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of Nova Scotia
Municipalities

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May 18, 2012

Dr. Dr. Teresa MacNeil (Chair)
Electoral Boundaries Commission
7037 Mumford Road, Suite 6
Halifax, NS B3J 3C8

Dear Dr. MacNeil:

I am writing you on behalf of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities to express concern with the Provincial Boundaries Commission Terms of Reference, specifically section 2(d).

As you are aware, Section 2(d) states "Notwithstanding 2(c), no constituency may deviate by a variance greater or less than 25 per cent from the average number of electors per constituency". This undermines Section 2(c) (iii) which states that "Deviations from parity of voting power may be justified in consideration of Nova Scotia's linguistic and cultural diversity, in particular, the province's Acadian and African Nova Scotia population".

The UNSM understands the importance of recognizing the province's linguistic and cultural diversity when devising provincial electoral boundaries. Redrawing electoral boundaries solely on population without consideration of Nova Scotia's diverse communities—specifically Acadian and African Nova Scotian communities—would undermine our historical approach in acknowledging these important populations.

To this end we ask that Electoral Boundaries Commission disregard Section 2(d) of the Terms of Reference.

Regards,

Deputy Warden Jimmy MacAlpine
UNSM President

cc: UNSM Board of Directors