

THE CITY OF PRINCE ALBERT MUNICIPAL WARD COMMISSION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why is this ward boundary review being conducted?

A ward boundary review is required every three election cycles.

The review must be completed at least 180 days prior to a general municipal Election, which is currently scheduled for November 9, 2020.

2. What is the purpose of a review?

To evenly distribute population throughout all eight (8) wards by:

- analyzing the potential rate of growth in population
- reviewing historical decreases or increases in population totals
- considering the physical boundaries and geographical conditions
- considering neighborhoods, and community interest
- reviewing election polling areas

3. How is this being done?

A Municipal Wards Commission, established by City Council, meets to discuss options and proceeds with the following steps:

- Research and analyze population statistics
- Develop ward boundary options
- Undertake Public engagement and feedback
- Final decision made by Commission
- Final report to City Council as information

4. What changes are proposed?

All eight wards have seen either an increase or decrease in population over the last nine years.

See the map to view the proposed boundary changes on the City's website.

5. What are the reasons for the changes to the proposed boundaries?

Some of the reasons to change the boundaries are as follows:

- an increase or decrease in population since 2011 for every ward, which has resulted in inequity of the population average between wards
- specific areas showed a growth over 10% of the allowable variance since the last review
- possible growth in population in Wards 2 & 3, because of the establishment of the University campus in the downtown area
- future projected growth in Ward 5 with available residential lots on Hadley Rd, Glass Dr and Greenshields Ln
- to include all of the residents on Pereverzoff Dr, Kwasnica Pl, Dier Rd and Thomson Bay within one ward (Ward 6) to alleviate voter confusion during elections and keep neighborhoods together
- future projected growth in Ward 8 according to West Hill Master Plan

6. When was the last time a review was conducted, and what are the current ward boundaries?

Changes to the City's ward boundaries were made in 2011 and are outlined in the 2011 Report which is available on the City's website.

7. What changed from 2011 to now?

The 2011 Review indicates that the City's population in accordance with Saskatchewan Health Statistics was 38,926. Today's statistics show that it is 40,838. The comparison also shows the following:

- A decrease in population in Wards 1, 2, and 4
- An increase in population in Wards 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8

8. What kind of feedback are you looking for from residents?

- Suggestions for alternate boundaries, keeping in mind the population within each ward must remain within 10% of one another
- Concerns about growth and decrease of population within your ward
- Concerns about proposed changes to boundary lines affecting your neighborhood or community interests
- Concerns about election polling areas

9. Who do I contact for more information?

Contact City Clerk's Office by one of the following ways:

- Mail: 1084 Central Avenue, Prince Albert SK S6V 7P3
- Fax: 306-953-4313
- Phone: 306-953-4305
- Email: cityclerk@citypa.com

10. How can I provide input?

- a. Open House**
You can view the proposed maps and leave a submission in the drop-box.
City Hall Foyer
September 18 - October 2
8:00a.m. to 4:30pm
Monday to Friday
- b. Written Feedback**
You can complete the online form at www.citypa.ca/wardboundary or write a letter. Letters can be emailed to cityclerk@citypa.com, faxed to 306-953-4313 or mailed to 1084 Central Avenue, Prince Albert, S6V 7P3.
- c. Speak at the Public Hearing**
You can make a presentation at the public hearing meeting at City Hall on Wednesday, October 2 from 7:00pm – 8:30pm. Please register with the City Clerk's Office on the day of the meeting by Noon by calling (306) 953-4305. Speakers are requested to limit their presentation to 5 minutes.

Please note that since the Public Hearing for the Municipal Wards Commission is public, all submissions received, in their entirety, will be included on the agenda which is posted on the City's website.

11. What should I include in my submission?

Outline the details of your request, suggestion or concern and any details you feel would be helpful to the Commission in considering your submission (see question 8).

Written submissions must include the date, your first and last name, your mailing address and must be originally signed. Electronic correspondence must include your first and last name, your mailing address and your email address.

We would also appreciate if your day time phone and fax number were included so that we may remind you personally a couple days prior to the hearing that your submission will be considered and to advise you of the decision of the Commission following the hearing.

The City Clerk's office must receive your letter prior to 4:45 p.m., the Tuesday before the meeting, if you would like your written submission reviewed by the Commission prior to the meeting.

12. Who is responsible for decisions?

City Council appointed the following three members to serve on the Municipal Wards Commission:

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

For more information on legislative requirements:

Sections 57-62 of The Cities Act can be found on the Provincial Government's website at <http://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/408> and The Municipal Wards Commission Bylaw No. 4 of 2019 can be found on the City's website at www.citypa.com.