



An Act to provide for the division of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan into Regional Boundaries

SHORT TITLE AND INTERPRETATION

- 1 This Act may be cited as “The Regional Boundaries Act, 1997.”

2. In this Act:
 - a) “Census” means a census conducted by Statistics Canada.
 - b) “Chairperson” means the chairperson of the committee.
 - c) “Commission” means a Regional Boundaries commission.
 - d) “Dividing Line” means the line that:
 - i) divides Saskatchewan into a Northern Area and Southern Area.
 - e) “Member” means a member of the commission.
 - f) “Métis Enumeration” means the Métis enumeration conducted by “the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan.”
 - g) “Northern Enumeration” means that part of the total population which is North of the dividing line as estimated by the commission.
 - h) “Recognized Member of the Métis Legislative Assembly” means a member of the Métis Legislative Assembly.
 - i) “Regional population quotient” means the regional population quotient calculated.
 - j) “Total population” means the total Métis population of Saskatchewan as determined according to the Census that a commission is established to consider.

COMMISSION ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

- 3(1) The Métis Legislative Assembly shall establish a Regional Boundaries Commission in accordance with this Act for the census taken in 1991 and for each census taken every tenth year after 1991 and the Métis Enumeration.

- 3(2) The Commission shall consider and report on readjustments of the representation of the population of Saskatchewan in the Métis Legislative Assembly to be made based on the Canadian Census and the Métis Enumeration.
- 4(1) For the 1991 Census, the Secretary of the Provincial Métis Council shall obtain a copy of the part of the part of the census showing the total population from Statistics Canada as soon as it is practicable after this Act comes into force.
- 4(2) The Provincial Métis Council shall establish a commission within 30 days of receiving notice from the Métis Legislative Assembly and that the Secretary has obtained a copy of the information mentioned in subsection 1.
- 4(3) The Métis Legislative Assembly may extend the 30-day period prescribed in this section for establishing a commission for an additional 30 days.
- 5(1) Each commission shall consist of:
- (a) A chairperson; and
 - (b) two members of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan.
- 5(2) The Métis Legislative Assembly shall appoint a chairperson.
- 5(3) After consultation with the leaders of the Provincial Métis Council and any recognized member of the Métis Legislative Assembly, the Métis Legislative Assembly shall appoint as the members in clause 5(1)b persons who:
- (a) Are members of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan.
 - (b) Not ineligible pursuant to section 8.
- 6(1) A commission may appoint one of its members as deputy chairperson of the commission.
- 6(2) The deputy chairperson shall act as the chairperson if:
- (a) the chairperson is absent or unable to act; or
 - (b) the office of the chairperson is vacant.
- 7(1) A vacancy in the membership does not impair the right of the remaining members to act.
- 7(2) If a vacancy in the membership occurs, whether through inability to act, resignation or otherwise, the Provincial Métis Council may fill the position by appointing to the commission another person who:
- (a) is a member of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan

- (b) is not ineligible pursuant to section 8.
- 7(3) The Provincial Métis Council shall consult with the leaders of the Métis Legislative Assembly before making an appointment pursuant to subsection (2).
- 7(4) The Secretary of the Provincial Métis Council shall cause a notice of the appointment to be published in a letter as soon as is reasonably practicable after the appointment.

- 8. The following persons are ineligible to be appointed to a commission:
 - (a) a member of the Métis Nation Senate.
 - (b) a member of the Provincial Métis Council.
 - (c) a member of the Métis Legislative Assembly
- 9(1) Each member is entitled to an allowance that is to be fixed by the Métis Legislative Assembly.
- 9(2) Each member is entitled to be reimbursed for reasonable living and travelling expenses that a member incurs while:
 - (a) absent from the member's ordinary residence; and
 - (b) in the course of fulfilling the member's duties as a member of the commission.

- 10(1) A commission is not an agent of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan.
- 10(2) No member is, in the members capacity as a member of the commission, an employee of a provincial or regional Métis Nation of Saskatchewan affiliate.

- 11(1) Within 30 days of the appointment of a commission, the Secretary of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan shall provide the chairperson with a copy of the part of the Census with respect to which the commission is established showing the total population.
- 11(2) The Secretary shall certify the copy of that part of the Census provided to the chairperson.

- 12(1) On receipt of the certified copy of that part of the Census showing the total population, the commission shall prepare, in accordance with this Act, an interim report containing the commission's recommendations respecting regional boundaries.
- 12(2) In fixing the boundaries of the proposed regions, a commission shall:
 - (a) divide the area of Saskatchewan north of the dividing line into _____ regions.
 - (b) divide the area of Saskatchewan south of the dividing line into _____ regions.

- 12(3) In the commission's interim report and final report, the commission's recommendations respecting boundaries shall include:
- (a) boundary descriptions for each proposed region; and
 - (b) the proposed name of each proposed region.
- 13(1) When preparing the report respecting proposed regions south of the dividing line, a commission shall establish a regional population quotient in accordance with subsection (2).
- 13(2) The regional population quotient is to be calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$RPQ = \frac{TP - NP}{12}$$

Where:

RPQ is the regional population quotient;

TP is the total population; and

NP is the northern population.

- 14(1) In determining the area to be included in a proposed region south of the dividing line and in fixing the boundaries of that region, a commission shall ensure that the population of each proposed region is, as nearly as possible, equal to the regional population quotient.
- 14(2) A commission may depart from the requirements of subsection (1) where, in its opinion, it is necessary to do so because of:
- (a) special geographic considerations, including:
 - (i) Sparsity, density, or relative rates of growth of population in various regions south of the dividing line;
 - (ii) accessibility to the regions;
 - (ii) the size and shape of the regions.
 - (b) a special community of interests or diversity of interests of persons residing in regions south of the dividing line; or
 - (c) physical features of regions south of the dividing line.
- 14(3) A commission shall ensure that the population of each region south of the dividing line remains within 5%, either more or less, of the regional population quotient.
- 14(4) A commission shall fix as the boundaries of the regions north of the dividing line.

- 15(1) For the purpose of preparing the report a commission and each member of the commission have powers;
- 15(2) A commission may:
- (a) employ any technical advisors and other staff, including a secretary to the commission, that the commission considers necessary;
 - (b) subject to the approval of the Métis Legislative Assembly, set the salaries, rate of reimbursing the expenses and conditions of employment of any technical advisors and staff it employs; and
 - c) do any other thing that it considers necessary to fulfill its duties under the Act.
- 15(3) A commission may request that the Chief Electoral Officer provide any information possessed by his or office and any other assistance that the commission considers necessary and the Chief Electoral Officer shall comply with any reasonable request.
- 16 (1) A commission may make rules to regulate its proceedings and conduct of its business.
- (2) In its rules a commission may provide that one or more of its members may conduct an inquiry or hearing.
- 17 (1) A commission may hold hearings at the times and places that it considers appropriate to conduct its business.
- (2) A commission shall notify members of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan of the time and place of each of its hearings by letter or advertising in a newspaper having general circulation in that part of Saskatchewan where the hearings will be held at least 30 days before the hearing.
- (3) A commission shall include the following in the letter or advertisement:
- (a) a map or drawing in a form and with the detail satisfactory that shows:
 - (i) the regions proposed by the commission;
 - (ii) the name and population of each proposed region; and
 - (b) a schedule in a form and with the detail necessary to the commission showing the boundaries of each proposed region.
- 18 (1) Every person who wishes to make a presentation to the commission at a hearing shall notify the secretary to the commission in writing of the following:
- (a) the name and address of the person making the presentation;
 - (b) a concise summary of the presentation.

- (2) A person who wishes to make a presentation shall provide the written notice at least 15 days before the date of the hearing.
- 19 (1) A commission shall prepare an interim report within three months after the date the commission was established.
- (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the Provincial Métis Council or the Métis Legislative Assembly may extend the time to prepare an interim report at the request of a commission for an additional period not exceeding three months.
- (3) As soon as is practicable after completing the interim report required by this section, a commission shall:
- (a) file with the Provincial Métis Council a copy of the report, certified by the chairpersons; and
 - (b) publish in a letter and one or more newspapers having general circulation in all or any part of Saskatchewan a notice stating:
 - (i) a copy of the interim report has been filed with the Provincial Métis Council and the date of the filing;
 - (ii) public hearings will be held by the commission to allow presentations with respect to the interim report and the locations and the dates of those hearings.
- 20 (1) A commission may hold hearings at the times and places it considers appropriate to allow presentations with respect to its interim report.
- (2) In addition to the notice required by clause 19(3)(b), a commission shall notify the members of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan of the time and place of its hearings by advertising in a newspaper having general circulation in that part of Saskatchewan where the hearing will be held at least 30 days before the hearing.
- 21 (1) The Provincial Métis Council:
- (a) make a copy of an interim report filed pursuant to clause 19(3)(a) available for public inspection during the normal business hours of the Métis Nations for at least 10 days.
 - (b) provide a copy without charge to every member of the Métis Legislative Assembly and to each person who was a candidate nominated at the last general election who requests a copy.
- 22 (1) After hearing and considering the presentations made to it at the hearings conducted pursuant to section 20, the commission shall prepare a final report.
- (2) A commission shall prepare the final report within six months after the date it was established.

- (3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), the Provincial Métis Council or the Métis Legislative Assembly may extend the time to prepare a final report to at the request of a commission for an additional period not exceeding three months.
 - (4) As soon as it is practicable after completing the final report, a commission shall submit the final report to:
 - (a) the Provincial Métis Council
 - (b) members of the Métis Legislative Assembly
 - (c) make the report available for public inspections during normal business hours of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan.
 - (5) If the commission submits the final report to the Métis Legislative Assembly, the commission is deemed to have laid the report before the Métis Legislative Assembly.
- 23 (1) If the Métis Legislative Assembly, by resolution, approves or approves with alterations the proposals of the commission as set out in its final report, the member whom for the time being the administration of the portfolio assigned shall at the same time introduce a bill to amend the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan constitution for the establishment of new regions.
- (2) The amendment if it is enacted shall be issued before the next Métis Nation of Saskatchewan General Assembly to receive final approval.

Moved by Robert Doucette

Seconded by Garnet Parenteau

Carried