



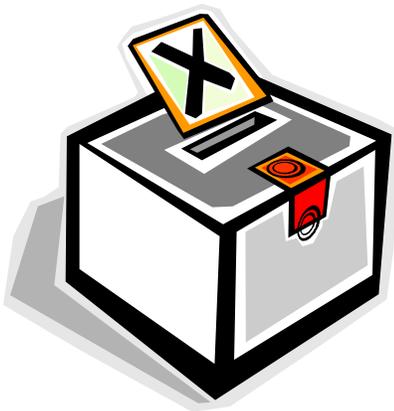
2014 Municipal Electoral Boundary Review

What is Electoral Boundary Review?

The *Municipal Government Act* requires every municipality review the number of districts and their boundaries every eight (8) years to confirm their fairness and reasonableness. This year marks the eighth year since the Municipality last conducted a review, in 2006.

What has been done so far?

So far Municipal Council has discussed the general parameters of what it wishes to consider during this review. Based on these discussions, municipal staff has begun to collect data and more fully develop the specific options. These options are described as:



OPTION #1 – Status Quo: The number of polling districts (10) and their boundaries remain the same. Municipal representation is made up of a warden and council.

OPTION #2 – Adjusted Boundaries: The number of polling districts remains the same (10), but boundaries are adjusted to address variation between districts in the average number of electors. Municipal representation is made up a warden and council.

On September 16, 2014, Municipal Council endorsed Option #2 as its preferred option and asked that opportunity be provided for public consultation.

What EXACTLY would “Adjusted Boundaries” look like?

This option is preferred by Municipal Council. It does not recommend any changes in the number of districts, but their boundaries would change in the following ways (please see the attached maps for a visual reference).

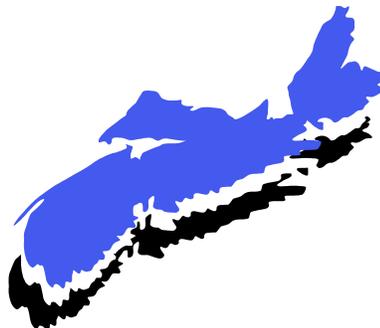
- **Districts 1 & 2** ([Click here for map](#))
 - All electors residing on Glebe Road and Beaver Road would become part of District 1.
 - All electors residing north of 1631 Highway 245 will become part of District 1. 1630 Highway 245 and south will remain part of District 2.

- **Districts 4 & 10** ([Click here for map](#))
 - All electors residing on Keating Court, Tamara Drive and those between on Highway 7 would become part of District 4.

- **Districts 6 & 7** ([Click here for map](#))
 - All electors residing on the south side of Highway 104 from Pomquet River Road to Highway 316 would become part of District 7.
 - All electors residing on Pine Ridge Road and Lorraine Lane would become part of District 7.

- **Districts 7 & 8** ([Click here for map](#))
 - All electors residing on Summerside Bayfield Road, north of Highway 4, would become part of District 7.

- **Districts 8 & 9** ([Click here for map](#))
 - All electors residing on Linwood Road, Linwood Station Road and Grosvenor Road up to and including 765 Grosvenor Road would become part of District 8.



Why is this option preferred over the status quo?

This option has been developed with the following considerations in mind:

- All Municipalities are required to keep the variation in the number of electors among district between -10% & +10% of the average. In Antigonish County, this means keeping the variation within 10% of 1100 electors. Each of the recommended changes helps us align with that requirement. At this time five of the ten districts are outside this 10% variance.

Elector Variation Among Districts					
District	Current	Variance	Adjusted per Option #2	Variance	Change
1	928	-16.02	997	-9.77	+69
2	1258	13.85	1189	7.60	-69
3	1146	3.64	1146	3.64	0
4	1089	-1.45	1207	9.23	+118
5	1207	9.23	1207	9.23	0
6	1269	14.84	1164	5.34	-105
7	920	-16.74	1038	-6.06	+118
8	939	-15.02	1006	-8.96	+67
9	1090	-1.36	1010	-8.60	-80
10	1308	18.37	1190	7.69	-118
TOTAL	11,154		11,154		

- More than just numbers, “communities of interest” are also considered when making these adjustments to boundaries. The recommended changes aim to avoid divisions within communities of interest.

Adjusted Boundaries will NOT Change Municipal Services

Any adjustment to municipal boundaries will NOT affect municipal services. Garbage collection, fire department coverage and all other municipal services will remain the same no matter the outcome. This review will only impact municipal boundaries of electoral districts for future municipal elections.

Why no change to the number of districts?

Across the province there is no standard number of elected officials for a municipality. Of the municipalities with a comparable population, some have less and some have more than the 10 councillors representing Antigonish County. If you look at the average population of a municipal district, Antigonish County aligns closely with this set of comparable municipalities.

The number of commitments and responsibilities required of councillors only grows as our communities grow. Antigonish County is home to many vibrant communities, and as such there are a number of demands put on councillors from both the Municipality and from their electors.

Municipality	Population	# of Elected Representatives	Population / District
Annapolis	17,500	11	1,590
Antigonish	15,350	10	1,535
Chester	10,599	7	1,514
Cumberland	16,000	10	1,600
Inverness	14,896	6	2,482
Pictou	21,745	14	1,553
Richmond	9,500	10	950
West Hants	14,165	9	1,573

*This table is based on population data from the 2011 census rather than electors. Updated numbers on electors in most municipalities is not readily available. However, population provides a reasonable comparison for this purpose.

To carry out the role of a councillor and to most effectively govern as a council, it was felt the number of councillors met the needs of this municipality.

Was the direct election of a Mayor considered?

Yes, this option was considered. Only two rural municipalities directly elect a mayor – the Municipality of Colchester and the District of Lunenburg. Like Antigonish, the other 19 select a warden from among elected councillors. It was not felt that a change of this kind was necessary or desirable at this time.

What role does the public play in this process?

Public consultation is critical to this review. The public will have two ways to express their views on the proposed options:

- 1) The review has been posted to the website and comments can be emailed to clerk@antigonishcounty.ns.ca with “Boundary Review” in the subject line.
- 2) Open Houses have been scheduled to introduce the options to residents and receive comments. You are welcome to attend either open house at the following locations:
 - a. Rev. HJ MacDonald School, Heatherton, on Tuesday, October 14 at 7pm.
 - b. Four Valley’s Fire Hall, Maryvale, on Wednesday, October 15 at 7pm.

What comes next?

Once the public has had an opportunity to express their views, the formal application will be drafted by staff and brought to Municipal Council for consideration. Once approved by Council the application will be sent to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (UARB) for its review and approval.



As part of its review the UARB will hold a public hearing in Antigonish County on a date to be determined. This hearing will be advertised throughout the County scheduled and any concerned resident will have an opportunity to participate.

Following the public hearing the UARB will make a decision and issue an Order to set the municipal boundaries for the next eight years. Any electors / households that are impacted by changes to district boundaries will be informed when the application is accepted by the Utility and Review Board.

Any questions or comments?

Please feel free to send them to clerk@antigonishcounty.ns.ca or attend one of the two scheduled Open Houses.

We are looking forward to hearing from you!