

Milton might soon get electoral riding of its own

Commission submits report with redrawing of riding map, including changes for Halton

By Julia Le
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Milton may see a riding of its own in the next federal election.

The Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Ontario recently submitted its report redrawing the province's federal electoral map to the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada after hosting a number of public hearings across the province in October and November.

The report, which includes changes to Halton's electoral boundaries, was recently tabled in the House of Commons.

Members of Parliament were given the chance to review the report and now have the opportunity to file objections to it over the next few weeks before the map is etched in stone.

The commission has made a substantial number of changes to the electoral map, creating 15 new electoral districts in the regions of Halton, Kitchener, Hamilton, Brampton, Mississauga, Simcoe, York, Toronto, Ottawa, Belleville and Durham.

The report shows Halton has one new electoral district for a total of four in the region. They are Milton, Oakville South, Oakville North — Burlington North and Burlington.

Honourable George Valin, the chair of the three-member commission, said they received advice from hundreds of citizens and organizations across the province, which helped guide their decisions.

"The commission is satisfied that it has balanced its statutory obligations with the views of the people of Ontario in striving for the goal of effective representation," he said.

The Halton portion of the report details how

a public hearing in Oakville to discuss Halton boundaries caused the commission to re-examine the region and make adjustments to its proposal.

A further public hearing in Oakville discussed the changes to the original electoral boundaries proposal, which included having Milton split into two different electoral boundaries, sharing the ridings of Burlington North and Halton Hills.

After hearing feedback from the public, which included Town of Milton clerk Troy McHarg speaking on behalf of town council, the Commission decided to revert to its initial proposal with minor adjustments.

Milton's riding, as shown in the report, is composed of the Town of Milton and a part of the City of Burlington lying northwest of Dundas Street and Hwy. 407.

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz told the *Champion* keeping Milton together would be the ideal situation as reflected in the report.

"It certainly keeps the community from being divided into two ridings, which in my opinion is a positive move," he said, adding that he believes the commission did a good job at listening to the public's advice.

Krantz noted that when residents vote in the next federal election, they'll have one voice to speak on behalf of the whole community.

The report also reflects doing away with the Halton riding and having the riding names reflect the areas they represents.

Krantz said there's no way to satisfy every resident, but the ridings shown in the report "reasonably reflect the community."

To see the report and maps showing how the ridings are divided, visit www.federal-redistribution.ca.

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