**56,735**	**+25.5%**
Marguerite-D'Youville	51,406	+13.7%
Marie-Victorin	40,778	-9.8%
Richelieu	40,587	-10.2%
Saint-Hyacinthe	49,173	+8.8%

Saint-Jean	55,468	+22.7%
Shefford	55,221	+22.2%
Soulanges	41,516	-8.2%
Taillon	55,776	+23.4%
Vachon	44,833	-0.8%
Vaudreuil	50,007	+10.6%
Verchères	43,674	-3.4%
Provincial average	*45,207*	*-*
Minimum limit (-25%)	*33,905*	*-*
Maximum limit (+25%)	*56,509*	*-*

The Montérégie region has 21 divisions and has witnessed a major increase in its electoral population in recent years. It is the region having posted the highest growth rate (9.2%) between 2000 and 2007 after that of Laurentides-Lanaudière. With more than one million electors, the Montérégie region is the second most populated region in Québec.

The most densely populated urban zone of the Montérégie region is located on the edge of the fleuve Saint-Laurent. The divisions of Laporte, Marie-Victorin and Taillon, located at the heart of this zone, correspond approximately to the urban core of the Ville de Longueuil. Among these divisions, that of Taillon attracts attention due to the deviation of its number of electors from the provincial average (+23.4%), which is very close to the maximum limit allowed under the Election Act.

It is around this urban core that a few of the region's most populous and rapidly growing divisions are found. For example, the division of La Prairie currently has a number of electors that exceeds the maximum limit of +25% and that puts this division in an exception situation. On each side of this division, there are two other divisions that deserve attention. The division of Châteauguay has a deviation from the provincial average of +24.4% and is headed toward the same exception situation, as corroborated by the July 2010 data. As for the division of La Pinière, it has a deviation from the provincial average of +18.6%. Its number of electors should progress rapidly towards the maximum limit over the next few years.

Beyond this first ring of suburbs one finds other urban poles located at various distances and some of which may be considered suburbs of Longueuil and Montréal. In this second ring of suburbs, the division of Chambly is the most problematic. Its number of electors is far too great and its exception situation must be corrected. Located to the south of the division of Chambly, the division of Saint-Jean reveals a critical situation due to its deviation from the provincial average of +22.7%, a figure that rose to +24.1% as of July 31, 2010

Moreover, the division of Shefford is located outside the area of influence of Montréal. Since 2000, this division has witnessed substantial growth linked to the Ville de Granby, a regional pole. This division will also find itself with an exceptional positive deviation if no change is made.

In summary, the Montérégie region has several divisions whose number of electors is too high. Having 21 divisions, the Montérégie region is currently under-represented in comparison with other regions of Québec.

Preliminary delimitation proposal

	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	**Deviation**
Beauharnois	43,580	-3.6%
Borduas	41,806	-7.5%
Brome-Missisquoi	48,841	+8.0%
Chambly	52,369	+15.8%
Châteauguay	44,628	-1.3%
Granby	47,088	+4.2%
Huntingdon	38,855	-14.1%
Iberville	49,544	+9.6%
La Pinière	53,592	+18.5%
Laporte	45,543	+0.7%
La Prairie	37,813	-16.4%
Marguerite-D'Youville	51,406	+13.7%
Marie-Victorin	47,635	+5.4%
Richelieu	41,818	-7.5%
Roussillon	37,348	-17.4%
Saint-Hyacinthe	52,987	+17.2%
Saint-Jean	53,948	+19.3%
Soulanges	41,516	-8.2%
Taillon	48,919	+8.2%
Vachon	44,833	-0.8%
Vaudreuil	50,007	+10.6%
Verchères	43,674	-3.4%
Provincial average	*45,207*	*-*
Minimum limit (-25%)	*33,905*	*-*
Maximum limit (+25%)	*56,509*	*-*

In its preliminary report, the Commission initially proposed the addition of a twenty-second electoral division in the Montérégie region. The number of divisions in the Montérégie region thus became more representative of this region's demographic weight. In addition, this helped correct the elector surplus in a large number of divisions.

Named "Roussillon", the new division was added in the first ring of suburbs, a zone experiencing strong growth. The division notably comprised the municipalities of Sainte-Catherine and Saint-Constant. In fact, the creation of the division of Roussillon corrected the exception situation of the division of La Prairie and reduced the number of electors of the division of Châteauguay to a more balanced level.

It was proposed to modify the boundary between the divisions of Marie-Victorin and Taillon in order to correct the critical situation of this latter division. As a result, the division of Taillon henceforth comprised solely the part of the division of Vieux-Longueuil located northeast of the Chemin de Chambly.

Other changes were suggested within the second ring of suburbs. First, the municipalities of Richelieu and Saint-Mathias-sur-Richelieu were withdrawn from the division of Chambly to be added to that of Iberville. The division of Chambly thus respected the numerical criterion of the Election Act. It was also proposed to withdraw the Municipalité de Saint-Blaise-sur-Richelieu from the division of Saint-Jean in order to avoid this division finding itself in an exception situation in the near future. It should also be noted that the Ville de Saint-Pie was integrated in the division of Saint-Hyacinthe in order to include it with the majority of the municipalities of the regional county municipality of Les Maskoutains.

Finally, the last change concerned the division of Shefford. It was suggested that the latter be limited solely to the Ville de Granby and its 47,088 electors. Consequently, the Commission proposed the name of "Granby" for this division. The municipalities of Shefford, Warden and Waterloo were added to the division of Johnson in the Estrie region.

Revised delimitation proposal

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Beauharnois	43,580	-3.6%
Borduas	48,477	+7.2%
Brome-Missisquoi	51,276	+13.4%
Chambly	41,412	-8.4%
Châteauguay	44,628	-1.3%
Granby	47,088	+4.2%
Huntingdon	40,829	-9.7%
Iberville	41,966	-7.2%
La Pinière	53,592	+18.5%
Laporte	45,543	+0.7%
La Prairie	37,813	-16.4%

Marguerite-D'Youville	48,949	+8.3%
Marie-Victorin	47,635	+5.4%
Richelieu	46,275	+2.4%
Saint-Hyacinthe	54,704	+21.0%
Saint-Jean	53,948	+19.3%
Sanguinet	35,374	-21.8%
Soulanges	41,516	-8.2%
Taillon	48,919	+8.2%
Vachon	44,833	-0.8%
Vaudreuil	50,007	+10.6%
Verchères	51,821	+14.6%
Provincial average	*45,207*	*-*
Minimum limit (-25%)	*33,905*	*-*
Maximum limit (+25%)	*56,509*	*-*

In its revised delimitation proposal, the Commission once again proposes the addition of a new electoral division in the Montérégie region. It considers that this is the best solution to correct the existing elector surplus. With 22 divisions, this region has a number of divisions that better corresponds to its demographic weight. This addition was well received by the community.

The new electoral division is thus maintained, albeit slightly modified. It comprises the municipalities of Sainte-Catherine, Saint-Constant, Saint-Mathieu and Saint-Rémi. After having carefully analyzed the various toponyms proposed during the public consultation, the Commission suggests naming the division "Sanguinet". With a deviation from the provincial average of -21.8%, its number of electors is fairly low. However, this number will have a tendency to increase over the next few years due to the anticipated growth. This growth will also be felt within the proposed divisions of Châteauguay and La Prairie, which henceforth have a sufficient leeway to absorb it.

As for the division of Saint-Jean, the Commission one again suggests withdrawing from it the Municipalité de Saint-Blaise-sur-Richelieu. Despite this municipality's opposition to being attached to another division, the Commission cannot keep it in the division of Saint-Jean. Were the Commission to do so, this division would rapidly find itself with an exceptional positive deviation. This municipality is therefore integrated in the division of Huntingdon, thus joining the other municipalities of the regional county municipality of Haut-Richelieu which are already part of the division.

Turning to the division of Chambly, it is modified in comparison with the proposal found in the preliminary report. In light of the interventions made during the public hearing held in Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville, the Commission proposes keeping in the division of Chambly only the municipalities located around the basin de Chambly, namely those of Carignan, Chambly, Richelieu, Saint-Basile-le-Grand and Saint-Mathias-sur-Richelieu. Participants mentioned that this group of municipalities forms a natural community and that numerous agreements exist between them. In addition, with a smaller number of electors than in the preliminary report, the proposed division of Chambly will be able to accommodate more easily the same pace of growth that it has experienced since 2000.

Consequently, it is proposed that the Ville de Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville and the Ville de Boucherville, which are both part of the conurbation of Longueuil, form the electoral division of Marguerite-D'Youville. It is also suggested to join the Ville de Sainte-Julie to the other municipalities of the regional county municipality of Lajemmerais in the division of Verchères, which is thus adjusted to the boundaries of this regional county municipality. The other municipalities of the division of Verchères, which are not part of the regional county municipality of Lajemmerais, are distributed within the proposed divisions of Borduas and Richelieu in such a way as to ensure a better balance between these divisions. Moreover, the Commission once again proposes including the municipalities of La Présentation and Saint-Pie in the division of Saint-Hyacinthe.

Next, at the very heart of the Ville de Longueuil, it is still suggested to re-examine the delimitation between the divisions of Marie-Victorin and Taillon in order to correct the latter division's elector surplus. That way, the number of electors of the division of Taillon will no longer exceed the maximum stipulated under the Election Act.

Lastly, further east in the region, the Commission has no other choice but to reduce the division of Shefford to solely the Ville de Granby due to this division's critical situation. It is suggested that the division bear the name of "Granby". Despite the opposition of the municipalities of Shefford, Warden and Waterloo to being withdrawn from this division, the Commission cannot keep them in it. Were the Commission to do so, the division of Shefford would find itself with an exceptional positive deviation in the near future.

Following the public hearings, it nevertheless appears more desirable to transfer the municipalities in question to the division of Brome-Missisquoi rather than to that of Johnson in the Estrie–Centre-du-Québec region. That way, they join other municipalities, including the Ville de Bromont and the Ville de Lac-Brome, which follow them directly to the south. To permit this addition, it is suggested to reduce the division of Brome-Missisquoi and to adjust it, in its eastern part, to the boundaries of the administrative region of Montérégie.

Description of the proposed electoral divisions

BEAUHARNOIS

43,580 electors (-3.6% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Beauharnois would comprise the following municipalities:

Beauharnois (V)	Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka (M)
Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois (M)	Salaberry-de-Valleyfield (V)
Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague (P)	

The proposed division of Beauharnois would be identical to the current division.

BORDUAS

48,477 electors (+7.2% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Borduas would comprise the following municipalities:

Beloeil (V)	Saint-Jean-Baptiste (M)
McMasterville (M)	Sainte-Madeleine (VL)
Mont-Saint-Hilaire (V)	Saint-Marc-sur-Richelieu (M)
Otterburn Park (V)	Sainte-Marie-Madeleine (P)
Saint-Charles-sur-Richelieu (M)	Saint-Mathieu-de-Beloeil (M)

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Borduas (41,806 electors) and the following change:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Verchères (6,671 electors) including the following municipalities: Saint-Charles-sur-Richelieu (M), Sainte-Madeleine (VL), Saint-Marc-sur-Richelieu (M) and Sainte-Marie-Madeleine (P).	None.

BROME-MISSISQUOI

51,276 electors (+13.4% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Brome-Missisquoi would comprise the following municipalities:

Abercorn (VL)	Notre-Dame-de-Stanbridge (M)
Bedford (CT)	Saint-Alphonse-de-Granby (M)
Bedford (V)	Saint-Armand (M)
Bolton-Ouest (M)	Saint-Ignace-de-Stanbridge (M)
Brigham (M)	Saint-Pierre-de-Véronne-à-Pike-River (M)
Brome (VL)	Sainte-Sabine (M)
Bromont (V)	Shefford (CT)

Cowansville (V)	Stanbridge East (M)
Dunham (V)	Stanbridge Station (M)
East Farnham (M)	Sutton (V)
Farnham (V)	Warden (VL)
Frelighsburg (M)	Waterloo (V)
Lac-Brome (V)	

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Brome-Missisquoi (50,234 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Shefford (8,133 electors) including the following municipalities: Shefford (CT), Warden (VL) and Waterloo (V).	Part of the current division of Brome-Missisquoi (7,091 electors) including the following municipalities: Austin (M), Bolton-Est (M), Bonsecours (M), Eastman (M), Lawrenceville (VL), Potton (CT), Sainte-Anne-de-la-Rochelle (M), Saint-Benoît-du-Lac (M), Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton (M) and Stukely-Sud (VL).

CHAMBLY

41,412 electors (-8.4% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Chambly would comprise the following municipalities:

Carignan (V)	Saint-Basile-le-Grand (V)
Chambly (V)	Saint-Mathias-sur-Richelieu (M)
Richelieu (V)	

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Chambly (59,947 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of Chambly (18,535 electors) including the Ville de Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville.

CHÂTEAUGUAY

44,628 electors (-1.3% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Châteauguay would comprise the following municipalities:

Châteauguay (V)	Mercier (V)
Léry (V)	Saint-Isidore (P)

This division would also comprise the Indian reserve of Kahnawake.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Châteauguay (56,256 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of Châteauguay (11,628 electors) including the Ville de Sainte-Catherine.

GRANBY

47,088 electors (+4.2% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Granby would comprise the Ville de Granby.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Shefford (55,221 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of Shefford (8,133 electors) including the following municipalities: Shefford (CT), Warden (VL) and Waterloo (V).

HUNTINGDON

40,829 electors (-9.7% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Huntingdon would comprise the following municipalities:

Dundee (CT)	Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle (P)
Elgin (M)	Saint-Blaise-sur-Richelieu (M)
Franklin (M)	Saint-Chrysostome (M)
Godmanchester (CT)	Sainte-Clotilde (M)
Havelock (CT)	Saint-Cyprien-de-Napierville (M)
Hemmingford (CT)	Saint-Édouard (P)
Hemmingford (VL)	Saint-Jacques-le-Mineur (P)
Hinchinbrooke (CT)	Sainte-Martine (M)
Howick (M)	Saint-Michel (P)
Huntingdon (V)	Saint-Patrice-de-Sherrington (P)
Lacolle (M)	Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix (M)
Napierville (M)	Saint-Urbain-Premier (M)
Ormstown (M)	Saint-Valentin (M)
Saint-Anicet (P)	Très-Saint-Sacrement (P)
Sainte-Barbe (M)	

This division would also comprise the Indian reserve of Akwesasne.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Huntingdon (44,133 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Saint-Jean (1,520 electors) including the Municipalité de Saint-Blaise-sur-Richelieu.	Part of the current division of Huntingdon (4,824 electors) including the Ville de Saint-Rémi.

IBERVILLE

41,966 electors (-7.2% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Iberville would comprise the following municipalities:

Ange-Gardien (M)	Sainte-Anne-de-Sabrevois (P)
Henryville (M)	Sainte-Brigide-d'Iberville (M)
Marieville (V)	Saint-Césaire (V)
Mont-Saint-Grégoire (M)	Saint-Georges-de-Clarenceville (M)
Noyan (M)	Saint-Paul-d'Abbotsford (M)
Rougemont (M)	Saint-Sébastien (P)
Saint-Alexandre (M)	Venise-en-Québec (M)
Sainte-Angèle-de-Monnoir (M)	

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu situated to the east of the rivière Richelieu.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Iberville (45,780 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of Iberville (3,814 electors) including the Ville de Saint-Pie.

LA PINIÈRE

53,592 electors (+18.5% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of La Pinière would comprise the Ville de Brossard.

The proposed division of La Pinière would be identical to the current division.

LAPORTE

45,543 electors (+0.7% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Laporte would comprise the Ville de Saint-Lambert.

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Longueuil that corresponds to the borough of Greenfield Park.

It would also comprise a part of the Ville de Longueuil situated in the borough of Vieux-Longueuil that corresponds to the former Ville de LeMoyne as it existed on December 31, 2001.

In addition, it would comprise a part of the Ville de Longueuil situated in the borough of Saint-Hubert and bounded as follows: the boundary of the borough of Saint-Hubert with the borough of Vieux-Longueuil, the railway line of the Canadian National Railway Company running alongside the boulevard Maricourt and the boundary of the borough of Saint-Hubert with the borough of Greenfield Park.

The proposed division of Laporte would be identical to the current division.

LA PRAIRIE

37,813 electors (-16.4% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of La Prairie would comprise the following municipalities:

Candiac (V)	La Prairie (V)
Delson (V)	Saint-Philippe (M)

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of La Prairie (56,735 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of La Prairie (18,922 electors) including the following municipalities: Saint-Constant (V) and Saint-Mathieu (M).

MARGUERITE-D'YOUVILLE

48,949 electors (+8.3% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Marguerite-D'Youville would comprise the following municipalities:

Boucherville (V)	Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville (V)

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Marguerite-D'Youville (51,406 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Chambly (18,535 electors) including the Ville de Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville.	Part of the current division of Marguerite-D'Youville (20,992 electors) including the Ville de Sainte-Julie.

MARIE-VICTORIN

47,635 electors (+5.4% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Marie-Victorin would comprise the part of the Ville de Longueuil that corresponds to the part of the borough of Vieux-Longueuil situated to the south of the chemin de Chambly with the exception of the former Ville de LeMoyne as it existed on December 31, 2001.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Marie-Victorin (40,778 electors) and the following change:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Taillon (6,857 electors) situated in the borough of Vieux-Longueuil and bounded as follows: the boulevard Jacques-Cartier Ouest, the chemin de Chambly, the boundary of the borough of Vieux-Longueuil and a line in a southern direction from the intersection of the rue Sainte-Hélène with the boulevard Jacques-Cartier Ouest.	None.

RICHELIEU

46,275 electors (+2.4% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Richelieu would comprise the following municipalities:

Massueville (VL)	Saint-Jude (M)
Saint-Aimé (M)	Saint-Louis (M)
Sainte-Anne-de-Sorel (M)	Saint-Marcel-de-Richelieu (M)
Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu (M)	Saint-Ours (V)
Saint-Bernard-de-Michaudville (M)	Saint-Robert (M)
Saint-David (M)	Saint-Roch-de-Richelieu (M)
Saint-Denis-sur-Richelieu (M)	Sainte-Victoire-de-Sorel (M)
Saint-Gérard-Majella (P)	Sorel-Tracy (V)
Saint-Joseph-de-Sorel (V)	Yamaska (M)

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Richelieu (40,587 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Nicolet-Yamaska (1,228 electors) including the following municipalities: Saint-David (M), Saint-Gérard-Majella (P) and Saint-Marcel-de-Richelieu (M) and a section of the Municipalité de Yamaska (3 electors) following a change to its municipal boundaries. Part of the current division of Verchères (4,457 electors) including the following municipalities: Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu (M), Saint-Denis-sur-Richelieu (M) and Saint-Roch-de-Richelieu (M).	None.

SAINT-HYACINTHE

54,704 electors (+21.0% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Saint-Hyacinthe would comprise the following municipalities:

La Présentation (M)	Saint-Hyacinthe (V)
Saint-Barnabé-Sud (M)	Saint-Liboire (M)
Saint-Damase (M)	Saint-Pie (V)
Saint-Dominique (M)	Saint-Simon (M)
Saint-Hugues (M)	

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Saint-Hyacinthe (49,173 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Iberville (3,814 electors) including the Ville de Saint-Pie.	None.
Part of the current division of Verchères (1,717 electors) including the Municipalité de La Présentation.	

SAINT-JEAN

53,948 electors (+19.3% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Saint-Jean would comprise the part of the Ville de Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu situated to the west of the rivière Richelieu.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Saint-Jean (55,468 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of Saint-Jean (1,520 electors) including the Municipalité de Saint-Blaise-sur-Richelieu.

SANGUINET

35,374 electors (-21.8% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Sanguinet would comprise the following municipalities:

Sainte-Catherine (V)	Saint-Mathieu (M)
Saint-Constant (V)	Saint-Rémi (V)

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of La Prairie (56,735 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Châteauguay (11,628 electors) including the Ville de Sainte-Catherine. Part of the current division of Huntingdon (4,824 electors) including the Ville de Saint-Rémi.	Part of the current division of La Prairie (37,813 electors) including the following municipalities: Candiac (V), Delson (V), La Prairie (V) and Saint-Philippe (M).

SOULANGES

41,516 electors (-8.2% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Soulanges would comprise the following municipalities:

Coteau-du-Lac (V)	Sainte-Justine-de-Newton (M)
Les Cèdres (M)	Saint-Lazare (V)
Les Coteaux (M)	Sainte-Marthe (M)
Pointe-des-Cascades (VL)	Saint-Polycarpe (M)
Pointe-Fortune (VL)	Saint-Télesphore (P)
Rigaud (M)	Saint-Zotique (M)
Rivière-Beaudette (M)	Très-Saint-Rédempteur (M)
Saint-Clet (M)	

The proposed division of Soulanges would be identical to the current division.

TAILLON

48,919 electors (+8.2% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Taillon would comprise the part of the Ville de Longueuil that corresponds to the part of the borough of Vieux-Longueuil situated to the north of the chemin de Chambly.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Taillon (55,776 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of Taillon (6,857 electors) situated in the borough of Vieux-Longueuil and bounded as follows: the boulevard Jacques-Cartier Ouest, the chemin de Chambly, the boundary of the borough of Vieux-Longueuil and a line in a southern direction from the intersection of the rue Sainte-Hélène with the boulevard Jacques-Cartier Ouest.

VACHON

44,833 electors (-0.8% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Vachon would comprise the part of the Ville de Longueuil situated in the borough of Saint-Hubert and bounded as follows: the boundary of the borough of Saint-Hubert and the railway line of the Canadian National Railway Company running alongside the boulevard Maricourt.

The proposed division of Vachon would be identical to the current division.

VAUDREUIL

50,007 electors (+10.6% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Vaudreuil would comprise the following municipalities:

Hudson (V)	Pincourt (V)
L'Île-Cadieux (V)	Terrasse-Vaudreuil (M)
L'Île-Perrot (V)	Vaudreuil-Dorion (V)
Notre-Dame-de-l'Île-Perrot (V)	Vaudreuil-sur-le-Lac (VL)

The proposed division of Vaudreuil would be identical to the current division.

VERCHÈRES

51,821 electors (+14.6% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Verchères would comprise the following municipalities:

Calixa-Lavallée (P)	Sainte-Julie (V)
Contrecoeur (V)	Varennes (V)
Saint-Amable (M)	Verchères (M)

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Verchères (43,674 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Marguerite-D'Youville (20,992 electors) including the Ville de Sainte-Julie.	Part of the current division of Verchères (12,845 electors) including the following municipalities: La Présentation (M), Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu (M), Saint-Charles-sur-Richelieu (M), Saint-Denis-sur-Richelieu (M), Sainte-Madeleine (VL), Saint-Marc-sur-Richelieu (M), Sainte-Marie-Madeleine (P) and Saint-Roch-de-Richelieu (M).

5.13 Outaouais

Portrait of the situation

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Chapleau	52,992	+17.2%
Gatineau	48,858	+8.1%
Hull	48,197	+6.6%
Papineau	54,695	+21.0%
Pontiac	45,982	+1.7%
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

The Outaouais region has five divisions and its electoral population has undergone substantial growth between 2000 and 2007. This region has posted a growth rate of 9.0% in comparison with 5.8% for Québec as a whole.

The three rural-most divisions of the Outaouais region have witnessed the greatest growth in the region, posting growth rates varying between 11.6% and 13.4%. This growth is mainly attributable to the development of the suburbs observed around the Ville de Gatineau. Among the three divisions, that of Papineau has seen its number of electors progress rapidly towards the maximum limit allowed under the Election Act. As a result, this division will find itself in an exception situation if no change is made to it.

The region's two urban-most divisions, those of Chapleau and Hull, have witnessed less sustained growth between 2000 and 2007. The deviation of their number of electors from the provincial average has thus remained relatively stable for the same period.

Preliminary delimitation proposal

	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Chapleau	52,956	+17.1%
Gatineau	51,242	+13.3%
Hull	51,509	+13.9%
Papineau	52,347	+15.8%
Pontiac	42,670	-5.6%
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

In the preliminary report, changes were made to the five divisions of the Outaouais region. First, the Commission suggested withdrawing the Municipalité de Val-des-Monts from the division of Papineau to avoid the latter finding itself in an imminent exception situation. This municipality was added to the neighbouring division of Gatineau.

To compensate for this addition to the division of Gatineau, it was proposed to remove from the division the urban part located in the southernmost area of its territory within the Ville de Gatineau. The southern boundary of this division thus became the ruisseau Desjardins. It was then proposed to add this removed urban part to the division of Chapleau, which already comprised the major portion of the Ville de Gatineau. Finally, an adjustment was also proposed between this latter division and that of Papineau in order to maintain the number of electors of the division of Chapleau below the maximum limit of +25%.

Finally, the preliminary delimitation proposal comprised a boundary change between the divisions of Hull and Pontiac. The division of Hull was expanded westward in order to consolidate certain residential neighbourhoods, including that of Plateau, which is located to the north of the boulevard des

Allumettières. The delimitation currently in effect divides these neighbourhoods owing to the fact that it is based on a former municipal boundary.

Revised delimitation proposal

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Chapleau	52,956	+17.1%
Gatineau	51,242	+13.3%
Hull	49,689	+9.9%
Papineau	52,347	+15.8%
Pontiac	44,490	-1.6%
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

During its public hearing tour, the Commission stopped in the Ville de Gatineau to hear the persons interested in the electoral map proposal for the Outaouais region. The Commission found that its delimitation proposal was well received by the community. The majority of the participants mentioned that they understood the objective of aiming to achieve balance between the divisions.

Specifically, the proposed changes between the divisions of Chapleau, Papineau and Gatineau led to a fairer distribution of electors between them. Consequently, the Commission proposes no additional change to the delimitation of its preliminary report.

The Commission once again proposes withdrawing the Municipalité de Val-des-Monts from the division of Papineau to add this municipality to the division of Gatineau. This municipality notably joins other municipalities with similar interests, which are also part of the regional county municipality of Collines-de-l'Outaouais, such as the Municipalité de Cantley.

Next, it is suggested to withdraw from the division of Gatineau its most urban portion, starting from the ruisseau Desjardins in the Ville de Gatineau. Some adjustments between the divisions of Chapleau and Papineau are also suggested. Their delimitation is henceforth based on the boulevard Labrosse and the boulevard Lorrain.

However, in light of the comments that were made to it, the Commission proposes new adjustments to the boundary between the divisions of Hull and Pontiac. In so doing, the Commission wishes to establish a better balance between both divisions in comparison with its preliminary proposal. The Commission also wants to make sure that its prime objective is met, namely to avoid the splitting up of homogenous residential neighbourhoods.

Consequently, it is still proposed to consolidate the neighbourhood situated to the north of the boulevard des Allumettières, known under the name of Plateau, within the division of Hull. To the south of the same boulevard, the Commission suggests maintaining the sector located to the west of the pont Champlain in the division of Pontiac. This is the neighbourhood known under the name

of the Parc Champlain. Following the public consultation held in the region, the Commission considers that this neighbourhood has more affinities with the sector of Aylmer and the division of Pontiac.

Description of the proposed electoral divisions

CHAPLEAU

52,956 electors (+17.1% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Chapleau would comprise the part of the Ville de Gatineau bounded as follows: the autoroute de l'Outaouais (50), the boulevard Lorrain, the railway line of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, the boulevard Labrosse, the rue Sanscartier, its extension, the limit of the Ville de Gatineau in the rivière des Outaouais including the île Kettle, the rivière Gatineau, the ruisseau Desjardins, the avenue Gatineau and the boulevard La Vérendrye Ouest.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Chapleau (52,992 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Gatineau (4,663 electors) including the part of the Ville de Gatineau bounded as follows: the boulevard La Vérendrye Ouest, the autoroute de l'Outaouais (50), the rivière Gatineau, the ruisseau Desjardins and the avenue Gatineau.	Part of the current division of Chapleau (4,699 electors) including the part of the Ville de Gatineau bounded as follows: the autoroute de l'Outaouais (50), the rivière Blanche, the railway line of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, the boulevard Lorrain, the boulevard Maloney Est, the chemin du Lac, its extension, the limit of the Ville de Gatineau in the rivière des Outaouais excluding the île Kettle, the extension of the rue Sanscartier, the rue Sanscartier, the boulevard Labrosse, the railway line of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the boulevard Lorrain.

GATINEAU

51,242 electors (+13.3% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Gatineau would comprise the following municipalities:

Aumond (CT)	Grand-Remous (M)
Blue Sea (M)	Kazabazua (M)
Bois-Franc (M)	La Pêche (M)
Bouchette (M)	Lac-Sainte-Marie (M)

Cantley (M)	Low (CT)
Cayamant (M)	Maniwaki (V)
Chelsea (M)	Messines (M)
Déléage (M)	Montcerf-Lytton (M)
Denholm (M)	Sainte-Thérèse-de-la-Gatineau (M)
Egan-Sud (M)	Val-des-Monts (M)
Gracefield (V)	

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Gatineau bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Gatineau, the montée Mineault, the autoroute de l'Outaouais (50), the boulevard La Vérendrye Ouest, the avenue Gatineau, the ruisseau Desjardins, the rivière Gatineau and the limit of the Ville de Gatineau.

It would also comprise the following Indian reserves:

Kitigan Zibi	Lac-Rapide

It would also comprise the following unorganized territories:

Cascades-Malignes	Lac-Moselle
Dépôt-Échouani	Lac-Pythonga
Lac-Lenôtre	

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Gatineau (48,858 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Papineau (7,047 electors) including the Municipalité de Val-des-Monts.	Part of the current division of Gatineau (4,663 electors) including the part of the Ville de Gatineau bounded as follows: the boulevard La Vérendrye Ouest, the autoroute de l'Outaouais (50), the rivière Gatineau, the ruisseau Desjardins and the avenue Gatineau.

Part of the current division of Gatineau (no elector) including the part of the Ville de Gatineau bounded as follows: the rivière Gatineau, the limit of the Ville de Hull as it existed on December 31, 2001, the limit of the Ville de Gatineau. |

HULL

49,689 electors (+9.9% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Hull would comprise the part of the Ville de Gatineau bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Gatineau, the rivière Gatineau, the limit of the Ville de Gatineau in the rivière des Outaouais, the pont Champlain, the place Samuel-de-Champlain, the chemin d'Aylmer, the western boundary of lot 1 794 763, its extension, the boulevard des Allumettières and the chemin Vanier, the chemin de la Montagne and the chemin Notch.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Hull (48,197 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Pontiac (1,392 electors) including the part of the Ville de Gatineau bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Gatineau, the limit of the Ville de Hull as it existed on December 31, 2001, the boulevard des Allumettières and the chemin Vanier, the chemin de la Montagne and the chemin Notch.	Part of the current division of Hull (no elector) including the part of the Ville de Gatineau bounded as follows: the boulevard des Allumettières, the extension of the western boundary of lot 1 794 763, the limit of the Ville de Hull as it existed on December 31, 2001.
Part of the current division of Pontiac (100 electors) including the part of the Ville de Gatineau bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Hull as it existed on December 31, 2001, the limit of the Ville de Gatineau in the rivière des Outaouais, the pont Champlain, the place Samuel-de-Champlain, the chemin d'Aylmer, the western boundary of lot 1 794 763.	
Part of the current division of Gatineau (no elector) including the part of the Ville de Gatineau bounded as follows: the rivière Gatineau, the limit of the Ville de Hull as it existed on December 31, 2001, the limit of the Ville de Gatineau.	

PAPINEAU

52,347 electors (+15.8% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Papineau would comprise the following municipalities:

Boileau (M)	Mulgrave-et-Derry (M)
Bowman (M)	Namur (M)
Chénéville (M)	Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours (M)

Duhamel (M)	Notre-Dame-de-la-Paix (M)
Fassett (M)	Notre-Dame-de-la-Salette (M)
Lac-des-Plages (M)	Papineauville (M)
Lac-Simon (M)	Plaisance (M)
L'Ange-Gardien (M)	Ripon (M)
Lochaber (CT)	Saint-André-Avellin (M)
Lochaber-Partie-Ouest (CT)	Saint-Émile-de-Suffolk (M)
Mayo (M)	Saint-Sixte (M)
Montebello (M)	Thurso (V)
Montpellier (M)	Val-des-Bois (M)

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Gatineau bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Gatineau, the limit of the Ville de Gatineau in the rivière des Outaouais excluding the île Kettle, the extension of the rue Sanscartier, the rue Sanscartier, the boulevard Labrosse, the railway line of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, the boulevard Lorrain, the autoroute de l'Outaouais (50) and the montée Mineault.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Papineau (54,695 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Chapleau (4,699 electors) including the part of the Ville de Gatineau bounded as follows: the autoroute de l'Outaouais (50), the rivière Blanche, the railway line of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, the boulevard Lorrain, the boulevard Maloney Est, the chemin du Lac, the extension of the chemin du Lac, the rivière des Outaouais excluding the île Kettle, the extension of the rue Sanscartier, the rue Sanscartier, the boulevard Labrosse, the railway line of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the boulevard Lorrain.	Part of the current division of Papineau (7,047 electors) including the Municipalité de Val-des-Monts.

PONTIAC

44,490 electors (-1.6% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Pontiac would comprise the following municipalities:

Alleyn-et-Cawood (M)	Mansfield-et-Pontefract (M)
Bristol (M)	Otter Lake (M)
Bryson (M)	Pontiac (M)
Campbell's Bay (M)	Portage-du-Fort (VL)
Chichester (CT)	Rapides-des-Joachims (M)
Clarendon (M)	Shawville (M)
Fort-Coulonge (VL)	Sheenboro (M)
L'Île-du-Grand-Calumet (M)	Thorne (M)
L'Isle-aux-Allumettes (M)	Waltham (M)
Litchfield (M)	

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Gatineau bounded as follows: the chemin Notch, the chemin de la Montagne and the chemin Vanier, the boulevard des Allumettières, the extension of the western boundary of lot 1 794 763, this boundary, the chemin d'Aylmer, the place Samuel-de-Champlain, the pont Champlain, the limit of the Ville de Gatineau in the rivière des Outaouais and the limit of the Ville de Gatineau.

It would also comprise the unorganized territory of Lac-Nilgaut.

Changes made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Pontiac (45,982 electors) and the following changes:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Hull (no elector) including the part of the Ville de Gatineau bounded as follows: the boulevard des Allumettières, the extension of the western boundary of lot 1 794 763, the limit of the Ville de Hull as it existed on December 31, 2001.	Part of the current division of Pontiac (1,392 electors) including the part of the Ville de Gatineau bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Gatineau, the limit of the Ville de Hull as it existed on December 31, 2001, the boulevard des Allumettières and the chemin Vanier, the chemin de la Montagne and the chemin Notch. Part of the current division of Pontiac (100 electors) including the part of the Ville de Gatineau bounded as follows: the limit of the Ville de Hull as it existed on December 31, 2001, the limit of the Ville de Gatineau in the rivière des Outaouais, the pont Champlain, the place Samuel-de-Champlain, the chemin d'Aylmer and the western boundary of lot 1 794 763.

5.14 Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean

Portrait of the situation

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Chicoutimi	46,114	+2.0%
Dubuc	37,412	-17.2%
Jonquière	43,964	-2.8%
Lac-Saint-Jean	41,505	-8.2%
Roberval	44,827	-0.8%
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

The Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean region has five electoral divisions, which cover a vast territory spanning more than 100,000 km^2. Despite this fact, the entire population is mainly concentrated alongside the rivière Saguenay and the lac Saint-Jean. The electoral population of this region has witnessed a negative growth on the order of 0.6% between 2000 and 2007, which is well below the growth rate of Québec, namely 5.8%.

All of the region's divisions have witnessed a growth of their electoral population that has been less than the provincial average since 2000. Despite this fact, none of the divisions is in an exception situation or is likely to find itself in such a situation in the near term.

The only division whose number of electors is considered low in comparison with the provincial average is that of Dubuc. Owing to its negative growth context, this division will approach the minimum limit allowed under the Election Act in the years to come.

Preliminary delimitation proposal

	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Chicoutimi	38,178	-15.5%
Dubuc	44,725	-1.1%
Jonquière	43,964	-2.8%
Lac-Saint-Jean	41,503	-8.2%
Roberval	44,829	-0.8%
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

In its preliminary report, the Commission proposed changes mainly to the divisions of Chicoutimi and Dubuc in the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean region. The purpose of the changes was to adjust, wherever possible, the boundaries of the divisions to the boundaries of the boroughs of the Ville de Saguenay.

It was thus proposed to expand the division of Chicoutimi in its southern part to have it include the entire part of the borough of Chicoutimi located to the south of the rivière Saguenay. The part of this borough located to the north of the rivière Saguenay was added to the division of Dubuc, thereby bringing its number of electors close to the provincial average. In addition, it was proposed to transfer the Municipalité de Petit-Saguenay to the division of René-Lévesque to correct the latter's elector deficit.

It was also suggested that the division of Jonquière include only the part of the borough of Jonquière located to the south of the rivière Saguenay; a change that involved no elector.

Finally, the division of Roberval was slightly expanded to the north of the locality of Sainte-Élisabeth-de-Proulx in the unorganized territory of Passes-Dangereures (formerly "Chutes-des-Passes") in order to include the township of Hudon in this division.

Revised delimitation proposal

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation
Chicoutimi	46,114	+2.0%
Dubuc	37,412	-17.2%
Jonquière	43,964	-2.8%
Lac-Saint-Jean	41,127	-9.0%
Roberval	45,205	0.0%
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

In light of the public hearings, the Commission would like to suggest changes to its preliminary delimitation proposal in the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean region. Indeed, a majority of the participants informed the Commission of their wish to preserve the urban and semi-urban fabric of the division of Chicoutimi in only this division. It is thus proposed that the division retain its current boundaries on both sides of the rivière Saguenay. It should be noted that this readjustment requires returning the southern part of the borough of Chicoutimi to the division of Dubuc.

Another change concerns the Municipalité de Petit-Saguenay. While the Commission suggested in its preliminary report adding this municipality to the division of René-Lévesque due to its critical situation, the Commission now proposes reintegrating the Municipalité de Petit-Saguenay in the division of Dubuc. Indeed, several participants demonstrated this municipality's profound attachment to the division of Dubuc and, more generally, to the Saguenay region.

Moreover, it is still proposed to consolidate the part of the borough of Jonquière located to the south of the rivière Saguenay within the division of Jonquière; this change involves no elector.

Finally, the Commission proposes modifying the boundary between the divisions of Lac-Saint-Jean and Roberval to ensure greater harmony with the boundaries of the regional county municipalities in this sector. Consequently, the Village de Saint-André-du-Lac-Saint-Jean is added to the proposed division of Roberval in order to include it with the other municipalities of the regional county municipality of Domaine-du-Roy. In addition, it is once again suggested to expand the division slightly within the unorganized territory of Passes-Dangereuses in order to include the township of Hudon.

Description of the proposed electoral divisions

CHICOUTIMI

46,114 electors (+2.0% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Chicoutimi would comprise the part of the Ville de Saguenay that corresponds to the Ville de Chicoutimi as it existed on February 17, 2002.

The proposed division of Chicoutimi would be identical to the current division.

DUBUC

37,412 electors (-17.2% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Dubuc would comprise the following municipalities:

Bégin (M)	Saint-Charles-de-Bourget (M)
Ferland-et-Boilleau (M)	Saint-David-de-Falardeau (M)
L'Anse-Saint-Jean (M)	Saint-Félix-d'Otis (M)
Petit-Saguenay (M)	Saint-Fulgence (M)
Rivière-Éternité (M)	Saint-Honoré (M)
Saint-Ambroise (M)	Sainte-Rose-du-Nord (P)

This division would also comprise the part of the Ville de Saguenay that corresponds to the part of the borough of Jonquière situated to the north of the rivière Saguenay.

It would also comprise the part of the Ville de Saguenay situated in the borough of Chicoutimi and that corresponds to the Ville de Laterrière as it existed on February 17, 2002.

In addition, it would comprise the part of the Ville de Saguenay that corresponds to the borough of La Baie.

Finally, it would comprise the following unorganized territories:

Lac-Ministuk	Mont-Valin
Lalemant	

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Dubuc (37,412 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
Part of the current division of Jonquière (no elector) situated to the north of the rivière Saguenay.	None.

JONQUIÈRE

43,964 electors (-2.8% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Jonquière would comprise the part of the Ville de Saguenay that corresponds to the part of the borough of Jonquière situated to the south of the rivière Saguenay.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Jonquière (43,964 electors) and the following change:

Addition	Withdrawal
None.	Part of the current division of Jonquière (no elector) situated to the north of the rivière Saguenay.

LAC-SAINT-JEAN

41,127 electors (-9.0% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Lac-Saint-Jean would comprise the following municipalities:

Alma (V)	Métabetchouan–Lac-à-la-Croix (V)
Desbiens (V)	Saint-Bruno (M)
Hébertville (M)	Saint-Gédéon (M)
Hébertville-Station (VL)	Saint-Henri-de-Taillon (M)
Labrecque (M)	Saint-Ludger-de-Milot (M)
Lamarche (M)	Sainte-Monique (M)

| Larouche (M) | Saint-Nazaire (M) |
| L'Ascension-de-Notre-Seigneur (P) | |

This division would also comprise the following unorganized territories:

| Belle-Rivière | Lac-Moncouche |
| Lac-Achouakan | Mont-Apica |

It would also comprise the unorganized territory of Passes-Dangereuses without the township of Proulx (part) and the township of Hudon.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Lac-Saint-Jean (41,505 electors) and the following change:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
None.	Part of the current division of Lac-Saint-Jean (378 electors) including the Village de Saint-André-du-Lac-Saint-Jean and the part of the unorganized territory of Passes-Dangereuses, which corresponds to the township of Hudon.

ROBERVAL

45,205 electors (0.0% deviation from the provincial average)

Description

The division of Roberval would comprise the following municipalities:

Albanel (M)	Saint-Augustin (P)
Chambord (M)	Saint-Edmond-les-Plaines (M)
Dolbeau-Mistassini (V)	Saint-Eugène-d'Argentenay (M)
Girardville (M)	Saint-Félicien (V)
La Doré (P)	Saint-François-de-Sales (M)
Lac-Bouchette (M)	Sainte-Hedwidge (M)
Normandin (V)	Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc (VL)

Notre-Dame-de-Lorette (M)	Saint-Prime (M)
Péribonka (M)	Saint-Stanislas (M)
Roberval (V)	Saint-Thomas-Didyme (M)
Saint-André-du-Lac-Saint-Jean (VL)	

This division would also comprise the Indian reserve of Mashteuiatsh.

It would also comprise the following unorganized territories:

Lac-Ashuapmushuan	Rivière-Mistassini

Moreover, it would also comprise the part of the unorganized territory of Passes-Dangereuses made up of the township of Proulx (part) and the township of Hudon.

Change made

The division would thus be formed based on the current division of Roberval (44,827 electors) and the following change:

Addition	*Withdrawal*
Part of the current division of Lac-Saint-Jean (378 electors) including the Village de Saint-André-du-Lac-Saint-Jean and the part of the unorganized territory of Passes-Dangereuses which corresponds to the township of Hudon.	None.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS: A FEW FINDINGS

The comments and suggestions made by various participants during the public hearings allowed the Commission de la représentation électorale to make changes to the proposed electoral map to ensure that it better corresponds to the realties and the natural communities of the various divisions in accordance with the criteria of the Election Act. Other comments were also made to the Commission which, for various reasons, is unable to follow up on them.

The Commission promised citizens that it would convey some of their concerns to elected officials. This chapter thus contains comments and recommendations that were made during the public consultation tour, and the Commission respectfully submits them to the Members of the National Assembly for consideration.

6.1 An electoral map left unchanged

On several occasions during the public hearings, participants desired the status quo for their electoral division. This comment was more frequently made in those regions where the Commission proposed major changes and, in particular, in those affected by a withdrawal of a division.

Among the various reasons, historical considerations were mentioned to justify the fact that the boundaries of an electoral division should remain unchanged. Citizens identify with their division and have developed a feeling of belonging to it. Over the years, ties have also been forged between the representatives of organizations, citizens and the Member of the National Assembly (MNA). The effect of the changes made to the electoral map is to sever the well established ties between the MNA and his constituents. With each reform, new ties must be forged and the MNA must necessarily familiarize himself with new files and get to know a new territory.

For its part, the Commission recognizes the importance of historical factors. It is aware that changes to the electoral map often alter a well established dynamic within an electoral division. However, the Commission considers that it cannot, for these reasons alone, refrain from carrying out its mandate and from fulfilling its obligation to revise the provincial electoral map in order to take into account population movements and to correct existing unfair situations.

Moreover, section 19 of the Election Act makes provision for this demographic evolution. This section expressly requires a new delimitation of the electoral divisions after every second general election. By definition, an electoral division is not permanent; it evolves over time.

Other participants stated that they were in agreement with amending the electoral map to correct population imbalances, but provided that the boundaries of their electoral division remain unchanged.

In some regions, there are electoral divisions that form groups by reason of the similarity of their elector deficit or surplus situation, as the case may be. By moving the electors of a given electoral division, one inevitably produces a domino effect that impacts neighbouring divisions. In a region where the inequalities in representation are major, it is at times hard to correct the imbalances by only modifying, for example, a boundary between two divisions. Occasionally, situations may require changes to a set of electoral divisions in order to arrive at a delimitation that respects both the numerical criterion and the natural communities.

6.2 Respecting the administrative boundaries of Québec

In its delimitation of the divisions, the Commission endeavours to take into account the various administrative boundaries of Québec. Incidentally, this was a request that was made on several occasions during the public hearings.

The establishment of regional conferences of elected officers (RCEOs) in 2004 and the expansion of the jurisdictions of regional county municipalities since their creation in the early 1980s have led to an increase in the importance that some participants place on the various administrative boundaries. Increasingly, local elected officials and citizens identify themselves with the territories that these authorities represent, often considering these territories as being their natural community.

Some participants also told the members of the Commission that it was not desirable for the territory of an electoral division to overlap several regional county municipalities and administrative regions. It then becomes more difficult, according to these participants, to meet with their MNA whereas for the latter, the multiplicity of players makes his work more complex. For example, the MNA must participate in various regional councils and several consultation bodies.

Moreover, the public's identification with the boundaries of the regional county municipalities varies from one region to another. Whereas in some regions the full respect of the administrative boundaries or the boundaries of regional county municipalities is an important issue, in other regions citizens and local elected officials stated that they see few advantages in respecting the boundaries. In their opinion, these boundaries do not necessarily correspond to their natural community.

Québec has 17 administrative regions, 86 regional county municipalities, 60 French-language school boards and 9 English-language school boards whose size varies significantly. For example, the number of electors of some regional county municipalities is below 10,000, whereas for others it exceeds 100,000. It is therefore difficult, even impossible, for the Commission to establish a delimitation having 125 divisions that correspond in full to these administrative boundaries. Choices must occasionally be made.

Despite this difficulty, the Commission has endeavoured, wherever possible, to base its delimitation on the various administrative boundaries of Québec while respecting the criteria of the Act. The Commission has also taken into account the comments of the representatives of certain communities who indicated that, for their community, changes seeking to better respect the boundaries of the regional county municipalities were not desirable.

6.3 The economic difficulties of some regions

The difficult economic context of some regions was cited frequently during the public hearings, notably in remote regions. Factory or school closures, the high unemployment rate, labour problems and the migration of the population, young people in particular, to urban centres are all examples that were brought to the attention of the members of the Commission.

Several participants asserted that the effect of the loss of a representative in the National Assembly may be to adversely affect the economic development of the regions. The elected member is said to play the role of development officer in these regions, which is essential for them. For other participants, economic development and the revision of the electoral map must be considered separately. For them, the electoral map should not be seen as an economic development tool and in a perspective where all regions have economic challenges to assume, this factor should not be taken into consideration.

Moreover, the economic difficulties experienced by some regions of Québec are well known and well documented. The members of the Commission are thus keenly aware of this reality. However, the Commission is powerless in the face of this situation. The economic development of the regions is associated with business cycles that do not depend on the Commission's work. The actions that should be taken to "reverse the trend" largely exceed its mandate, as they do not depend solely on the presence or absence of a Member of the National Assembly.

The Commission reiterates that the overlapping of electoral divisions on various administrative entities (administrative regions, regional county municipalities, etc.) has no impact on the economic assistance programs granted to these entities by the government. However, the Commission is aware that this overlapping can add to the workload of an MNA, who would then have to deal, for example, with more elected officials and handle more requests. That is why the Commission suggests that in these cases an evaluation be made of the possibility of harmonizing the territorial application of these programs by means of appropriate mechanisms defined jointly with the community.

In its analyses, the Commission takes into account several factors when delimiting the electoral divisions. Demographics, the surface area, geography, accessibility, the population density and the socioeconomic characteristics of a region are all elements taken into consideration. None of these elements may be considered on its own. It is the examination of a set of data that prompts the Commission to establish a given delimitation instead of another.

In addition, despite the withdrawal of three electoral divisions in this delimitation proposal, most of the remote regions of Québec remain significantly over-represented in relation to more urbanized regions. These remote regions are the regions of Abitibi-Témiscamingue–Nord-du-Québec, Côte-Nord, Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine and, to a lesser extent, Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean. The Commission nevertheless maintains this choice owing to the particular context of the remote regions.

6.4 The role of a Member of the National Assembly

The role of an MNA was among the questions raised during the public consultation tour. An MNA is often recognized as having the threefold role of legislator, controller of government action and intermediary, i.e. ombudsman or intercessor for the public. It is precisely this latter aspect of the elected member's role that was raised abundantly during the public hearings.

Several participants, including some elected members, stated that the role of MNA is harder to play in remote regions given the distances that must be covered, the surface area of the territory, the large number of municipalities that must be served and the transportation problems. Due notably to the distance from urban centres and government services, the high unemployment rate and the economic difficulties, the demands placed on MNAs of rural regions are said to be more numerous and more varied.

For these reasons, these same persons consider that the withdrawal of an MNA in remote regions would cause considerable harm. The remaining MNAs would then have greater difficulty playing their role of intermediary within their electoral division. For their part, citizens and local elected officials fear no longer being able to have access to their MNA. Finally, some participants emphasized that the citizens of remote regions know the name of their MNA whereas in urban areas, such as on the Island of Montréal, citizens are unaware of it. For several participants, this example illustrates the importance of the role of an MNA in remote regions as compared to that of an MNA in large urban centres.

In urban regions, other participants, including some MNAs, made a point of emphasizing to the Commission that the role of an MNA in an urban setting is different but just as important as in remote regions. Problems related to transportation, unemployment, poverty, homelessness, the lack of social housing, crime, and street gangs as well as the challenges associated with the integration of cultural communities are examples of files on which "urban" MNAs must work. Numerous individual cases must be dealt with and the presence of a large number of organizations having a social, economic, cultural or sport vocation results in the task of MNAs in urban areas being varied and the number of files to be dealt with being large.

While the Commission does not have an exhaustive statistical portrait of the work of an elected member in his electoral division, a picture seems to emerge: the role of an MNA, whether he represents a rural or urban division, entails difficulties and a high level of complexity. The maintaining of elected members in remote regions, despite the major decline of their demographic weight in recent years, cannot therefore be justified on the basis of the distinctions between the work of an elected member in remote regions and that of an elected member in urban regions.

However, the Commission recognizes that the distances that must be covered and accessibility are very real challenges for the elected member of a remote region. That is why the Commission considers that an in-depth examination of the means at the member's disposal must be made and that, in this sense, additional resources could be granted to the MNAs of these regions to facilitate their work. Moreover, some elected members mentioned this point during the public hearings. The addition of riding offices and human resources as well better travel allowances are a few examples of possible improvements that were mentioned during the public hearings to ensure effective ties between the MNA and his constituents.

6.5 A new voting system

Just over thirty participants stated that the revision of the electoral map could not, alone, ensure an effective representation of the electoral population. They therefore asked the Commission to also propose in this report a reform of the voting system. The compensatory mixed member voting system appeared to be the model preferred by most of the participants who are in favour of a form of Québec's democratic system.

For his part, the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec examined this question at the request of the Minister responsible for the Reform of Parliamentary Institutions[3]. The mandate, which the government had entrusted to the Chief Electoral Officer, consisted of analyzing the conditions of application of a compensatory mixed member voting system. In his report produced in December 2007, the Chief Electoral Officer stipulated the following:

> In recent years, the Chief Electoral Officer has remained outside the debates on the reform of the voting system, adopting the appropriate reserve in this regard. The institution wished and still wishes to preserve its neutrality and impartiality, which are essential for its role of administrator of the electoral system and arbiter of democracy[4].

For the same reasons, the Commission also considers that it must demonstrate reserve on this subject. It is up to citizens and the Members of the National Assembly to debate the stakes of such a reform and to make this choice.

[3]Directeur général des élections du Québec (2007) Les modalités d'un mode de scrutin mixte compensatoire, Québec, 410 p.
[4]Ibid., p. 13.

However, the Commission would like to take advantage of this opportunity to make a few clarifications, as a distinction needs to be made between the debate underway on the revision of the electoral map and the one on the reform of the voting system. While the electoral map is a component of Québec's electoral system and is related to the voting system, it is important to distinguish the reasons that argue in favour of a reform of the voting system from those leading to a revision of an electoral map.

The advocates of a reform of the voting system see in it a means of better expressing the popular will at the time of elections and of promoting political pluralism in the National Assembly. In other respects, the purpose of the changes to the electoral map is to take into account population movements on the territory in order to ensure a fair representation of electors by taking into consideration the relative equality of votes between them.

Several participants also believe that a reform of the voting system would result in maintaining the number of MNAs in the remote regions of Québec. In the event that there were to be such a reform of the voting system and if the model chosen were to be a compensatory mixed member voting system (multiple member and single member divisions), the Commission would nevertheless have to draw up an electoral map. The recognized criteria for dividing the territory into electoral divisions would remain, and it would be necessary to determine the number of MNAs in the regions based on their demographic weight.

In addition, under such a voting system, single-member divisions would have division members whereas multiple-member divisions would have list members. These two types of members would represent the same territory simultaneously. Electors would thus have more than one member representing them. It should be noted that single-member divisions would be less numerous, would have more electors and would be bigger than the existing provincial divisions. The surface area of single-member divisions would be comparable to that of the current federal ridings.

On this subject, the report produced by the Chief Electoral Officer in December 2007[5] contains simulations. For all these simulations, the number of elected members in the various administrative regions is not greater than that stipulated in this delimitation proposal.

For the time being, the debate underway on the reform of a voting system in Québec must therefore be held separately from that on the revision of the electoral map. While awaiting the continuation of the reflection on a reform of the voting system in Québec, the electoral map must be revised because the inequalities in representation are too great and have to be corrected.

6.6 A decentralization of powers to the regions

The decentralization of powers to the regions, whether or not accompanied by a reform of the voting system, is another request that was frequently made during the public consultation tour. Participants would thus like to see the decision-making power brought closer to citizens by transferring powers from the State to local or regional authorities that would ensure the development of communities by taking into account the concerns that are specific to them.

Several citizens requested a better representation of the regions within parliamentary institutions in order to better assert the viewpoints of these citizens. The establishment of a second legislative house, namely a regional house, is an idea that was raised on several occasions during the public hearing process.

[5] *Ibid.*, p. 94 and following.

Beyond the revision of the electoral map or the reform of the voting system, citizens requested the holding of a vast reflection on the democratic system in Québec and the place of the regions.

Like the reform of the voting system, it is not the Commission's mandate to evaluate or to rule on the need to reform parliamentary institutions or to transfer powers from the State to the regions. As was the case for other topics that were addressed and that go beyond the Commission's power, the Commission considers that its role is limited to conveying to the Members of the National Assembly the concerns that were brought to its attention.

6.7 Amendments to the Election Act

In order to avoid the withdrawal of electoral divisions in those regions where the demographic weight is steadily declining, several participants suggested amending the Election Act in order to add new delimitation criteria. Other participants proposed new models drawing inspiration from Canadian or foreign experiences.

The current Act is based on a fair balance between the equality of the votes of electors and the need to respect other considerations of a geographical, demographic or sociological nature. The ±25% deviation from the provincial average and the possibility of creating, in exceptional cases, electoral divisions that depart from the numerical criterion of the Act give leeway to the Commission. It can thus establish an electoral map that respects the principle of fairness while taking into account the specificity of the territory. The fair balance between these two main factors ensues from a decision that had been handed down in the 1990s, in the *Carter* case, brought before the Supreme Court of Canada.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Commission considers that the legislative amendments that were proposed within the context of the public consultation deserve special attention and that they are avenues of reflection that are essential for the debate in progress. For this reason, an analysis of various proposals is presented in the next chapter.
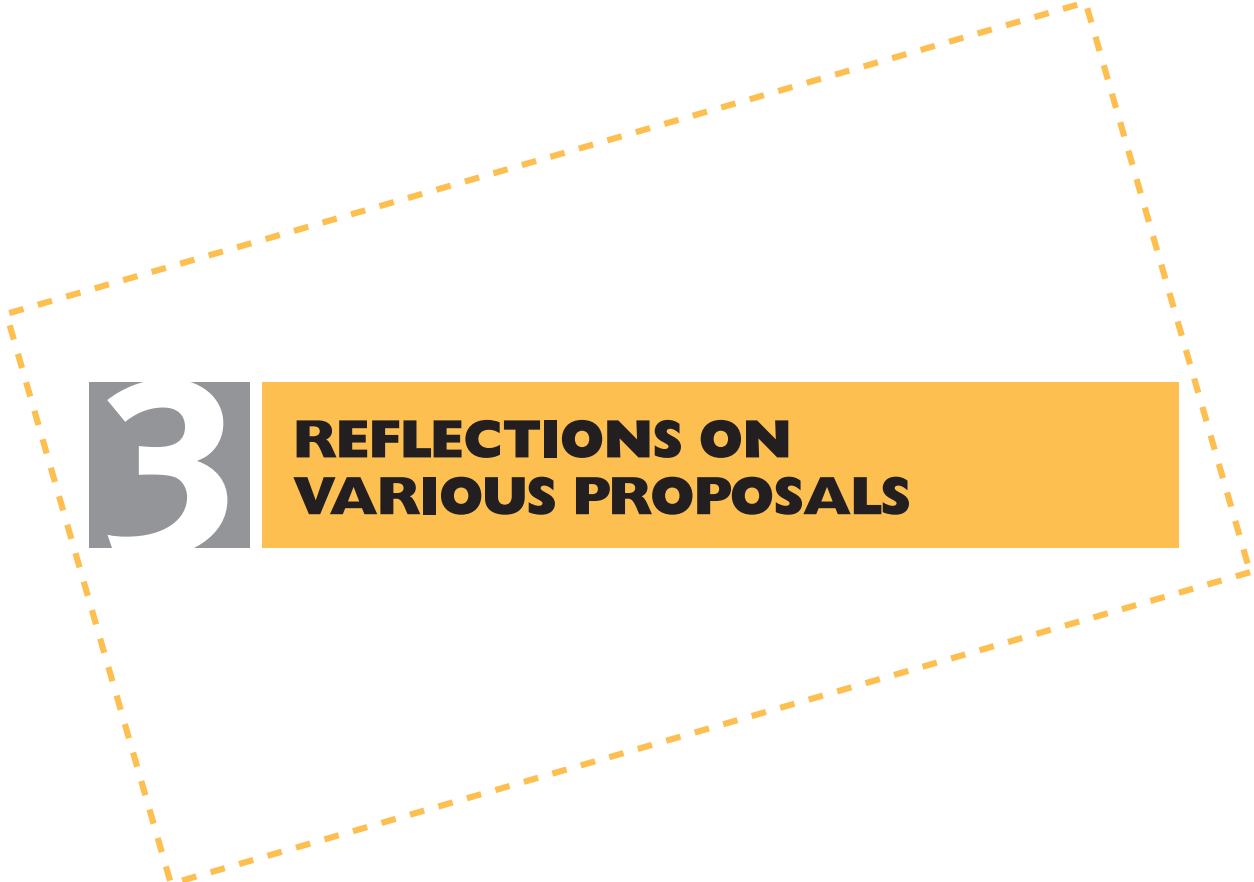
3 REFLECTIONS ON VARIOUS PROPOSALS

7. REFLECTIONS ON VARIOUS PROPOSALS

As was mentioned previously, several citizens suggested legislative amendments to the Commission de la représentation électorale in order to redefine the principles underlying electoral representation in Québec. With a view to enriching the reflection, the Commission analyzed some of the proposals made during the public hearings.

The majority of the proposals submitted to the Commission aim to maintain the electoral divisions in remote regions and in regions where the demographic weight is on the decline. In this chapter, these proposals are examined, then simulated in order to clearly understand their mechanisms and to measure their impact. As citizens currently refer to the electoral map drawn up in 2001, the latter was used to make these simulations.

Here is the list of the analyzed proposals:

1) creation of new exceptional electoral divisions in the Election Act;

2) using the Alberta model adapted to Québec;

3) increasing the number of electoral divisions;

4) increasing the numerical deviation;

5) using a differentiated numerical criterion;

6) setting a minimum number of electoral divisions by administrative region;

7) using the Canadian model adapted to Québec;

8) using the New Zealand model adapted to Québec;

9) fractional voting;

10) weighting the number of electors based on the surface area.

The various proposals presented in this chapter are those which, for the most part, were suggested most often during the public hearings. Different details may vary in the application of each proposal. It should be noted that not all of the possibilities were examined. However, this chapter summarizes the main avenues envisaged.

7.1 Creation of new exceptional electoral divisions in the Election Act

At the present time, pursuant to section 17 of the Act, only one electoral division benefits from an exception status stipulated in the Act: Îles-de-la-Madeleine. Consequently, the Commission has no jurisdiction to modify this division's boundaries.

During the public hearings, several participants requested an exception status similar to the one granted to Îles-de-la-Madeleine for electoral divisions of their region. In order to evaluate this possibility, the Commission analyzed five geographical characteristics that may be taken into consideration for the creation of new exceptional electoral divisions in the Act.

1st Characteristic: Area

The surface area of Québec is an element that is often mentioned to demonstrate the need to create exceptional electoral divisions. Officially, Québec's territory comprises everything included within Québec's borders. The total surface area is approximately 1,690,000 km², whereas the land area represents 89% of the total surface area, i.e. approximately 1,500,000 km². In order to properly measure the territory that will be served by an elected member, use may be made of an ecumene presenting the inhabited territory in diagram form. The territory to be served represents 14% of the land area of Québec, i.e. roughly 210,000 km². In its analysis, the Commission used the land area and the area to be served.

Figure 1: The territory of Québec and its areas

Total surface area	*Land area*	*Area to be served*
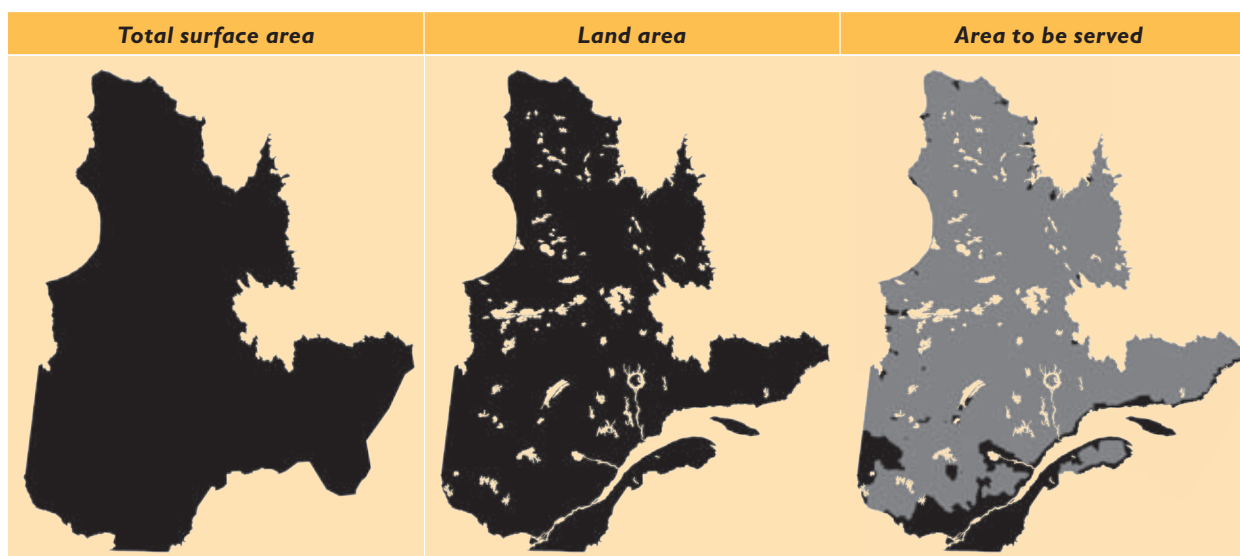
2nd Characteristic: Distance within the electoral division

The distance within the electoral division is another factor that is often raised by elected members and citizens as representing an additional difficulty for establishing effective ties between them. To measure the notion of distance within the electoral division, the Commission calculated the distance by road between the two farthest apart municipalities in the same electoral division.

3rd Characteristic: Distance from the National Assembly

The distance from the National Assembly is another factor that was mentioned by elected members. Indeed, some members stated that they spend a significant proportion of their time driving back and forth between the National Assembly in Québec and their electoral division. The Commission calculated the distance by road between the National Assembly and the office of the elected members in their electoral division. Figure 2 is a visual summary allowing readers to better appreciate the notion of distance from the National Assembly.

Figure 2: Distance from the National Assembly as the crow flies by 100 km segment
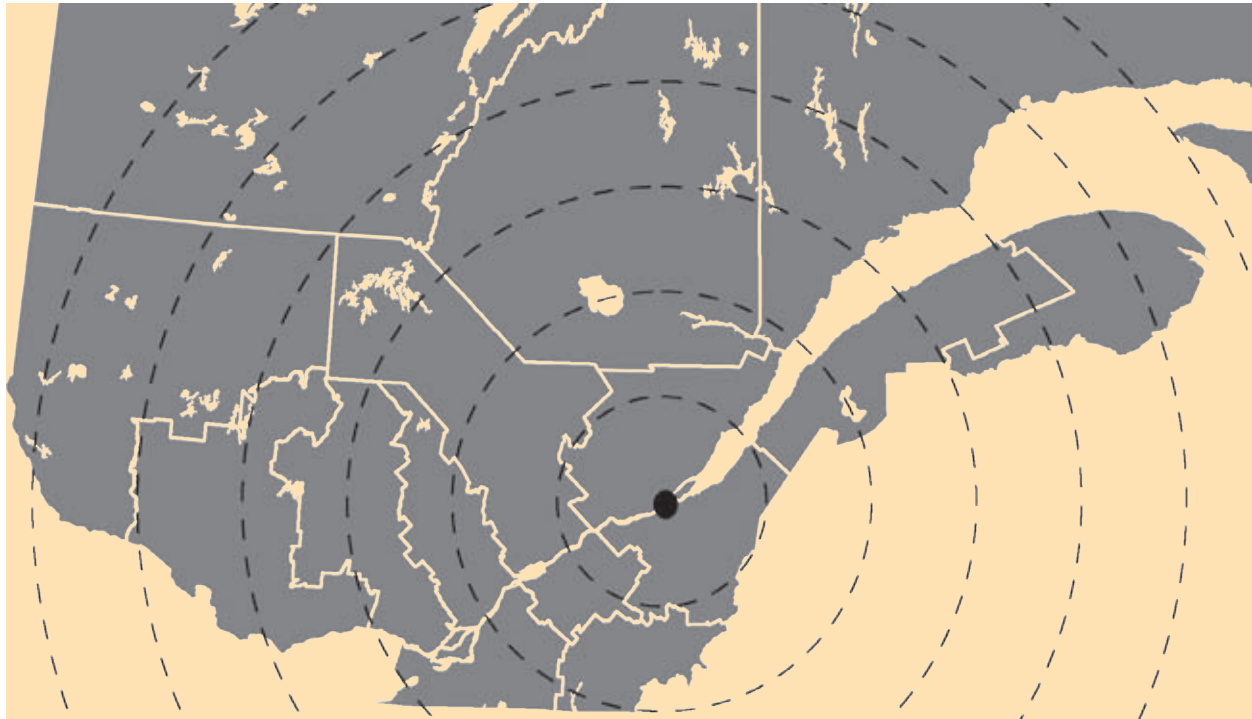
4ᵗʰ Characteristic: Main urban center

The main urban center of an electoral division plays a twofold role. It helps to structure communities of interest and the feeling of belonging that citizens have towards their electoral division, and it generally constitutes a centre of services. The number of electors of an urban area is highly variable from one electoral division to another. An electoral division having a less populous main urban center generally has a population that is more widely dispersed over the territory and implies a more limited supply of specialized services. The Commission therefore paid attention to the number of electors of the main urban center of each electoral division.

5ᵗʰ Characteristic: Number of local municipalities

The number of local municipalities by electoral division is another element considered in this analysis. Some participants mentioned that the presence of a greater number of municipalities increases the work load of the elected member in his electoral division. Since unorganized territories are administered by RCMs and do not have a municipal representative, the Commission excluded them from the analysis.

Table 6 compares some thirty electoral divisions according to these five geographical characteristics. It should be noted that the table uses a shaded background to indicate the five electoral divisions that dominate the classification for each characteristic.

Table 6: Comparison of certain geographical characteristics

Electoral division (2001)	1 Area (land in km²)	(to be served in km²)	2 Distance (km)	3 Distance from the QNA (km)	4 Main urban center (number of electors)	5 Number of municipalities
1- Ungava	864,630	16,064	1489	513	5,632	28
2- Duplessis	204,169	24,219	836	632	19,061	26
3- René-Lévesque	49,485	4,946	292	404	17,322	18
4- Dubuc	42,676	4,767	145	216	22,981	13
5- Roberval	39,966	5,580	145	257	11,416	21
6- Laviolette	34,145	7,196	517	137	14,307	14
7- Abitibi-Est	30,025	6,225	172	762	23,472	10
8- Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue	23,192	11,364	220	865	29,913	25
9- Lac-Saint-Jean	19,926	2,275	83	227	23,588	16
10- Labelle	17,969	8,713	151	378	10,558	27
11- Pontiac	14,696	4,797	216	449	30,609	20
12- Gatineau	14,656	5,004	286	430	17,250	23
13- Berthier	10,321	4,186	201	226	9,251	26
14- Abitibi-Ouest	10,245	9,140	188	830	9,601	38
15- Matane	8,410	4,260	213	409	11,910	19
16- Bonaventure	8,184	3,690	216	604	3,301	27
17- Matapédia	7,715	3,259	114	350	5,059	34
18- Charlevoix	7,247	3,429	173	140	7,149	19
19- Gaspé	6,902	2,946	193	741	12,006	9
20- Kamouraska-Témiscouata	6,149	6,149	164	167	3,512	37
21- Mégantic-Compton	5,319	5,319	141	184	4,725	38
22- Papineau	4,122	4,070	103	383	26,370	28
23- Montmagny-L'Islet	3,687	3,687	112	81	9,342	26
24- Lotbinière	3,347	3,347	105	48	3,580	37
25- Bellechasse	3,067	3,067	109	70	3,290	29
26- Richmond	2,875	2,875	101	154	5,402	31
27- Brome-Missisquoi	2,523	2,523	85	242	9,279	32
28- Rivière-du-Loup	2,433	2,433	93	204	15,178	25
29- Huntingdon	2,243	2,243	138	304	4,824	30
30- Îles-de-la-Madeleine	227	223	84	1140	10,180	2

Upon reading Table 6, one notes that aside from the electoral division of Ungava, the electoral divisions of the Côte-Nord and Abitibi regions are among the largest. The electoral divisions of the Gaspésie, Bas-Saint-Laurent and Chaudière-Appalaches regions are relatively vast when compared with urbanized settings, but remain rather compact in comparison with the electoral divisions of the previously mentioned regions.

The distance between the two farthest apart municipalities shows that the electoral divisions of Ungava, Duplessis and Laviolette are in a special situation as compared to the other electoral divisions of Québec. It should be noted that the electoral divisions of Ungava and Duplessis are the only ones where the road network does not extend to all municipalities. Other electoral divisions such as René-Lévesque and Gatineau are also characterized by large distances. The electoral divisions of the Gaspésie and Bas-Saint-Laurent regions have distances that may be described as intermediate, while those of the Chaudière-Appalaches region have distances that are comparable to many electoral divisions of Québec.

Moreover, when the distance between the electoral divisions and the National Assembly is considered, one notes that Îles-de-la-Madeleine are in a particularly isolated situation and that the three electoral divisions of the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region, as well as the electoral division of Gaspé, are the farthest away from the National Assembly. The other electoral divisions of the Gaspésie region as well of those of the Outaouais and the Côte-Nord regions are similar in terms of their distance from the National Assembly, whereas the distance is less for the Bas-Saint-Laurent and Chaudière-Appalaches regions.

In Québec, more than 15 electoral divisions, located in almost every region of Québec, have a main urban center with fewer than 10,000 electors. The absence of a major urban center is generally offset by the presence of a regional urban pole in a neighbouring electoral division. For example, the electoral divisions of Bellechasse, Bonaventure, Kamouraska-Témiscouata and Lotbinière have a main urban center with fewer than 4,000 electors, but all these divisions are located adjacent to a division having an urban center with more than 10,000 electors.

In Québec, 9 electoral divisions have 30 or more local municipalities, whereas 17 other divisions have from 20 to 29 local municipalities. No electoral division really stands out by its large number of municipalities. Conversely, certain electoral divisions, which are currently in an exception situation, such as Gaspé, Matane and Frontenac, total fewer than 20 municipalities, putting them in a situation comparable to a large number of electoral divisions of Québec.

If all of the characteristics are examined, one notes that Îles-de-la-Madeleine, owing to their isolation, and the northern territory of Ungava come with an exceptional geographical context in Québec. The electoral division of Duplessis, owing to its distance from the National Assembly, its vast size and the form of occupation of its territory, also deserves special attention.

Some twenty electoral divisions stand out based on one or the other of the characteristics examined. In considering the geographical characteristics, if the legislator wanted to grant an exception status to new electoral divisions, notably in eastern Québec where this request was voiced most often, it would undoubtedly be necessary to grant this status to no fewer than some twenty electoral divisions. Indeed, the electoral divisions of the Gaspésie region are comparable to other electoral divisions of several regions of Québec. As for the electoral divisions of the Bas-Saint-Laurent and Chaudière-Appalaches regions, they do not have special geographical characteristics. Indeed, their characteristics are similar to the average ones found in the other electoral divisions of Québec.

In conclusion, the Commission cannot, under section 17 of the Act, multiply the electoral divisions that depart from the numerical rule, as they would lose, in a way, their exceptional character. If it is the legislator's wish to create new exceptions, the Act would have to be amended accordingly in order to specify their status, as was done for Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

The Commission is of the opinion that by increasing the number of exceptional divisions, the principle of the equality of votes of electors would no longer be respected and the Act would depart from the principles established in the Supreme Court ruling in the *Carter* case. For example, if new exceptions were created, their number would have to be limited. For information purposes, the following table presents the number of exceptional electoral divisions in the other Canadian provinces.

Table 7: Number of exceptions in the Canadian provinces[6]

Province	Numerical criterion permitted in the Act	Year of the last revision of the electoral map	Number of divisions	Number of exceptional divisions
Québec	±25%	2001	125	6
Alberta	±25%	2003	83	1
British Columbia*	±25%	2008	85	10
Prince Edward Island	±25%	2004	27	0
Manitoba	±10%	2008	57	0
New Brunswick	±10%	2006	55	1
Nova Scotia	±25%	2002	52	4
Ontario	±25%	2007	107	1
Saskatchewan	±5%	2002	58	2
Newfoundland and Labrador	±10%	2006	48	4
Canada	±25%	2003	308	2

* The British Columbia Electoral Boundaries Commission proposed an electoral map that contained four exceptional divisions in its final report. However, the parliamentarians did not adopt this electoral map, opting instead for another one with ten exceptional divisions.

7.2 Using the Alberta model adapted to Québec

During the public hearings, several participants asked that geographical criteria be clearly established by the Act and that an electoral division be able to obtain an exception status once certain thresholds were reached.

The Commission drew inspiration from the Alberta model to analyze this proposal. In that province's legislation, five geographical criteria come into play when determining special consideration divisions[7].

The Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission can only establish a special consideration electoral division if the latter meets three of the following five criteria:

1. the area of the proposed electoral division exceeds 20,000 square kilometres or the total surveyed area of the proposed electoral division exceeds 15,000 square kilometres;

2. the distance from the Legislature Building in Edmonton to the nearest boundary of the proposed electoral division by the most direct highway route is more than 150 kilometres;

[6]Sources consulted on September 9, 2008:
• Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission 2002-2003 [www.altaebc.ab.ca/welcome.html];
• British Columbia Electoral Boundaries Commission [www.bc-ebc.ca/];
• Prince Edward Island Electoral Boundaries Commission [www.electoralboundaries.pe.ca/index.php];
• Manitoba Electoral Divisions Boundaries Commission [www.boundariescommission.mb.ca] – source consulted on March 3, 2009;
• Electoral Boundaries and Representation Commission of New Brunswick [www.gnb.ca/0101/index-f.asp];
• Election Nova Scotia [electionsnovascotia.ns.ca/edf/edf.aspx];
• Elections Ontario [www.elections.on.ca/fr-CA/Tools/ElectoralDistricts/];
• Elections Saskatchewan [www.elections.sk.ca/index.html];
• Newfoundland Labrador 2006 Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission [www.justice.gov.nl.ca/ebc/];
• Federal Representation 2004 [www.elections.ca/scripts/fedrep/index.htm].

[7]*Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*, c. E-3 [www.altaebc.ab.ca/legislation.html], page consulted on September 8, 2008.

3. there is no town in the proposed electoral division that has a population exceeding 4,000 people;

4. the area of the proposed electoral division contains an Indian reserve or a Metis settlement;

5. the proposed electoral division has a portion of its boundary coterminous with a boundary of the Province of Alberta.

It should be pointed out that this jurisdiction limits to four the number of special consideration electoral divisions and that the deviation of these divisions cannot be more than 50% below the electoral quotient. In addition, despite the possibility of creating four special consideration electoral divisions, the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission is not required to establish that many. At the time of the last delimitation of the electoral divisions, the Commission established only one special consideration electoral division[8].

Of course, this model is not perfectly suited to Québec's geographical situation. Québec spans a larger territory and has a bigger population than Alberta[9]. By drawing inspiration from Alberta's legislation, the Commission used the five criteria best adapted to Québec's situation. However, these criteria are but examples and could be adjusted differently.

1. Area

The land area of the electoral division is at least 20,000 km^2 or its area to be served is 7,500 km^2 or greater.

2. Distance within the electoral division

The distance by road between the farthest apart municipalities of the electoral division exceeds 200 km.

3. Distance from the National Assembly

The road distance between the city in which the riding office is located and the National Assembly exceeds 400 km.

4. Main urban center

The electoral division has no municipality with a population that exceeds 10,000 electors.

5. Number of municipalities

The electoral division contains at least 30 municipalities (or parts of municipalities).

An electoral division must meet at least three of the five criteria to obtain an exception status. Nevertheless, as is the case in Alberta, the Commission could have the discretionary power to grant or to refrain from granting an exception status to the electoral divisions that qualify for it. In addition, a maximum limit on the number of electoral divisions can be established. To retain the same ratio as in Alberta, this limit could be set at six exceptional divisions.

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[8]The only special consideration electoral division established in 2003 was that of Dunvegan with a deviation from the average of -32.7%. Paradoxically, the electoral division with the most electors (43,971 electors and a deviation of +19.5%), namely that of Wood Buffalo, was the northernmost and vastest electoral division of the province. This electoral division satisfied four of the five conditions to obtain the special consideration status. It has an area of 96,600 km^2, is located more than 400 km from Edmonton, contains several Indian reserves and has a boundary that is coterminous with that of Saskatchewan and of the Northwest Territories. Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission 2002/2003 [www.altaebc.ab.ca], page consulted on August 7, 2008.

[9]Alberta has a territory of approximately 660,000 km^2 and 3,290,350 inhabitants, whereas Québec has a territory of more than 1,500,000 km^2 and a population of 7,546,131 inhabitants. Statistics Canada, 2006 Census [www.statcan.ca], page consulted on August 7, 2008.

Table 8 illustrates the geographical characteristics of 30 electoral divisions according to the above-defined criteria. The electoral divisions used in Table 6 have once again been used here to present the geographical characteristics.

Table 8: Simulation of the application of the Alberta model in Québec

Electoral division (2001)	1 Area (land in km²)	(to be served in km²)	2 Distance (km)	3 Distance from the QNA (km)	4 Main urban center (number of electors)	5 Number of municipalities	Total
1- Ungava	864,630	16,064	1489	513	5,632	28	4
2- Duplessis	204,169	24,219	836	632	19,061	26	3
3- René-Lévesque	49,485	4,946	292	404	17,322	18	3
4- Dubuc	42,676	4,767	145	216	22,981	13	1
5- Roberval	39,966	5,580	145	257	11,416	21	1
6- Laviolette	34,145	7,196	517	137	14,307	14	2
7- Abitibi-Est	30,025	6,225	172	762	23,472	10	2
8- Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue	23,192	11,364	220	865	29,913	25	3
9- Lac-Saint-Jean	19,926	2,275	83	227	23,588	16	0
10- Labelle	17,969	8,713	151	378	10,558	27	1
11- Pontiac	14,696	4,797	216	449	30,609	20	2
12- Gatineau	14,656	5,004	286	430	17,250	23	2
13- Berthier	10,321	4,186	201	226	9,251	26	2
14- Abitibi-Ouest	10,245	9,140	188	830	9,601	38	4
15- Matane	8,410	4,260	213	409	11,910	19	2
16- Bonaventure	8,184	3,690	216	604	3,301	27	3
17- Matapédia	7,715	3,259	114	350	5,059	34	2
18- Charlevoix	7,247	3,429	173	140	7,149	19	1
19- Gaspé	6,902	2,946	193	741	12,006	9	1
20- Kamouraska-Témiscouata	6,149	6,149	164	167	3,512	37	2
21- Mégantic-Compton	5,319	5,319	141	184	4,725	38	2
22- Papineau	4,122	4,070	103	383	26,370	28	0
23- Montmagny-L'Islet	3,687	3,687	112	81	9,342	26	1
24- Lotbinière	3,347	3,347	105	48	3,580	37	2
25- Bellechasse	3,067	3,067	109	70	3,290	29	1
26- Richmond	2,875	2,875	101	154	5,402	31	2
27- Brome-Missisquoi	2,523	2,523	85	242	9,279	32	2
28- Rivière-du-Loup	2,433	2,433	93	204	15,178	25	0
29- Huntingdon	2,243	2,243	138	304	4,824	30	2
30- Îles-de-la-Madeleine	227	223	84	1140	10,180	2	1
Total	**8**	**2**	**10**	**12**	**14**	**8**	**6**

Table 8 shows that several electoral divisions satisfy one or another of the five conditions. However, only six electoral divisions meet at least three of the five conditions.

No electoral division meets all five criteria.

Electoral divisions meeting four of the five criteria:

Abitibi-Ouest	Ungava

Electoral divisions meeting three of the five criteria:

Bonaventure	René-Lévesque
Duplessis	Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue

Electoral divisions meeting two of the five criteria:

Abitibi-Est	Lotbinière
Berthier	Matane
Brome-Missisquoi	Matapédia
Gatineau	Mégantic-Compton
Huntington	Pontiac
Kamouraska-Témiscouata	Richmond
Laviolette	

Within the current context, it should be noted that certain electoral divisions in an exceptional negative situation meet only one of the five criteria. They are the electoral divisions of Charlevoix, Gaspé and Montmagny-L'Islet. Moreover, other electoral divisions in an exceptional negative situation such as Frontenac and Rivière-du-Loup do not meet any of the criteria.

By adapting the Alberta model to Québec's situation, the Commission notes that a small number of electoral divisions have geographical characteristics that may be considered exceptional. Thirteen electoral divisions possess two special geographical characteristics while having other geographical characteristics that are comparable to those of other electoral divisions of Québec.

The Alberta model adapted to Québec is in line with the current Act. It has the advantage of specifying the conditions that must be satisfied in order for an electoral division to obtain an exception status while limiting the number of exceptional electoral divisions. However, the application of such a model would not make it possible to maintain the number of electoral divisions in eastern Québec. Indeed, several electoral divisions would not meet the minimum of three criteria.

7.3 Increasing the number of electoral divisions

Participants suggested increasing the number of electoral divisions on more than twenty occasions during the public hearings. However, there was no consensus among participants concerning this avenue. According to advocates of this approach, the number of electoral divisions in the regions experiencing strong growth can be increased while maintaining the number of electoral divisions in regions with limited or negative growth.

In the opinion of other participants, the current number of electoral divisions is well suited to the needs of Québec society and an increase is unjustified. A few participants even requested a reduction in the number of electoral divisions. The possibility of reducing the number of electoral divisions is not envisaged in this analysis.

There are two ways of amending the Act to increase the number of electoral divisions. The first method consists of changing the number of electoral divisions stipulated in section 14, whereas the second consists of setting the electoral quotient in the Act.

Increasing the number of electoral divisions in the Election Act

Since 1987, the number of electoral divisions has been stipulated by the Act and the electoral quotient has increased according to Québec's demography. Here is an excerpt from the current Act:

Section 14

[...] Electoral divisions, numbering not fewer than 122 nor more than 125, shall be delimited taking into account the principle that the vote of each elector is of equal weight.

Section 16

The boundaries of each electoral division shall be delimited in such a way that the number of electors in a division, according to the permanent list of electors, does not deviate by more than 25% from the quotient obtained by dividing the total number of electors by the number of electoral divisions.

The first method making it possible to increase the number of electoral divisions to more than 125 consists of amending section 14 of the Act. The first consequence of such an increase would be to lower the electoral quotient in Québec, obtained through the calculation described in section 16.

As an example, let us take the electoral quotient of Québec, i.e. 45,207 electors as of November 30, 2007. This figure is obtained by making the following calculation:

$$5,650,875 \text{ electors}/125 \text{ electoral divisions} = 45,207$$

If the number of electoral divisions were increased to more than 125 (130 for example), the result of this division would yield a lower quotient:

$$5,650,875 \text{ electors}/130 \text{ electoral divisions} = 43,468$$

If the electoral quotient were lowered, the minimum (-25%) and maximum (+25%) thresholds would also decline.

Considering the data of November 2007, a Québec electoral division should not have more than 56,509 electors (+25%) or less than 33,905 electors (-25%). Assuming an electoral map with 130 electoral divisions, the new maximum threshold would be 54,335 electors, while the new minimum threshold would stand at 32,601 electors.

It should be noted that when the electoral quotient is lowered, less populous electoral divisions move closer to the provincial average and hence are less likely to be in an exception situation. In the aforementioned example, an electoral division with 33,000 electors would be below the -25% threshold according to the electoral quotient used in this report (as of November 30, 2007), but would be above this same threshold in the case where the quotient would have been lowered. The increase in the number of electoral divisions would thus reduce the number of negative exceptions under the Act and would benefit the less populous regions.

However, another effect of a lower electoral quotient would be to cause the most populous electoral divisions to move away from the provincial average and to increase the number of positive exceptions. By taking up the aforementioned example, one finds that an electoral division with 56,000 electors would be below the +25% maximum threshold with the current electoral quotient, but would exceed this same threshold under the assumption that an increase in the number of electoral divisions would lower the electoral quotient.

In summary, increasing the number of electoral divisions and, consequently, reducing the electoral quotient could contribute to solving the problem of those regions where the electoral divisions have an elector deficit, but could have the opposite effect in those regions where the electoral divisions have an elector surplus. Consequently, the number of exceptions would be reduced on the one hand, but increased on the other, as is illustrated in Table 9.

Table 9: Simulation of the increase in the number of electoral divisions and of the impact of the deviation from the average number of electors

Exceptional and critical divisions	Electors Nov. 30, 2007	Deviation from the average (in %) according to the number of divisions							
		125	126	127	128	129	130	135	155
Îles-de-la-Madeleine	10,600	-76.6	-76.4	-76.2	-76.0	-75.8	-75.6	-74.7	-70.9
Ungava	23,819	-47.3	-46.9	-46.5	-46.0	-45.6	-45.2	-43.1	-34.7
Gaspé	27,569	-39.0	-38.5	-38.0	-37.6	-37.1	-36.6	-34.1	-24.4
Matane	27,904	-38.3	-37.8	-37.3	-36.8	-36.3	-35.8	-33.3	-23.5
Bonaventure	28,908	-36.1	-35.5	-35.0	-34.5	-34.0	-33.5	-30.9	-20.7
Matapédia	29,773	-34.1	-33.6	-33.1	-32.6	-32.0	-31.5	-28.9	-18.3
Montmagny-L'Islet	32,057	-29.1	-28.5	-28.0	-27.4	-26.8	-26.3	-23.4	-12.1
Abitibi-Ouest	32,585	-27.9	-27.3	-26.8	-26.2	-25.6	-25.0	-22.2	-10.6
Charlevoix	33,156	-26.7	-26.1	-25.5	-24.9	-24.3	-23.7	-20.8	-9.1
Abitibi-Est	33,180	-26.6	-26.0	-25.4	-24.8	-24.3	-23.7	-20.7	-9.0
Frontenac	33,285	-26.4	-25.8	-25.2	-24.6	-24.0	-23.4	-20.5	-8.7
Mégantic-Compton	33,706	-25.4	-24.8	-24.2	-23.7	-23.1	-22.5	-19.5	-7.5
Rivière-du-Loup	33,843	-25.1	-24.5	-23.9	-23.3	-22.7	-22.1	-19.1	-7.2
Lotbinière	33,980	-24.8	-24.2	-23.6	-23.0	-22.4	-21.8	-18.8	-6.8
Laviolette	34,213	-24.3	-23.7	-23.1	-22.5	-21.9	-21.3	-18.3	-6.2
René-Lévesque	34,341	-24.0	-23.4	-22.8	-22.2	-21.6	-21.0	-18.0	-5.8
Kamouraska-Témiscouata	34,426	-23.8	-23.2	-22.6	-22.0	-21.4	-20.8	-17.8	-5.6
Nicolet-Yamaska	34,498	-23.7	-23.1	-22.5	-21.9	-21.2	-20.6	-17.6	-5.4
Bellechasse	34,542	-23.6	-23.0	-22.4	-21.8	-21.1	-20.5	-17.5	-5.3
Papineau	54,695	21.0	22.0	22.9	23.9	24.9	25.8	30.7	50.0
Chomedey	55,026	21.7	22.7	23.7	24.6	25.6	26.6	31.5	50.9
Mille-Îles	55,081	21.8	22.8	23.8	24.8	25.7	26.7	31.6	51.1
Shefford	55,221	22.2	23.1	24.1	25.1	26.1	27.0	31.9	51.5
Saint-Jean	55,468	22.7	23.7	24.7	25.6	26.6	27.6	32.5	52.1
Vimont	55,744	23.3	24.3	25.3	26.3	27.3	28.2	33.2	52.9
Taillon	55,776	23.4	24.4	25.4	26.3	27.3	28.3	33.2	53.0
Blainville	56,142	24.2	25.2	26.2	27.2	28.2	29.2	34.1	54.0
Terrebonne	56,255	24.4	25.4	26.4	27.4	28.4	29.4	34.4	54.3
Châteauguay	56,256	24.4	25.4	26.4	27.4	28.4	29.4	34.4	54.3
La Prairie	56,735	25.5	26.5	27.5	28.5	29.5	30.5	35.5	55.6
Drummond	56,939	26.0	27.0	28.0	29.0	30.0	31.0	36.0	56.2
L'Assomption	57,124	26.4	27.4	28.4	29.4	30.4	31.4	36.5	56.7
Prévost	57,896	28.1	29.1	30.1	31.1	32.2	33.2	38.3	58.8
Fabre	58,591	29.6	30.6	31.7	32.7	33.8	34.8	40.0	60.7
Chambly	59,947	32.6	33.7	34.7	35.8	36.8	37.9	43.2	64.4
Masson	60,762	34.4	35.5	36.6	37.6	38.7	39.8	45.2	66.7
Electoral quotient	45,207	45,207	44,848	44,495	44,148	43,806	43,469	41,859	36,457
Minimum threshold (-25%)	33,905	33,905	33,636	33,372	33,111	32,854	32,601	31,394	27,343
Maximum threshold (+25%)	56,509	56,509	56,061	55,619	55,185	54,757	54,336	52,323	45,572
Number of positive exceptions		7	10	12	14	16	17	28	67
Number of negative exceptions		13	11	11	8	8	8	6	2
Total number exceptions		20	21	23	22	24	25	34	69

Table 9 shows that if the number of electoral divisions were increased to 128, there still would be eight negative exceptions, whereas the number of positive exceptions would rise from 7 to 14. An increase of three electoral divisions would thus not make it possible to maintain the number of divisions in eastern Québec. Indeed, the lowering of the electoral quotient would not suffice for the latter divisions to no longer be exceptions.

This latter table also shows that an increase in the number of electoral divisions would significantly raise the number of divisions in a positive exception situation. For example, in an electoral map with 135 electoral divisions, there would be 28 in a positive exception situation and six in a negative exception situation for a total of 34 exceptions.

It is important to emphasize here that if the electoral map contained more electoral divisions, and hence a greater number of divisions in a positive exception situation, it would be necessary to add electoral divisions in the most populous regions firstly in order to re-establish the balance. Despite the maintaining of the number of their electoral divisions, less populous would see their electoral weight decline proportionally.

Specifically, Table 9 indicates that in the Chaudière-Appalaches region, it would be necessary to increase the total number of divisions to 128 to see the deviation of the electoral division of Frontenac climb just above the minimum level of -25%. However, an addition of three electoral divisions would be insufficient to correct the negative exceptions of eastern Québec. Just to the south of the Bas-Saint-Laurent region, one division like that of Montmagny-L'Islet would require the addition of some ten divisions to no longer be in an exception situation. In the Gaspésie peninsula, the total number of divisions would have to rise to at least 155 in order to achieve the same result. In such a case, the deviations of the number of electors from the provincial average of the electoral divisions of Matapédia, Bonaventure, Matane and Gaspé would be between -18.3% and -24.4%. If the current demographic trend continued in the years to come, the electoral divisions of the Gaspésie region would once again find themselves with an exceptional negative deviation.

Setting the electoral quotient

The second way of increasing the number of electoral divisions consists of setting the electoral quotient in the Act. On this subject, it should be recalled that the legislation governing electoral delimitation has evolved over the last 35 years with respect to the number of electors per electoral division. From 1972 to 1987, the Act[10] set the electoral quotient, and the number of electoral divisions increased at the pace of Québec's demography. With each revision of the electoral map, the Act had to be amended to change the electoral quotient in order to limit the increase in the number of electoral divisions.

Table 10 shows the evolution of the electoral quotients and of the number of electoral divisions in the history of Québec.

[10]Since 1972, the legislation has evolved as follows:
- from 1972 to 1979: Act respecting the Standing Commission on the Reform of Electoral Districts;
- from 1979 to 1989: Representation Act;
- from 1989 to the present: Election Act.

Table 10: Evolution of the number of electoral divisions from 1972 to the present

Numerical criterion	Electoral map	Number of divisions	Number of electors	Minimum threshold	Electoral quotient	Maximum threshold
Minimum and maximum thresholds set in the Act	1972	110	3,478,668	24,000	31,624**	40,000
	1980	122	4,245,879	24,000	34,802**	40,000
	1985	122	4,409,276	27,000	36,142**	45,000
Electoral quotient and deviation of ±25%	1988	125	4,576,600	27,460	36,613	45,766
	1992	125	4,670,690	28,024	37,366	46,707
	2001	125	5,339,121	32,035	42,713	53,391
	2007*	125	5,650,910	33,905	45,207	56,509

* November 30, 2007 constitues the official reference date used for the present revision of the electoral map.
** The electoral quotient was however set in the Act at 32,000 electors in 1972, at 34,000 electors in 1980 and at 36,000 electors in 1985.

The reintroduction of this method would lead the government to set the electoral quotient in the Act. For information purposes, if the electoral quotient of 36,000 electors, in effect in 1985, namely before the Act was changed, had remained unchanged, there would be 157 electoral divisions in Québec today. A fixed electoral quotient would thus result in the addition of approximately three electoral divisions every two years. To limit this rapid increase, the Act should be amended prior to each revision of the electoral map in order to increase the electoral quotient, as was the case in the past.

It should be noted that setting the electoral quotient would have the same effects on the electoral representation of the regions as a direct increase in the number of divisions.

7.4 Increasing the numerical deviation

During the public hearings, several participants also suggested increasing or reducing the ±25% deviation from the electoral quotient stipulated in the Act. The proposed deviations vary from ±10% to ±40%.

The ±25% deviation stipulated in section 16 of the Act was proposed in the Grenier Report in 1962[11]. This criterion has been applied in Québec ever since the reform of the electoral map made by the Standing Commission on the Reform of Electoral Districts in 1972.

This deviation reflects the desire to ensure the relative equality of the votes of electors, a criterion rooted in the history of Canadian democracy, in opposition to the absolute equality of the votes of electors, practiced notably in the United States, and which generally permits a smaller deviation of ±5% or ±10%.

A ±25% deviation permits a ratio of "1.66 to 1" between the weight of the vote in a more populous electoral division having a +25% deviation of the number of electors from the average and a less populous electoral division having a -25% deviation from the average. This ratio of "1.66 to 1" may be considered reasonable within the context of the Supreme Court ruling in the *Carter* case. Historically, the Commission has sought to avoid increasing this deviation and the inequalities that would result from a higher ratio.

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[11]In 1961, the electoral map was very inegalitarian. The government mandated a committee of experts who were not parliamentarians, chaired by Fernand Grenier, to make a preliminary study with a view to revising the electoral map. This study, which was submitted to Premier Jean Lesage, serves as a basis for electoral representation in Québec, as we know it today: Fernand Grenier, Étude préliminaire à la révision de la carte électorale de la province de Québec. Rapport du comité à Son Excellence le lieutenant-gouverneur en conseil, Québec, 1962, 52 p. (Grenier Report).

Table 11: Comparison of the effects of the variation of the deviation from the electoral quotient on the weight of a vote

Deviation	Electoral quotient November 30, 2007	Minimum threshold	Maximum threshold	Ratio between the two thresholds
±10%	45,207	40,686	49,728	1.22 to 1
±15%	45,207	38,426	51,988	1.35 to 1
±20%	45,207	36,166	54,248	1.50 to 1
±25%	45,207	33,905	56,509	1.66 to 1
±30%	45,207	31,645	58,769	1.86 to 1
±35%	45,207	29,385	61,029	2.08 to 1
±40%	45,207	27,124	63,290	2.33 to 1

Table 11 shows that the more the deviation of the number of electors from the average grows, the greater the leeway between the minimum and maximum thresholds. However, this increase introduces greater inequalities in representation between electors. For example, with a permitted deviation of ±35%, the weight of a citizen's vote may be more than twice that of another citizen.

By comparing Québec with other Canadian provinces, the Commission notes that the ±25% deviation is among the most permissive.

Table 12: Comparison of the numerical criterion of Québec with the other Canadian provinces[12]

Province	Numerical criterion
Québec	±25%
Alberta	±25%
British Columbia	±25%
Prince Edward Island	±25%
Nova Scotia	±25%
Ontario	±25%
Manitoba	±10%
New Brunswick	±10%
Newfoundland and Labrador	±10%
Saskatchewan	±5%

[12]Compendium of Election Administration in Canada [www.elections.ca/content.asp?section=loi&document=index&dir=com&lang=f&textonly=false], page consulted on July 18, 2008.
In Manitoba, the Act stipulates that for electoral divisions located partially or totally north of the 53rd parallel, the permitted deviation from the provincial average is ±25%.
In Ontario, the eleven electoral divisions in the North are identical (except for a minor boundary revision) to those that existed at the federal level on October 2, 2003 and the 96 divisions in the South are identical to the federal electoral divisions, as they existed on September 1, 2004.
In Saskatchewan, the Act stipulates that the permitted ±5% deviation from the provincial average only applies to the electoral divisions located south of the dividing line. The two electoral divisions situated north of this dividing line are not required to respect this numerical criterion.

In Canada, the ±25% deviation is the one most common encountered. Certain provinces have even adopted a more egalitarian criterion. The Commission also made a few comparisons with other countries. Without being exhaustive, this analysis shows a tendency to use deviations of less than ±25%.

It is interesting to note that the legislation of Nunavut has a numerical criterion that is more flexible than that of Québec, namely a deviation from the average of ±30%. However, it should be pointed out that the territory of Nunavut is very unusual in that it comprises the Canadian Arctic Archipelago.

Table 13: Comparison of the numerical criterion of Canada with other countries[13]

Country	Numerical criterion
Canada	±25%
France	±20%
Germany	±15%
Australia	±10%
New Zealand	±5%
United States	closest possible
United Kingdom	closest possible

In order to correctly evaluate the impact of a change to the numerical deviation, the Commission examined the effect of a variation of the numerical criterion on the number of exceptional electoral divisions and on those whose deviation from the average number of electors is close to the limit permitted (critical electoral divisions).

Table 14: Simulation of a change of the numerical criterion in Québec according to the current electoral map[14]

Deviation	Number of divisions that are		
	exceptional	critical	Total
±10%	75	23	98
±15%	52	23	75
±20%	36	16	52
±25%	20	16	36
±30%	8	12	20
±35%	5	3	8
±40%	2	3	5

[13]ACE Project: The Electoral Knowledge Network, 2008, [aceproject.org/], page consulted on July 18, 2008. The application of the "closest possible" varies considerably between the United States, the United Kingdom and France. The United States interprets this notion very rigorously and favours small deviations much like in Saskatchewan, whereas France interprets it more flexibly by permitting deviations similar to those that exist in Québec.

[14]Exceptional electoral divisions are those that are beyond the numerical criterion (±25%), whereas critical electoral divisions are those that are less than 5% away from the threshold set by the numerical criterion.

A reduction of the numerical deviation to ±10% would require a major change to the electoral map since 75 electoral divisions would then find themselves in an exception situation. A greater number of electoral divisions would automatically be transferred from regions with weak demographic growth to those with strong demographic growth. Within Québec's geographical context, the Commission believes that it would be more difficult to delimit the electoral divisions while respecting natural communities.

Moreover, increasing the numerical criterion would reduce the number of electoral divisions in an exception situation. An increase of the deviation to ±30% could permit the maintaining of the number of electoral divisions in the Bas-Saint-Laurent and Chaudière-Appalaches regions. Incidentally, it would be necessary to increase the deviation to ±40% to consider maintaining the same number of electoral divisions in the Gaspésie region.

It should be noted that a change to the numerical criterion is a short-term solution. Several electoral divisions experiencing a relative negative growth would lose approximately 1% of deviation per year. By increasing the numerical deviation to ±30%, the difficulties created by the current revision of the electoral map would be more or less the same at the time of the next revision. Consequently, this approach does not represent a lasting solution. What is more, it accentuates the inequalities in representation.

Within the context of this analysis, the legislation of Germany[15] was examined. This legislation provides for a tolerance threshold. It permits variations of ±15% with an obligation to modify the electoral division when it exceeds a deviation of ±25%. For example, an electoral division having a deviation of between -15% and -25% is in an exception situation, but the latter is tolerated until it exceeds the threshold of -25%. When revising the electoral map, the Commission of electoral districts of Germany is required to propose changes to those electoral divisions that exceed a deviation of ±25% in order to reduce their deviation to within ±15%.

This approach guarantees electoral divisions a certain stability. First, when an electoral division is in an exception situation, a tolerance period is permitted. Next, when the map is revised, the organization responsible is required to re-balance the electoral division so that it has a deviation closer to the electoral quotient, which guarantees this division stability for a certain period.

Concretely, if a tolerance threshold of ±35% were applied in Québec, the changes to the current map would be smaller. One electoral division of the Gaspé Peninsula would nevertheless be transferred to a region having strong growth. Indeed, the peninsula has three electoral divisions with a deviation from the average of less than -35% and in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region, the electoral division of Matapédia reveals a deviation from the average of -34.1%. In Lanaudière region, the electoral division of Masson has a deviation of +34.4% whereas in the Montérégie region, the division of Chambly has a deviation of +32.6%. Moreover, the recent data show that these deviations are evolving rapidly. The deviation of the electoral division of Masson rose to +43.4% as of July 31, 2010.

As with the increase of the numerical deviation, the application of a tolerance threshold is a short-term solution as, based on the demographic perspectives, several electoral divisions will exceed the ±35% threshold within a few years. The current problems would thus be postponed for a relatively short period. This context could more easily give rise to court challenges. On this subject, it is important to point out that other electoral maps have already been challenged successfully in Canada (British Columbia, Prince Edward Island and the Northwest Territories).

[15]ACE Project (2008) Germany: Delimiting Districts in a Mixed Member Proportional Electoral System, ACE Encyclopedia, 2008, [aceproject.org/ace-en/topics/bd/bdy/bdy_de], page consulted on July 17, 2008.

7.5 Using a differentiated numerical criterion

During the public hearings, some ten participants suggested that the Commission examine the possibility of establishing a differentiated numerical criterion to draw up the electoral map. The objective of this request consists of granting greater leeway for the delimitation of electoral divisions having special geographical characteristics in order to preserve the number of such divisions and to ensure that natural communities are respected better.

One way of establishing a differentiated numerical criterion consists of authorizing a higher deviation from the average for certain electoral divisions. Under such a model, rural electoral divisions can have a deviation that is different from that of urban electoral divisions.

The use of a differentiated numerical criterion therefore requires a classification of the electoral divisions in order to determine which ones would benefit from a more flexible numerical criterion. Carrying out this classification stage is a delicate operation and several methods may be used. For the needs of this analysis, the same geographical criteria devised for the analysis of the Alberta model are used. All electoral divisions that satisfy at least two of the five criteria could thus benefit from a ±35% deviation from the average number of electors. These electoral divisions are presented in Table 15.

Table 15: Electoral divisions that satisfy at least two of the five criteria

Electoral division (2001)	1 Area (land in km²)	(to be served in km²)	2 Distance (km)	3 Distance from the QNA (km)	4 Main urban center (number of electors)	5 Number of municipalities	Total
1- Ungava	864,630	16,064	1489	513	5,632	28	4
2- Duplessis	204,169	24,219	836	632	19,061	26	3
3- René-Lévesque	49,485	4,946	292	404	17,322	18	3
4- Dubuc	42,676	4,767	145	216	22,981	13	1
5- Roberval	39,966	5,580	145	257	11,416	21	1
6- Laviolette	34,145	7,196	517	137	14,307	14	2
7- Abitibi-Est	30,025	6,225	172	762	23,472	10	2
8- Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue	23,192	11,364	220	865	29,913	25	3
9- Lac-Saint-Jean	19,926	2,275	83	227	23,588	16	0
10- Labelle	17,969	8,713	151	378	10,558	27	1
11- Pontiac	14,696	4,797	216	449	30,609	20	2
12- Gatineau	14,656	5,004	286	430	17,250	23	2
13- Berthier	10,321	4,186	201	226	9,251	26	2
14- Abitibi-Ouest	10,245	9,140	188	830	9,601	38	4
15- Matane	8,410	4,260	213	409	11,910	19	2
16- Bonaventure	8,184	3,690	216	604	3,301	27	3
17- Matapédia	7,715	3,259	114	350	5,059	34	2
18- Charlevoix	7,247	3,429	173	140	7,149	19	1
19- Gaspé	6,902	2,946	193	741	12,006	9	1
20- Kamouraska-Témiscouata	6,149	6,149	164	167	3,512	37	2
21- Mégantic-Compton	5,319	5,319	141	184	4,725	38	2

Electoral division (2001)	1 Area		2 Distance (km)	3 Distance from the QNA (km)	4 Main urban center (number of electors)	5 Number of municipalities	Total
	(land in km²)	(to be served in km²)					
22- Papineau	4,122	4,070	103	383	26,370	28	0
23- Montmagny-L'Islet	3,687	3,687	112	81	9,342	26	1
24- Lotbinière	3,347	3,347	105	48	3,580	37	2
25- Bellechasse	3,067	3,067	109	70	3,290	29	1
26- Richmond	2,875	2,875	101	154	5,402	31	2
27- Brome-Missisquoi	2,523	2,523	85	242	9,279	32	2
28- Rivière-du-Loup	2,433	2,433	93	204	15,178	25	0
29- Huntingdon	2,243	2,243	138	304	4,824	30	2
30- Îles-de-la-Madeleine	227	223	84	1140	10,180	2	1

Here are the nineteen electoral divisions that satisfy at least two of the aforementioned five criteria:

Abitibi-Est	Huntington	Mégantic-Compton
Abitibi-Ouest	Kamouraska-Témiscouata	Pontiac
Berthier	Laviolette	René-Lévesque
Bonaventure	Lotbinière	Richmond
Brome-Missisquoi	Matane	Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue
Duplessis	Matapédia	Ungava
Gatineau		

This proposal would have consequences similar to the adoption of a new more flexible numerical criterion for all electoral divisions, as was presented in the model dealing with the increase of the numerical deviation. The use of a differentiated numerical criterion would put in place a system that would result in inequalities in representation. These inequalities would become more pronounced if Québec's demographic context were to follow the same trend.

Furthermore, a differentiated numerical criterion would raise a new challenge, namely re-balancing growing regions, which are generally under-represented, without adding an electoral division from a region experiencing negative growth for example. In this respect, re-delimiting the under-represented region while retaining the same number of electoral divisions becomes a complex operation. Without an addition of electoral divisions, it also becomes harder to respect natural communities, since there is less maneuvering room. In addition, despite a differentiated numerical criterion, the Gaspésie region would nevertheless lose an electoral division to a region enjoying good growth, due to the fact that the deviations from the average of three electoral divisions of this region are currently below -35%.

7.6 Setting a minimum number of electoral divisions by administrative region

During the public hearings, several participants indicated that it was necessary to ensure the various administrative regions of Québec a minimum representation. At the same time, several municipal elected officials and representatives of RCM's and regional conferences of elected officials expressed the wish that the electoral map respect the boundaries of administrative regions in their entirety in order to promote a greater coherency of actions between elected representatives.

Drawing inspiration from these proposals, the Commission simulated an electoral map according to a "by administrative region" model. For this purpose, the Commission developed this model while adhering to the following principles:

1. Maintain wherever possible an electoral map with 125 electoral divisions. The number of divisions by administrative region is established based on their respective electoral weight to ensure fair representation;

2. Ensure one electoral division for the Nord-du-Québec region, two for the Côte-Nord region and three for all other regions of Québec. In the case of the Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine region, one electoral division is guaranteed for the Îles-de-la-Madeleine and the other two are guaranteed for the Gaspésie;

3. Delimit the electoral divisions within the administrative regions with a ±25% deviation of the number of electors in relation to the electoral quotient of the region in order to have a leeway that promotes the greatest possible respect for natural communities.

Here are the various steps that lead to the drawing up of an electoral map according to this model:

Step 1:

Establish the demographic weight of each administrative region[16] on a basis of 125 electoral divisions and allocate the number of electoral divisions according to this demographic weight[17]. To establish this demographic weight, the number of electors of the administrative region is divided by the average number of electors per electoral division, namely the provincial electoral quotient (45,207 electors).

Step 2:

Add the electoral divisions in certain regions in order to attain the minimum number of previously established electoral divisions.

Step 3:

Calculate the total number of electoral divisions by adding the number of electoral divisions allocated and the number of electoral divisions necessary to attain the guaranteed minimum number.

[16]Given that the current electoral division of Matane overlaps the administrative regions of Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine, the latter have been considered together to facilitate the comparison between the electoral maps of the different years.

[17]When there are decimals, the method used is that which allocates an electoral division as soon as the decimals reach 0.50. However, this method leads to an increase of a few electoral divisions. It will also be used in the adaptation of the Canadian model and the New Zealand model to Québec in sections 7.7 and 7.8. This is the most commonly used method. Other methods exist to allocate electoral divisions when there are decimals. For example, with the "highest decimal" model, it is possible to not increase the number of electoral divisions.

Step 4:

Calculate the regional electoral quotient by dividing the number of electors of the region by the number of electoral divisions of that region. The regional electoral quotient will then be used to delimit the electoral divisions inside the administrative region by respecting a deviation of ±25%.

Table 16: Allocation of the electoral divisions in the administrative regions

Basic information		Step 1		Step 2	Step 3	Step 4
Administrative region	Electors November 30, 2007	Demographic weight (out of 125)	Number allocated	Adjustment number of guaranteed div.	Final number	Regional electoral quotient
Bas-Saint-Laurent–Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine	234,823	5.19	5	1	6	39,137
Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean	213,822	4.73	5		5	42,764
Capitale-Nationale	525,389	11.62	12		12	43,782
Mauricie	206,730	4.57	5		5	41,346
Estrie	227,618	5.03	5		5	45,524
Montréal	1,265,430	27.99	28		28	45,194
Outaouais	250,724	5.55	6		6	41,787
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	108,399	2.40	2	1	3	36,133
Côte-Nord	71,006	1.57	2		2	35,503
Nord-du-Québec	23,819	0.53	1		1	23,819
Chaudière-Appalaches	310,144	6.86	7		7	44,306
Laval	272,871	6.04	6		6	45,479
Lanaudière	332,052	7.35	7		7	47,436
Laurentides	394,648	8.73	9		9	43,850
Montérégie	1,039,434	22.99	23		23	45,193
Centre-du-Québec	174,001	3.85	4		4	43,500
Total and average	5,650,910	125	127	2	129	43,806

The "by administrative region" model would thus make it possible to fully respect the administrative regions. Moreover, the allocation of the number of electoral divisions by administrative region would permit the establishment of the regional electoral quotients. The latter would give greater leeway to the Commission in order to respect the natural communities in each region at the time of the delimitation[18]. It should be noted that the number of electoral divisions could increase slightly due to the regions that have decimals higher than 0.50. That explains why there would be 129 electoral divisions under this simulation.

To better understand the impact that the "by administrative region" model has on the representation of the regions, a comparison between the number of electoral divisions of the current map and of the map proposed by the Commission is appropriate.

[18]To learn more about the use of regional quotients, see the following document: Chief Electoral Officer of Québec, *Les modalités d'un mode de scrutin mixte compensatoire*, Québec, 2007, p. 102-106.

Table 17: Comparison of the number of electoral divisions by administrative region[19]

Administrative region	Current map (2001)	Proposed map (2010)	Model by region (2010)
Bas-Saint-Laurent–Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine	8	6	6
Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean	5	5	5
Capitale-Nationale	11	11	12*
Mauricie	5	5	5
Estrie	5	5	5
Montréal	28	28	28
Outaouais	5	5	6*
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	3	3	3
Côte-Nord	2	2	2
Nord-du-Québec	1	1	1
Chaudière-Appalaches	8	7	7
Laval	5	6	6
Lanaudière	6	7	7
Laurentides	8	8	9*
Montérégie	21	22	23*
Centre-du-Québec	4	4	4
Total	125	125	129

*Administrative regions obtaining a number of electoral divisions superior to that stipulated in the electoral map proposed by the Commission.

Table 17 shows that the application of the "by administrative region" model does not make it possible to maintain the current number of electoral divisions in the Chaudière-Appalaches, Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine regions. These three regions would have the same number of electoral divisions as under the Commission's current proposal. Furthermore, the Capitale-Nationale, Outaouais, Laurentides and Montérégie regions would get one additional electoral division, since they would have decimals higher than 0.50. As a result, the electoral map would be more balanced than under the current proposal.

As was mentioned in section 6.1, the current electoral map as well as the proposed map cannot fully respect the boundaries of the administrative regions. By applying the "by administrative region" model, the result would be a new electoral map that would be very different in several regions of Québec, because the Commission would have to re-examine the cases of overlapping. Moreover, the Commission would not be able to grant the request of certain municipalities that would like to be part of an electoral division that is in another administrative region. This is notably the case for the

[19] It should be noted that the comparison regions are not exactly the same, as some electoral divisions overlap the boundaries of the administrative regions. The Commission allocated an electoral division that overlaps two administrative regions to the region comprising the major portion of the electoral division. For example, the electoral division of Côte-du-Sud was allocated to the Chaudière-Appalaches region. On this subject, the electoral map drawn up in 2001 contains thirteen electoral divisions that overlap administrative regions, whereas the electoral map proposed in this report contains nine such divisions. Given that the current electoral division of Matane overlaps almost equally the administrative regions of Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine, the latter were considered together to facilitate the comparison between the electoral maps of the different years.

municipalities of Courcelles, Saint-Ludger and Saint-Robert-Bellarmin which asked to be included in the electoral division of Beauce-Sud, even though they are located in the administrative region of Estrie and not that of Chaudière-Appalaches.

7.7 Using the Canadian Model adapted to Québec

The electoral representation of Canada is similar to the "by administrative region" model. It is based on a system for allocating the number of seats by province and territory, which occurs prior to the delimitation of the electoral divisions. This allocation system is based on the objective of providing "representation bearing in mind the historic undertakings arising out of Confederation and its responsibilities"[20].

Canada's system for allocating seats is based on a representation by the population combined with certain grandfather clauses, the effect of which is to maintain the electoral weight of the provinces despite the decline of their population.

Some participants mentioned that the Canadian model would adapt well to Québec's reality. However, it is important to have a good understanding of the mechanisms of the Canadian model before adapting it to Québec. The Canadian model comprises the following steps:

Step 1:

Establish a reference number of seats. The Act stipulates that this is the number of seats in the House of Commons in 1985 from which the seats of the three territories are then subtracted.

Step 2:

Calculate the Canadian electoral quotient by dividing the total population of the ten provinces by the reference number of seats.

Step 3:

Calculate the number of seats allocated to each province by dividing the province's population by the Canadian electoral quotient. When the number contains decimals, it is agreed to round up the decimals to the next unit if the decimals are higher than 0.50.

Step 4:

Establish the total number of seats for a province by adding the seats resulting from the special clauses. First, the "senatorial clause" stipulates than a province cannot have fewer seats in the House of Commons than in the Senate. Secondly, the "grandfather clause" states that no province can have fewer seats than it had at the time of the drafting of the Representation Act of 1985.

Figure 3 presents in diagram form the Canadian model, as it was used during the revision of the federal electoral map of 2003.

[20]Elections Canada, Representation in the House of Commons of Canada, 2008,
[www.elections.ca/scripts/fedrep/federal_e/fed_prlmnt_e.htm], page consulted on July 18, 2008.

Figure 3: Canadian model for allocating seats

1.	Number of seats in 1985 (282)	−	Seats of the territories (3)	=	Reference number of seats (279)
2.	Population of the provinces (29,914,315)	÷	Reference number of seats (279)	=	National electoral quotient (107,220)
3.	Population of the province e.g. Québec (7,237,479)	÷	National electoral quotient (107,220)	=	Number of seats allocated to the province (Qc) (68)
4.	Number of seats allocated to the province (Qc) (68)	+	Special clauses (Qc) (7)	=	Total number of seats allocated to the province (Qc) (75)

There are seven provinces that benefit from a special clause. Québec had 75 seats in 1985. At the time of the last revision of the federal electoral map in 2003, Québec obtained 68 electoral divisions due to its demographic weight and 7 additional divisions to respect the grandfather clause. The number of electoral divisions is thus fixed in the provinces where the growth is lower than that observed at the national level and this number increases in the provinces experiencing a population growth that is higher than the Canadian average. Consequently, the total number of electoral divisions increases with each revision of the electoral map.

Transposing the Canadian model to Québec requires establishing reference regions as well as a reference year. To adapt the Canadian model to Québec's situation, the administrative regions are used as reference regions, since they are known and stable geographical entities. The current electoral map (drawn up in 2001) is used as a reference for the adaptation of the Canadian model to Québec.

To adapt the Canadian model to Québec, the same steps must be completed, except for the first one which consists of establishing the reference number of divisions. The current number of 125 electoral divisions is used as an initial reference in this model, which comprises the following steps:

Step 1:

Calculate Québec's electoral quotient by dividing the number of electors by the reference number of seats.

Step 2:

Calculate the number of seats allocated to each administrative region by dividing the region's electors by Québec's electoral quotient. When the number contains decimals, it is agreed to round up the number to the next unit when the decimals are higher than 0.50.

Step 3:

Establish a total number of seats for a region by adding the seats resulting from a grandfather clause. Under this clause, a region cannot obtain fewer seats than those stipulated in the reference electoral map, namely that of 2001.

Figure 4 : Canadian model for allocating seats adapted to Québec

1.	Number of electors (5,650,910)	÷	Number of seats (125)	=	Provincial electoral quotient (45,207)
2.	Number of electors of the administrative region	÷	Provincial electoral quotient	=	Number of seats allocated to the region
3.	Number of seats allocated to the region	+	Grandfather clause	=	Total number of seats allocated to the region

Table 18: Allocation of the number of electoral divisions according to the Canadian model adapted to Québec[21]

	Basic information		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Analysis
Administrative region		Electors November 30, 2007	Demographic weight	Number allocated	Grandfather clause	Final number	Regional electoral quotient
Bas-Saint-Laurent–Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine		234,823	5.19	5	3	8	29,353
Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean		213,822	4.73	5		5	42,764
Capitale-Nationale		525,389	11.62	12		12	43,782
Mauricie		206,730	4.57	5		5	41,346
Estrie		227,618	5.03	5		5	45,524
Montréal		1,265,430	27.99	28		28	45,194
Outaouais		250,724	5.55	6		6	41,787
Abitibi-Témiscamingue		108,399	2.40	2	1	3	36,133
Côte-Nord		71,006	1.57	2		2	35,503
Nord-du-Québec		23,819	0.53	1		1	23,819
Chaudière-Appalaches		310,144	6.86	7	1	8	38,768
Laval		272,871	6.04	6		6	45,479
Lanaudière		332,052	7.35	7		7	47,436
Laurentides		394,648	8.73	9		9	43,850
Montérégie		1,039,434	22.99	23		23	45,193
Centre-du-Québec		174,001	3.85	4		4	43,500
Total and average		5,650,910	125	127	5	132	42,810

Concretely, the application of the Canadian model very much resembles the "by administrative region" model which was analyzed earlier[22]. Rather than providing for a minimum of three electoral divisions by administrative region, the Canadian model adapted to Québec provides for a minimum number for all administrative regions and an increase in the number for regions experiencing growth.

[21]The electoral division of Matane of the electoral map drawn up in 2001 overlaps the administrative regions of Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine. These two regions were grouped together to facilitate the comparison.
[22]All of the remarks applying to the use of the administrative regions as a delimitation basis apply for the Canadian model (regional electoral quotient, electoral divisions overlapping several regions, etc.).

By setting a minimum number of electoral divisions in all regions of Québec, this model would prevent any transfer of electoral divisions from one region to another. Hence, it would be possible for the Chaudière-Appalaches, Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie regions to retain the same number of electoral divisions.

In a first revision, Québec would go from 125 to 132 electoral divisions and, as Table 19 illustrates, the subsequent increase in the number of electoral divisions would be slightly less rapid. In accordance with the Canadian model, the delimitation would be carried out in such a way that the number of electors per electoral division respects the ±25% deviation from the average in each administrative region.

Table 19: Comparison of the number of electoral divisions by administrative region according to the adaptation of the Canadian model[23]

Administrative region	Current map (2001)	Proposed map (2010)	Canadian model (2010)	Canadian model forecast 2015	Canadian model forecast 2025
Bas-Saint-Laurent–Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine	8	6	8	8	8
Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean	5	5	5	5	5
Capitale-Nationale	11	11	12	11	11
Mauricie	5	5	5	5	5
Estrie	5	5	5	5	5
Montréal	28	28	28	29	29
Outaouais	5	5	6	6	6
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	3	3	3	3	3
Côte-Nord	2	2	2	2	2
Nord-du-Québec	1	1	1	1	1
Chaudière-Appalaches	8	7	8	8	8
Laval	5	6	6	6	6
Lanaudière	6	7	7	7	8
Laurentides	8	8	9	9	10
Montérégie	21	22	23	23	23
Centre-du-Québec	4	4	4	4	4
Total	125	125	132	132	134

By projecting the electoral population in 2015 and in 2025[24], one notes that the progression of the number of electoral divisions would be relatively slow. This phenomenon may be explained by the fact that the reference number of electoral divisions continues to be 125. The electoral quotient would increase at the pace of Québec's demographic growth, limiting the progression of the number of electoral divisions.

[23]The electoral division of Matane of the electoral map drawn up in 2001 overlaps the administrative regions of Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine. These two regions were grouped together to facilitate the comparison.

[24]The projection of the number of electors was calculated by first establishing the percentage of electors of the permanent list of electors in relation to the total population by administrative region. The number of electors of 2015 and of 2025 was then calculated by applying this percentage to the population projections of the Institut de la Statistique du Québec: Institut de la Statistique du Québec, Perspectives de la population, Québec et régions, 2006, [www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/donstat/societe/demographie/persp_poplt/index.htm], page consulted on August 4, 2008.

However, a consequence of this system would be to increase the inequalities in representation between the regions, since all of the regions experiencing negative growth have a protected number of electoral divisions under this system. Already, the large region resulting from the merger of "Bas-Saint-Laurent–Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine" would be significantly over-represented (see Table 18). Over the medium term, the electoral map would be less well balanced than with the "by administrative region" model, but the Canadian system would make it possible to at the very least maintain the current number of electoral divisions in all regions of Québec.

Moreover, a system such as the Canadian model may give rise to different problems. This is currently the case at the federal level, as thought is being given to reforming the electoral map. Indeed, this model produces a small increase in the number of electoral divisions in the provinces experiencing positive growth while guaranteeing the number of electoral divisions in those provinces with negative growth. However, some provinces have ascertained that their number of electoral divisions has not grown as quickly as their demographic weight[25], whereas other provinces have criticized the fact that their political weight has been declining steadily due to the increase in the parliamentary representation of the other provinces[26]. The phenomenon observed at the federal level could occur at the Québec level.

7.8 Using the New Zealand model adapted to Québec

New Zealand, which has a mixed plurality system, applies an original method for allocating the number of single-member constituencies on its territory. New Zealand consists of two main islands: the South Island and the North Island. The South Island, which has sixteen electoral divisions, serves as a reference for establishing the electoral quotient. The number of electoral divisions of the North Island is adjusted according to the electoral quotient of the South Island.

Furthermore, New Zealand has a large Aboriginal population, the Maoris, who represent just over 10% of the country's population. The Maoris have their own electoral divisions, which are spread across the territory using the reference quotient established on the basis of the South Island. The electoral divisions of the Maoris are thus superimposed on the country's other electoral divisions, much like as the 9 English-language school boards are superimposed on the 60 French-language school boards of Québec.

After having established the number of electoral divisions for the North Island and for the Maori people, the delimitation of the electoral divisions is made in such a way that the number of electors by electoral division respects a ±5% deviation from the average.

Figure 5: New Zealand model for allocating seats

1.	Population of the South Island	÷	16	=	Reference electoral quotient
2.	Population of the North Island	÷	Reference electoral quotient	=	Number of seats allocated to the North Island
3.	Maori population	÷	Reference electoral quotient	=	Number of seats allocated to the Maoris

[25]Government of Ontario, Fairness in the House, 2008, [www.fairness.ca/c22/french/default.asp], page consulted on July 18, 2008.

[26]Radio-Canada, Préserver le poids du Québec à Ottawa, 2009, [http://www.radio-canada.ca/nouvelles/Politique/2009/10/07/005-motion-qc-communes.shtml], page consulted on October 8, 2009.

Basically, as the population of the South Island is witnessing a slightly less rapid demographic growth than that of the North Island[27], the number of electoral divisions of the first island is maintained while the number of electoral divisions of the second is increasing slowly. As the total number of seats has been set at 120, the increase in the number of single-member constituencies is offset by a reduction in the number of list seats[28].

This particular model has succeeded in taking advantage of the mixed plurality system. With this model, it is possible to maintain the number of electoral divisions of a region where the demographic growth is slower and to increase the number in the region experiencing strong growth, which results in a very balanced electoral map. The number of seats resulting from single-member constituencies increases, while the number of list seats decreases, making it possible to have a fixed number of total seats.

To transpose this model to Québec, reference should be made to the administrative regions. Step One would therefore consist of establishing a reference region. The choice of this region would have major repercussions on the total number of electoral divisions in Québec. Indeed, if the reference region were slightly over-represented, the reference electoral quotient would be less than the current electoral quotient. Consequently, the number of electoral divisions would increase significantly.

Unlike in New Zealand, it is not possible in a first-past-the-post single-member constituency system to offset the increase in the number of single-member constituencies with a reduction in the number of list seats. Hence, it would be necessary to accept an increase in the number of electoral divisions.

The adaptation of the New Zealand model to Québec would unfold according to the following steps:

Step 1:

Calculate the electoral quotient of the region, or of a set of regions, serving as a reference by dividing its number of electors by its number of electoral divisions.

Step 2:

Calculate the number of seats allocated to each administrative region by dividing the electors of the region by the reference electoral quotient. When the number contains decimals, it is agreed to round up the number to the next unit when the decimals are higher than 0.50. The number obtained is the total number of seats that the region will have.

Figure 6: New Zealand model for allocating seats adapted to Québec

1.	Number of electors of the reference region	÷	Current number of the electoral divisions	=	Reference electoral quotient
2.	Number of electors of the administrative region	÷	Reference electoral quotient	=	Number of seats allocated to the region

[27]Statistics New Zealand, 2006 Census of Population and Dwellings, 2008, [www.stats.govt.nz], page consulted on July 21, 2008.
[28]Jack Vowles. "New Zealand: The Consolidation of Reform?" in Michael Gallagher and Paul Mitchell. The Politics of Electoral Systems, New York, Oxford University Press, 2005, p. 300.

Table 20 shows a simulation of the application of the New Zealand model to Québec with the use of three different administrative regions as reference region. If the Chaudière-Appalaches region were the reference for establishing the electoral quotient, this quotient would stand at 38,859 electors per electoral division. It would then be necessary to increase to 147 the number of electoral divisions in Québec. By using the administrative region of Montréal as the reference, the number of electoral divisions would be the same as at the present time, i.e. 125. This result may be explained by the fact that this region has a number of electoral divisions that corresponds well to its demographic weight. By using the Montérégie region as the reference for all of Québec, there would be only 114 electoral divisions. Finally, the use of a group of regions is also possible. By using the resource regions[29] as a reference, there would be 158 electoral divisions in Québec.

Table 20: Simulation of the application of the New Zealand model for allocating seats to Québec

Reference administrative region	Electors November 30, 2007	Current number of divisions (2001 map)	Reference electoral quotient	Total number of divisions
Chaudière-Appalaches	310,144	8	38,768	147
Montréal	1,265,430	28	45,194	125
Montérégie	1,039,434	21	49,497	114
Resource regions	858,599	24	35,775	158

Concretely, since the objective underlying the simulation is to preserve the number of electoral divisions in eastern Québec, it would be appropriate to use a region, the effect of which is to increase the number of electoral divisions. The region of Chaudière-Appalaches is thus used to apply the New Zealand model to Québec. Table 21 shows the results obtained by this model.

[29]They are the following regions: Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Bas-Saint-Laurent, Côte-Nord, Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Mauricie, Nord-du-Québec and Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean.

Table 21: Allocation of the number of electoral divisions according to the New Zealand model adapted to Québec[30]

Reference region	Electors November 30, 2007	Number of divisions (2001)	Reference electoral quotient
Chaudière-Appalaches	310,144	8	38,768

Administrative region	Electors November 30, 2007	Number of divisions with decimals	Final number	Regional electoral quotient
Bas-Saint-Laurent–Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine	234,823	6.06	6	39,137
Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean	213,822	5.52	6	35,637
Capitale-Nationale	525,389	13.55	14	37,528
Mauricie	206,730	5.33	5	41,346
Estrie	227,618	5.87	6	37,936
Montréal	1,265,430	32.64	33	38,346
Outaouais	250,724	6.47	6	41,787
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	108,399	2.80	3	36,133
Côte-Nord	71,006	1.83	2	35,503
Nord-du-Québec	23,819	0.61	1	23,819
Chaudière-Appalaches	310,144	8.00	8	38,768
Laval	272,871	7.04	7	38,982
Lanaudière	332,052	8.57	9	36,895
Laurentides	394,648	10.18	10	39,465
Montérégie	1,039,434	26.81	27	38,498
Centre-du-Québec	174,001	4.49	4	43,500
Total and average	5,650,910	145.76	147	38,768

As compared to the "by administrative region" model and the Canadian model, the New Zealand model is the one making it possible to obtain the most egalitarian electoral map. This result would be achieved through the major increase in the number of electoral divisions. Table 22 compares the distribution of electoral divisions with the current map and the proposed map. In addition, it presents the number of electoral divisions that Québec could have in 2015 and 2025.

Table 22: Comparison of the number of divisions by administrative region according to the adaptation of the New Zealand model

Administrative region	Current map (2001)	Proposed map (2010)	New Zealand model (2010)	New Zealand model forecast 2015	New Zealand model forecast 2025
Bas-Saint-Laurent–Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine	8	6	6	6	6
Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean	5	5	6	5	5

[30]A total of 146 electoral divisions should be obtained according to the electoral quotient of Chaudière-Appalaches. Following the distribution of the divisions by administrative region, this total increases to 147 under the rounding-up method, which allocates an additional division when the decimals are higher than 0.50.

Administrative region	Current map (2001)	Proposed map (2010)	New Zealand model (2010)	New Zealand model forecast 2015	New Zealand model forecast 2025
Capitale-Nationale	11	11	14	14	14
Mauricie	5	5	5	5	5
Estrie	5	5	6	6	6
Montréal	28	28	33	34	36
Outaouais	5	5	6	7	7
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	3	3	3	3	3
Côte-Nord	2	2	2	2	2
Nord-du-Québec	1	1	1	1	1
Chaudière-Appalaches	8	7	8	8	8
Laval	5	6	7	7	8
Lanaudière	6	7	9	9	9
Laurentides	8	8	10	11	12
Montérégie	21	22	27	27	29
Centre-du-Québec	4	4	4	5	5
Total	125	125	147	150	156

Under the New Zealand model, the number of divisions would be maintained in the Chaudière-Appalaches region. However, this model would not make it possible to maintain the number of divisions in the Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine regions. These regions would see their number of divisions fall from eight to six, just as under the current electoral map proposal. In addition, these regions would see their political weight decline relatively, since they would have 6 electoral divisions out of 147, rather than 6 divisions out of 125. To maintain the number of electoral divisions in the Bas-Saint-Laurent and the Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine regions, these regions would have to be made the provincial reference. Under such a scenario, there would be more than 190 electoral divisions in Québec.

New Zealand has found a model that is well suited to its voting procedure and its geographical and demographic situation. Its adaptation to Québec's situation could produce very different results according to the region used as the reference. The more that the reference region contained an elector deficit in relation to its current number of electoral divisions, the more the number of electoral divisions would increase. Moreover, this model would have the advantage of avoiding overly large inequalities in representation.

7.9 Fractional voting

At the public hearings, several citizens indicated that they would have preferred that the Commission's electoral map proposal only take into account natural communities without considering the relative equality of the votes of electors. A few citizens even proposed re-balancing the weight of votes directly in the house at the National Assembly.

At the present time, Québec's democracy is based on the fact that the government is formed by the political party having elected the greatest number of members. In order to respect this principle, the electoral divisions must have roughly the same number of electors since, once the electoral map is drawn up, each elected member has one vote in the National Assembly. Fractional voting is based on a different principle, i.e. that the vote that a member has in the National Assembly is equal to the

demographic weight of the electoral division that the member represents. Under the fractional voting model, it is possible to establish electoral divisions by using natural communities as the preponderant criterion, without taking into account the numerical criterion since an absolute equality of votes is guaranteed under this new system.

Concretely, the current electoral quotient (45,207 electors) has a value of "one electoral point" and the weight of each electoral division is equal to its ratio to the provincial average. An electoral division having 36,166 electors would obtain 0.80 points, whereas an electoral division with 54,248 would receive 1.20 points. The formula used to calculate the "electoral points" of an electoral division is as follows:

Number of electors/Electoral quotient = Electoral point

Table 23 illustrates the number of electoral points that a few electoral divisions of Québec would obtain, according to their number of electors as of November 30, 2007.

Table 23: Calculation of the electoral points for certain divisions

Current division (2001)	Electors November 30, 2007	Electoral quotient	Electoral point
Îles-de-la-Madeleine	10,600		0.23
Ungava	23,819		0.53
Gaspé	27,569		0.61
Bonaventure	28,908		0.64
Montmagny-L'Islet	32,057		0.71
René-Lévesque	34,341		0.76
Kamouraska-Témiscouata	34,426		0.76
Duplessis	36,665		0.81
Jean-Talon	40,159		0.89
Gouin	43,057		0.95
Johnson	43,485	45,207	0.96
Saint-François	45,151		1.00
Chicoutimi	46,114		1.02
Jean-Lesage	48,145		1.06
Maskinongé	49,539		1.10
Papineau	54,695		1.21
Drummond	56,939		1.26
Fabre	58,591		1.30
Chambly	59,947		1.33
Masson	60,762		1.34
Total of the divisions	5,650,910	45,207	125.00

In this model, the vote of a Member of the National Assembly is equal to the demographic weight of his/her electoral division. In order to pass a law, it would be necessary to obtain the majority of electoral points and no longer the majority of votes of elected members. At the time of a general election, the political party that forms the government would no longer be the party having won the most electoral divisions, but rather the party having obtained the most electoral points.

Such a system would, however, call into question the resources offered to elected members to carry out their work in the electoral division. Indeed, with an unbalanced electoral map, certain elected members could represent three to four times as many electors as other elected members.

Finally, fractional voting would maintain the same delimitation of the electoral divisions of Québec. It would no longer be necessary to make revisions as frequently. The latter would only serve to better reflect the new realities of Québec, for example, adjusting the boundaries of the electoral division to the boundaries of the municipalities and boroughs in the case of changes or having the boundaries correspond to new communities of interest.

Fractional voting would thus result in a more stable electoral map, a perfect equality, but above all, a major change in Québec's electoral and parliamentary system. Under such a system, elected members are no longer equal since their weight in the National Assembly varies according to the number of electors in their electoral division. To form the government and to pass legislation, the vote of an elected member would be directly proportional to the demographic weight of his/her electoral division.

7.10 Weighting the number of electors according to the surface area

In order to better take into account the surface area of the territory, a few participants suggested amending the Act to add a weighting factor that would take into consideration the land area of an electoral division. Drawing inspiration from the proposals that were made during the public hearings, the Commission examined a model that provides for a weighting of the number of electors based on the surface area.

The general principle is as follows: one "virtual elector" per square kilometre of land territory must be added. A limit of 20,000 virtual electors is applied to the model to avoid giving excessive weight to the territory. In its research, the Commission found that Norway uses a similar model for weighting the number of electors on the basis of the surface area[31].

The operation of this system is as follows: for example, an electoral division having 40,000 electors and a land area of 2,000 km^2 would see its number of electors increase by 2,000 virtual electors for a total of 42,000 electors.

Concretely, by amending the Act according to this principle, it would be necessary to add approximately 371,250 virtual electors[32] to the 5,650,910 electors that Québec currently has. As a result, virtual electors would represent 6% and real electors would represent 94%. Thus, there would be 6,022,160 electors in all, increasing the electoral quotient to 48,177 electors. By retaining a ±25% deviation from the average number of electors per electoral division, the minimum and maximum thresholds would stand at 36,133 and 60,222 electors respectively.

Table 24 illustrates the results of this model. It presents the electoral divisions that would be in an exception situation or close to such a situation.

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[31]Norway adds 1.8 virtual electors per square kilometre. This country occupies a territory of roughly 324,220 km^2 and has 4,821,600 inhabitants, whereas Québec has a territory of more than 1,500,000 km^2 and a population of 7,546,131 inhabitants: Ministry of local government and regional development, The Main Features of the Norwegian Electoral System. 2008, [www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/krd/Subjects/Elections.html?id=1378], page consulted on August 5, 2008. Statistics Canada, 2006 Census. [www.statcan.ca].

[32]The land area was chosen, since it is the reference used by the majority of participants. The area to be served could also have been used in order to better correspond to the reality of the inhabited territory (see section 7.1).

Table 24: Electoral divisions in an exception or critical situation according to the system of weighting the number of electors based on the surface area

Current division (2001)	Virtual electors (km²)	Electors November 30, 2007	Total electors	Deviation from the average
Îles-de-la-Madeleine	227	10,600	10,827	-77.5
Gaspé	6,902	27,569	34,471	-28.4
Frontenac	1,751	33,285	35,036	-27.3
Montmagny-L'Islet	3,687	32,057	35,744	-25.8
Rivière-du-Loup	2,433	33,843	36,276	-24.7
Matane	8,410	27,904	36,314	-24.6
Nicolet-Yamaska	2,177	34,498	36,675	-23.9
Saint-Maurice	653	36,432	37,085	-23.0
Bonaventure	8,184	28,908	37,092	-23.0
Lotbinière	3,346	33,980	37,326	-22.5
Matapédia	7,715	29,773	37,488	-22.2
Bellechasse	3,067	34,542	37,609	-21.9
Trois-Rivières	81	37,747	37,828	-21.5
Prévost	128	57,896	58,024	20.4
Fabre	48	58,591	58,639	21.7
Papineau	4,122	54,695	58,817	22.1
Chauveau	6,811	52,407	59,218	22.9
Chambly	255	59,947	60,202	24.9
Pontiac	14,696	45,982	60,678	25.9
Masson	186	60,762	60,948	26.5
Lac-Saint-Jean	19,926	41,505	61,431	27.5
Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue	20,000	42,634	62,634	30.0
Labelle	17,969	45,363	63,332	31.5
Gatineau	14,656	48,858	63,514	31.8
Berthier	10,321	53,778	64,099	33.0
Roberval	20,000	44,827	64,827	34.6
Total	371,250	5,650,910	6,022,160	
Electoral quotient			48,177	
Minimum threshold			36,133	
Maximum threshold			60,222	

This table shows that there would nevertheless be 13 electoral divisions in an exception situation and 13 close to finding themselves in such a situation for a total of 26 electoral divisions under the current model. With such a number, the redelimitation of Québec's electoral map would likely require equally major changes as at the present time.

Among other things, the regions of the Gaspésie and Chaudière-Appalaches would lose an electoral division all the same. Indeed, the surface area of the Gaspésie region is not large enough to offset its

lack of electors. For its part, the surface area of Chaudière-Appalaches is below that of the Québec average, which is dominated by the large areas of the northern electoral divisions of Québec.

Similarly, under this model, other transfers of electoral divisions would be expected. Without having any electoral division in an exception or critical situation, the majority of the electoral divisions of Île-de-Montréal currently post negative deviations. In fact, this region would lose two electoral divisions to the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean and Outaouais regions. The current transfers in favour of the Laval and Laurentides-Lanaudière regions would be maintained, whereas the Montérégie region would no longer need an additional electoral division.

However, the regions of Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Nord-du-Québec, Bas-Saint-Laurent and Côte-Nord would obtain the same number of electoral divisions in relation to the electoral map drawn up in 2001.

The following table presents a summary of the transfers of electoral divisions made between the electoral divisions within the context of a weighting of the number of electors based on the surface area of the territory.

Table 25: Comparison of the number of divisions by electoral region according to the model where the number of electors is weighted based on the surface area

Electoral region	Current map (2001)	Proposed map (2010)	Map according to territory weighting model
Abitibi-Témiscamingue–Nord-du-Québec	4	4	4
Bas-Saint-Laurent	3	2	3
Capitale-Nationale	11	11	11
Chaudière-Appalaches	8	7	7
Côte-Nord	2	2	2
Estrie–Centre-du-Québec	9	9	9
Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine	5	4	4
Laurentides-Lanaudière	14	15	15
Laval	5	6	6
Mauricie	5	5	5
Montérégie	21	22	21
Montréal	28	28	26
Outaouais	5	5	6
Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean	5	5	6
Total	125	125	125

Consequently, the weighting of the number of electors by the land area does not guarantee the maintaining of the electoral divisions for the Gaspésie and Chaudière-Appalaches regions. In addition, this method would risk producing relatively major changes for certain regions of Québec.

This model, which takes into consideration Québec's territorial dimension, generally gives a better representation to the remote regions of Québec. However, the greater the weighting of electors based on the surface area, the further one moves away from the principle of the equality of votes of electors.

In summary

Almost all of the proposals examined in this chapter were suggested by citizens during the public hearings held by the Commission de la représentation électorale. Several other proposals could also have been analyzed. The Commission chose to examine ten proposals which stand out by their originality or by the fact that they were mentioned several times during the public consultation process. These analyses were not made in relation to the Canadian constitutional framework. However, it is important to bear in mind that a change to the Election Act must adhere to this framework, notably from the standpoint of respecting the equality of votes of electors.

Most of the proposals examined share a common characteristic: they do not make it possible to maintain the electoral divisions that the Commission proposes taking away from certain regions. To preserve these electoral divisions, it would be necessary to not only amend the Act but also to accept an occasionally substantial increase in the number of electoral divisions. Moreover, without such an increase, the current inequalities in representation in Québec would remain just as great.

For example, under the Canadian model adapted to Québec, 132 electoral divisions would be needed to maintain the electoral divisions in the over-represented regions. However, this model creates major inequalities in representation. To reduce them, it would be necessary to opt for a model like that of New Zealand adapted to Québec. The number of electoral divisions in Québec would then have to be increased to 147.

It does not matter which proposal is studied, the effect of the additions of electoral divisions in Québec is to increase the number of electoral divisions in those regions where the number of electors is high and whose population is growing. By maintaining the number of electoral divisions in the regions experiencing negative growth and by increasing the number in those regions with positive growth, the political weight of the rural regions of Québec will necessarily decline.

CONCLUSION

The members of the Commission de la représentation électorale consider that good progress has been made in the electoral map revision process. The Commission has proposed an electoral map, has heard those individuals and organizations interested in this revision project and has made changes to its preliminary proposal by taking into account, wherever possible, the suggestions and comments submitted to its attention throughout the process. Moreover, the Commission has respected its commitment to citizens by reflecting their various concerns in this report.

The delimitation proposed by the Commission in its second report respects the principles set out in the Election Act and those recognized in the electoral representation field. This proposal considerably reduces the inequalities in representation while paying special attention to the need to respect natural communities as well as the different realities of Québec. Consequently, the Commission is of the opinion that the electoral map found in this report is fair and equitable for all electors.

The members of the Commission recognize that this is a major revision. However, this revision has become necessary and the withdrawal of electoral divisions from eastern Québec today appears unavoidable due to the inequalities of representation of the current electoral map.

Maintaining the number of electoral divisions in the over-represented regions will only be possible if the delimitation rules set out in the Election Act are changed. In this report, the Commission has given several examples of models that could be applied to Québec. However, none of these models is fully satisfactory.

That is why crucial choices need to be made. To preserve the number of electoral divisions in certain regions of Québec, it is necessary to either accept greater inequalities in representation or increase the number of electoral divisions. An increase of only a few electoral divisions would be insufficient to achieve this objective. A great many more electoral divisions would be required without necessarily resulting in fairer representation.

This concern about preserving rural electoral divisions, as voiced during the public hearings, reflects a debate on principles: how far are we willing to dilute the principle of the equal weight of the votes of electors to preserve a certain number of electoral divisions in remote regions? While the members of the Commission continue to believe in the intrinsic value of the current Act, they feel that it is up to the Members of the National Assembly to debate and decide this question. Most of the avenues of reflection suggested in this report will contribute to the discussions of the MNAs.

The Commission recognizes the difficulties associated with the work of an MNA in the large electoral divisions of Québec. It therefore recommends that thought be given to the means and resources that should be made available to facilitate the work of these elected members in their electoral division.

In conclusion, the Commission reiterates that within five days of the tabling of its second report, the latter shall be the subject of a debate limited to five hours in the National Assembly. Not later than the tenth day following this debate, the Commission shall establish the boundaries of the electoral divisions and assign names to them. The list of the electoral divisions shall then be published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*.

The Commission also wishes to point out that under section 32 of the Act, if the dissolution of the National Assembly were to occur before the expiry of three months from this publication, the general elections would then be held on the basis of the electoral map currently in effect, namely the one drawn up in 2001.

Appendix I

Number of electors of the 125 current electoral divisions with the electoral population as of November 30, 2007

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation*
Abitibi-Est	**33,180**	**-26.6%**
Abitibi-Ouest	**32,585**	**-27.9%**
Acadie	48,301	+6.8%
Anjou	44,683	-1.2%
Argenteuil	39,979	-11.6%
Arthabaska	48,915	+8.2%
Beauce-Nord	39,694	-12.2%
Beauce-Sud	46,511	+2.9%
Beauharnois	43,580	-3.6%
Bellechasse	34,542	-23.6%
Berthier	53,778	+19.0%
Bertrand	53,225	+17.7%
Blainville	56,142	+24.2%
Bonaventure	**28,908**	**-36.1%**
Borduas	41,806	-7.5%
Bourassa-Sauvé	49,157	+8.7%
Bourget	47,103	+4.2%
Brome-Missisquoi	50,234	+11.1%
Chambly	**59,947**	**+32.6%**
Champlain	46,981	+3.9%
Chapleau	52,992	+17.2%
Charlesbourg	50,847	+12.5%
Charlevoix	**33,156**	**-26.7%**
Châteauguay	56,256	+24.4%

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	*Deviation**
Chauveau	52,407	+15.9%
Chicoutimi	46,114	+2.0%
Chomedey	55,026	+21.7%
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière	51,595	+14.1%
Crémazie	46,779	+3.5%
D'Arcy-McGee	40,749	-9.9%
Deux-Montagnes	45,576	+0.8%
Drummond	**56,939**	**+26.0%**
Dubuc	37,412	-17.2%
Duplessis	36,665	-18.9%
Fabre	**58,591**	**+29.6%**
Frontenac	**33,285**	**-26.4%**
Gaspé	**27,569**	**-39.0%**
Gatineau	48,858	+8.1%
Gouin	43,057	-4.8%
Groulx	48,906	+8.2%
Hochelaga-Maisonneuve	40,489	-10.4%
Hull	48,197	+6.6%
Huntingdon	44,133	-2.4%
Iberville	45,780	+1.3%
Îles-de-la-Madeleine	**10,600**	**-76.6%**
Jacques-Cartier	47,448	+5.0%
Jean-Lesage	48,145	+6.5%
Jeanne-Mance–Viger	48,201	+6.6%
Jean-Talon	40,159	-11.2%
Johnson	43,485	-3.8%

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation*
Joliette	51,076	+13.0%
Jonquière	43,964	-2.7%
Kamouraska-Témiscouata	34,426	-23.8%
Labelle	45,363	+0.3%
Lac-Saint-Jean	41,505	-8.2%
LaFontaine	39,185	-13.3%
La Peltrie	52,568	+16.3%
La Pinière	53,592	+18.5%
Laporte	45,543	+0.7%
La Prairie	**56,735**	**+25.5%**
L'Assomption	**57,124**	**+26.4%**
Laurier-Dorion	46,345	+2.5%
Laval-des-Rapides	48,429	+7.1%
Laviolette	34,213	-24.3%
Lévis	50,733	+12.2%
Lotbinière	33,980	-24.8%
Louis-Hébert	51,529	+14.0%
Marguerite-Bourgeoys	46,320	+2.5%
Marguerite-D'Youville	51,406	+13.7%
Marie-Victorin	40,778	-9.8%
Marquette	49,074	+8.6%
Maskinongé	49,539	+9.6%
Masson	**60,762**	**+34.4%**
Matane	**27,904**	**-38.3%**
Matapédia	**29,773**	**-34.1%**
Mégantic-Compton	**33,706**	**-25.4%**

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation*
Mercier	40,442	-10.5%
Mille-Îles	55,081	+21.8%
Mirabel	47,814	+5.8%
Montmagny-L'Islet	**32,057**	**-29.1%**
Montmorency	52,739	+16.7%
Mont-Royal	41,491	-8.2%
Nelligan	52,921	+17.1%
Nicolet-Yamaska	34,498	-23.7%
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce	39,025	-13.7%
Orford	54,123	+19.7%
Outremont	39,893	-11.8%
Papineau	54,695	+21.0%
Pointe-aux-Trembles	40,321	-10.8%
Pontiac	45,982	+1.7%
Portneuf	44,424	-1.7%
Prévost	**57,896**	**+28.1%**
René-Lévesque	34,341	-24.0%
Richelieu	40,587	-10.2%
Richmond	36,254	-19.8%
Rimouski	43,110	-4.6%
Rivière-du-Loup	**33,843**	**-25.1%**
Robert-Baldwin	50,309	+11.3%
Roberval	44,827	-0.8%
Rosemont	51,885	+14.8%
Rousseau	52,804	+16.8%
Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue	42,634	-5.7%

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation*
Saint-François	45,151	-0.1%
Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne	51,264	+13.4%
Saint-Hyacinthe	49,173	+8.8%
Saint-Jean	55,468	+22.7%
Saint-Laurent	51,126	+13.1%
Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques	41,710	-7.7%
Saint-Maurice	36,432	-19.4%
Shefford	55,221	+22.2%
Sherbrooke	48,374	+7.0%
Soulanges	41,516	-8.2%
Taillon	55,776	+23.4%
Taschereau	47,146	+4.3%
Terrebonne	56,255	+24.4%
Trois-Rivières	37,747	-16.5%
Ungava	**23,819**	**-47.3%**
Vachon	44,833	-0.8%
Vanier	54,087	+19.6%
Vaudreuil	50,007	+10.6%
Verchères	43,674	-3.4%
Verdun	46,587	+3.1%
Viau	41,954	-7.2%
Vimont	55,744	+23.3%
Westmount–Saint-Louis	39,611	-12.4%
Provincial total	5,650,910	-
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

* Deviation of the number of electors from the provincial average.

Appendix II

Number of electors of the 125 proposed electoral divisions with the electoral population as of November 30, 2007

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation*
Abitibi-Est	**31,674**	**-29.9%**
Abitibi-Ouest	34,091	-24.6%
Acadie	48,301	+6.8%
Anjou–Louis-Riel	44,683	-1.2%
Argenteuil	39,979	-11.6%
Arthabaska	55,141	+22.0%
Beauce-Nord	39,694	-12.2%
Beauce-Sud	46,511	+2.9%
Beauharnois	43,580	-3.6%
Bellechasse	40,801	-9.7%
Berthier	52,775	+16.7%
Bertrand	51,526	+14.0%
Blainville	51,213	+13.3%
Bonaventure	35,373	-21.8%
Borduas	48,477	+7.2%
Bourassa-Sauvé	49,157	+8.7%
Bourget	47,103	+4.2%
Brome-Missisquoi	51,276	+13.4%
Chambly	41,412	-8.4%
Champlain	46,981	+3.9%
Chapleau	52,956	+17.1%
Charlesbourg	50,801	+12.4%
Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré	48,258	+6.7%
Châteauguay	44,628	-1.3%

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation*
Chauveau	51,930	+14.9%
Chicoutimi	46,114	+2.0%
Chomedey	52,885	+17.0%
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière	51,595	+14.1%
Côte-du-Sud	50,767	+12.3%
Crémazie	46,779	+3.5%
D'Arcy-McGee	40,749	-9.9%
Deux-Montagnes	45,576	+0.8%
Drummond–Bois-Francs	47,141	+4.3%
Dubuc	37,412	-17.2%
Duplessis	36,665	-18.9%
Fabre	42,236	-6.6%
Gaspé	**31,046**	**-31.3%**
Gatineau	51,242	+13.3%
Gouin	43,057	-4.8%
Granby	47,088	+4.2%
Groulx	53,835	+19.1%
Hochelaga-Maisonneuve	40,489	-10.4%
Hull	49,689	+9.9%
Huntingdon	40,829	-9.7%
Iberville	41,966	-7.2%
Îles-de-la-Madeleine	**10,600**	**-76.6%**
Jacques-Cartier	42,934	-5.0%
Jean-Lesage	47,006	+4.0%
Jeanne-Mance–Viger	48,201	+6.6%
Jean-Talon	47,696	+5.5%

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation*
Johnson	52,990	+17.2%
Joliette	52,079	+15.2%
Jonquière	43,964	-2.7%
Labelle	45,363	+0.3%
Lac-Saint-Jean	41,127	-9.0%
LaFontaine	39,185	-13.3%
La Peltrie	48,915	+8.2%
La Pinière	53,592	+18.5%
Laporte	45,543	+0.7%
La Prairie	37,813	-16.4%
L'Assomption	45,435	+0.5%
Laurier-Dorion	46,345	+2.5%
Laval-des-Rapides	52,539	+16.2%
Laviolette	36,031	-20.3%
Lévis	44,474	-1.6%
Lotbinière-Frontenac	51,795	+14.6%
Louis-Hébert	42,651	-5.7%
Marguerite-Bourgeoys	52,177	+15.4%
Marguerite-D'Youville	48,949	+8.3%
Marie-Victorin	47,635	+5.4%
Marquette	43,217	-4.4%
Maskinongé	44,755	-1.0%
Masson	40,849	-9.6%
Matane-Matapédia	47,735	+5.6%
Mégantic	37,534	-17.0%
Mercier	40,442	-10.5%

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation*
Mille-Îles	38,799	-14.2%
Mirabel	47,814	+5.8%
Montmorency	50,383	+11.4%
Mont-Royal	41,491	-8.2%
Nelligan	54,306	+20.1%
Nicolet-Bécancour	37,978	-16.0%
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce	39,016	-13.7%
Orford	37,390	-17.3%
Outremont	39,893	-11.8%
Papineau	52,347	+15.8%
Pointe-aux-Trembles	40,321	-10.8%
Pontiac	44,490	-1.6%
Portneuf	37,334	-17.4%
René-Lévesque	34,341	-24.0%
Repentigny	47,307	+4.6%
Richelieu	46,275	+2.4%
Richmond	53,260	+17.8%
Rimouski	42,191	-6.7%
Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata	50,478	+11.7%
Robert-Baldwin	53,438	+18.2%
Roberval	45,205	0.0%
Rosemont	51,885	+14.8%
Rousseau	53,075	+17.4%
Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue	42,634	-5.7%
Saint-François	52,967	+17.2%
Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne	51,273	+13.4%

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of November 30, 2007	
	Number	Deviation*
Saint-Hyacinthe	54,704	+21.0%
Saint-Jean	53,948	+19.3%
Saint-Jérôme	50,157	+10.9%
Saint-Laurent	51,126	+13.1%
Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques	41,710	-7.7%
Saint-Maurice	36,432	-19.4%
Sainte-Rose	45,242	+0.1%
Sanguinet	35,374	-21.8%
Sherbrooke	48,374	+7.0%
Soulanges	41,516	-8.2%
Taillon	48,919	+8.2%
Taschereau	50,394	+11.5%
Terrebonne	49,717	+10.0%
Trois-Rivières	42,531	-5.9%
Ungava	**23,819**	**-47.3%**
Vachon	44,833	-0.8%
Vanier-Les Rivières	50,021	+10.6%
Vaudreuil	50,007	+10.6%
Verchères	51,821	+14.6%
Verdun	46,587	+3.1%
Viau	41,954	-7.2%
Vimont	41,170	-8.9%
Westmount–Saint-Louis	39,611	-12.4%
Provincial total	5,650,910	-
Provincial average	45,207	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	33,905	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	56,509	-

* Deviation of the number of electors from the provincial average.

Appendix III

Number of electors of the 125 current electoral divisions with the electoral population as of July 31, 2010

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of July 31, 2010	
	Number	Deviation*
Abitibi-Est	**34,106**	**-26.5%**
Abitibi-Ouest	**33,146**	**-28.5%**
Acadie	47,855	+3.2%
Anjou	44,086	-5.0%
Argenteuil	42,152	-9.1%
Arthabaska	50,693	+9.3%
Beauce-Nord	40,857	-11.9%
Beauce-Sud	47,302	+2.0%
Beauharnois	44,425	-4.2%
Bellechasse	35,293	-23.9%
Berthier	55,844	+20.4%
Bertrand	55,772	+20.2%
Blainville	**60,023**	**+29.4%**
Bonaventure	**29,397**	**-36.6%**
Borduas	44,619	-3.8%
Bourassa-Sauvé	47,661	+2.7%
Bourget	47,960	+3.4%
Brome-Missisquoi	52,321	+12.8%
Chambly	**62,817**	**+35.4%**
Champlain	48,042	+3.6%
Chapleau	54,112	+16.6%
Charlesbourg	52,180	+12.5%
Charlevoix	**33,656**	**-27.4%**
Châteauguay	**59,751**	**+28.8%**

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of July 31, 2010	
	Number	Deviation*
Chauveau	55,935	+20.6%
Chicoutimi	46,130	-0.6%
Chomedey	57,905	+24.8%
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière	53,232	+14.7%
Crémazie	46,149	-0.5%
D'Arcy-McGee	40,338	-13.0%
Deux-Montagnes	46,621	+0.5%
Drummond	**59,270**	**+27.8%**
Dubuc	38,805	-16.4%
Duplessis	37,571	-19.0%
Fabre	**61,331**	**+32.2%**
Frontenac	**33,264**	**-28.3%**
Gaspé	**27,661**	**-40.4%**
Gatineau	51,055	+10.1%
Gouin	42,726	-7.9%
Groulx	50,177	+8.2%
Hochelaga-Maisonneuve	40,557	-12.6%
Hull	47,643	+2.7%
Huntingdon	45,900	-1.1%
Iberville	48,578	+4.7%
Îles-de-la-Madeleine	**10,843**	**-76.6%**
Jacques-Cartier	48,214	+3.9%
Jean-Lesage	48,143	+3.8%
Jeanne-Mance–Viger	47,969	+3.4%
Jean-Talon	39,482	-14.9%
Johnson	44,613	-3.8%

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of July 31, 2010	
	Number	Deviation*
Joliette	53,578	+15.5%
Jonquière	44,818	-3.4%
Kamouraska-Témiscouata	**34,453**	**-25.7%**
Labelle	46,490	+0.2%
Lac-Saint-Jean	42,434	-8.5%
LaFontaine	39,936	-13.9%
La Peltrie	54,711	+17.9%
La Pinière	56,310	+21.4%
Laporte	45,725	-1.4%
La Prairie	**59,727**	**+28.7%**
L'Assomption	**59,303**	**+27.8%**
Laurier-Dorion	46,023	-0.8%
Laval-des-Rapides	48,884	+5.4%
Laviolette	**34,144**	**-26.4%**
Lévis	52,625	+13.4%
Lotbinière	35,251	-24.0%
Louis-Hébert	50,884	+9.7%
Marguerite-Bourgeoys	45,762	-1.4%
Marguerite-D'Youville	52,984	+14.2%
Marie-Victorin	39,982	-13.8%
Marquette	49,544	+6.8%
Maskinongé	50,866	+9.6%
Masson	**66,543**	**+43.4%**
Matane	**27,786**	**-40.1%**
Matapédia	**29,869**	**-35.6%**
Mégantic-Compton	**34,407**	**-25.8%**

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of July 31, 2010	
	Number	Deviation*
Mercier	39,815	-14.2%
Mille-Îles	57,040	+23.0%
Mirabel	53,213	+14.7%
Montmagny-L'Islet	**31,991**	**-31.0%**
Montmorency	55,829	+20.3%
Mont-Royal	40,723	-12.2%
Nelligan	54,484	+17.4%
Nicolet-Yamaska	35,377	-23.7%
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce	39,508	-14.8%
Orford	57,655	+24.3%
Outremont	39,332	-15.2%
Papineau	57,367	+23.7%
Pointe-aux-Trembles	40,497	-12.7%
Pontiac	49,991	+7.8%
Portneuf	46,674	+0.6%
Prévost	**61,099**	**+31.7%**
René-Lévesque	**34,297**	**-26.1%**
Richelieu	40,893	-11.8%
Richmond	36,896	-20.5%
Rimouski	43,765	-5.7%
Rivière-du-Loup	**34,330**	**-26.0%**
Robert-Baldwin	50,548	+9.0%
Roberval	44,588	-3.9%
Rosemont	51,042	+10.0%
Rousseau	57,843	+24.7%
Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue	43,344	-6.6%

Current electoral divisions (2001)	Electors as of July 31, 2010	
	Number	Deviation*
Saint-François	46,150	-0.5%
Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne	52,322	+12.8%
Saint-Hyacinthe	50,347	+8.5%
Saint-Jean	57,574	+24.1%
Saint-Laurent	52,141	+12.4%
Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques	41,718	-10.1%
Saint-Maurice	36,579	-21.1%
Shefford	57,228	+23.4%
Sherbrooke	48,248	+4.0%
Soulanges	44,505	-4.1%
Taillon	56,814	+22.5%
Taschereau	46,282	-0.2%
Terrebonne	**59,974**	**+29.3%**
Trois-Rivières	38,258	-17.5%
Ungava	**25,207**	**-45.7%**
Vachon	46,162	-0.5%
Vanier	57,133	+23.2%
Vaudreuil	54,199	+16.8%
Verchères	45,944	-1.0%
Verdun	47,166	+1.7%
Viau	40,744	-12.2%
Vimont	**59,392**	**+28.0%**
Westmount–Saint-Louis	39,310	-15.3%
Provincial total	5,798,759	-
Provincial average	46,390	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	34,793	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	57,988	-

* Deviation of the number of electors from the provincial average.

Appendix IV

Number of electors of the 125 proposed electoral divisions with the electoral population as of July 31, 2010

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of July 31, 2010	
	Number	Deviation*
Abitibi-Est	**32,563**	**-29.8%**
Abitibi-Ouest	**34,689**	**-25.2%**
Acadie	47,855	+3.2%
Anjou–Louis-Riel	44,086	-5.0%
Argenteuil	42,152	-9.1%
Arthabaska	56,952	+22.8%
Beauce-Nord	40,857	-11.9%
Beauce-Sud	47,302	+2.0%
Beauharnois	44,425	-4.2%
Bellechasse	41,801	-9.9%
Berthier	54,737	+18.0%
Bertrand	54,310	+17.1%
Blainville	54,933	+18.4%
Bonaventure	35,932	-22.5%
Borduas	51,408	+10.8%
Bourassa-Sauvé	47,661	+2.7%
Bourget	47,960	+3.4%
Brome-Missisquoi	53,531	+15.4%
Chambly	43,597	-6.0%
Champlain	48,042	+3.6%
Chapleau	53,896	+16.2%
Charlesbourg	52,134	+12.4%
Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré	49,728	+7.2%
Châteauguay	47,615	+2.6%

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of July 31, 2010	
	Number	Deviation*
Chauveau	54,937	+18.4%
Chicoutimi	46,130	-0.6%
Chomedey	55,227	+19.0%
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière	53,232	+14.7%
Côte-du-Sud	50,727	+9.3%
Crémazie	46,149	-0.5%
D'Arcy-McGee	40,338	-13.0%
Deux-Montagnes	46,621	+0.5%
Drummond–Bois-Francs	48,663	+4.9%
Dubuc	38,812	-16.3%
Duplessis	37,571	-19.0%
Fabre	45,256	-2.4%
Gaspé	**31,020**	**-33.1%**
Gatineau	53,990	+16.4%
Gouin	42,726	-7.9%
Granby	48,660	+4.9%
Groulx	55,267	+19.1%
Hochelaga-Maisonneuve	40,557	-12.6%
Hull	50,922	+9.8%
Huntingdon	42,247	-8.9%
Iberville	44,605	-3.8%
Îles-de-la-Madeleine	**10,843**	**-76.6%**
Jacques-Cartier	43,702	-5.8%
Jean-Lesage	46,577	+0.4%
Jeanne-Mance–Viger	47,969	+3.4%
Jean-Talon	46,303	-0.2%

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of July 31, 2010	
	Number	Deviation*
Johnson	54,781	+18.1%
Joliette	54,685	+17.9%
Jonquière	44,811	-3.4%
Labelle	46,490	+0.2%
Lac-Saint-Jean	42,036	-9.4%
LaFontaine	39,936	-13.9%
La Peltrie	51,675	+11.4%
La Pinière	56,310	+21.4%
Laporte	45,725	-1.4%
La Prairie	40,198	-13.3%
L'Assomption	49,117	+5.9%
Laurier-Dorion	46,023	-0.8%
Laval-des-Rapides	52,969	+14.2%
Laviolette	36,010	-22.4%
Lévis	46,117	-0.6%
Lotbinière-Frontenac	52,983	+14.2%
Louis-Hébert	43,477	-6.3%
Marguerite-Bourgeoys	51,490	+11.0%
Marguerite-D'Youville	50,687	+9.3%
Marie-Victorin	46,743	+0.8%
Marquette	43,816	-5.5%
Maskinongé	46,049	-0.7%
Masson	45,685	-1.5%
Matane-Matapédia	47,761	+3.0%
Mégantic	38,186	-17.7%
Mercier	39,815	-14.2%

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of July 31, 2010	
	Number	Deviation*
Mille-Îles	40,301	-13.1%
Mirabel	53,213	+14.7%
Montmorency	52,610	+13.4%
Mont-Royal	40,723	-12.2%
Nelligan	55,924	+20.6%
Nicolet-Bécancour	38,914	-16.1%
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce	39,504	-14.8%
Orford	39,337	-15.2%
Outremont	39,332	-15.2%
Papineau	54,648	+17.8%
Pointe-aux-Trembles	40,497	-12.7%
Pontiac	46,712	+0.7%
Portneuf	38,901	-16.1%
René-Lévesque	**34,297**	**-26.1%**
Repentigny	48,869	+5.3%
Richelieu	46,807	+0.9%
Richmond	55,668	+20.0%
Rimouski	42,872	-7.6%
Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata	50,940	+9.8%
Robert-Baldwin	53,620	+15.6%
Roberval	44,986	-3.0%
Rosemont	51,042	+10.0%
Rousseau	57,568	+24.1%
Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue	43,344	-6.6%
Saint-François	54,249	+16.9%
Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne	52,326	+12.8%

Proposed electoral divisions	Electors as of July 31, 2010	
	Number	Deviation*
Saint-Hyacinthe	56,120	+21.0%
Saint-Jean	55,997	+20.7%
Saint-Jérôme	52,465	+13.1%
Saint-Laurent	52,141	+12.4%
Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques	41,718	-10.1%
Saint-Maurice	36,579	-21.1%
Sainte-Rose	47,653	+2.7%
Sanguinet	36,895	-20.5%
Sherbrooke	48,248	+4.0%
Soulanges	44,505	-4.1%
Taillon	50,053	+7.9%
Taschereau	49,492	+6.7%
Terrebonne	52,520	+13.2%
Trois-Rivières	43,075	-7.1%
Ungava	**25,207**	**-45.7%**
Vachon	46,162	-0.5%
Vanier-Les Rivières	53,209	+14.7%
Vaudreuil	54,199	+16.8%
Verchères	54,159	+16.7%
Verdun	47,166	+1.7%
Viau	40,744	-12.2%
Vimont	43,146	-7.0%
Westmount–Saint-Louis	39,310	-15.3%
Provincial total	5,798,759	-
Provincial average	46,390	-
Minimum limit (-25%)	34,793	-
Maximum limit (+25%)	57,988	-

* Deviation of the number of electors from the provincial average.

Appendix V

Abbreviations used to designate municipalities

In this report as well as on the appended map presenting the delimitation of the electoral divisions, the name of a local municipality is occasionally followed by an abbreviation. This abbreviation refers to the designation of the municipality. Here is the list of these abbreviations and their meaning.

CT	canton (township)
CU	cantons unis (united townships)
ÉI	établissement indien (Indian settlement)
M	municipalité (municipality)
NO	territoire non organisé (unorganized territory)
P	paroisse (parish)
RI	réserve indienne (Indian reserve)
TC	terres réservées cries (Cree reserved territory)
TI	terres réservées inuites (Inuit reserved territory)
TK	terres réservées naskapies (Naskapi reserved territory)
V	ville (town)
VC	village cri (Cree village)
VK	village naskapi (Naskapi village)
VL	village
VN	village nordique (northern village)

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