

Policy 24

Ward Structures

The Board believes that a key foundation of good governance is electoral representation. This is best achieved through appropriate representation by ward. Section 76(4) of the Education Act requires Boards to make publicly available a policy respecting the considerations and processes used to determine ward structures.

Procedure

1. The Board may from time to time undertake a review of electoral wards to ensure that effective and equal representation is maintained. Such a review shall consider both the number of trustees and the ward boundaries.
2. This policy is intended to inform ward structure relative to elections and the Local Authorities Election Act. Provisions for a First Nation appointed trustee are referenced in Policy 7, Item 1.5.
3. A review of ward boundaries shall include consultation with appropriate stakeholders.
4. When reviewing ward boundaries, the Board may take into consideration any factors it considers appropriate, but shall take into consideration the following criteria:
 - 4.1. Number of Trustees: Consideration shall be given as to the number of trustees required for effective governance keeping in mind the prudent use of resources, workload and accessibility.
 - 4.2. Population/Number of Electors: The primary factor in designing ward boundaries will be total number of electors; attempting to ensure that population is relatively equal between wards.
 - 4.3. Easily Identifiable Borders: Ward boundaries should be clear and easily identifiable so as to avoid voter confusion. Roads, existing municipal boundaries, or geographical features should be used for boundaries. In so far as it is possible, they should avoid having a voter required to vote at two different polling stations for municipal and school board elections.
 - 4.4. Where possible wards should consider the rural/urban nature of the division and its associated communities.

Legal Reference: Section 76(1), (4) Education Act
Policy 7, Board Operations
Bylaw No. 9-19/20