



# **CITY OF PRINCE ALBERT**

## **2019 MUNICIPAL WARDS COMMISSION FINAL REPORT**

## **BACKGROUND**

The Municipal Wards Commission ("Commission") was established by the City of Prince Albert Council through the approval of Bylaw No. 4 of 2019 to conduct a review the City's eight (8) wards as outlined in Section 60 of *The Cities Act*.

On April 8, 2019 City Council appointed the following people to the Commission:

- Justice Gary A. Meschishnick (designated by the Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench)
- Sherry Person (City Clerk)
- Dr. Brenda Mishak (Citizen at Large)

In accordance with the provisions of Section 59 of *The Cities Act*, the Commission established a quotient for each ward in the City by dividing the current total population of the City by the number of wards into which the municipality is to be divided. In determining the boundaries for the wards, the Commission was to ensure that the population of each ward did not vary by more than ten percent (10%) of the established quotient.

The last ward boundary review was concluded in November, 2011. Section 60 of *The Cities Act*, requires that the ward boundaries be reviewed at least once every three (3) election cycles or when the population of one or more wards exceeds the 10% variation limit.

The Commission must complete the review 180 days prior to the next municipal election.

## **MANDATE**

The responsibilities of the Commission are outlined in Section 61 of *The Cities Act*:

*"61(1) In determining the area to be included in any ward and in establishing the boundaries of any ward, the Municipal Wards Commission shall:*

- (a) hold public hearings and consultations; and*
- (b) take into consideration:*
  - (i) current and prospective geographic conditions, including density and relative rate of growth of population;*
  - (ii) any special diversity or community of interest of the inhabitants; and*
  - (iii) the boundaries of the polling areas established by the council pursuant to section 25 of The Local Government Election Act, 2015.*

(2) *On completion of its duties:*

(a) *the Municipal Wards Commission shall file its report with the City; and*

(b) *the areas within the boundaries established by the Municipal Wards Commission constitute the wards of the City.*

(3) *On receipt of the report of the municipal wards commission pursuant to clause (2)(a), the Clerk shall give public notice that the report is available for public inspection in the City office during normal business hours."*

## **POPULATION DATA**

The Commission reviewed the options of utilizing Census Canada population statistics or Saskatchewan Health population statistics, and preferred Saskatchewan Health population statistics as:

- Health statistics are current compared to the Census statistics, which are from 2016;
- Saskatchewan Health population statistics were utilized in 2011 as the basis of the review;
- Health statistics are organized by postal code which are smaller dissemination areas (1342) than those found in Census data (68). The smaller dissemination areas are easier to fit within ward boundaries whereas the larger dissemination areas overlap ward boundary lines creating difficulty in assessing the actual population numbers within a ward;

In 2011, the average population total within each ward was established at a mean of 4,865. This results in an approximate population total of 38,920. By comparing current Health statistics, the estimated mean for 2019 is 5,104. This results in an increased population of 1,912 (40,832 total estimated current population).

For a consistent comparison of 2019 and 2011 data, the Commission decided to use Health population statistics. Health statistics also provided more useful dissemination areas.

Section 2(y) of *The Cities Act*, identifies population is to be determined by the latest Census taken pursuant to *The Statistics Act*, or by any other means that the Minister may direct. Therefore, permission was requested of the Minister of Government Relations to utilize the Saskatchewan Health Statistics rather than the Census Statistics. Approval to do so was received from the Minister on July 15, 2019.

The population statistics were analyzed to consider various options for the ward boundaries by using a Geographic Information System (GIS).

## **DELIBERATIONS AND INITIAL RECOMMENDATION**

The Wards Commission met on May 29, 2019, along with the Project Team (Director of Planning & Development Services, GIS Supervisor, Communications Manager and Commission Secretary). At this initial meeting, the Commission was presented with an overview of data analysis, commencing with the outcome of the 2011 Municipal Ward Commission review.

The Commission considered the future growth trends in West Hill and Crescent Acres, along with Adanac Point in the Riverview area. The City's West Hill Master Plan and the Crescent Acres Master Plan were also included in the analysis, estimating a population growth of 2,170 over the course of the next decade.

Additionally, consideration was given to the current neighbourhood structure and how they align, as much as possible with ward boundaries.

The Commission determined that boundary changes were needed in each ward to bring each ward as near as possible to the estimated population mean (average) of 5,104, while at the same time, allowing for future growth in certain wards.

The Commission met again on June 24, 2019, to review boundary map options provided by the Project Team utilizing the Saskatchewan Health population statistics from December 31, 2018. These options showed that changes to the boundary lines to Wards 8, 2 and 3 were necessary to accommodate expected growth in those areas.

The Commission selected their preferred option to present to the public for the reasons listed below:

That Ward 1 be expanded to provide for a greater population allocation as its population has declined since the last review and because this area is not projected to grow significantly over the next 10 years. It was noted that according to the West Hill Master Plan, any future residential development expected in Ward 1 will only follow the completion of 36<sup>th</sup> Street West.

That Ward 2 be expanded due to population decline since the last review, and to compensate for adjustments in Wards 1, 3, 7, and 8. As well, the Commission identified that there may be a possible increase in population due to the establishment of the downtown University of Saskatchewan Campus. Leaving room for growth over the next three elections cycles was prudent.

That Ward 3 be decreased to reduce the population allocation as this ward saw an increase in population since the last review. A decrease in the population allocation was also needed to compensate for adjustments in Wards 2, 7 and 4 and allow for possible growth when the downtown University campus opens.

That Ward 4 be expanded so that the population allocation met the median average, as near as possible, and to compensate for adjustments required in Ward 3.

That Ward 5 be decreased to allow room for future residential growth in this area, and compensate for adjustments in Ward 6.

That Ward 6 be increased in size to include the residents of Pereverzoff Place, Kwasnica Place, Dier Road, Lamb's Lane, Thomson Bay and Oliver Way recognizing their neighborhood connection. This change will provide voters in these neighbourhoods with clarity as they will now all attend the same poll to vote in a municipal election.

That Ward 7 population allocation be decreased due to an increase since the last review, and to compensate for adjustments in Wards 8, 2 and 3. These adjustments included the addition of the Kinsmen Park to Marquis Road area which moves the boundary line from Central Avenue to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue West. As the park is generally associated with the East Hill area, this adjustment kept the neighborhood together as much as possible.

That Ward 8 be decreased due to population increase since the last review. The decrease was also needed to accommodate future residential growth in the southern portion of the ward. The Commission recognized that this ward is densely populated and that there was no obvious boundary change that would reduce the population allocation in the amount required. With the removal of the Kinsmen Park area, moving the northern boundary from 19<sup>th</sup> Street West to 20<sup>th</sup> Street West was, in the Commission's view, the option that best met the statutory criteria it was required to follow in setting ward boundaries.

Other factors that the Commission considered in their deliberations were:

- To the extent possible, have boundaries follow straight lines or direct roads or streets so that they would be easy to understand and remember;
- To, as much as possible, keep neighborhood areas together within each ward;
- To assign electoral polling areas with the same number as the ward in which it is located. To do so election after election will provide consistency.

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

The Commission took its recommendation to the public for review and comment. It did so from September 18 to October 2, 2019, by issuing a media release and advertising formal public notice of the recommendation twice in a local newspaper and on the City's website. It also published notice of the recommendation on City Hall bulletin boards and other social media platforms as well as by radio/media advertising.

The public was also provided an opportunity to review a map of the City containing the proposed ward boundaries. It was also provided with a list of frequently asked questions and answers to those questions and other valuable information, all of which were posted on the City's website.

In addition, an Open House was held in the City Hall foyer from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday from September 18 to October 2, 2019, where maps displaying current, combined and proposed ward boundary changes were placed. This Open House was, as well, advertised. It allowed the public to personally and visually review the Commission's recommendation and provide comments and feedback.

The Commission also gave notice of and held a Public Hearing on October 2, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Foyer.

## **INPUT**

Six written submissions were received, by the Commission. No one appeared at the Public Hearing.

Of the six written submissions received three supported the proposed changes and three expressed concerns. The six submissions in summary said:

- Ward 2 seemed to benefit more than other wards.
- Adjustment to Ward 8 was inappropriate as West Hill residents should all be represented together.
- Ward boundary changes are continually necessary and populations need to be periodically adjusted.

Following the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Commission met to conclude its deliberations. After considering the submissions received, the Commission agreed that the concerns raised by the public were previously discussed by the Commission, and that no changes to its initial recommendations were warranted.

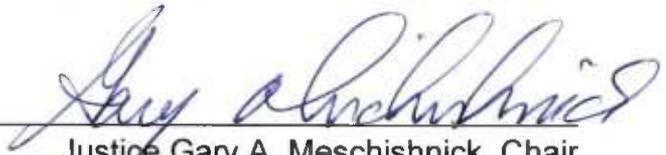
## CONCLUSION

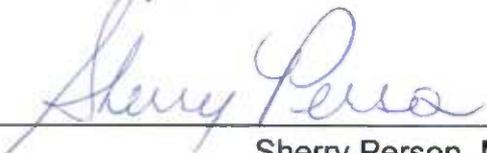
The Commission has adhered to the legislative responsibilities outlined in *The Cities Act*, in providing a fair and equitable solution to ensuring the population of each ward meets the 10% variation limit.

Members of the Commission would like to acknowledge and thank the Project Team for their vital assistance in the 2019 Ward Boundary Review process.

The Commission deems that the ward boundaries, as described in Appendix A and as illustrated on the attached Map, complies with the requirements outlined in *The Cities Act*, and will constitute the wards of The City of Prince Albert effective this date.

Dated this 25th day of November, 2019.

  
Justice Gary A. Meschishnick, Chair

  
Sherry Person, Member

  
Dr. Brenda Mishak, Member

**APPENDIX A**  
**2019 MUNICIPAL WARDS COMMISSION FINAL REPORT**

*Each boundary is defined as running along the center of any boundaries such as streets, railways, creeks, etc. unless otherwise specified. The following descriptions of the ward boundaries are not considered legal descriptions.*

**WARD 1**

Commencing at the intersection of the west City Limits with the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River; south along the west City Limits to its intersection with the south City Limits; east along the south City Limits to 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue West; north along 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue West to the intersection of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue West; east along the lane between 18<sup>th</sup> Street West and 19<sup>th</sup> Street West to the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue West; north along 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue West to the intersection of 16<sup>th</sup> Street West; west to the intersection of 8A Avenue West; north along 8A Avenue West to the intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> Street West; east to the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue West; north along 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue West to the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River; west along the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River to the point of commencement.

**WARD 2**

Firstly:

Commencing at the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue West with the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River; south along 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue West to the intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> Street West; west to the intersection of 8A Avenue West; south along 8A Avenue West to the intersection of 16<sup>th</sup> Street West; east to the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue West; south along 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue West to the intersection of 20<sup>th</sup> Street West; east along 20<sup>th</sup> Street West to the intersection of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue West; south along 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue West to the intersection of 22<sup>nd</sup> Street West; east along 22<sup>nd</sup> Street West and East to the intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East; north along 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East and following directly north and continuing on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East, to the intersection of the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River; west along the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River to the point of commencement. Any property intersected by the boundary line are included in this ward.

Secondly:

All that portion of the City of Prince Albert lying north of the North Saskatchewan River.

### **WARD 3**

Commencing at the intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East with the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River; south along 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East, and following directly south to the intersection of 22<sup>nd</sup> Street East; east along 22<sup>nd</sup> Street East to the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue East; north along 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue East to the intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> Street East; east along 15<sup>th</sup> Street East to the intersection of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue East; north along 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue East to the intersection of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street East; east along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street East to the intersection of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue East; north along 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue East to the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River; west along the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River to the point of commencement. Any property intersected by the boundary line are excluded from this ward.

### **WARD 4**

Commencing at the intersection of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue East with the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River; south along 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue East to the intersection of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street East; west along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street East to the intersection of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue East; south along 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue East to the intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> Street East; east along 15<sup>th</sup> Street East and Highway No. 302 to the intersection with the east City limits; north, east and north along the east City limits to the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River; west along the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River to the point of commencement.

### **WARD 5**

Commencing at the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 15<sup>th</sup> Street East; south along 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue East to the intersection of 28<sup>th</sup> Street East; east along 28<sup>th</sup> Street East and Olive Diefenbaker Drive to the intersection of Bradbury Drive; north along the lane, used as a walkway, to the south corner of Dier Road and west to the drainage ditch; north along the drainage ditch to the intersection of the Rotary Trail; east and south along the Rotary Trail to the intersection of Olive Diefenbaker Drive; east along Olive Diefenbaker Drive and following straight to the most easterly City limits; north along the east City Limits to the intersection of Highway No. 302; west along Highway No. 302 and 15<sup>th</sup> Street East to the point of commencement.

## WARD 6

Commencing at the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 28<sup>th</sup> Street East; south along 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue East and Highway No. 3 to the intersection with the south City Limits and continue east, north, east, south and east along the south City Limits to the most easterly City Limits; north along the east City Limits to the intersection which projects westerly to Olive Diefenbaker Drive; westerly to Olive Diefenbaker Drive and continuing on Olive Diefenbaker Drive to the point where Rotary Trail proceeds north; north and east along Rotary Trail to the intersection of the drainage ditch; south along the drainage ditch to the point where the drainage ditch turns west, which is west of Thomson Bay; east to the south corner of Dier Road and south along the lane, used as a walkway, to the intersection of Olive Diefenbaker Drive and Bradbury Drive; west along Olive Diefenbaker Drive and 28<sup>th</sup> Street East to the point of commencement.

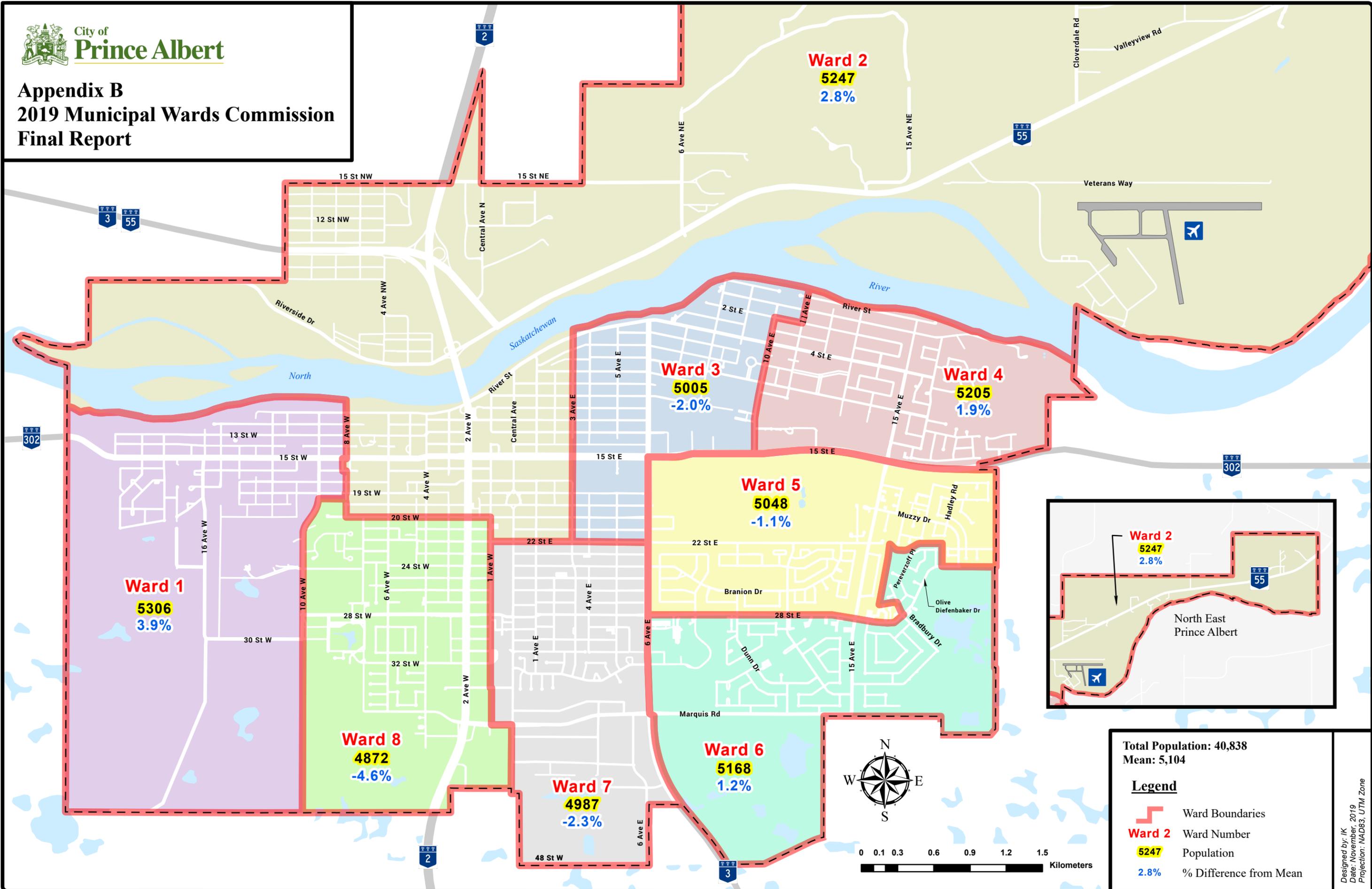
## WARD 7

Commencing at the intersection of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 22<sup>nd</sup> Street West; south along 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue West, and continuing directly south along the property line between Parcels 79PA25636 and 101305280 to the intersection of Marquis Road; east along Marquis Road to the intersection of Central Avenue; south along Central Avenue to the intersection of the south City Limits; further south, east, north and east along the south City Limits to the intersection of Highway No. 3; north along Highway No. 3 and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue East to the intersection of 22<sup>nd</sup> Street East; west along 22<sup>nd</sup> Street East to the point of commencement.

## WARD 8

Commencing at the intersection of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue West and the lane between 18<sup>th</sup> Street and 19<sup>th</sup> Street West, south along 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue West and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue West to the intersection of the south City Limits; east, north, east along the south City Limits to the intersection of Central Avenue; north along Central Avenue to the intersection of Marquis Road; west along Marquis Road to the intersection which projects northerly to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue West, following directly north along the property line between Parcels 70PA25636 and 101305280; continue directly north and along 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue West to the intersection of 20<sup>th</sup> Street West; west along 20<sup>th</sup> Street West to the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue West; north along 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue West to the intersection of the lane between 18<sup>th</sup> Street and 19<sup>th</sup> Street West; west along the lane between 18<sup>th</sup> Street and 19<sup>th</sup> Street West to the point of commencement.

Appendix B  
2019 Municipal Wards Commission  
Final Report



Total Population: 40,838  
Mean: 5,104

**Legend**

- Ward Boundaries
- Ward Number
- Population
- % Difference from Mean