



Preliminary Report

October 3, 2022



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Honourable Raj Chouhan
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Province of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 1X4

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We are pleased to submit our Preliminary Report in accordance with section 10(1) of the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nitya Iyer', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

The Honourable Justice
Nitya Iyer
Commission Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Linda Tynan', with a large, stylized 'L' and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Linda Tynan
Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Anton Boegman', with a stylized 'A' and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Anton Boegman
Commissioner
Chief Electoral Officer of British Columbia

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02

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Executive Summary

THE BC ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION IS APPOINTED TO REVIEW PROVINCIAL ELECTORAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.

British Columbia is a representative democracy. The province is divided into 87 electoral districts, or ridings. The people living in each riding vote for the person they want to represent their interests in the legislature.

This system of “representation by population” is based on the idea that one person’s vote should carry the same weight as another person’s vote, regardless of where they live in the province. In order for that to happen, the population of each riding must be roughly the same.

The principle of representation by population in British Columbia is intertwined with the equally important principle of “effective representation.” Effective representation recognizes that elected representatives not only sit in the legislature and vote; they also play a vital role in helping their constituents deal with government bodies. The courts have called this the ombudsperson role. Effective representation is based on the idea that everyone should have equivalent access to their elected representative, especially in the ombudsperson role, regardless of their riding’s geographic size, population density or infrastructure.

Since the population of British Columbia is not static, it is necessary to periodically review the number and boundaries of B.C.’s electoral districts to continue to ensure that B.C. residents have effective representation by population. The *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* (the Act) requires that



an electoral boundaries commission be appointed after every second provincial general election to propose changes to the area, boundaries and names of electoral districts in the province.

Our Commission was appointed on October 21, 2021. We are:

Justice Nitya Iyer, Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia (Chair)

Linda Tynan, Local Government Advisor

Anton Boegman, Chief Electoral Officer of British Columbia.

You can read more about our backgrounds and the history of electoral boundaries commissions in B.C. in Chapter 3 of this report.

The Act expressly references the principles of representation by population and effective representation. It gives meaning to them by setting out the process our Commission must follow and the factors it must consider.

We must make proposals for changes to electoral boundaries, and we may propose up to six new electoral districts, potentially increasing the size of the Legislative Assembly from 87 to 93 Members. We may hold initial public meetings, or hearings,

IMAGE 1: PUBLIC MEETING IN NANAIMO, B.C. CREDIT: BC ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION. MARCH 22, 2022.

and we must table our preliminary report of proposed changes in the legislature within one year of our appointment. After that, we must hold public hearings to receive public input on our proposals. Having considered that input, we must give current Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) an opportunity to make submissions to us. Our final report, containing any amendments we propose in light of the input we receive, must be tabled within six months of the date of our first report. It is up to the legislature to decide whether to accept all, some or none of our recommendations.

Section 9 of the Act sets out the principles that we must apply. We must determine the average number of people in each electoral district, called the “electoral quotient,” by dividing the population of the province by the number of electoral districts we propose. The Act requires us to propose electoral district boundaries based on geographic considerations (including accessibility, size and physical configuration of parts of British Columbia), demographic considerations (including communities of interest, sparsity, density and rate of population growth), and means of communication and transportation. The Act says that, in most circumstances, we should propose electoral districts that have populations within +/-25% of the electoral quotient. We call this the “usual deviation range.”

The Act also recognizes that it may not always be possible to propose ridings within this usual deviation range that ensure effective representation for their residents. It permits us to make proposals for electoral districts whose populations fall outside of the usual deviation range if that is “necessary to provide for

effective representation.” In making that determination, we must look for special geographic considerations, including a manageable geographic size or special demographic considerations, including communities of interest.

After we were appointed, we decided that we wanted to hear from the public before forming any opinions of our own about what our proposals should be. We wanted to be as accessible as possible by travelling in person to communities, holding virtual meetings and inviting submissions through our website, email and mail. During our initial consultation process, we held 50 public meetings in 43 communities and received over 1,000 individual submissions.

We also gathered information about population, population growth, geography, transportation routes and internet connectivity from a number of sources. We educated ourselves about the history of electoral boundary-drawing in B.C. and Canada, reading articles and court cases on the constitutional right to vote, and speaking with academic experts and members of prior electoral boundaries commissions. Drawing on this, our public consultation and our reading of the Act, we developed principles to guide our deliberations.

You can read more about the meaning of the terms used in the Act, our guiding principles and the process leading up to our proposals in Chapter 4 of this report. Chapter 5 contains our proposals and our reasons for them, as well as maps of the boundaries of each proposed electoral district and area maps showing the relationships between neighbouring electoral districts. For convenience, we have divided the province into 11

geographical areas: Vancouver Island, the North, Prince George and the Cariboo, the Kootenays, the Interior, Fraser Valley-Langley-Maple Ridge, Burnaby-New Westminster-Tri-Cities, Surrey, Richmond-Delta, Vancouver and North Shore-Sea to Sky-Sunshine Coast. They are listed in the order we followed for our deliberations.

We propose six new electoral districts. Four are situated in the Lower Mainland where the populations of many electoral districts are currently more than 25% over the electoral quotient, and are projected to continue to grow faster than the populations of ridings in the rest of the province. These new electoral districts will be located in Burnaby, Langley, Surrey and Vancouver. On Vancouver Island, we propose an additional riding in the Langford area to ensure that the electoral districts in this fast-growing area remain within the usual deviation range. We propose a new electoral district in the Interior area, which will better balance populations in the fast-growing communities of West Kelowna, Kelowna, Lake Country and Vernon.

As we propose six new electoral districts and are using 2021 population statistics, the electoral quotient is 53,773 and the usual deviation range is between 40,330 and 67,216 people in each riding.

We are proposing no changes to the names or boundaries of 16 electoral districts. That leaves 71 ridings whose boundaries we propose to adjust. Many of these changes are attributable to the six new electoral districts. This is because creating a new district necessarily requires boundary adjustments to other ridings in the area.

Other proposed changes reflect our efforts to bring the population of as

many electoral districts as possible within the usual deviation range of +/-25% of the electoral quotient. For example, in the Kootenays, two of the four current electoral districts, Columbia River-Revelstoke and Nelson-Creston, fall below the usual deviation range. Our proposed electoral boundary adjustments bring the population of both districts within the usual deviation range.

At present, 17 electoral districts fall outside the usual deviation range: six are higher than the maximum and 11 are below the minimum. Our proposed changes bring all except five ridings within the range.

The five ridings whose populations remain below the usual minimum are North Coast, Skeena, Bulkley Valley-Stikine, Nechako Lakes and Peace River South.¹ The population of the sixth northern riding, Peace River North, is just within the usual deviation range. Although we examined options for adjusting electoral boundaries in this area, including consolidating the current six ridings into five, we are convinced that any such changes would deprive residents of these districts of effective representation. The very large geographic size of many of these ridings and their challenging terrain and weather, along with limited transportation options and poor internet connectivity, persuades us that it is truly necessary that they retain their current boundaries.

That means that the weight of a vote in the province's least populated riding will no longer be four times more than the weight of a vote in the province's most densely populated riding. The difference will be about three to one. In our view, this is the necessary consequence of balancing the principles of representation by population

with effective representation over a maximum of 93 ridings, as the Act requires. We also propose boundary adjustments to reduce population disparities between neighbouring ridings, creating room for the population growth that is anticipated before the next electoral boundaries commission review. Our data allows us to predict the speed of projected growth in particular areas. However, we cannot say with confidence whether growth will occur in one riding or its neighbours. By creating as much room for growth in as many ridings as possible, our proposals reduce the likelihood that riding populations will grow or shrink outside the usual deviation range in the next eight years.

Our proposed changes mean that some riding names are no longer accurate or may be confusing. In such cases, we propose name changes. We have used the electoral district names that we are proposing in the riding descriptions in Chapter 5.

In addition to the details of our proposals that are set out in Chapter 5, you can find an interactive map with current and proposed electoral districts on our website (bcebc.ca).

With the publication of this report, we look forward to hearing the opinions of British Columbians about our proposals. There are a number of ways to share your thoughts with us. We will be conducting in-person and virtual hearings from mid-October to early November. You can also complete the survey on our website or contact us by email, phone or post.

You can find more information about these options in Chapter 6 of this report. The deadline for all submissions is November 22, 2022. After that, we will prepare our final report and recommendations. It must be submitted to the legislature on April 3, 2023.

Notes

1. THROUGHOUT THIS REPORT, WE REFER TO SPECIFIC ELECTORAL DISTRICTS BY THE NAMES WE ARE PROPOSING FOR THEM.

03



Background

THE CURRENT BC ELECTORAL
BOUNDARIES COMMISSION WAS
APPOINTED ON OCTOBER 21, 2021.

The Commission and the Evolution of B.C.'s Electoral Boundaries

In this chapter we provide brief summaries of the three Commissioners' backgrounds and introduce our hardworking staff. We also review the history and geography of electoral boundaries in our province.

Over the years, different legislatures have provided electoral boundaries commissions with different mandates. We keep that history in mind when interpreting our mandate, which is discussed in Chapter 4.

The Commission

Justice Nitya Iyer

COMMISSION
CHAIR & JUSTICE
OF THE SUPREME
COURT OF BRITISH
COLUMBIA



Justice Nitya Iyer was appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia in June 2017. She started her legal career as a professor at the University of British Columbia's faculty of law in 1990. In 1997, she was appointed to the British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal. After her term there, she went on to private practice.

Justice Iyer obtained bachelor of arts and law degrees from the University of Toronto. She has a master's degree in law from Harvard University. She was a member of the Ontario, British Columbia and Yukon Bars. She was awarded a Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal in recognition of her volunteer work and was named Queen's Counsel in 2016.

Linda Tynan

COMMISSIONER
& LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
ADVISOR



Linda Tynan has an extensive background in local government management. She served as chief administrative officer for the District of Summerland and the Village of Nakusp and was the chief financial officer for the City of Nelson. She also held a senior management role with the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

Tynan is a former president of the Government Finance Officers Association of BC and CivicInfo BC and is a member of the Local Government Management Association and the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Simon Fraser University and is a Chartered Professional Accountant.

Anton Boegman

COMMISSIONER &
CHIEF ELECTORAL
OFFICER OF BRITISH
COLUMBIA



Anton Boegman was appointed as the Chief Electoral Officer of British Columbia on June 1, 2018. A planning expert and acknowledged as innovative and passionate about elections, Boegman's focus has been improving accessibility to voting and enhancing electoral services. Anton played a senior leadership role in the past five provincial general elections, four referenda and 11 provincial by-elections.

Prior to joining Elections BC, Boegman served seven years as an officer with the Royal Canadian Navy. He was also part of the initial start-up administration at Royal Roads University and worked as a technology project manager and privately as a management consultant. He graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada in 1988 with a bachelor of arts and obtained a Master of Business Administration from Athabasca University in 2001. He is also a certified project management professional.

Commission Staff

The Commission is supported by a team of five staff, including:

- Chad Stewart, Executive Director, Commission Operations
- Kristopher Radford, Research and Policy Analyst
- Kevin Pangman, Geography Lead
- Emily Goodman, Geography Analyst
- Wesley MacInnis, Communications Advisor

We would like to thank Elections BC, which provided technical and administrative support to the Commission.

Evolution of B.C.'s Electoral Boundaries

A brief history of electoral districts and electoral boundaries commissions in British Columbia.

British Columbia is large, covering nearly one million square kilometres. However, its population is not evenly distributed; the majority lives in the southwestern corner of the province. Although the population has grown significantly since B.C. joined Canada in 1871, the uneven distribution of its population has persisted.

Over the years, different legislatures have taken different approaches to achieving fair and effective representation by population for both rural and urban British Columbians. There were only 12 electoral districts in the province's first general election. The smallest was about 12 sq. km, and the largest covered about a third of the province, from B.C.'s southern border up the coast to Alaska.

Since the number of electoral districts in B.C. has increased over time, electoral districts have, on average, become smaller. But some ridings have shrunk while others have expanded. That is primarily because of the increase in urban population density. Presently, 21 of the current 87 electoral districts are larger than 10,000 sq. km, including three that are larger than 100,000

sq. km. Five are smaller than 10 sq. km. Forty-five ridings have more than 60,000 residents, and 10 have fewer than 40,000.

Including our Commission, there have been 10 electoral boundaries commissions in the history of British Columbia since the first was appointed in 1965. Each commission is required to follow the mandate or instructions contained in its governing law.

All of these laws have required that commissions be impartial and independent. Historically, most electoral boundaries laws have given commissions a lot of discretion in proposing revised electoral boundaries. Usually, they set the maximum number of new ridings that the commission may recommend, but the commission can also choose not to recommend new ridings and simply propose revisions to existing boundaries.

Since 1987, commissions have been required to determine the "electoral quotient." This number represents the average population of an electoral district. It is obtained by dividing the population of the province by the number of

electoral districts. Commissions since then have been required to ensure that the population of each riding does not exceed the usual deviation range of between 25% more or less than the electoral quotient without very good reason.

Two laws, one enacted in 1984 and the other in 2007, differed from B.C.'s typical electoral boundaries laws. The 1984 statute divided the province's electoral districts into five different categories based on population density. Metropolitan districts (for example, Vancouver and Victoria) were allowed to have populations that were over 100% larger than the most sparsely populated ridings. The Supreme Court of British Columbia struck down the law, finding that it violated the right to vote in section 3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* by making the value of one person's vote so different from another person's vote depending on where they lived.

In 2014, the legislature amended the law to establish a minimum number of seats for three designated regions of the province, regardless of the populations of the ridings within them. The designated regions were the North, Cariboo-Thompson and Columbia-Kootenay, which together comprised 17 electoral districts. This statute governed the proposals made by the 2015 Electoral Boundaries Commission (the 2015 Commission). In 2021, the law was amended again to remove this restriction.

We discuss the law governing our Commission in the next chapter.

04

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Context

THE COMMISSION CONSIDERS
KEY TERMS AND CORE CONCEPTS
FROM THE *ELECTORAL BOUNDAR-
IES COMMISSION ACT*.

Key Terms, Guiding Principles and Our Process to Date

This chapter explains the principles that guide our work and proposals for change. The first section discusses key terms used in the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* (the Act).

The second section explains the more-specific guiding principles that we developed based on our understanding of the Act and the input we received during our public consultations.

The third section explains our process to date.

Key Terms

The Act

Sections 3 and 9 of the Act set out the Commission's mandate and the principles it must apply in making proposals for electoral districts:

Function of Commission

3(1) The function of the commission is to make proposals to the Legislative Assembly as to the area, boundaries and names of the electoral districts of British Columbia.

(2) If, in carrying out its functions under subsection (1), the commission considers that the number of electoral districts in British Columbia should be increased, the commission may make proposals to the Legislative Assembly to increase the number of electoral districts up to a maximum of 93.

Governing Principles for Electoral District Proposals

9(1) In this section, "electoral quotient" means the number obtained by dividing the population of British Columbia by the number of electoral districts in British Columbia proposed by the commission.

(2) For the purposes of section 3, in making proposals as to the area included in and the boundaries of electoral districts, or proposals to increase the number of electoral districts, the commission must be governed by the following principles:

(a) that the principle of representation by population be achieved, taking into account:

(i) geographic considerations, including the accessibility, size or physical configuration of any part of British Columbia,

(ii) demographic considerations, including communities of interest and the sparsity, density or rate of growth of the population of any part of British Columbia, and

(iii) the availability and means of communication and transportation between various parts of British Columbia;

(b) that to achieve the principle of representation by population the commission may deviate from the electoral quotient by no more than 25%, plus or minus;



(c) that the commission may exceed the 25% deviation principle if it considers it necessary to provide for effective representation.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2)(c), in considering whether it is necessary to exceed the 25% deviation principle to provide for effective representation, the commission may take into account one or both of the following:

(a) any special geographic considerations, including a manageable geographic size for electoral districts;

(b) any special demographic considerations, including communities of interest.

Core Principles

Section 9 of the Act establishes “representation by population” and “effective representation” as our fundamental guiding principles when making proposals for electoral districts. The Supreme Court of Canada has interpreted these principles in light of the right to vote in section 3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

IMAGE 4: COMMISSIONER DELIBERATIONS, VICTORIA, B.C. CREDIT: BC ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION. DATE: JUNE 24, 2022.

Both principles have everything to do with the right to vote and nothing to do with the results of a vote. Our recommendations for electoral boundaries must be based on the considerations set out in the Act. We must not consider the impact of our proposals on particular parties or representatives.

Representation by Population

Section 9 requires that “the principle of representation by population be achieved.” Representation by population, or representative democracy, refers to the type of democracy where the people elect representatives who make the laws and policies that govern everyone. There are many types of representative democracies.

In British Columbia, as in all other Canadian jurisdictions, the electorate is divided into subsets called electoral districts, or ridings. The people living in each riding vote for the person they want to represent them. In order to be democratic, the number of people in each electoral district must be roughly the same. Representation by population in our democracy is therefore the right to a relatively equal voice in electing the representatives that govern us. Where a person lives, what they do for a living or how much they contribute to the economic well-being of the community does not make a difference to the weight of their vote. The principle of representation by population must be balanced with the equally important principle of effective representation.

Effective Representation

The principle of “effective representation,” which is also found in section 9 of the

Act, complements representation by population by recognizing that differences between groups of people in different parts of the province may affect their ability to communicate with and seek assistance from their elected representatives.

In Canada, elected representatives have two equally important roles. In their legislative role, they decide who forms government (usually the party with the most representatives) and what laws get passed. In their ombudsperson role, they and their staff assist constituents in dealing with government bodies.

In 1991, the Supreme Court of Canada found that the purpose of the right to vote in section 3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* is not to guarantee absolute equality of voting power. That would require each riding to have the same number of people. Instead, the constitutional right to vote guarantees the right to effective representation by population. The Court explained that this right includes consideration of factors such as geography and community interests. It ensures that constituents in different electoral districts have relatively equal access to their representatives, both as legislators and as ombudspersons.²

In particular, the Supreme Court recognized that transportation and communications challenges in rural ridings may justify somewhat lower populations than in urban ridings.³

Factors in the Act

Section 9 of the Act specifies three broad and overlapping considerations that we must apply when proposing new electoral boundaries. They are:

- Geographic considerations, which include the accessibility, size or physical configuration of any part of British Columbia;
- Demographic considerations, which include communities of interest and the sparsity, density or rate of growth of the population of any part of British Columbia; and
- The availability and means of communication and transportation between various parts of British Columbia.

Our understanding of these terms stems from their relationship to representation by population and effective representation, how these factors affect electoral boundaries in B.C. historically and presently, and the ways people spoke of these factors in our initial consultations.

Geographic Considerations

“Accessibility” refers to how easy or hard it is for constituents to access their MLA and staff, particularly when seeking help with a particular problem. It includes access by internet, by phone and in person. It is important for MLAs to be present in communities throughout their electoral district. We know that some concerns are better addressed in face-to-face meetings. We also appreciate that, although internet and wireless communications are improving, there are significant parts of the province where these services are not reliable.

“Size” refers to the physical area covered by an electoral district. The large geographical size of some electoral districts, together with communication and transportation barriers, affects accessibility.

“Physical configuration” refers to the unique geographical characteristics of an electoral district. It includes waterways, mountain ranges and other geographical features that affect accessibility.

Demographic Considerations

“Communities of interest” can have a wide range of meanings. In the context of electoral boundaries, it is about groups whose similar interests—whether cultural, social, economic or regional—relate to electoral representation. Trying to ensure that such groups are not divided by electoral boundaries can provide more-effective representation. We heard a great deal about the different interests of urban and rural constituents and about the shared interests of residents within a municipality. We also heard about the shared interests of smaller communities connected by a transportation corridor and about unique neighbourhoods within urban settings.

“Sparsity and density” refer to the concentration of population within an electoral district or across several ridings. Both present challenges for drawing electoral boundaries. Population sparsity is a challenge in the northern part of the province because it leads to geographically large electoral districts and problems with accessibility. Population density is a problem in the Lower Mainland because it leads to electoral districts with more constituents and problems of voter inequality compared to more sparsely populated ridings. Larger populations in a district can also impede effective access to a person’s MLA.

“Rate of growth” refers to how quickly the population of an area is expected to

grow or shrink over time. It is an important consideration because the Act says that electoral boundaries accepted by the government will be used over the next two general elections, or about eight years. Many people we heard from referred to anticipated population growth as a reason for changing existing electoral boundaries or adding a new electoral district.

Communication and Transportation Considerations

In this context, “communication” generally refers to internet and cellular coverage. This is a real problem in many parts of the province, especially in mountainous areas and in more northern communities. Many urban residents are not aware of how fragile or non-existent these connections are, despite the efforts made during the pandemic to improve connectivity. “Transportation” refers to all ways of getting from one place to another. By far, the most common way of moving within electoral districts is driving. However, ferries and other forms of water transport, public transit, and even air travel are vital for people living in some areas of B.C. The availability and cost of transportation, as well as the time it takes, are important when considering

the need for constituents and their MLA to have in-person meetings. Weather, environmental crises (such as floods and fires) and inadequate infrastructure can be significant barriers to transportation in some parts of the province.

New Electoral Districts

Section 3(2) of the Act permits us to propose up to six new electoral districts, increasing the number of MLAs to 93 from 87. As section 3 does not state any different factors to guide proposals for the creation of new electoral districts, we use the principles in section 9 as a guide, together with the more specific principles set out below.

Notes

2. REFERENCE RE PROV. ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES (SASK), [1991] 2 SCR 158 AT PARAS 49-55.
3. REFERENCE RE PROV. ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES (SASK), [1991] 2 SCR 158. AT PARA 78.

IMAGE 5: PUBLIC MEETING IN VICTORIA, B.C. CREDIT: BC ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION. MARCH 21, 2022.

The Commission heard more than 200 presentations at its initial public meetings across the province.



Our Guiding Principles

How the core concepts and key terms from the Act shape our process for redistricting.

Interpreting the Act

Section 9 of the Act requires us to achieve representation by population that provides effective representation for British Columbians. It says we must determine the “electoral quotient,” which is the average number of British Columbians per electoral district. It tells us that we may propose electoral boundaries for ridings whose population fall within the usual deviation range of up to 25% more or less than the electoral quotient. The Act says that our proposals for revised electoral boundaries within the usual deviation range must be based on geographic factors, demographic factors and means of communication and transportation.

The Act also permits us to propose boundaries for electoral districts with populations outside of the usual deviation range where “necessary to provide for effective representation.” We understand that this is a stringent test.

The Act is different from its predecessor. The previous law mandated a minimum

number of seats for three specific regions of the province: the North, Cariboo-Thompson and Columbia-Kootenay, which together comprised 17 electoral districts. Ten of these ridings had populations that were lower than 25% below the electoral quotient. No ridings outside these regions had populations as low. The 2015 Commission did not have the power to reduce the number of ridings in these regions or adjust their boundaries, regardless of their population. In 2021, the legislature repealed these provisions.

We heard from many residents, particularly from these three regions, that they wanted us to take the same approach and preserve these 17 electoral districts as the previous law had required. We cannot do that because we must comply with the Act as it exists now.

Our Act requires us to look at the boundaries of every electoral district in the province. For a riding whose population falls outside the usual deviation range, we must consider whether it is possible, in light of the statutory factors, to revise

its electoral boundaries to bring it within the usual deviation range. If it is not, we must decide whether special geographic or demographic considerations make the unusual deviation truly necessary.

Specific Principles

Based on our understanding of the Act, we developed additional specific principles to guide our deliberations. We did not prioritize them but used them as touchstones in our discussions. They are:

- **Only make changes where they are needed.** We consider continuity important. While it is possible to approach electoral boundaries with a blank slate, this would cause a lot of disruption and would not respect the historical traditions of communities within the same electoral district.
- **Allow for future population growth.** The Act is forward looking and the recommendations we make, if accepted, will apply for the next two general elections.
- **Balance populations in the same area.** The Act does not divide British Columbia into formal regions. However, British Columbians commonly identify themselves as living in particular areas, such as the North, or the Interior. We recognize this reality by trying to reduce population disparities within each area.
- **Use existing boundaries.** There are an astonishing number of boundaries in the province quite apart from federal and provincial electoral districts. They include municipalities, First Nations territories, regional districts and school districts. We used existing boundaries as much as possible to reduce confusion.
- **Use geographical boundaries.** Existing boundaries are often drawn along natural boundaries, such as waterways, mountains and major highways. People tend to think of them as natural dividers, and we wanted to reflect that in our boundary drawing.
- **Avoid splitting Indigenous communities.** Although the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) are directed at governments and not independent commissions such as ours, we adopt this principle because it is consistent with the objectives of our Act.
- **Consider the ombudsperson role of an MLA.** This principle reminds us that an MLA's ombudsperson role is as important as their legislative role. We recognize that being an effective ombudsperson may be harder in more sparsely populated ridings with fewer services.
- **Reduce the number of electoral districts falling outside the 25% deviation range.** We believe this principle follows from the core concept of representation by population and the Act's definition of the usual deviation range. By increasing the number of ridings within that range, we reduce the need for exceptions.

- **Change names of ridings only where necessary and prefer inclusive names.** Traditionally, names of provincial ridings have referred to larger communities or distinct geographical areas. We wanted to continue that approach with names that reflect the breadth of the riding. We also wanted to keep names relatively short and to try to ensure that, in alphabetic lists of ridings, those in the same geographical area would be listed together.

IMAGE 6: PUBLIC MEETING IN REVELSTOKE, B.C. CREDIT: BC ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION. APRIL 7, 2022.

The Commission travelled more than 10,000 km by car, ferry and plane in its preliminary input phase—a lesson in B.C.'s vast geographic area.



Our Process to Date

We were appointed as Commissioners on October 21, 2021. Our first virtual meeting was a week later, on October 28, and our first in-person meeting was on November 4. None of us knew each other previously.

At the outset, we agreed that we wanted to operate by consensus. We would talk through any issues until we all felt comfortable with how to proceed.

We agreed that our first steps should be to better understand the importance of electoral boundaries and redrawing them. We invited experts to talk with us about electoral boundary law, the experience of prior electoral boundary commissions, demographics, population statistics and mapping. We also determined what staff we needed to hire. Our staff joined us between December 2021 and February 2022.

In our initial meetings, we decided that we wanted to be as accessible and transparent as possible. We wanted to visit as many communities in all areas of the province as we could, especially areas outside the Lower Mainland and Victoria. Recognizing the limitations posed by travel times and distances, as well as by the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to hold virtual meetings in addition to in-person meetings.

Our website went live on February 22, 2022. As part of our efforts to increase awareness, we began a media campaign asking for feedback on the area, boundaries and names of the current provincial electoral districts. We directly contacted First Nations organizations, local governments, MLAs and others that we thought might be interested in our work. We advertized in newspapers, on radio and television, as well as online.

Recognizing the challenge in asking the public to comment on a topic as abstract as provincial electoral boundaries, we described our Commission and our mandate in our outreach materials and at public meetings. We chatted with people informally and answered questions after our in-person and virtual public meetings. Our website has a survey tool that prompts people with questions about their electoral district in relation to the factors in the Act. In addition to public meetings and our website, we accepted submissions by email or post, and over the phone.

The initial public consultation phase ended on May 31, 2022. We heard from people at 50 public meetings in 43 communities, and we received over 1,000 submissions.

We learned a great deal from this consultation, both about British Columbians' views on electoral boundaries in general and in their particular districts, and about the process of public outreach campaigns. What we heard about electoral boundaries has significantly influenced our recommendations. What we learned about public outreach will influence our final round of public consultation.

We spent two weeks deliberating in June 2022, and the months of June, July and August writing this initial report.

05

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Recommendations

Introduction

This chapter contains our proposals for electoral boundary adjustments. For ease of reading, we have divided the province into 11 geographical areas organized in the order that we discussed them during our deliberations. Each area contains overviews and descriptions of our proposed boundaries for the electoral districts in that area, together with maps of each area and district. We have listed electoral districts within each area or sub-area alphabetically.

We propose two changes with province-wide effects. First, we consider that six additional electoral districts are necessary to provide British Columbians with effective representation. Second, we propose three technical mapping changes to improve electoral riding maps. These technical mapping changes do not affect populated areas.

In our view, six additional ridings are a necessary response to the province's significant population growth since the 2015 Commission and the projected population growth trends in densely populated urban areas. We propose to locate these new electoral districts in Langford, Kelowna, Langley, Burnaby, Surrey and Vancouver.

With 93 electoral districts, the electoral quotient is 53,773, and the usual deviation range is between 40,330 and 67,216 people in each electoral district.

Many people told us that they believe new electoral districts are needed in areas where the population of existing ridings

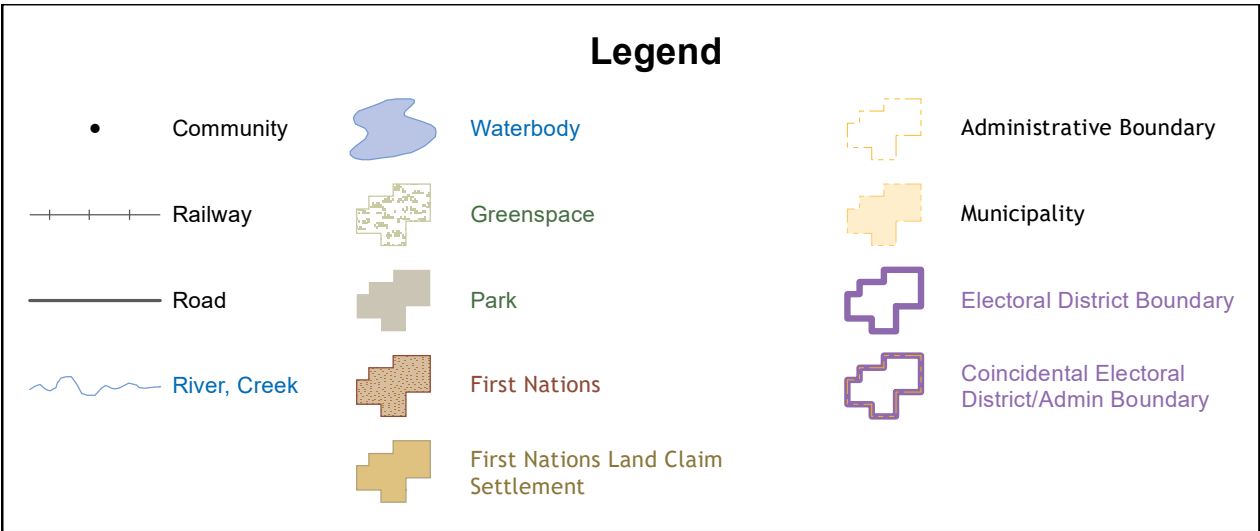
is significantly more than 25% over the electoral quotient. Some said that it is unfair that a vote in the densest urban ridings is currently worth one-fourth of a vote in the province's least populous ridings. We received several detailed proposals about where new districts should be situated. Some residents of more sparsely populated ridings said that creating new districts in densely populated communities was an effective way to reduce the population disparity between urban and rural areas without reducing the number of rural ridings.

Our initial review of the populations of existing electoral districts also pointed to the need for new ridings. Using 2021 population figures and the 87 existing electoral districts, six electoral districts are over the maximum of 25% more than the electoral quotient. Four of them are 30% over the electoral quotient and one is more than 40% over. Many of these ridings are next to one another and the problem is compounded by the fact that these areas are projected to continue to

grow faster than the average population growth rate.

Adding six new electoral districts as we propose not only alleviates the problem of over-populated ridings but is also an effective way to address ridings whose populations are less than the minimum usual deviation of 25% below the electoral quotient. The new ridings lower the bottom of the usual deviation range from the current minimum of 43,111 people in a riding to 40,330. That means fewer boundary adjustments are needed to bring more sparsely populated ridings within the usual deviation range.

As a result, the weight of a vote in the province's least populated riding will no longer be four times more than the weight of a vote in the province's most densely populated riding. The difference will be about three to one. We believe our proposal strongly supports the twin principles of representation by population and effective representation for all British Columbians, as the Act requires.



The three technical mapping changes we propose affect how electoral maps are drawn in unpopulated areas. First, we adjust riding boundaries on the Pacific coast to coincide with existing regional district boundaries, which follow the coastline at a 5 km distance out to sea. Presently, coastal boundaries are drawn at a much greater distance, unnecessarily incorporating more unpopulated ocean area into these ridings. Second, we adjust existing electoral district boundaries in unpopulated areas to coincide with nearby municipal or administrative boundaries. Third, we orient electoral district boundaries that continue into inland waterways to angles of zero, 90, 180 or 270 degrees. The proposed electoral district maps in this report incorporate these changes.

Vancouver Island

Current Electoral Districts (14)

Courtenay-Comox
 Cowichan Valley
 Esquimalt-Metchosin
 Langford-Juan de Fuca
 Mid Island-Pacific Rim
 Nanaimo
 Nanaimo-North Cowichan
 North Island
 Oak Bay-Gordon Head
 Parksville-Qualicum
 Saanich North and the Islands
 Saanich South
 Victoria-Beacon Hill
 Victoria-Swan Lake

Proposed Electoral Districts (15)

Courtenay-Comox
 Cowichan Valley
 Esquimalt-Colwood
 Juan de Fuca-Malahat
 Langford-Highlands
 Mid Island-Pacific Rim
 Nanaimo-Gabriola Island
 Nanaimo-Ladysmith
 Nanaimo-Oceanside
 North Island
 Oak Bay-Gordon Head
 Saanich North and the Islands
 Saanich South
 Victoria-Beacon Hill
 Victoria-Swan Lake

TABLE 1: VANCOUVER ISLAND ELECTORAL DISTRICTS
 NOTE: THIS CHAPTER USES PROPOSED ELECTORAL DISTRICT NAMES



Presently, the Vancouver Island area is made up of 14 electoral districts. They encompass all of Vancouver Island, adjacent islands and the area defined by the boundaries of the Regional District of Mount Waddington, which includes parts of the mainland. The Vancouver Island area is growing quickly but unevenly. It includes dense urban centres, large fast-growing suburban neighbourhoods and smaller slower growing rural communities. In parts of this area, geographic features such as waterways shape connections between communities.

Many people living on the Island believe that the current electoral boundaries continue to serve their communities well. However, there is pressure for change in some communities. These include calls to create an additional riding in the

fast-growing Greater Victoria area, to move the Victoria West neighbourhood out of the Victoria-Beacon Hill district, and to recognize the strong community links between Cumberland, Courtenay and Comox.

We propose creating a new electoral district in the Langford area, called Langford-Highlands, to address the rapid population growth in Greater Victoria, with consequent changes to neighbouring ridings. We recommend boundary changes

IMAGE 7: VICTORIA CAUSEWAY MARINA, VICTORIA, B.C. CREDIT: ARMON ARANI. MAY 11, 2020

TABLE 2: VANCOUVER ISLAND POPULATION, DEVIATION AND AREA
SOURCE: 2021 STATISTICS CANADA CENSUS COUNT

Electoral District	Population	Deviation (%)	Area (sq km)
Courtenay-Comox	60,354	12.2	1,587
Cowichan Valley	54,199	0.8	1,916
Esquimalt-Colwood	58,343	8.5	53
Juan de Fuca-Malahat	44,931	-16.4	3,116
Langford-Highlands	49,114	-8.7	86
Mid Island-Pacific Rim	58,783	9.3	11,830
Nanaimo-Gabriola Island	58,924	9.6	780
Nanaimo-Ladysmith	54,385	1.1	1,783
Nanaimo-Oceanside	60,069	11.7	899
North Island	58,940	9.6	39,933
Oak Bay-Gordon Head	56,466	5.0	302
Saanich North and the Islands	57,346	6.6	1,514
Saanich South	59,226	10.1	96
Victoria-Beacon Hill	54,375	1.1	83
Victoria-Swan Lake	54,780	1.9	18
Total/Average	840,235	0.4	63,996

in a number of other electoral districts to accommodate existing and projected population growth. As a result of these changes, we are proposing name changes to five electoral districts. We believe that these changes better reflect the communities that comprise these ridings.

The population distribution, and anticipated growth in the Comox Valley do not support a proposal to move Cumberland into the same electoral district as Courtenay and Comox at this time. Doing so would result in a Mid Island-

Pacific Rim riding with a population far less than that of the neighbouring Courtenay-Comox electoral district.

Greater Victoria

The Greater Victoria area is situated on the southern tip of Vancouver Island, running up to Port Renfrew on the west coast and including the Southern Gulf Islands to the north and east. Our key proposals include adding a new electoral district centred on Langford; moving the Victoria West neighbourhood out of the Victoria-



Beacon Hill riding and into Esquimalt-Colwood; and moving Brentwood Bay from Saanich North and the Islands into Saanich South.

Esquimalt-Colwood

Esquimalt-Colwood includes the fast-growing municipalities of Colwood, View Royal, and Esquimalt. We heard that the Victoria West neighbourhood is more closely connected with communities west of the Gorge Waterway than with the City of Victoria. Their shared interests include transit corridors such as the E&N Trail and the Island Highway. We therefore propose adding Victoria West to this riding.

Juan de Fuca-Malahat

Our proposal for this riding unites the communities along the Strait of Juan de Fuca—Metchosin, Sooke and Port Renfrew—with those north of the Malahat Pass—Shawnigan Lake, Mill Bay and Cobble Hill. We believe combining several smaller communities and rural areas in one electoral district is preferable to the alternative of moving part of the Juan de Fuca region into the Cowichan Valley riding.

IMAGE 8: FORBIDDEN PLATEAU,
STRATHCONA PROVINCIAL PARK,
B.C. CREDIT: LESLY DERKSEN
MAY 5, 2019

Langford-Highlands

The population of the City of Langford has grown by 31.8% over the past five years and is projected to continue growing rapidly. To address this, we propose a new electoral district whose boundaries follow the municipal boundaries of the City of Langford and the District of Highlands.

Oak Bay-Gordon Head

This riding includes the municipality of Oak Bay, the Saanich neighbourhoods of Gordon Head and Cadboro Bay, the Gonzales neighbourhood of Victoria and the University of Victoria. It has room for growth within its current boundaries and we propose no changes.

Saanich North and the Islands

This electoral district includes much of Central Saanich, as well as North Saanich, Sidney and the Southern Gulf Islands. Moving the community of Brentwood Bay from this riding into Saanich South, as we propose, creates room for the anticipated population growth in this riding.

Saanich South

This riding includes the Saanich neighbourhoods of Royal Oak, Cordova Bay, Prospect Lake and Brentwood Bay. We propose moving Brentwood Bay into this electoral district to address the population disparity between it and the adjacent riding of Saanich North and the Islands.

Victoria-Beacon Hill

Victoria-Beacon Hill contains the City of Victoria's urban core. It includes the downtown area, and the James Bay,

Fairfield, Rockland, Harris Green, North Park and Fernwood neighbourhoods. Our proposal to move the Victoria West neighbourhood out of this riding creates room for anticipated growth.

Victoria-Swan Lake

Victoria-Swan Lake encompasses the neighbourhoods north of downtown Victoria, including Tillicum, Burnside, Oaklands and Lake Hill. Its existing boundaries work well, and we propose no changes.

Greater Nanaimo

In addition to the City of Nanaimo, the three electoral districts in Greater Nanaimo run from Ladysmith in the south to Qualicum Beach in the north. Some residents suggested that the City of Nanaimo should have its own riding. Doing so would create a riding with a population exceeding the maximum of the usual deviation range, compromising effective representation by population. Instead, we propose adjusting the boundaries of the three existing Nanaimo ridings to better balance their populations.

Nanaimo-Gabriola Island

This electoral district consists of Nanaimo's downtown core, adjacent neighbourhoods, and the Snuneymuxw First Nation communities to the south of the city centre. We included Gabriola Island in this riding because its access to Vancouver Island is through downtown Nanaimo.

Nanaimo-Ladysmith

Nanaimo-Ladysmith includes Ladysmith, Cassidy, Cedar and Yellow Point, as well as the fast-growing suburban part of north

Nanaimo between Departure Bay Road in the south and Brickyard, Rutherford and Mostar roads in the north. We are not proposing an exclusively North Nanaimo riding because we wanted to balance its population with the adjacent Nanaimo-Oceanside electoral district.

Nanaimo-Oceanside

This riding includes the Oceanside communities of Parksville, Qualicum, French Creek, Nanoose Bay and Lantzville. It also includes the northern neighbourhoods of Nanaimo to the west of Brickyard, Rutherford and Mostar roads. Other than the riding name, we are not proposing changes to this district.

Other Vancouver Island Ridings

Courtenay-Comox

This electoral district includes Courtenay, Comox, Little River, Merville and Black Creek. For the reasons explained in the Vancouver Island area overview, we propose no changes to this electoral district's boundaries at this time.

Cowichan Valley

This riding consists of Cowichan Valley communities including Duncan, Lake Cowichan and Cowichan Bay. We propose boundary adjustments to include Chemainus in the north and Cherry Point in the south. These changes better balance the population of this riding with its neighbours.

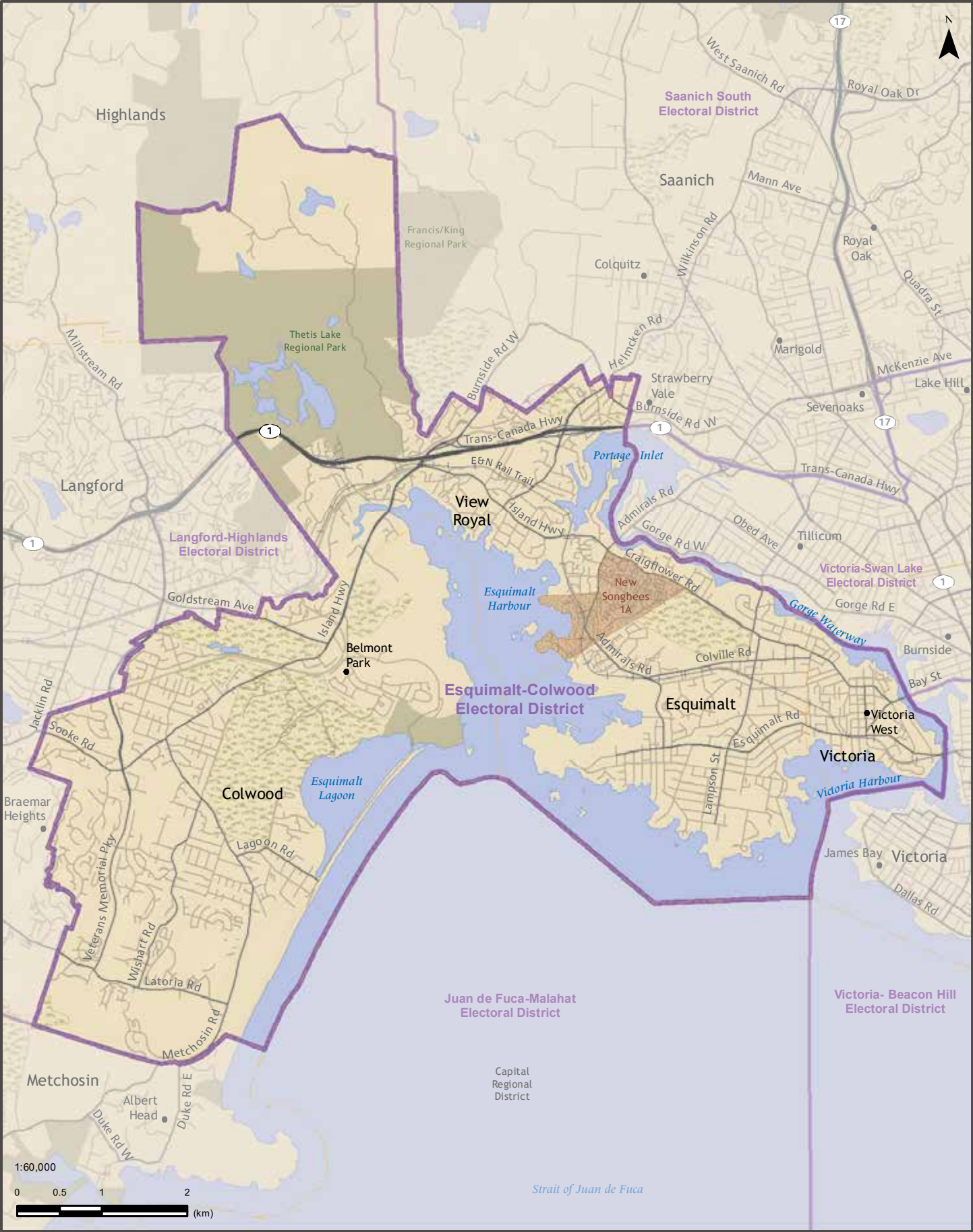
Mid Island-Pacific Rim

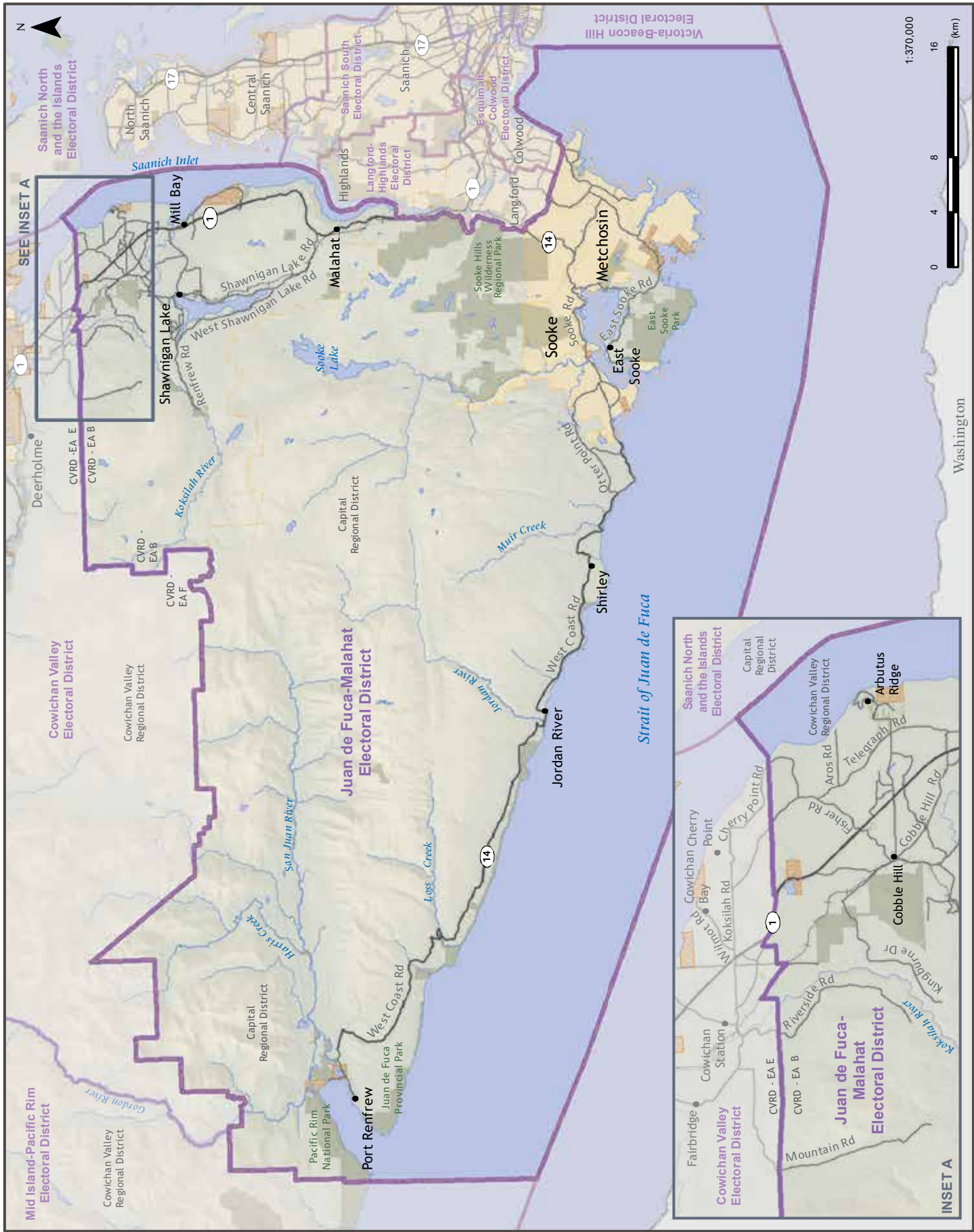
Mid Island-Pacific Rim spans the middle of Vancouver Island, encompassing communities on both coasts. These include Ucluelet, Tofino, Port Alberni, Qualicum Bay, Cumberland, and Denman and Hornby Islands. For the reasons explained in the Vancouver Island area overview, we propose no changes to this electoral district's boundaries at this time.

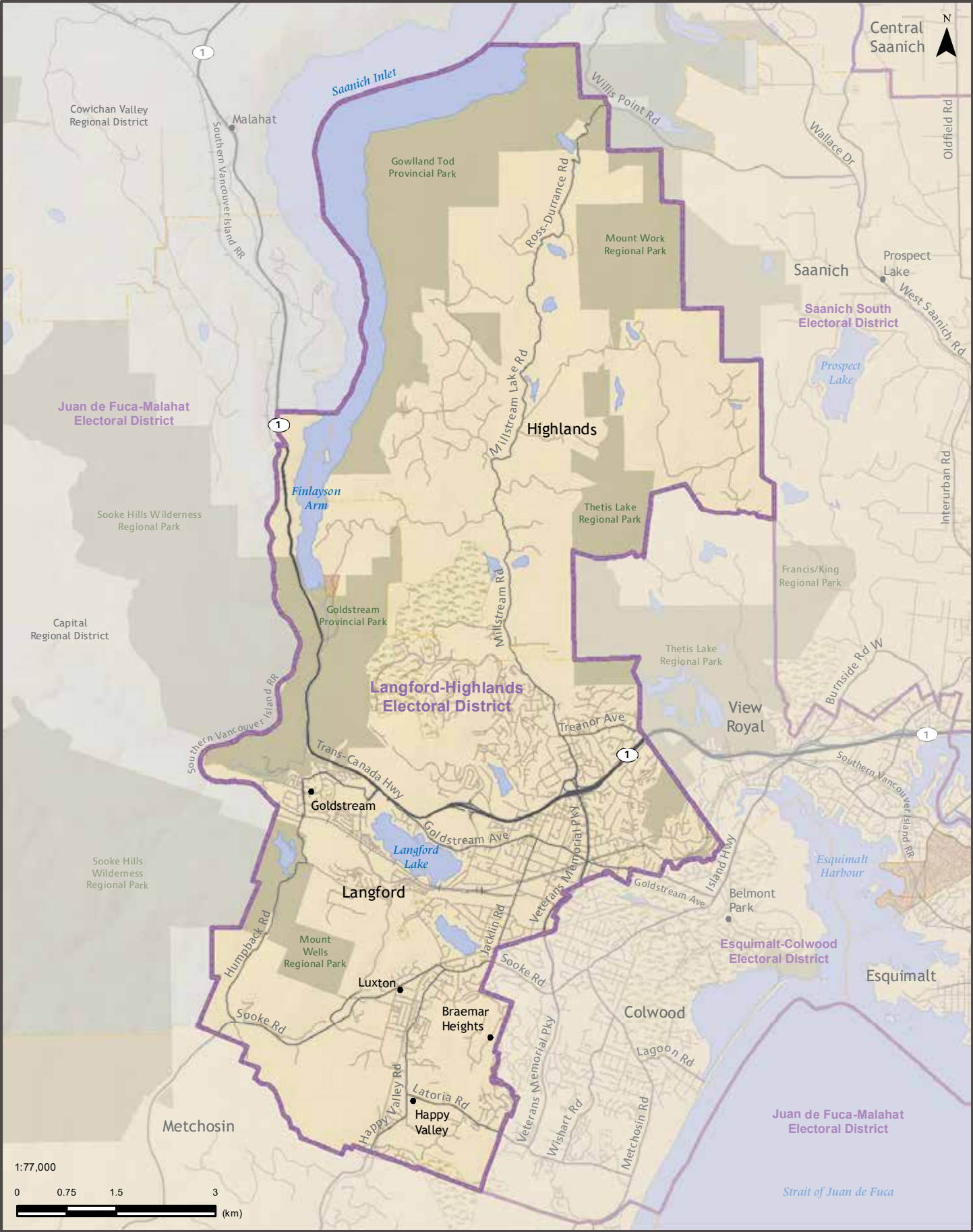
North Island

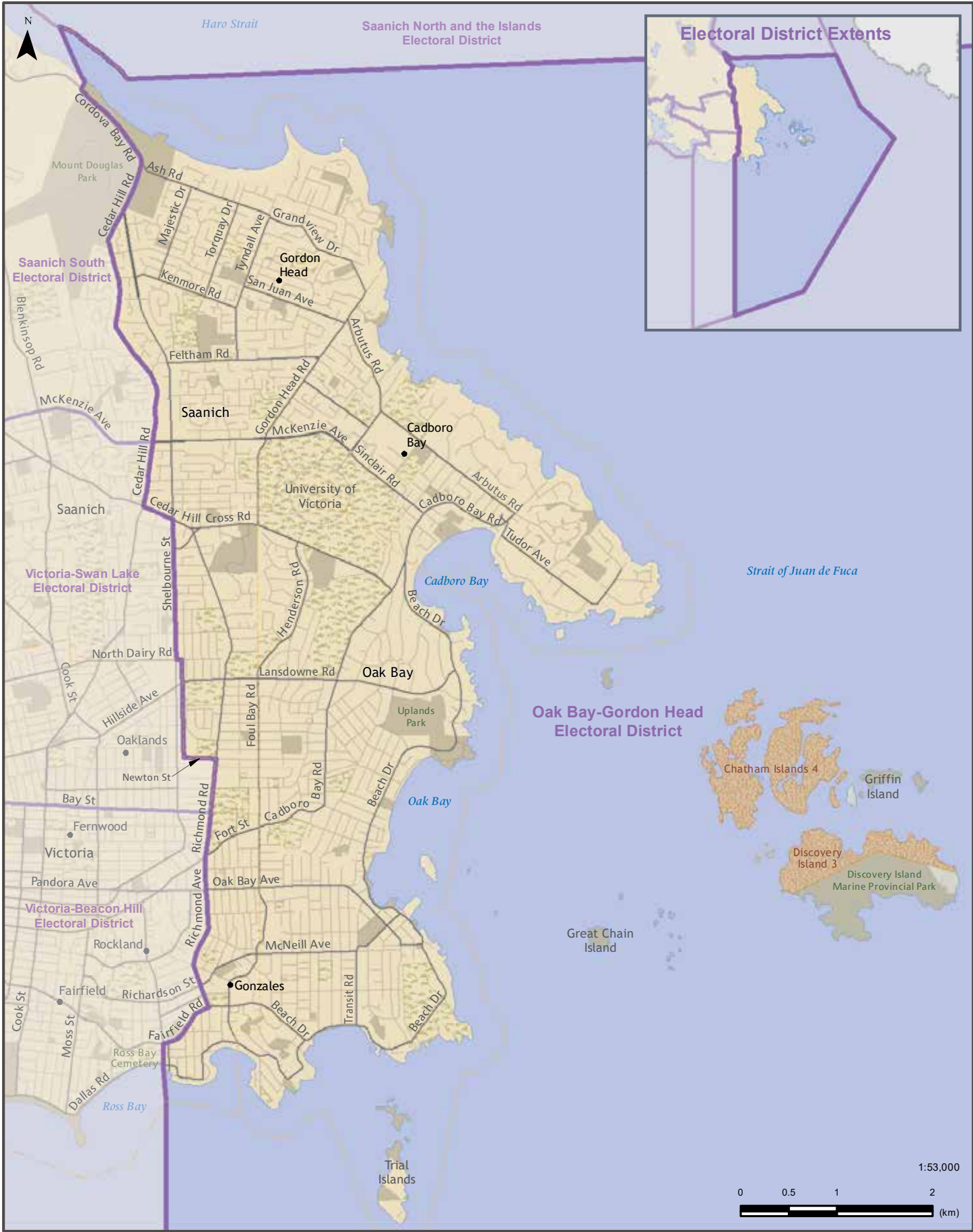
This electoral district encompasses the northern portion of Vancouver Island, adjacent islands and the area defined by the boundaries of the Regional District of Mount Waddington, which extends onto the mainland. It includes the communities of Campbell River, Sayward, Port McNeill, Port Hardy and Alert Bay. Although its population is within the usual deviation range, it is less than its neighbours. We consider that its comparatively large geographical area and uneven population distribution continue to support its present boundaries, and we propose no changes to this riding.

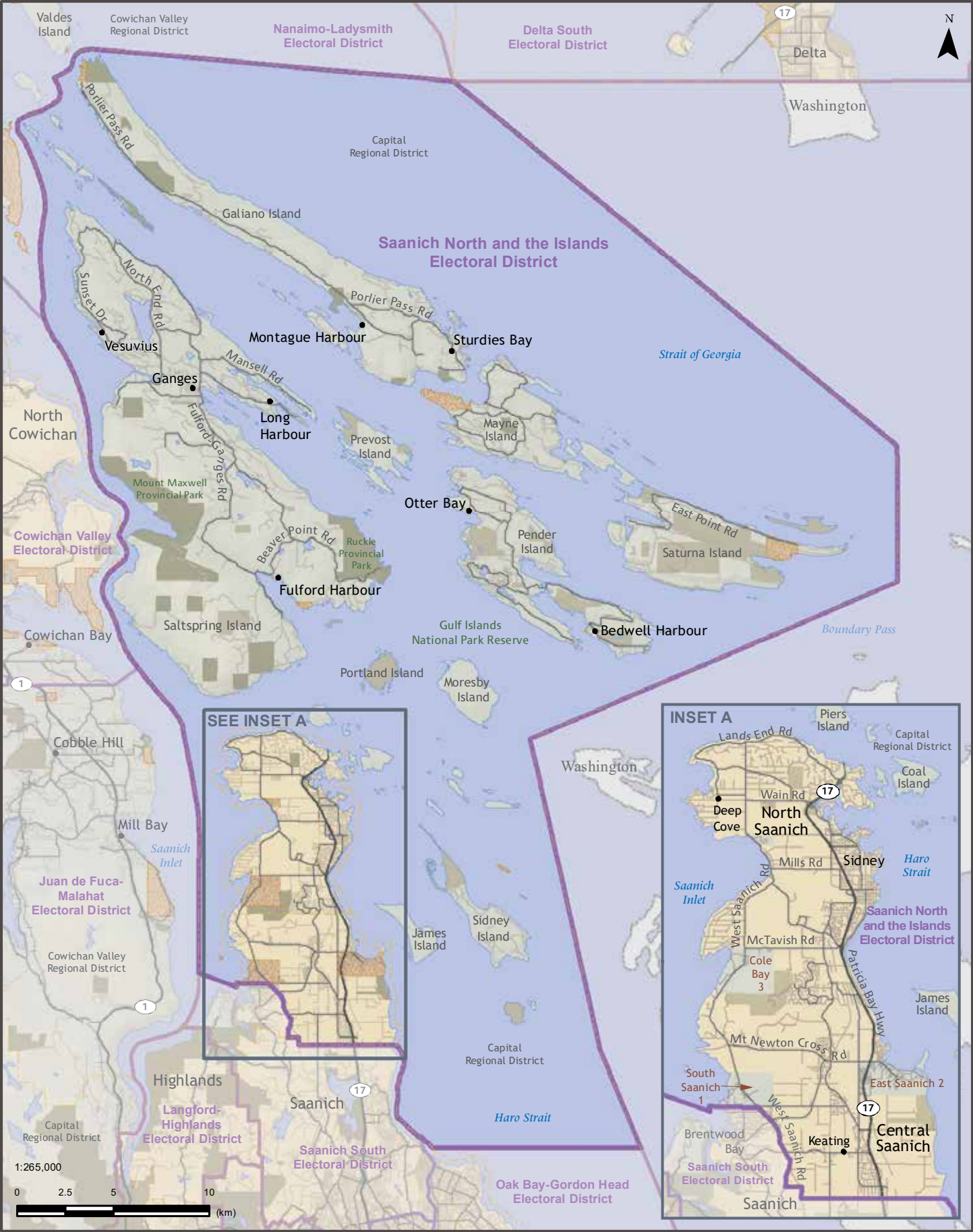


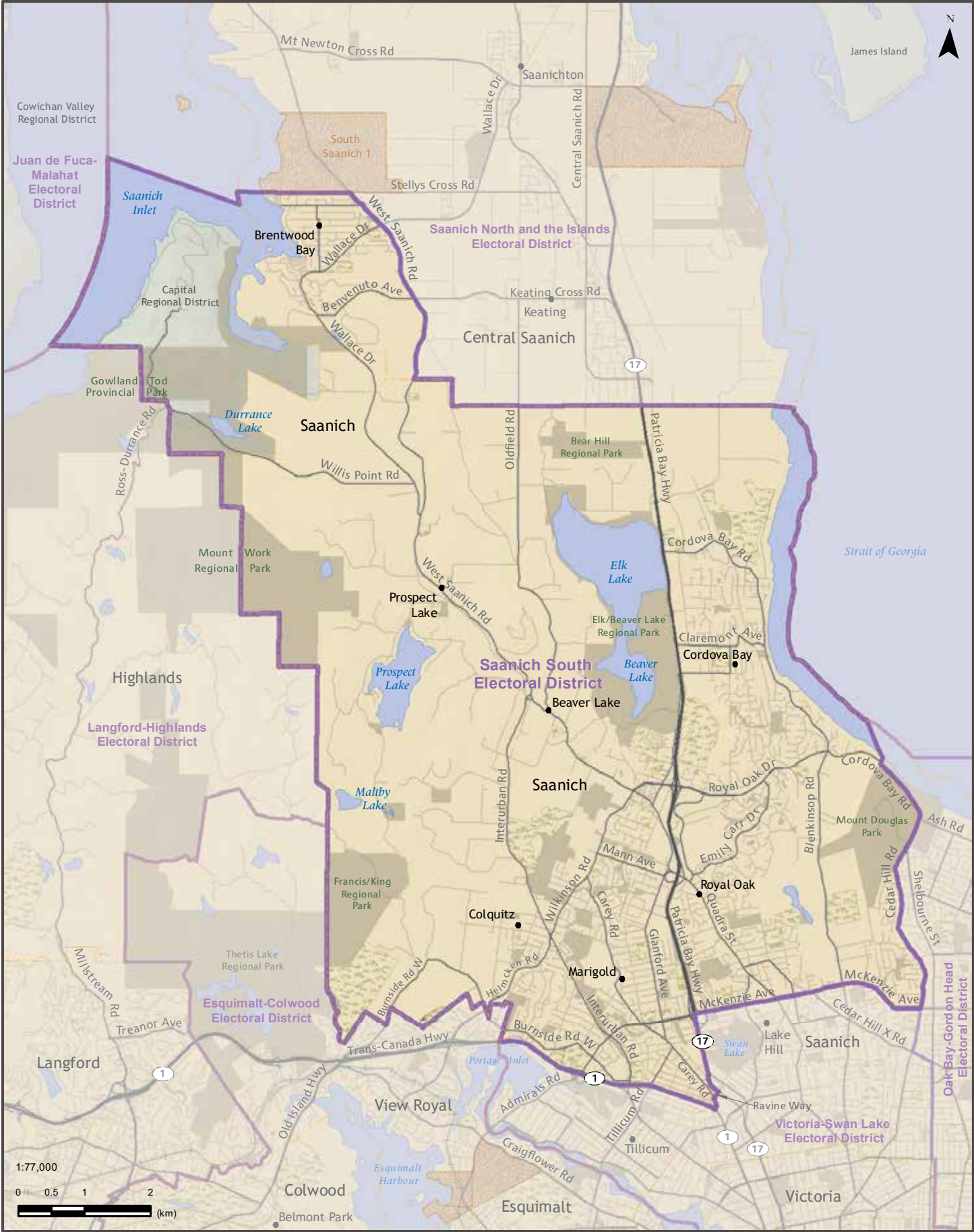


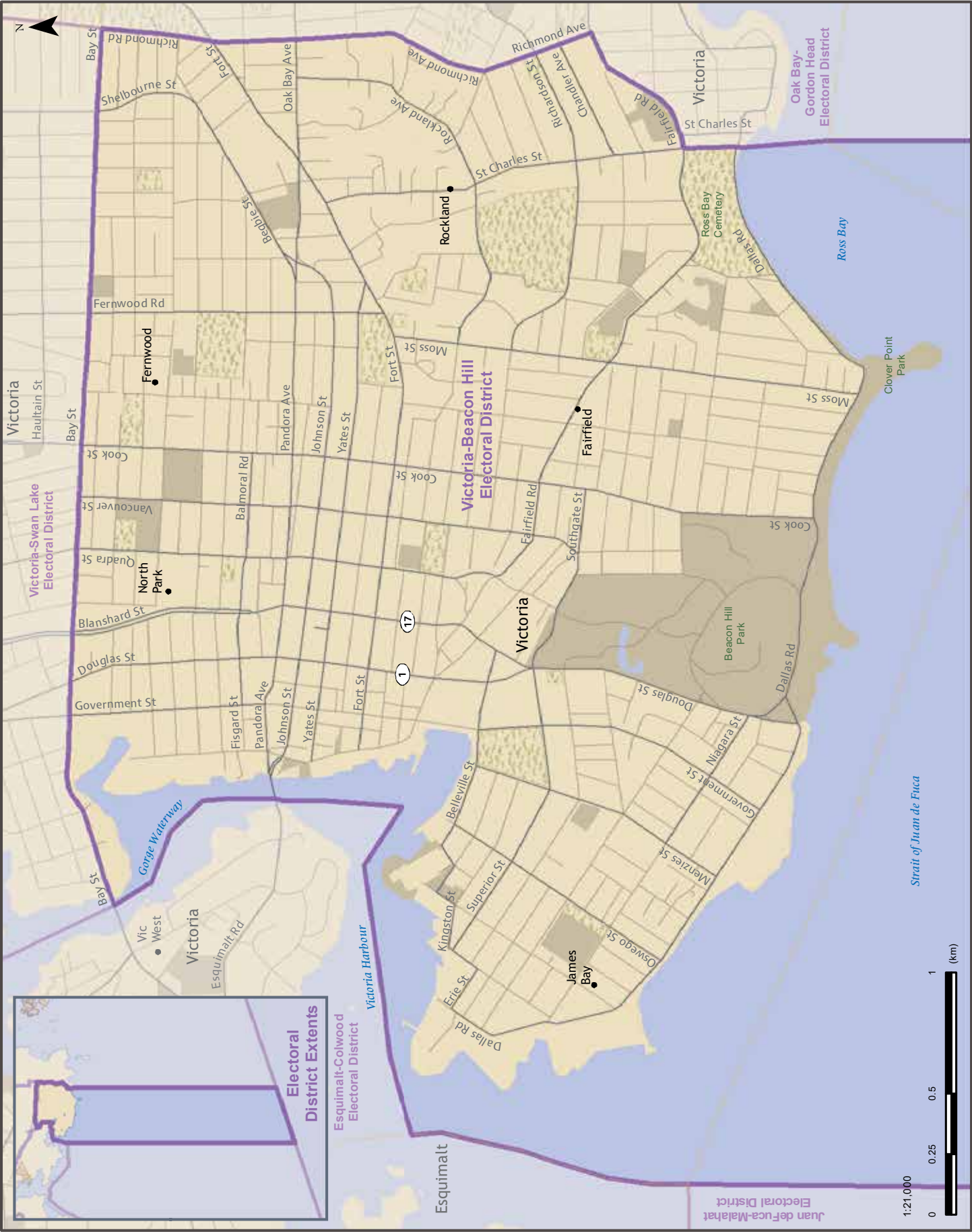


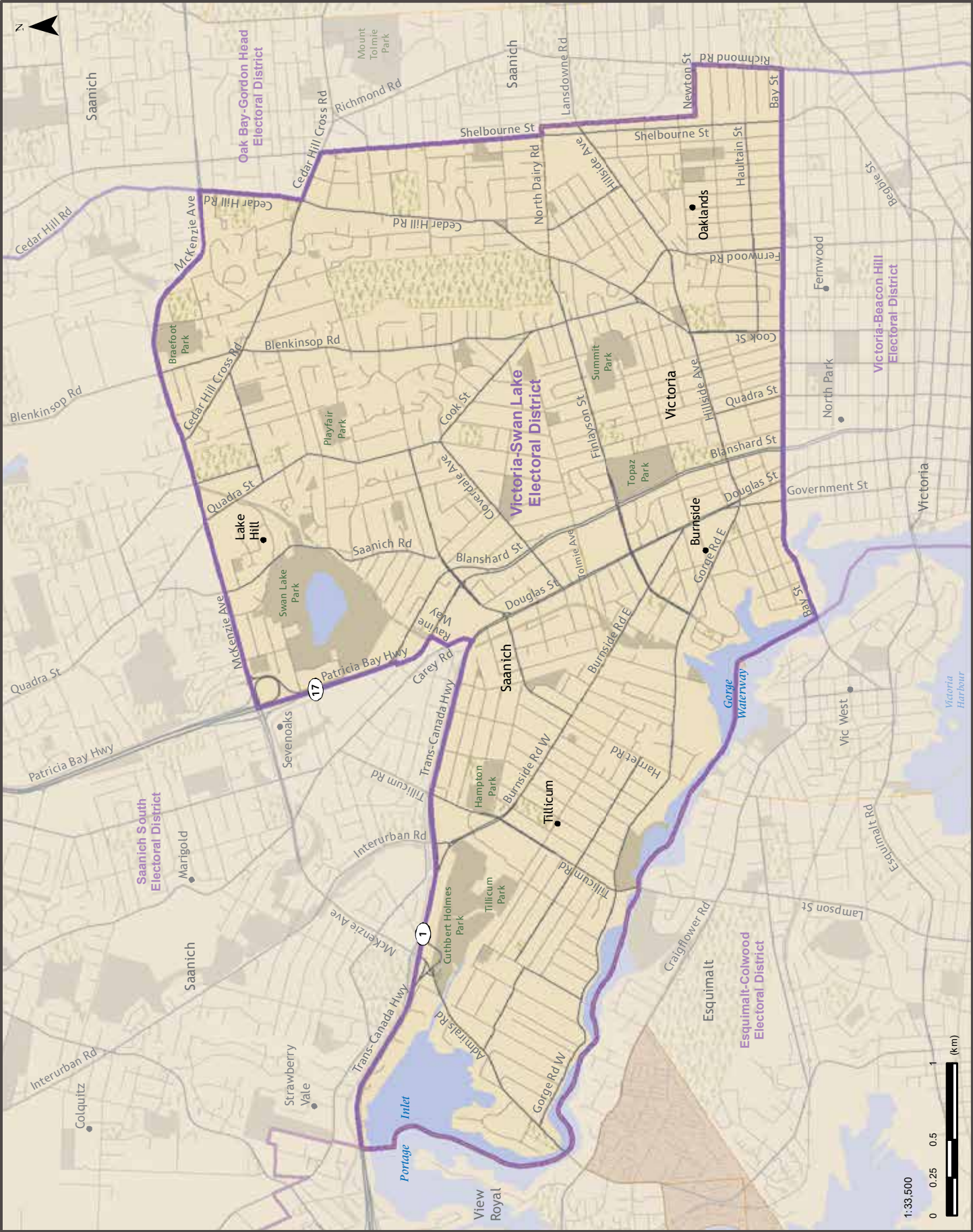


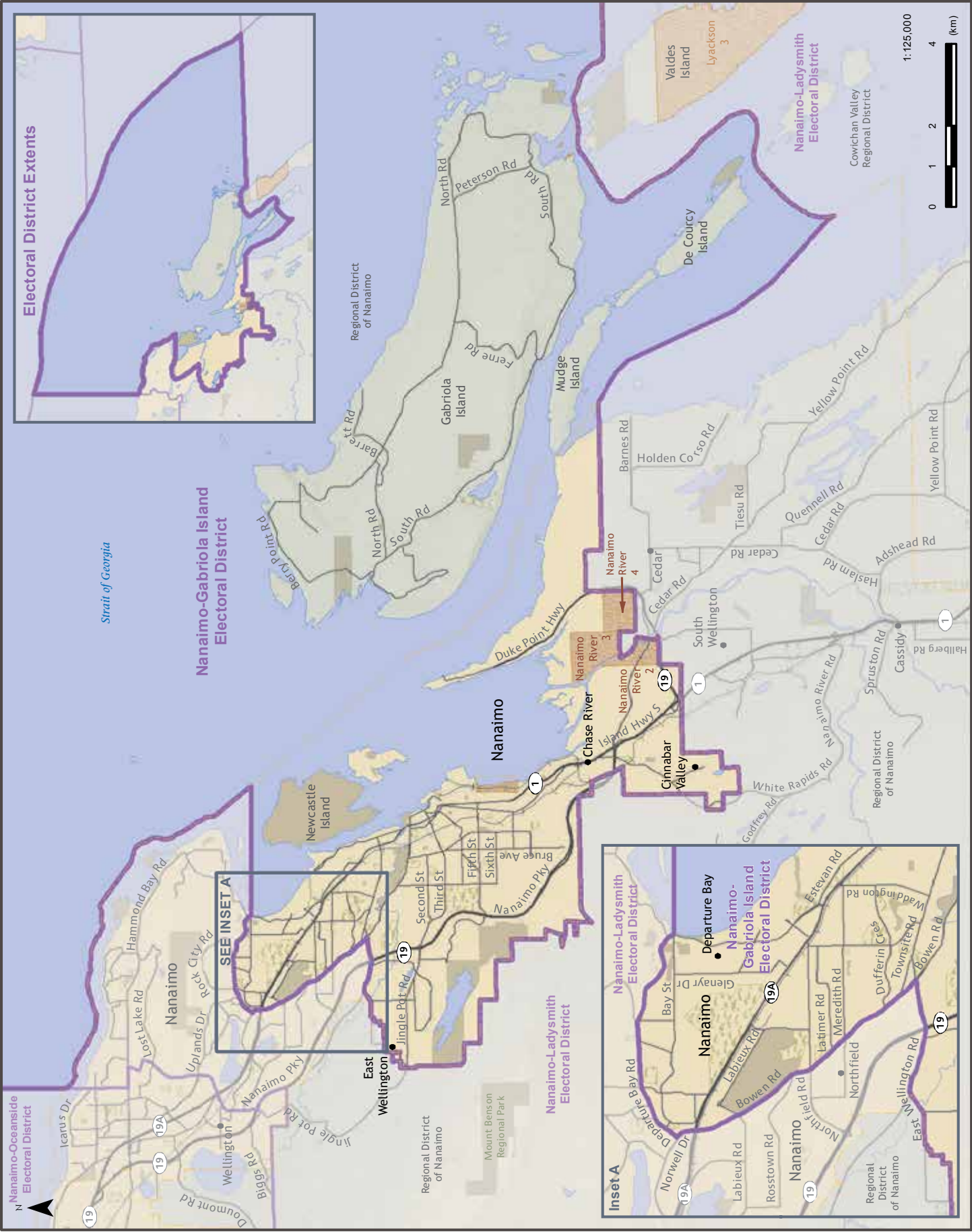


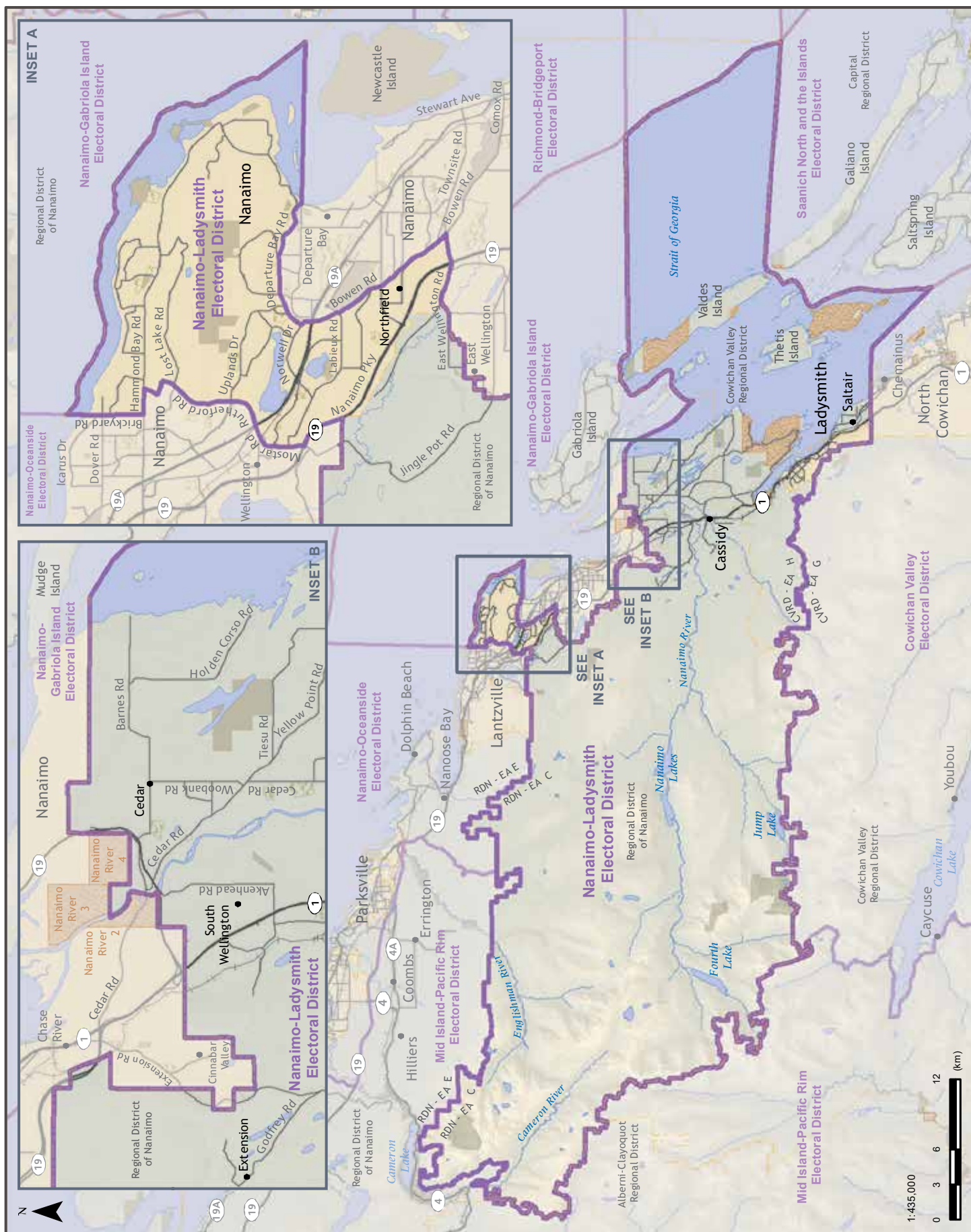


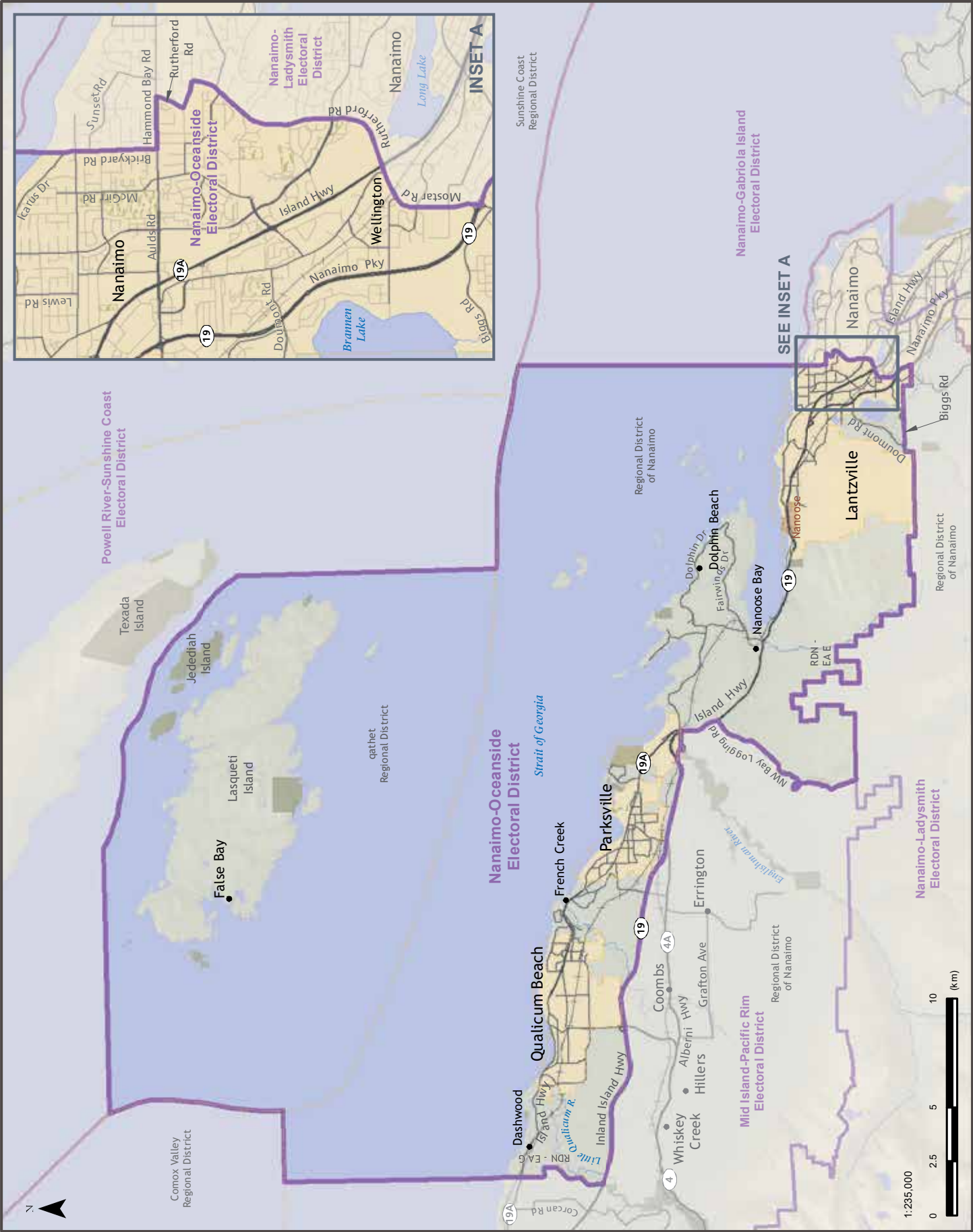


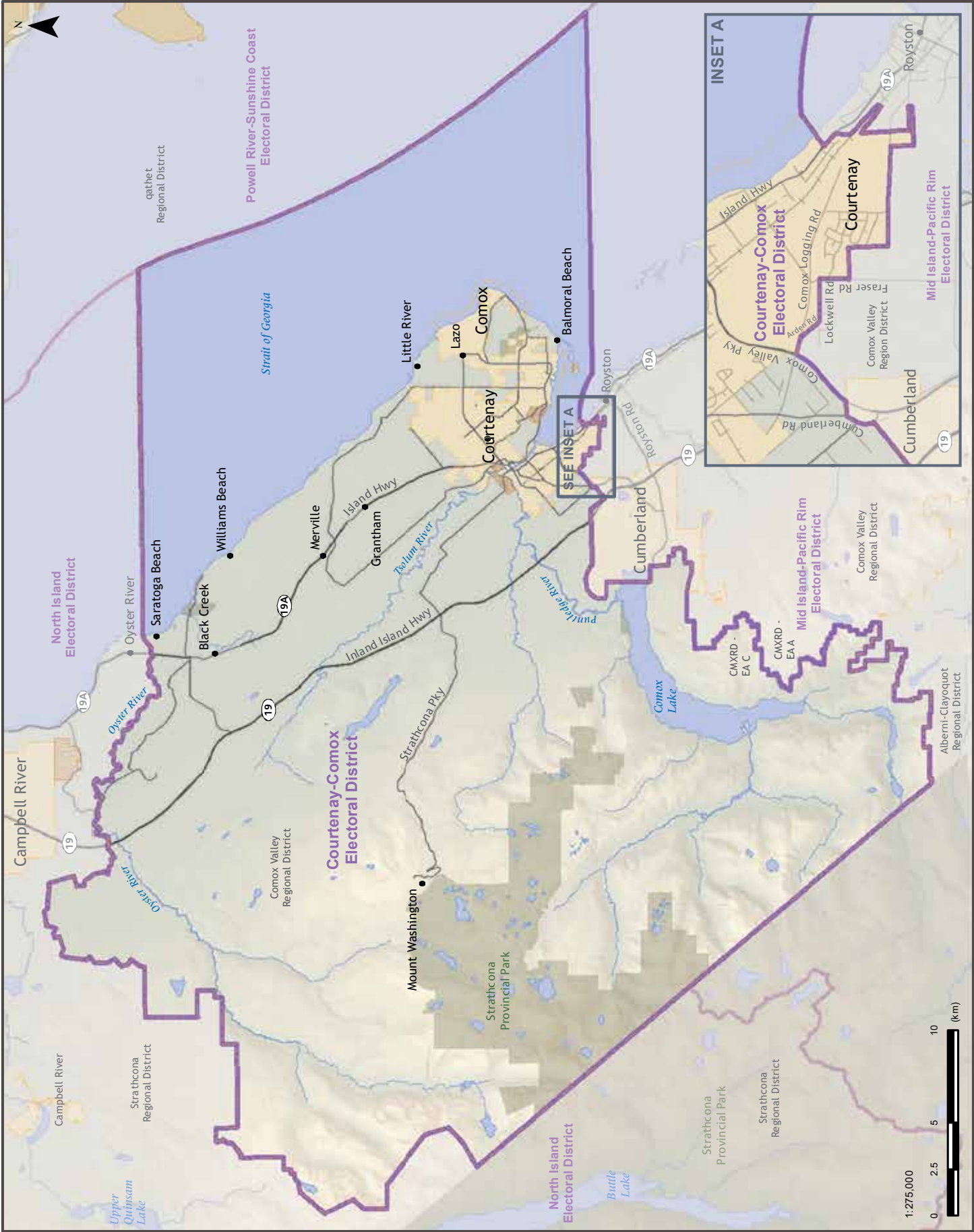


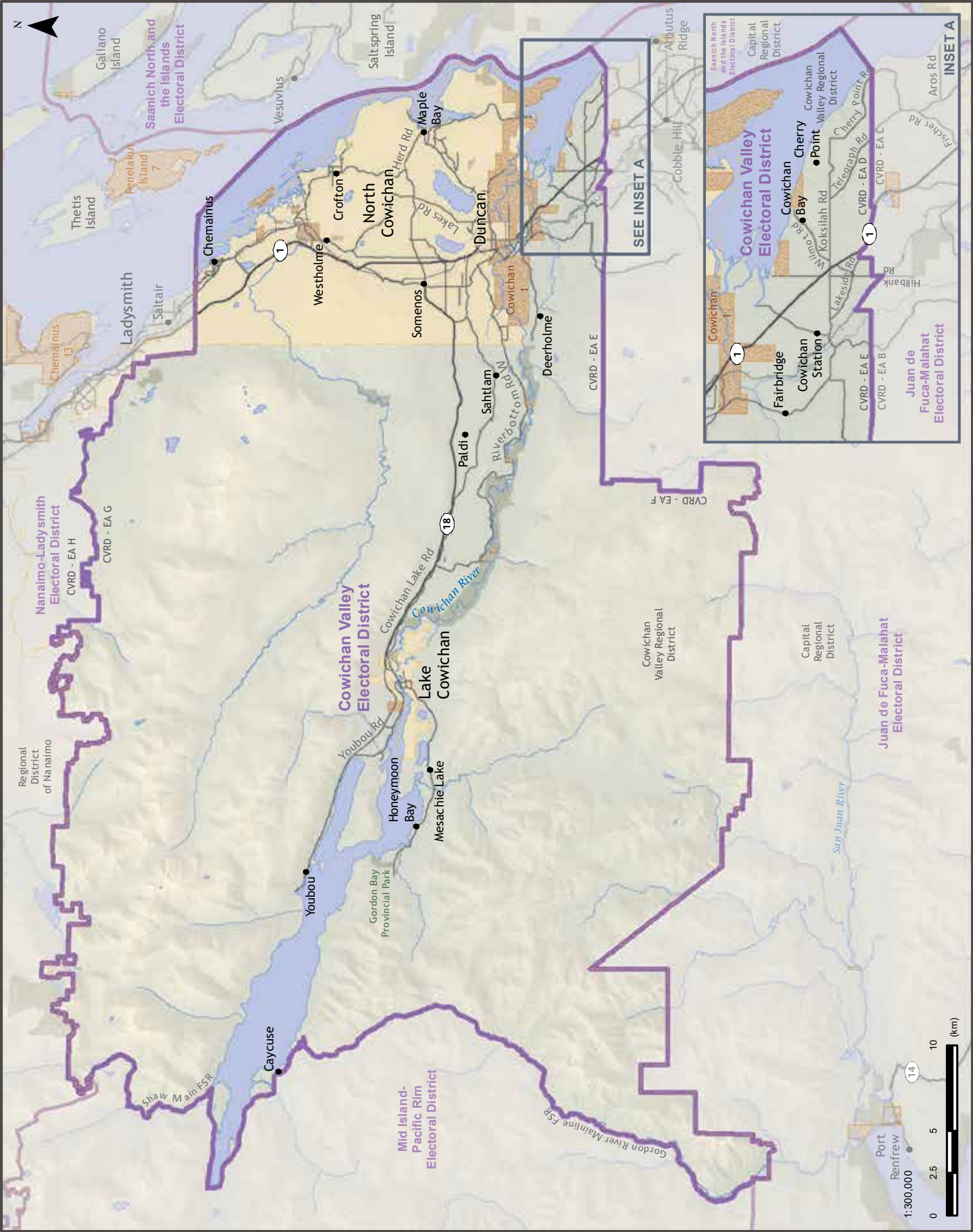


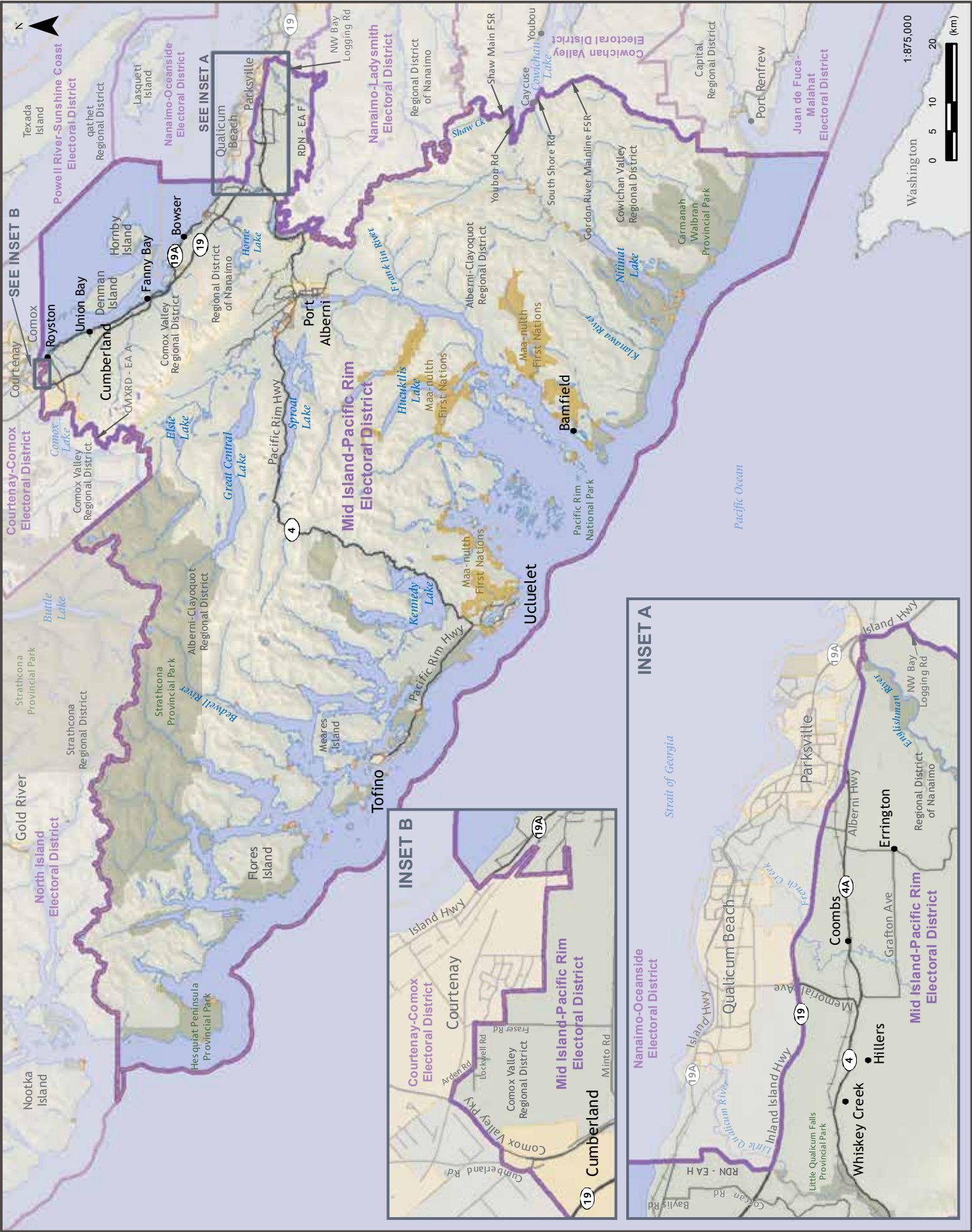












The North

Current Electoral Districts (6)

Nechako Lakes
 North Coast
 Peace River North
 Peace River South
 Skeena
 Stikine

Proposed Electoral Districts (6)

Bulkley Valley-Stikine
 Nechako Lakes
 North Coast
 Peace River North
 Peace River South
 Skeena

TABLE 3: THE NORTH ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

NOTE: THIS CHAPTER USES PROPOSED ELECTORAL DISTRICT NAMES



This area of the province is divided into six electoral districts: Bulkley Valley-Stikine, Nechako Lakes, North Coast, Peace River North, Peace River South and Skeena. They include the largest geographical ridings in the province. Their terrain is challenging, with complex coastal waterways, river systems and mountains. Along with weather, inadequate communications and transportation infrastructure combine to make it difficult for constituents and their elected representatives to interact. The populations of five of these six ridings (all except Peace River North) fall below the lower limit of 25% less than the electoral quotient.

The former legislation prohibited the 2015 Commission from reducing the number of ridings in this area. Our Act permits us to create electoral districts with populations less than 25% of the electoral quotient

where necessary to provide for effective representation.

We heard from many residents of this area about the tremendous obstacles constituents and MLAs face in trying to access each other effectively. Most expressed great concern that reducing the number of electoral districts in this area would undermine effective representation. Some advocated for increasing the number of ridings in this area because they felt they need a greater voice in the legislature.

IMAGE 9: BRIDGE NEAR KITIMAT,
B.C. CREDIT: BEN DE ENGELSEN.
AUGUST 6, 2020

TABLE 4: THE NORTH POPULATION, DEVIATION AND AREA
SOURCE: 2021 STATISTICS CANADA CENSUS COUNT

Electoral District	Population	Deviation (%)	Area (sq km)
Bulkley Valley-Stikine	20,552	-61.8	196,484
Nechako Lakes	25,293	-53.0	73,815
North Coast	21,980	-59.1	120,665
Peace River North	40,375	-24.9	175,795
Peace River South	25,635	-52.3	30,362
Skeena	30,148	-43.9	31,610
Total/Average	163,983	-49.2	628,731

They told us that rural ridings do not have a sufficient say in government.

We appreciate the depth and sincerity of these concerns; however, we believe the principles of representation by population and effective representation in the Act do not permit us to increase population disparities between ridings. Rather, we must apply the legislative factors and justify the boundaries of any riding whose population falls outside the usual deviation range as truly necessary.

As our mandate requires, we first asked ourselves whether it was possible to reduce the number of electoral districts in this area and bring each district's population within the usual deviation range without compromising effective representation. We considered the location of communities, geographical features, transportation corridors and communications. Having done so, we concluded that any changes to the existing boundaries of these six electoral districts

would deprive their residents of effective representation. Therefore, we propose no changes to their existing boundaries.

We explain why we consider it necessary for effective representation that each riding falling below the usual deviation range maintain its current boundaries in the summary for those electoral districts below.

Bulkley Valley-Stikine

This is the largest electoral district in British Columbia at 196,484 sq. km, and it is the most sparsely populated at 61.8% below the electoral quotient. Most people reside in the Bulkley Valley, located in the southern part of the riding. For this reason, we are proposing to change the name of this riding from Stikine to Bulkley Valley-Stikine.

This district includes the communities of Hazelton, Smithers and Telkwa, along Highway 16. The riding extends to the

Canada-U.S. border in the west and north to the Yukon border, and it includes the communities of the Tahltan Nation, Dease Lake, Telegraph Creek and Atlin. The remote communities in the north of this riding are separated by very long stretches of road that are subject to harsh weather conditions much of the year. Alternative transportation, such as air travel, is limited and expensive. Internet and cellular connectivity are poor.

We considered moving other communities along Highway 16, such as Houston, into this riding; however, that would have reduced the population of the Nechako Lakes riding without meaningfully increasing the population of Bulkley Valley-Stikine. We also explored combining Bulkley Valley-Stikine with Skeena. This would have further concentrated the population in the south, making it less practically feasible for the remainder of the population and their MLA to interact. We therefore propose no changes to this riding's existing boundaries.

Nechako Lakes

Most of the population of this electoral district resides along Highway 16 in the communities of Houston, Burns Lake, Fraser Lake and Vanderhoof. The riding includes Fort Babine and Fort St. James to the north and Tweedsmuir Provincial Park to the south. Its population is 53% below the electoral quotient.

As we experienced first-hand during our travel in Nechako Lakes, much of this electoral district lacks reliable cellular and internet connections. We considered eliminating this riding by moving the western half into the Bulkley Valley-Stikine electoral district and the eastern half into

Prince George-Mackenzie. However, that would have significantly exacerbated the isolation of this sparsely populated district, compromising effective representation. We propose to leave this district's electoral boundaries as they are.

North Coast

This riding encompasses Haida Gwaii, the North Coast and the Central Coast. Other than the urban centre of Prince Rupert, its sparse population is spread across numerous towns, villages and islands. Many communities are accessible only by water or air, subject to favourable weather and available transport. The district covers 120,665 sq. km, and its population is 59.1% below the electoral quotient.

We considered combining North Coast with Skeena, but that would have compounded the accessibility challenges caused by this area's vast geography. We also considered moving the Bella Coola valley into the Cariboo-North Thompson riding, since they share a transportation corridor along Highway 20, but decided against this because it would make the population of the North Coast even smaller. We propose no consequential changes to its existing boundaries.⁴

Peace River North

This riding consists of communities north of the Peace River, including Hudson's Hope, Fort St. John, the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality and Fort Nelson. It is the second largest riding in British Columbia at 175,795 sq. km. Travel within the district is difficult because of its size, limited transportation options and severe winter climate. The population

of Peace River North is within the usual deviation range. As we believe the existing boundaries are appropriate, we propose no consequential changes.⁵

Peace River South

This electoral district covers an area south of the Peace River, including Dawson Creek, Chetwynd and Tumbler Ridge. Its population is 52.3% below the electoral quotient. Geographically, it is smaller than most other northern ridings, but it is adjacent to the large riding of Peace River North, and it is separated from the rest of the province by the Rocky Mountains.

We considered combining the two Peace River ridings, but that would have exacerbated already significant transportation and connectivity problems. We also looked at moving some of the communities just west of the Rocky Mountains into Peace River South; however, an electoral district that spans the Rocky Mountains makes little sense given the lack of reliable transportation routes. Importantly, South Peace communities have different interests than those of communities west of the Rockies. We concluded that the geographical size and communities of interest in this riding make its current boundaries necessary. We propose no changes to them.

Skeena

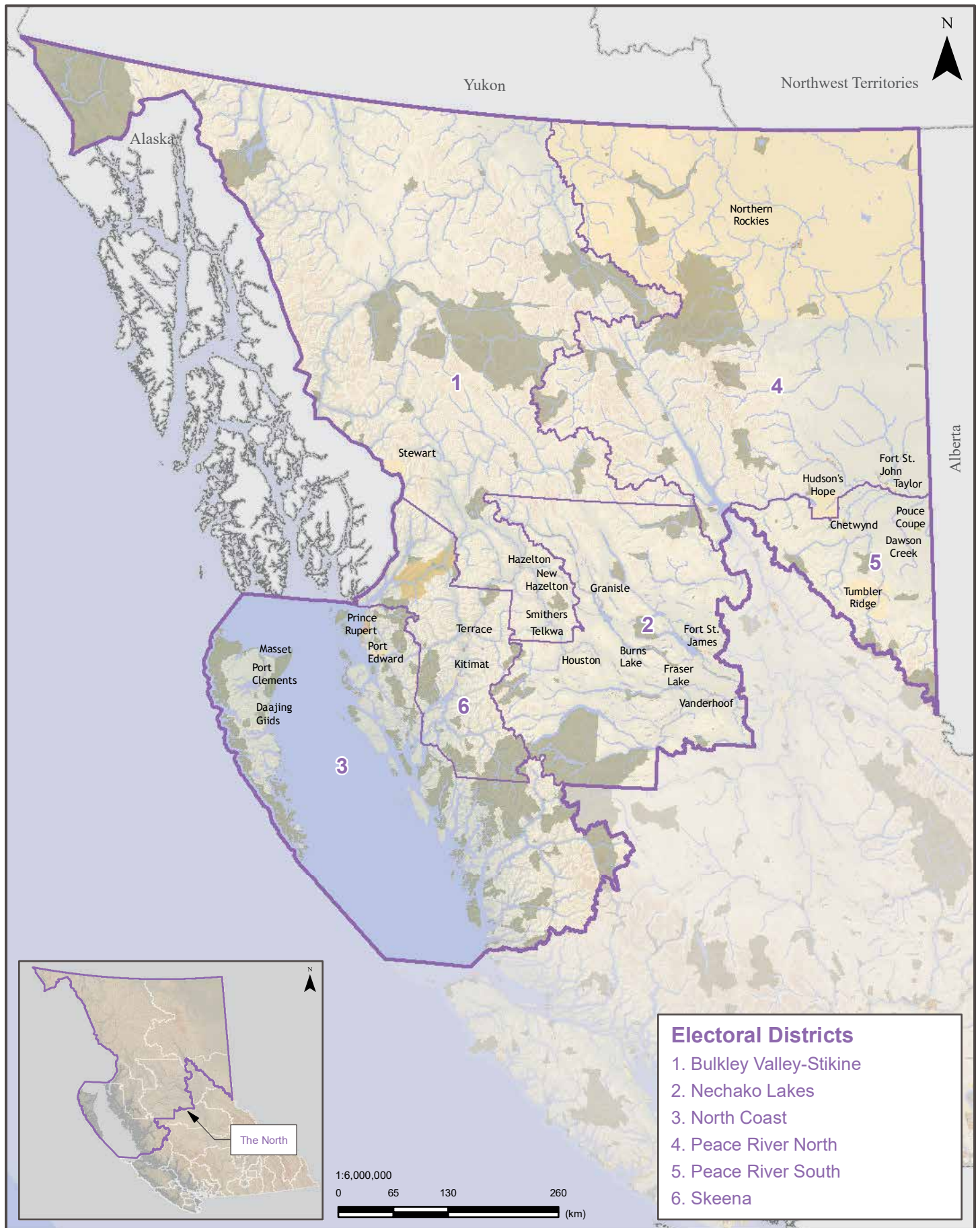
Skeena includes Terrace, Kitimat and the Nisga'a Nation. At 31,610 sq. km, it is smaller than its neighbouring electoral districts of North Coast, Bulkley Valley-Stikine and Nechako Lakes. Its population puts it 43.9% below the electoral quotient. This is a mountainous riding with climate challenges that make communication and

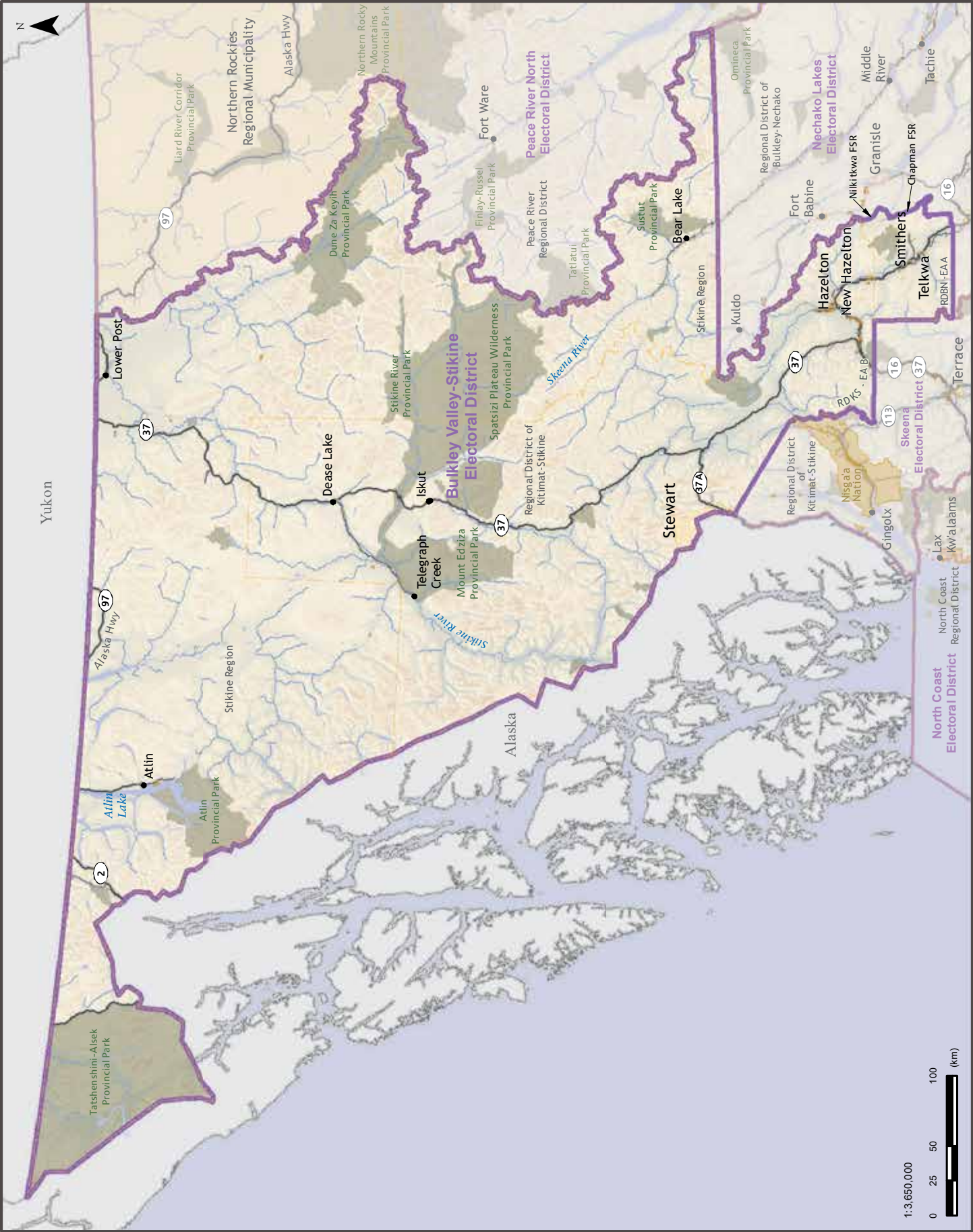
transportation difficult. Its communities are connected by Highways 16, 37 and 113, which are subject to adverse weather conditions for much of the year.

Since Skeena is smaller than other northern ridings and many communities are only connected by highways, we considered combining it with one or more of its neighbours. However, given their very large sizes, doing so would significantly compound existing obstacles to effective representation. It would also disrupt long-standing communities of interest in Skeena, compromising the effectiveness of their representation. We believe the existing boundaries are necessary and propose no changes.

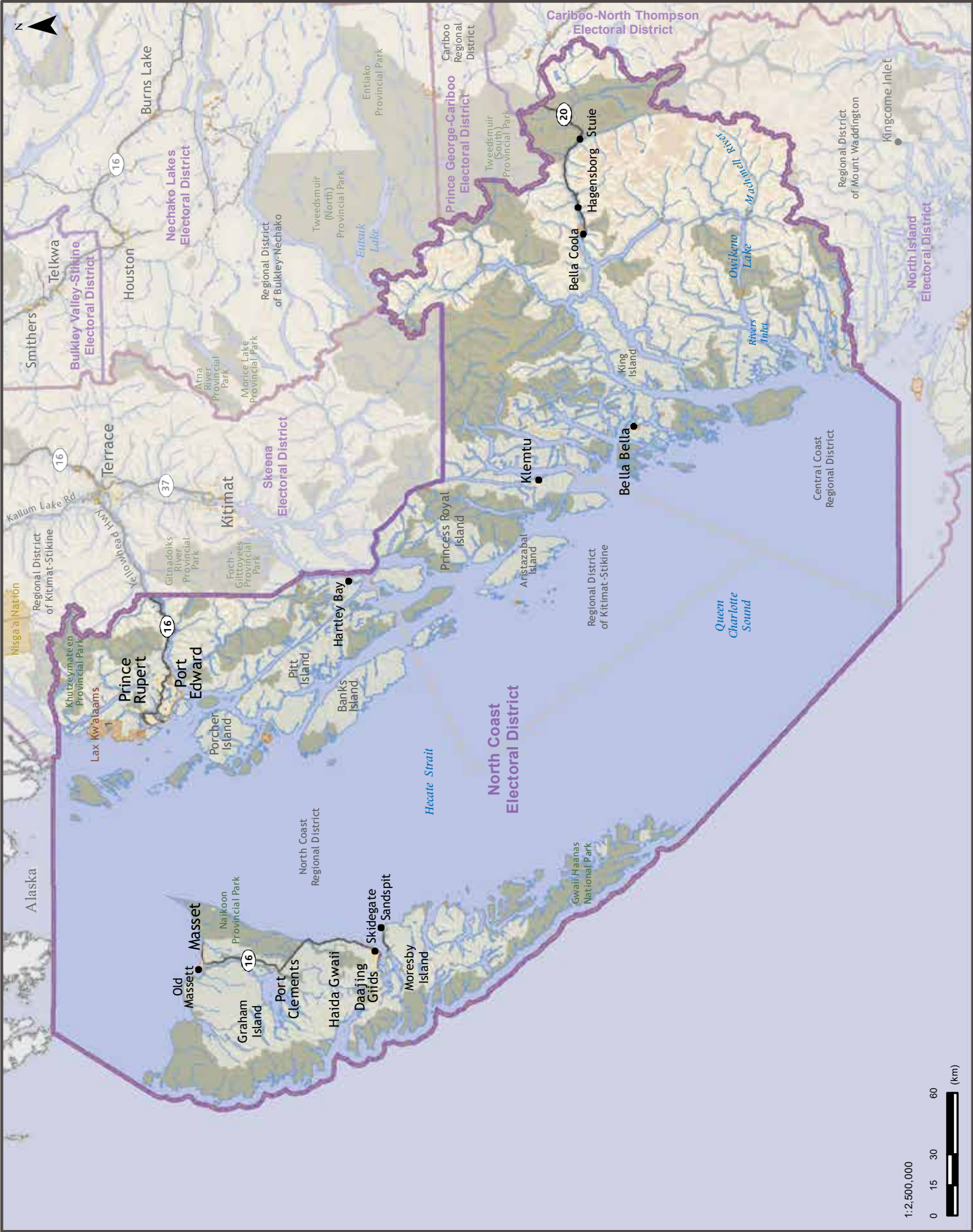
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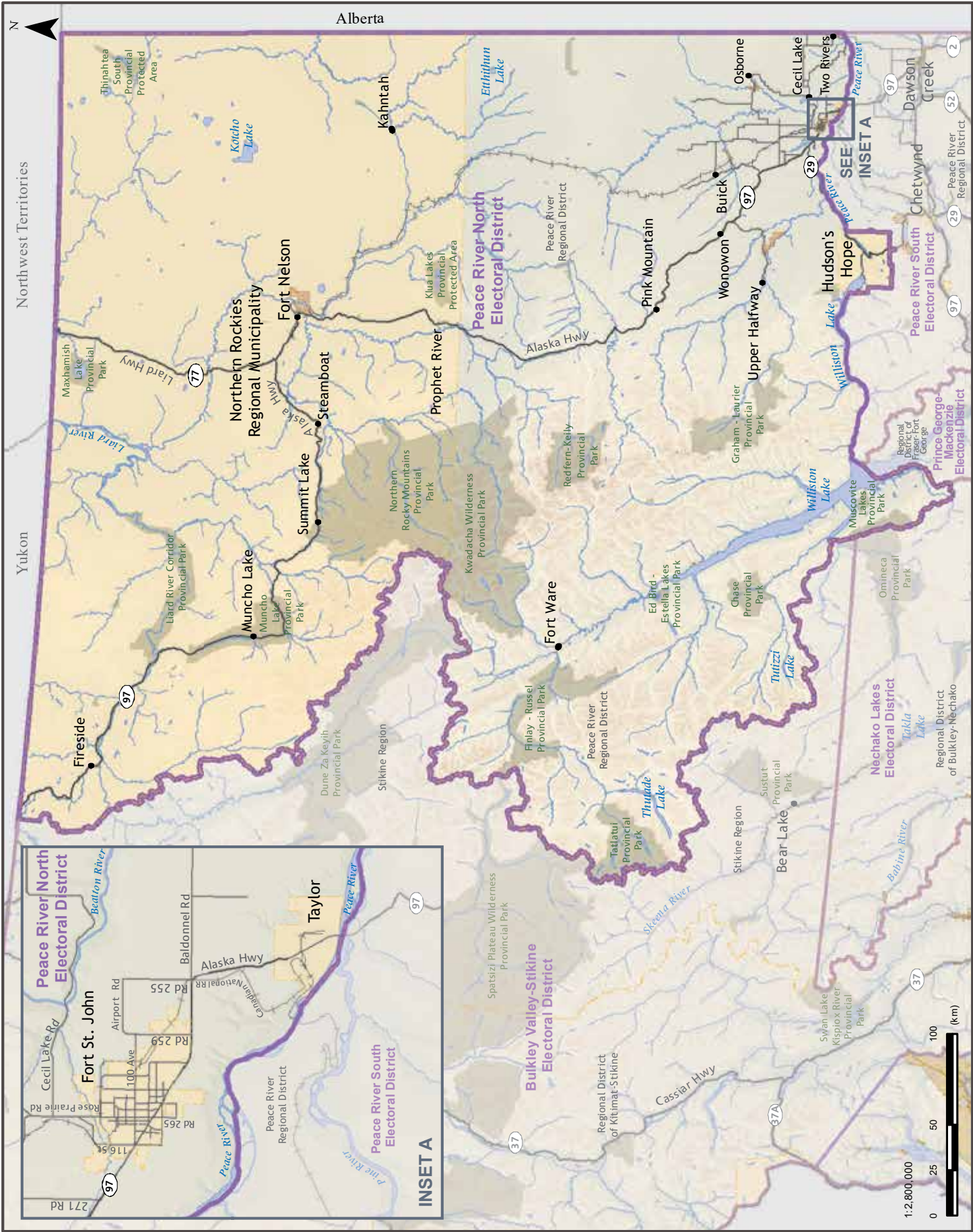
4. THE ONLY BOUNDARY CHANGES TO THIS ELECTORAL DISTRICT IMPACT THE BOUNDARIES THAT PASS THROUGH WATER (OCEAN, RIVERS AND LAKES). SEE PAGE 45 FOR AN EXPLANATION OF TECHNICAL MAPPING CHANGES.
5. THE ONLY BOUNDARY CHANGES TO THIS ELECTORAL DISTRICT IMPACT THE BOUNDARIES THAT PASS THROUGH WATER (RIVERS AND LAKES). SEE PAGE 45 FOR AN EXPLANATION OF TECHNICAL MAPPING CHANGES.

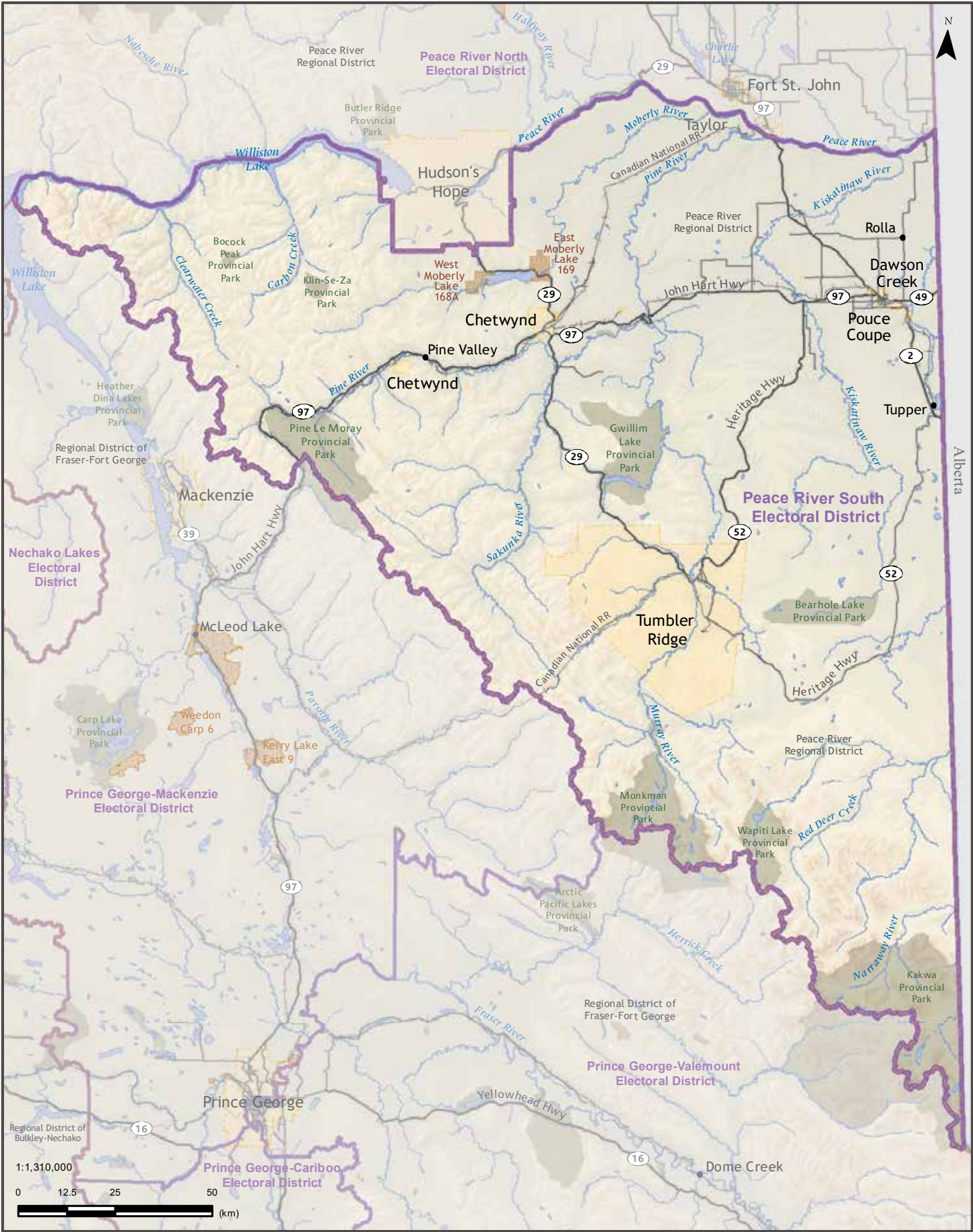














Prince George and the Cariboo

Current Electoral Districts (4)

Cariboo-Chilcotin
Cariboo North
Prince George-Mackenzie
Prince George-Valemount

Proposed Electoral Districts (4)

Cariboo-North Thompson
Prince George-Cariboo
Prince George-Mackenzie
Prince George-Valemount

TABLE 5: PRINCE GEORGE AND THE CARIBOO ELECTORAL DISTRICTS
NOTE: THIS CHAPTER USES PROPOSED ELECTORAL DISTRICT NAMES



The Prince George and the Cariboo area is made up of four electoral districts situated in the centre of the province. Prince George is the most populous city in this area with 76,708 residents. Other communities include Quesnel, Williams Lake and 100 Mile House. This part of the province is mostly rural, with many people living in remote locations. The population is relatively sparse and it is growing slower than the provincial average. The two current Cariboo ridings, Cariboo-Chilcotin and Cariboo North, fall significantly below the usual deviation range at -40.9% and -49.6% respectively. The population of the two existing Prince George ridings are within the usual deviation range.

We considered combining the two Cariboo electoral districts into one riding; however, we concluded that the better alternative for effective representation is

to keep four ridings and propose boundary adjustments that bring the population of each electoral district within the usual deviation range. We also considered adding the Bella Coola valley to Cariboo-North Thompson but decided against that because it would have further reduced the small population of the North Coast electoral district.

Residents in this area consistently emphasized the challenge of ensuring effective representation for people living in rural and remote areas. They highlighted

IMAGE 10: NECHAKO RIVER, PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. CREDIT: HARSH SINGH. NOVEMBER 13, 2021

TABLE 6: PRINCE GEORGE AND THE CARIBOO POPULATION, DEVIATION AND AREA
SOURCE: 2021 STATISTICS CANADA CENSUS COUNT

Electoral District	Population	Deviation (%)	Area (sq km)
Cariboo-North Thompson	41,267	-23.3	51,239
Prince George-Cariboo	42,080	-21.7	41,851
Prince George-Mackenzie	41,224	-23.3	20,500
Prince George-Valemount	43,014	-20.0	39,679
Total/Average	167,585	-22.1	153,269

the inadequacy of existing transportation and connectivity infrastructure. Many told us that we should maintain the existing electoral district boundaries. Some said that ensuring adequate representation in growing urban areas should not come at the expense of the residents of this area.

Transportation is a particular challenge here. The arterial Highways 16, 97 and 20 connect the communities throughout the Cariboo and Chilcotin. They run over a high plateau that is subject to harsh weather conditions year round. Many remote communities depend on these roads and have no alternative routes.

This area has among the worst connectivity in the province. Although improving, cellular and internet access remains poor outside of major communities. Combining the Cariboo ridings would exacerbate these transportation and connectivity problems.

Our proposal distributes the population concentrated in Prince George over three ridings, bringing all of this area's ridings within the usual deviation range. We have

kept downtown Prince George in one riding and have not disrupted existing connections between communities in the Robson Valley, the Chilcotin Plateau and the South Cariboo. We propose two electoral district name changes to reflect the communities within these ridings.

Cariboo-North Thompson

This electoral district consists of the southern part of the Cariboo and the Chilcotin Plateau, as well as part of the North Thompson. We propose including Williams Lake, Lac la Hache, 100 Mile House, Clearwater, Barrière and Anahim Lake into this riding.

Prince George-Cariboo

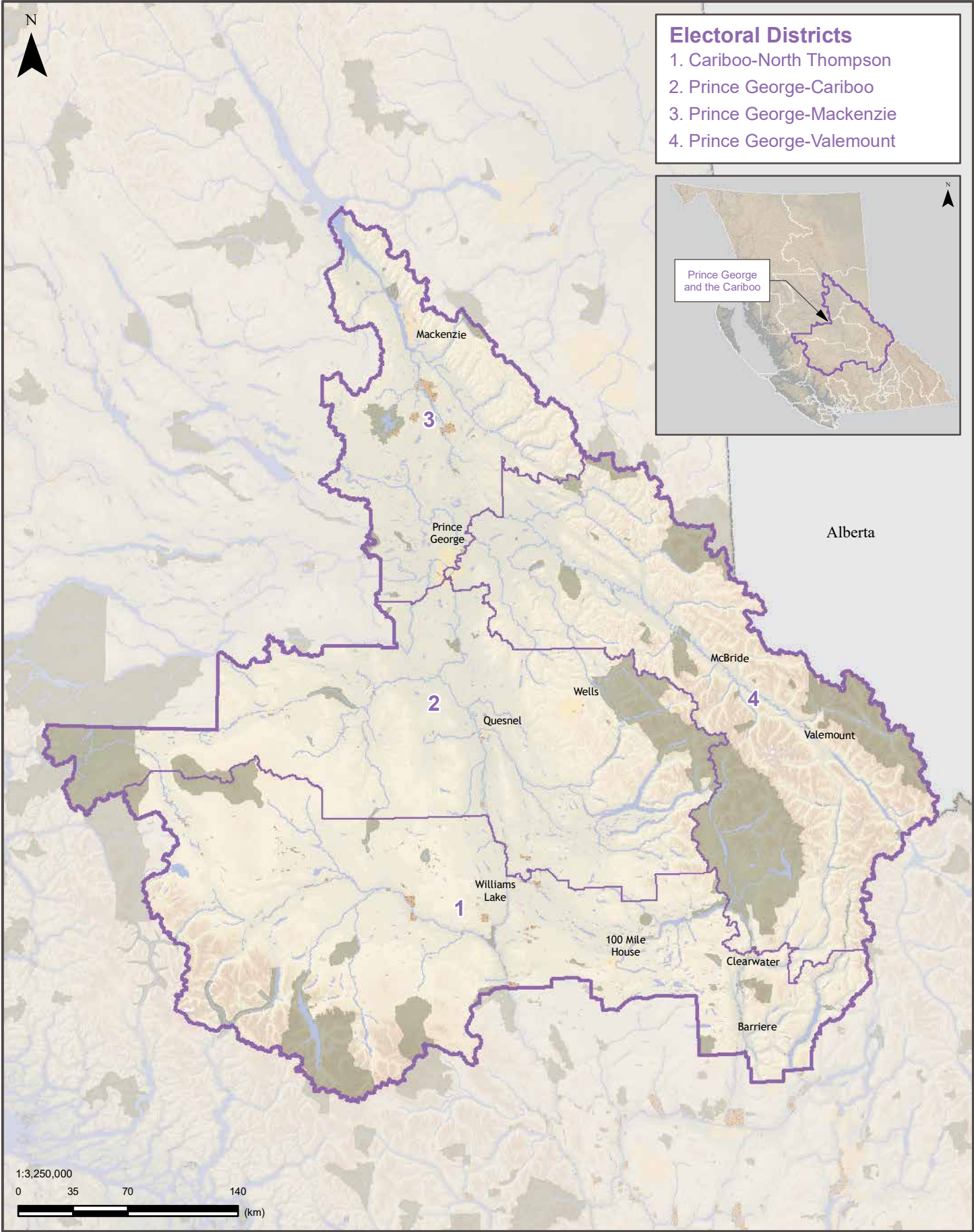
The southern neighbourhoods of Prince George and the communities of the northern Cariboo and Chilcotin regions make up this electoral district. It includes Prince George south from the College Heights neighbourhood and the communities of Quesnel, Likely, Stoner, Hixon and Wells.

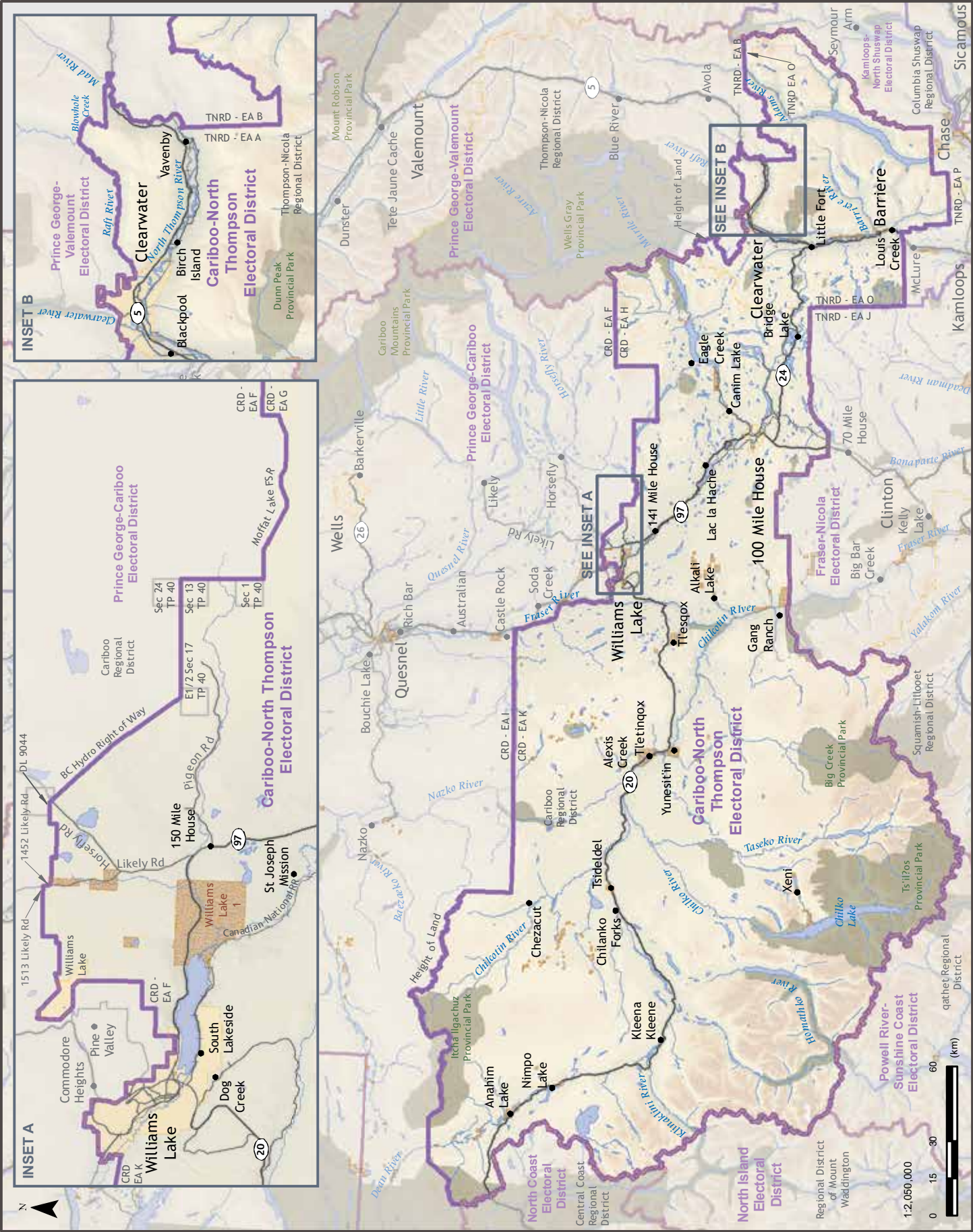
Prince George-Mackenzie

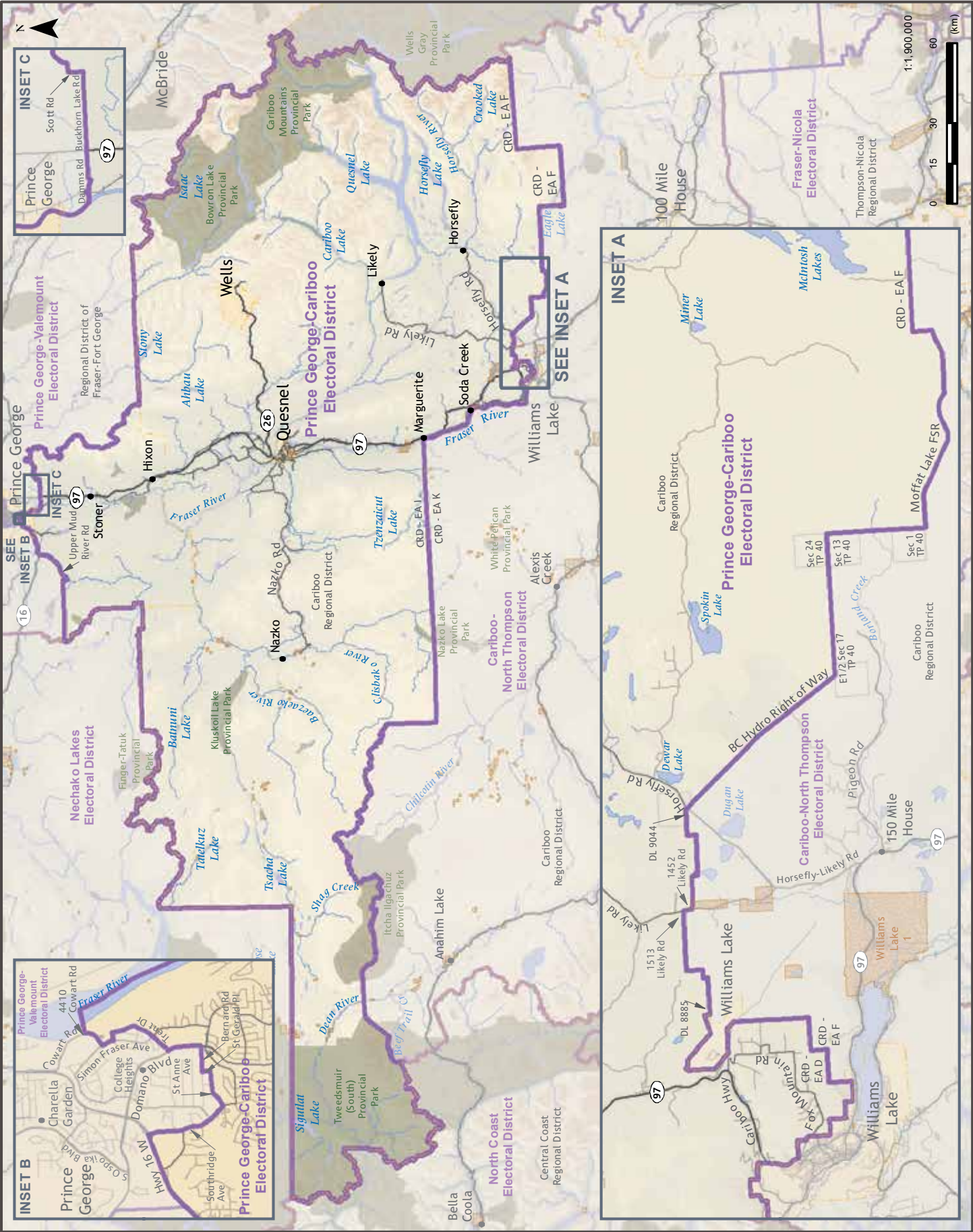
This riding consists of the northwestern neighbourhoods of Prince George and the areas to the north and west of the city. It includes the Cranbrook Hill and Heritage neighbourhoods of Prince George and extends beyond the city to include the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation communities, Salmon Valley, Summit Lake, Bear Lake, MacLeod Lake and Mackenzie.

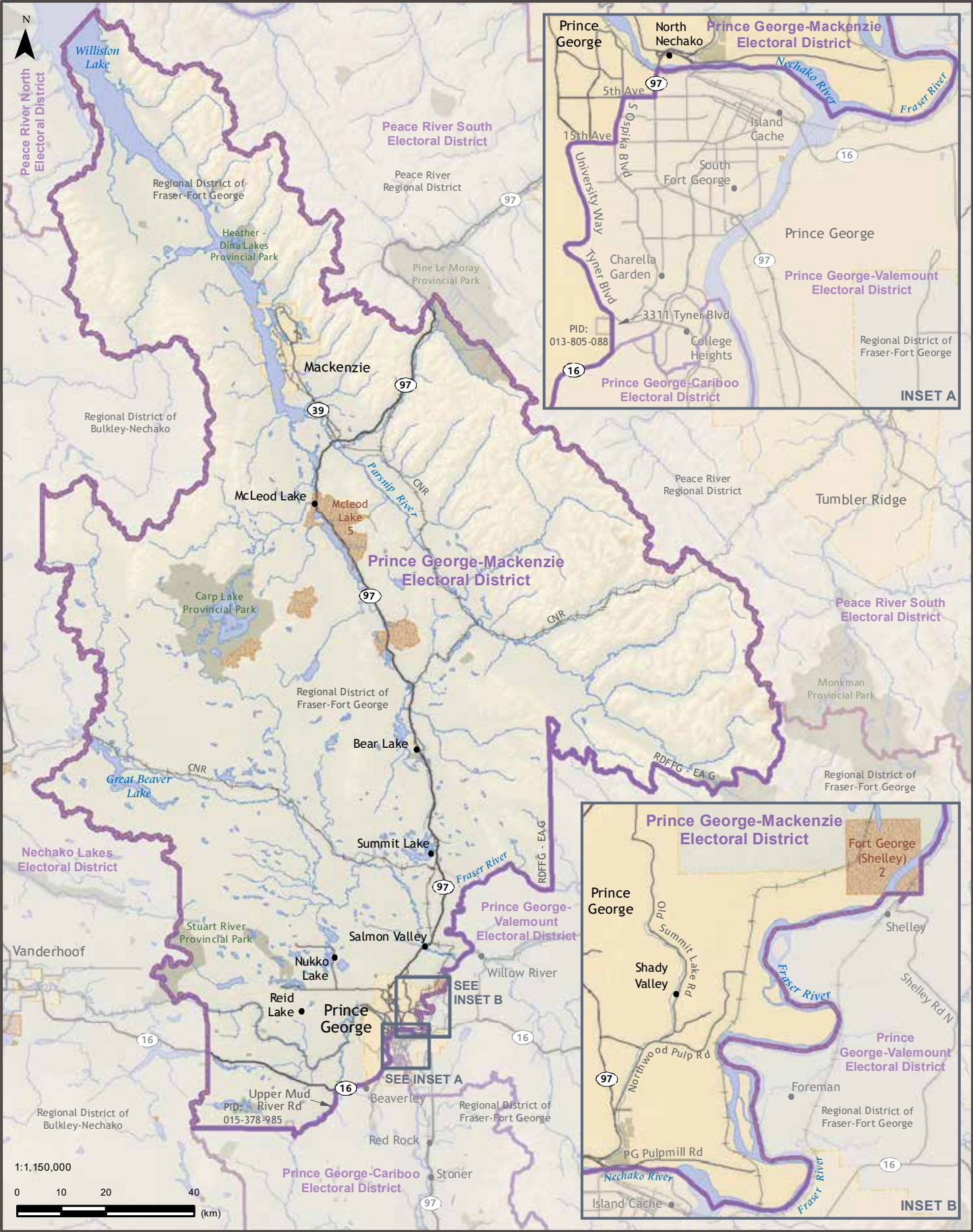
Prince George-Valemount

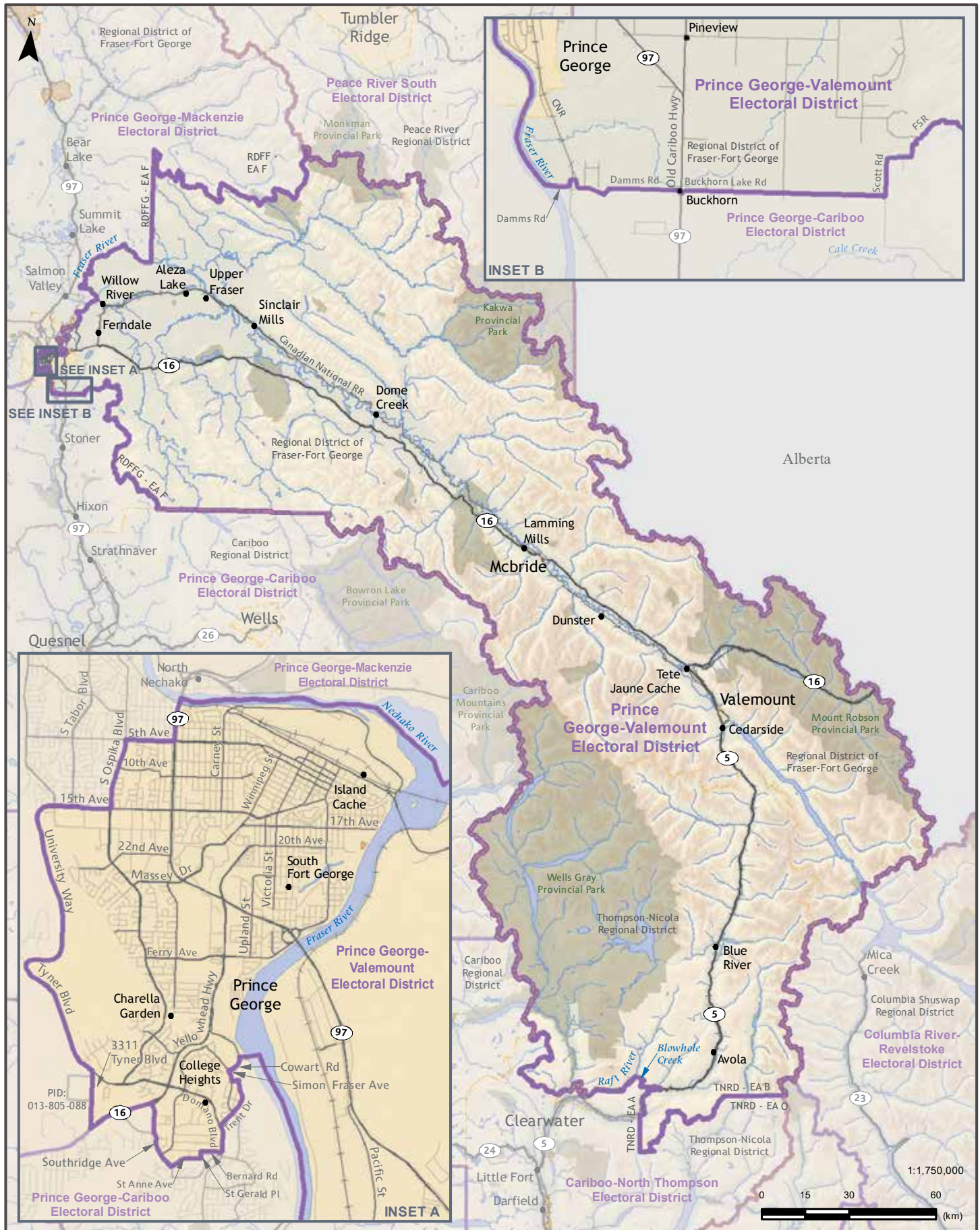
This electoral district runs from the urban centre of Prince George east to the Alberta border. It includes downtown Prince George, the neighbourhoods of South Fort George and Charella Garden, and the northern part of College Heights. To the east, it covers the Robson Valley and the northernmost part of the North Thompson River Valley, including Valemount, McBride, Tête Jaune Cache and Blue River, along Highways 5 and 16.











The Kootenays

Current Electoral Districts (4)	Proposed Electoral Districts (4)
Columbia River-Revelstoke	Columbia River-Revelstoke
Kootenay East	Kootenay Central
Kootenay West	Kootenay East
Nelson-Creston	Kootenay West

TABLE 7: THE KOOTENAYS ELECTORAL DISTRICTS
NOTE: THIS CHAPTER USES PROPOSED ELECTORAL DISTRICT NAMES



The Kootenays' four electoral districts lie in the southeast corner of the province. This area is dominated by mountain ranges and large bodies of water creating challenges for transportation. The population of the Kootenays is growing more slowly than the provincial average, and the populations of both Columbia River-Revelstoke and Nelson-Creston currently fall more than 25% below the electoral quotient.

Many people expressed concern that we might propose reducing the number of electoral districts in this area. Residents pointed to travel and communication barriers that currently impede effective representation. Some stressed the different identities of the East and West Kootenays, and others suggested changes to recognize links between specific communities.

Following our mandate, we first considered whether it made sense to propose reducing the number of ridings to three from four. It quickly became clear that fewer ridings would create even greater barriers to effective representation by making it harder for constituents and their MLAs to interact. In addition to the challenging transportation routes, some of which require ferry travel, the area faces severe seasonal weather. Internet and cellular connectivity is limited outside of

IMAGE 11: DOWNTOWN NELSON, B.C. CREDIT: PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. APRIL 29, 2007

TABLE 8: THE KOOTENAYS POPULATION, DEVIATION AND AREA
SOURCE: 2021 STATISTICS CANADA CENSUS COUNT

Electoral District	Population	Deviation (%)	Area (sq km)
Columbia River-Revelstoke	40,703	-24.3	38,780
Kootenay Central	42,993	-20.0	16,853
Kootenay East	41,314	-23.2	12,134
Kootenay West	41,727	-22.4	9,031
Total/Average	166,737	-22.5	76,798

the larger centres and we heard that these networks often do not extend to rural homes.

We explored removing Revelstoke and Golden from the Columbia River-Revelstoke riding and adding them to Salmon Arm-Shuswap in the Interior area. However, Revelstoke and Golden are only connected directly to the Shuswap area by Highway 1, which traverses the Monashee and Selkirk Mountains. This highway is subject to severe weather conditions including frequent winter closures. Commercial air travel into these communities is unavailable. We rejected dividing the population of the Nelson-Creston riding between the three other Kootenays electoral districts for the same reasons.

We concluded that effective representation for this area of the province requires four electoral districts. Our proposed electoral boundary adjustments reduce the differences between the populations of each of this area's ridings, and bring the population of all four districts within the usual deviation range.

Columbia River-Revelstoke

This electoral district stretches along the Columbia Valley. It includes Kimberley, Radium Hot Springs, Golden and Mica Creek. The northern part of this riding contains the communities along Highway 1 from Revelstoke in the west to Field in the east. To better balance the population between the Kootenays ridings, we propose extending the southern boundary of Columbia River-Revelstoke to take in the western outskirts of Cranbrook.

Kootenay Central

The communities around Kootenay and Slocan Lakes make up most of the population of this electoral district. These include Nelson, Kaslo, Creston, Nakusp, New Denver, Silverton and Salmo. We propose changing the name of this electoral district from Nelson-Creston to Kootenay Central to reflect its many communities.

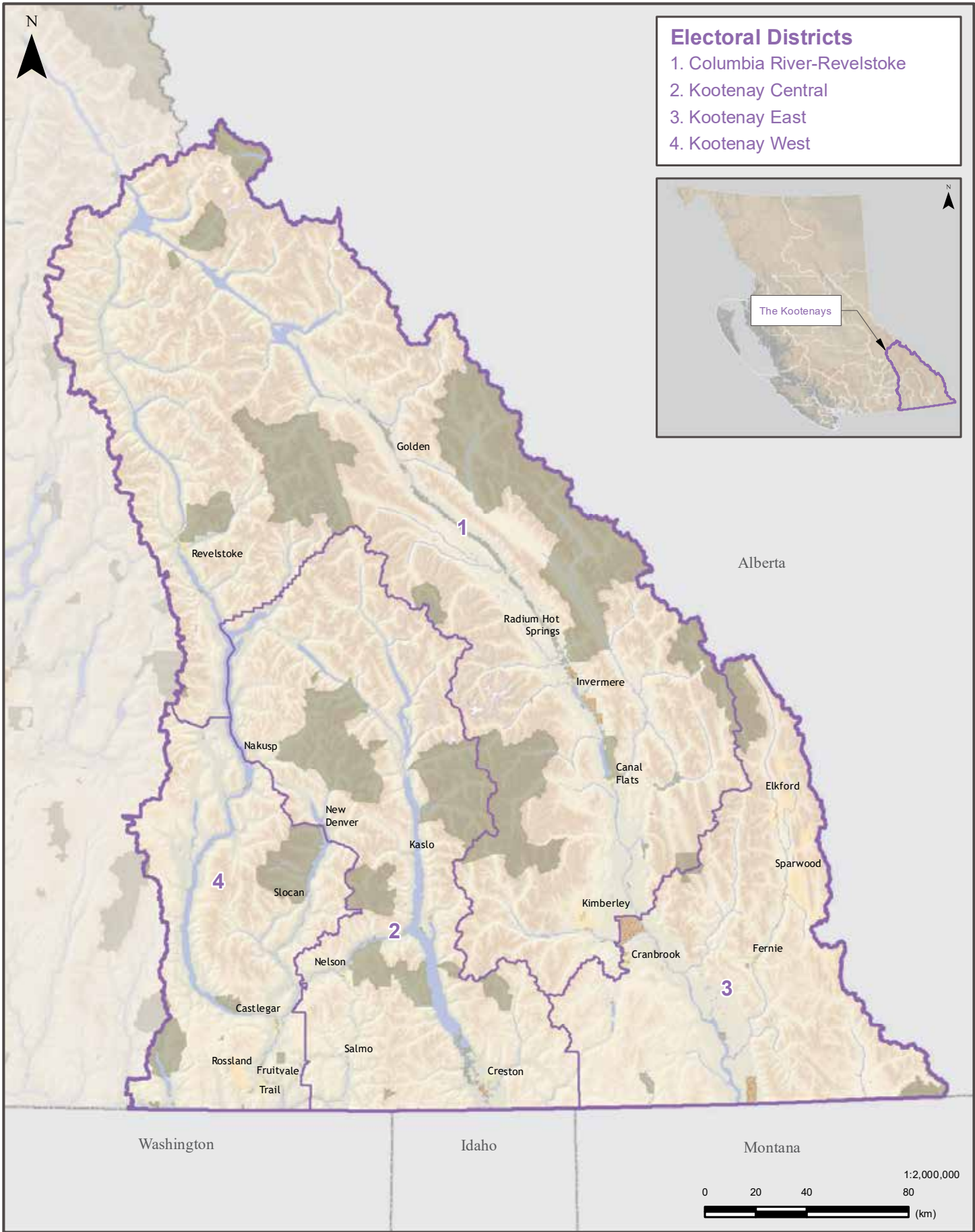
Kootenay East

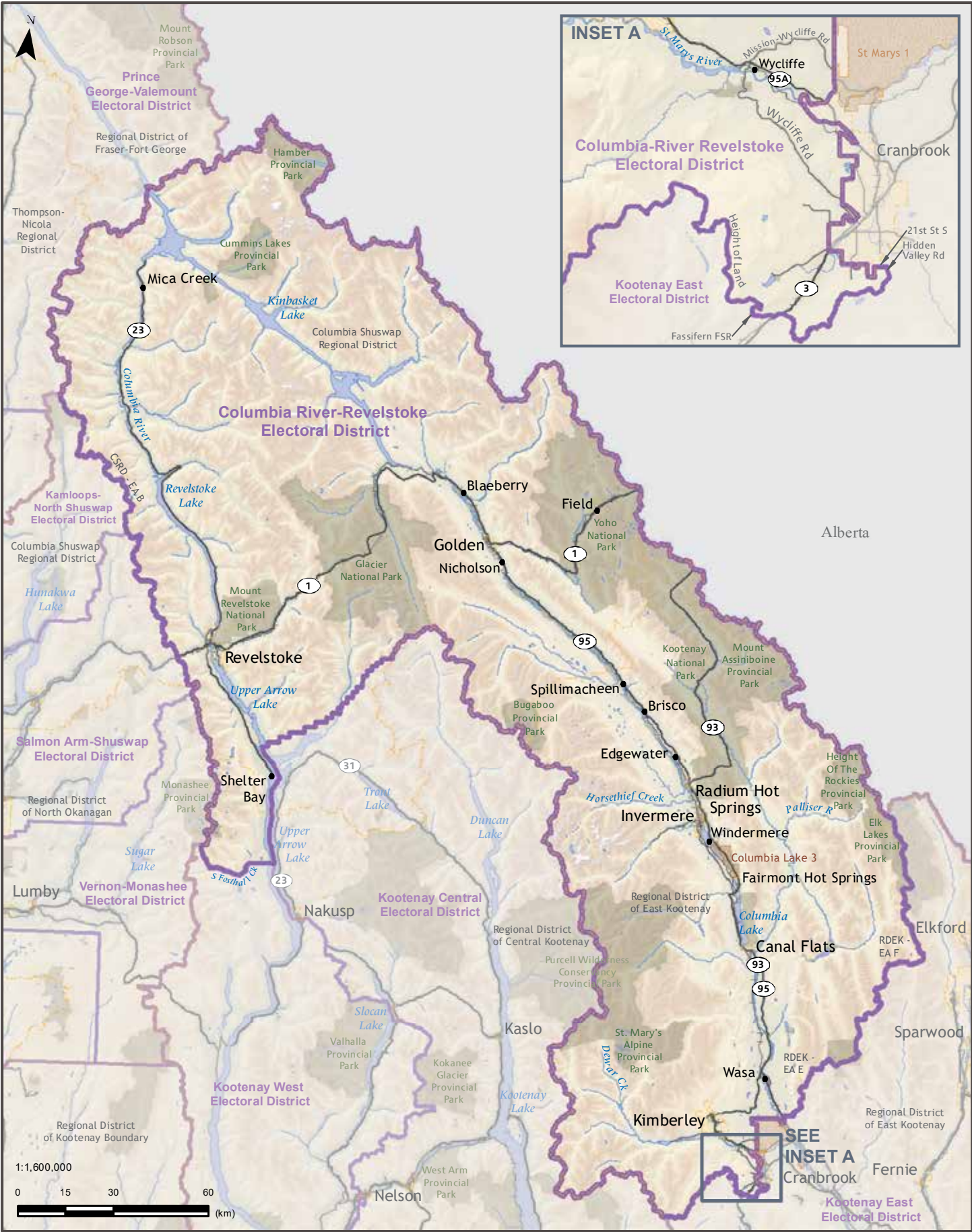
Kootenay East consists of communities along Highway 3, including Cranbrook,

Sparwood, Fernie and Jaffray, running north past Elkford. We do not propose changes to this riding's southern, eastern or western boundaries. We propose an adjustment north and west of Cranbrook to move some of the population currently in Kootenay East into Columbia River-Revelstoke. The core of the City of Cranbrook remains in the Kootenay East riding.

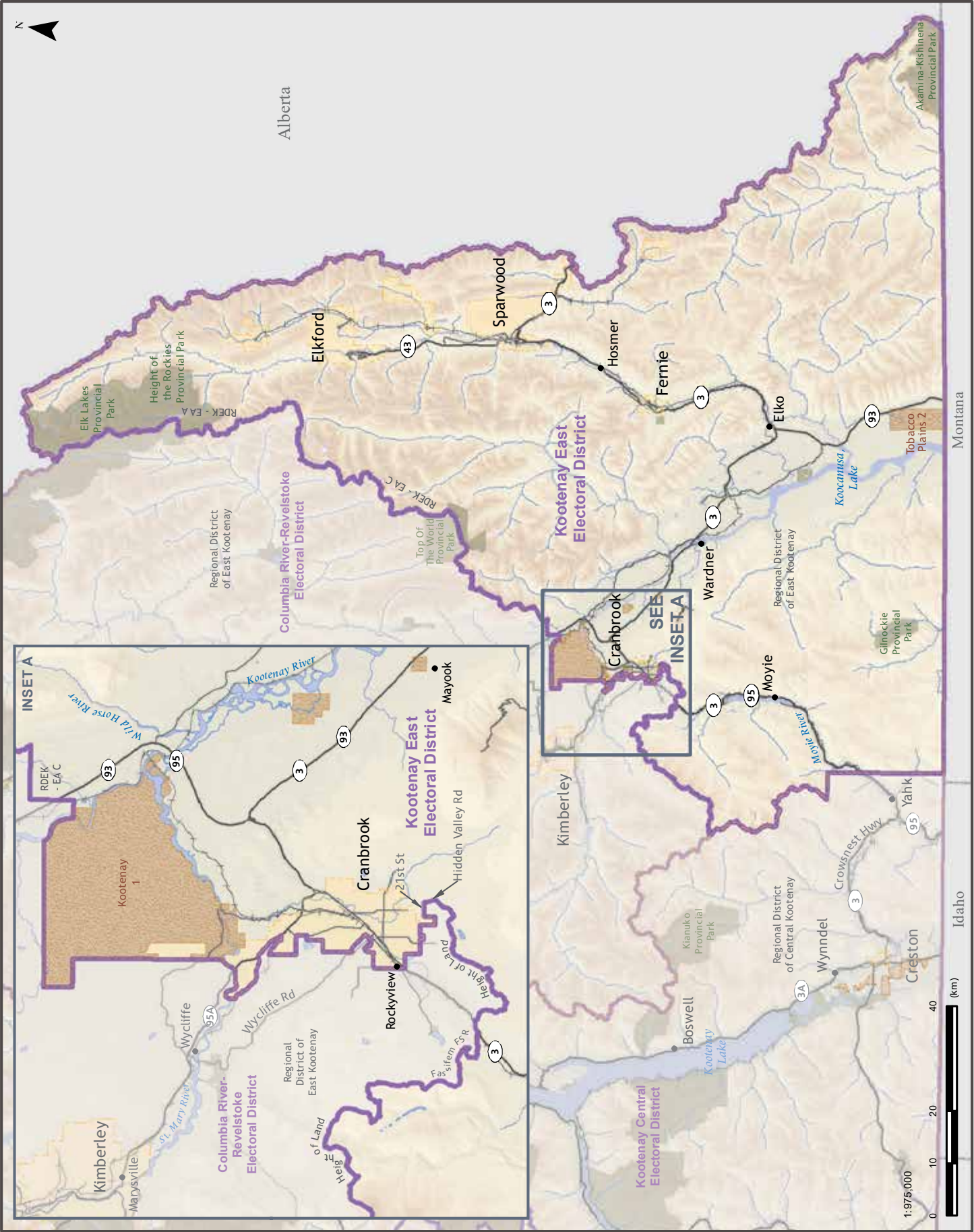
Kootenay West

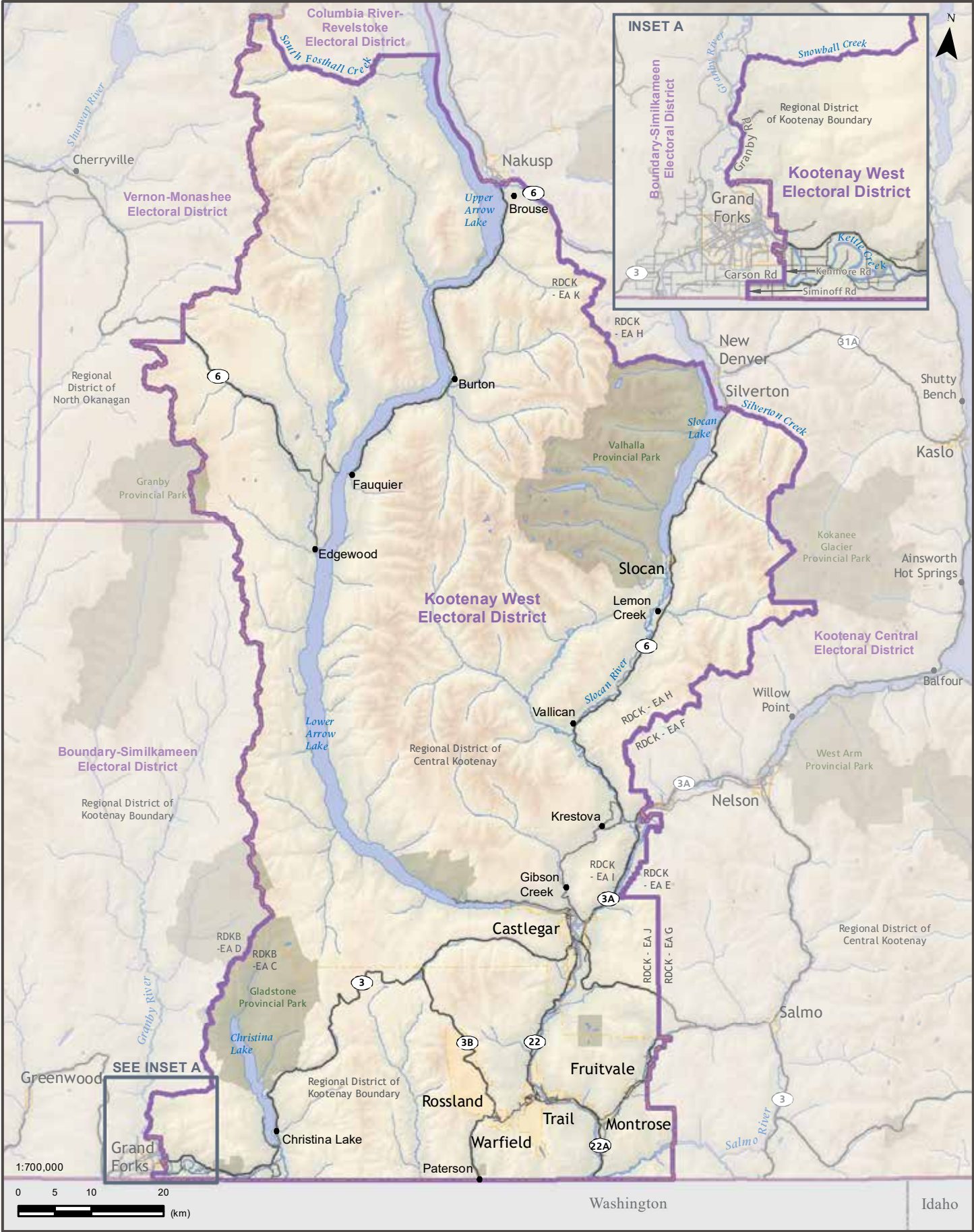
This riding includes Castlegar, Rossland, Trail, Christina Lake and the communities along the Slocan River delta up to the Village of Slocan. We propose moving the Christina Lake area into this riding, and moving the communities of Nakusp, New Denver and Silverton into Kootenay Central.











The Interior

Current Electoral Districts (10)

Boundary-Similkameen
 Fraser-Nicola
 Kamloops-North Thompson
 Kamloops-South Thompson
 Kelowna-Lake Country
 Kelowna-Mission
 Kelowna West
 Penticton
 Shuswap
 Vernon-Monashee

Proposed Electoral Districts (11)

Boundary-Similkameen
 Fraser-Nicola
 Kamloops Centre
 Kamloops-North Shuswap
 Kelowna Centre
 Kelowna-Lake Country
 Kelowna-Mission
 Penticton-Summerland
 Salmon Arm-Shuswap
 Vernon-Monashee
 West Kelowna-Peachland

TABLE 9: THE INTERIOR ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

NOTE: THIS CHAPTER USES PROPOSED ELECTORAL DISTRICT NAMES



The Interior area presently consists of 10 electoral districts in south-central B.C., including the Okanagan, Nicola, Shuswap, Thompson and Boundary regions.

The population of this area is unevenly distributed. It includes the growing urban centres of Kelowna, Kamloops, Vernon and Penticton, but also contains sparsely populated areas with little projected growth, particularly in the Boundary-Similkameen and Fraser-Nicola ridings.

The three current Kelowna ridings (Kelowna-Mission, Kelowna West and Kelowna-Lake Country) are growing at nearly twice the provincial average. In addition, the populations of Kelowna West and Kelowna-Lake Country are above the usual deviation range. We address this by proposing a new electoral district for this area.

Kamloops is also growing quickly. We reflect its urbanization by adjusting existing boundaries to divide the city centre and adjacent neighbourhoods from more sparsely populated neighbourhoods and rural areas. We propose moving some of the rural communities north and west of Kamloops into the electoral districts of Fraser Nicola and Cariboo-North Thompson. This brings the populations of these ridings within the usual deviation range while accommodating projected population growth in Kamloops.

IMAGE 12: OKANAGAN LAKE,
KELOWNA, B.C. CREDIT: KOLBY
MILTON. JANUARY 23, 2021

TABLE 10: THE INTERIOR POPULATION, DEVIATION AND AREA
SOURCE: 2021 STATISTICS CANADA CENSUS COUNT

Electoral District	Population	Deviation (%)	Area (sq km)
Boundary-Similkameen	45,867	-14.7	14,956
Fraser-Nicola	44,338	-17.5	36,781
Kamloops Centre	60,681	12.8	114
Kamloops-North Shuswap	56,642	5.3	6,805
Kelowna Centre	57,457	6.9	56
Kelowna-Lake Country	59,325	10.3	2,253
Kelowna-Mission	59,723	11.1	521
Penticton-Summerland	55,396	3.0	1,599
Salmon Arm-Shuswap	58,919	9.6	5,864
Vernon-Monashee	59,819	11.2	3,896
West Kelowna-Peachland	55,664	3.5	1,435
Total/Average	613,831	3.8	74,280

In contrast, Boundary-Similkameen is a rural riding with no major urban centre. We considered whether there was a way to increase the population of this riding without significantly adding to its already large geographic size. However, the terrain to the north, east and west made it impractical to adjust its boundaries with adjacent Okanagan ridings. Therefore, the only boundary change we propose is to move Christina Lake into Kootenay West. This change better balances the population of Boundary-Similkameen with its eastern neighbours.

The population of the electoral district of Fraser-Nicola is currently 41% below the electoral quotient, and it is not projected to grow significantly over the next

few years. To address this, we propose expanding its boundaries to include the district of Kent and Harrison Hot Springs. These neighbouring communities are located north of the Fraser River and are connected to the rest of Fraser-Nicola by Highway 7. This change increases the riding's population without significantly expanding its geographical area and keeps related communities together.

As a result of the boundary adjustments in this area, our proposals also include name changes for five electoral districts. We believe these changes better reflect the communities within these districts

Greater Kelowna

Currently, the City of Kelowna is divided into three ridings. The electoral district of Kelowna West includes part of downtown Kelowna, as well as the City of West Kelowna. Residents of downtown Kelowna told us they found it confusing and inappropriate for them to vote in Kelowna West. We propose to address this by drawing the boundary of Kelowna West down the centre of Okanagan Lake, removing downtown Kelowna. We believe that the population density and projected growth of downtown Kelowna justify creating a new electoral district for this area, which we propose to locate in downtown Kelowna.

Some people told us that Big White should become part of a Kelowna riding because of its proximity and shared economic interests with the City of Kelowna. We acknowledge these connections but are not proposing this change. As part of the Kootenay Boundary Regional District, Big White has administrative ties to its current electoral district. We did not hear that Big White is experiencing barriers to effective representation, and we note that its access to its MLA is facilitated by the riding's relatively low population.

We also heard requests that Rutland, which is currently divided by the electoral boundary that runs along Highway 33, be united in a single riding. While we appreciate the shared community interests of Rutland residents, its population is too large to include in one riding without requiring disruptive changes to surrounding electoral districts. We are therefore not recommending such a change at this time.

Kelowna Centre

This electoral district comprises Kelowna's urban core. It includes the downtown area north of Cadder Avenue, and the neighbourhoods of Benvoulin and Glenmore. In light of its rapidly increasing population, our recommended boundaries leave room for growth.

Kelowna-Lake Country

We propose adding more of the area outside of downtown Kelowna to this riding, including the neighbourhoods of Poplar Point, Winfield and Rutland north of Highway 33. We also propose extending the boundary north into the Vernon area to include Ellison, Oyama, Beachcomber Bay, Okanagan Landing and East Bella Vista Highlands.

Kelowna-Mission

Kelowna-Mission includes the communities of East Kelowna, Mission Creek and Okanagan Mission. It also contains the portion of Rutland south of Highway 33. We propose moving the area north of K.L.O. Road, east of Gordon Drive and west of Mission Creek into the Kelowna Centre riding to balance populations between these electoral districts.

West Kelowna-Peachland

We propose removing downtown Kelowna from this electoral district and redrawing its boundaries to include only communities on the west side of Okanagan Lake, including the District of Peachland. We heard that Peachland has strong ties with West Kelowna, and the two communities are connected by Highway 97. This will create an electoral

district that is within the usual deviation range with room for growth.

Other Interior Area Ridings

Boundary-Similkameen

This riding stretches from the Canada-U.S. border to the southern Okanagan. It includes many communities along Highway 3 and 3A, such as Princeton, Keremeos, Oliver, Midway, Osoyoos and Grand Forks. In order to balance the population between this riding and its eastern neighbours, we propose removing Christina Lake from this riding and adding it to Kootenay West.

Fraser-Nicola

Fraser-Nicola runs from E.C. Manning Provincial Park in the south through the Fraser Canyon to the Thompson and Nicola regions in the north. It contains Hope, Lytton, Clinton, Merritt, Lillooet and Cache Creek. To bring its population within the allowable deviation range, we propose expanding its boundaries to include the District of Kent and Harrison Hot Springs.

Kamloops Centre

This electoral district includes Kamloops's urban core and surrounding neighbourhoods of Aberdeen, Dufferin, Thompson Rivers University, North Kamloops and Brocklehurst. Currently, it straddles the Thompson River. We propose adjusting its boundaries so that the rural areas east and west of the urban centre fall within the Fraser-Nicola and Kamloops-North Shuswap ridings. That way, the neighbourhoods around the downtown core remain connected and the populations between

adjacent electoral districts are better balanced, accommodating projected population growth.

Kamloops-North Shuswap

This riding comprises suburban parts of Kamloops and rural areas extending into the Shuswap, North and South Thompson regions. It includes the suburban neighbourhoods of Westsyde and Raleigh, and the rural communities of Prichard and Chase. The proposed changes expand this riding into the North Shuswap area and move neighbourhoods close to downtown Kamloops into the Kamloops Centre electoral district.

Penticton-Summerland

This riding is located at the southern end of Okanagan Lake and includes Naramata, Summerland and Penticton. We agree with those who told us that it is important that the three Penticton Indian Band reserves remain together in one riding. Our proposal to move Peachland from this riding into West Kelowna-Peachland does not affect the Penticton Indian Band's reserve lands.

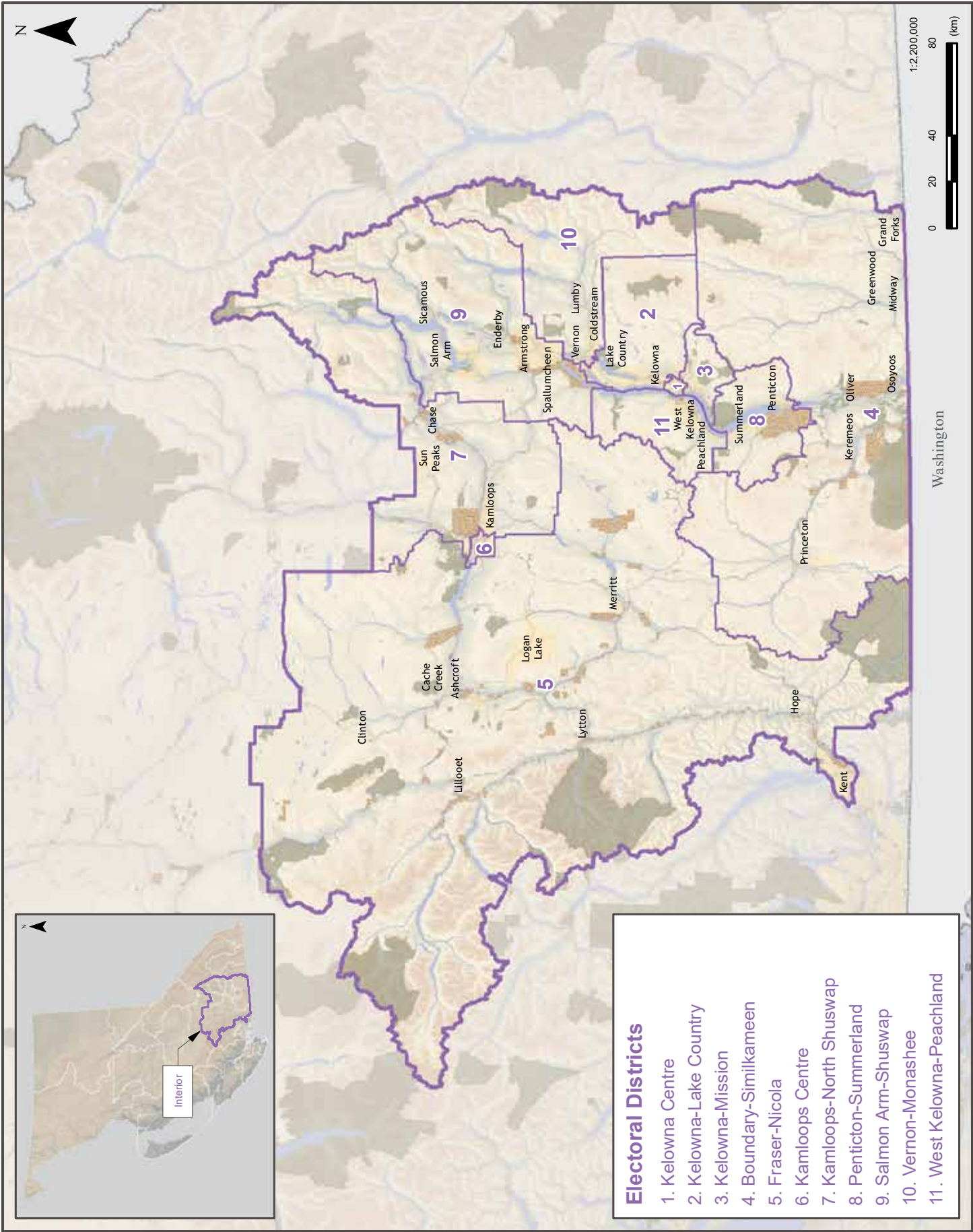
Salmon Arm-Shuswap

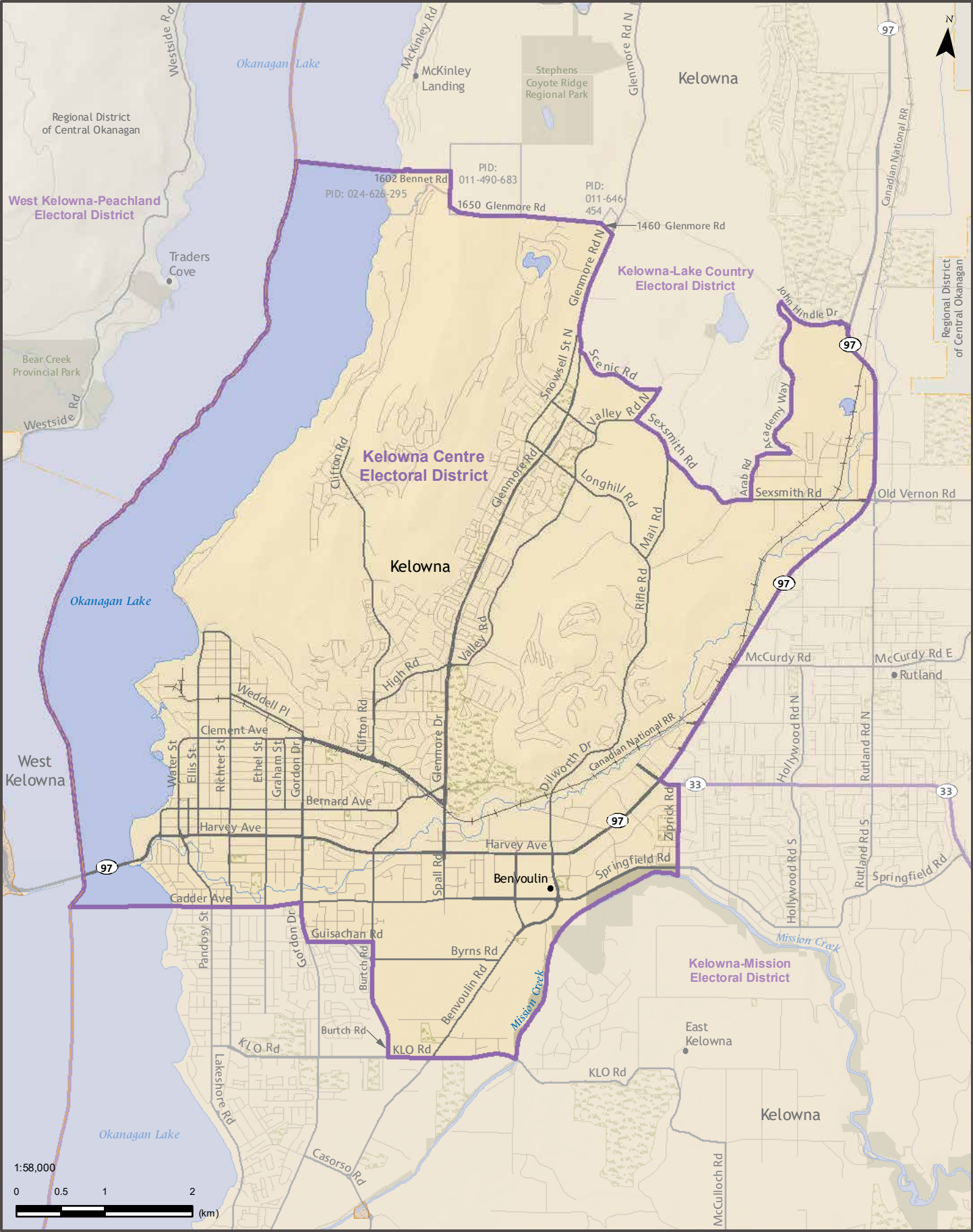
We propose reducing the size of this electoral district so that its population is similar to those of other Interior area ridings. Our proposal keeps Enderby, Armstrong, Salmon Arm and Sicamous in this district, moving a portion of North Shuswap Lake and Seymour Arm to Kamloops-North Shuswap.

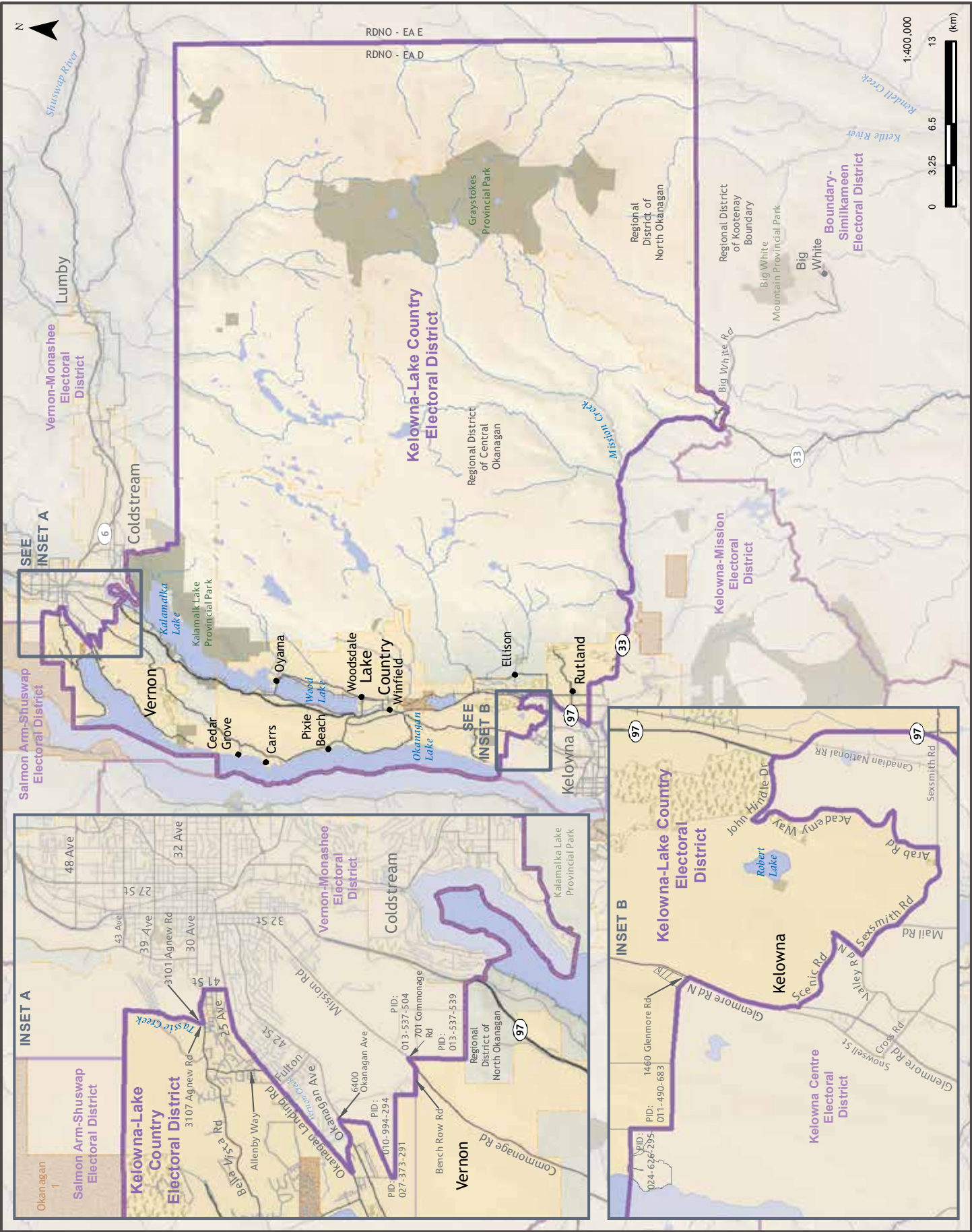
Vernon-Monashee

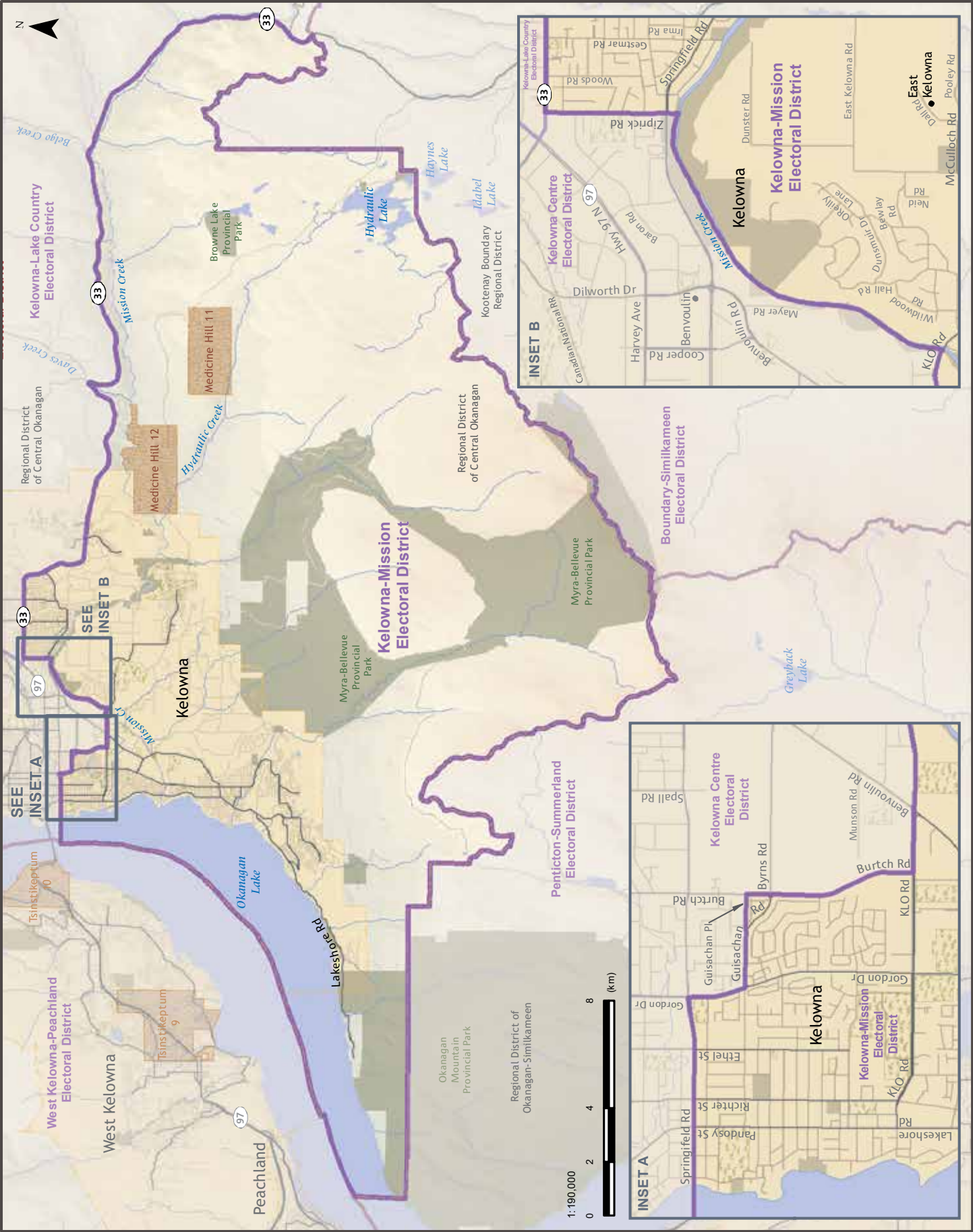
This riding encompasses the core of Vernon and Coldstream. It also extends south and east to include Lumby and Cherryville. The population of the riding is currently near the top of the usual deviation range and growing quickly. We therefore considered how to reduce its population. We considered that the close ties between the communities along Highway 6, Vernon and Coldstream support keeping them in the same electoral district.

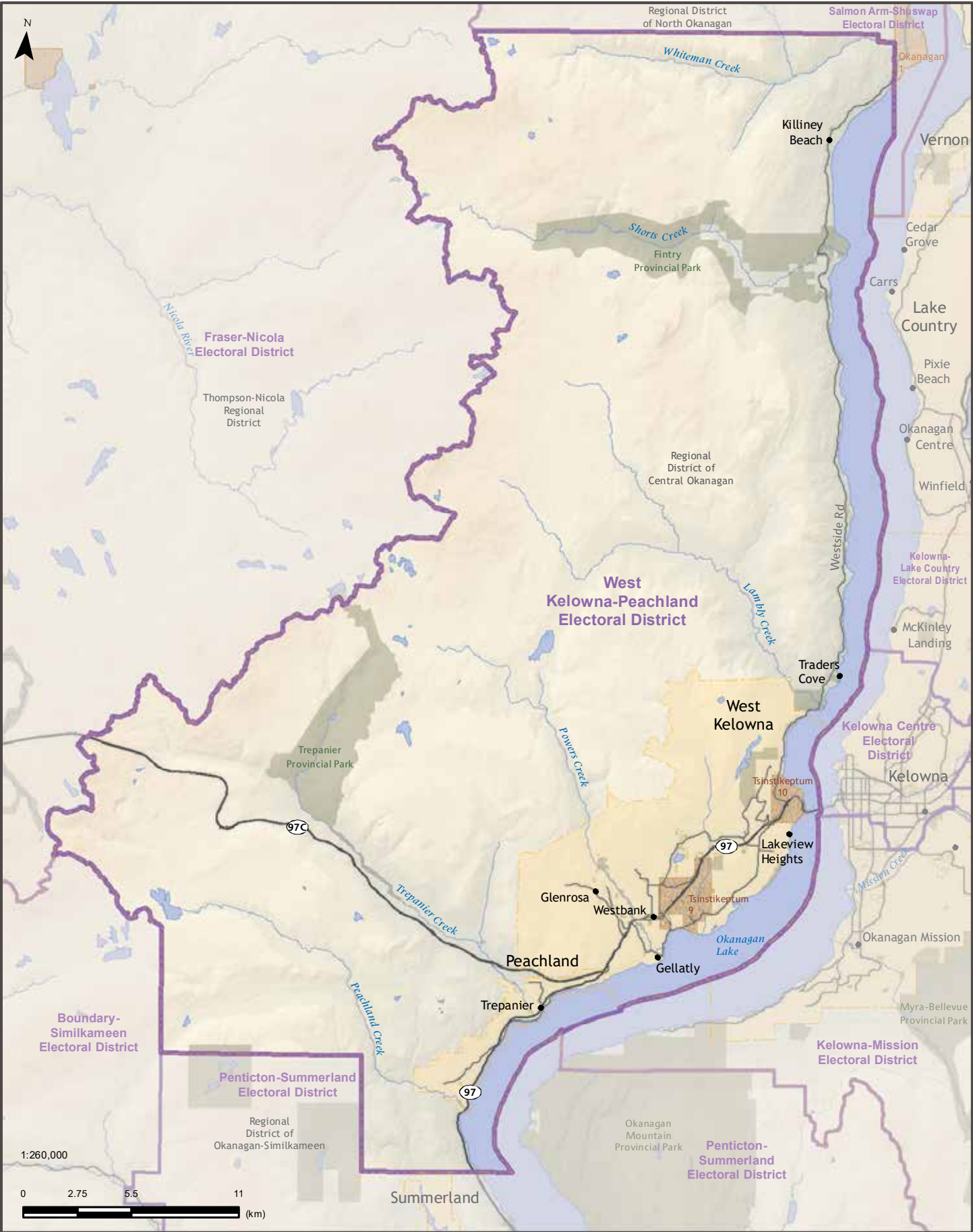
We propose moving Beachcomber Bay, Okanagan Landing and East Bella Vista Highlands into Kelowna-Lake Country. This reduces the population of Vernon-Monashee, bringing it in line with that of Kelowna-Lake Country.

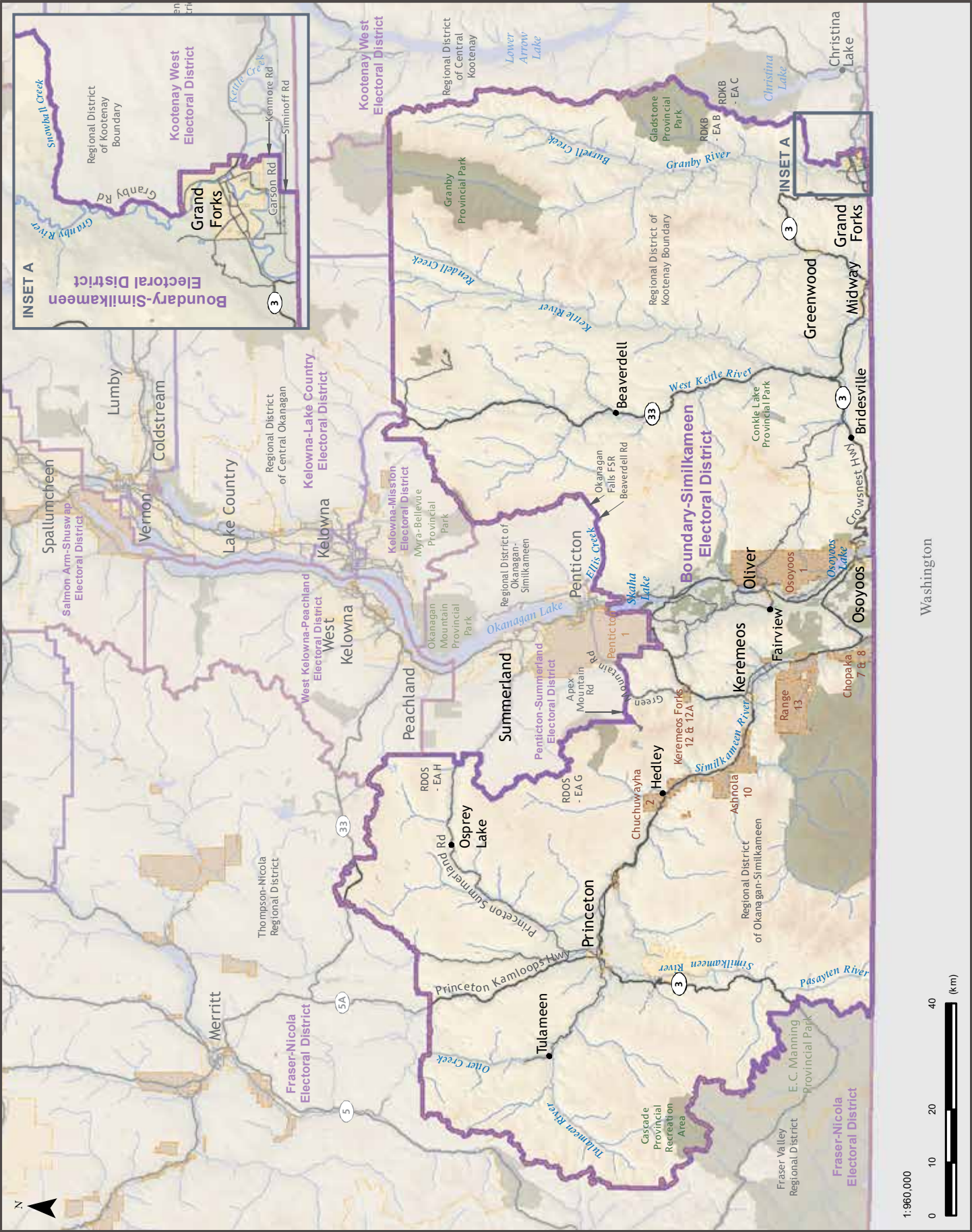




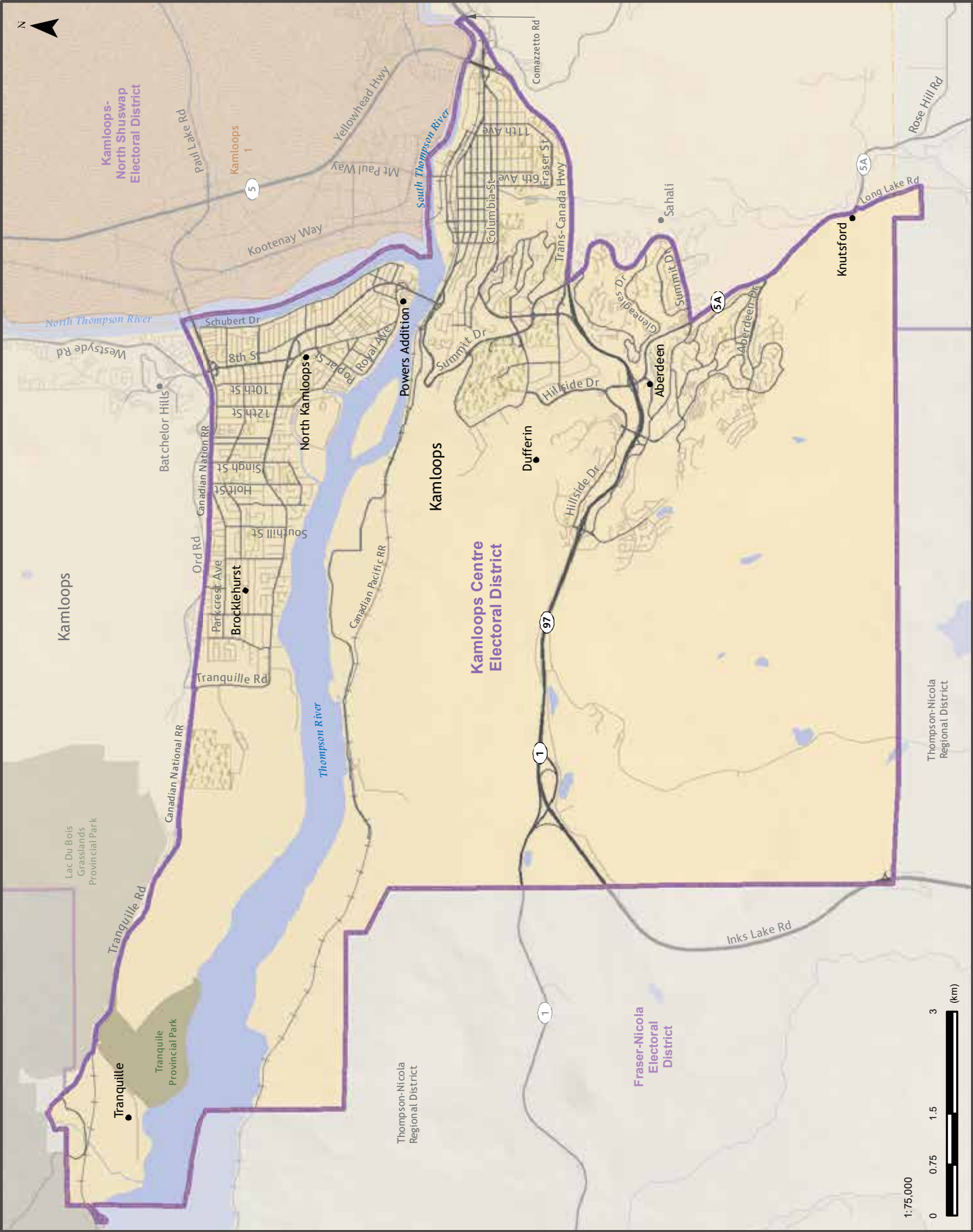


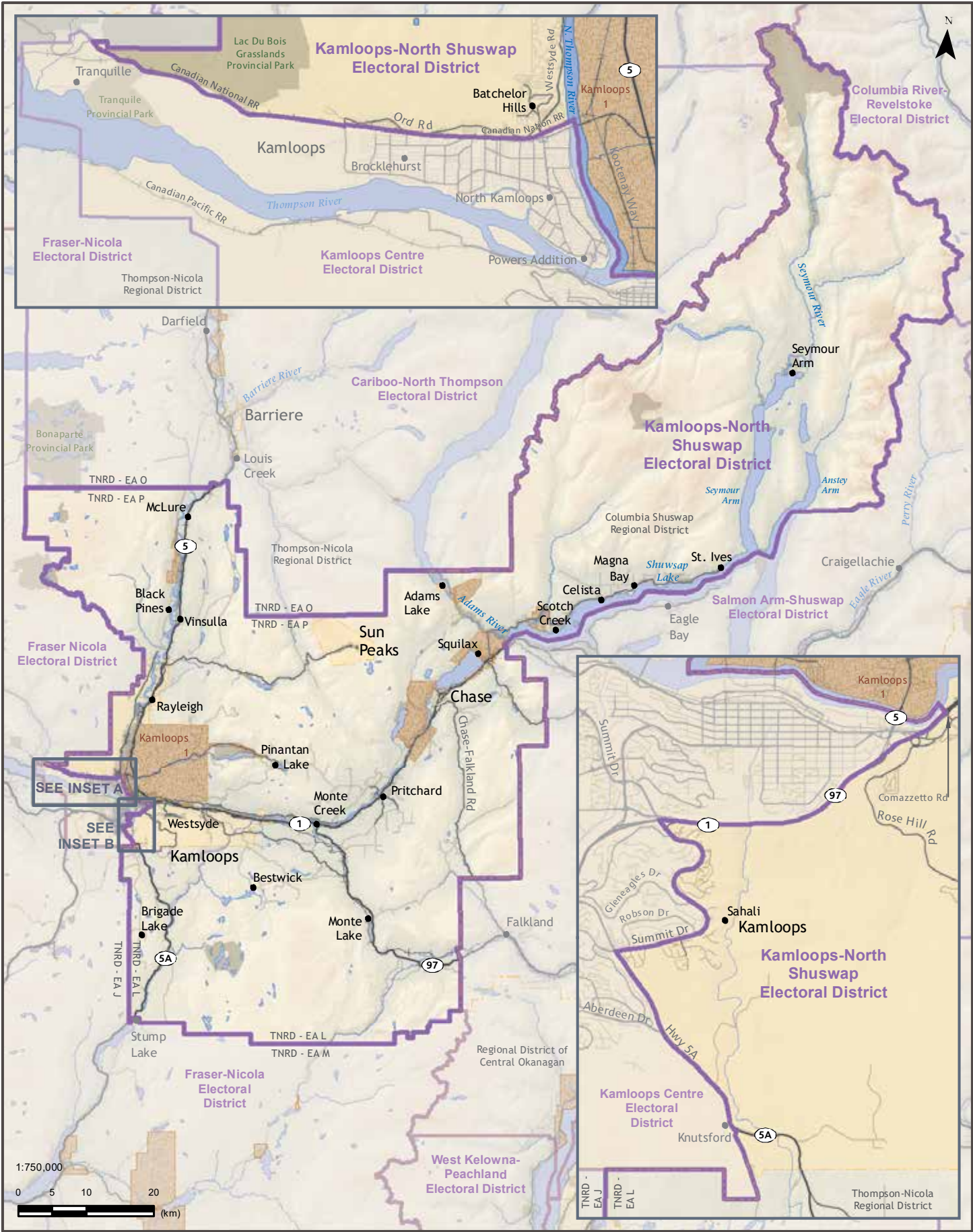


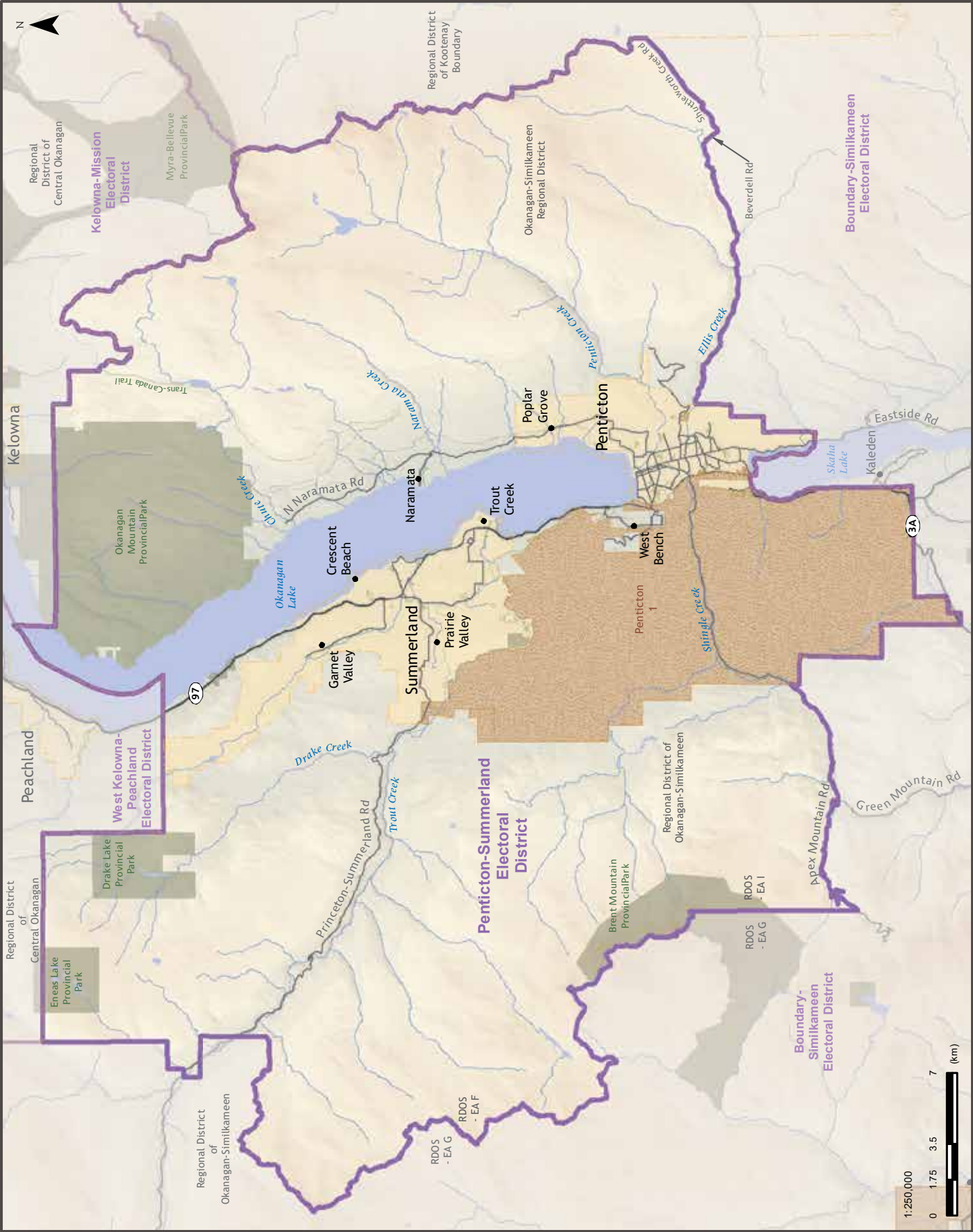


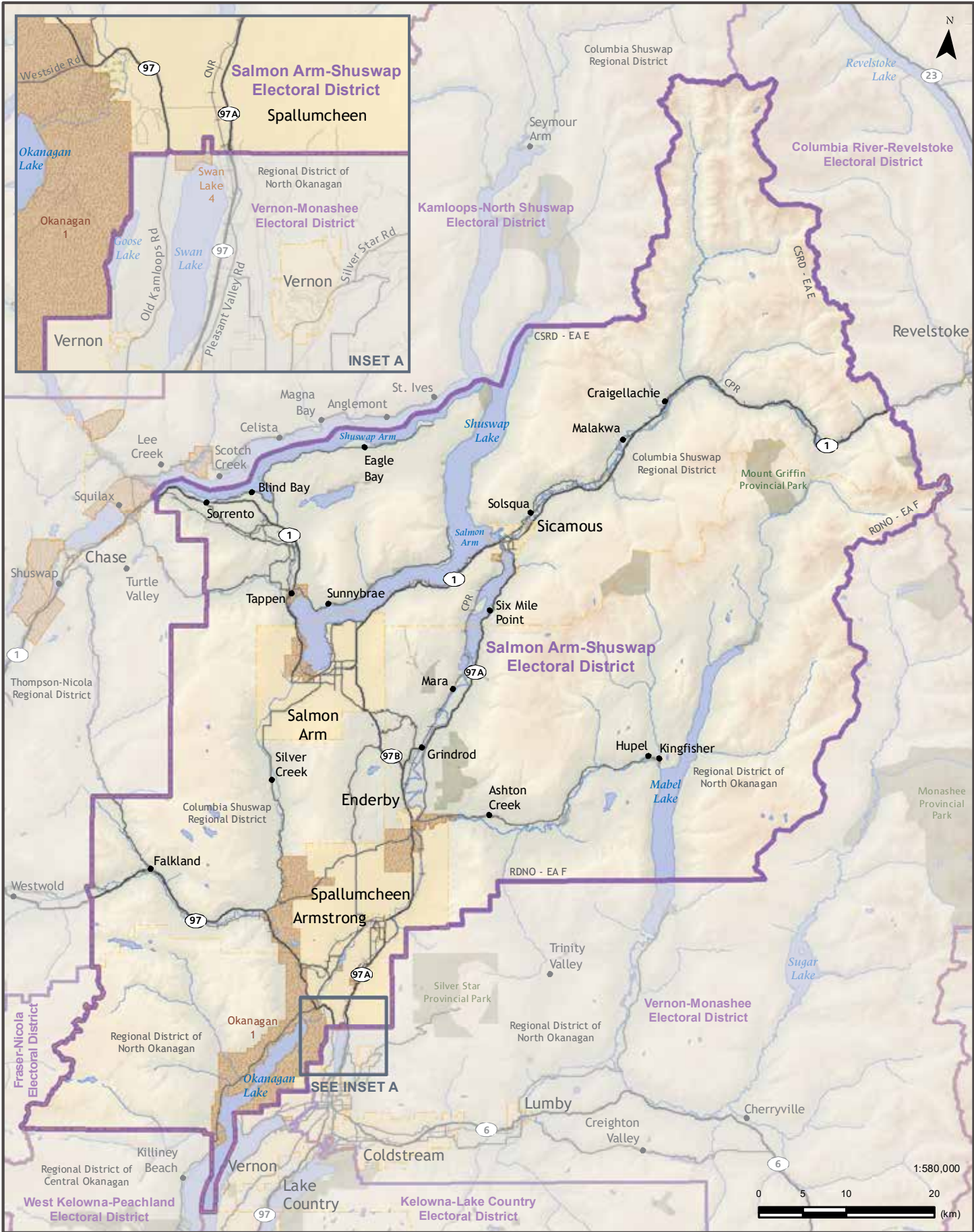


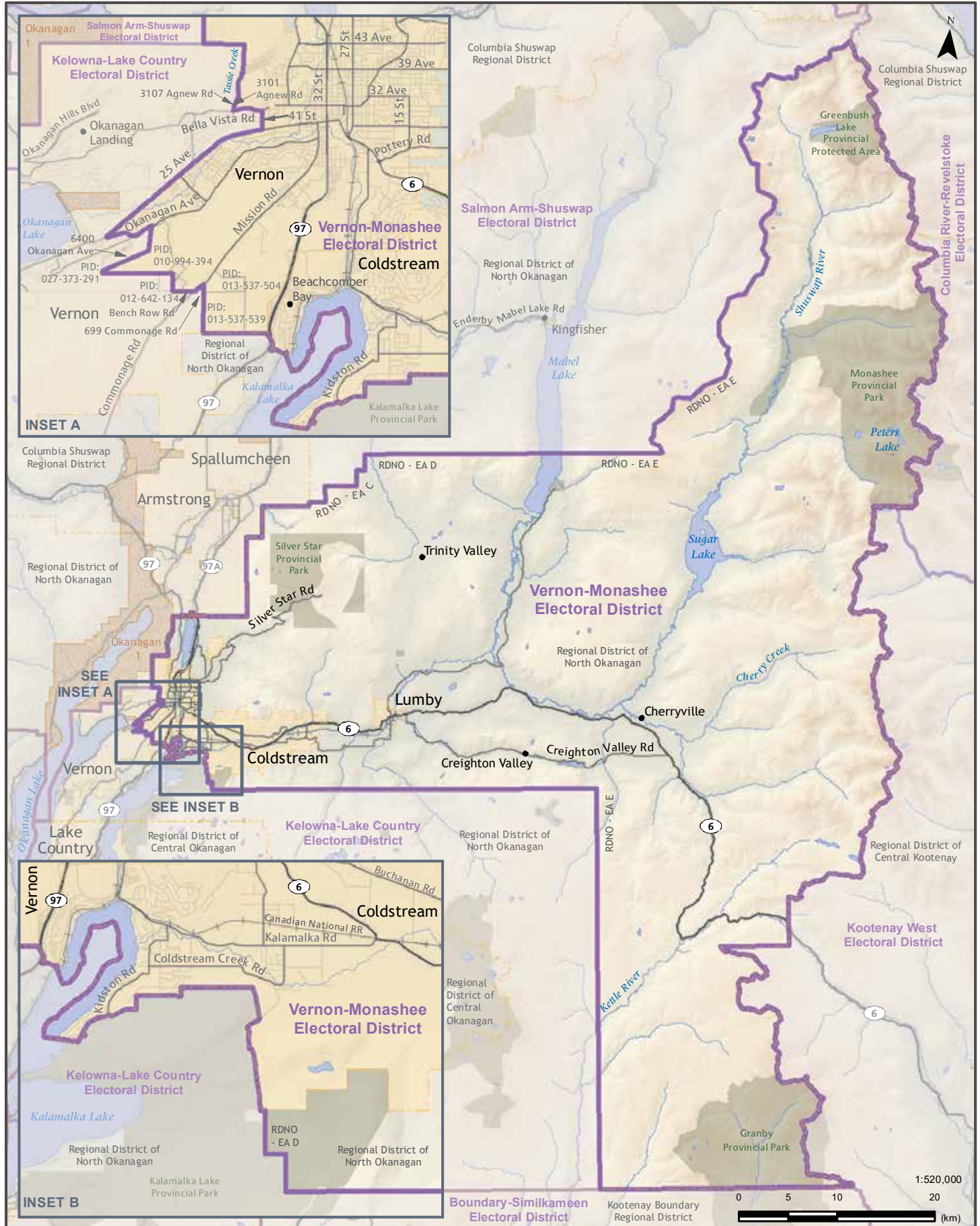












Fraser Valley-Langley-Maple Ridge

Current Electoral Districts (9)

- Abbotsford-Mission
- Abbotsford South
- Abbotsford West
- Chilliwack
- Chilliwack-Kent
- Langley
- Langley East
- Maple Ridge-Mission
- Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows

Proposed Electoral Districts (10)

- Abbotsford-Mission
- Abbotsford South
- Abbotsford West
- Chilliwack-Cultus Lake
- Chilliwack North
- Langley-Aldergrove
- Langley-Murrayville
- Langley-Willoughby
- Maple Ridge East
- Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows

TABLE 11: FRASER VALLEY-LANGLEY-MAPLE RIDGE ELECTORAL DISTRICTS
NOTE: THIS CHAPTER USES PROPOSED ELECTORAL DISTRICT NAMES



At present, the Fraser Valley-Langley-Maple Ridge area is made up of nine electoral districts. They include the municipalities of Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Mission, Aldergrove, Langley, Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows. The area includes fast-growing urban centres and suburbs along with large tracts of agricultural land.

The natural boundary created by the Fraser River has an impact on transportation, accessibility and the identities of communities located along its banks. Langley, Maple Ridge and Abbotsford are expanding rapidly. New transportation corridors that will better integrate this area with the rest of the Lower Mainland are under construction. This has attracted many people to these communities, a trend that is projected to continue. Three of the ridings in this area, Maple Ridge-Mission, Abbotsford South, and Langley

East, currently exceed the usual deviation range. At 35% over the electoral quotient, Langley East is one of the most populous ridings in the province.

The consistent theme in the submissions we received from this area was population growth and the consequent need for more representation, particularly around Langley. Some people highlighted specific concerns, such as the division of some communities into more than one riding, or that a particular community was a better fit in a neighbouring district.

IMAGE 13: ABBOTSFORD, B.C.
CREDIT: PROVINCE OF BRITISH CO-
LUMBIA. AUGUST 8, 2008

TABLE 12: FRASER VALLEY-LANGLEY-MAPLE RIDGE POPULATION, DEVIATION AND AREA
SOURCE: 2021 STATISTICS CANADA CENSUS COUNT

Electoral District	Population	Deviation (%)	Area (sq km)
Abbotsford-Mission	61,807	14.9	89
Abbotsford South	60,614	12.7	174
Abbotsford West	59,529	10.7	90
Chilliwack-Cultus Lake	55,495	3.2	1,174
Chilliwack North	55,608	3.4	2,459
Langley-Aldergrove	58,672	9.1	287
Langley-Murrayville	54,753	1.8	56
Langley-Willoughby	55,560	3.3	30
Maple Ridge East	57,775	7.4	369
Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	58,752	9.3	1,996
Total/Average	578,565	7.6	6,724

We propose adding a new riding in the Langley area. We see this as necessary to accommodate the current population and projected growth. Our proposed boundary changes recognize the suburban and rural composition of Langley and keep the downtown core of Langley intact. Our proposal also reflects the connection between the eastern part of Langley and Aldergrove by combining them into a Langley-Aldergrove riding.

The adjustments we propose to the other ridings in the Fraser Valley-Langley-Maple Ridge area are aimed at reducing population differences between neighbouring ridings to create as much room as possible for future population growth. We considered creating a separate riding for Mission but, at 41,519 people, it would be much less populated than neighbouring ridings. That

is why we propose moving more of the core of Mission into Abbotsford-Mission and maintaining downtown Chilliwack in a single riding. We also propose name changes for five of the electoral districts in this area to reflect their proposed composition.

Abbotsford-Mission

This riding straddles the Fraser River. It contains the core of Mission and the northeast part of Abbotsford. As the population of this electoral district is relatively high, we looked at a number of ways to better balance it with its neighbours. We propose boundary adjustments to include more of the centre of Mission and less of Abbotsford, removing part of the riding south of a line bounded by Highway 11, Old Yale Road, and Marshall Road.

Abbotsford South

This riding contains Abbotsford city centre and the Aberdeen, Poplar and Kilgard neighbourhoods. We propose to reduce its population to bring it in line with other area ridings by moving the area west of Bradner Road and south of the Trans-Canada Highway into Langley-Aldergrove.

Abbotsford West

Abbotsford West includes the northwest part of Abbotsford and the communities of Clayburn, Matsqui, Riverside, Gifford and Mount Lehman. We propose to move the areas west of Bradner Road and north of the Trans-Canada Highway into Langley-Aldergrove to better balance its population with neighbouring ridings.

Chilliwack-Cultus Lake

This riding includes part of the current Chilliwack-Kent electoral district south of the Fraser River, uniting it with other South Fraser communities of Sardis, Rosedale, Bridal Falls, Popkum and Cultus Lake. We propose moving Harrison Hot Springs and the District of Kent into Fraser-Nicola to better balance the population of both ridings.

Chilliwack North

This riding is centred on downtown Chilliwack and includes Greendale, Yarrow and Sumas Mountain, as well as Deroche, Dewdney and the areas north of the Fraser River around Harrison Lake that were previously in the riding of Chilliwack-Kent. Adding communities north of the Fraser River to this riding brings its population in line with neighbouring electoral districts.

Langley-Aldergrove

Langley-Aldergrove is based on the existing electoral district of Langley East. It includes most of the Township of Langley, as well as Fort Langley and Forest Knolls. We propose extending its eastern boundary to include Aldergrove. The communities in this riding are connected by the Fraser Highway and Highway 1.

Langley-Murrayville

Langley-Murrayville contains much of the existing electoral district of Langley, which includes the core of downtown Langley and the rural areas south to the Canada-U.S. border. We propose adding the neighbouring community of Murrayville to this riding to ensure its population is comparable to the new electoral district of Langley-Willoughby located on the northern boundary of this riding.

Langley-Willoughby

We propose combining parts of the existing electoral districts of Langley and Langley East to create this new riding extending north from the City of Langley to the Fraser River. It includes the Willowbrook and Willoughby neighbourhoods as well as the western part of Walnut Grove. The proposed boundaries anticipate continued rapid population growth in light of planned new rapid-transportation corridors.

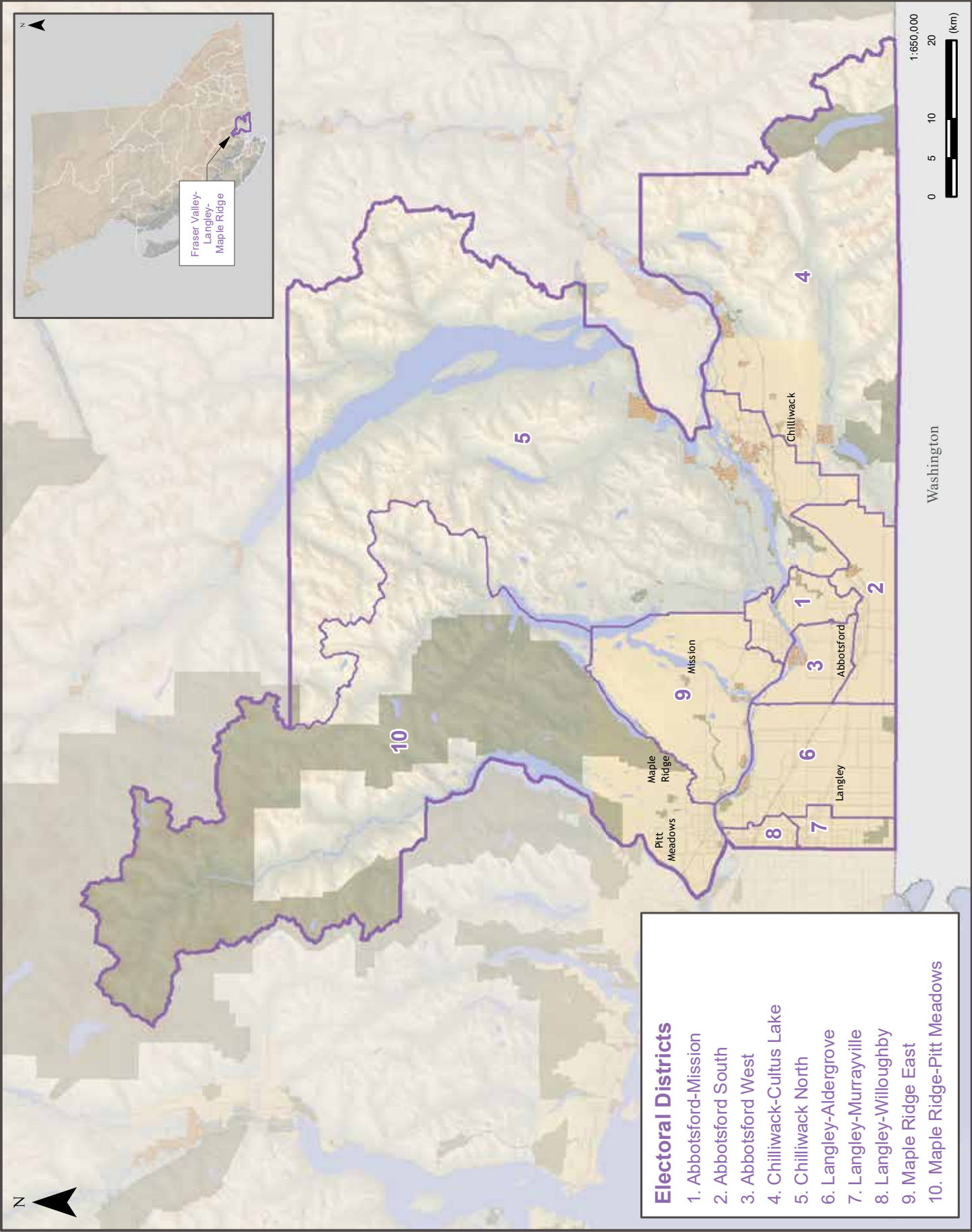
Maple Ridge East

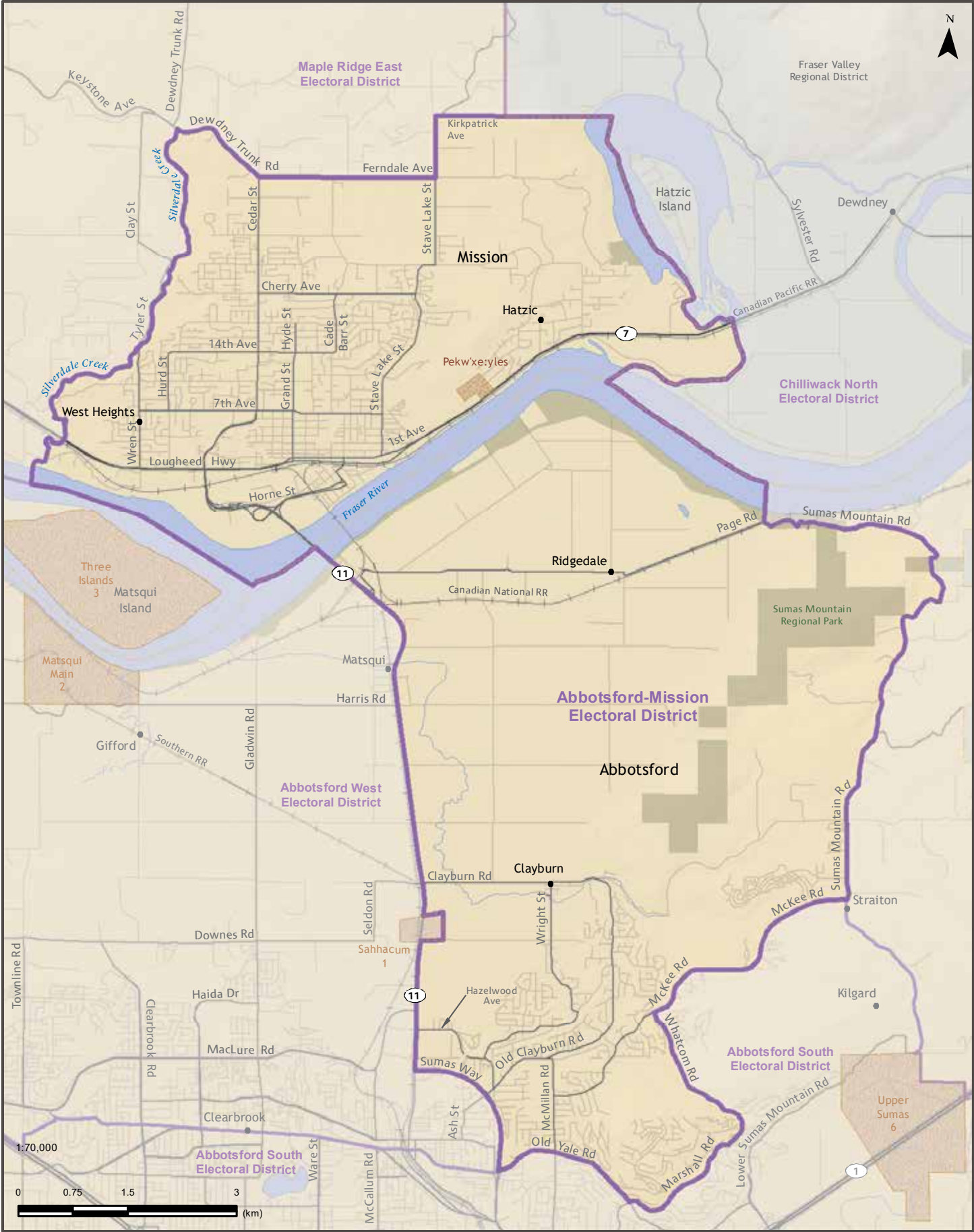
Maple Ridge East is situated on the north bank of the Fraser River and comprises much of the current electoral district of Maple Ridge-Mission. We propose boundary adjustments to shift the core

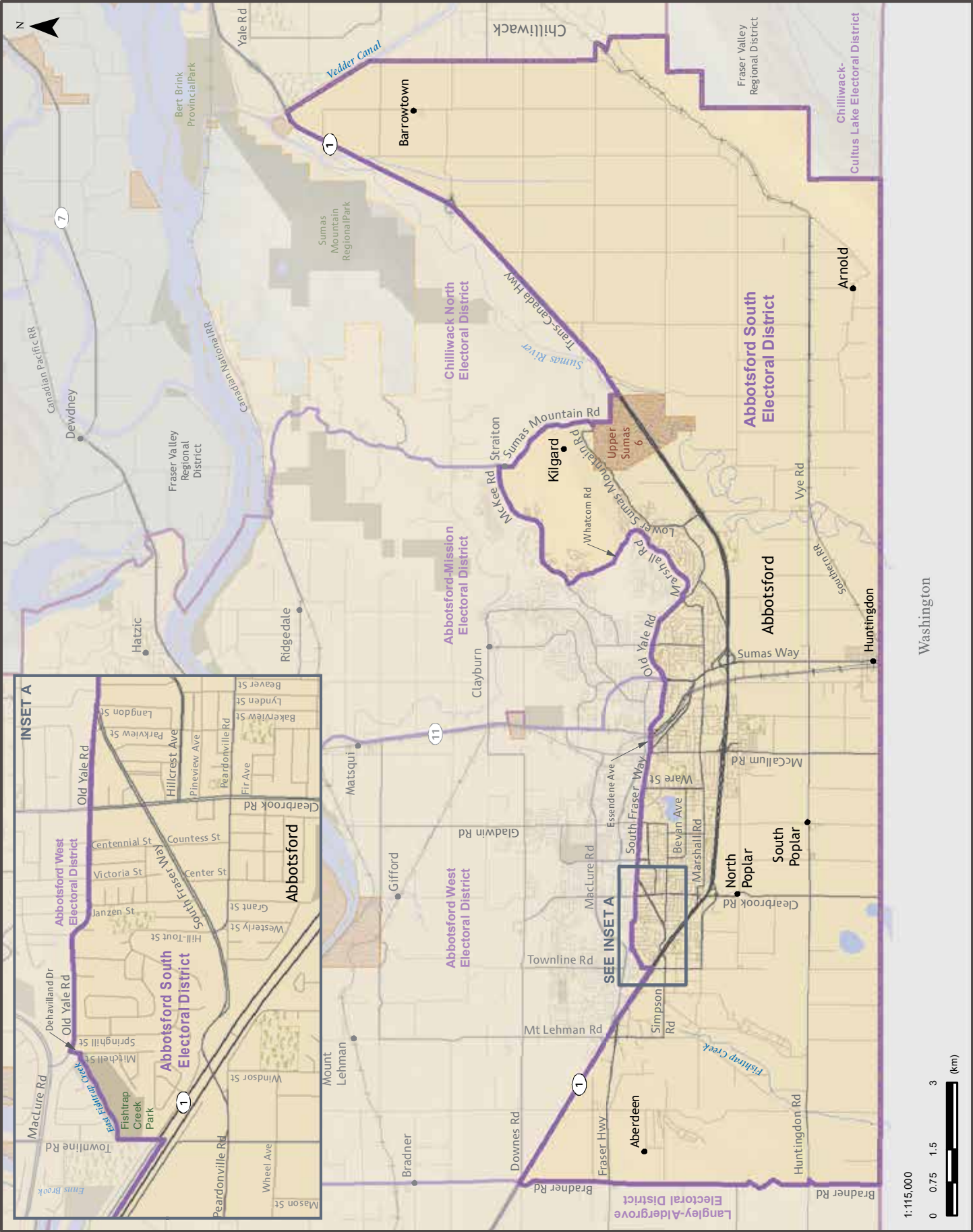
of Mission into the adjacent riding of Abbotsford-Mission. Maple Ridge East extends west from the rural area outside of downtown Mission to 224th Street in Maple Ridge. It includes the communities of Stave Falls, Silverhill, Ruskin, Whonnock, Websters Corners and Albion.

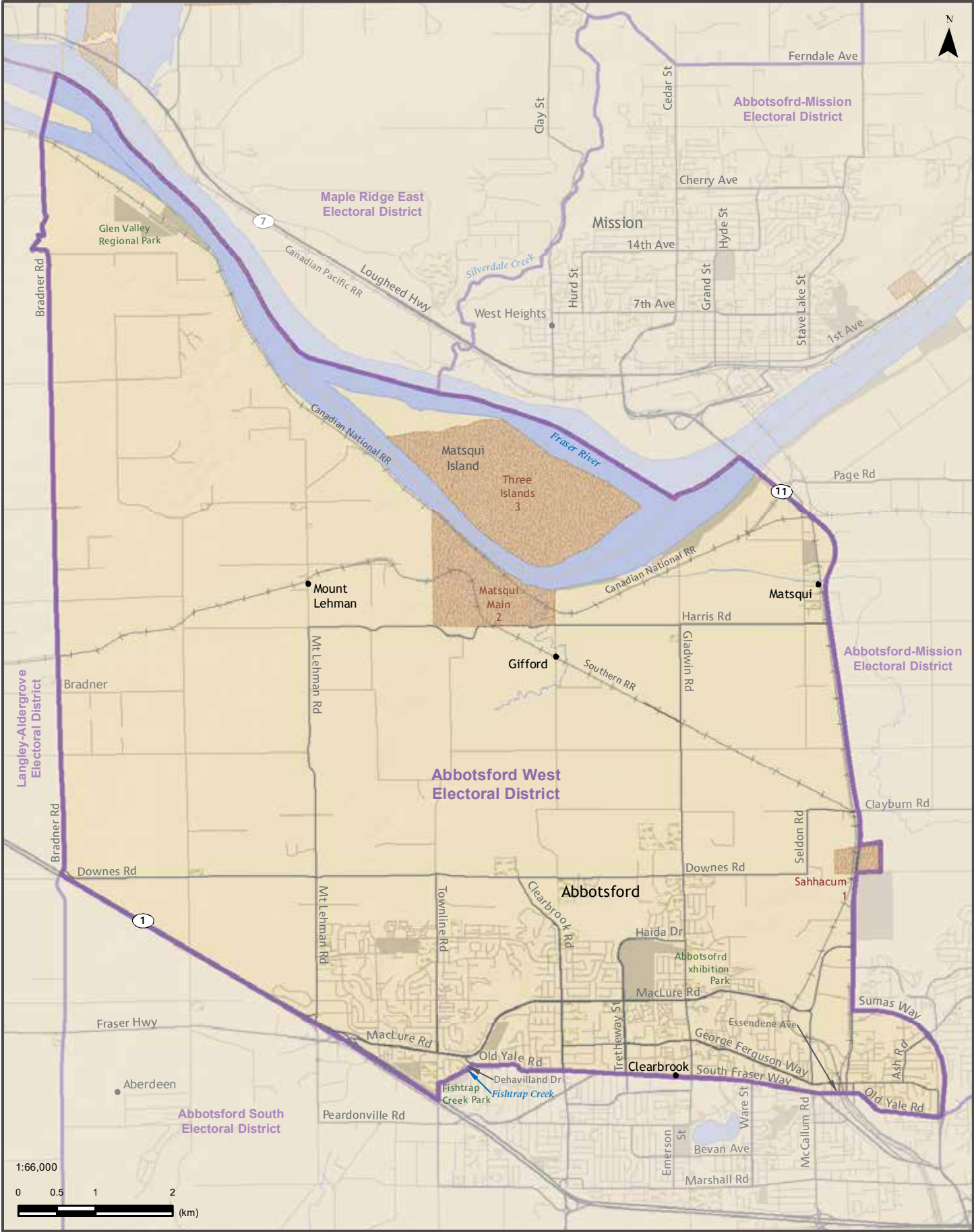
Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows

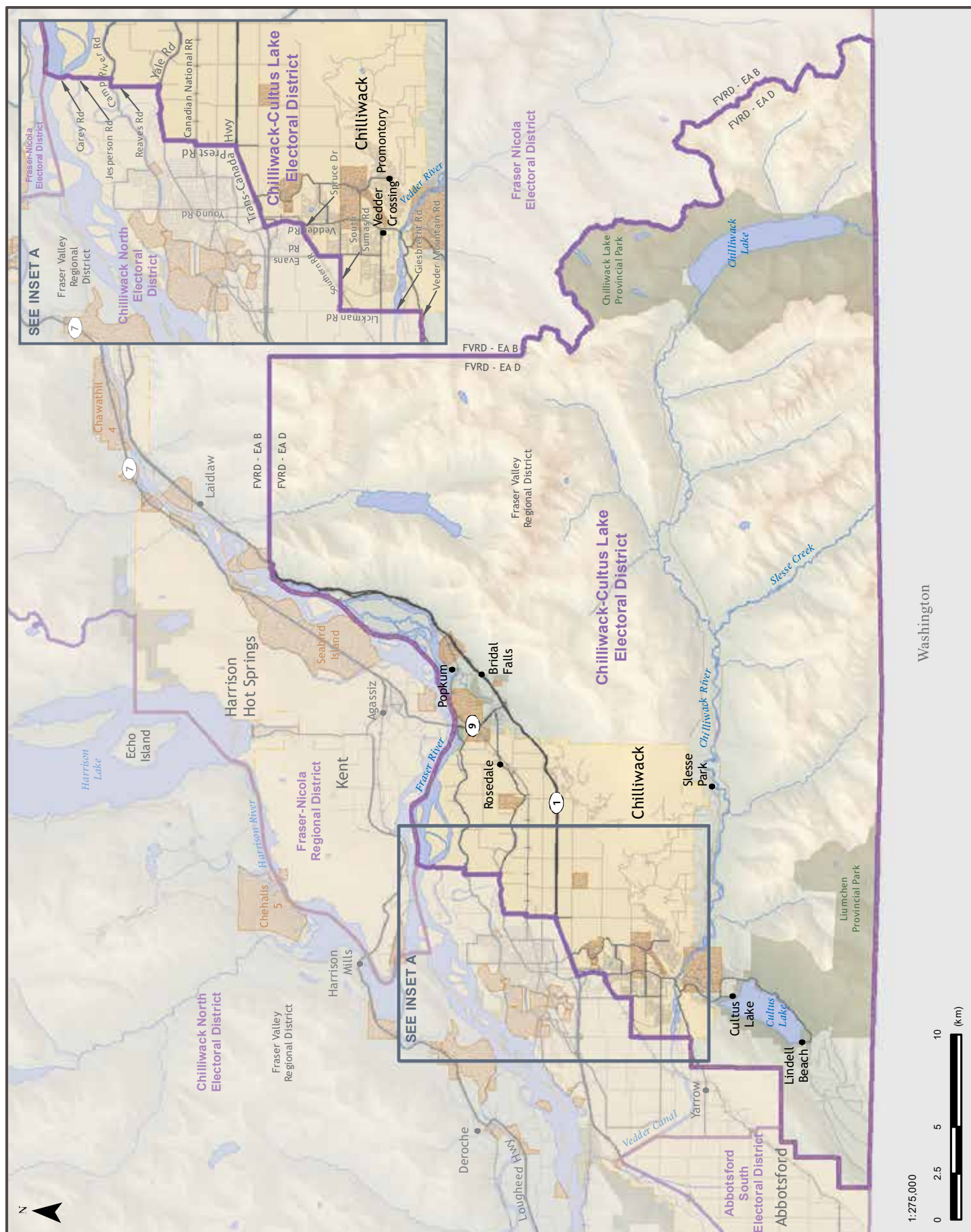
This riding is bounded by the Fraser River to the south and the Pitt River to the west. It contains Pitt Meadows and part of Maple Ridge west of 224th Street, including the neighbourhoods of Hammond and Haney. It also covers the northwest portion of the Fraser Valley Regional District and the communities of William's Landing and Alvin. To better balance the populations of the Maple Ridge ridings and to accommodate projected population growth, we propose moving the neighbourhood of Yennadon into Maple Ridge East.

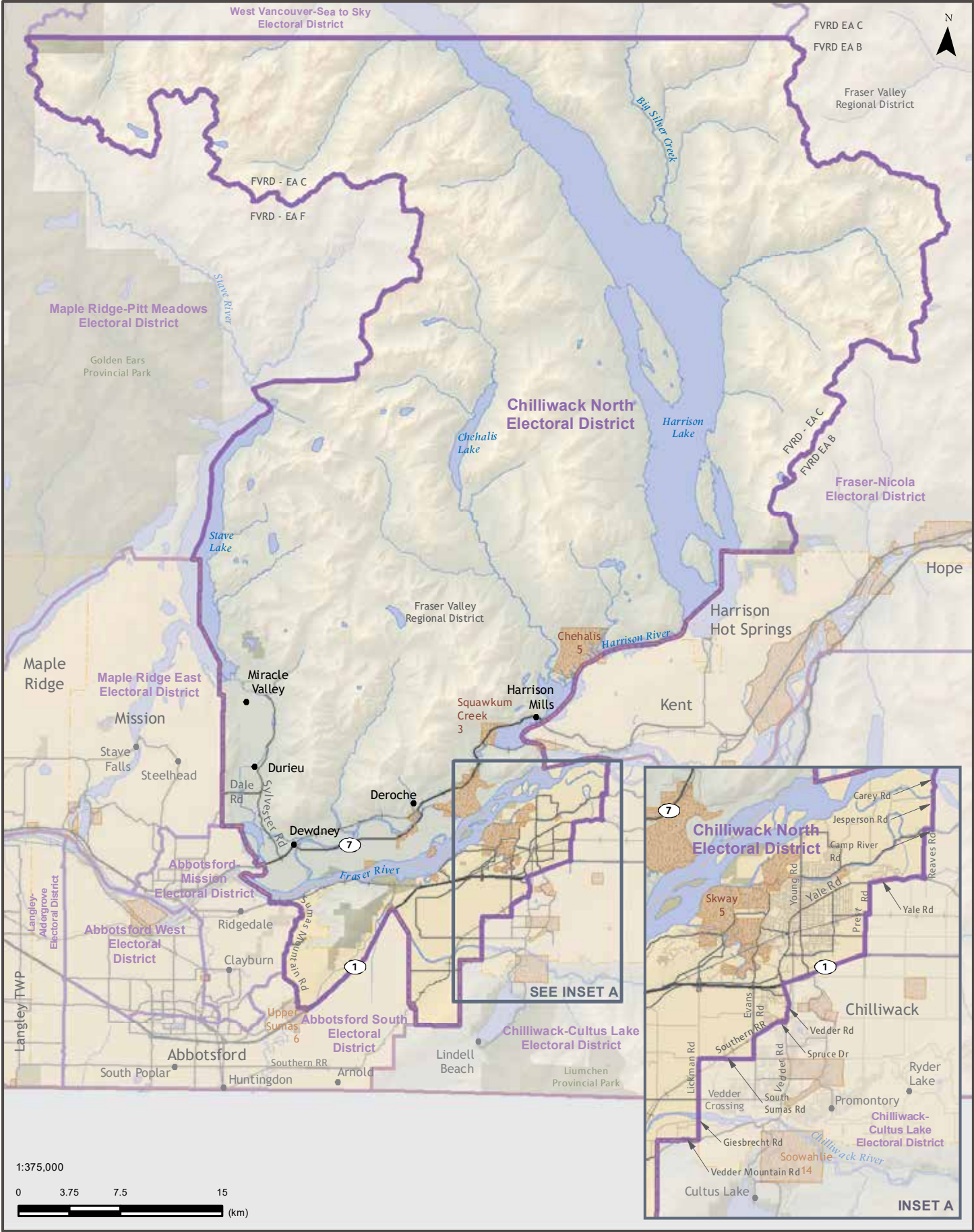


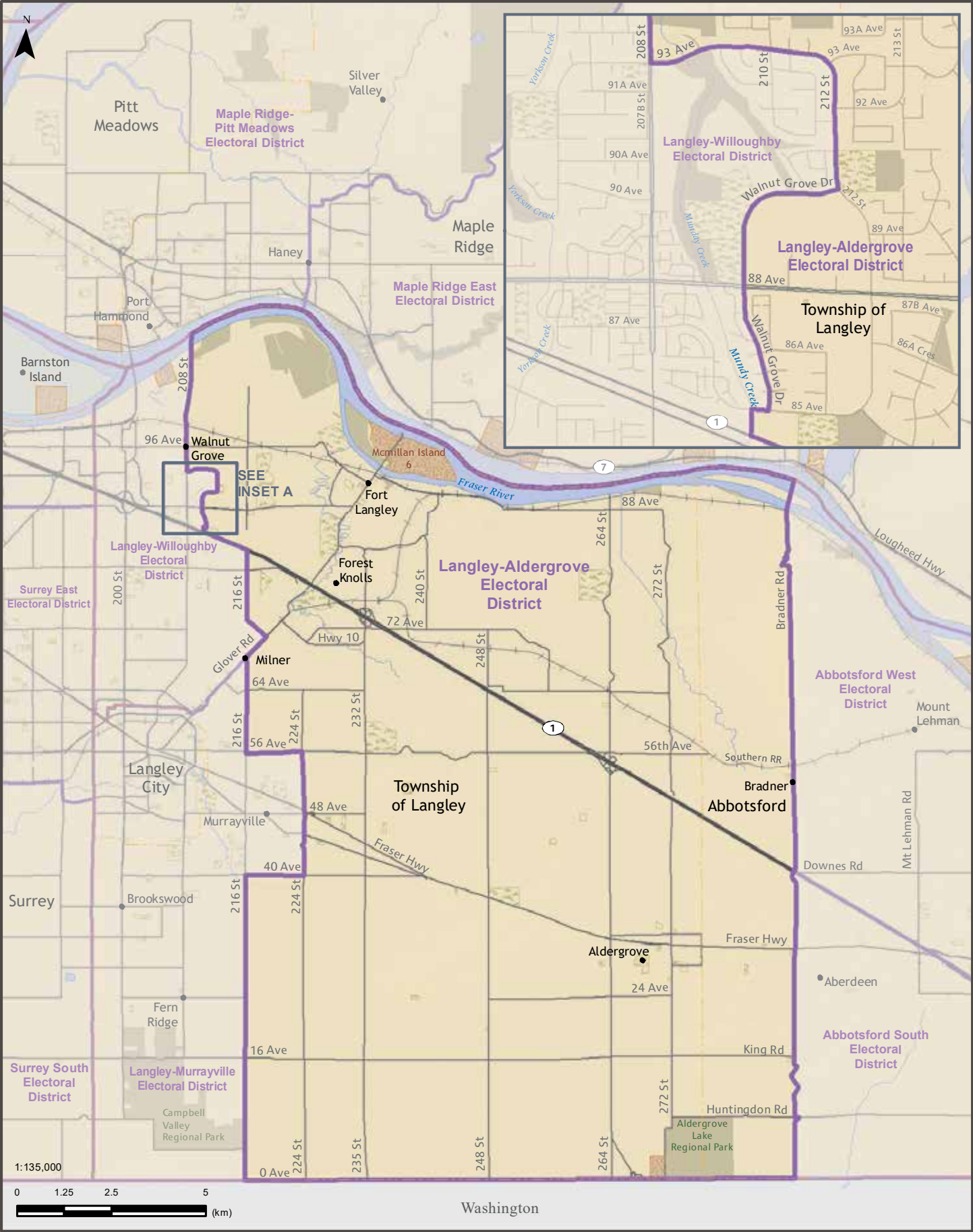


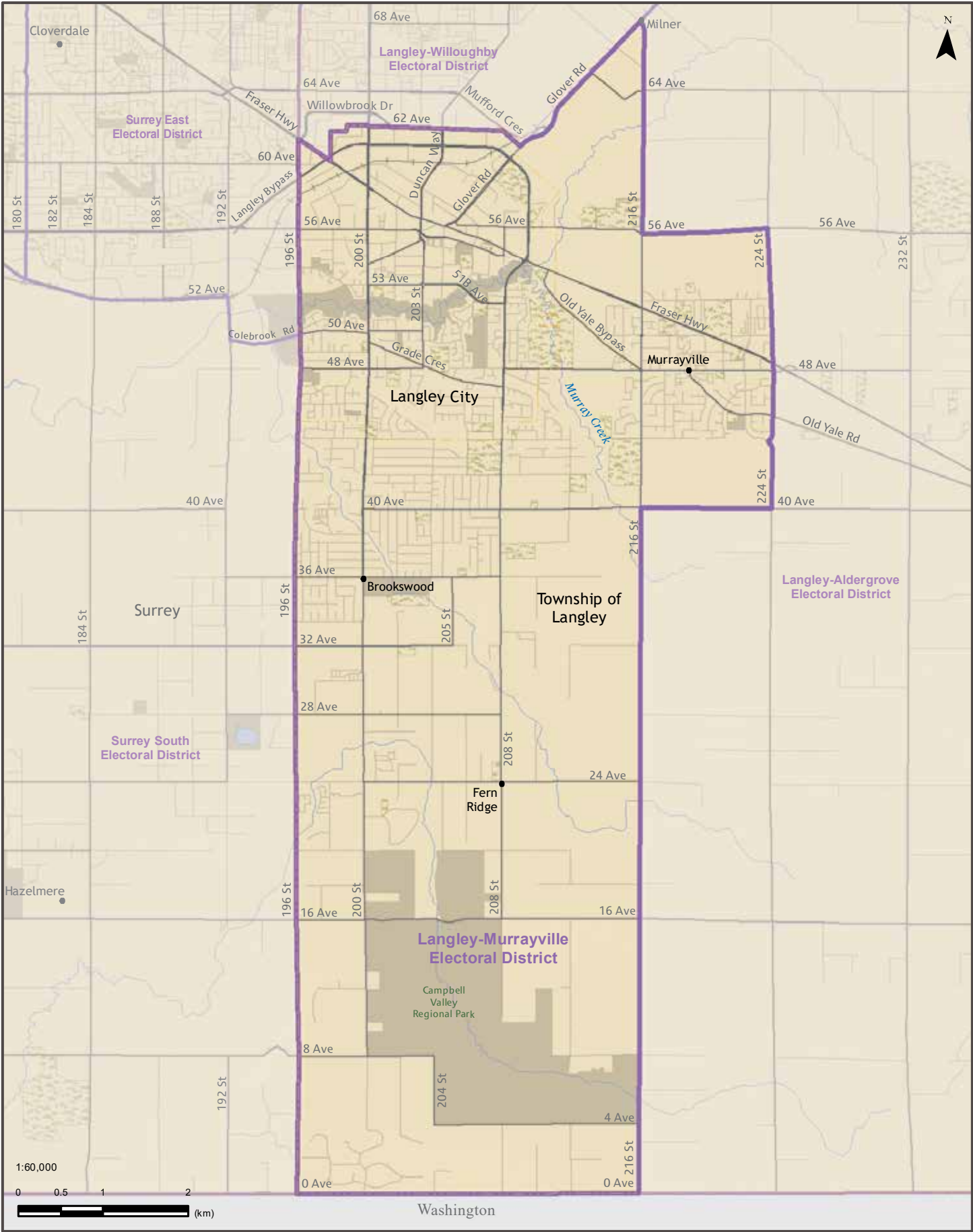


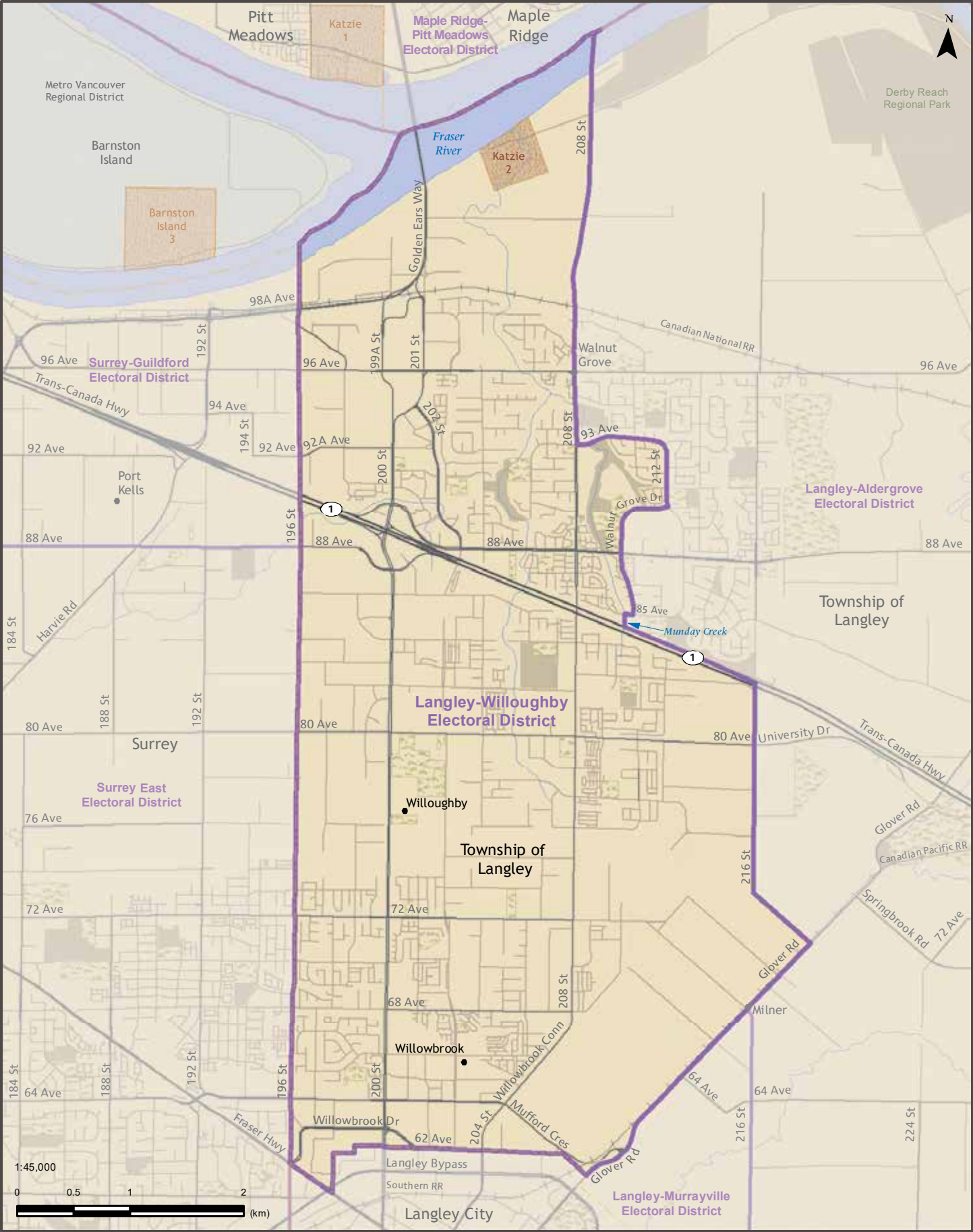




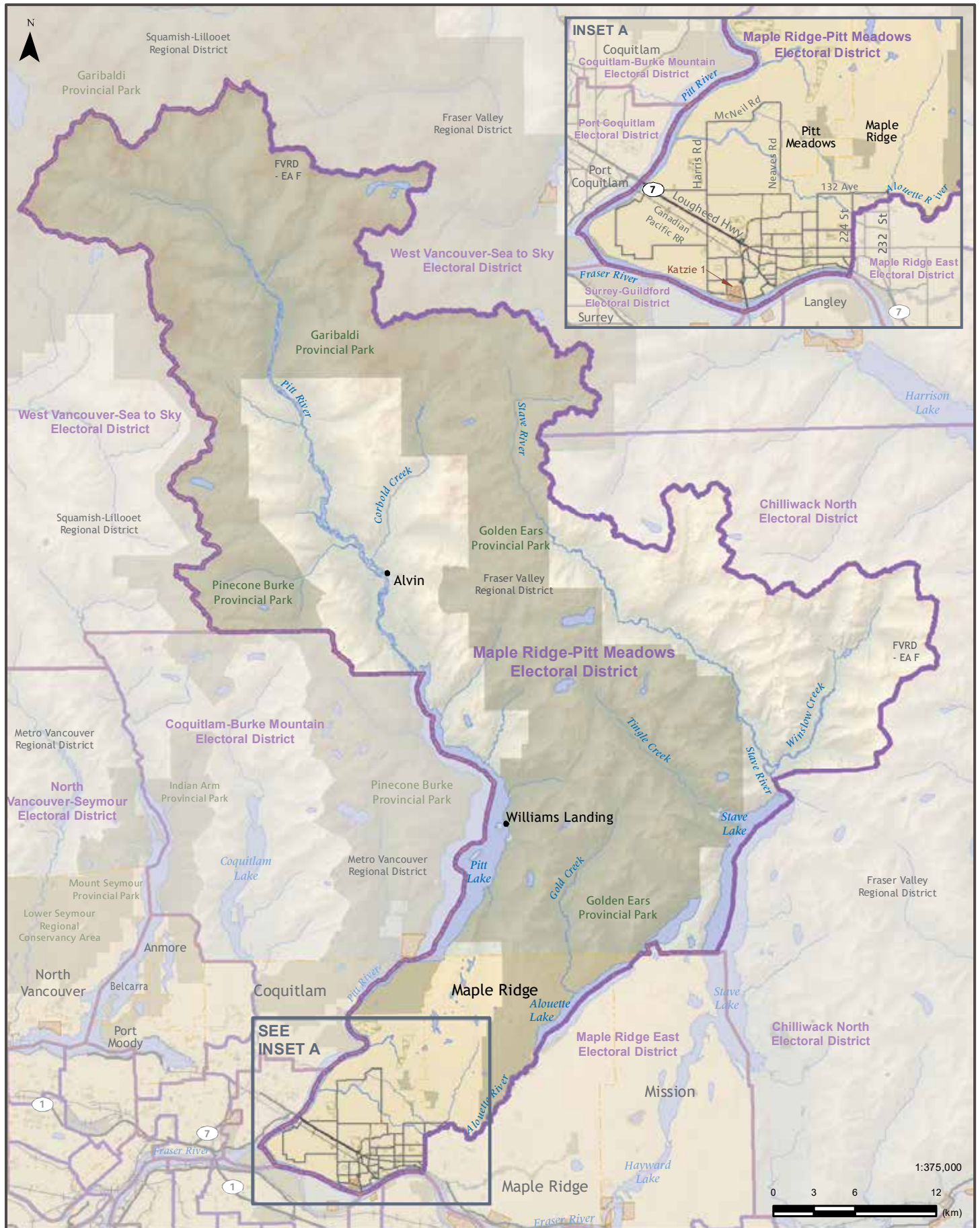












Burnaby-New Westminster-Tri-Cities

Current Electoral Districts (9)

- Burnaby-Deer Lake
- Burnaby-Edmonds
- Burnaby-Lougheed
- Burnaby North
- Coquitlam-Burke Mountain
- Coquitlam-Maillardville
- New Westminster
- Port Coquitlam
- Port Moody-Coquitlam

Proposed Electoral Districts (10)

- Burnaby Centre
- Burnaby East
- Burnaby-New Westminster
- Burnaby North
- Burnaby South
- Coquitlam-Burke Mountain
- Coquitlam-Mundy Park
- New Westminster-Maillardville
- Port Coquitlam
- Port Moody-Westwood Plateau

TABLE 13: BURNABY-NEW WESTMINSTER-TRI-CITIES ELECTORAL DISTRICTS
NOTE: THIS CHAPTER USES PROPOSED ELECTORAL DISTRICT NAMES



This area currently consists of nine electoral districts between the Fraser and Pitt Rivers, Burrard Inlet and the City of Vancouver. It includes Burnaby, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody and New Westminster (except Queensborough). Proposing adjustments to electoral boundaries in this area is challenging because of its rapid rate of population growth and the fact that two ridings are close to the top of the usual deviation range. In addition to this, New Westminster's population is too large for a single riding but too small for two electoral districts.

Based on what we heard, we understand that neighbourhood cores in this area have distinct identities but their boundaries are relatively fluid. The area has many transportation corridors including well established public transit networks. There

is strong connectivity and a high level of socio-economic interdependence. We propose adding an electoral district to the area and making consequential boundary adjustments. With these adjustments, our proposals also include name changes to six ridings.

We consider it more important to ensure room for growth in all ridings in this area by keeping populations balanced than to adhere to existing municipal boundaries where they would create districts with

IMAGE 14: BURNABY, B.C.
CREDIT: ROSHAN RAJ
AUGUST 5, 2021

TABLE 14: BURNABY-NEW WESTMINSTER-TRI-CITIES POPULATION, DEVIATION AND AREA
SOURCE: 2021 STATISTICS CANADA CENSUS COUNT

Electoral District	Population	Deviation (%)	Area (sq km)
Burnaby Centre	53,458	-0.6	18
Burnaby East	55,643	3.5	36
Burnaby-New Westminster	50,379	-6.3	8
Burnaby North	53,351	-0.8	17
Burnaby South	54,039	0.5	21
Coquitlam-Burke Mountain	56,394	4.9	598
Coquitlam-Mundy Park	60,068	11.7	33
New Westminister-Maillardville	59,403	10.5	14
Port Coquitlam	61,483	14.3	34
Port Moody-Westwood Plateau	59,697	11.0	102
Total/Average	563,915	4.8	881

very different numbers of residents. In part, this is because young voters told us that they feel their votes are less valuable because of overpopulation in these electoral districts. Although some people told us that the area needs two new electoral districts, we believe that our proposal for one additional riding is sufficient to bring all electoral districts in the area within the usual deviation range with room for growth.

People expressed different opinions about whether the New Westminister neighbourhood of Queensborough, which was moved into Richmond-Delta in the last electoral boundary adjustment, should remain in a Richmond riding or return to New Westminister. We propose keeping it in a Richmond riding because moving it would neither improve effective

representation nor better balance electoral district populations.

Burnaby Centre

We propose a Burnaby Centre riding situated on the west side of the city. The district follows Boundary Road in the west; a line bounded by Highway 1, Douglas Road, the Lougheed Highway and Sperling Avenue in the north; Imperial Street in the east; and Kingsway in the south. It includes Cascade Heights, Garden Village, Deer Lake and Buckingham Heights, uniting some of the fastest growing Burnaby neighbourhoods in one electoral district, with room for its projected rapid growth.

Burnaby East

Situated in the northeast corner of Burnaby, bounded by Kensington Avenue, North Road and the Burrard Inlet, we propose boundary adjustments to this electoral district to remove the neighbourhood of Eastburn and to add the part of New Westminster bounded by McBride Boulevard, E 8th Avenue and Cumberland Street to form its southern boundary.

Burnaby-New Westminster

We propose that this riding include the Kelvin, Eastburn and Glenbrooke neighbourhoods of New Westminster and the adjacent Middlegate and Edmonds neighbourhoods of Burnaby. The proposed boundaries of this riding are Imperial Street in the north, Griffiths Drive in the west, Sixth Avenue in the south and the line of McBride Boulevard and Newcombe Street in the east.

Burnaby North

This electoral district on the northwest side of Burnaby contains the neighbourhoods of Burnaby Heights, Capitol Hill, Willingdon Heights and Brentwood Park. We propose balancing its population with neighbouring districts by moving the portion of the current riding south of Highway 1, Douglas Road and the Lougheed Highway into Burnaby Centre.

Burnaby South

This riding sits between the Fraser River in the south and Kingsway in the north. It includes the Metrotown, Suncrest and South Slope neighbourhoods of Burnaby and New Westminster's Connaught Heights. Adding the area

around Metrotown south of Kingsway, as we propose, keeps this rapidly growing Skytrain corridor in one riding.

Coquitlam-Burke Mountain

Coquitlam-Burke Mountain includes the Eagle Ridge, River Springs and Sun Valley neighbourhoods. Given that its population is near the top of the usual deviation range, we propose moving Westwood Plateau out of this riding and into the adjacent riding of Port Moody-Westwood Plateau. This ensures that Coquitlam-Burke Mountain has room for growth.

Coquitlam-Mundy Park

This electoral district includes the Harbour Chines, Cariboo, Austin Heights, Fraser Mills, Ranch Park and Mayfair neighbourhoods. It follows North Road in the west and the Fraser River to the south, and it extends as far north as the Canadian Pacific Railway line. We propose moving Maillardville into the neighbouring riding of New Westminster-Maillardville. We also propose adjusting the eastern boundary of Coquitlam-Mundy Park to include both kʷikʷəłəm (Kwikwetlem) First Nation reserves in this riding.

New Westminster-Maillardville

The population of the current electoral district of New Westminster is large and growing quickly. To address this, we propose moving some of its more residential areas into adjacent electoral districts in Burnaby. The riding boundaries we propose encompass downtown New Westminster south of Sixth Avenue, and the neighbourhoods of Queen's Park, Sapperton and Brunette Creek. We have also added the historically Francophone

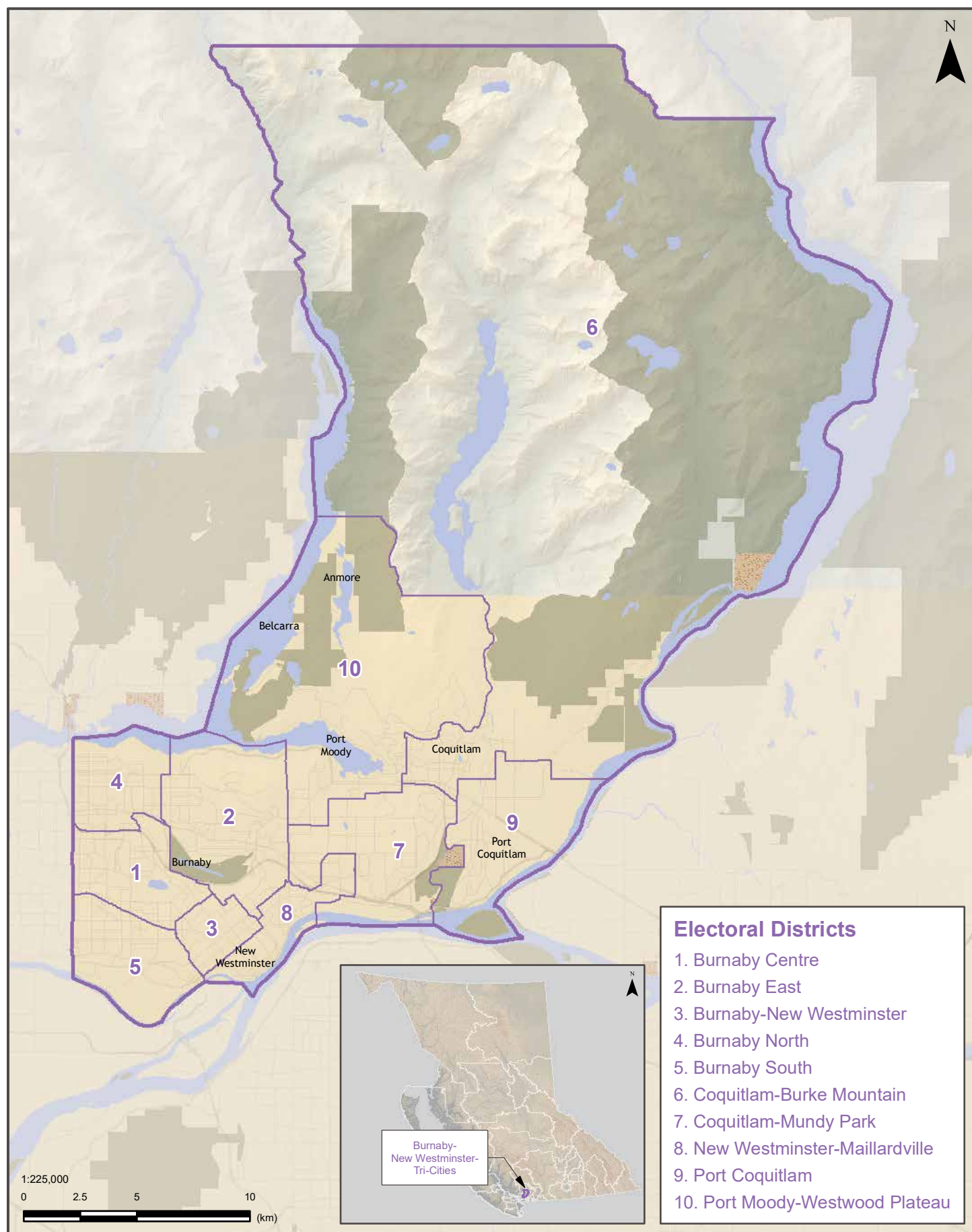
community of Maillardville. This riding now extends as far north and east as Austin Avenue and Schoolhouse Street.

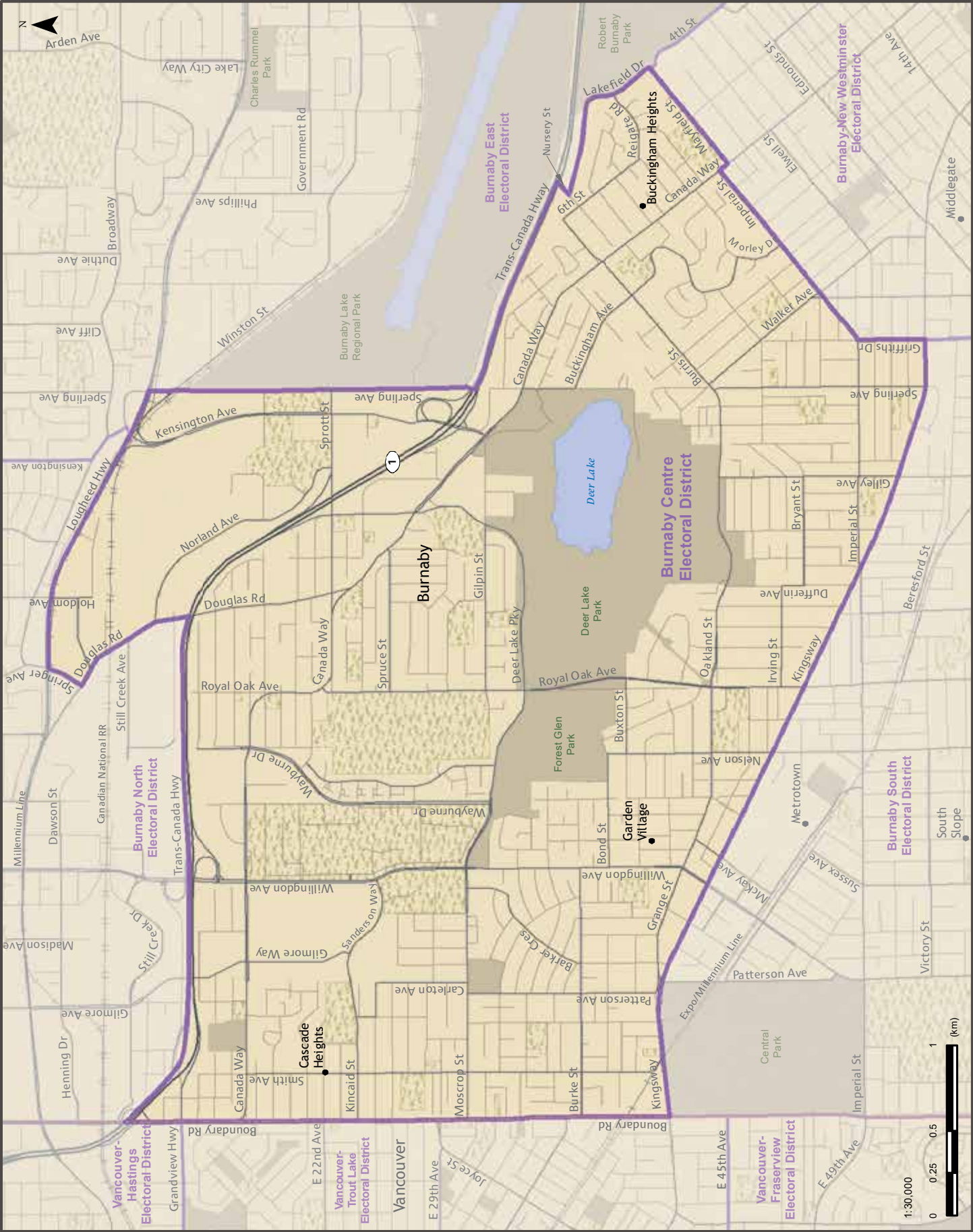
Port Coquitlam

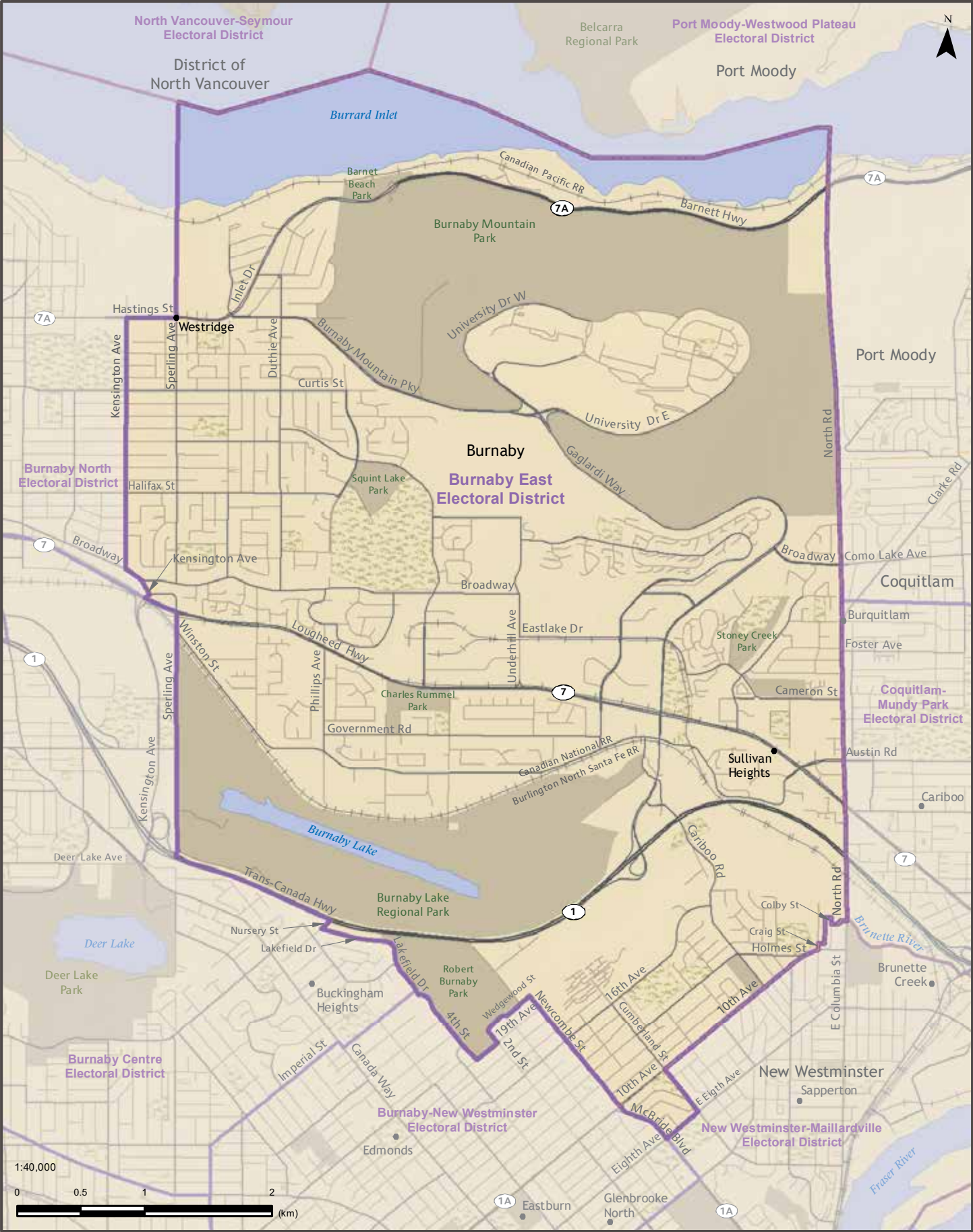
This electoral district is expected to continue growing at a moderate rate. This riding follows the municipal boundaries of the City of Port Coquitlam. The only change we propose is to move the kʷikʷəłəm (Kwikwetlem) First Nation reserve (Coquitlam 2) into neighbouring Coquitlam-Mundy Park so that both Kwikwetlem reserves are in the same electoral district.

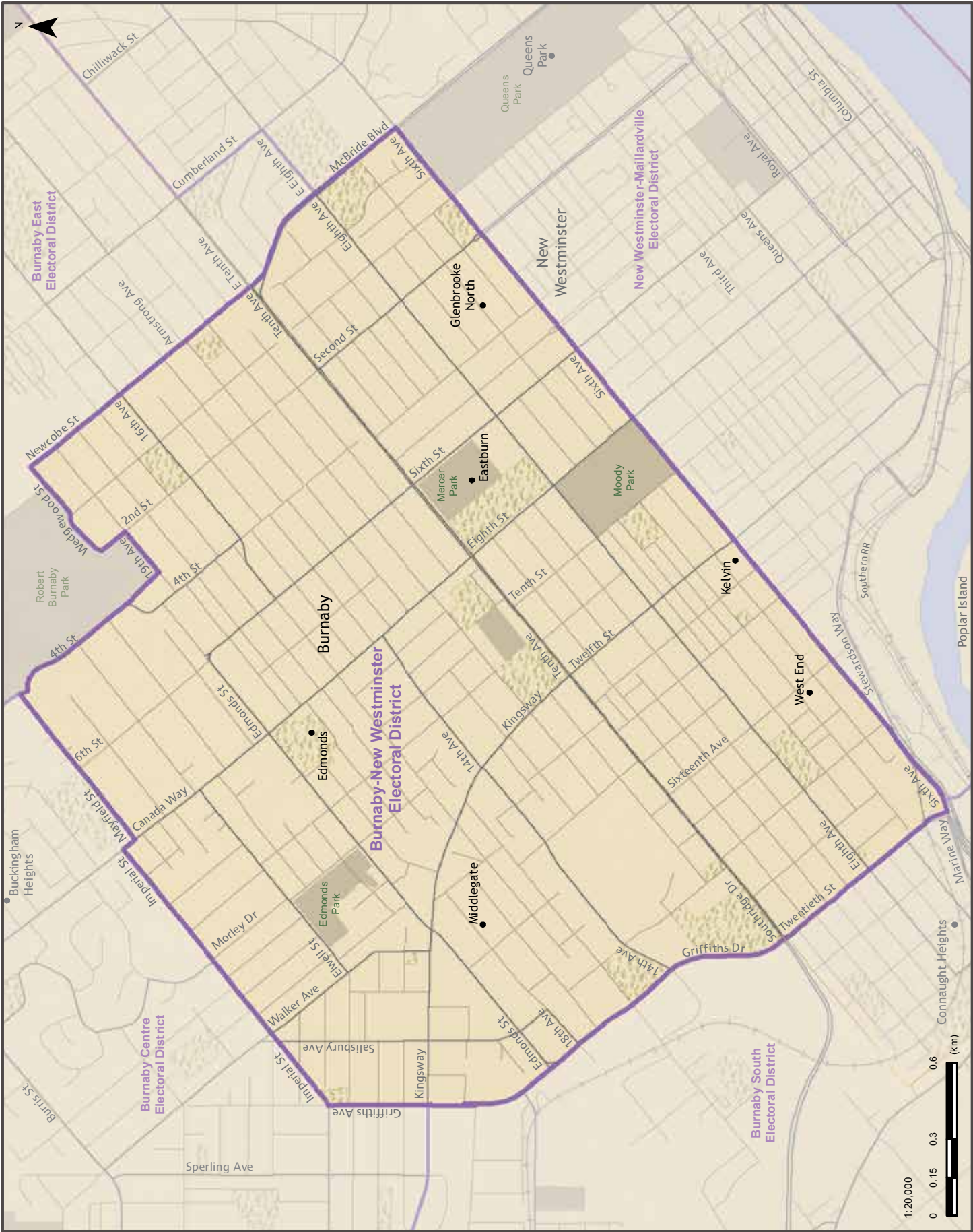
Port Moody-Westwood Plateau

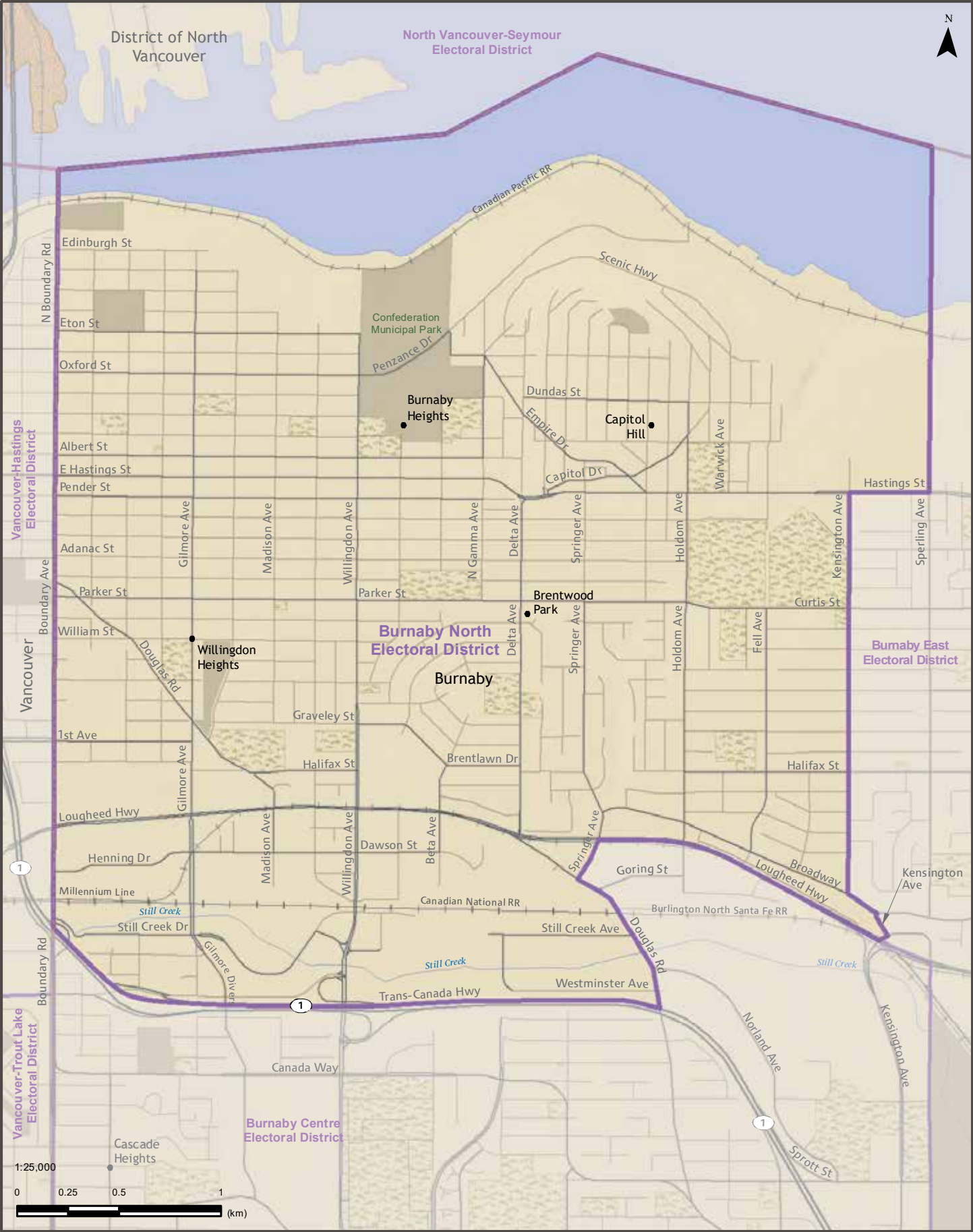
We propose that this electoral district include the communities of Port Moody, Belcarra and Anmore, as well as the Coquitlam neighbourhood of Westwood Plateau and part of Burquitlam. This riding will extend as far south as Smith Avenue and north to Indian Arm Provincial Park. This proposal makes its population comparable to its neighbours.



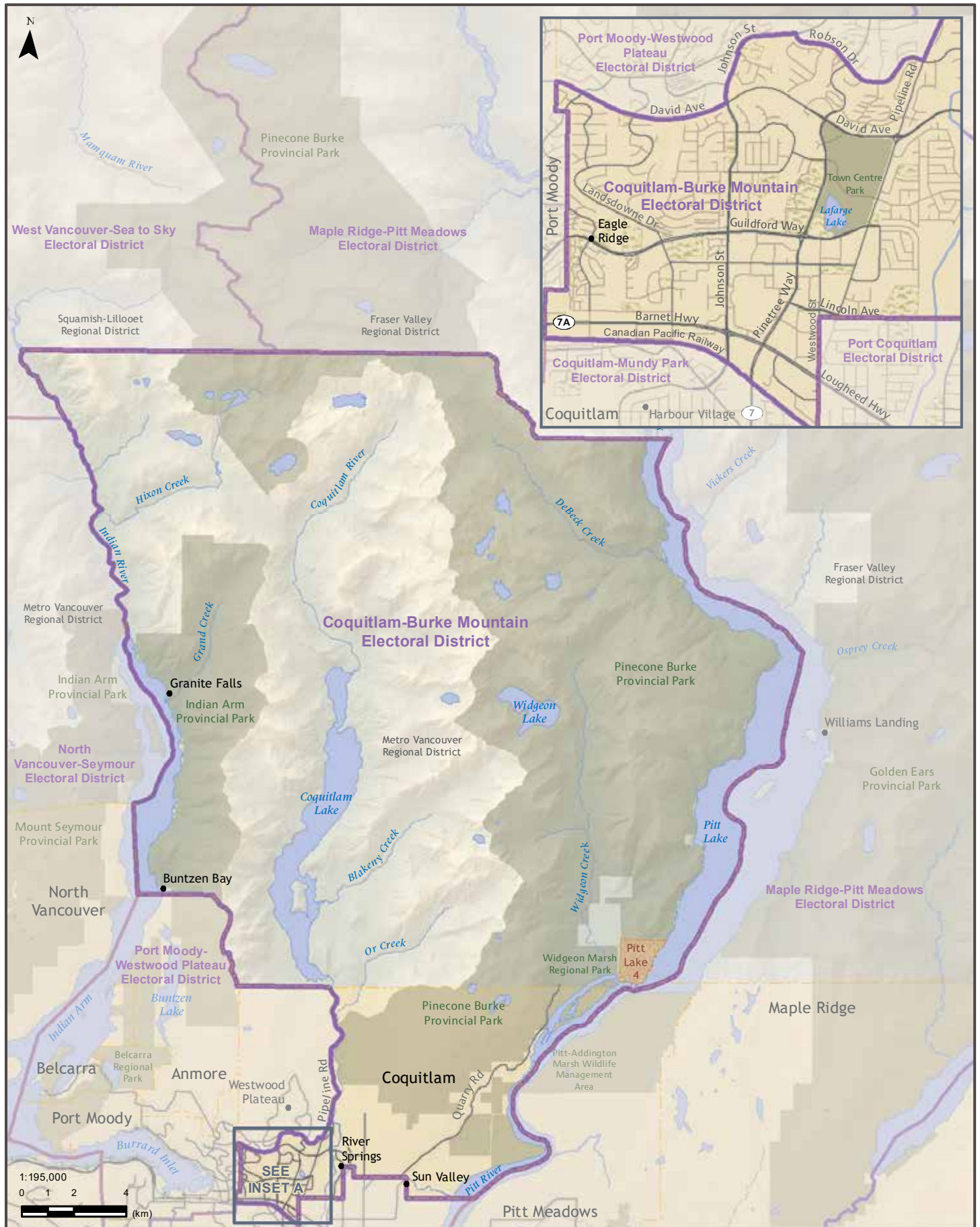


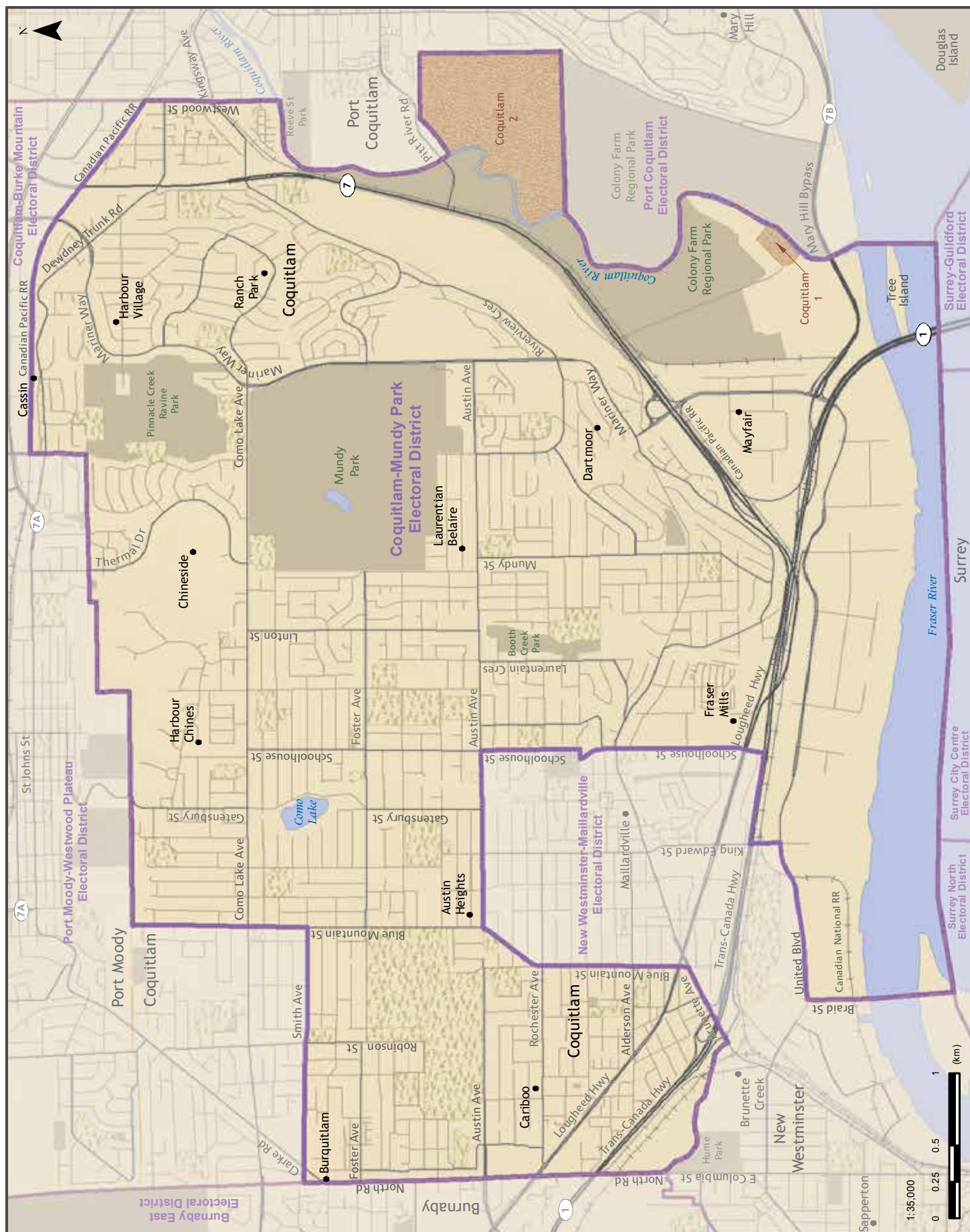




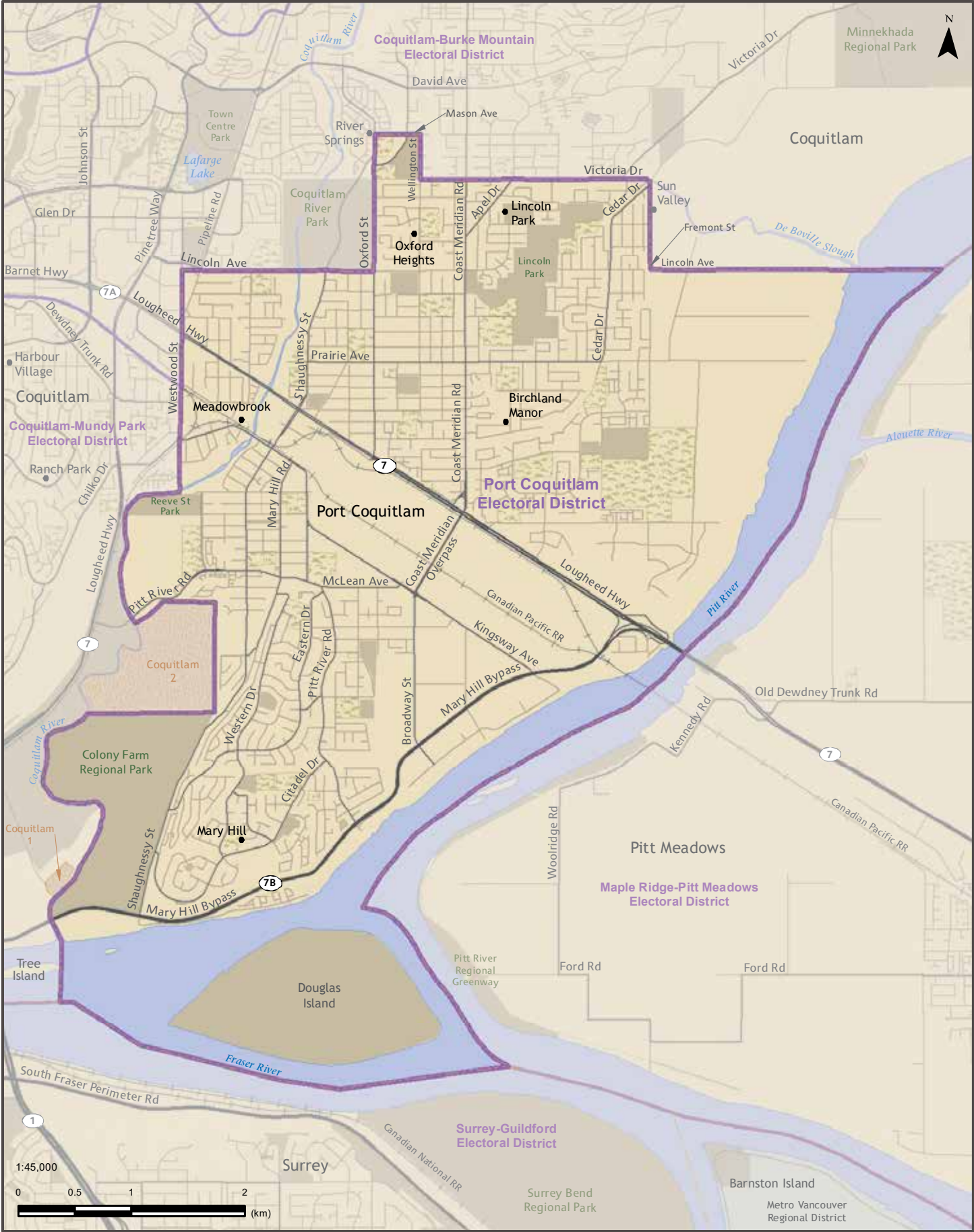


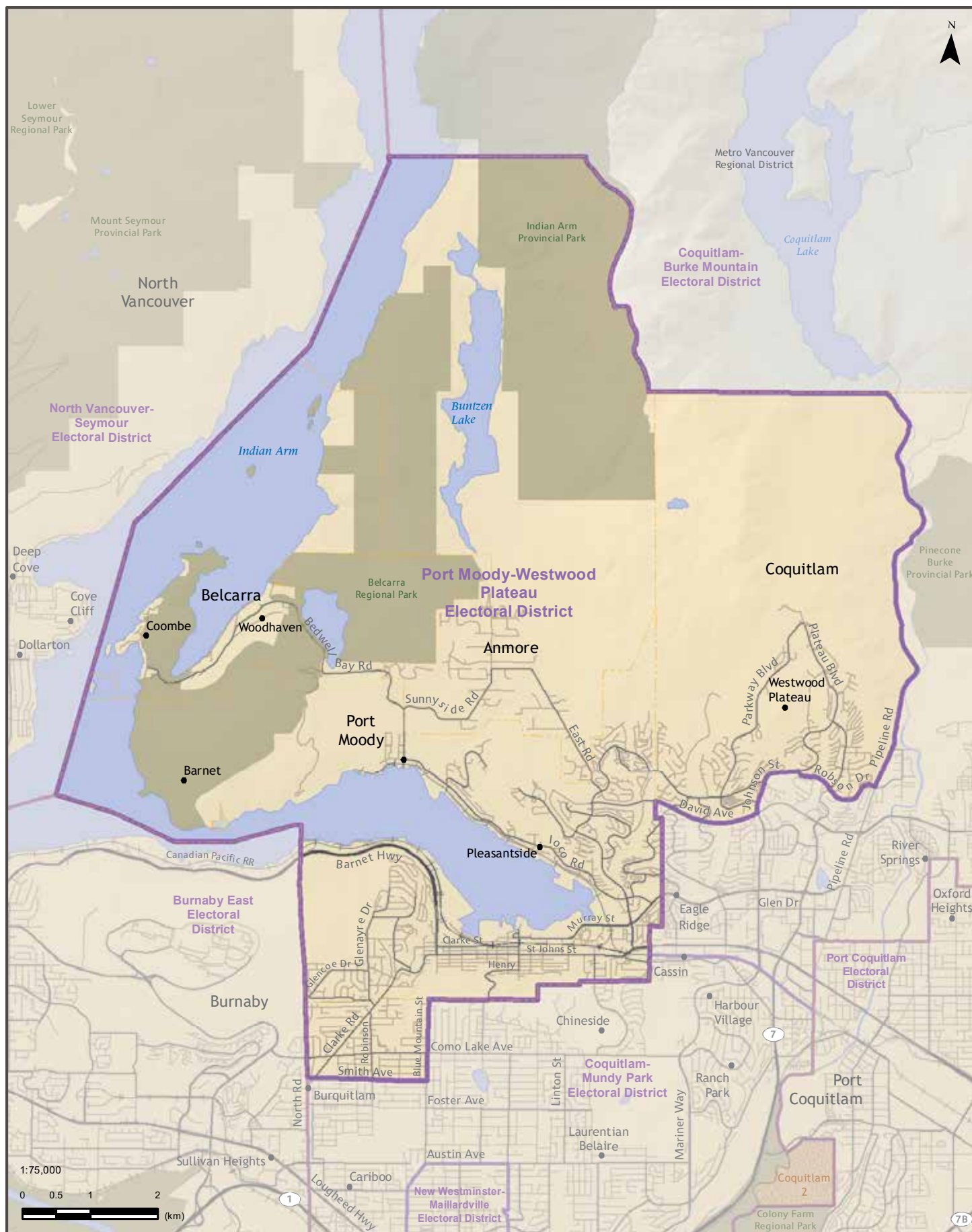












Surrey

Current Electoral Districts (9)

Surrey-Cloverdale
 Surrey-Green Timbers
 Surrey-Guildford
 Surrey-Fleetwood
 Surrey-Newton
 Surrey-Panorama
 Surrey South
 Surrey-Whalley
 Surrey-White Rock

Proposed Electoral Districts (10)

Surrey Central
 Surrey City Centre
 Surrey East
 Surrey-Fleetwood
 Surrey-Guildford
 Surrey-Newton
 Surrey North
 Surrey-Panorama
 Surrey South
 Surrey-White Rock

TABLE 15: SURREY ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

NOTE: THIS CHAPTER USES PROPOSED ELECTORAL DISTRICT NAMES



The Surrey area currently consists of nine ridings located between the Fraser River and the Canada-U.S. border. It covers the Cities of Surrey and White Rock. The area is geographically diverse, containing a dense metropolitan core, several other urban areas, rapidly expanding suburbs and large tracts of agricultural land. It is also one of the most culturally diverse parts of the province and its population is growing very quickly.

At present, two ridings, Surrey-Panorama and Surrey South, are significantly higher than the usual deviation range, at 36% and 45% respectively, calling the principle of representation by population into question.

Surrey area residents expressed great concern about inequality of voting power.

They told us that the value of a vote in Surrey is significantly less than the value of a vote in the province's most sparsely populated ridings. Some people said that this is especially troubling because Surrey's population is more racialized than the populations of other parts of the province.

We agree that it is imperative to ensure that the populations of all Surrey ridings both fall within the usual deviation range and have room for the population growth that is projected to occur before

IMAGE 15: SKYTRAIN STATION, SURREY, B.C. CREDIT: PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. SEPTEMBER 6, 2008

TABLE 16: SURREY POPULATION, DEVIATION AND AREA
SOURCE: 2021 STATISTICS CANADA CENSUS COUNT

Electoral District	Population	Deviation (%)	Area (sq km)
Surrey Central	58,521	8.8	32
Surrey City Centre	57,965	7.8	17
Surrey East	60,573	12.6	34
Surrey-Fleetwood	60,152	11.9	14
Surrey-Guildford	60,783	13.0	46
Surrey-Newton	58,232	8.3	13
Surrey North	59,482	10.6	27
Surrey-Panorama	58,235	8.3	13
Surrey South	56,867	5.8	123
Surrey-White Rock	59,586	10.8	68
Total/Average	590,396	9.8	387

the next electoral boundary commission review. To that end, we propose adding a new electoral district in the centre of Surrey, with consequent changes to the boundaries of eight neighbouring ridings. We also propose four name changes that reflect the communities within those ridings. We have tried to avoid dividing neighbourhoods wherever possible without compromising our goal of having ridings with similar population size and room for growth.

Surrey Central

The boundaries we propose for this electoral district, situated in the middle of Surrey, encompass the neighbourhoods east of Newton town centre, south of Fleetwood and up to Cloverdale town centre. Moving these areas from the

existing ridings of Surrey-Newton, Surrey-Panorama and Surrey-Cloverdale electoral districts brings together less densely populated neighbourhoods, agricultural land and recreation spaces in one riding.

Surrey City Centre

We propose to situate this riding in Surrey's core, a dense and rapidly growing urban area. It contains a large part of the current Surrey-Whalley electoral district from 132nd Street east to the Surrey-Guildford and Surrey-Fleetwood borders, including the Bridgeview neighbourhood, Green Timbers Urban Forest Park and Bear Creek Park. It also includes the neighbourhoods south of Surrey Memorial Hospital to 88th Avenue.

Surrey East

This electoral district includes the eastern parts of Cloverdale and Fleetwood. We propose adjusting its boundaries to include more of the Cloverdale area currently in Surrey South. We propose this name change to more accurately describe the riding.

Surrey-Fleetwood

This riding contains the town centre of Fleetwood and adjacent neighbourhoods such as Johnson Heights. We propose reducing its population by adjusting its southern and eastern boundaries. We consider it important to keep the core of Fleetwood within one riding while better balancing its population with adjacent districts.

Surrey-Guildford

Surrey-Guildford contains the town centre of Guildford, Port Mann, Fraser Heights, Tynehead, Annidale and Port Kells. While most of the current district boundaries remain unchanged, we propose moving the southern boundary down to 88th Avenue at Highway 15, including more of southern Port Kells. Our proposal keeps these neighbourhoods along the south bank of the Fraser River in the same riding.

Surrey-Newton

Our proposed electoral district of Surrey-Newton includes parts of the current Surrey-Green Timbers and Surrey-Newton ridings, including Newton town centre, Strawberry Hill and the areas around King George Boulevard north of 64th Avenue. The proposed boundaries reflect the need to accommodate projected growth.

Surrey North

This proposed riding is based on the current electoral districts of Surrey-Whalley and Surrey-Green Timbers. Located in the northwest corner of Surrey, it extends from Surrey's industrial core at 80th Avenue up to the south arm of the Fraser River, including the northern part of Newton and the western part of Whalley. Its primary eastern boundary is 132nd Street. Our proposal moves Surrey's downtown areas to the new Surrey City Centre riding and adds more of the Newton area south of Whalley into this riding. This keeps similar neighbourhoods together.

Surrey-Panorama

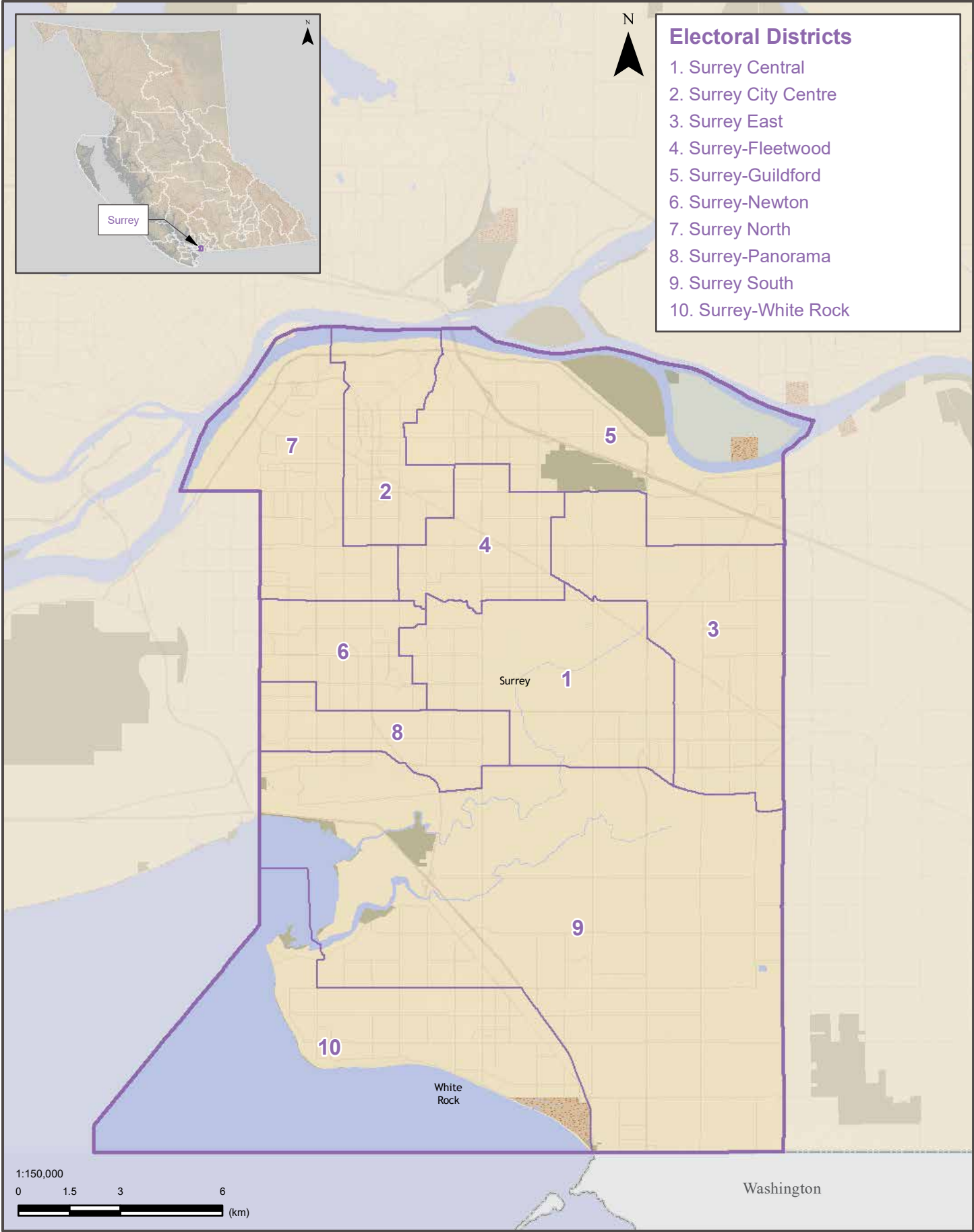
This riding, straddling the King George Highway north of Highway 10, is significantly over-populated. We propose moving the neighbourhoods south of Highway 10, including Colebrook, into Surrey South. Doing so brings Surrey-Panorama's population within the usual deviation range.

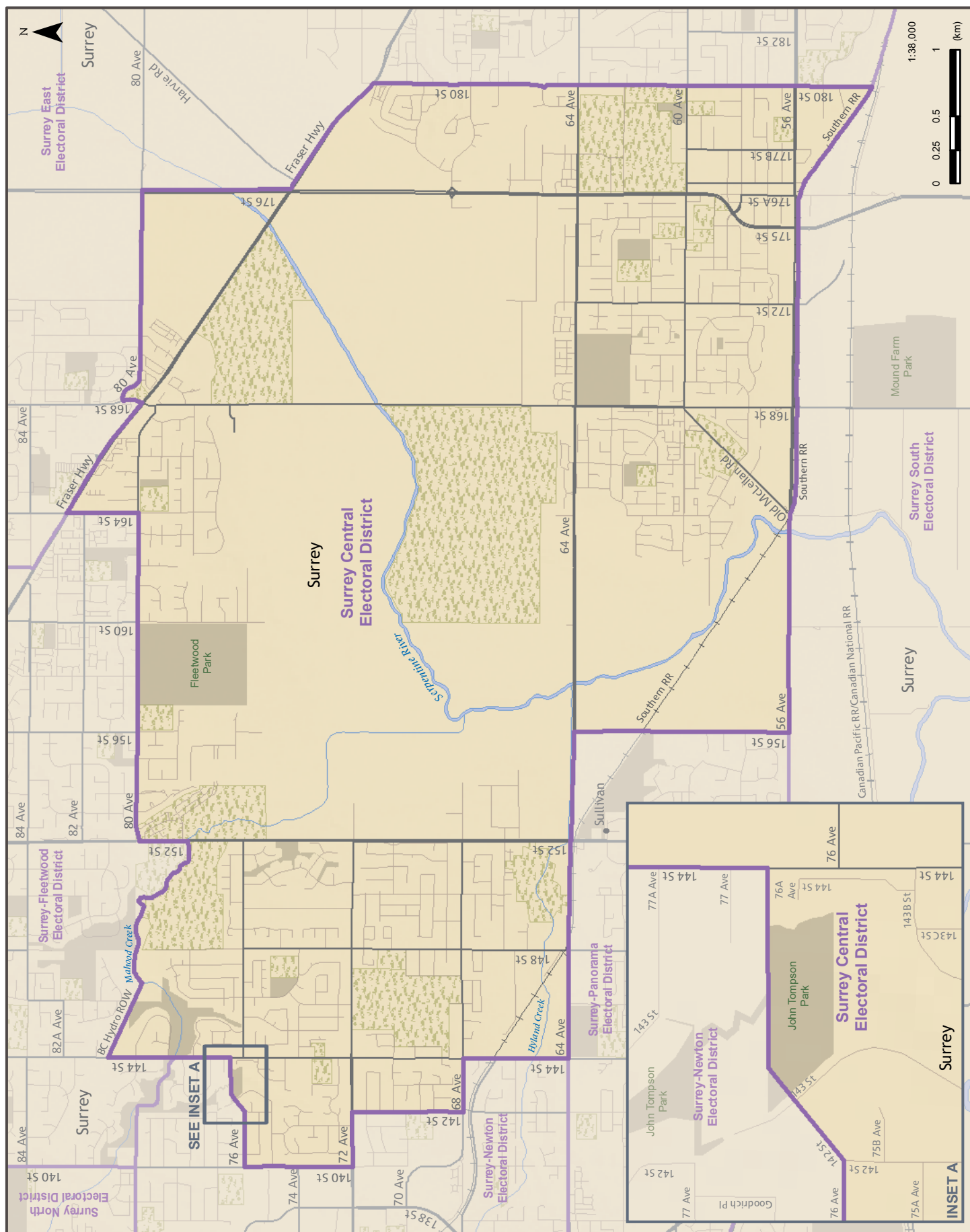
Surrey South

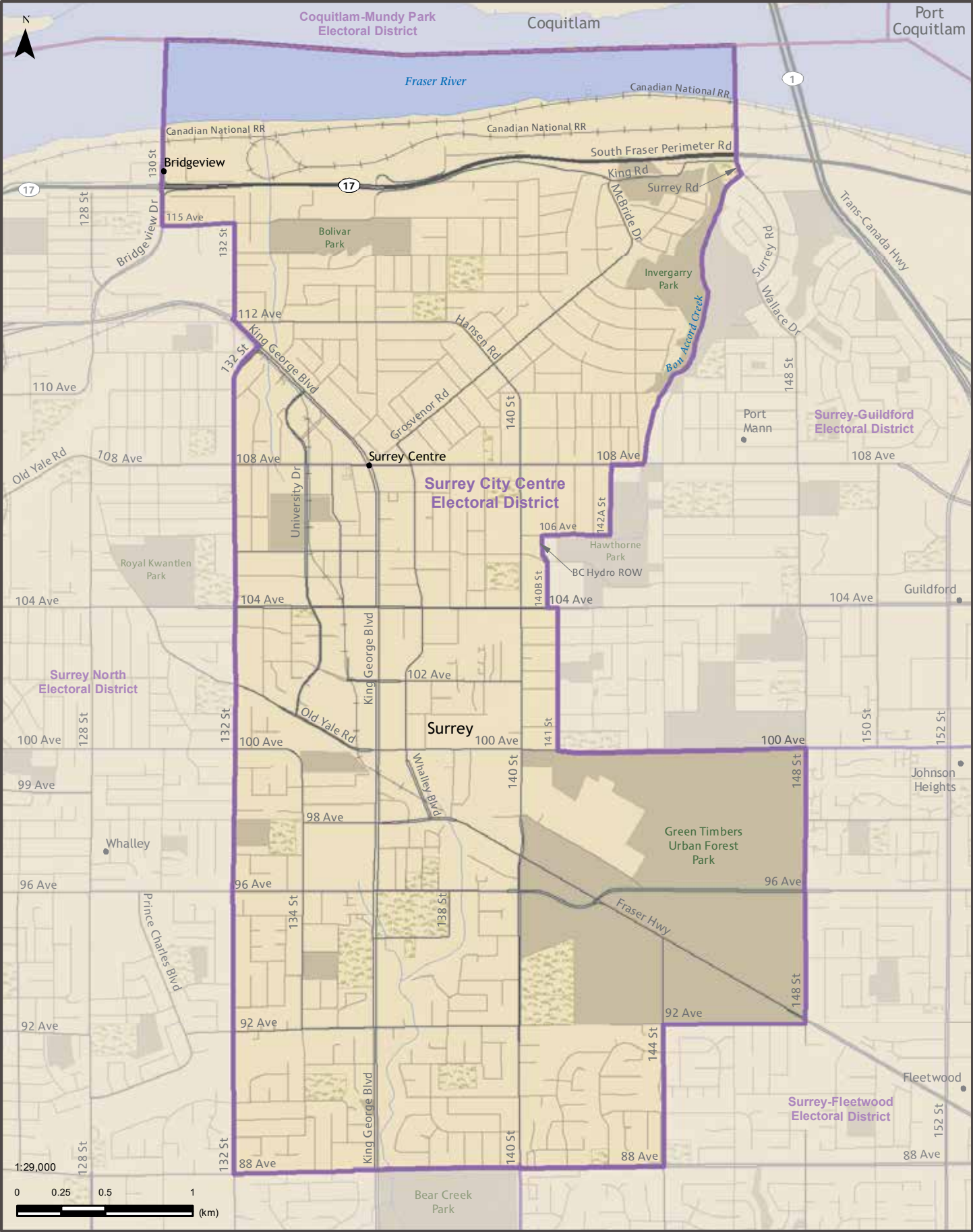
The Surrey South riding is currently the most over-populated riding in the province. We propose adjusting its boundaries to include Mud Bay, Colebrook, Crescent, Grandview, Hazelmere and Douglas, and to move the neighbourhoods east of Cloverdale town centre into Surrey-Cloverdale. This reduces Surrey South's population and makes it comparable to other Surrey ridings.

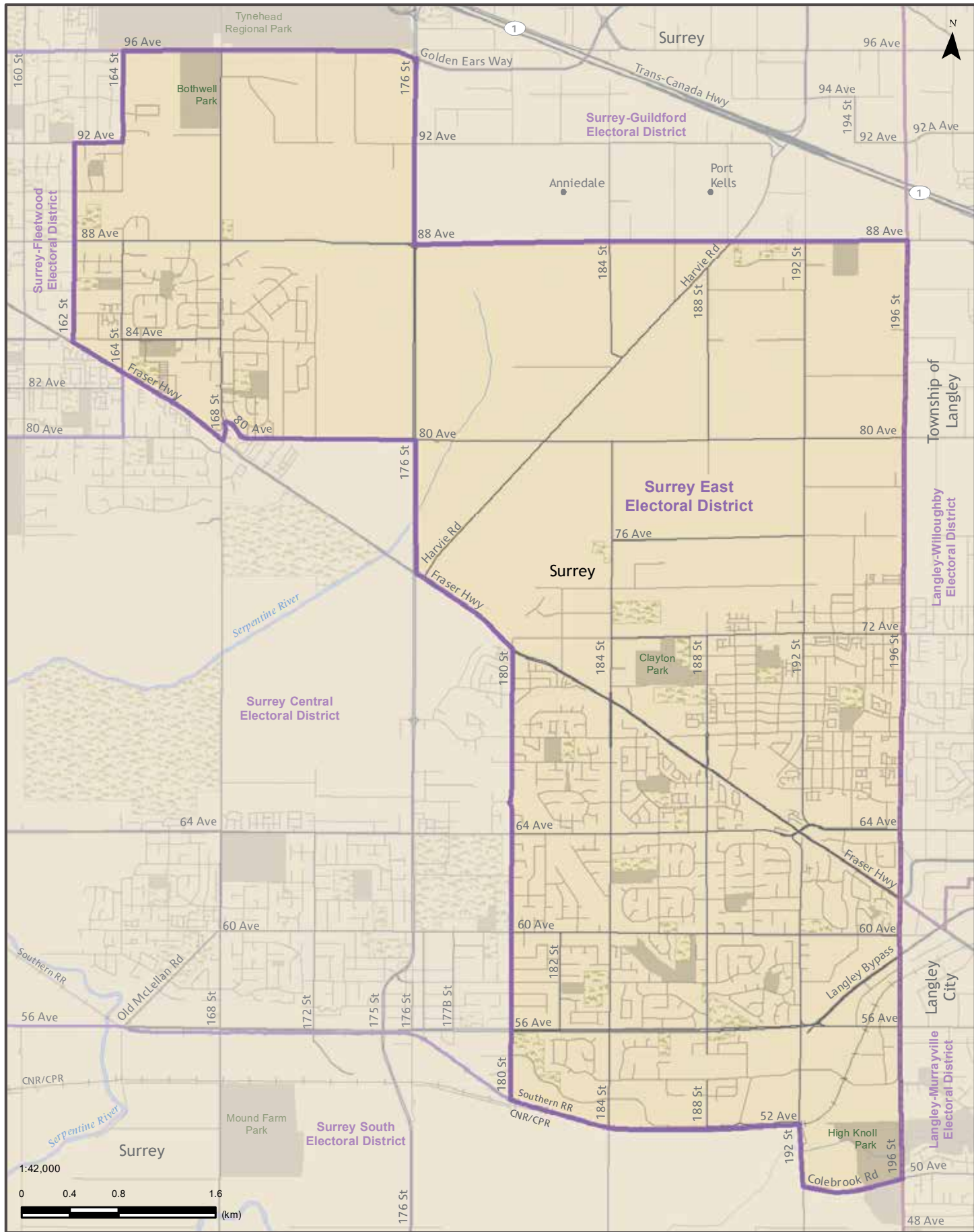
Surrey-White Rock

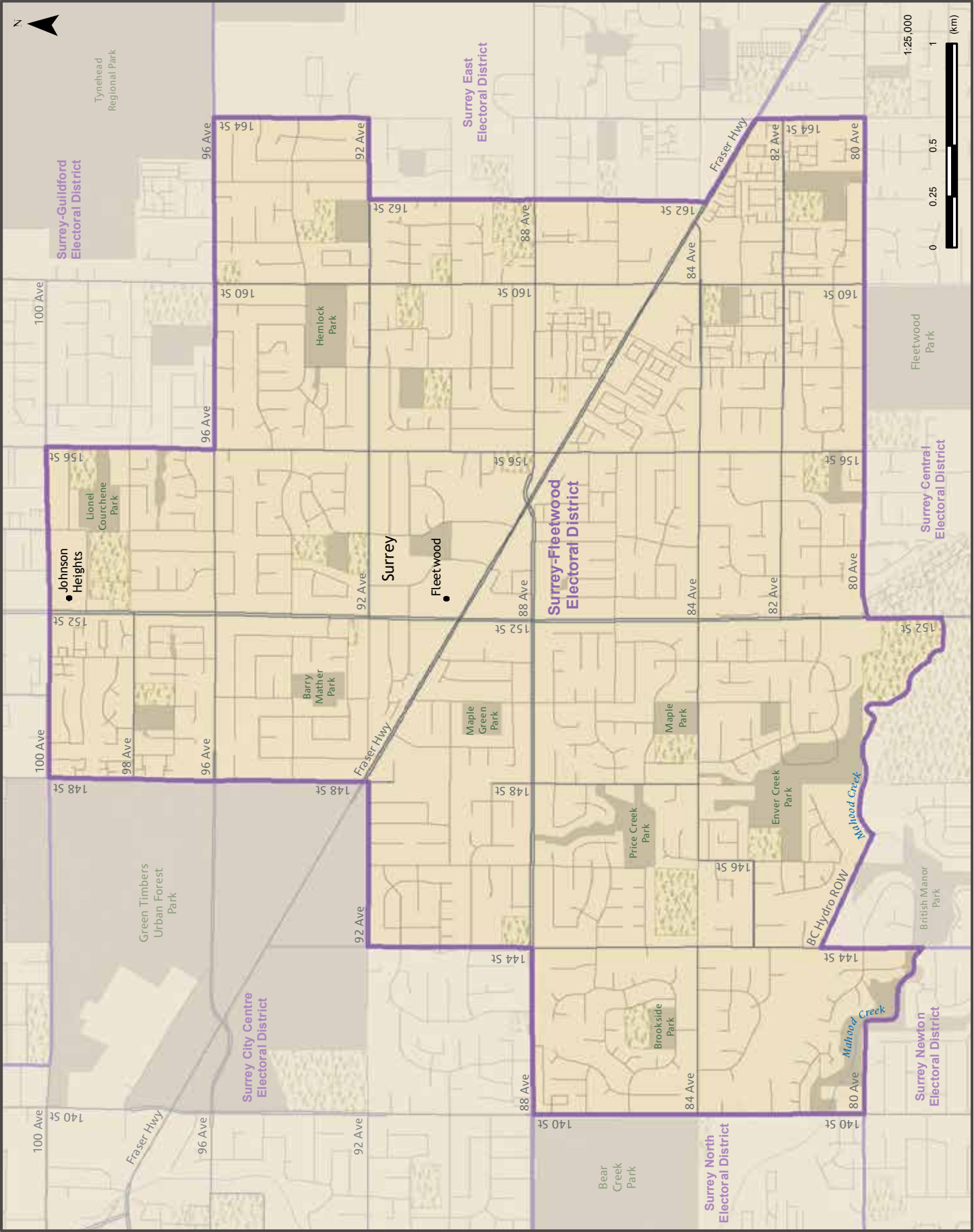
This electoral district includes the City of White Rock and adjacent Surrey neighbourhoods of Ocean Park and Crescent Beach. We did not hear concerns about its current boundaries, and its current population and projected population growth keep it within the usual deviation range. As a result, we propose no changes to this district.

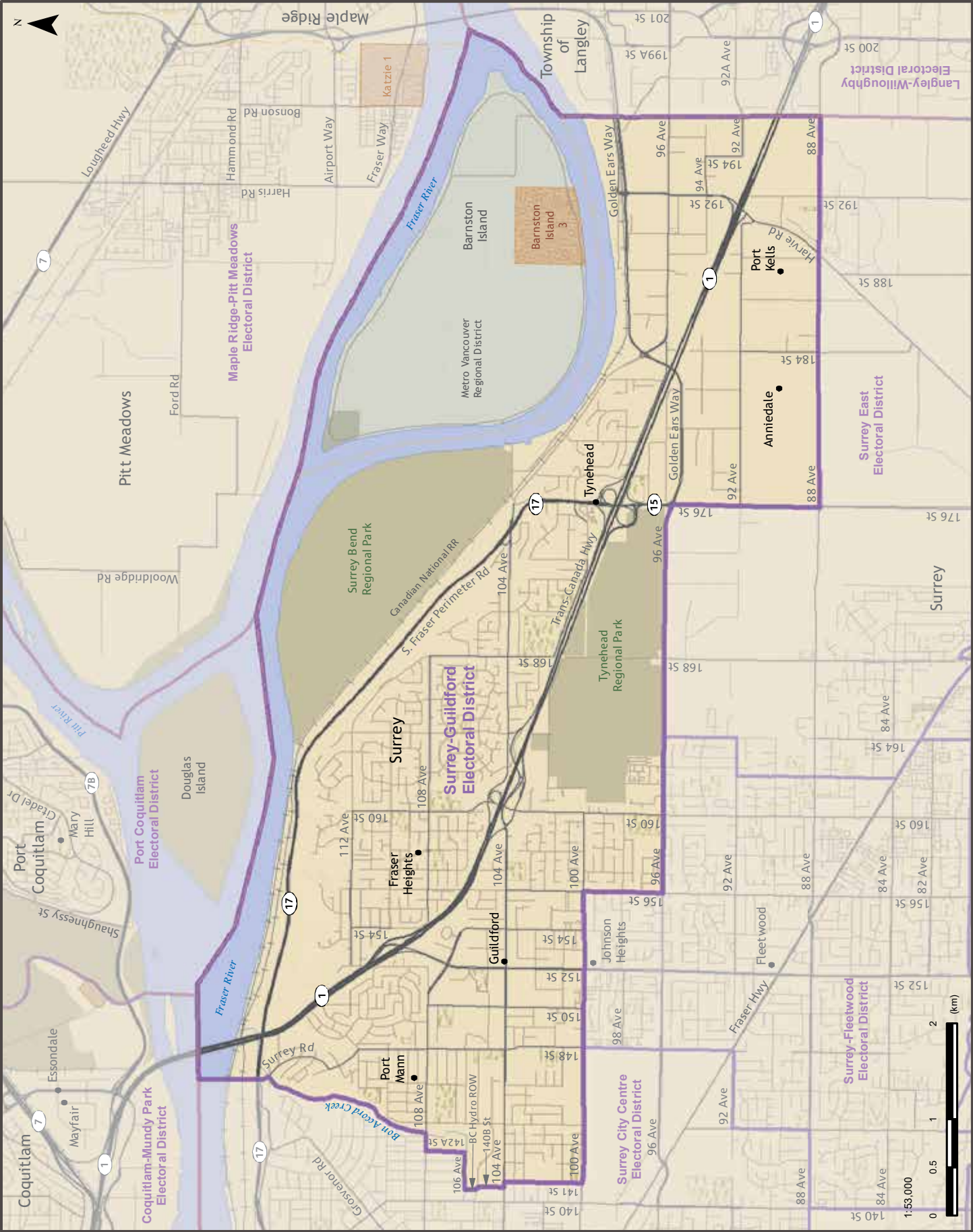


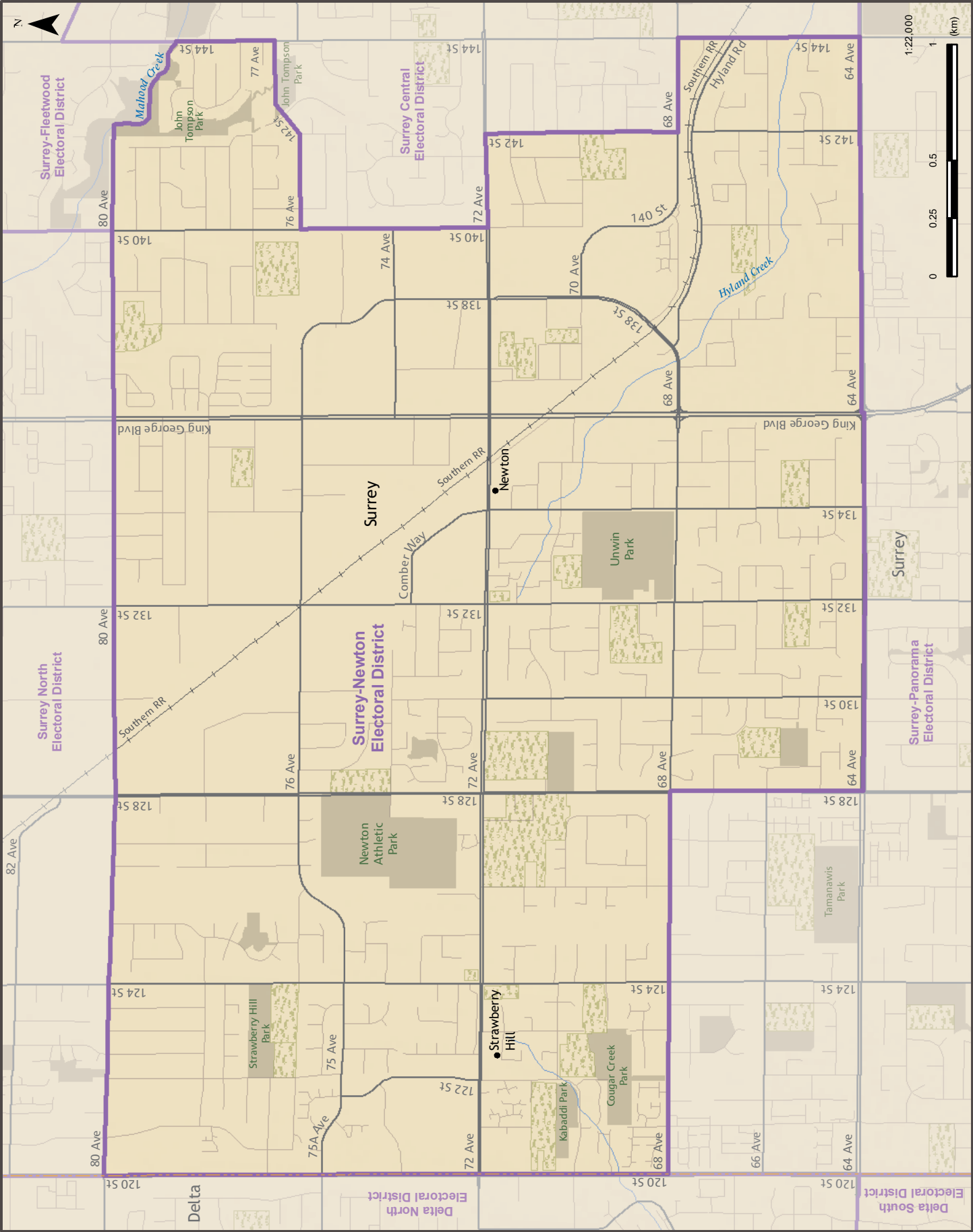


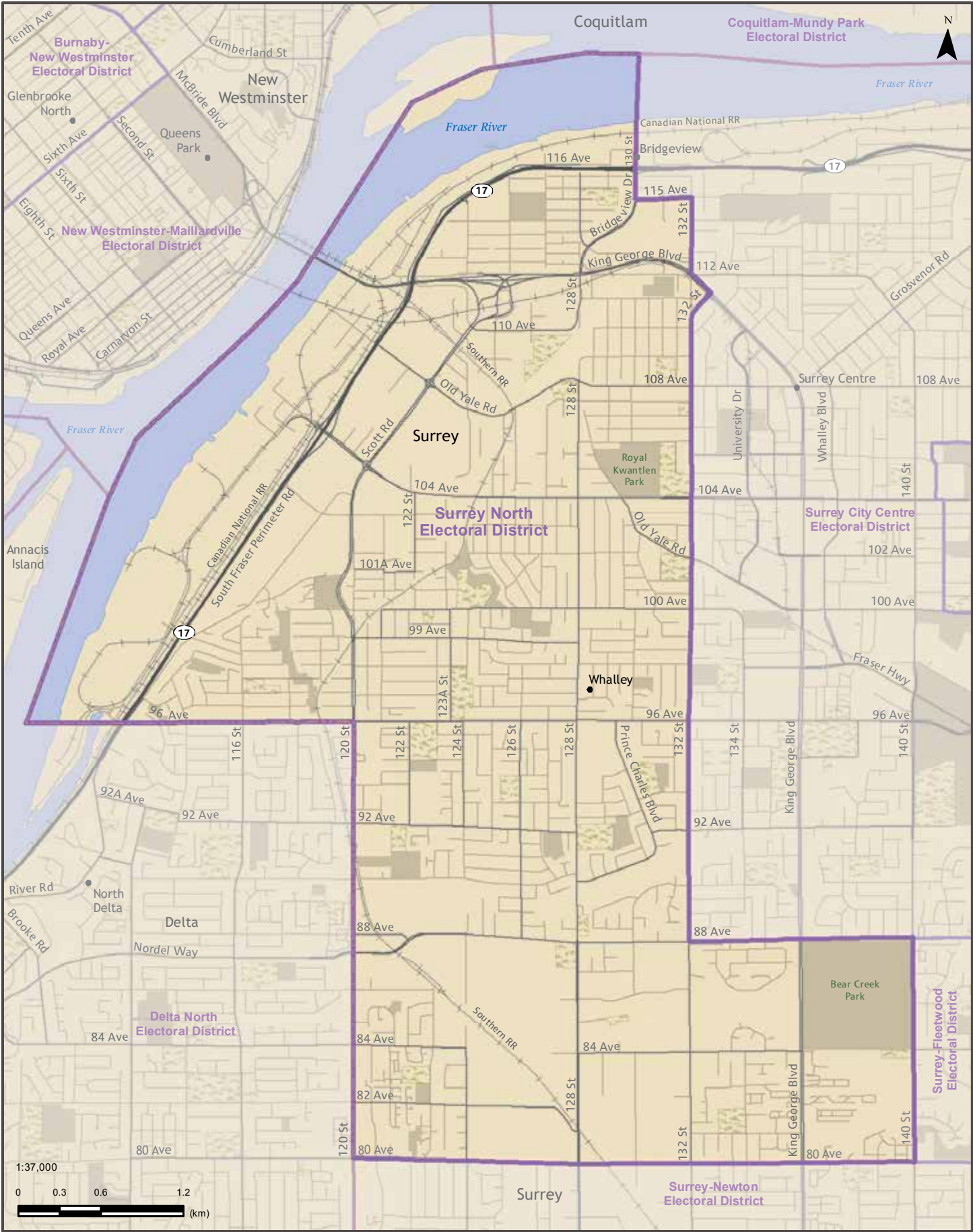


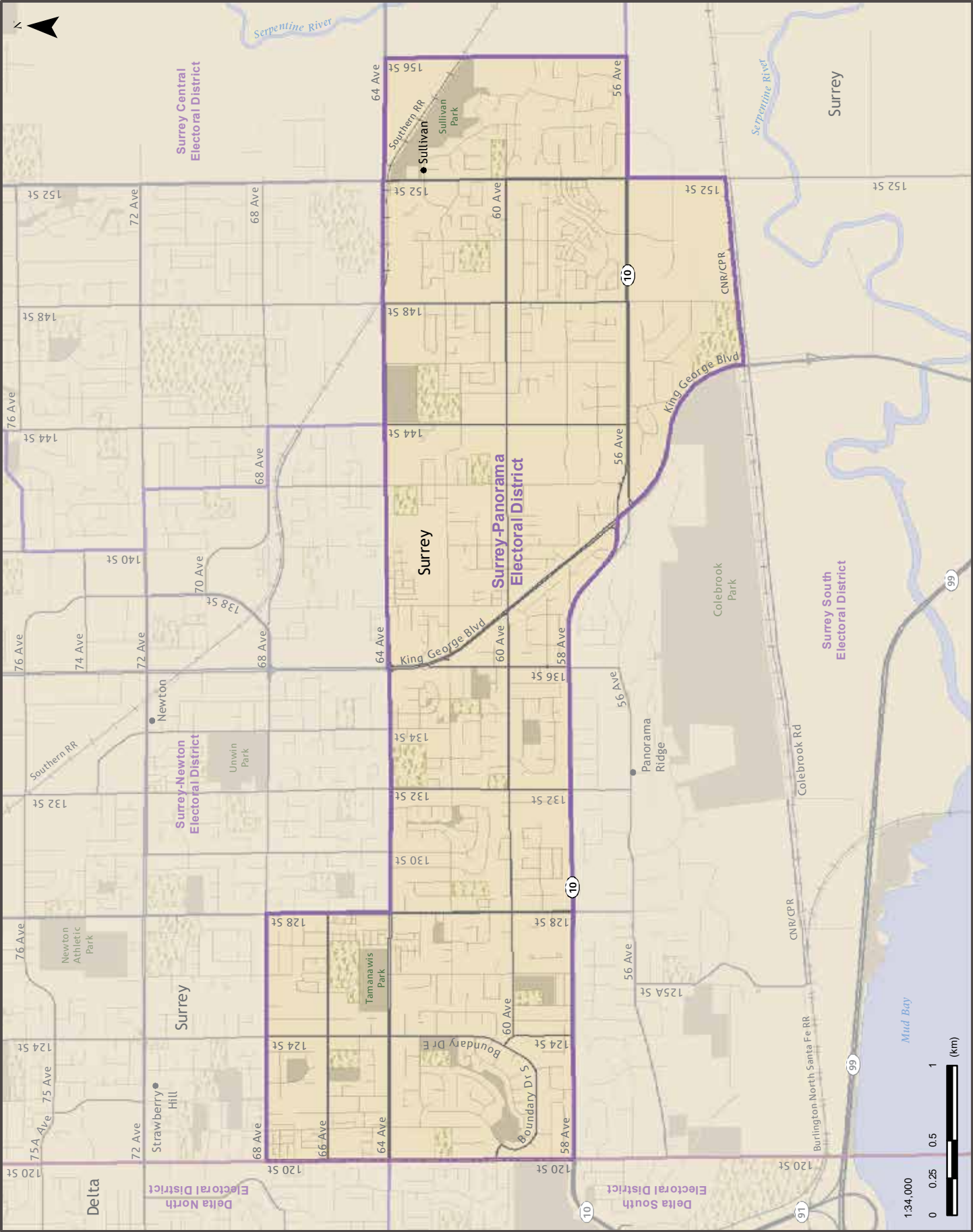


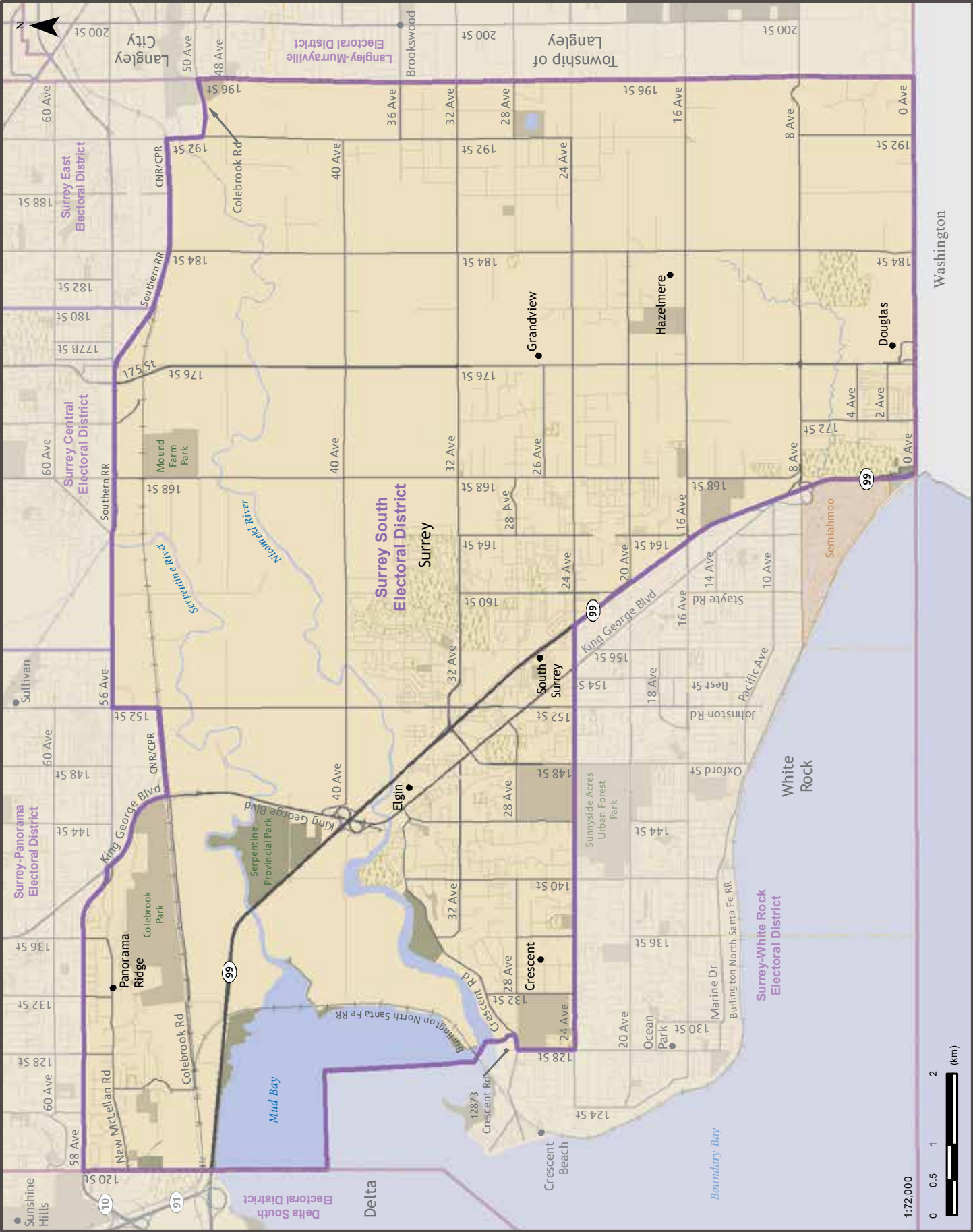


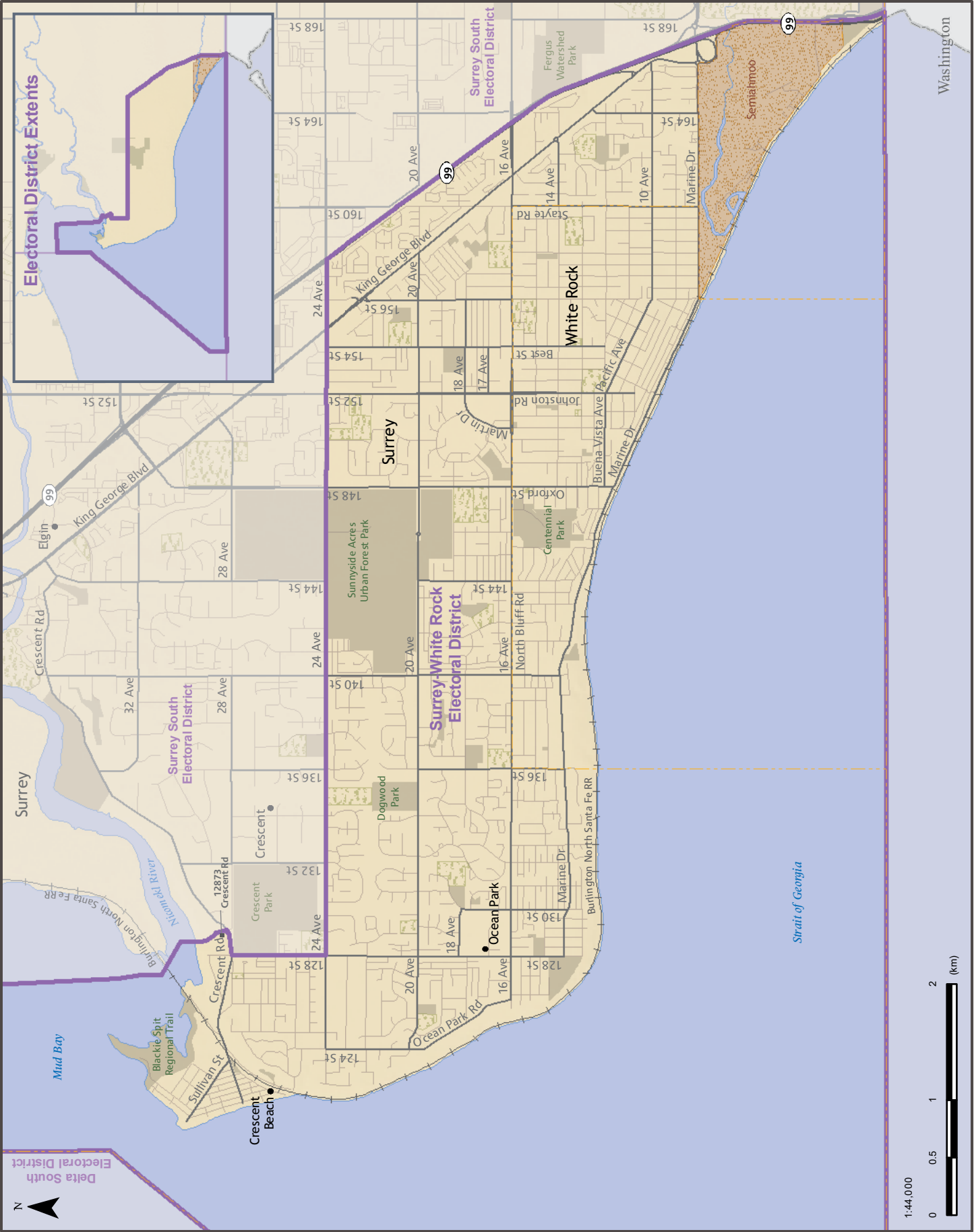












Richmond-Delta

Current Electoral Districts (6)

- Delta North
- Delta South
- Richmond North Centre
- Richmond-Queensborough
- Richmond South Centre
- Richmond-Steveston

Proposed Electoral Districts (6)

- Delta North
- Delta South
- Richmond-Bridgeport
- Richmond Centre
- Richmond-Queensborough
- Richmond-Steveston

TABLE 17: RICHMOND-DELTA ELECTORAL DISTRICTS
NOTE: THIS CHAPTER USES PROPOSED ELECTORAL DISTRICT NAMES



Richmond-Delta's six electoral districts lie at the mouth of the Fraser River. They include the Cities of Richmond and Delta, and the Queensborough neighbourhood of the City of New Westminster.

Some told us that projected population growth means a new riding is needed in this area. However, many were satisfied with the current electoral boundaries. We heard a division of opinion over whether Queensborough should or should not be moved back into a New Westminster riding. Queensborough was moved from New Westminster into Richmond after the 2015 Commission's final report in order to improve population parity between neighbouring ridings.

We heard that Queensborough has ties to both New Westminster and Richmond.

We did not hear Queensborough residents express concern about the effectiveness of their representation. Therefore, we do not propose any change for Queensborough, but do propose relatively minor adjustments to the boundaries of all six Richmond-Delta ridings to better balance their populations. With these adjustments, our proposals also include name changes for two ridings.

Delta North

Delta North contains the northeast part of the City of Delta. It includes the

IMAGE 16: FARM IN DELTA, B.C.
CREDIT: PROVINCE OF BRITISH
COLUMBIA. AUGUST 5, 2008

TABLE 18: PROPOSED RICHMOND-DELTA ELECTORAL DISTRICT POPULATIONS
SOURCE: 2021 STATISTICS CANADA CENSUS COUNT

Electoral District	Population	Deviation (%)	Area (sq km)
Delta North	58,813	9.4	28
Delta South	51,908	-3.5	461
Richmond-Bridgeport	56,106	4.3	446
Richmond Centre	54,284	1.0	7
Richmond-Queensborough	55,895	3.9	91
Richmond-Steveston	54,671	1.7	31
Total/Average	331,677	2.8	1,064

densely populated neighbourhoods of North Delta and Townsend. We propose moving the area south of 64th Avenue out of this riding and into Delta South. This will distribute the populations of these two ridings more evenly and create room for anticipated population growth in Delta North.

Delta South

Delta South includes Ladner, Tsawwassen, Parkdale Gardens, Boundary Bay and agricultural lands. Moving the area south of 64th Avenue into this riding keeps the area around Watershed Memorial Park in one electoral district.

Richmond-Bridgeport

This electoral district covers the northwest part of Richmond, including Vancouver International Airport and the neighbourhoods of Thompson and Burkeville. We propose moving Bridgeport into this riding and moving the

neighbourhoods east of No. 2 Road and south of the Westminster Highway into Richmond Centre. This adjustment keeps similar neighbourhoods in the same riding.

Richmond Centre

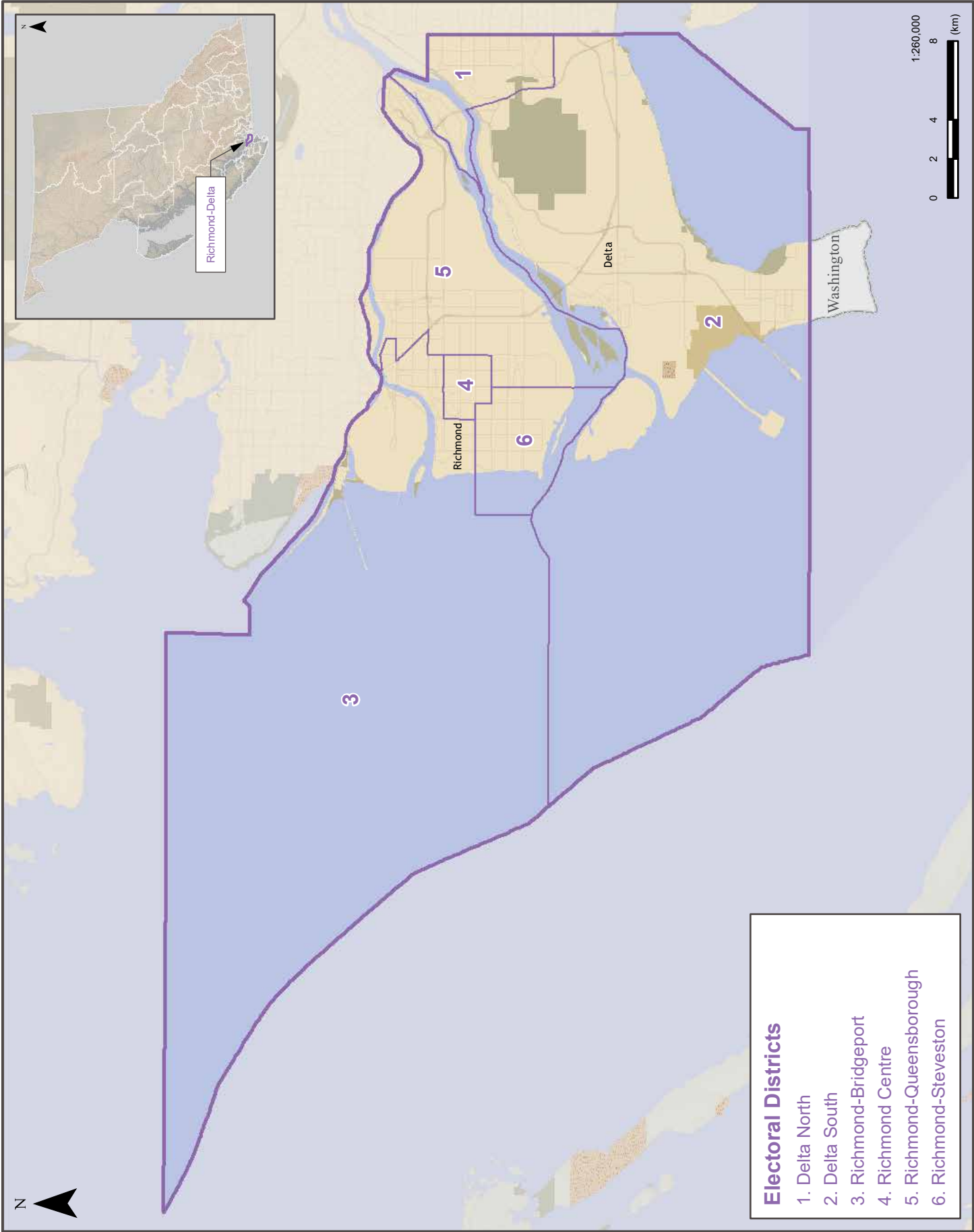
We propose boundary adjustments to this riding that reflect its shared urban interests. It contains Richmond's downtown core, Brighthouse and Broadmoor, and it extends to the dense urban area along No. 3 Road south of the Westminster Highway. Our proposal moves the residential area south of Blundell Road and west of Gilbert Road into the adjacent Richmond-Steveston district, uniting these suburban communities.

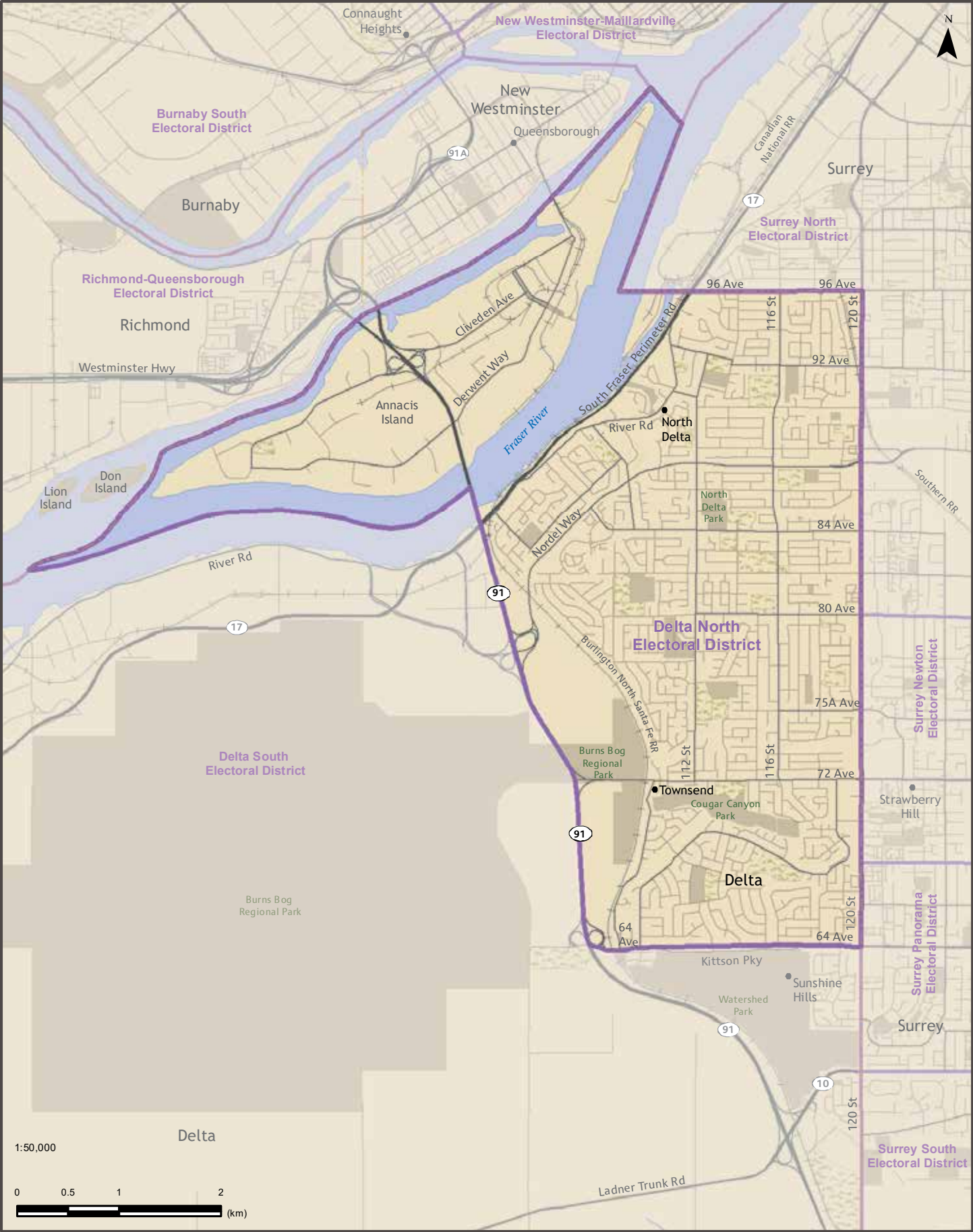
Richmond-Queensborough

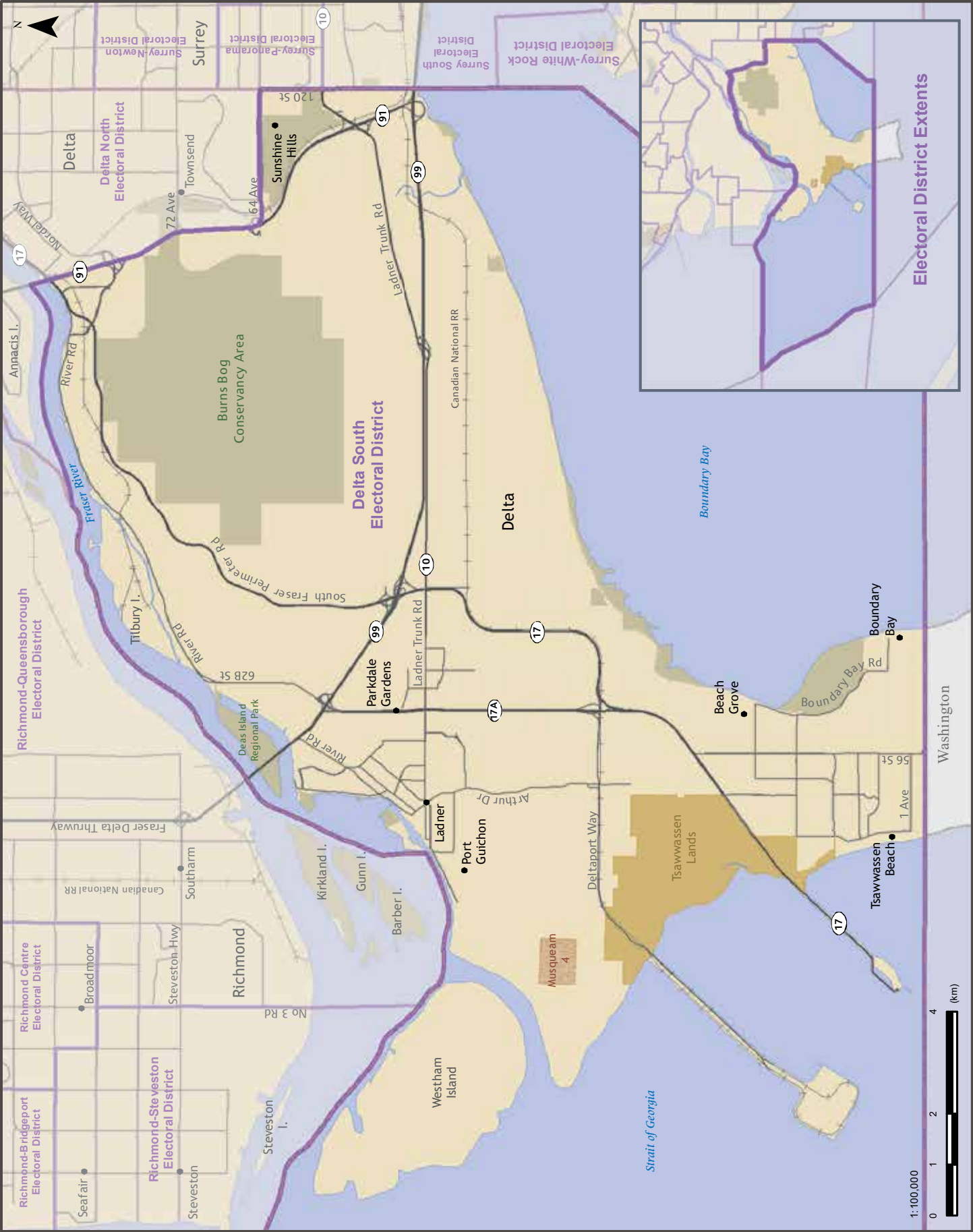
This riding encompasses Queensborough on Lulu Island and the Richmond neighbourhood of Southarm. We propose moving the Bridgeport neighbourhood out of this riding and into Richmond-Bridgeport.

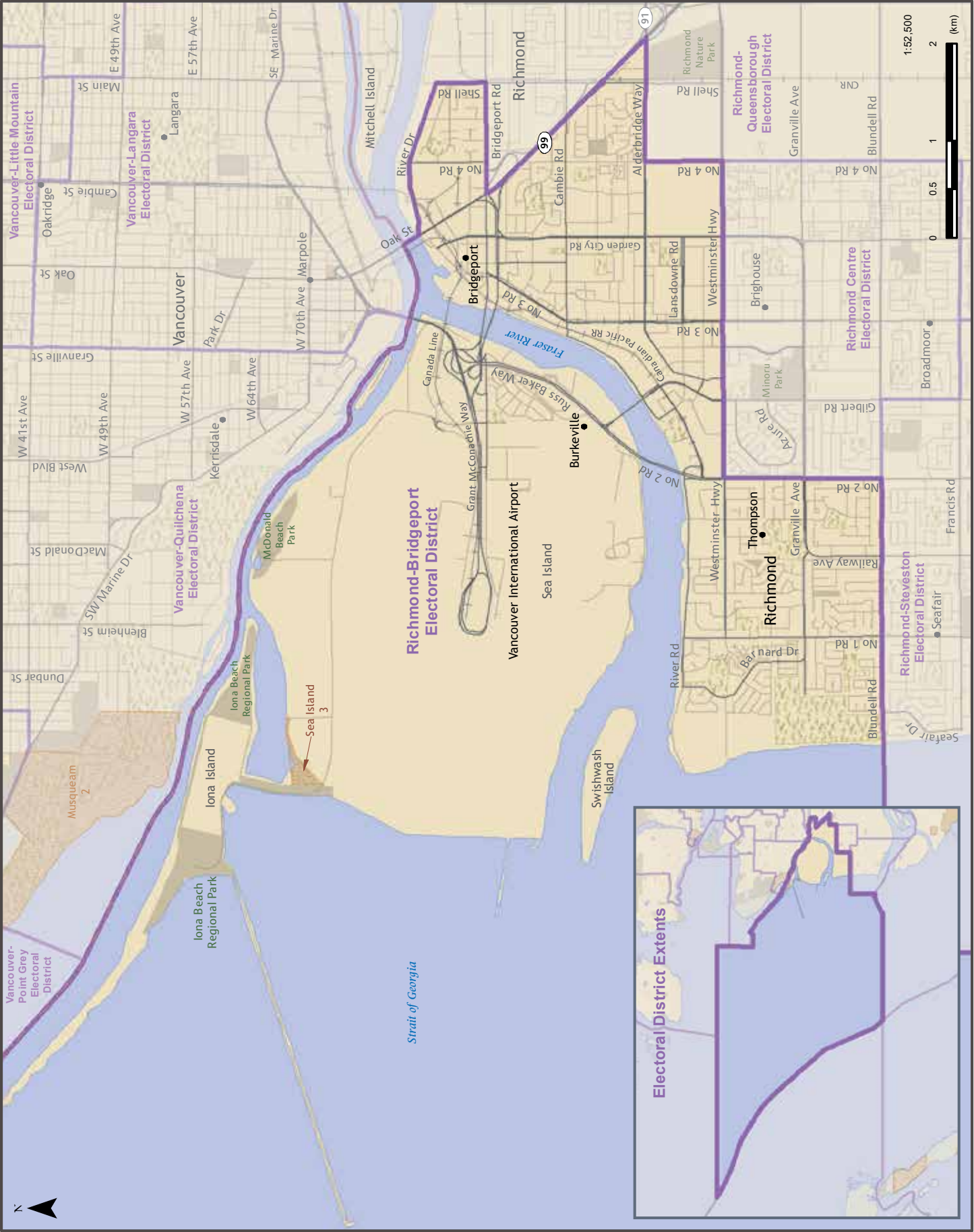
Richmond-Steveston

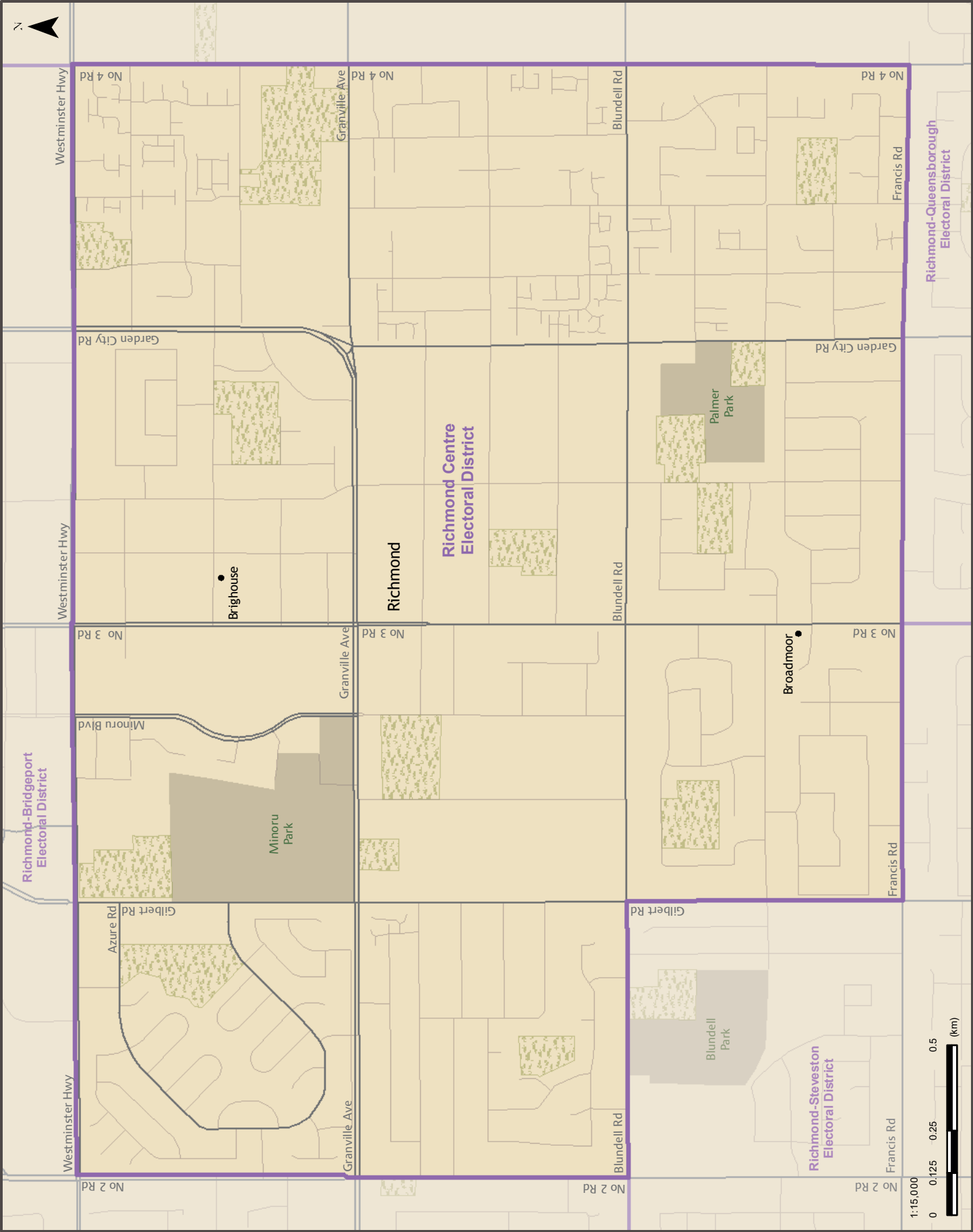
This electoral district includes southwest Richmond, Steveston and Seafair. We propose moving the area south of Blundell Road and east of Gilbert Road from Richmond Centre into this riding.

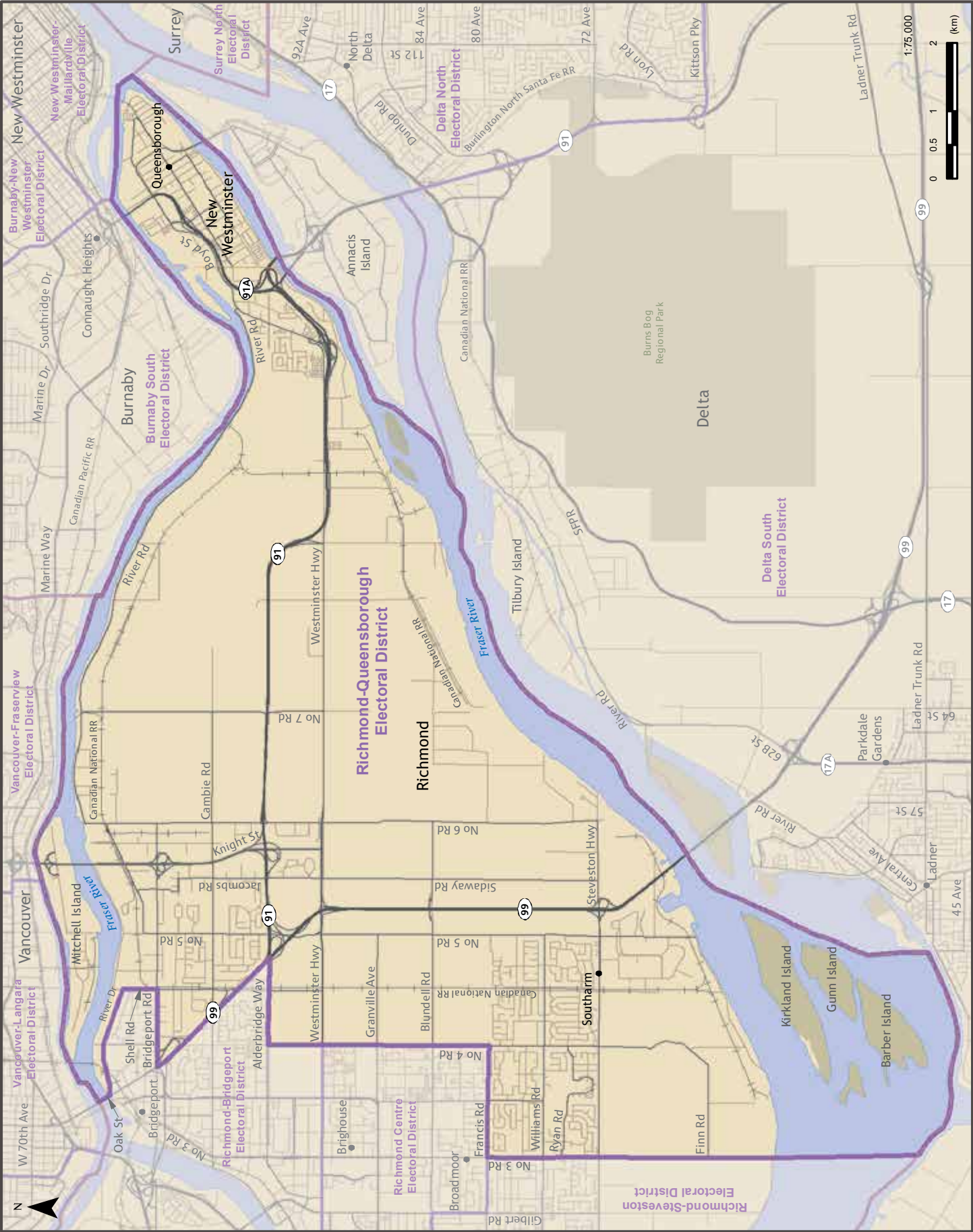














Vancouver

Current Electoral Districts (11)

- Vancouver-Fairview
- Vancouver-False Creek
- Vancouver-Fraserview
- Vancouver-Hastings
- Vancouver-Kensington
- Vancouver-Kingsway
- Vancouver-Langara
- Vancouver-Mount Pleasant
- Vancouver-Point Grey
- Vancouver-Quilchena
- Vancouver-West End

Proposed Electoral Districts (12)

- Vancouver-Fraserview
- Vancouver-Hastings
- Vancouver-Kensington
- Vancouver-Langara
- Vancouver-Little Mountain
- Vancouver-Point Grey
- Vancouver-Quilchena
- Vancouver-South Granville
- Vancouver-Strathcona
- Vancouver-Trout Lake
- Vancouver-West End
- Vancouver-Yaletown

TABLE 19: VANCOUVER ELECTORAL DISTRICTS
NOTE: THIS CHAPTER USES PROPOSED ELECTORAL DISTRICT NAMES



The Vancouver area presently consists of 11 electoral districts covering the City of Vancouver and the University of British Columbia Endowment Lands. It is composed of urban neighbourhoods of varying density, most of which have grown significantly over the last eight years. Some electoral districts are currently close to or over the usual deviation range and the population of the area continues to grow. We therefore propose creating a new riding in this area with adjustments to nine neighbouring electoral districts.

We heard from residents of a number of Vancouver communities about their distinct identities, and we have tried to draw boundaries to respect the borders of those neighbourhoods as much as possible, consistent with ensuring that the populations of these ridings are balanced.

For example, a number of people told us that southern False Creek has little in common with downtown Vancouver, and we propose moving it out of that riding.

We propose name changes for five Vancouver electoral districts to more accurately reflect the communities within them.

Vancouver-Fraserview

This electoral district runs between Burnaby and the Fraser River, taking in

IMAGE 17: VANCOUVER, BC
CREDIT: ELECTIONS BC.
AUGUST 4, 2019

TABLE 20: VANCOUVER POPULATION, DEVIATION AND AREA
SOURCE: 2021 STATISTICS CANADA CENSUS COUNT

Electoral District	Population	Deviation (%)	Area (sq km)
Vancouver-Fraserview	58,686	9.1	12
Vancouver-Hastings	58,095	8.0	14
Vancouver-Kensington	56,840	5.7	8
Vancouver-Langara	57,806	7.5	12
Vancouver-Little Mountain	56,766	5.6	11
Vancouver-Point Grey	58,183	8.2	42
Vancouver-Quilchena	55,531	3.3	23
Vancouver-South Granville	56,134	4.4	7
Vancouver-Strathcona	54,588	1.5	12
Vancouver-Trout Lake	56,922	5.9	8
Vancouver-West End	57,332	6.6	14
Vancouver-Yaletown	55,307	2.9	3
Total/Average	682,190	5.7	166

the Victoria-Fraserview, Killarney and Champlain Heights neighbourhoods. We propose moving part of the Sunset neighbourhood south of 53rd Avenue and west of Inverness Street and Khalsa Diwan Road from this electoral district into Vancouver-Langara, which better balances the populations of both ridings.

Vancouver-Hastings

This electoral district sits between Commercial Drive to the west and Boundary Road to the east. It includes Hastings-Sunrise and Still Creek, and the eastern part of Grandview-Woodlands. We are not proposing any changes to its boundaries.

Vancouver-Kensington

This electoral district lies south of Kingsway and includes the southern half of Kensington-Cedar Cottage. It extends west to include Mountain View Cemetery. To better balance the population with its neighbours, we propose moving the area north of 41st Avenue and west of Prince Edward Street, and the area north of King Edward Avenue and west of Fraser Street, into Vancouver-Little Mountain.

Vancouver-Langara

Vancouver-Langara runs from the Fraser River north to Oakridge. It includes Langara, Marpole, and the western part of

the Sunset neighbourhood. We propose moving the area around Queen Elizabeth Park into Vancouver-Little Mountain, and the area west of Granville Street into Vancouver-Quilchena. We propose adding part of the Sunset neighbourhood south of 53rd Avenue into this riding. These adjustments reduce the district's population and make it more comparable to adjacent ridings.

Vancouver-Little Mountain

Vancouver-Little Mountain is centred on Queen Elizabeth Park. We propose adding to it the neighbourhoods of South Cambie, Riley Park, the eastern part of Shaughnessy, Mount Pleasant west of Kingsway and Olympic Village. We propose that its southern boundary follows 41st Avenue east to Cambie Street and then along 44th Avenue. We propose that Oak Ridge, Fairview and Marpole move into Vancouver-Langara.

Vancouver-Point Grey

Vancouver-Point Grey lies in the westernmost part of Vancouver. It includes the UBC Endowment Lands, Point Grey, the western part of Kitsilano and part of Dunbar to the west of Wallace Street. We propose moving the part of Kitsilano east of Balsam Street into Vancouver-South Granville to make Vancouver-Point Grey slightly smaller, so its population is similar to other electoral districts in the west side of Vancouver.

Vancouver-Quilchena

This riding includes the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) First Nation reserve, Arbutus Ridge, Kerrisdale, Southlands and most of Dunbar. We propose adding the part of

Kerrisdale west of Granville Street into this riding, and moving part of the current Dunbar-Southlands riding west of Wallace Street into Vancouver-Point Grey.

Vancouver-South Granville

This riding lies south of the Granville Street bridge. It includes South Granville and Fairview. We propose moving its western boundary to include the part of Kitsilano running east of Balsam Street. This balances the population of this riding with its neighbours.

Vancouver-Strathcona

This riding includes Strathcona, Chinatown, and parts of Grandview-Woodland, Kensington-Cedar Cottage and Mount Pleasant. We propose moving Gastown into Vancouver-Yaletown, and Mount Pleasant south of Kingsway into Vancouver-Little Mountain to ensure the population of Vancouver-Strathcona stays in line with its neighbouring ridings.

Vancouver-Trout Lake

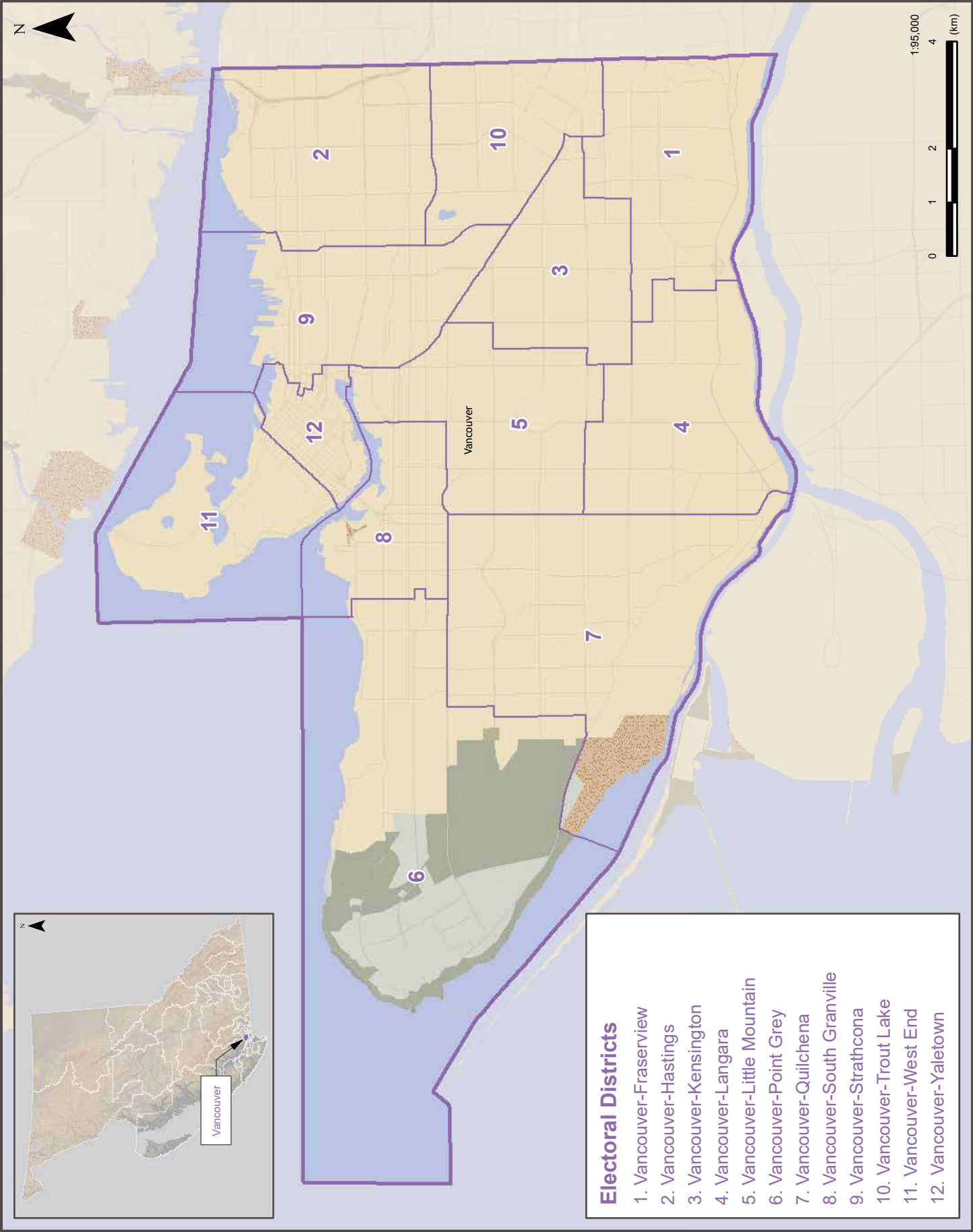
This East Vancouver riding includes Trout Lake, Renfrew Heights and part of Renfrew-Collingwood south of the Grandview Highway. We propose moving the area south of Kingsway and west of Rupert Street into Vancouver-Kensington to better balance the populations of these ridings.

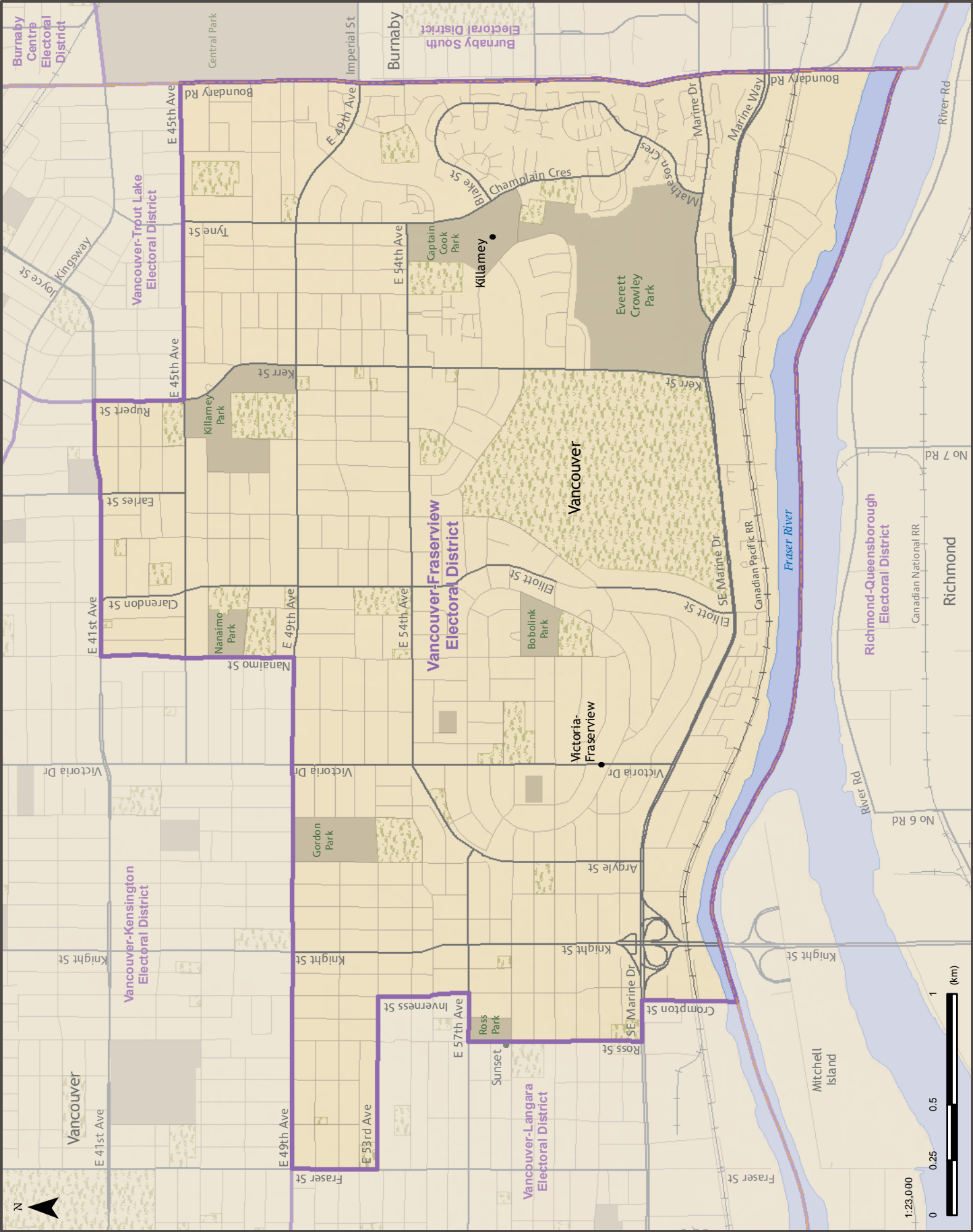
Vancouver-West End

This downtown riding runs west from Burrard Street, encompassing the West End and Coal Harbour. We are not proposing any changes to its boundaries.

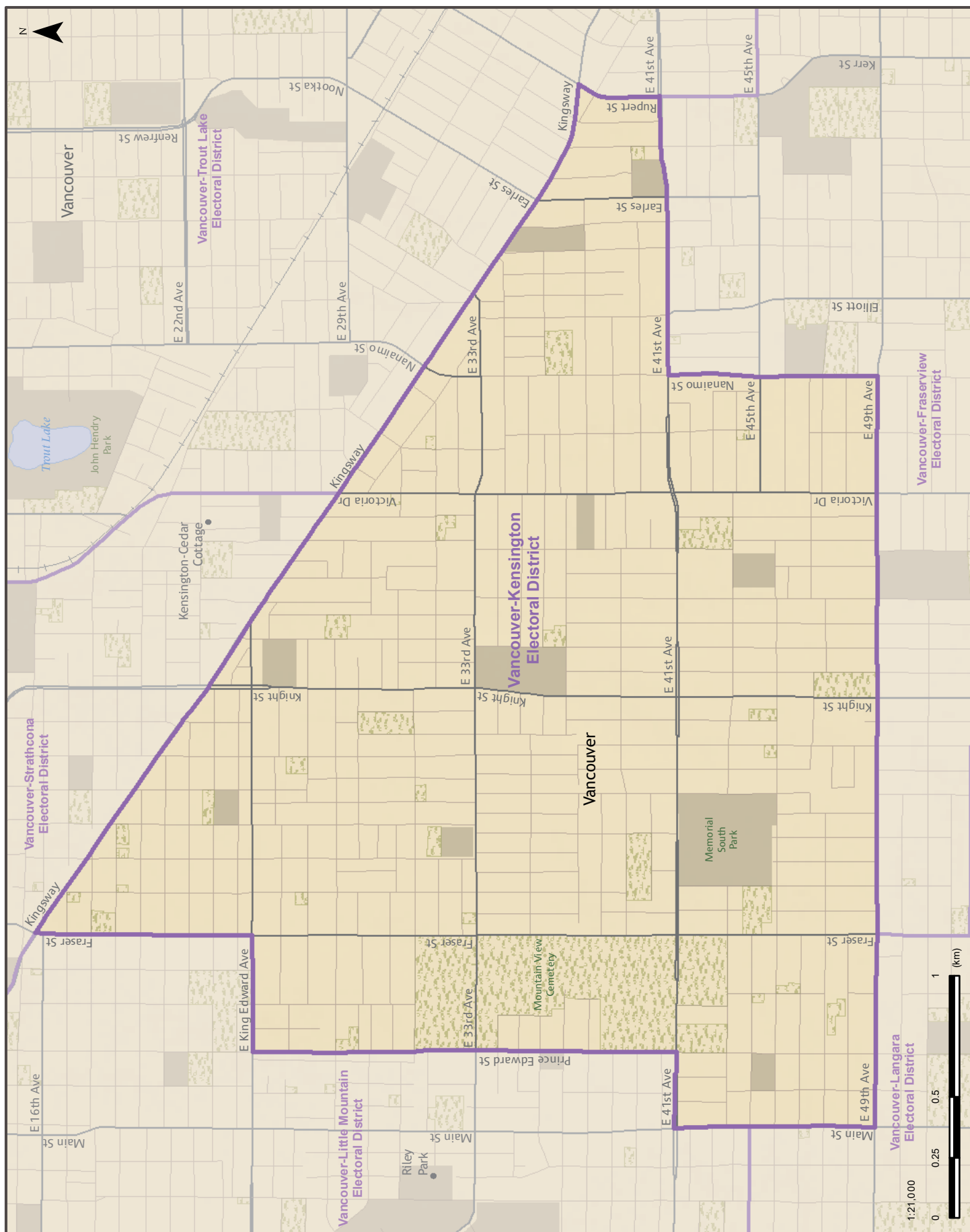
Vancouver-Yaletown

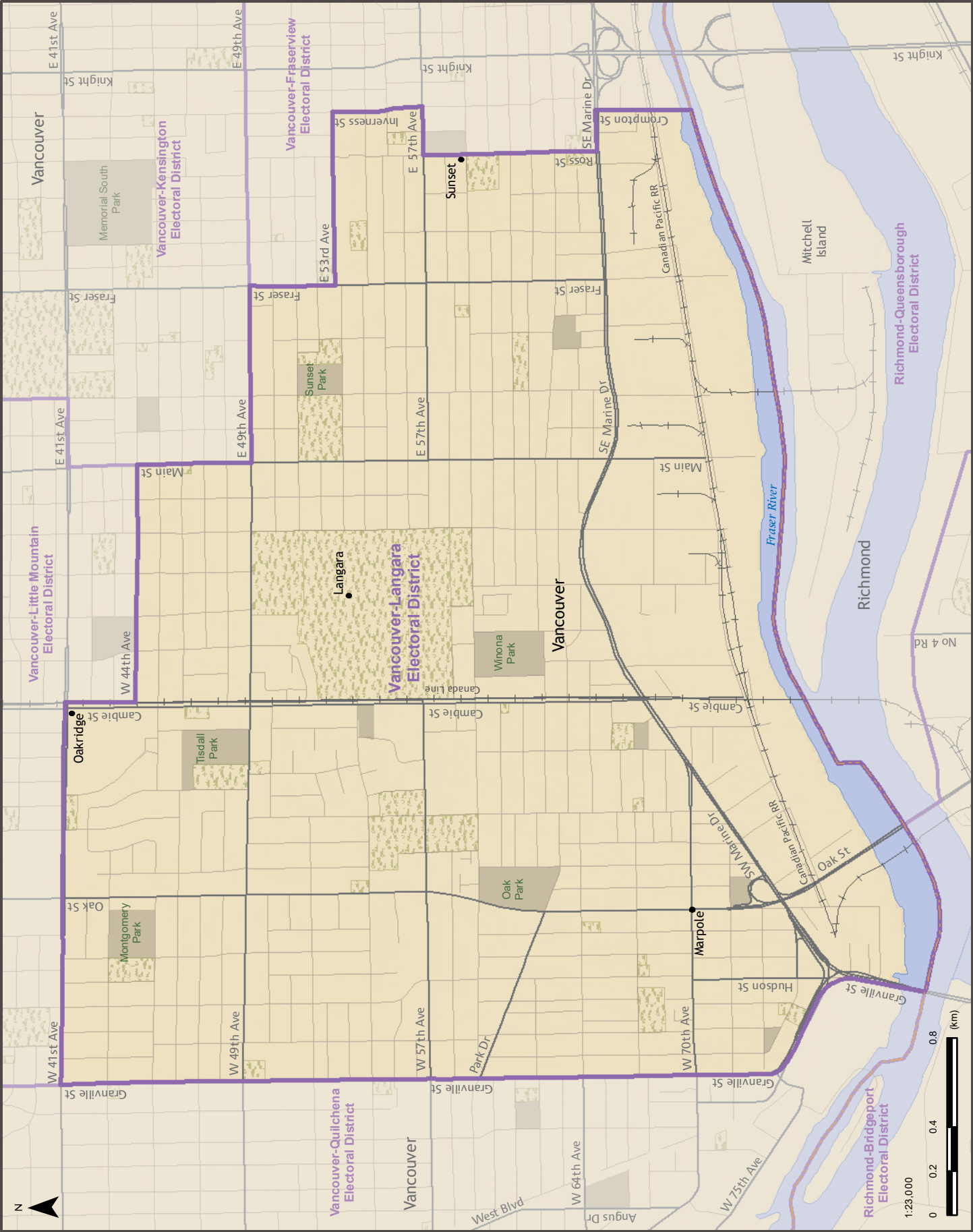
This downtown riding includes Yaletown, Gastown and downtown Vancouver east of Burrard Street. The current population of this riding, presently called Vancouver-False Creek, is more than 25% over the electoral quotient. To address this, we propose moving the south side of False Creek out of this riding and dividing it between Vancouver-Little Mountain and Vancouver-South Granville. We agree with those who told us that southern False Creek has stronger ties to Fairview and Mount Pleasant than to downtown, and that the waterway forms a natural boundary. We also propose moving Gastown from Vancouver-Strathcona into this the Vancouver-Yaletown riding because it is closely tied to downtown and Yaletown.

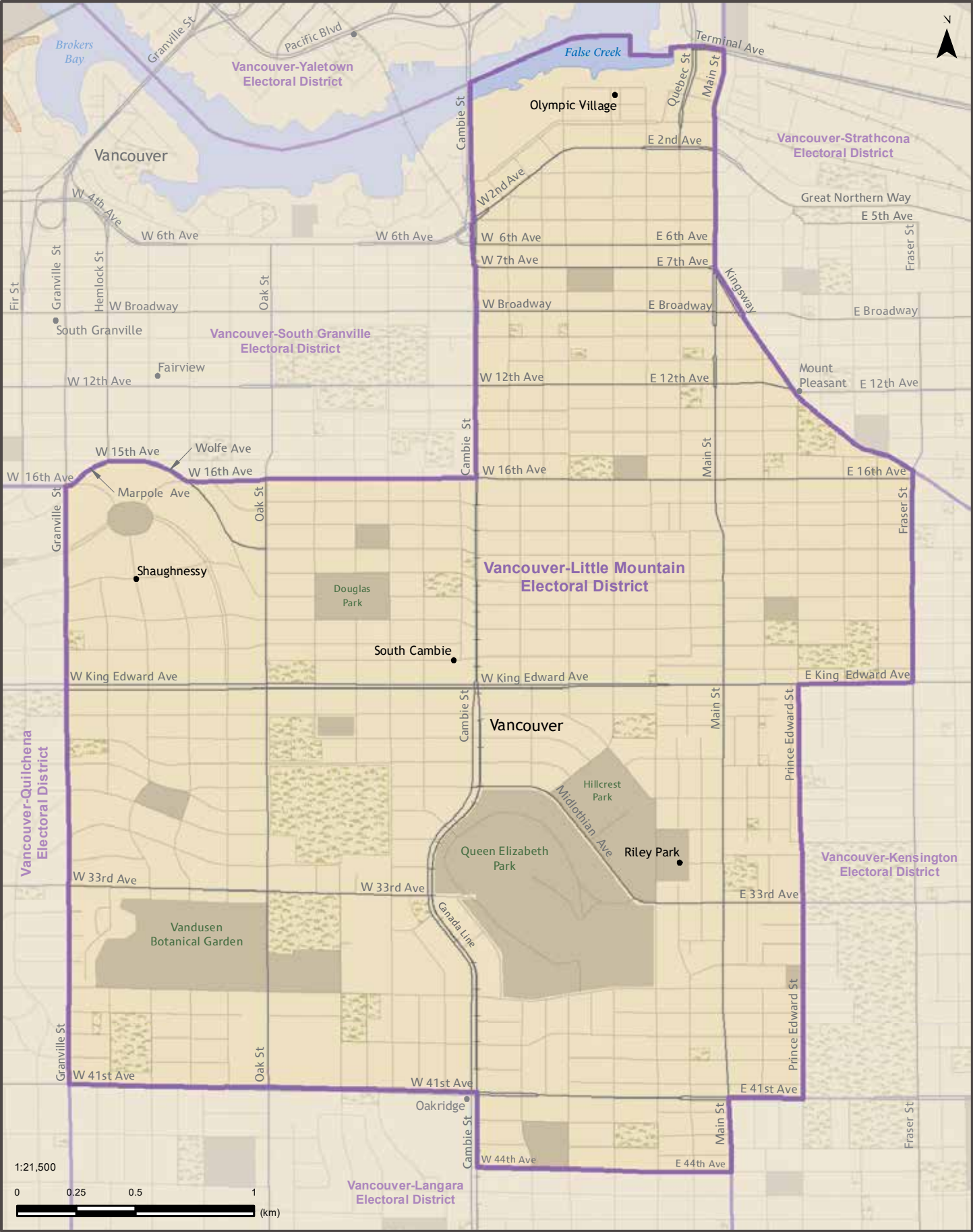




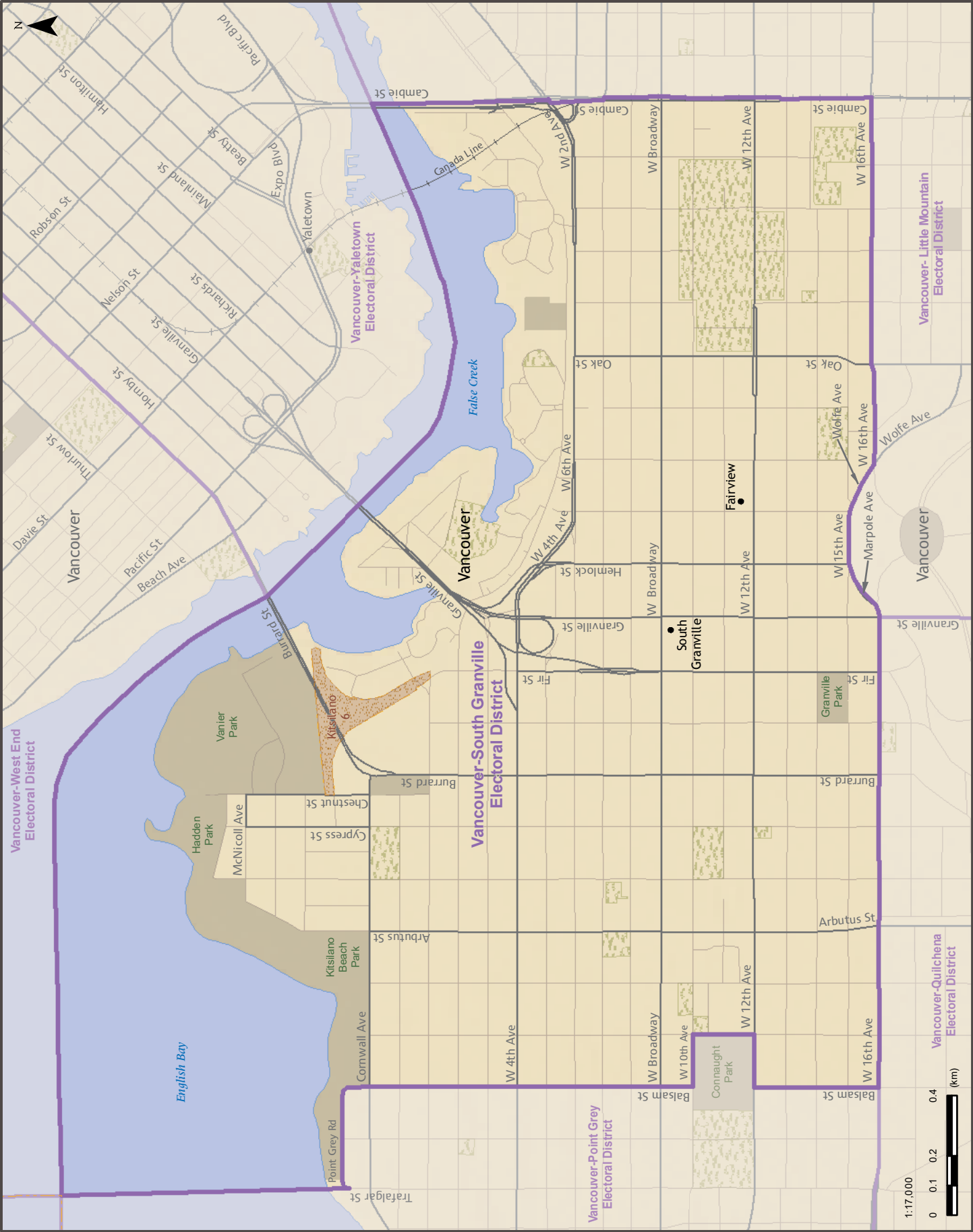


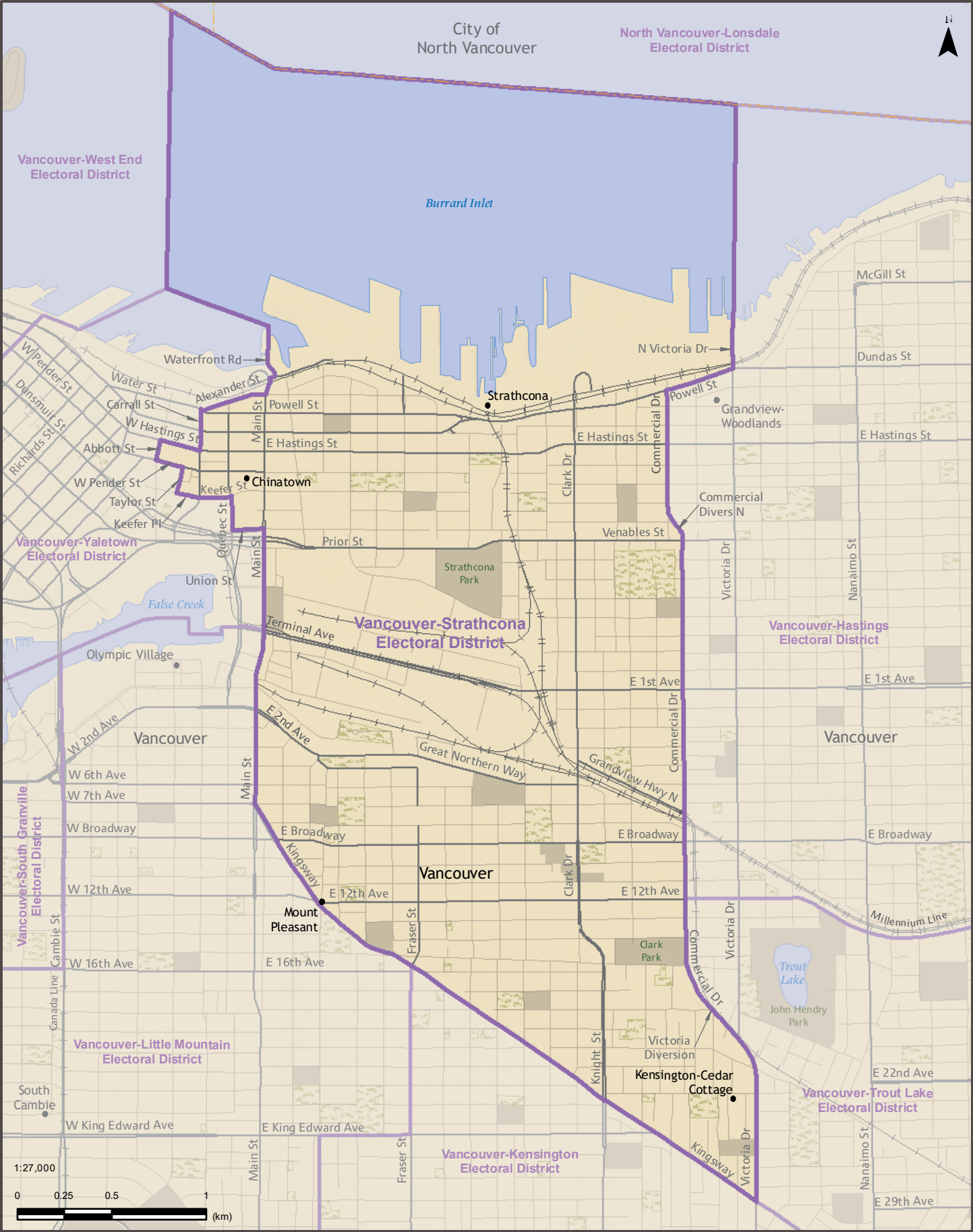


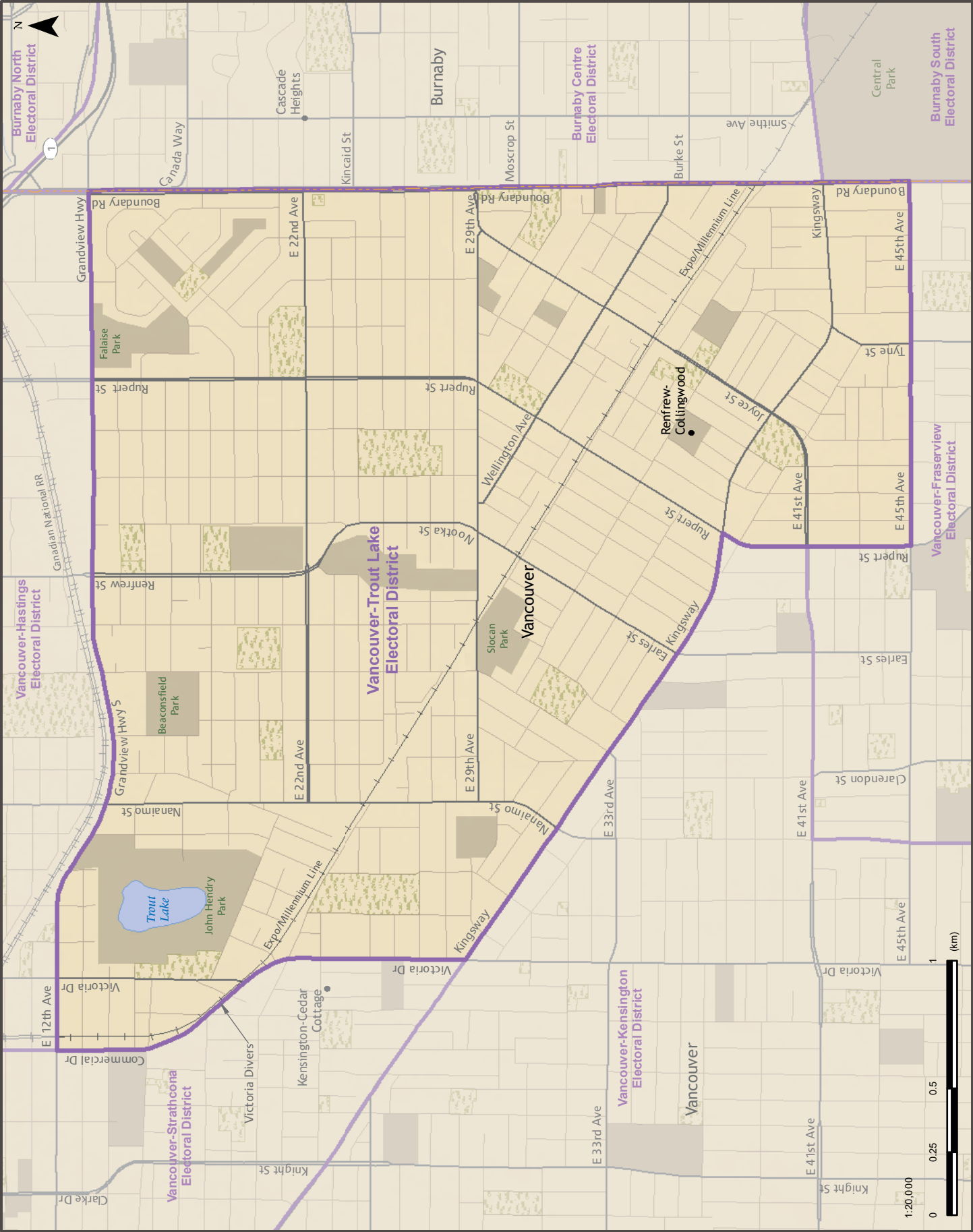




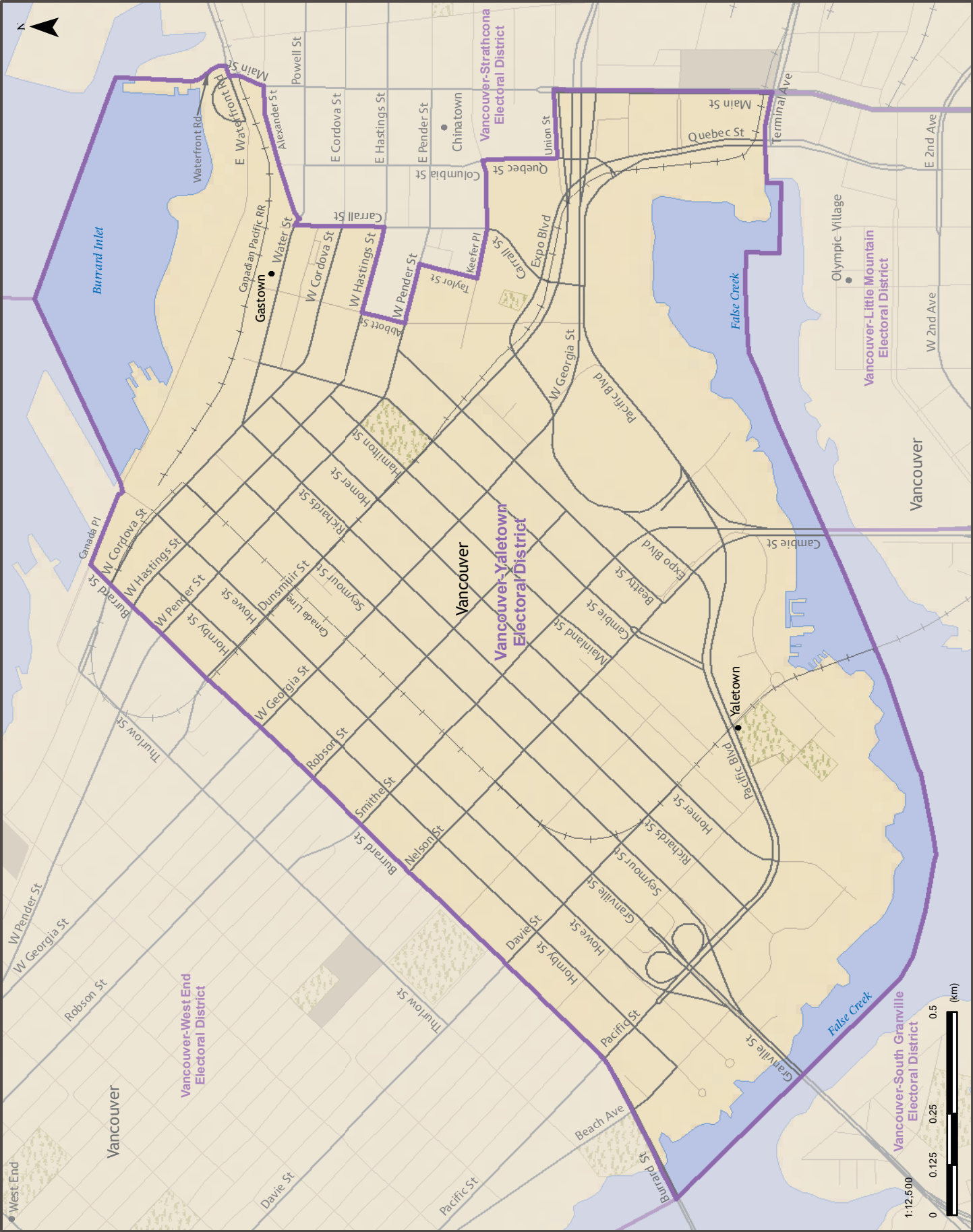












North Shore-Sea to Sky-Sunshine Coast

Current Electoral Districts (6)

North Vancouver-Lonsdale
North Vancouver-Seymour
Powell River-Sunshine Coast
West Vancouver-Capilano
West Vancouver-Sea to Sky

Proposed Electoral Districts (6)

North Vancouver-Lonsdale
North Vancouver-Seymour
Powell River-Sunshine Coast
West Vancouver-Capilano
West Vancouver-Sea to Sky

TABLE 21: NORTH SHORE-SEA TO SKY-SUNSHINE COAST ELECTORAL DISTRICTS
NOTE: THIS CHAPTER USES PROPOSED ELECTORAL DISTRICT NAMES



The North Shore-Sea to Sky-Sunshine Coast area is made up of five electoral districts. They include the north shore of Burrard Inlet, the Highway 99 corridor and the Sunshine Coast. The area's population is concentrated in the Cities of North Vancouver and West Vancouver, and travel outside them is challenging because of mountain roads and dependence on ferries. Some people told us that the Sea to Sky corridor should have its own riding, distinct from West Vancouver. We understand that the Sea to Sky corridor has an identity and interests distinct from West Vancouver; however, it is not growing at a rate that supports the addition of an electoral district at this time.

Our proposals adjust the boundaries of four of these five electoral districts to distribute the population more evenly, allowing for projected population growth.

North Vancouver-Lonsdale

North Vancouver-Lonsdale includes North Vancouver's urban core, Lower Lonsdale and Norgate. Moving North Lonsdale and the area east of Lynn Creek out of this riding, as we propose, reduces its population to allow room for growth.

North Vancouver-Seymour

This riding includes the communities of Lynn Valley, Dollarton, Deep Cove and the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation. We propose

IMAGE 18: STAWAMUS CHIEF MOUNTAIN SQUAMISH, B.C. CREDIT: TOM WHEATLEY. JUNE 8, 2022

TABLE 22: NORTH SHORE-SEA TO SKY-SUNSHINE COAST POPULATION, DEVIATION AND AREA
SOURCE: 2021 STATISTICS CANADA CENSUS COUNT

Electoral District	Population	Deviation (%)	Area (sq km)
North Vancouver-Lonsdale	61,964	15.2%	22
North Vancouver-Seymour	61,854	15.0%	391
Powell River-Sunshine Coast	53,217	-1.0%	21,093
West Vancouver-Capilano	62,564	16.3%	81
West Vancouver-Sea to Sky	62,166	15.6%	11,707
Total/Average	301,765	12.2%	33,294

moving North Lonsdale and the area east of Lynn Creek into this electoral district to bring its population in line with other area ridings.

Powell River-Sunshine Coast

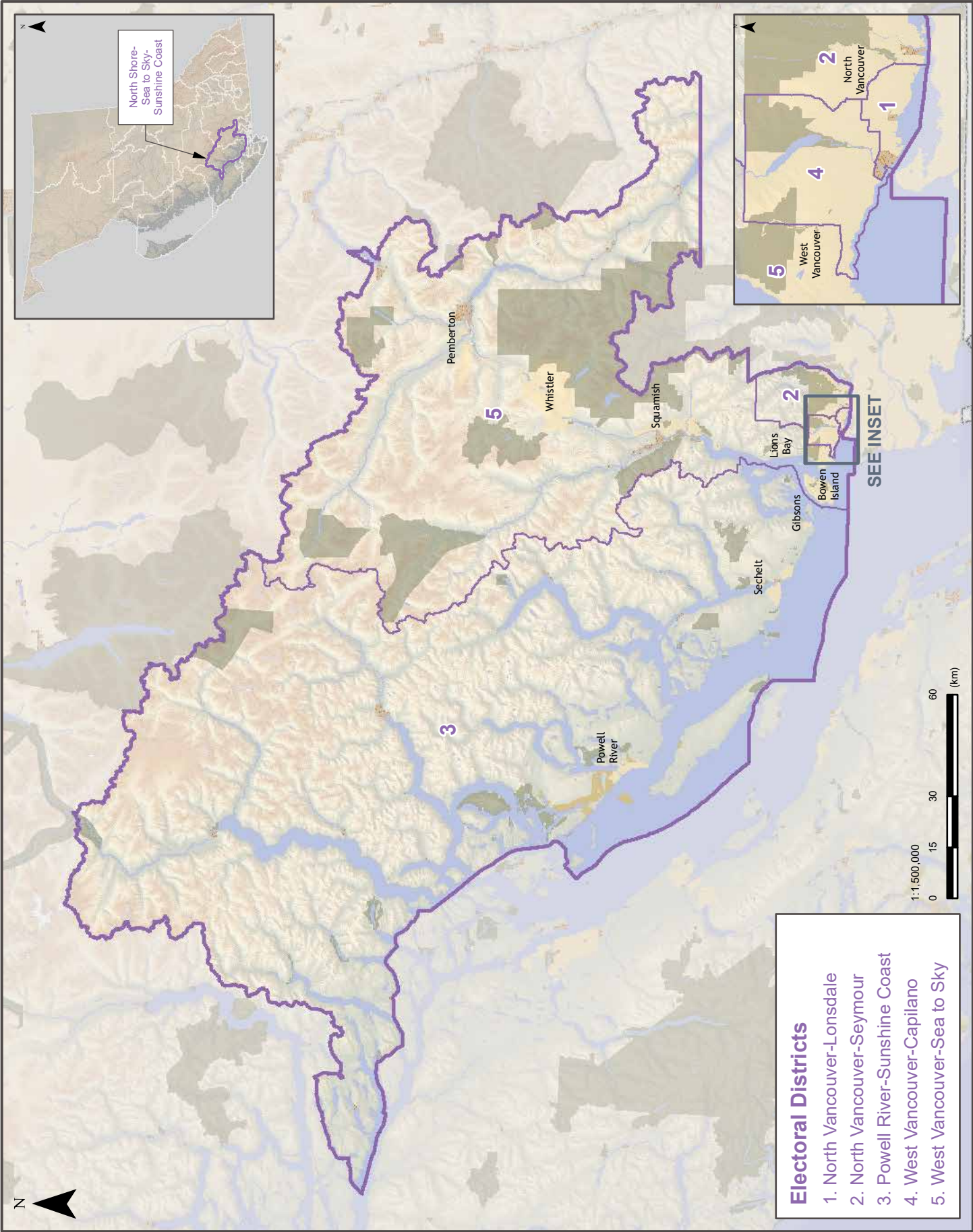
This riding consists of the Sunshine Coast and adjacent islands, stretching north to the boundary with the Regional District of Mount Waddington. It includes the communities of Gibsons, Roberts Creek, Sechelt and Powell River. We did not hear any concerns about its current boundaries and its population falls within the usual deviation range. We do not propose any changes to this district.

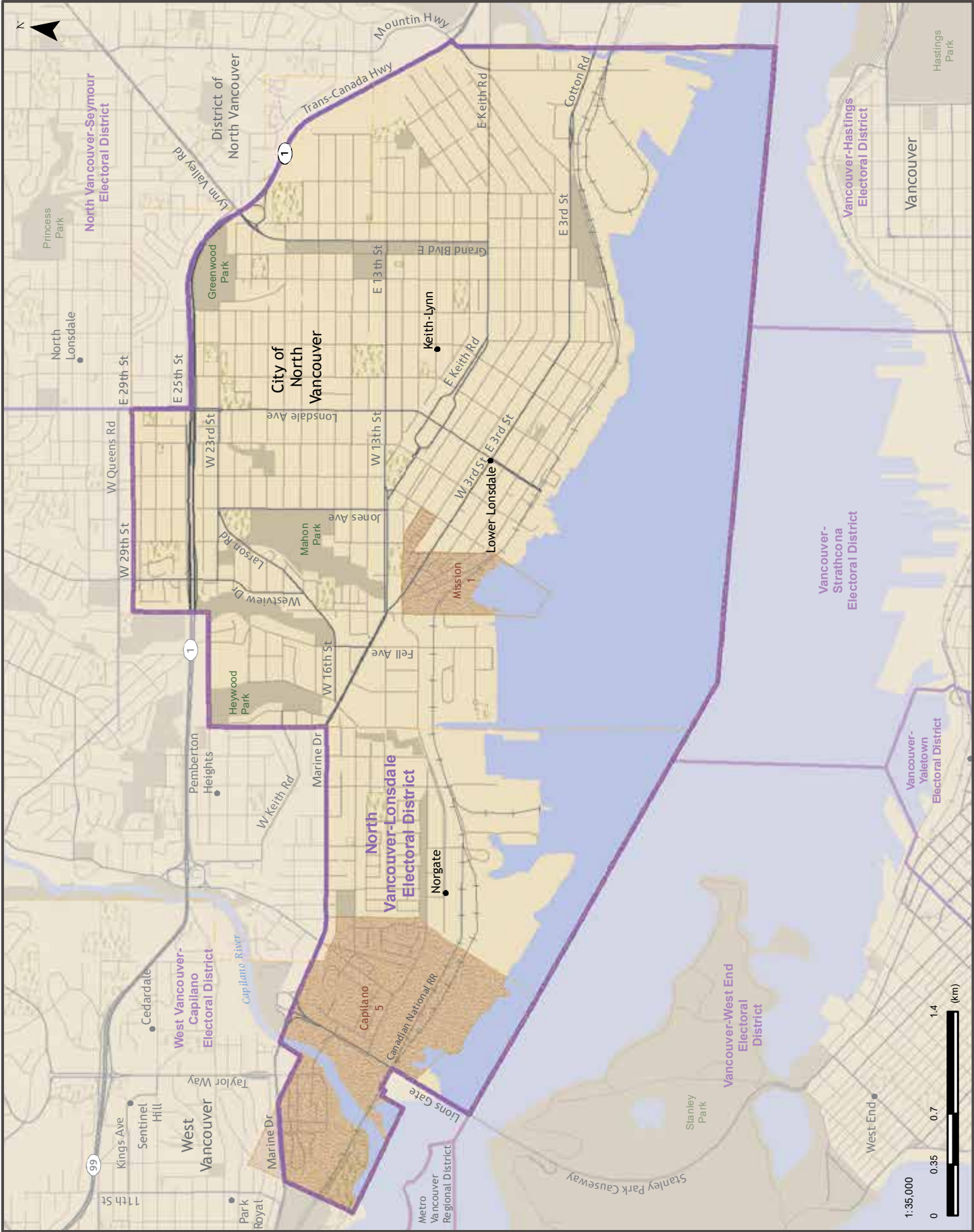
West Vancouver-Capilano

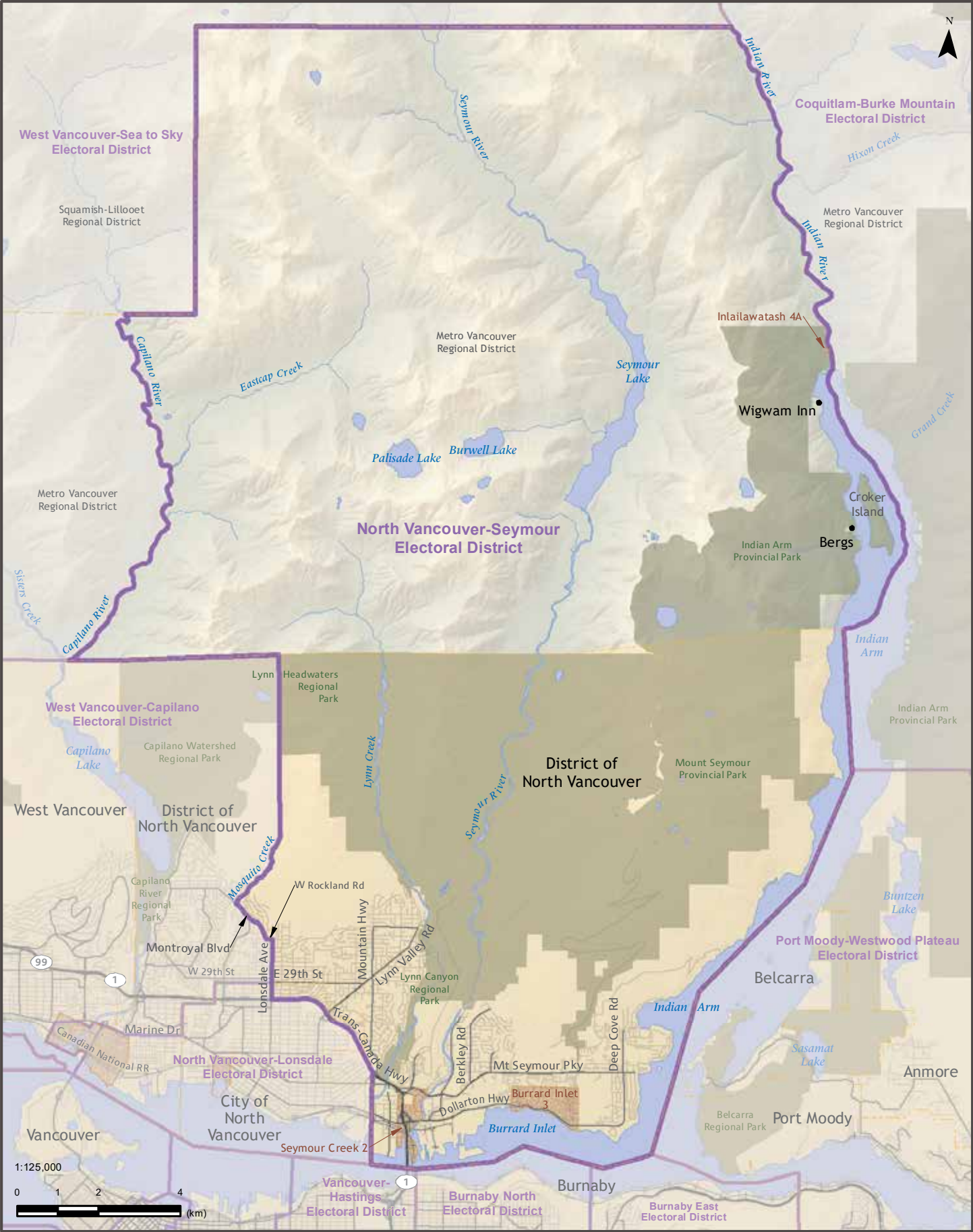
This electoral district consists of West Vancouver's city centre, Pemberton Heights, Ambleside, Park Royal, Dunderave and Sandy Cove. We propose extending its boundaries to include the neighbourhoods south of the Upper Levels Highway in order to better balance riding populations.

West Vancouver-Sea to Sky

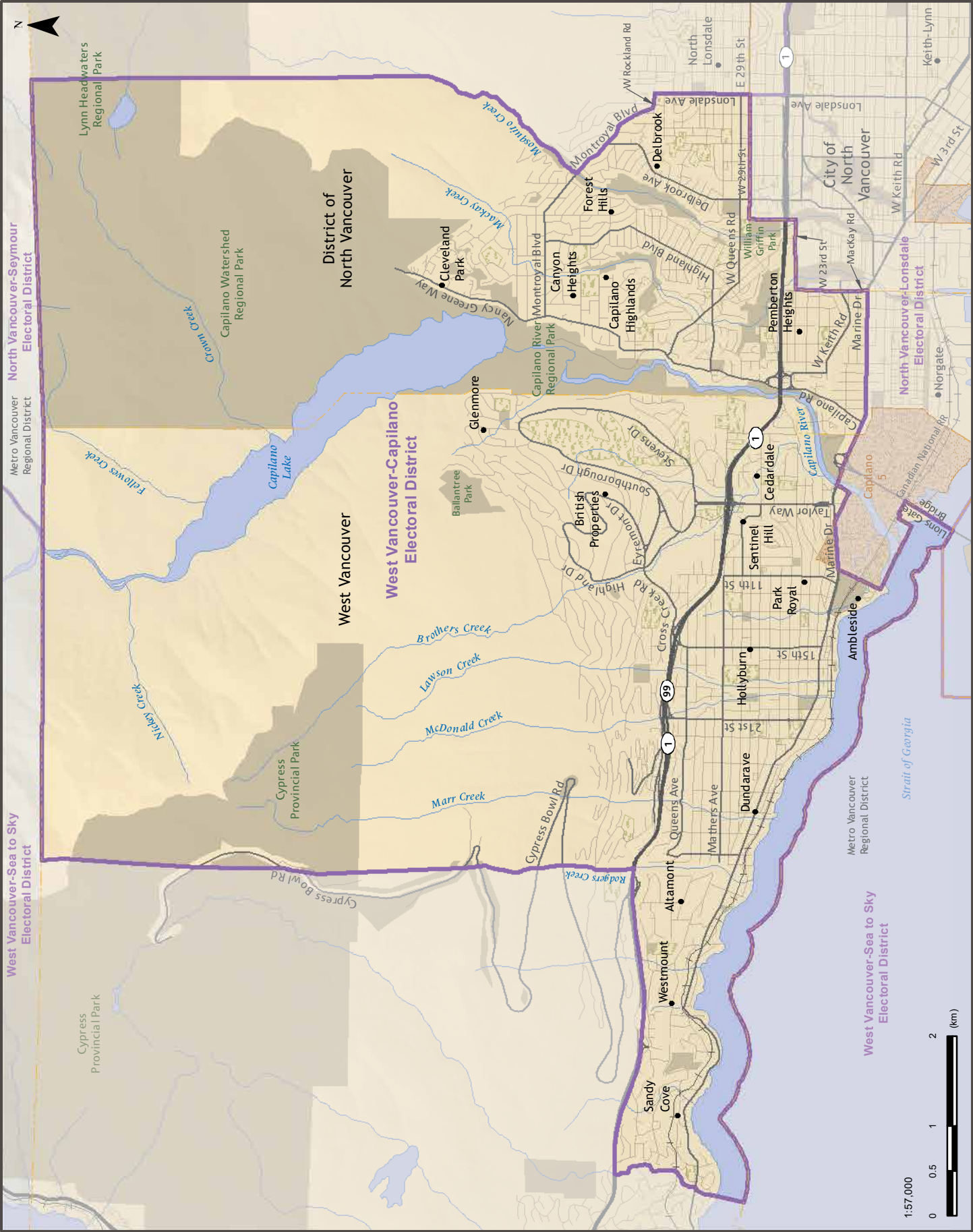
West Vancouver-Sea to Sky contains the residential neighbourhoods of West Vancouver, as well as Bowen Island, Squamish, Whistler and Pemberton. It presents a challenge because it has a large and fast-growing population, but it is not yet big enough to warrant two distinct ridings. We did not want to move Bowen Island out of this riding and into Powell River-Sunshine Coast because Bowen Island's ferry connection is to Horseshoe Bay. Instead, we propose reducing the population of this riding by adjusting its border with West Vancouver-Capilano. We propose that the boundary run north along Cypress Creek and then follow the Upper Levels Highway east before continuing north along Rodgers Creek.

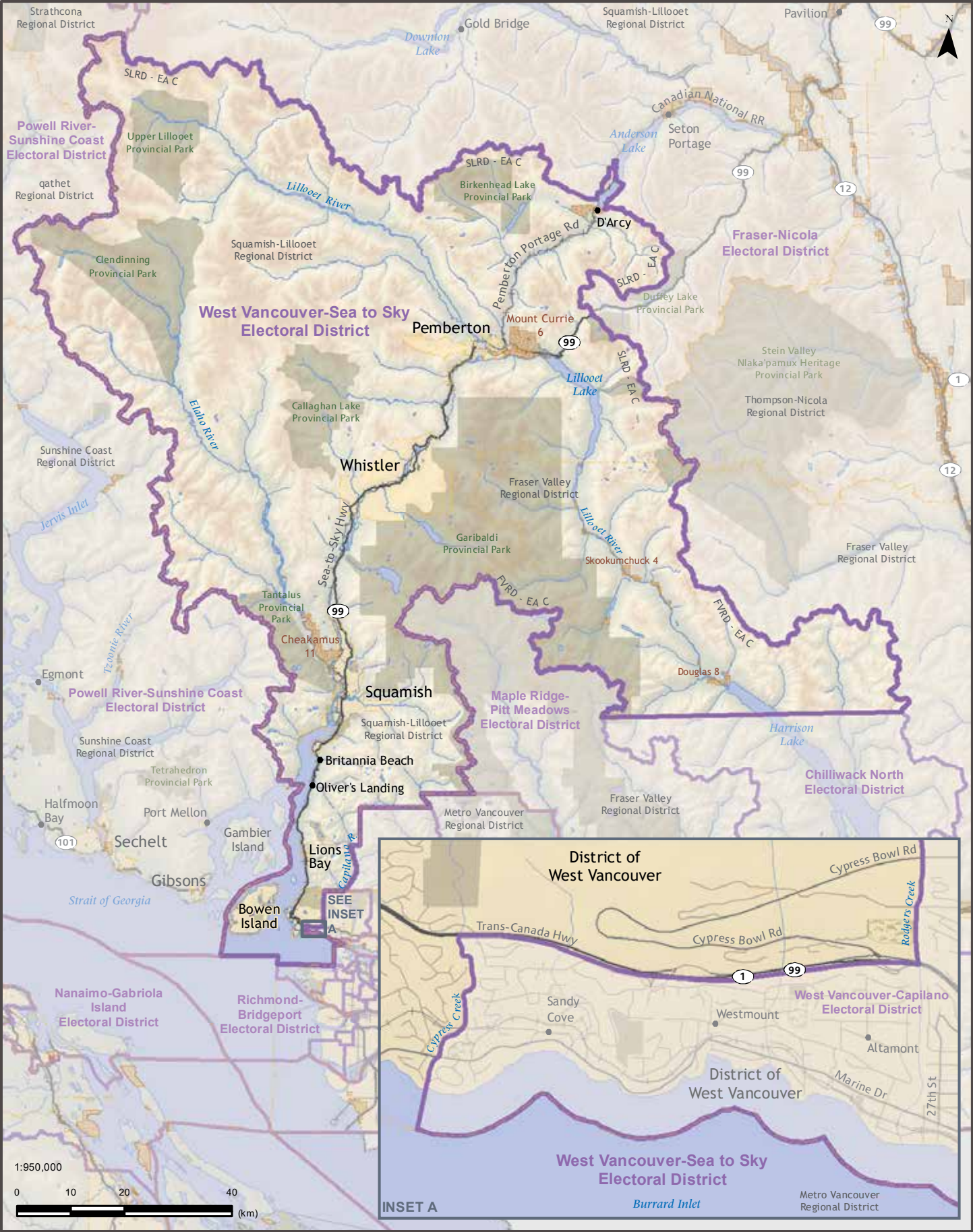












06

Next Steps

THE DEADLINE FOR FINAL PUBLIC
INPUT ON THE COMMISSION'S
PROPOSALS IS NOVEMBER 22, 2022.

Next Steps

We submit this preliminary report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly on October 3, 2022. It becomes public at that time. You can access the full report on our website.

Versions of the executive summary in Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Tagalog, French, German, Korean, Farsi, Punjabi and Spanish will also be available there.

We encourage all British Columbians to review our proposals and tell us what they think. There are a number of ways people can share their views with us.

You may want to attend one of our in-person hearings. From October 17 to October 20, 2022, we will be in Prince George, Kamloops, Kelowna and Nelson. From October 31 to November 4, 2022, we will be in Victoria, Nanaimo, New Westminster, Surrey, Abbotsford and Coquitlam.

We are holding virtual public hearings on October 21, 2022, and November 8, 2022.

Dates and locations are listed below but please check our website for the most up-to-date hearing schedule.

If you would like to make a presentation at a public hearing, please email or call us to register. You can also register upon arriving at the hearing on a first come, first served basis. Presenters will have up to five minutes to speak, after which the Commissioners may ask questions. We appreciate receiving a written copy of each presentation.

You can also share your thoughts with us by:

- Completing our website survey at bcebc.ca,
- Emailing us at info@bcebc.ca,
- Calling us toll-free at 1-800-661-8683, or
- Mailing your input to 100-1112 Fort St, Victoria BC, V8V 3K8.

We need to receive your input by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, November 22, 2022.

As required by the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act, we will hold hearings for MLAs after the public input period. They will occur on November 23, 2022.

After November 23, we will prepare our final report and recommendations for submission to the Legislative Assembly on April 3, 2023.

Final Public Meetings

October - November 2022

Location	Day	Date
Prince George	Monday	17-Oct
Kamloops	Tuesday	18-Oct
Kelowna	Wednesday	19-Oct
Nelson	Thursday	20-Oct
Virtual Meeting (All Regions)	Friday	21-Oct
Victoria	Monday	31-Oct
Nanaimo	Tuesday	01-Nov
New Westminster	Wednesday	02-Nov
Langley	Wednesday	02-Nov
Surrey	Thursday	03-Nov
Coquitlam	Friday	04-Nov
Vancouver	Friday	04-Nov
Virtual Meeting (All Regions)	Tuesday	08-Nov

07
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Appendices

Appendix A: Population Estimates, 93 Proposed Electoral Districts

Statistics Canada 2021 Census Count

Electoral District	Population	Deviation (%)	Area (sq km)
Abbotsford-Mission	61,807	14.9	89
Abbotsford South	60,614	12.7	174
Abbotsford West	59,529	10.7	90
Boundary-Similkameen	45,867	-14.7	14,956
Bulkley Valley-Stikine	20,552	-61.8	196,484
Burnaby Centre	53,458	-0.6	18
Burnaby East	55,643	3.5	36
Burnaby-New Westminster	50,379	-6.3	8
Burnaby North	53,351	-0.8	17
Burnaby South	54,039	0.5	21
Cariboo-North Thompson	41,267	-23.3	51,239
Chilliwack-Cultus Lake	55,495	3.2	1,174
Chilliwack North	55,608	3.4	2,459
Columbia River-Revelstoke	40,703	-24.3	38,780
Coquitlam-Burke Mountain	56,394	4.9	598
Coquitlam-Mundy Park	60,068	11.7	33
Courtenay-Comox	60,354	12.2	1,587
Cowichan Valley	54,199	0.8	1,916
Delta North	58,813	9.4	28
Delta South	51,908	-3.5	461
Esquimalt-Colwood	58,343	8.5	53
Fraser-Nicola	44,338	-17.5	36,781
Juan de Fuca-Malahat	44,931	-16.4	3,116
Kamloops Centre	60,681	12.8	114
Kamloops-North Shuswap	56,642	5.3	6,805
Kelowna Centre	57,457	6.9	56

Appendix A: Population Estimates, 93 Proposed Electoral Districts, Continued

Statistics Canada 2021 Census Count

Electoral District	Population	Deviation (%)	Area (sq km)
Kelowna-Lake Country	59,325	10.3	2,253
Kelowna-Mission	59,723	11.1	521
Kootenay Central	42,993	-20.0	16,853
Kootenay East	41,314	-23.2	12,134
Kootenay West	41,727	-22.4	9,031
Langford-Highlands	49,114	-8.7	86
Langley-Aldergrove	58,672	9.1	287
Langley-Murrayville	54,753	1.8	56
Langley-Willoughby	55,560	3.3	30
Maple Ridge East	57,775	7.4	369
Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	58,752	9.3	1,996
Mid Island-Pacific Rim	58,783	9.3	11,830
Nanaimo-Gabriola Island	58,924	9.6	780
Nanaimo-Ladysmith	54,385	1.1	1,783
Nanaimo-Oceanside	60,069	11.7	899
Nechako Lakes	25,293	-53.0	73,815
New Westminster-Maillardville	59,403	10.5	14
North Coast	21,980	-59.1	120,665
North Island	58,940	9.6	39,933
North Vancouver-Lonsdale	61,964	15.2	22
North Vancouver-Seymour	61,854	15.0	391
Oak Bay-Gordon Head	56,466	5.0	302
Peace River North	40,375	-24.9	175,795
Peace River South	25,635	-52.3	30,362
Penticton-Summerland	55,396	3.0	1,599
Port Coquitlam	61,483	14.3	34

Electoral District	Population	Deviation (%)	Area (sq km)
Port Moody-Westwood Plateau	59,697	11.0	102
Powell River-Sunshine Coast	53,217	-1.0	21,093
Prince George-Cariboo	42,080	-21.7	41,851
Prince George-Mackenzie	41,224	-23.3	20,500
Prince George-Valemount	43,014	-20.0	39,679
Richmond-Bridgeport	56,106	4.3	446
Richmond Centre	54,284	1.0	7
Richmond-Queensborough	55,895	3.9	91
Richmond-Steveston	54,671	1.7	31
Saanich North and the Islands	57,346	6.6	1,514
Saanich South	59,226	10.1	96
Salmon Arm-Shuswap	58,919	9.6	5,864
Skeena	30,148	-43.9	31,610
Surrey Central	58,521	8.8	32
Surrey City Centre	57,965	7.8	17
Surrey East	60,573	12.6	34
Surrey-Fleetwood	60,152	11.9	14
Surrey-Guildford	60,783	13.0	46
Surrey-Newton	58,232	8.3	13
Surrey North	59,482	10.6	27
Surrey-Panorama	58,235	8.3	13
Surrey South	56,867	5.8	123
Surrey-White Rock	59,586	10.8	68
Vancouver-Fraserview	58,686	9.1	12
Vancouver-Hastings	58,095	8.0	14
Vancouver-Kensington	56,840	5.7	8

Appendix A: Population Estimates, 93 Proposed Electoral Districts, Continued

Statistics Canada 2021 Census Count

Electoral District	Population	Deviation (%)	Area (sq km)
Vancouver-Langara	57,806	7.5	12
Vancouver-Little Mountain	56,766	5.6	11
Vancouver-Point Grey	58,183	8.2	42
Vancouver-Quilchena	55,531	3.3	23
Vancouver-South Granville	56,134	4.4	7
Vancouver-Strathcona	54,588	1.5	12
Vancouver-Trout Lake	56,922	5.9	8
Vancouver-West End	57,332	6.6	14
Vancouver-Yaletown	55,307	2.9	3
Vernon-Monashee	59,819	11.2	3,896
Victoria-Beacon Hill	54,375	1.1	83
Victoria-Swan Lake	54,780	1.9	18
West Kelowna-Peachland	55,664	3.5	1,435
West Vancouver-Capilano	62,564	16.3	81
West Vancouver-Sea to Sky	62,166	15.6	11,707

Appendix B: Population Estimates, 87 Current Electoral Districts,

Statistics Canada 2021 Census Count

Electoral District	Population	Deviation (%)	Area (sq km)
Abbotsford-Mission	67,139	16.8	660
Abbotsford South	68,055	18.4	243
Abbotsford West	65,094	13.2	135
Boundary-Similkameen	48,104	-16.3	15,614
Burnaby-Deer Lake	61,613	7.2	14
Burnaby-Edmonds	63,733	10.9	22
Burnaby-Lougheed	58,820	2.3	37
Burnaby North	64,950	13.0	23
Cariboo-Chilcotin	33,987	-40.9	44,512
Cariboo North	28,944	-49.6	38,579
Chilliwack	52,231	-9.1	135
Chilliwack-Kent	62,792	9.2	3,168
Columbia River-Revelstoke	37,614	-34.6	37,704
Coquitlam-Burke Mountain	70,504	22.7	620
Coquitlam-Maillardville	55,876	-2.8	30
Courtenay-Comox	60,354	5.0	1,584
Cowichan Valley	63,177	9.9	1,685
Delta North	60,774	5.7	32
Delta South	49,947	-13.1	464
Esquimalt-Metchosin	55,272	-3.8	378
Fraser-Nicola	33,986	-40.9	34,830
Kamloops-North Thompson	59,565	3.6	21,641
Kamloops-South Thompson	63,592	10.6	2,437
Kelowna-Lake Country	75,047	30.6	1,165
Kelowna-Mission	67,994	18.3	528
Kelowna West	73,035	27.1	1,142

Appendix B: Population Estimates, 87 Current Electoral Districts, Continued

Statistics Canada 2021 Census Count

Electoral District	Population	Deviation (%)	Area (sq km)
Kootenay East	44,403	-22.8	13,210
Kootenay West	43,723	-23.9	12,009
Langford-Juan de Fuca	69,620	21.1	2,447
Langley	64,874	12.9	59
Langley East	77,530	34.9	186
Maple Ridge-Mission	68,042	18.4	393
Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	61,813	7.5	1,980
Mid Island-Pacific Rim	58,783	2.3	14,099
Nanaimo	64,581	12.4	458
Nanaimo-North Cowichan	58,880	2.4	2,700
Nechako Lakes	25,293	-56.0	73,795
Nelson-Creston	38,744	-32.6	13,212
New Westminster	67,942	18.2	14
North Coast	21,980	-61.8	143,864
North Island	58,940	2.5	45,034
North Vancouver-Lonsdale	66,709	16.1	25
North Vancouver-Seymour	57,100	-0.7	388
Oak Bay-Gordon Head	56,466	-1.8	330
Parksville-Qualicum	60,069	4.5	978
Peace River North	40,375	-29.8	175,813
Peace River South	25,635	-55.4	30,364
Penticton	61,482	7.0	1,908
Port Coquitlam	61,483	7.0	35
Port Moody-Coquitlam	58,994	2.6	85
Powell River-Sunshine Coast	53,217	-7.4	21,007
Prince George-Mackenzie	46,920	-18.4%	20,511

Electoral District	Population	Deviation (%)	Area (sq km)
Prince George-Valemount	50,059	-12.9	31,467
Richmond-Queensborough	58,369	1.5	440
Richmond-Steveston	52,152	-9.3	92
Richmond North Centre	60,191	4.7	7
Richmond South Centre	50,208	-12.7	30
Saanich North and the Islands	62,565	8.8	1,519
Saanich South	54,007	-6.0	91
Shuswap	62,087	8.0	8,610
Skeena	30,148	-47.6	31,610
Stikine	20,552	-64.2	196,484
Surrey-Cloverdale	67,444	17.3	55
Surrey-Fleetwood	59,428	3.4	17
Surrey-Green Timbers	56,443	-1.8	18
Surrey-Guildford	60,663	5.5	42
Surrey-Newton	56,327	-2.0	12
Surrey-Panorama	77,899	35.5	24
Surrey-Whalley	69,489	20.9	27
Surrey-White Rock	59,586	3.7	68
Surrey South	83,167	44.7	125
Vancouver-Fairview	61,496	7.0	9
Vancouver-False Creek	71,880	25.0	6
Vancouver-Fraserview	65,070	13.2	13
Vancouver-Hastings	58,095	1.1	14
Vancouver-Kensington	60,287	4.9	9
Vancouver-Kingsway	61,870	7.6	9
Vancouver-Langara	64,192	11.7	15

Appendix B: Population Estimates, 87 Current Electoral Districts, Continued

Statistics Canada 2021 Census Count

Electoral District	Population	Deviation (%)	Area (sq km)
Vancouver-Mount Pleasant	61,610	7.2	13
Vancouver-Point Grey	64,491	12.2	42
Vancouver-Quilchena	55,867	-2.8	23
Vancouver-West End	57,332	-0.3	14
Vernon-Monashee	69,857	21.5	5,035
Victoria-Beacon Hill	62,741	9.2	90
Victoria-Swan Lake	54,780	-4.7	18
West Vancouver-Capilano	58,919	2.5	80
West Vancouver-Sea to Sky	65,811	14.5	11,709

Appendix C: Executive Summary, Datasets

Descriptions of Datasets Referenced by the Commission

2021 Census of Population - Statistics Canada

This dataset describes the population of British Columbia and its distribution across the province as of May 9, 2021. We used this population data—the most-recent and reliable that was available to us—to determine the total population of the province (5,000,879), and the populations of our proposed electoral districts.

WWW.STATCAN.GC.CA/EN/CENSUS/CENSUS-ENGAGEMENT/ABOUT/2021-CENSUS

BC Route Planner - DataBC

This dataset identifies the average length of time and distance it takes to travel to locations within British Columbia. We used this data to determine how far a constituent within an electoral district would travel to reach their MLA office or satellite office.

WWW2.GOV.BC.CA/GOV/CONTENT/DATA/GEOGRAPHIC-DATA-SERVICES/LOCATION-SERVICES/ROUTE-PLANNER

BC Network Connectivity - Ministry of Citizens' Services, Connected Communities Branch

This dataset describes the level of cellular telephone and internet network connectivity in British Columbia.

CATALOGUE.DATA.GOV.BC.CA/DATASET/BC-NETWORK-CONNECTIVITY

Population Growth Projection - BC Stats

This dataset forecasts future population growth in British Columbia. These projections are based on historical population data from the BC Stats PEOPLE (Population Extrapolation for Organisational Planning with Less Error) model and the preliminary counts from the 2021 Census of Canada. This model has been modernised in 2022 with an expanded methodology to account for new data availability and understanding of population impacts and trends.

WWW2.GOV.BC.CA/GOV/CONTENT/DATA/STATISTICS/PEOPLE-POPULATION-COMMUNITY/POPULATION/POPULATION-PROJECTIONS

Appendix C: Executive Summary, Datasets, Continued

Descriptions of Datasets Referenced by the Commission

Remoteness Index - Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada measures the level of remoteness of a community with a remoteness index. This index measures the size of the community and distance to service centres in a travel radius that permits daily accessibility.

WWW150.STATCAN.GC.CA/NI/PUB/18-001-X/18-001-X2017002-ENG.HTM

Appendix D: Schedule, Initial Public Meetings

March - May 2022

Location	Day	Date
Vancouver	Monday	07-Mar
East Vancouver	Monday	07-Mar
Richmond	Tuesday	08-Mar
Delta	Tuesday	08-Mar
Surrey	Wednesday	09-Mar
Surrey	Wednesday	09-Mar
Langley	Wednesday	09-Mar
Abbotsford	Thursday	10-Mar
Chilliwack	Thursday	10-Mar
Hope	Thursday	10-Mar
Burnaby	Friday	11-Mar
Coquitlam	Friday	11-Mar
Virtual Meeting: Lower Mainland	Tuesday	15-Mar
Victoria	Monday	21-Mar
Langford	Monday	21-Mar
Nanaimo	Tuesday	22-Mar
Port Alberni	Wednesday	23-Mar
Courtenay	Thursday	24-Mar
Campbell River	Thursday	24-Mar
Port McNeill	Friday	25-Mar
Virtual Meeting: Vancouver Island	Tuesday	29-Mar
Nelson	Monday	04-Apr
Trail	Monday	04-Apr
Radium Hot Springs	Tuesday	05-Apr
Cranbrook	Tuesday	05-Apr
Penticton	Wednesday	06-Apr

Appendix D: Schedule, Initial Public Meetings, Continued

March - May 2022

Location	Day	Date
Kelowna (West)	Wednesday	06-Apr
Kelowna	Wednesday	06-Apr
Salmon Arm	Thursday	07-Apr
Revelstoke	Thursday	07-Apr
Kamloops	Friday	08-Apr
Virtual Meeting (South Central & South Eastern)	Monday	11-Apr
Masset	Tuesday	26-Apr
Prince Rupert	Wednesday	27-Apr
Terrace	Wednesday	27-Apr
Smithers	Thursday	28-Apr
Quesnel	Friday	29-Apr
Williams Lake	Friday	29-Apr
Virtual Meeting (North & Interior)	Tuesday	03-May
Prince George	Monday	09-May
Vanderhoof	Monday	09-May
Dawson Creek	Monday	09-May
Dawson Creek	Tuesday	10-May
Fort Nelson	Tuesday	10-May
Dease Lake	Tuesday	10-May
Powell River	Wednesday	11-May
Sechelt	Wednesday	11-May
West Vancouver	Thursday	12-May
Squamish	Thursday	12-May
Virtual Public Meeting (All Regions)	Friday	13-May

Appendix E: Schedule, Final Public Meetings

October - November 2022

Location	Day	Date
Prince George	Monday	17-Oct
Kamloops	Tuesday	18-Oct
Kelowna	Wednesday	19-Oct
Nelson	Thursday	20-Oct
Virtual Meeting (All Regions)	Friday	21-Oct
Victoria	Monday	31-Oct
Nanaimo	Tuesday	01-Nov
New Westminster	Wednesday	02-Nov
Langley	Wednesday	02-Nov
Surrey	Thursday	03-Nov
Coquitlam	Friday	04-Nov
Vancouver	Friday	04-Nov
Virtual Meeting (All Regions)	Tuesday	08-Nov



PRELIMINARY REPORT TO THE
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