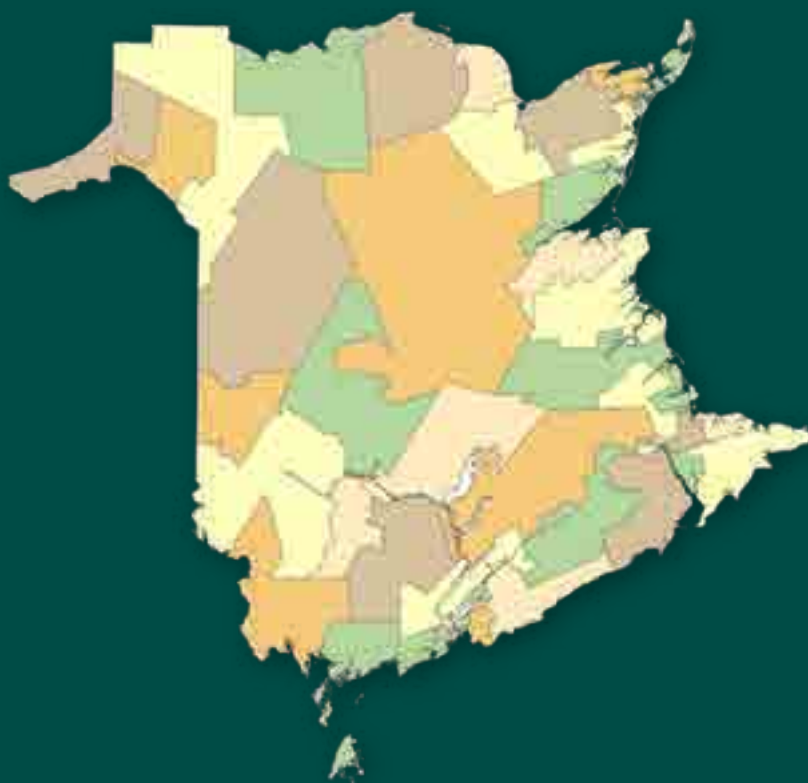


ELECTORAL
BOUNDARIES AND
REPRESENTATION
COMMISSION



COMMISSION SUR LA
DÉLIMITATION DES
CIRCONSCRIPTIONS
ÉLECTORALES ET LA
REPRÉSENTATION

Final Report



NEW BRUNSWICK

FINAL REPORT

Province of New Brunswick

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March 12, 2023

Mr. Shayne Davies
Clerk of the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly
Legislative Building
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Dear Mr. Davies,

Pursuant to section 18(3)(a) of the Electoral Boundaries & Representation Commission Act, we respectfully file with your office a copy of the commission's final report.

As prescribed within the act, the recommendations contained in the report include the revision of the province's current 49 electoral districts, as well as the name proposed for each district. Our report contains maps detailing the boundaries of the new electoral districts.

In accordance with s. 18(4) of the act, we kindly request that you immediately forward a copy of the report to each of the members of the legislative assembly.

Sincerely,

Roger Clinch
Co-Chair

Josée Rioux-Walker
Commissioner

Camille Thériault
Co-Chair

Krista Ross
Commissioner

Roger J. Ouellette
Commissioner

Emily Teed
Commissioner

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Introduction

In June of 2015 the 58th Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick unanimously adopted amendments to the *Electoral Boundaries and Representation Act*. This act, first adopted in 2005, establishes the legislated rules under which electoral boundaries in the province are drawn and revised.

On July 15, 2022, the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council appointed six members to the commission in accordance with the act. These appointments were the result of the recommendation of the legislative administrative committee of the Legislative Assembly, composed of representatives of all political parties represented in the legislature.

The members are drawn from a cross-section of backgrounds and regions around the province. The members of the commission are:

- Roger Clinch, co-chair
- Camille Thériault, co-chair
- Roger J. Ouellette
- Josée Rioux-Walker
- Krista Ross
- Emily Teed

Following the most recent amendments to the act, the commission was tasked with the revision of boundaries to the 49 current ridings primarily seeking an equal number of electors while also considering the effective representation of the English and French linguistic communities. As required by section 8 of the act, the commission was provided with information on the number and location of electors by New Brunswick's Chief Electoral Officer. In accordance with subsection 14(1) of the act, the commission conducted a series of 12 in-person and two virtual public meetings and heard representations at those meetings and by telephone, letter, and email.

Under s.s.15(1) of the act, the commission prepared a preliminary report within 150 days of its establishment. The preliminary report was delivered to the legislature and released to the public on December 12, 2022. The preliminary report of the commission included preliminary recommendations for:

- (a) the division of the province into 49 electoral districts
- (b) the boundary description of each electoral district
- (c) the name of each electoral district.

In accordance with s.s.18(2) of the act, a final report shall be filed with the clerk of the Legislative Assembly within 90 days of the filing of the preliminary report. This document is the final report of the commission per s.s.18(2) of the act. This report provides the final proposed electoral boundaries for the 49 electoral districts, the proposed name for each electoral district as well as information on the linguistic profiles for the proposed ridings. The recommendations contained in this report were made after the commission conducted a second round of public hearings in January 2023.

Eight public hearings were held virtually during the period of January 11-14. Six sessions were held to correspond with the regional approach the commission used during the preliminary process and two additional sessions were held to allow for submissions based on provincewide issues. The sessions were held virtually with professional facilitators and simultaneous interpretation. This format was utilized to ensure that all interested parties were heard by the commission by allowing equal access and by avoiding weather-related cancellations or delays.

In addition to the public hearings, the commission received submissions directly by letter, email and through telephone calls. Appendix A provides a listing of all presenters and submissions received during the feedback period.

For greater clarity, the commission notes that riding boundaries as shown on the maps contained within this report provide the definition of the boundaries for the recommended electoral districts. Digital versions of the electoral maps will be available to review online at the commission's website after the release of this report.

As per s.19 of the act, the commission will accept written objections which have been signed by two members of the legislative assembly for 14 days following the delivery of the final report to the clerk of the legislative assembly. The commission will then have 30 days to consider those objections, following which it will produce an amended final report. It is anticipated that the work of the commission will be completed no later than April 2023.

Guiding Principles

THE ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES AND REPRESENTATION ACT

The powers and duties of the Electoral Boundaries and Representation Commission are set out in the *Electoral Boundaries and Representation Act*, R.S.N.B. 2014, c.106.

ELECTORAL QUOTIENT

Section 10 of the *Electoral Boundaries and Representation Act* requires the commission to calculate an electoral quotient. This is accomplished by dividing the total number of electors in all electoral districts in the province, as determined by the register of electors established under s. 20.1 of the *Elections Act*, by the total number of electoral districts. S.s.9(3)(a) sets the number of electoral districts at 49. The *Electoral Boundaries and Representation Act* does not provide the commission with any authority to alter the number of ridings from 49.

The total number of electors in the province as of July 2022 was reported to the commission by the Chief Electoral Officer as 573,993. This generates an electoral quotient of 11,714. In a letter to the commission dated October 14, 2022, the Chief Electoral Officer revised the total number of electors to 571,662. The electoral quotient used by the commission in the fulfilment of its mandate is therefore adjusted to 11,667.

In accordance with s.s.11(1) of the act, the commission is required to create 49 electoral districts that have the number of electors as close as possible to this electoral quotient.

Per s.s.11(2) when dividing the province into electoral districts, the commission is also required to consider the effective representation of the English and French linguistic communities in compliance with section 3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

The act permits the commission to deviate from the electoral quotient by up to a +/- 15% margin based on considerations enumerated in s.11, which reads as follows:

11(1) Subject to subsections (3), (4), (5) and (6), when dividing the Province into electoral districts, a Commission shall ensure that the number of electors in each electoral district is as close as reasonably possible to the electoral quotient.

11(2) When dividing the Province into electoral districts, a Commission shall consider the effective representation of the English and French linguistic communities in complying with section 3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

11(3) In order to comply with its obligations under subsection (2), a Commission may depart from the principle of voter parity as set out in subsection (1).

11(4) A Commission may depart from the principle of voter parity as set out in subsection (1) in order to achieve effective representation of the electorate as guaranteed by section 3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and based upon the following considerations:

- (a) communities of interest;
- (b) local government and other administrative boundaries;
- (c) the rate of population growth in a region;
- (d) effective representation of rural areas;
- (e) geographical features, including the following:
 - (i) the accessibility of a region;
 - (ii) the size of a region; and
 - (iii) the shape of a region; and
- (f) any other considerations that the Commission considers appropriate

11(5) If a Commission is of the opinion that it is desirable to depart from the principle of voter parity when establishing an electoral district, the number of electors in the electoral district shall deviate by no greater than 15% from the electoral quotient.

11(6) If a Commission is of the opinion that it is desirable to depart from the principle of voter parity when establishing an electoral district, in extraordinary circumstances the number of electors in the electoral district may deviate by no greater than 25% from the electoral quotient.

11(7) For greater certainty, “extraordinary circumstances” in subsection (6) includes the effective representation of the English and French linguistic communities.

Taking these considerations into account, the number of electors in each electoral district must fall between 9,917 and 13,417 (11,667 electors +/- 15%) unless the commission is satisfied that “extraordinary circumstances” exist.

The commission has applied the guiding principles outlined above and has complied with the legislation by recommending that 48 of 49 electoral districts contain electors numbering between 9,922 (11,667 electors -14.96%) and 13,396 (11,667 electors +14.82%).

The commission is of the opinion that one electoral district (ED #16 Tantrammar) represents an ‘extraordinary circumstance’ and has therefore deviated from the electoral quotient of 11,667 electors by more than +/- 15% but less than the absolute allowable variance permitted by s. 11(6) of +/- 25%. The number of electors for this riding is 9,058 (11,667 electors -22.36%).

HEARINGS

The act requires the commission to hold two sets of public hearings, one prior to the release of its preliminary report and a second round following its release. The latter hearings provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposals of the commission set out in its preliminary report.

As noted in the introduction to this report, the commission has fulfilled its obligation to hold public hearings by holding the first set of hearings in August and September 2022 and the second set of public hearings in January 2023.

REPORTS

The act requires the commission to file its preliminary report within 150 days of the establishment of the commission. The final report of the commission must be filed within 90 days after the filing of the preliminary report. These reports must contain the 49 electoral districts with their descriptions and names. Per s.s.9(4) of the act, the names of the electoral districts must be based on geographic considerations.

As noted in the introduction to this report, the commission has fulfilled its reporting obligations by filing its preliminary report on December 12, 2022, and by submitting this document, its final report, on March 12, 2023.

OBJECTIONS TO THE FINAL REPORT

S. 19 of the act allows the commission to receive written objections to the recommendations contained in its final report within 14 days of its filing. These objections must be in writing and signed by at least two members of the legislative assembly. The commission is required to consider those objections within the next 30 days and to finalize its report with or without changes.

FINAL AUTHORITY

Once the final report is filed, the Legislative Assembly Committee may make recommendations for amendments to regulation with respect to the name of an electoral district or to correct an error in the legal description of boundaries. Otherwise, the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council is required to make regulations setting the name and boundaries of the electoral ridings in accordance with the recommendations of the final report of the commission.

Extraordinary Circumstance – Tantramar and Impact on Cap-Acadie

In the opinion of the commission the situation in ED #16 Tantramar represents an ‘extraordinary circumstance’.

The newly created municipal entities of Tantramar and Strait Shores along with the adjacent portions of the Southeast rural district are a predominately anglophone region of the province. This region, on its own, contains fewer than 9,917 electors (-15% variance from electoral quotient) and in fact contains fewer than 8,300 electors putting it, as a riding, at a variance to the electoral quotient exceeding -29%.

At the same time, the Tantramar region is surrounded by communities that contain francophone majority populations, by the province of Nova Scotia, by the Northumberland Strait and by the Bay of Fundy. There are no adjacent geographic locations containing significant anglophone populations to match with the populations of Tantramar / Strait Shores.

The solution of the previous commission was to combine the anglophone population of the Tantramar region with an adjacent predominately francophone community, Memramcook. As a percentage of the overall electorate, Memramcook represented approximately 30% of the total. During the work of the current commission, the Town of Memramcook made a compelling argument to be removed from the current riding of Tantramar and placed in the adjacent riding of ED #17 Dieppe-Memramcook. The commission made this change.

This left the commission with the problem of creating a riding that included the electors of the Tantramar region and enough of an electoral population from an adjacent riding to meet the maximum variation (+/- 25%). The commission looked at various options including placing the communities of Tantramar and Strait Shores with adjacent francophone majority communities. However, none of the solutions examined were consistent with the guiding principles of keeping communities of interest together to the greatest extent possible, ensuring effective representation for both francophone and anglophone linguistic communities or respecting the boundaries of newly created local governance entities.

With great reluctance, the commission adopted proposed electoral boundaries that would place a small, eastern portion of the municipality of Cap-Acadie in the electoral district of Tantramar. This portion of Cap-Acadie contains approximately 760 electors and when added to the electors of Tantramar will put the final population of electors at 9,058 (-22.36 % below the electoral quotient).

During the second round of public consultations, many presenters came before the commission and many other submissions were made asking that the commission reconsider its decision to place this portion of Cap-Acadie in ED #16 - Tantramar. The commission was understanding of these requests and recognized the conflict with the principle of effective representation for French and English linguistic communities that this decision represented.

The commission sought a legal opinion to outline its options, if any, in this circumstance. The legal opinion received was that the commission has no latitude to deviate from the absolute maximum deviation (+/- 25%) from the electoral quotient as prescribed by the legislation. A summary of the legal opinion is provided in Appendix D.

Accordingly, the commission has no option but to include sufficient electors in ED #16 - Tantramar to bring it in compliance with the legislation, at a variance from the electoral quotient of less than -25%.

RECOMMENDATION - IMMEDIATE AD-HOC AMENDMENT

The commission recommends that the legislature examine the possibility of making an amendment to the *Electoral Boundaries and Representation Act* prior to the next provincial general election to address the issue of the 'extraordinary circumstances' that currently exist in Tantramar. This would include an allowance to deviate more than +/- 25% in extraordinary circumstances which aligns with many other jurisdictions across Canada as described in Appendix E.

Given the unique nature of the shape and location of the French and English communities in this portion of New Brunswick, there is no immediate process for a non-legislated solution that would ensure effective representation for the francophone linguistic community which has been attached to the ED #16 - Tantramar to ensure that this commission's report is compliant with current legislation.

Public Input

CRITIQUES AND CHALLENGES

Throughout the entire process of electoral boundary review, the commission has diligently adhered to the guiding principles as provided in legislation. Although the commission believes it has complied with the legislation in all respects, there is still room for the public to critique both the work done by the commission and the legislation under which it operates.

The guiding principles which the commission must follow in conducting its work are each important to consider on their own. However, when considered as a whole, the guiding principles often require the commission to choose between competing ideas. For instance, the concept of voter parity must be considered in keeping communities of interest together, effective representation of French and English linguistic communities must be considered while adhering to maximum allowable deviations from the electoral quotient, representation of rural areas must be balanced against the current demographic trends leading to increased urbanization.

Consequently, an exercise, such as the commission has conducted these past months, will inevitably lead to dissatisfaction from some quarters where it is felt that one guiding principle may have been sacrificed or given less weight by the commission than another.

The commission listened carefully to the feedback received during both of its series of public hearings, and where possible, adjusted its preliminary proposals. These adjustments better reflect its understanding of how conflicts between the competing guiding principles can be resolved to provide residents with more effective representation.

PUBLIC CRITIQUES

During the process of developing its preliminary report and again as it received feedback from the public in advance of this final report, the commission heard critiques of its preliminary recommendations for one riding or entire regions. The commission also heard more broad-based critiques about the overall process or the way in which the guiding principles were interpreted and implemented throughout the preliminary report.

In the first instance, the commission attempted to address the critiques by adjusting its preliminary proposals within the final report to alleviate the concerns raised. The commission made dozens of minor adjustments to its preliminary recommendations in ridings around the province.

However, there were some significant critiques that fall into the category of being more broadly based. These are identified below and then addressed under recommendations.

1. Process timeframe / process timing

The timeframes that are provided in the legislation result in a review process that can appear to be rushed. The commission has no flexibility and must adhere to the fixed timing for the various pieces of the process. This includes the initial 150-day period for the preliminary report, the next 90-day period for the final report, the 14-day objection period and the final 30-day period for the commission to respond.

These strict timeframes mean that the commission has little or no latitude in the scheduling of public hearings, both for the preliminary hearings and for the second round of hearings. In the most recent round of public hearings, for example, review of the preliminary report and preparation of submissions had to occur over the year-end holiday season because the commission was required to hold its hearings in mid-January to meet the 90-day deadline for submission of the final report. There were many presenters and submissions asking for more time in the future in consideration of the challenge to prepare appropriate submissions.

Presenters also commented on other events that impacted the work of the commission and the ability of the public to respond. These events included the timing of the federal electoral boundaries review, the recent local governance reform process and the local governance electoral process which occurred during the commission mandate. There were also major holiday periods during the commission's timeline for completing its mandate.

2. Initial conditions for public hearings

A common concern that was raised during the initial round of consultations was the lack of resources for those wishing to make a submission or presentation to the commission.

Many of those making presentations noted the lack of an initial proposed map of electoral boundaries. Essentially, submissions could only be made to reflect concerns with the existing electoral map even though it was generally apparent that changes would be proposed in many ridings and regions.

Other comments were that the public does not have access to the information and resources which are available to the commission. This is true with respect to up-to-date information about numbers and locations of electors. This data is maintained by Elections New Brunswick and was made available to the commission but could not be released to the public due to its sensitive nature and privacy concerns. Linguistic profile information also became available during the commission's term through the release of census data from Statistics Canada and this information is also made publicly available. However, accessing the census information and mapping it to existing provincial electoral riding maps is difficult and time consuming for individuals.

3. Undue adherence to voter parity versus other guiding principles

Throughout the consultation process, the commission heard that it should be less concerned with the concept of voter parity and more concerned about some other guiding principle be it maintaining communities of interest, protecting rural communities, respecting new municipal boundaries, ensuring effective representation of populations of anglophones or francophones, etc.

The previous commission was required to keep the acceptable variance from the electoral quotient to +/- 5%. The current commission was provided more flexibility in the allowable variance from the electoral quotient at +/- 15%. However, in preparing its preliminary report the commission attempted to develop electoral boundaries with the concept of voter parity foremost in its considerations.

Many of the adjustments that have been proposed in the final report are the direct result of submissions that have requested that the commission reconsider its position on voter parity and where possible, consider allowing variances closer to +/- 15% to better reflect communities of interest and to avoid, where possible, splitting some of the new municipal entities. Consequently, there are many ridings where the variance from the electoral quotient is larger than was proposed in the preliminary report.

CHALLENGES

As the commission did its work to realign the electoral district boundaries within New Brunswick, and as it considered feedback to its preliminary proposals, it faced two other significant challenges. The first challenge is related to effective representation of the English and French linguistic communities and the second challenge relates to the issue of protecting effective representation for rural electors. These were both issues that the commission considered in many ridings however, there are two examples below that clearly demonstrate each challenge.

1. Effective Representation – Linguistic Communities (Neguac / Tracadie)

During the initial round of public consultations, the commission heard submissions and presentations asking that it consider the case of the municipality of Neguac in the northeast portion of the province. Neguac is a predominately francophone community that is currently located within an electoral riding that is majority anglophone.

There were competing viewpoints expressed at the initial public consultations with some presenters asking that Neguac be moved into a riding with the nearby community of Tracadie. The riding containing Tracadie has a francophone majority, and it was argued that this would provide Neguac with more effective representation as based on language. However, other presentations stressed the community of interest that Neguac has with the Miramichi region and asked that it not be moved.

Ultimately, the commission proposed moving Neguac to the neighbouring electoral district in large part because of the concern about ensuring effective representation of the francophone linguistic community in Neguac. However, as the commission heard during the second round of public consultations, the initial decision to move Neguac created other concerns that were strongly articulated by presenters and in submissions received.

Making the decision primarily on the principle of effective representation of the French and English linguistic communities meant that the commission was not able to consider other guiding principles. These included downplaying Neguac's strong desire to maintain ties with the Miramichi region; the failure to consider effective representation of the anglophone community of Alnwick which would have been placed in a riding with a francophone majority; the failure to consider local governance boundaries by requiring both of the newly amalgamated communities of Tracadie and Alnwick to be split into multiple ridings; and finally the issue of effective representation for residents of Tracadie who were impacted by the Neguac decision by being placed in ridings with no apparent community of interest.

In the end, strong representation from all the groups provided the commission with the evidence it required to reverse its original position and to maintain Neguac in a Miramichi region riding. Language is a very important part of determining effective representation and should be balanced against other guiding principles of equal importance.

2. Effective Representation – Rural Areas (Champdoré)

The commission received feedback during the second round of public hearings expressing concern about the placement of the municipality of Champdoré, which is made up of many rural communities in Kent County, into a riding with a more urban population from Greater Moncton.

Many presenters were concerned that the rural population of Champdoré would not be effectively represented in a riding of the proposed configuration because of differences in community priorities. As well, there was general belief that the community of interest for Champdoré remained primarily with Kent County. Finally, there was concern that placing a rural area with slower growth like Champdoré in a riding with higher growth areas of Moncton would result in the dilution of the voice of rural residents over time.

The commission accepts that these are valid concerns, not only for Champdoré but for any rural region of New Brunswick. The current electoral map contains many hybrid ridings which contain a combination of urban and rural areas. This format helps prevent having many large rural ridings, but it has led to the concerns raised in the feedback from Champdoré.

Although there are many demographic challenges in the Southeast Region, and in the instance of Champdoré, the commission listened to the concerns raised and attempted to provide remedies as possible. It removed from the proposed riding a portion of the City of Moncton to increase the percentage of population in the riding coming from rural areas. This increased the population of Champdoré as a percentage of the riding to 40%, from 26% in the preliminary map.

The commission also kept the new municipal entity of Champdoré together. Although it does not answer the request to be aligned to a greater extent with Kent County, it does encourage Champdoré to develop community links. Respecting the new municipal and administrative boundaries, especially for newly formed rural municipalities, was an important consideration for the commission as it attempted to ensure effective representation of rural areas.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

In accordance with section 14 of the act, the commission held public meetings throughout the province to hear representations on the existing electoral districts and the establishment of new electoral districts.

The commission held a series of 12 in-person, and two virtual meetings in August and September 2022:

August 23 - Inkerman	September 6 – Edmundston
August 24 – Campbellton	September 7 – Grand Falls
August 25 – Bathurst	September 8 – Woodstock
August 30 - Miramichi	September 12 – Virtual
August 31 – Bouctouche	September 13 – Saint Andrews
September 1 – Moncton	September 14 – Saint John
September 1 – Virtual	September 15 – Fredericton

After the publication of the preliminary report on December 12, 2022, the commission scheduled a second set of public hearings, as prescribed by s.17 of the act, to be held virtually in January 2023. The public hearings sessions were all held virtually to ensure equal access to all regions of the province and to avoid the possibility of weather-related delays or cancellations. The sessions were scheduled to hear from each of the six regions identified in the preliminary report and to provide an opportunity for comments relating to the entire province.

January 11 (afternoon) – Northern Region (ED #1-8)

January 11 (evening) – Miramichi (ED #9-11)

January 12 (afternoon) – Provincial (ED #1-49)

January 12 (evening) – Southeast (ED #12-24)

January 13 (afternoon) – Southern (ED #25-36)

January 13 (evening) – Capital (ED #37-44)

January 14 (morning) – Upper River Valley (ED #45-49)

January 14 (afternoon) – Provincial (ED #1-49)

The commission also published a website <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/boundaries-representation-commission.html> in order to inform the public of its mandate and to invite the public to communicate their views on the redistribution of electoral districts.

In total, at the second round of public hearings, well over a hundred representations were made, with a further 140 submissions by email or letter. The commission gave serious consideration to the input received from New Brunswickers regardless of the channel through which it was received.

The commission engaged a third party to assist in the facilitation of the public consultations. The commission was provided with a document summarizing the feedback received during the second round of consultations. This summary document can be found in Appendix C of this report.

COMMISSION RESPONSE TO PUBLIC HEARINGS

The commission welcomed the opportunity to hear from so many members of the public during its second round of hearings. The feedback allowed the commission to better understand the impact its electoral boundary decisions have on local communities. The feedback also allowed the commission an opportunity to ensure that the messages received during the first round of consultations were correct or if adjustments were required as its situational understanding changed.

In many cases, the commission was able to use the feedback received to make amendments to the proposed electoral boundaries as shown in its preliminary report. Some of these changes are relatively minor and represent housekeeping items with an impact on few, and in some cases, no electors. These changes will be noted in the regional summaries contained later in the report.

In other situations, the commission made significant changes, including reversing decisions from the preliminary report based on the presentations and submissions received during the second round of consultations. These changes will receive additional commentary below.

Finally, the commission adjusted boundaries, where possible, to alleviate concerns raised during the consultation period. These adjustments may not eliminate all the issues raised by those making submissions and presentations, however, the commission attempted to use all tools at its disposal to lessen the perceived negative impact for affected groups and communities. These changes will also receive additional commentary below.

PUBLIC INPUT ON OR FROM THE NORTHERN REGION

The input received about the eight northern ridings (ED #1-8) related primarily to two key issues from the preliminary report and the impact that these decisions created. Other changes including some riding name changes are described in the regional summary later in this report.

1. Configuration of ridings in Restigouche - ED #1 and ED #2

Presentations and comments were received from elected officials representing many of the newly formed communities in Restigouche County. This group expressed unanimous support for realigning the two Restigouche ridings to an east/west alignment versus the north/south alignment as proposed in the preliminary report.

The current proposed alignment results in a portion of eastern Restigouche County (along the Bay of Chaleur) being placed in the same riding as Kedgwick and Saint-Quentin in the far western portion of Restigouche County. The presentations stressed that an east/west realignment would provide for better connections within and between the newly formed communities and would better foster the process of identification with the new communities for residents.

Commission Response

Switching to an east/west alignment in the electoral boundaries does not impact neighbouring ridings and it is possible to make this change within the guiding principles. However, a strict dividing line running from north to south following the boundaries of the municipal entities is not possible due to the need to balance electors between these two ridings. The commission has realigned the boundaries for these two electoral boundaries as shown on the maps for ED #1 and ED #2.

The commission will also recommend alternate names (ED #1 -Restigouche West, ED #2 - Restigouche East) for these ridings.

See below (3) for discussion of Saint-Quentin realignment from ED #1 Restigouche West to ED #47 Grand Falls – Saint-Quentin.

2. Placement of Neguac / Alnwick in ED #8, Configuration of Tracadie

During the public consultation period, feedback was received from many presenters asking that the commission reconsider placing Neguac within the riding of Tracadie-Neguac (ED #8) as was proposed in the preliminary report.

Although there was recognition that the commission wanted to provide effective representation to the francophone community within Neguac, presenters wanted the commission to consider other guiding principles, in addition to language, in making its decision. The large majority of the presenters to the commission disagreed with the proposed electoral boundaries and provided their arguments to the commission.

Presentations were made by elected officials from this region which provided strong rationale and explanation for why this region believes that its community of interest is primarily with the Miramichi region rather than with the Acadian Peninsula region.

Elected officials from the entire region also provided examples of how this decision had a negative impact in requiring communities to be divided under the preliminary proposals. A key example was the municipality of Tracadie, portions of which were placed in three different ridings.

Commission Response

The commission believes that the case to remove Neguac and Alnwick from ED #8 was compelling and given that there was no strong opposition to the idea of making this amendment to the preliminary report proposals, the commission has made this change in its final report.

This change will have some further impacts for electoral districts in the Northern region as well as the Miramichi region. Changes from the preliminary report proposals will be made to ED #4, ED #5, and ED #8.

Tracadie will be placed, primarily, in one electoral district, ED #8. However, as noted elsewhere, the commission is required to place a small portion of Tracadie in ED #7 – Shippagan-Les-Îles to meet the allowable variance from the electoral quotient in that riding.

Removing portions of Tracadie from ED #5 as proposed in the preliminary report, requires the commission to rebalance the elector population between ED #4 and ED #5 by moving the boundary between those ridings slightly to the west.

The commission also recommends alternate names (ED #5 -Hautes-Terres-Nepisiguit, ED #8 – Tracadie and ED #9 – Miramichi Bay-Neguac) for these ridings based on the changed configurations and suggestions made during the public consultations.

3. Placement of Saint-Quentin in Grand Falls-Saint-Quentin ED #47

Presentations and submissions were received during the second public consultation period asking the commission to reconsider its decision to keep Saint-Quentin as part of ED #1 Restigouche (now Restigouche West).

Elected officials spoke to the continued strong desire of the municipality of Saint-Quentin to be realigned to ED #47 Victoria-La Vallée. They spoke to the significant economic and social connections between Saint-Quentin and Madawaska County as well the belief that future economic growth and development would be based on these ties.

It was also noted that this message is consistent with the submissions made during the initial round of public consultations and that in the interim there have been local governance elections, ensuring that the message is consistent over time.

Commission Response

The commission recognizes the strong argument made by the municipality of Saint-Quentin to be placed in riding ED #47. There were no objections voiced to the potential realignment and the change can be accomplished while ensuring that the commission adheres to its other guiding principles.

The commission has made this change in its final report. Adjustments will be required to ED #48 and ED #49 to slightly rebalance the elector populations.

The commission has also changed the proposed name for riding ED #47 to Grand Falls – Saint-Quentin.

This issue is also addressed in the Upper River Valley Region discussion.

PUBLIC INPUT ON OR FROM THE MIRAMICHI REGION

The input received about the three Miramichi ridings (ED #9-11) related primarily to two key issues from the preliminary report and the impact that these decisions created. Other changes are described in the regional summary later in this report.

1. Placement of Neguac / Alnwick in ED #8

This issue was addressed previously.

2. Placement of Baie-Sainte-Anne, Escuminac and Hardwick in ED #12

Presentations were made during the public consultations and submissions were received by the commission asking it to reconsider the placement of the communities of Baie-Sainte-Anne, Escuminac and a small portion Hardwick in ED #12 – Kent North as proposed in the preliminary report. The rationale provided by presenters for asking the commission to reverse its decision was primarily related to the argument that this region has a strong community of interest with Miramichi County and therefore should remain in a Miramichi region riding.

Commission Response

Although the commission appreciates the feedback with respect to this decision, it notes that these areas were placed in ED #12 in its preliminary report because of representations made during its initial public consultations and to better align these areas with the Kent rural district, which is a newly created municipal entity and the regional service commission boundaries during the recent local governance reforms.

The commission does not believe that the evidence received during the second round of hearings was sufficient to make any changes with respect to this request.

PUBLIC INPUT ON OR FROM THE SOUTHEAST REGION

The input received on the 13 Southeast region ridings (ED #12-24) related primarily to two key issues from the preliminary report and the impact that these decisions created. Other changes including some riding name changes are described in the regional summary later in this report.

1. Configuration of ED #22 Champdoré-Moncton Irishtown-Lakeville

The commission received many submissions and presentations from elected officials and from individuals relating to the preliminary report and the proposals for ED #22. Most presentations and submissions reflected concern with the placement of the municipality of Champdoré within a riding that would have a large urban component from the Moncton area.

A submission from the deputy mayor of Champdoré noted specific concerns with ED #22 as proposed in the preliminary report. The deputy mayor noted that the rural community of Champdoré has little community of interest with the urban areas at the southern end of ED #22. The deputy mayor also noted that Champdoré is a primarily francophone region and that the area of Moncton included in the riding has a higher percentage anglophone population. Finally, he also noted that under the current proposal Champdoré represents approximately 25% of the overall population of the riding but that this percentage would quickly decline because of the rapid population growth in Moncton and the surrounding areas.

The comments of the deputy mayor were reflected in the comments of citizens of Champdoré asking that the commission reconsider the proposed boundary of ED #22.

Commission Response

The commission accepts the validity of and is sympathetic to many of the viewpoints raised with concerns for the placement of Champdoré within ED #22. However, population growth in southeast New Brunswick has required the commission to be resourceful in achieving compliance with the guiding principles as articulated in legislation.

The commission considered all comments and proposals made during the public consultation process to ensure that all possible options were explored. Many of the options presented to the commission, including the proposal from the Kent Regional Service Commission, would place Champdoré in another adjacent riding and although many of the proposals were viable when viewed in isolation, when the broader electoral map was considered, they were no longer feasible when considering the ripple effect of changes in adjacent ridings.

However, to alleviate some of the concerns raised during the consultation process, the commission will move some electors from ED #22 to ED #18. This will bring the number of electors in ED #22 as close as is possible to the maximum variance from the electoral quotient (-15%).

These adjustments achieve two positive outcomes for the residents of Champdoré in terms of effective representation. First, the elector population of Champdoré as a percentage of ED #22 becomes approximately 40% and because there are fewer portions of Moncton in ED #22, the rate at which this percentage of population declines should slow. Second, the linguistic profile of ED #22 will change slightly with approximately 2% more of the electoral population identifying as francophone (56% vs. 54%) than in the original proposal.

Electors will be moved from ED #22 to ED #18 and further adjustments will be made to ED #18, #19 and #20 to rebalance the number of electors to better match the electoral quotient. These changes will be described in the Southeast regional summary.

The commission will also recommend that the proposed name of the riding be changed to ED #22 – Champdoré – Irishtown.

2. Configuration of ED #16, Placement of Portion of Cap-Acadie

The commission received many submissions and presentations from elected officials and from individuals relating to the preliminary report and the proposals with respect to the placement of a portion of the municipality of Cap-Acadie within ED #16 – Tantrammar.

Commission Response

The commission agrees with many of the points raised by presenters and in submissions that the eastern portion of Cap-Acadie should be placed in ED #15 and the municipality of Cap-Acadie should be maintained intact. Under normal circumstances, the commission would make this change from the boundaries proposed in its preliminary report.

However, in its preliminary report the commission has recognized that, in its opinion, an ‘extraordinary circumstance’ exists in the riding of ED #16 – Tantrammar. In the event of an ‘extraordinary circumstance’, the legislation permits the commission to deviate from the electoral quotient by an amount of no greater than +/- 25%.

The communities of Tantramar, Strait Shores and the adjacent portions of the Southeast rural district contain, on their own, fewer than 8,300 electors, representing a variance from the electoral quotient of more than -29%. Therefore, the commission is required, as prescribed by legislation to add additional electors to ED #16 to make it compliant with the act.

The commission decided in its preliminary report to add a small number of electors from the adjacent riding ED #15 to bring the population of electors in ED #16 to within an acceptable variance.

The commission must submit a final report that is compliant with its enabling legislation and has no option but to reluctantly make no change from the electoral boundaries described in its preliminary report. The commission sought a legal opinion to outline its options in response to the abundance of feedback. A summary of the legal opinion is provided in Appendix D.

PUBLIC INPUT ON OR FROM THE SOUTH REGION

The input received about the 12 South region ridings (ED #25-36) related to relatively minor suggestions for proposed changes from the preliminary report. A more significant change is described below, and other changes are described in the regional summary later in this report.

1. Realignment of Campobello Island from ED #35 Fundy-The Isles-Saint John Lorneville to ED #36 Saint Croix

Submissions were received from elected officials from this region asking that the commission reconsider placing Campobello Island in ED #35. Submissions were made indicating that Campobello Island would be more effectively represented if placed in ED #36 and that this would also recognize a greater community of interest.

Commission Response

The proposed realignment has no impact on other adjacent ridings and has support from the local community.

The commission has realigned Campobello Island to ED #36 in its final report.

PUBLIC INPUT ON OR FROM THE CAPITAL REGION

The input received about the eight Capital region ridings (ED #37-44) related to relatively minor suggestions for proposed changes from the preliminary report. Many of the minor changes suggested during public consultations for ED #37 Oromocto-Sunbury and ED #43 Hanwell-New Maryland were not feasible due to the impact on surrounding ridings. Two more significant requests for change are described below and other changes are described in the regional summary later in this report.

1. Fredericton-Grand Lake (ED #38), Fredericton-York (ED #42)

The commission received a submission and a presentation from the City of Fredericton asking that the commission consider moving a portion of Fredericton from ED #42 to ED #38.

The specific portion of Fredericton is a section of the historic district of Marysville, north of Bridge Street. The submission speaks to the fact that the area traditionally known as Marysville is split into three ridings under the current preliminary proposal and the northern end of Marysville is currently attached to ED #42 but is separated from any other portion of Fredericton which is part of ED #42.

Commission Response

The commission agrees with the rationale for this change and accepts that the Marysville historic district should be kept together to the greatest extent possible.

The commission has made this change in its final report.

2. Realignment of Fredericton ridings lying south of the Saint John River

The commission heard from presenters asking that it reconsider the realignment of the Fredericton urban electoral districts lying south of the Saint John River. Presenters argued that the traditional downtown core of Fredericton as represented by the current riding of Fredericton South has a strong community of interest and that various groups of residents living in this riding would have more effective representation if the current riding boundaries were maintained.

Commission Response

The City of Fredericton made a proposal during the first round of public consultations asking the commission to consider creating more ridings within the city, up from the current two and eliminating so-called 'hybrid' ridings that contain both urban and rural components.

In response, the commission created three ridings that are almost entirely contained within the city and a fourth that contains a majority population of urban residents. The commission applied its guiding principles to develop the electoral boundaries proposed in its preliminary report.

The commission does not believe that the evidence received during the current round of consultations is sufficient to make any changes with respect to this request.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AND FROM THE UPPER RIVER VALLEY REGION

The input received about the five Upper River Valley region ridings (ED #45-49) related primarily to one key issue from the preliminary report. Other changes including some riding name changes are described in the regional summary later in this report.

1. Realignment of Saint-Quentin from Restigouche region to Madawaska region

Presentations and submissions were received during the second public consultation period asking the commission to reconsider its decision to keep Saint-Quentin as part of ED #1 Restigouche West.

Elected officials spoke to the continued strong desire of the municipality of Saint-Quentin to be realigned to ED #47 Victoria-La Vallée. They spoke to the significant economic and social connections between Saint-Quentin and Madawaska County as well the belief that future economic growth and development would be based on these ties.

It was also noted that this message is consistent with the submissions made during the initial round of public consultations and that in the interim there have been local governance elections, ensuring that the message is consistent over time.

Commission Response

The commission recognizes the strong argument made by the municipality of Saint-Quentin to be placed in riding ED #47. There were no objections voiced to the potential realignment and the change can be accomplished while ensuring that the commission adheres to its other guiding principles.

The commission has made this change in its final report. Adjustments will be required to ED #48 and ED #49 to slightly rebalance the elector populations.

The commission has also changed the proposed name for riding ED #47 to Grand Falls – Saint-Quentin.

2. New Denmark

Requests were made by presenters and in submissions to move the rural community of New Denmark from ED #47 to ED #46 to better align with regional service commission boundaries and the respect of effective representation of the English and French linguistic communities.

Commission Response

The New Denmark rural community was moved from ED #47 to ED #46.

Boundary Revision Considerations

REGIONAL APPROACH

Previous commissions have utilized a regional approach for the process of redistributing ridings within New Brunswick. This commission has followed the lead of its predecessors by recognizing that there is a historical basis for this approach and has divided the province into regions to better manage its task.

One advantage to this regional approach is that it helps distinguish between ridings based on a population average, as is done in many jurisdictions and ridings, and those that are based on the electoral quotient approach that is used here in New Brunswick. Changing demographics over the last decade have led to the common wisdom that the southern half of the province has gained population. Therefore, the expectation, as heard multiple times by the commission, is that there will be an increase in the number of ridings representing the southern half.

The commission's preliminary report showed how, based on the initial riding boundaries proposed, no region was sufficiently above or below the overall electoral quotient that it should warrant a change in the number of ridings per region.

The revised chart below, which is based on the commission's final report, shows that by redistributing a few Northern Region and Upper River Valley Region communities, this caused a slight reduction on the average in the Northern region and a slight increase on the average on the Upper River Valley Region from the preliminary report.

No regions have crossed the threshold of requiring an adjusted number of seats from the preliminary report. Therefore, because all individual ridings (except for ED #16) fall within the acceptable variance from the electoral quotient, the commission is prepared to leave the overall number of ridings per region as was proposed in the preliminary report.

REGION	EXISTING ELECTORAL DISTRICTS	TOTAL ELECTORS IN THE REGION BASED ON REVISED RIDINGS	ELECTORS DIVIDED BY ELECTORAL QUOTIENT	PROPOSED NUMBER OF RIDINGS	CHANGE BETWEEN PRE-EXISTING NUMBER OF RIDINGS AND PROPOSED
Northern	8	85,610	7.34	8	0
Miramichi	3	32,675	2.80	3	0
Southeast	13	155,673	13.34	13	0
South	12	139,463	11.95	12	0
Capital	8	97,648	8.37	8	0
River Valley	5	60,593	5.19	5	0

LOCAL GOVERNANCE REFORM

Among key considerations for this commission are the recently implemented reforms to local governance. The number of local governance entities was reduced dramatically effective January 1, 2023. The local governance reform process included extensive public consultations as officials worked to identify and develop new municipal entities based on communities of interest including local linguistic, economic, and geographic considerations.

The commission considers that this process can provide a solid basis for the current riding boundary revision process. One of the guiding principles in the act requires the commission to consider local government and other administrative boundaries.

The commission considered local governance reform as a key factor in the preliminary process, and it continued to adjust boundaries, where possible, in this final report to keep newly formed local governance entities intact to the greatest extent possible.

RIDING PROFILES

Elector totals for each electoral district and the variance from the electoral quotient are provided on the regional pages below and are summarized in Appendix B at the end of the report.

Linguistic profiles for each electoral district are provided in Appendix B as well. The final linguistic profiles are based on census data provided by, and census division developed by Statistics Canada. Although they are a very good match to the electoral districts, they are not a perfect match and consequently there are some cases where rounding adds to less than or more than 100% in many ridings.

As shown in Appendix B, 48 of 49 ridings fall within the acceptable elector +/- 15% variance from the electoral quotient. One of 49 ridings exceeds the +/- 15% variance, by reason of extraordinary circumstances, but is within the maximum allowable +/- 25% variance permitted by legislation.

The linguistic profiles for the 49 ridings show that, as was the case with the previous commission, there are 32 ridings with an anglophone linguistic majority, 16 ridings with a francophone linguistic majority and one riding where neither official language forms a linguistic majority.

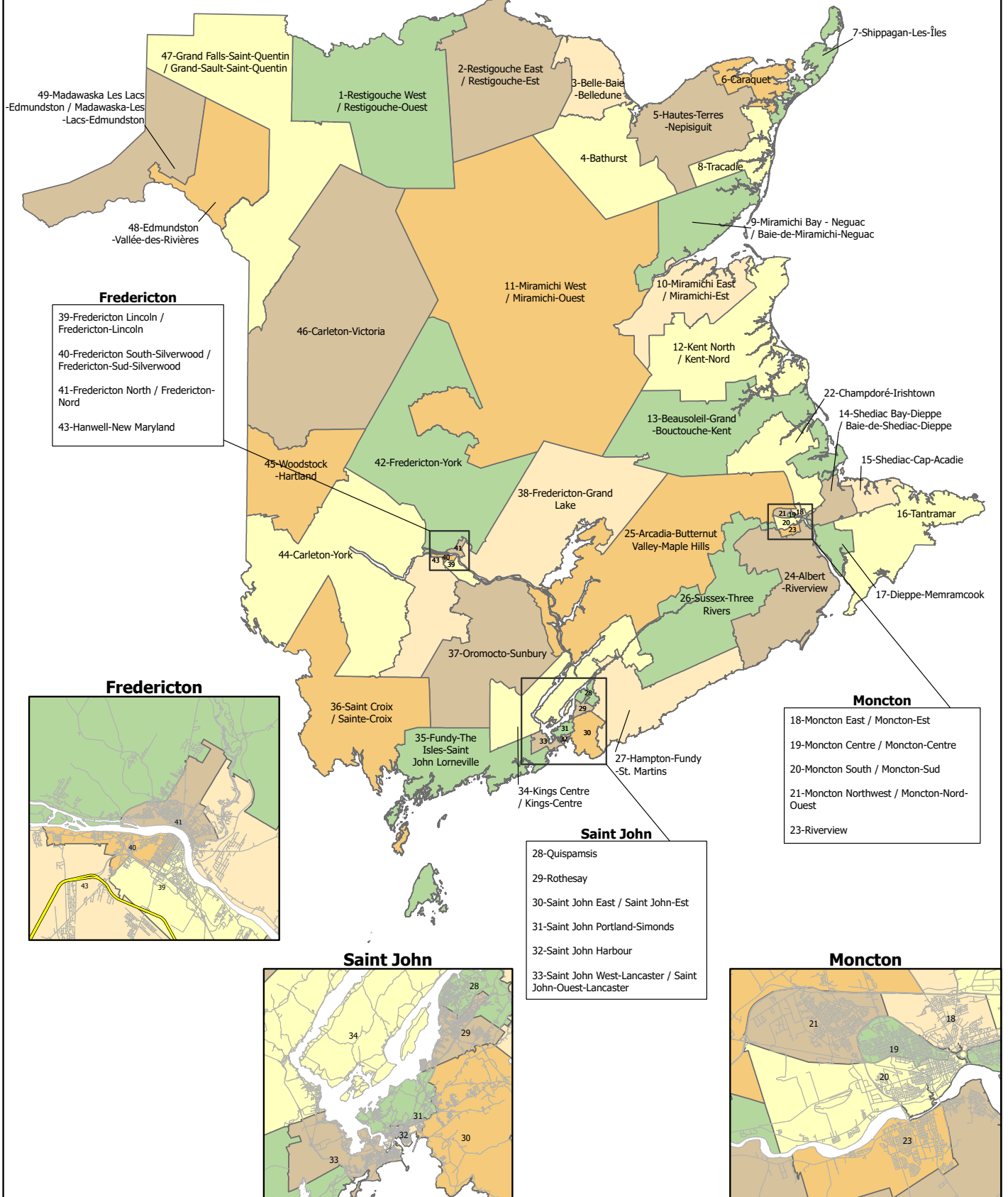
GENERAL APPROACH

- The commission considered all public submissions and modelled many suggestions before making its final recommendations.
- Throughout the province, the commission tried where practical to avoid splitting municipalities and communities.
- Throughout the province, the commission was mindful of the desire to maintain effective rural representation. In some cases, the commission felt this more likely when more urban populations were grouped together. In others, however, grouping urban populations tightly would have resulted in rural ridings that sprawled across areas unconnected by transportation, cultural, or economic links and having little community of interest beyond being rural. In those areas, the commission strived to achieve balanced ridings which allowed for effective representation by combining rural and urban communities.
- The commission sought, where practical, to make boundary lines correspond to natural boundaries, municipal boundaries, or major thoroughfares.

- The commission sought where possible to balance neighbouring ridings to bring them closer to the electoral quotient.
- Where appropriate, the commission recommended ridings where the elector population varied from the electoral quotient by amounts approaching the maximum +/- 15%. This was done to consider the other guiding principles more fully as prescribed by legislation such as communities of interest, respecting local governance and administrative boundaries, and ensuring effective representation of rural areas.

Electoral Districts for New Brunswick

Circonscriptions électorales pour le Nouveau-Brunswick



NORTHERN REGION

The northern region of New Brunswick consists chiefly of Restigouche and Gloucester counties and runs along the northern portion of the province from the northwest corner through the Chaleur region and into the Acadian Peninsula. There are currently eight ridings in this area: two primarily located in Restigouche County, three centred on Bathurst and the Chaleur region and three in what is known as the Acadian Peninsula.

As outlined in a previous section of this report, during the second round of public hearings there was considerable discussion with respect to the realignment of the Restigouche County ridings, to where the municipality of Saint-Quentin and the communities of Neguac and Alnwick should be placed. The respective decisions of the commission have been noted previously in this report.

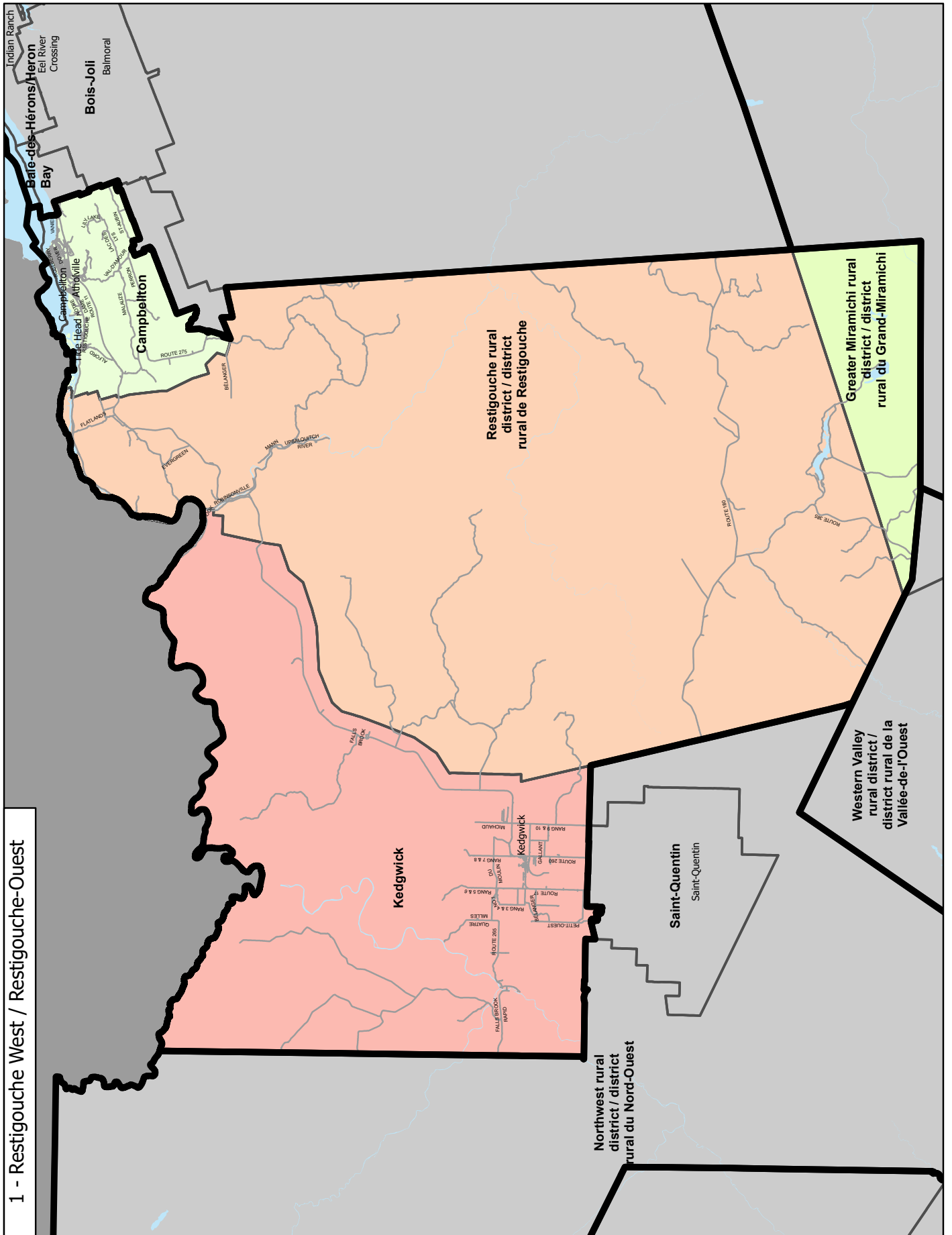
With these changes from the preliminary report, the commission was able to keep most of the municipality of Tracadie intact as was requested. This change necessitated further adjustments to the ridings of Bathurst (ED #4) and Hautes-Terres-Nepisiguit (ED #5) to balance elector populations.

The commission has also recommended name changes to the ridings indicated on the chart below.

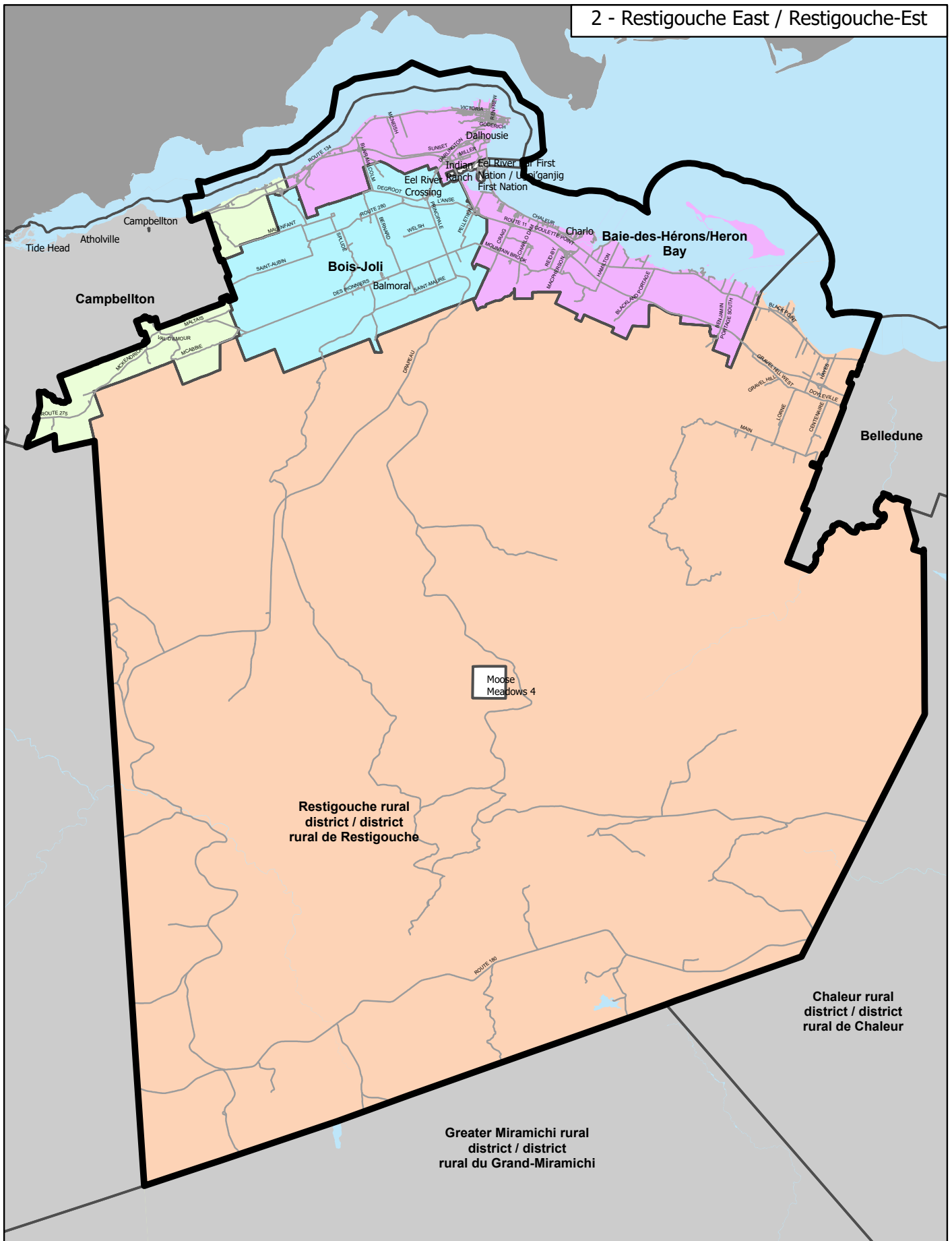
Using the final recommended riding boundaries to determine the variance from the electoral quotient, the north region contains sufficient voters for 7.34 ridings. The commission proposes maintaining eight ridings for this region. The riding names and electors (after revisions) for the Northern region are as follows:

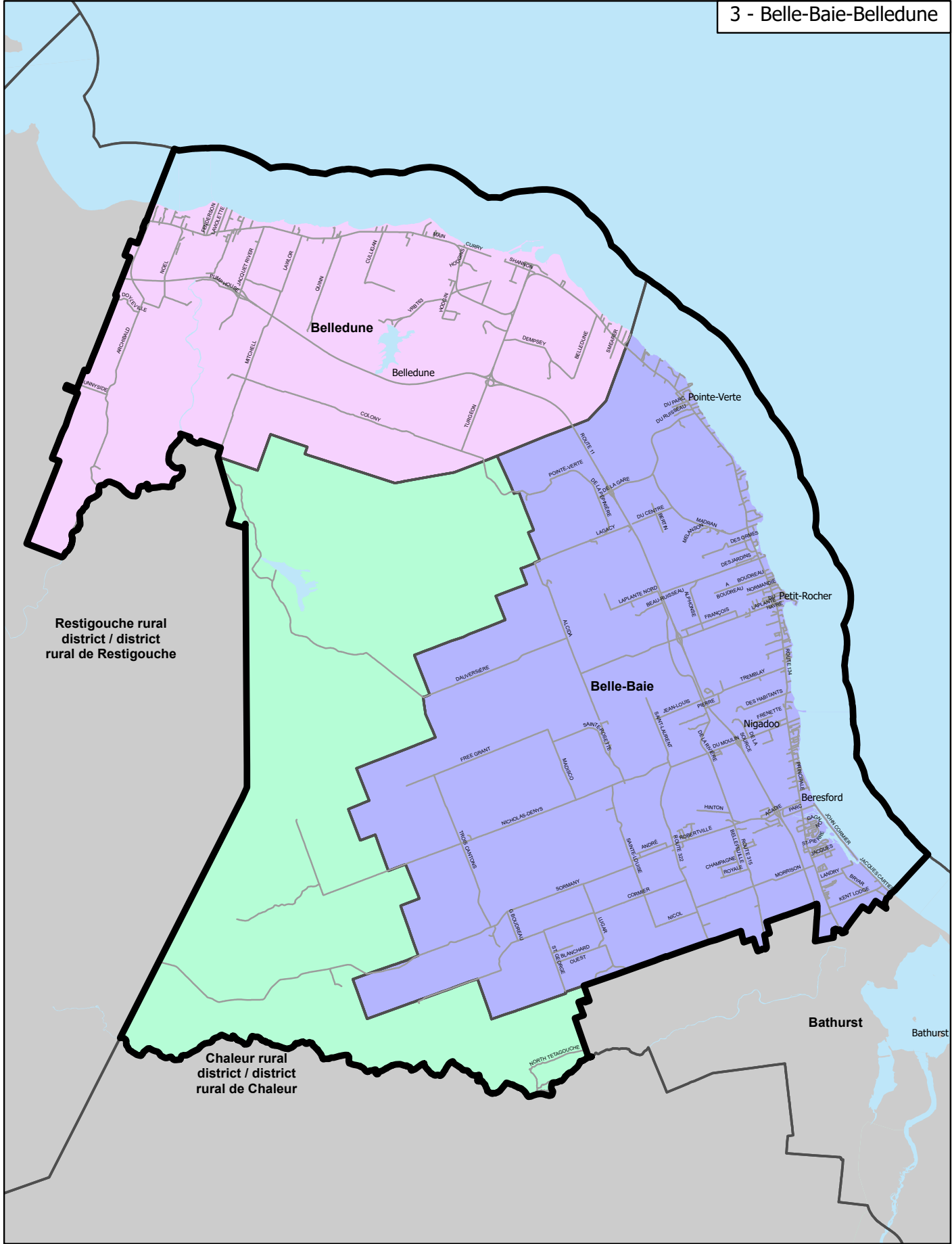
	NAME	TOTAL ELECTORS	VARIANCE	PERCENT
1	Restigouche West *	10,397	-1,270	-10.89
2	Restigouche East *	10,008	-1,659	-14.22
3	Belle-Baie-Belledune	12,618	+951	+8.15
4	Bathurst	10,009	-1,658	-14.21
5	Hautes-Terres-Nepisiguit *	9,969	-1,698	-14.55
6	Caraquet	9,933	-1,734	-14.86
7	Shippagan-Les-Îles	9,922	-1,745	-14.96
8	Tracadie *	12,754	+1,087	+9.32

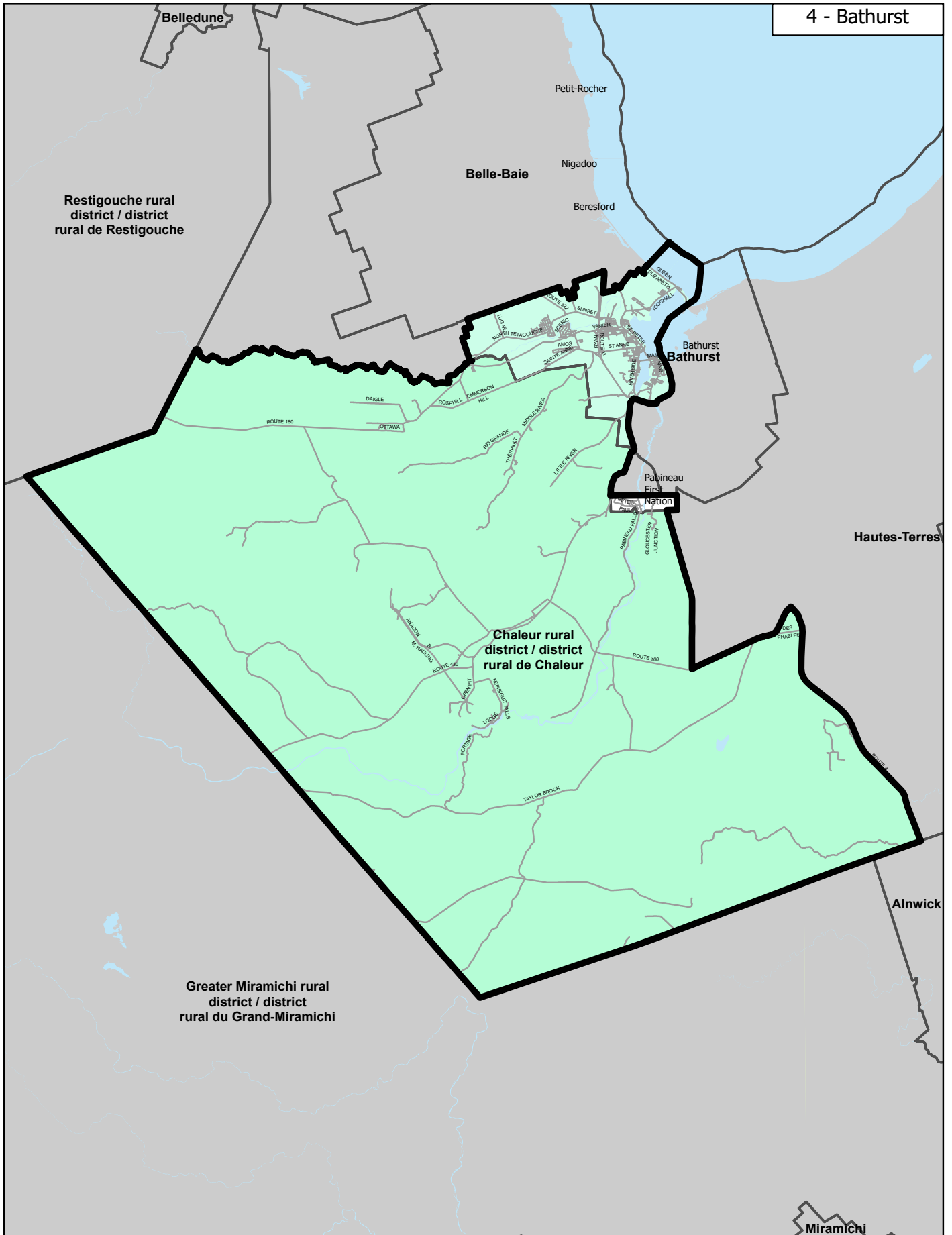
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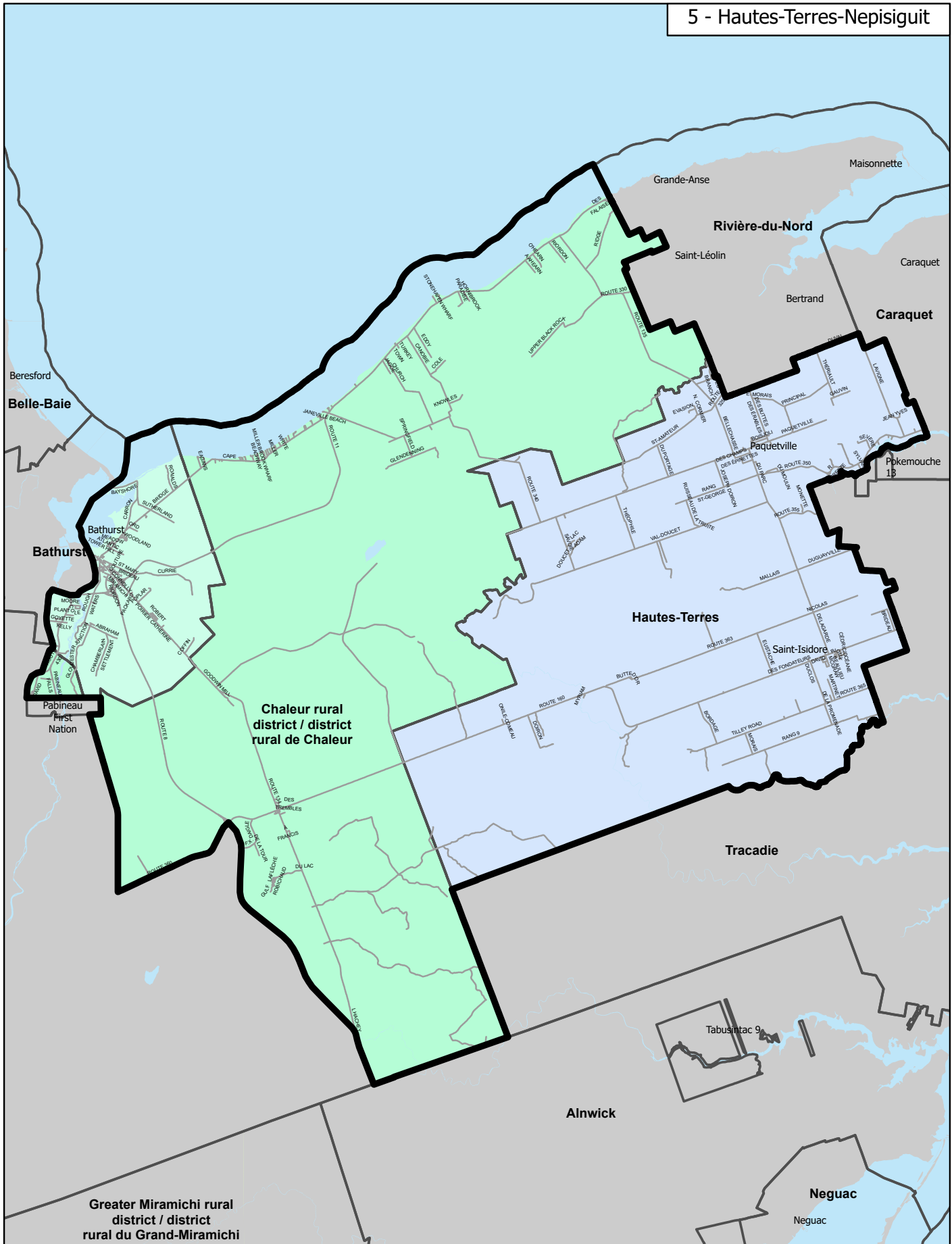
1 - Restigouche West / Restigouche-Ouest

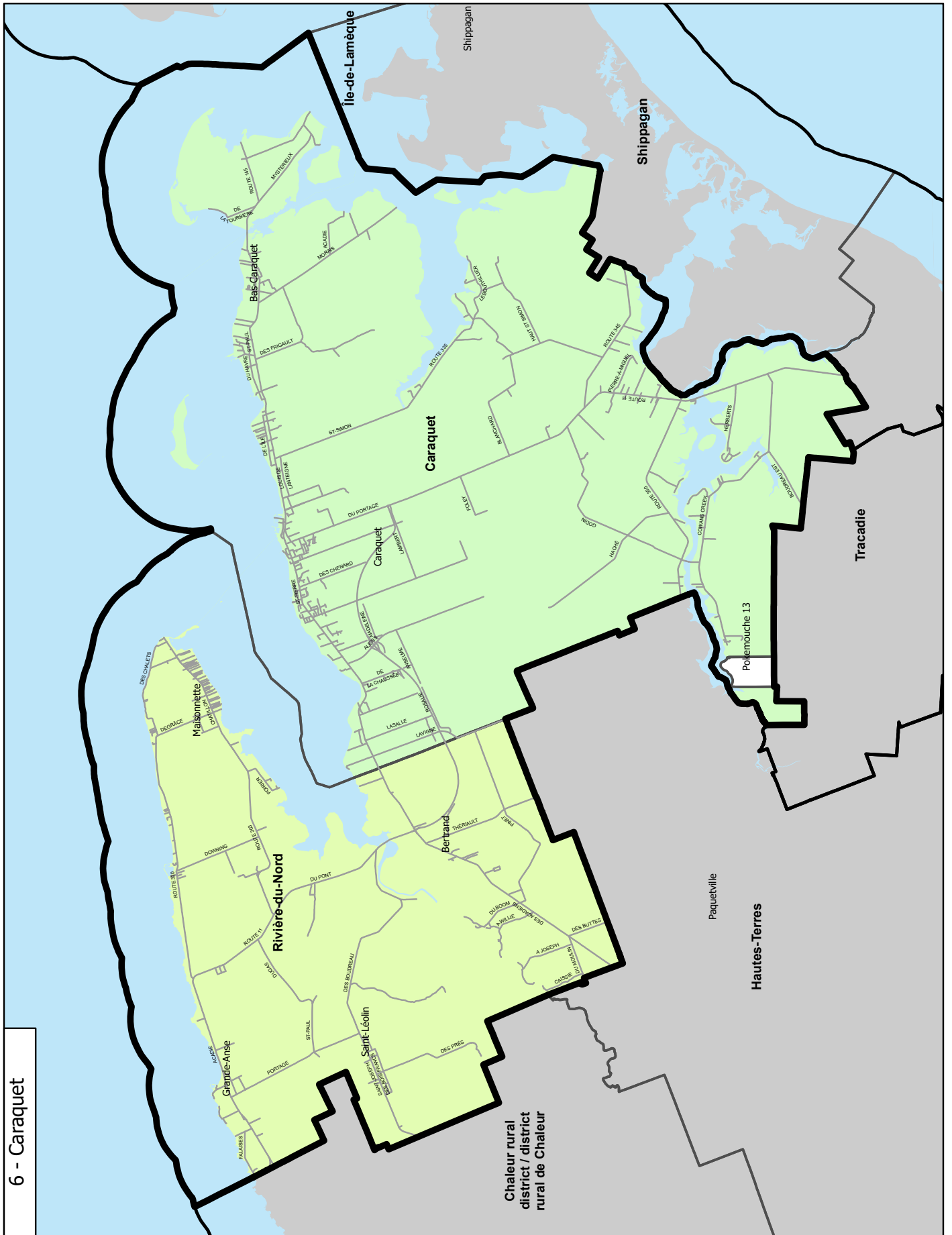


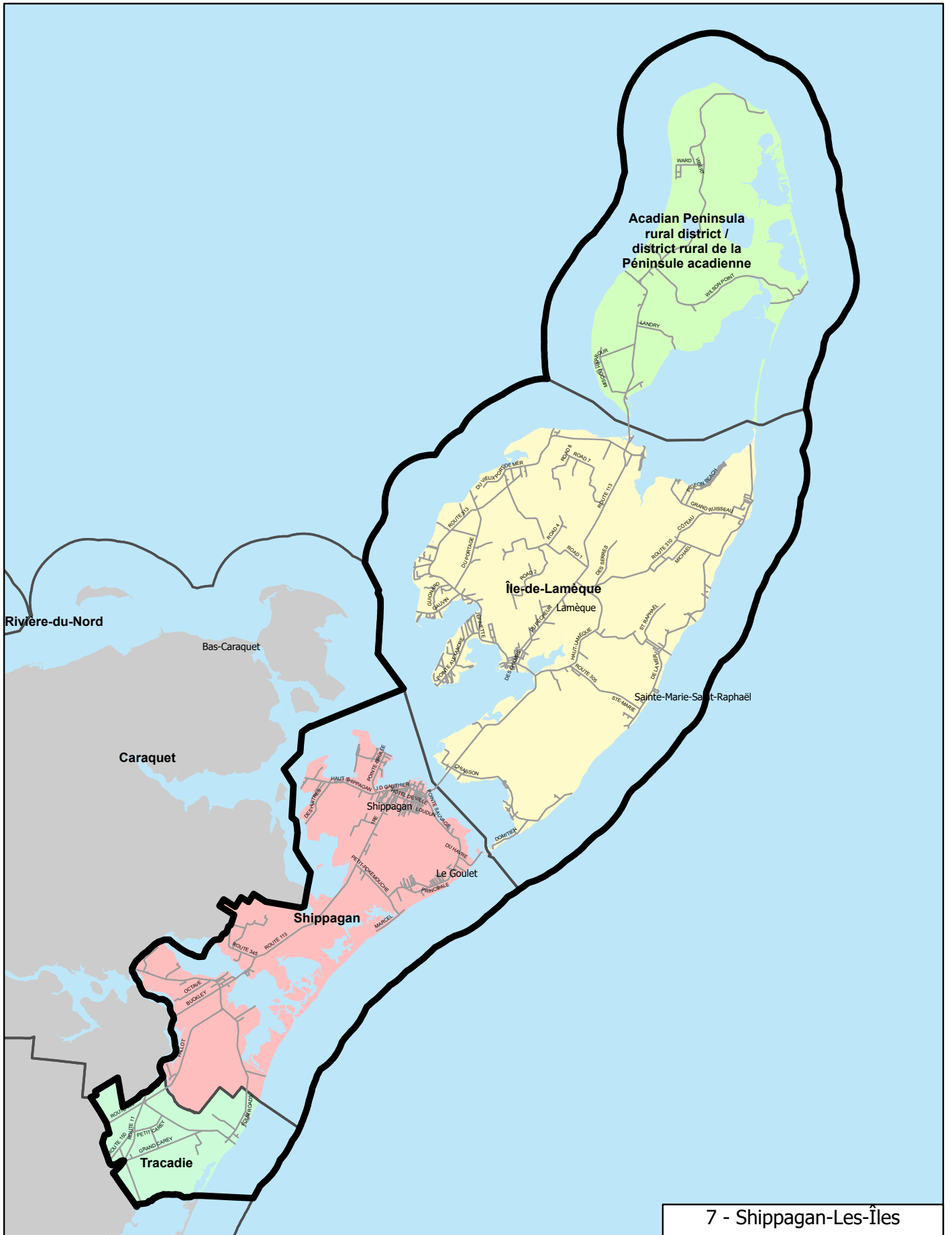




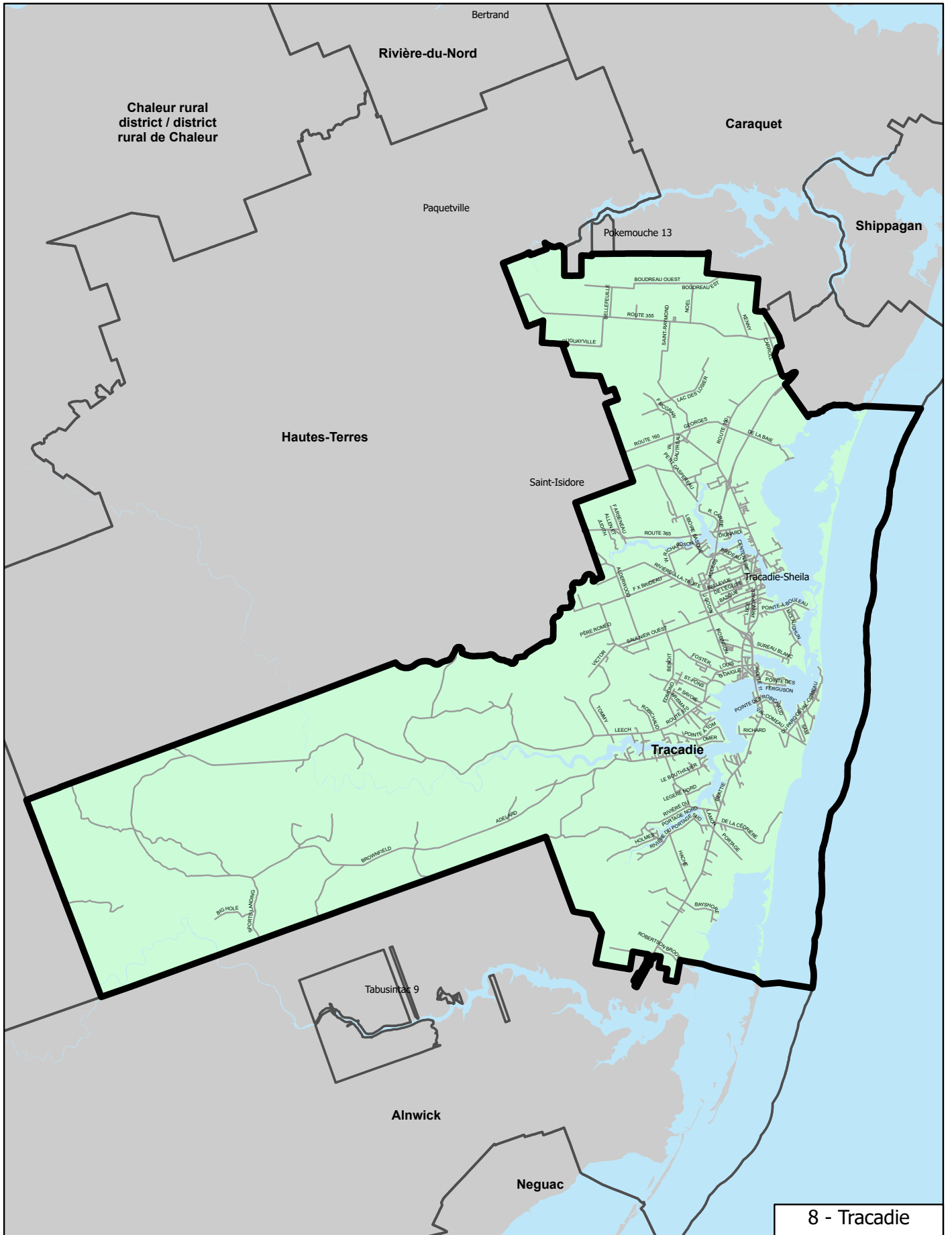
5 - Hautes-Terres-Nepisiguit







7 - Shippagan-Les-Îles



8 - Tracadie

MIRAMICHI REGION

The Miramichi region of New Brunswick consists chiefly of Northumberland County. There are currently three ridings in this area.

As outlined in a previous section of this report, during the second round of public consultations there was considerable discussion with respect to where the communities of Neguac and Alwick should be placed. The decision of the commission has been noted previously in this report.

Other adjustments recommended to the commission following the preliminary report and included in the final report are:

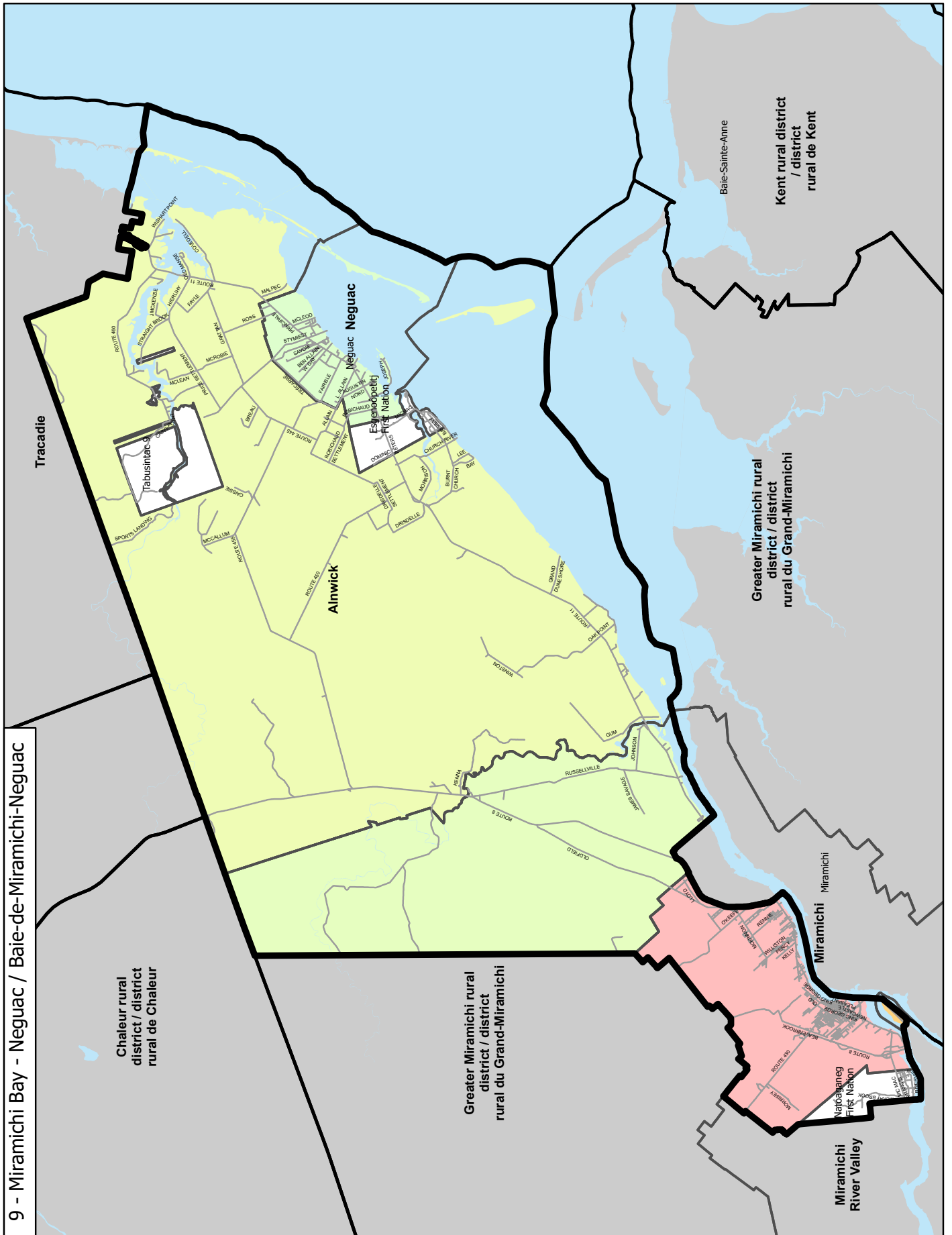
1. Adjusting the boundary between ED #9 and ED #11 to keep the communities of Bellefond and Beaverbrook Station intact,
2. Moving the Natoaganeg (Eel Ground) First Nation from ED #11 to ED #9 and,
3. Adjusting the boundary of the portion of ED #10 on the northside of the Miramichi River to match the city boundary. This portion of ED #10 north of the Miramichi River is required to balance elector populations.

The commission has also recommended a name change to a riding as indicated on the chart below.

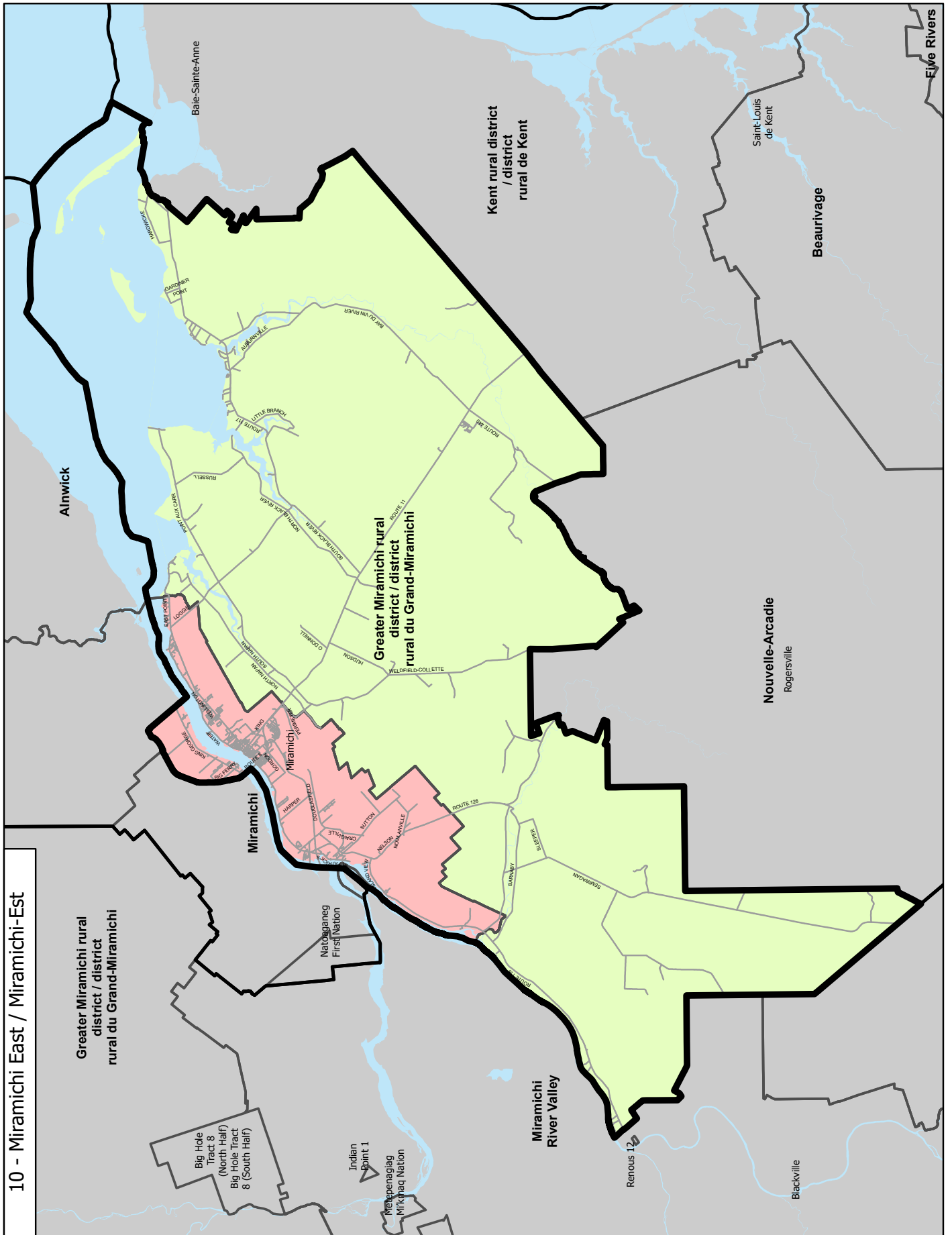
Using the electoral quotient, the Miramichi region contains sufficient voters for 2.80 ridings. The commission proposes maintaining three ridings for this region. The riding names and electors (after revisions) for the Miramichi region are as follows:

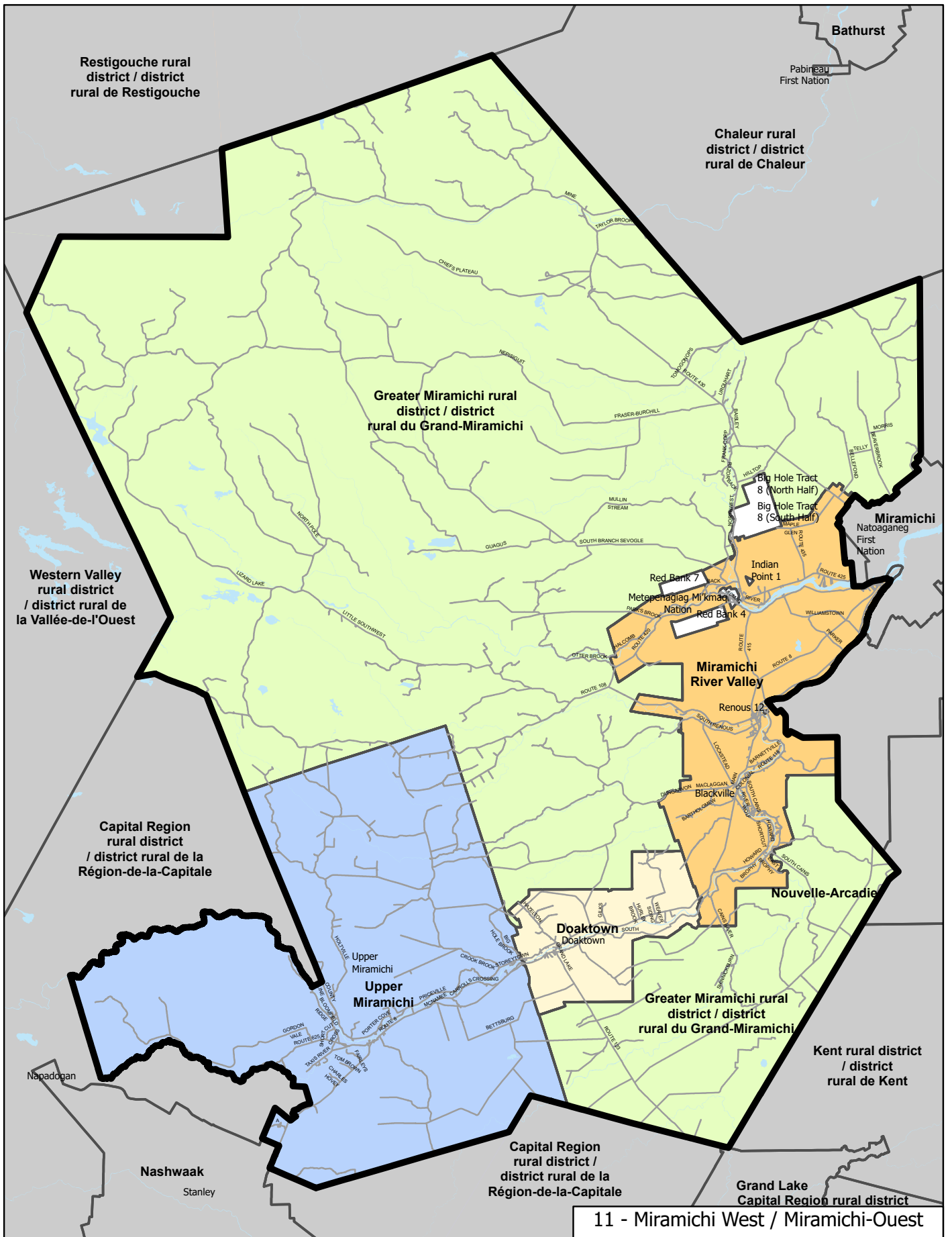
	NAME	TOTAL VOTERS	VARIANCE	PERCENT
9	Miramichi Bay-Neguac *	12,432	+765	+6.56
10	Miramichi East	10,227	-1,440	-12.34
11	Miramichi West	10,016	-1,651	-14.15

*- indicates name change from preliminary report



9 - Miramichi Bay - Neguac / Baie-de-Miramichi-Neguac





SOUTHEAST REGION

The southeast region of New Brunswick consists chiefly of Kent, Westmorland, and Albert counties. There are currently 13 ridings in this area (Electoral District #25 was included in the south region for purposes of this report).

As discussed in a previous section of this report, during the second round of public hearings, there was considerable discussion with respect to where the municipality of Champdoré should be placed. There was also considerable discussion with respect to the commission's proposed electoral boundaries for ED #16 and the placement of a small portion of Cap-Acadie within ED #16. The decisions of the commission have been noted previously in this report.

Other adjustments recommended to the commission following the preliminary report and included in the final report are:

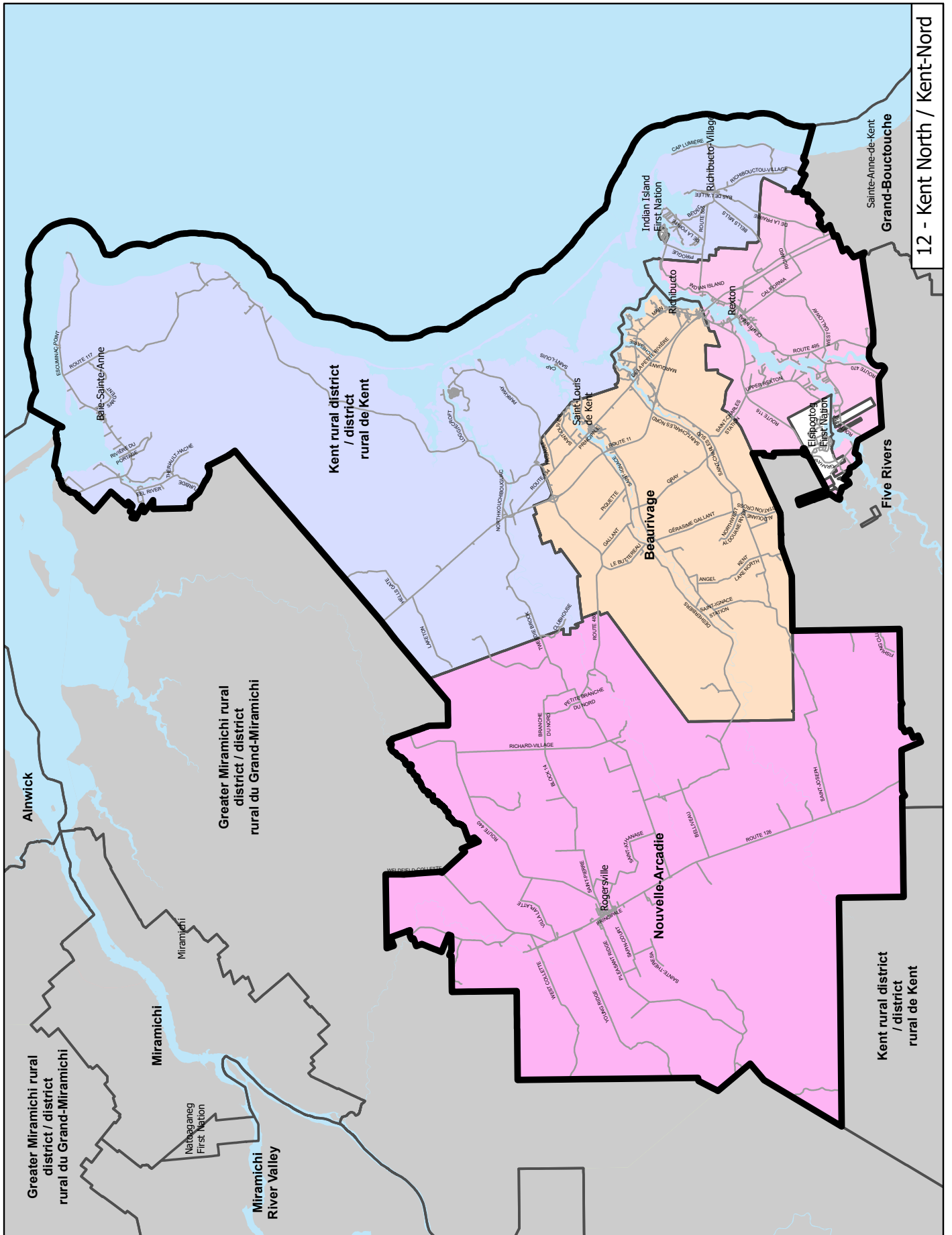
1. Changes to the boundaries of Moncton East (ED #18) to include portions of Moncton that were included in ED #22 under the preliminary report and to remove portions of ED #18 to ED #19 and ED #20 to rebalance elector populations,
2. Changes to the boundaries of Moncton Centre (ED #19) eastward to Botsford Street to rebalance elector populations,
3. Changes to the boundaries of Moncton South (ED #20) eastward to Moncton city boundary and along Wheeler Boulevard to rebalance elector populations and,
4. Changes to the boundary between Shediac Bay-Dieppe (ED #14) and Shediac-Cap Acadie (ED #15) to move the portion of Shediac (Scoudouc) south of highway 15 from ED #15 to ED #14.

The commission has also recommended name changes to the ridings indicated on the chart below.

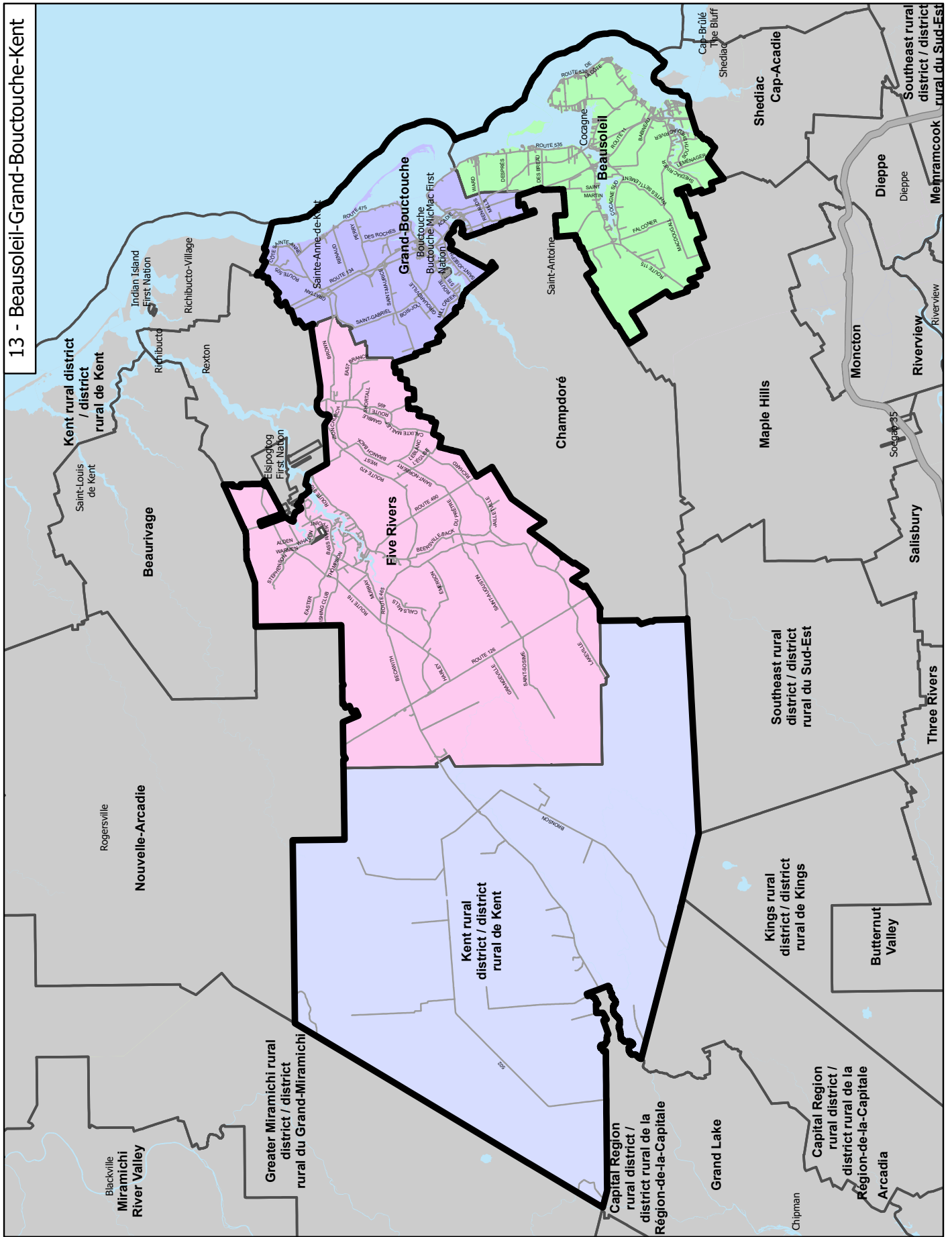
Using the electoral quotient, the southeast region contains sufficient voters for 13.34 ridings. The commission proposes maintaining 13 ridings for this region. The riding names and electors (after revisions) for the southeast region are as follows:

	NAME	TOTAL VOTERS	VARIANCE	PERCENT
12	Kent North	12,900	+1,233	+10.57
13	Beausoleil-Grand Bouctouche-Kent	12,804	+1,137	+9.75
14	Shediac Bay-Dieppe	13,396	+1,729	+14.82
15	Shediac-Cap-Acadie *	12,530	+863	+7.40
16	Tantramar	9,058	-2,609	-22.36
17	Dieppe-Memramcook	12,230	+563	+4.83
18	Moncton East	12,557	+890	+7.63
19	Moncton Centre	11,531	-136	-1.17
20	Moncton South	11,282	-385	-3.30
21	Moncton Northwest	12,420	+753	+6.45
22	Champdoré-Irishtown *	10,047	-1,620	-13.89
23	Riverview	12,012	+345	+2.96
24	Albert-Riverview	12,906	+1,239	+10.62

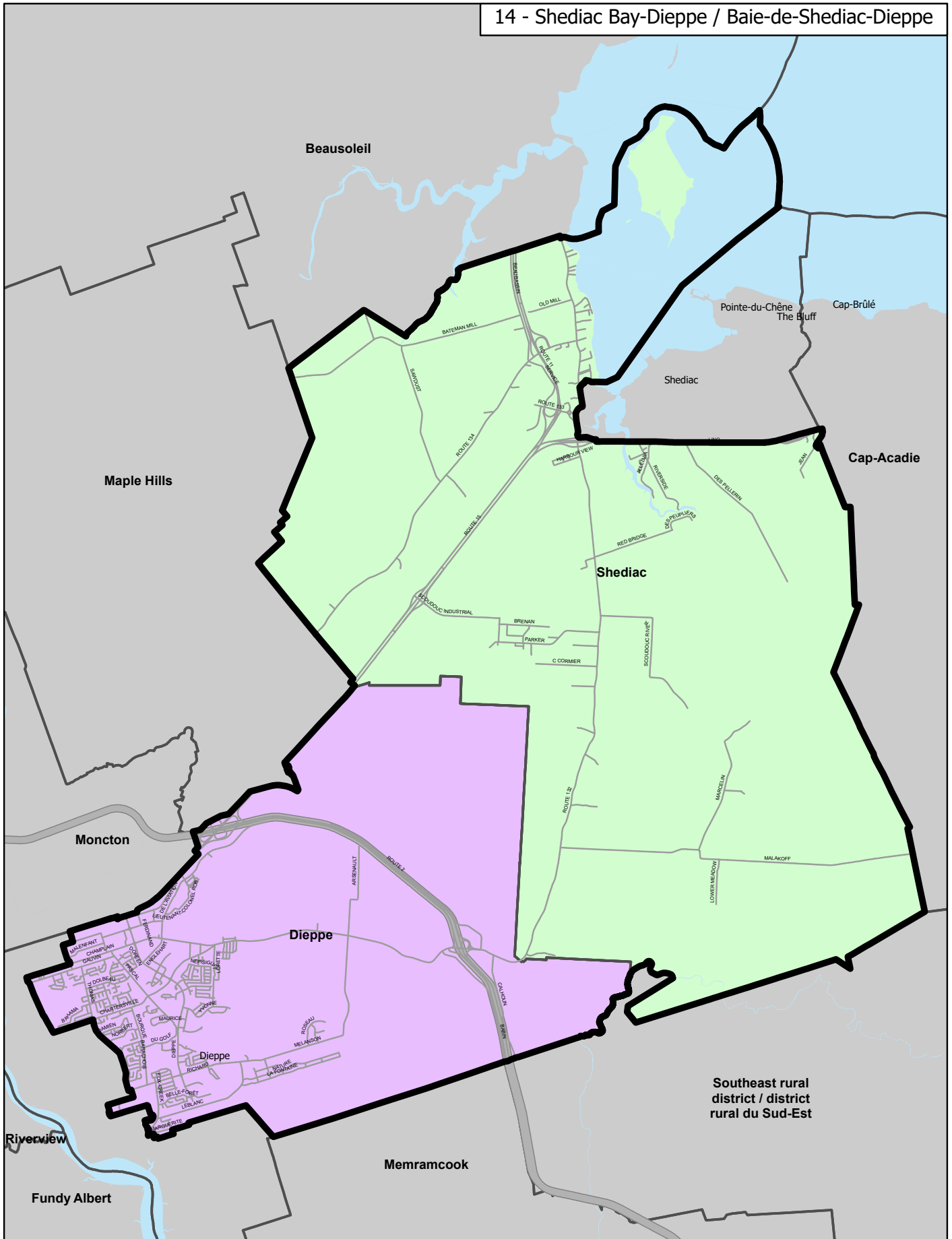
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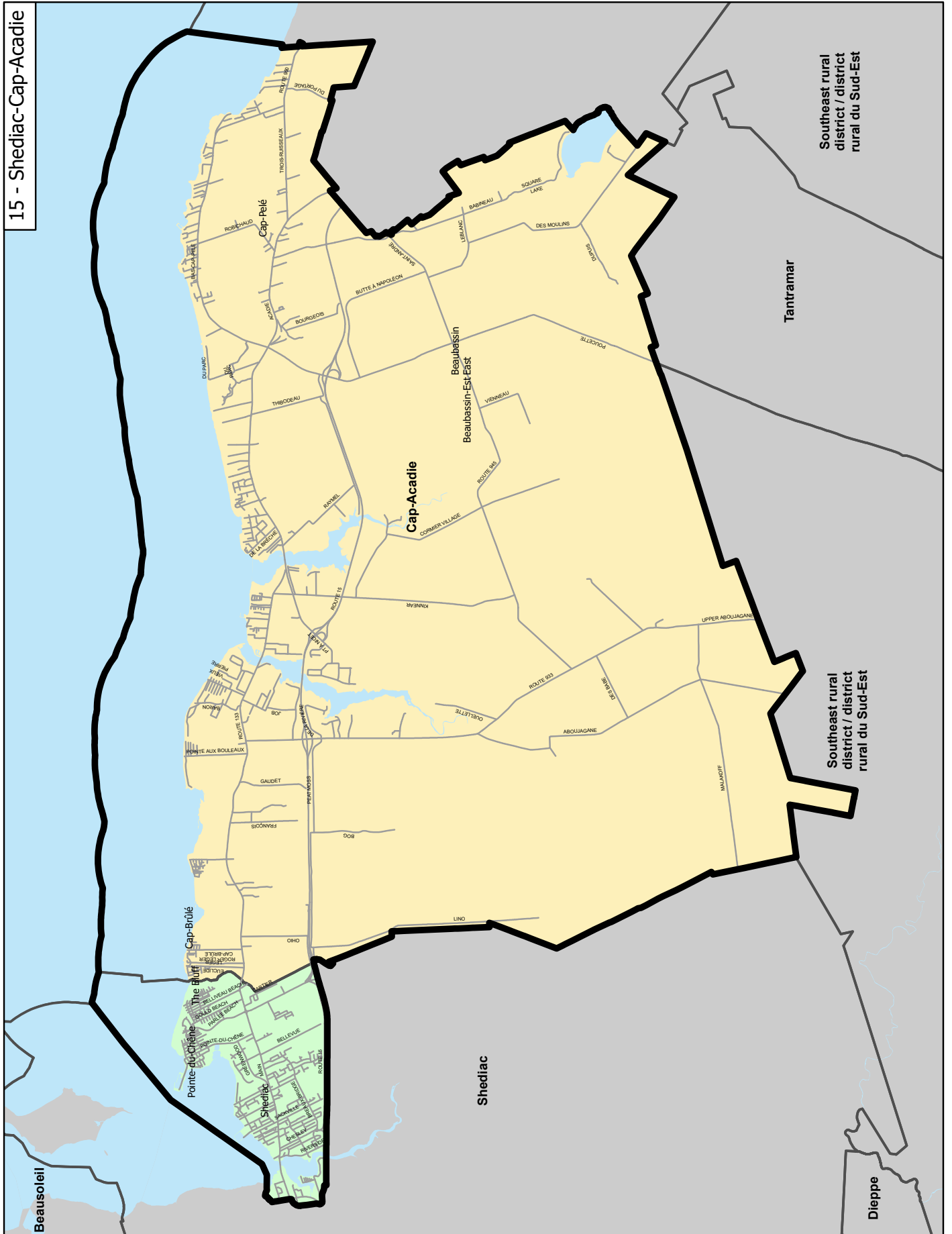
13 - Beausoleil-Grand-Bouctouche-Kent

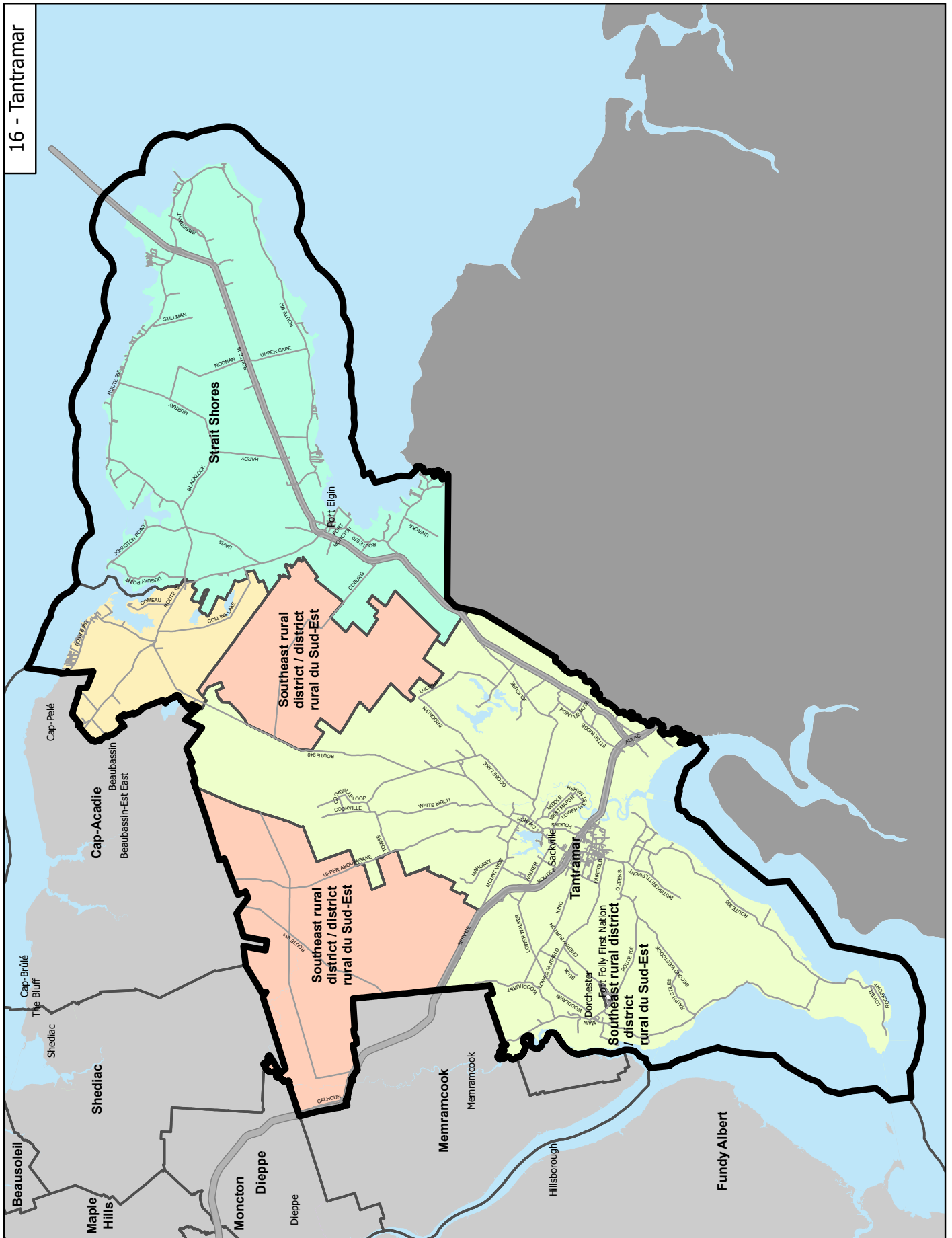


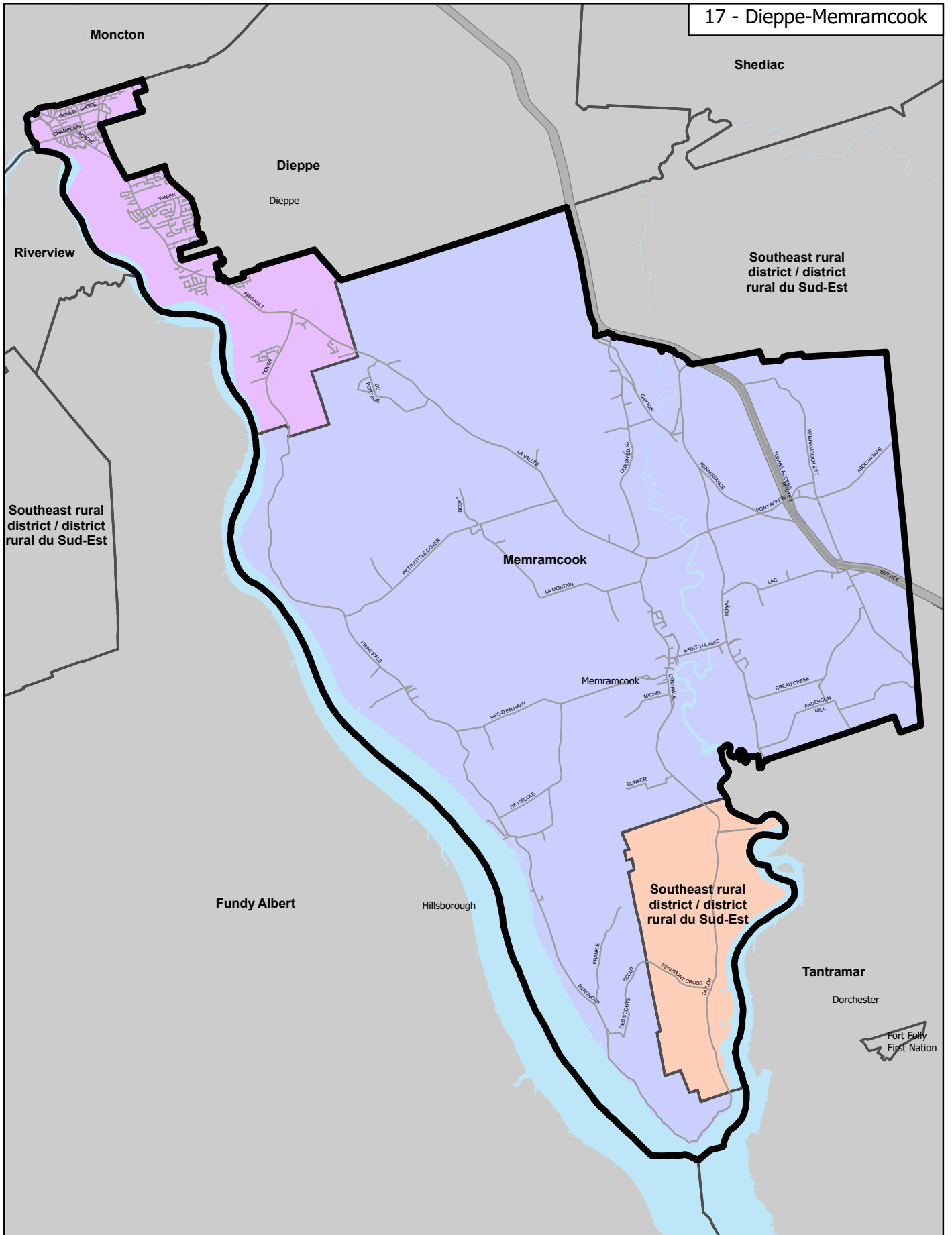
14 - Shediac Bay-Dieppe / Baie-de-Shediac-Dieppe

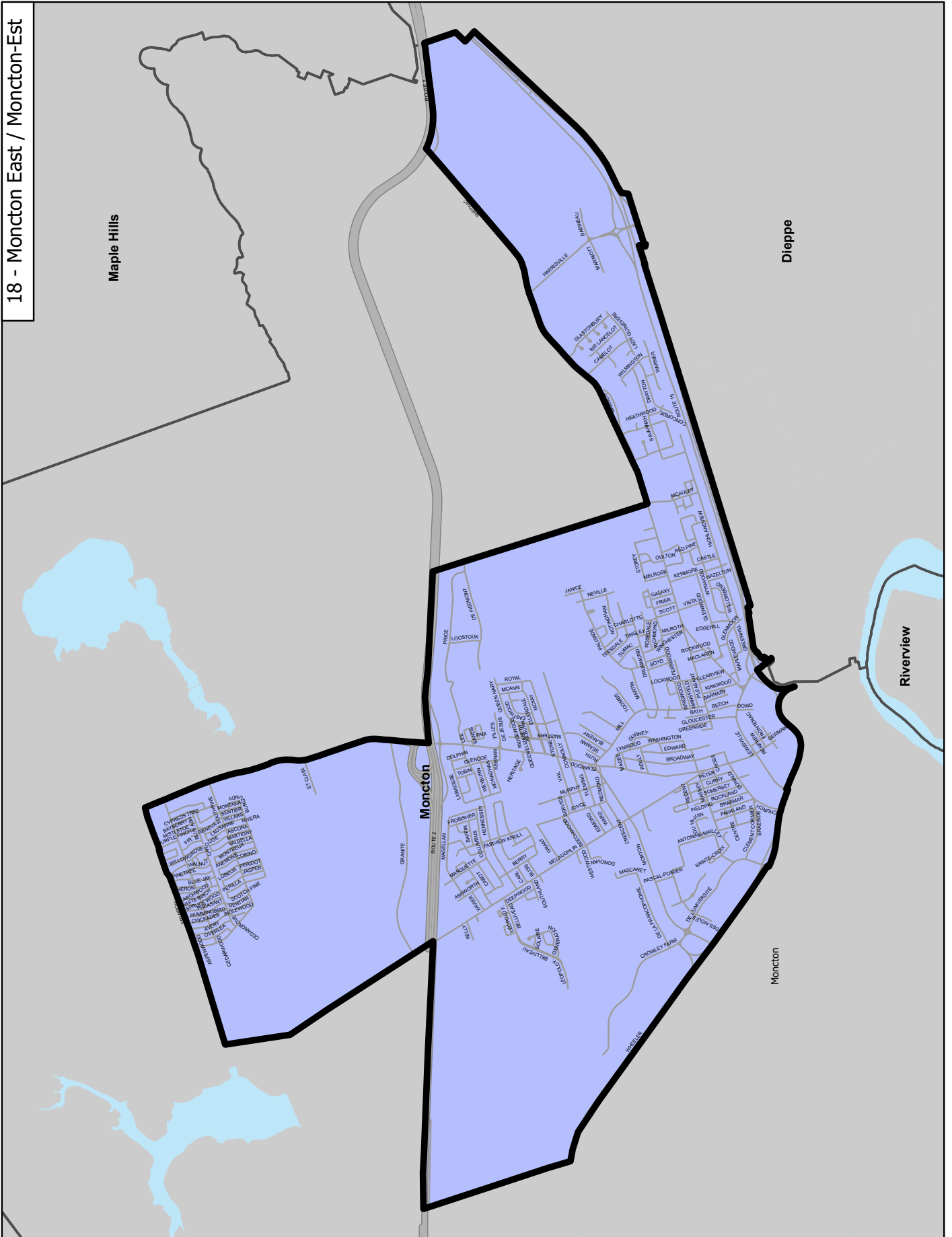


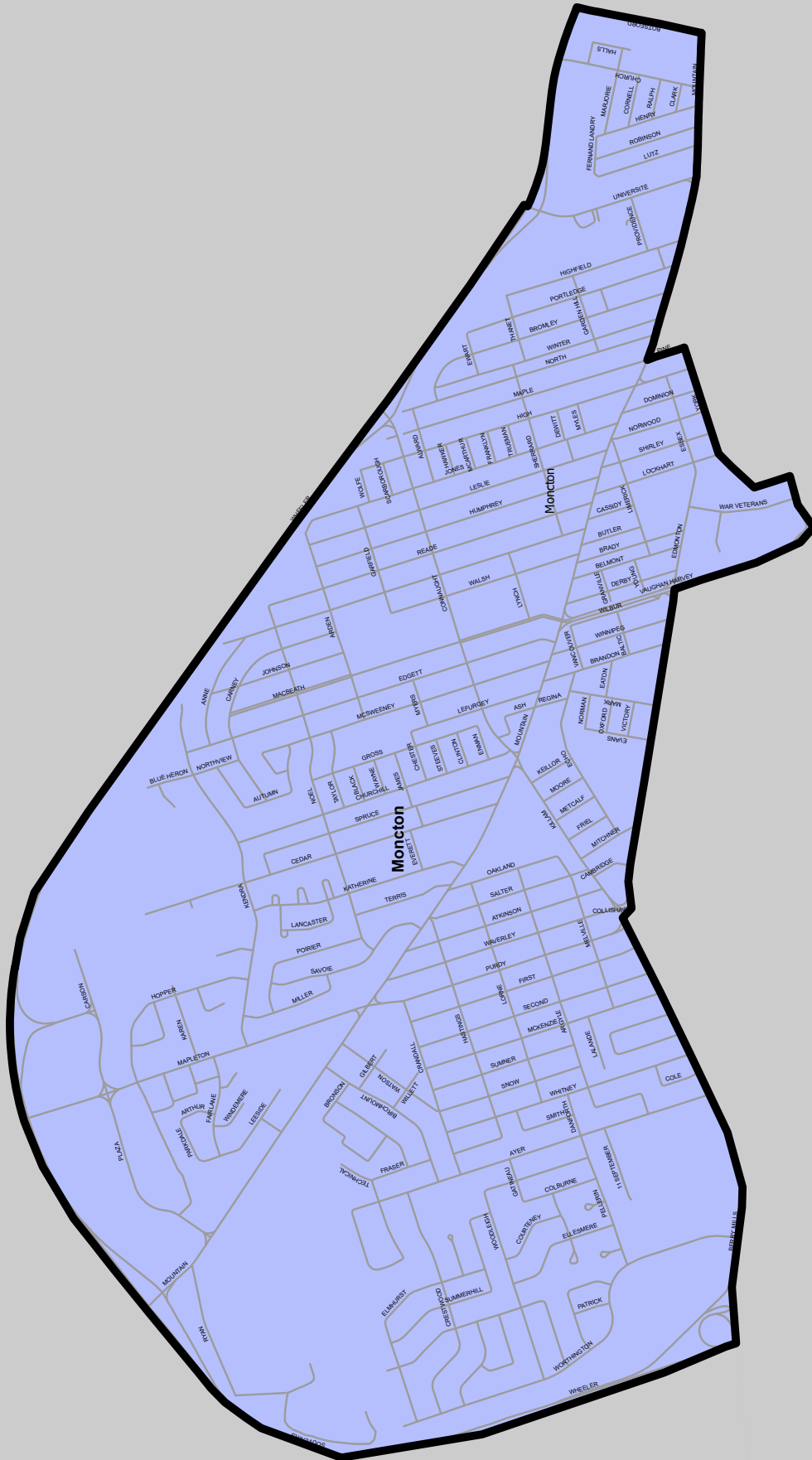
15 - Shediac-Cap-Acadie



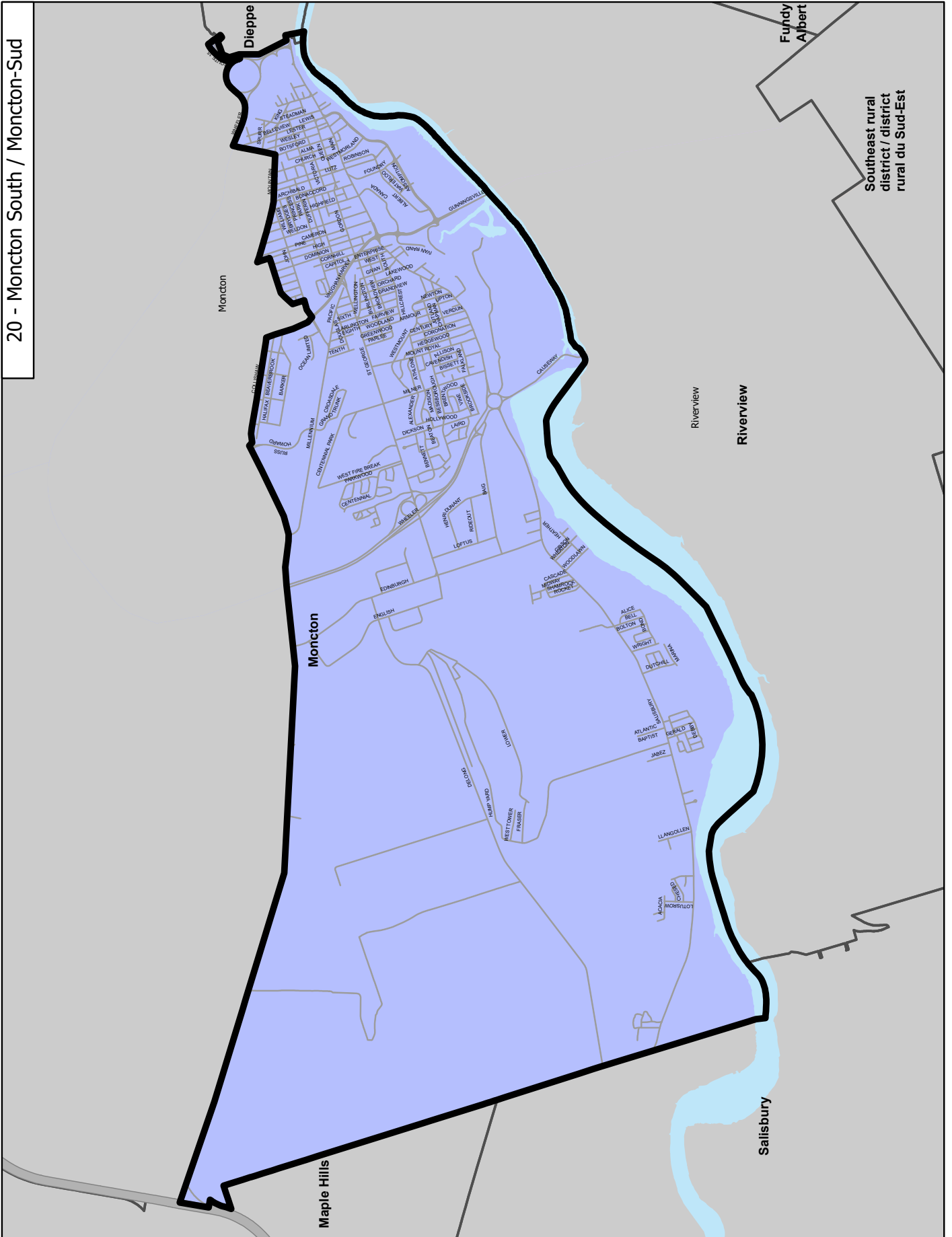








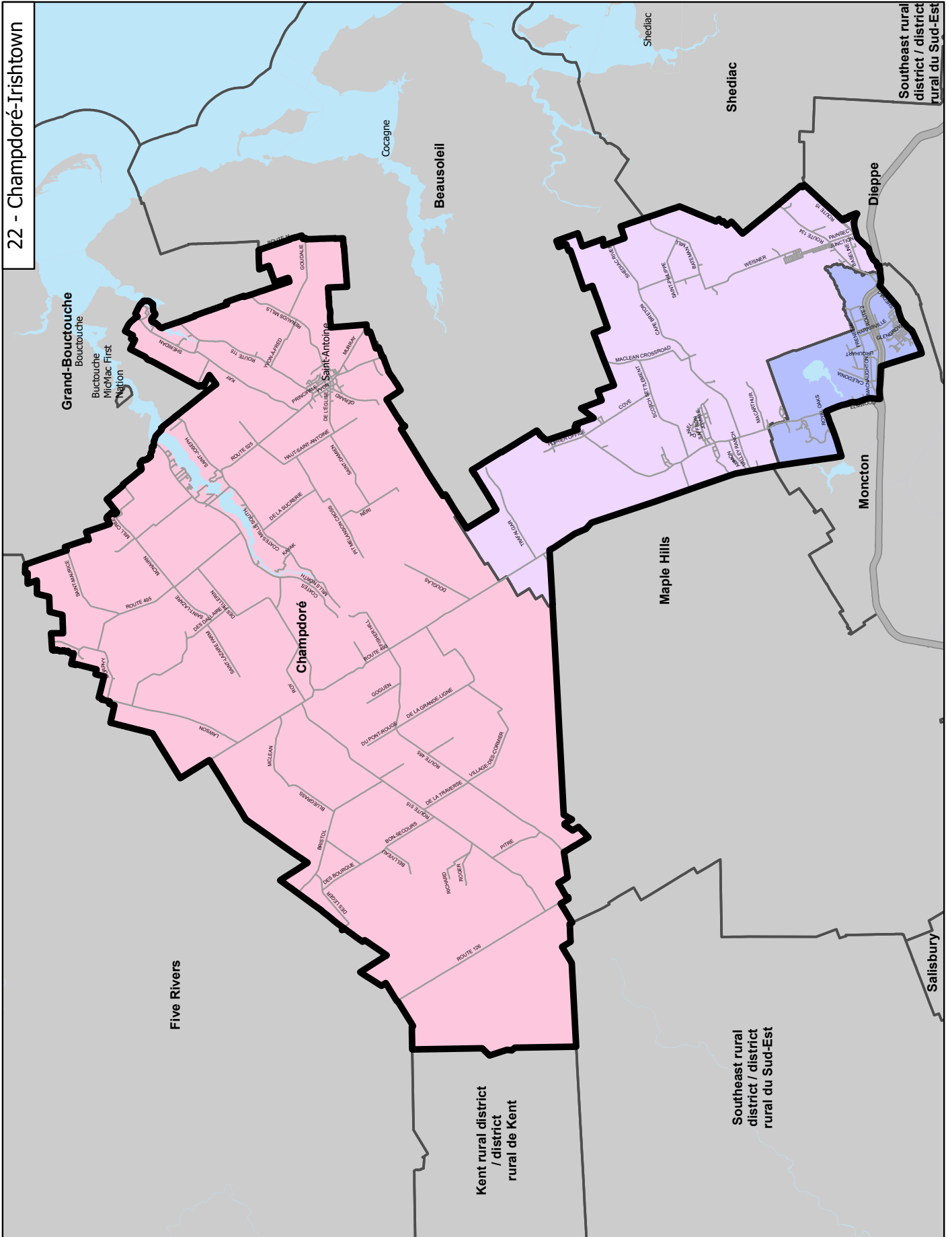
20 - Moncton South / Moncton-Sud

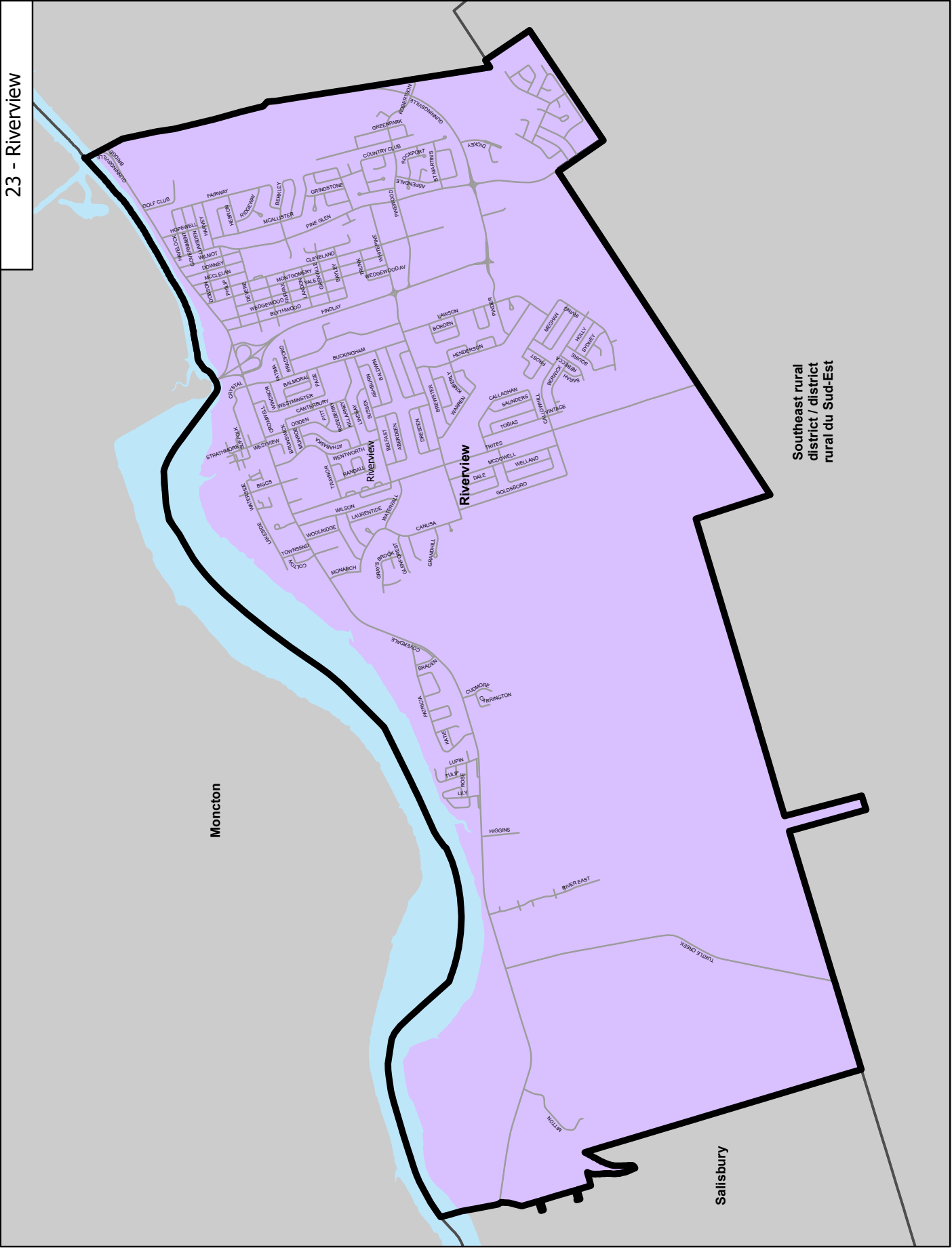


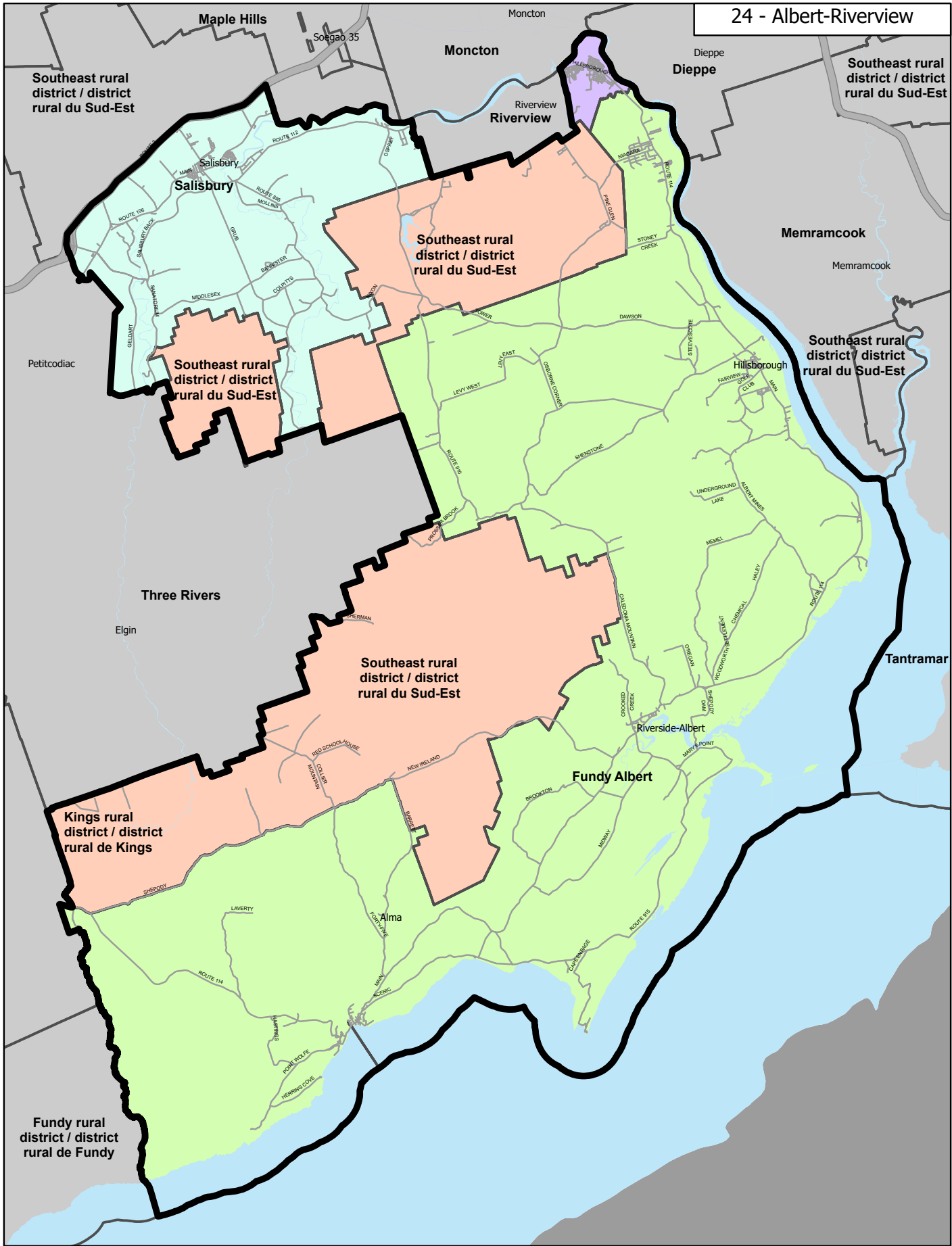
21 - Moncton Northwest / Moncton-Nord-Ouest



22 - Champdoré-Irishtown







SOUTHERN REGION

The southern region of New Brunswick consists chiefly of Kings, Saint John, and Charlotte Counties. There are currently 12 ridings in this area.

As outlined in a previous section of this report, during the second round of public hearings, there was discussion with respect to where Campobello Island should be placed. The decision of the commission has been noted previously in this report.

Other adjustments recommended to the commission following the preliminary report and included in the final report are:

1. Adjusting the boundary between Arcadia-Butternut Valley-Maple Hills (ED #25) and Oromocto-Sunbury (ED #37) to keep the community of Burton intact,
2. Adjusting the boundary between Quispamsis (ED #28) and Rothesay (ED #29) as requested by the Town of Quispamsis,
3. Adjusting the boundary between Rothesay (ED #29) and Saint John East (ED #30) to remove a small portion of the city of Saint John from ED #29 to ED #30 and,
4. Removing small portions of the Capital Region Rural District from Saint Croix (ED #36) to Carleton-York (ED #44) and from Arcadia-Butternut Valley-Maple Hills (ED #25) to Fredericton-Grand Lake (ED #38). Neither of these changes impact electors.

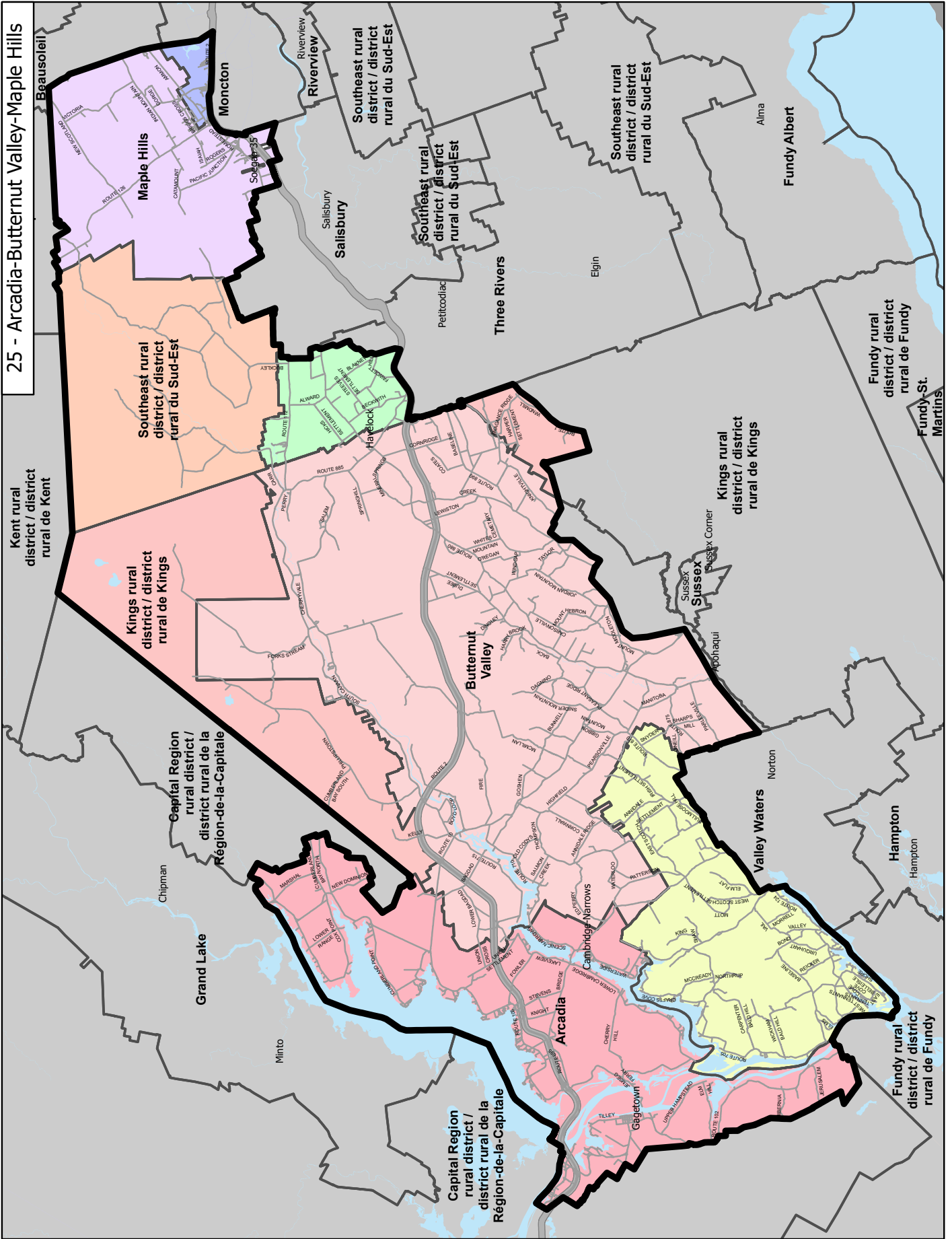
The commission has also recommended a name change to a riding as indicated on the chart below.

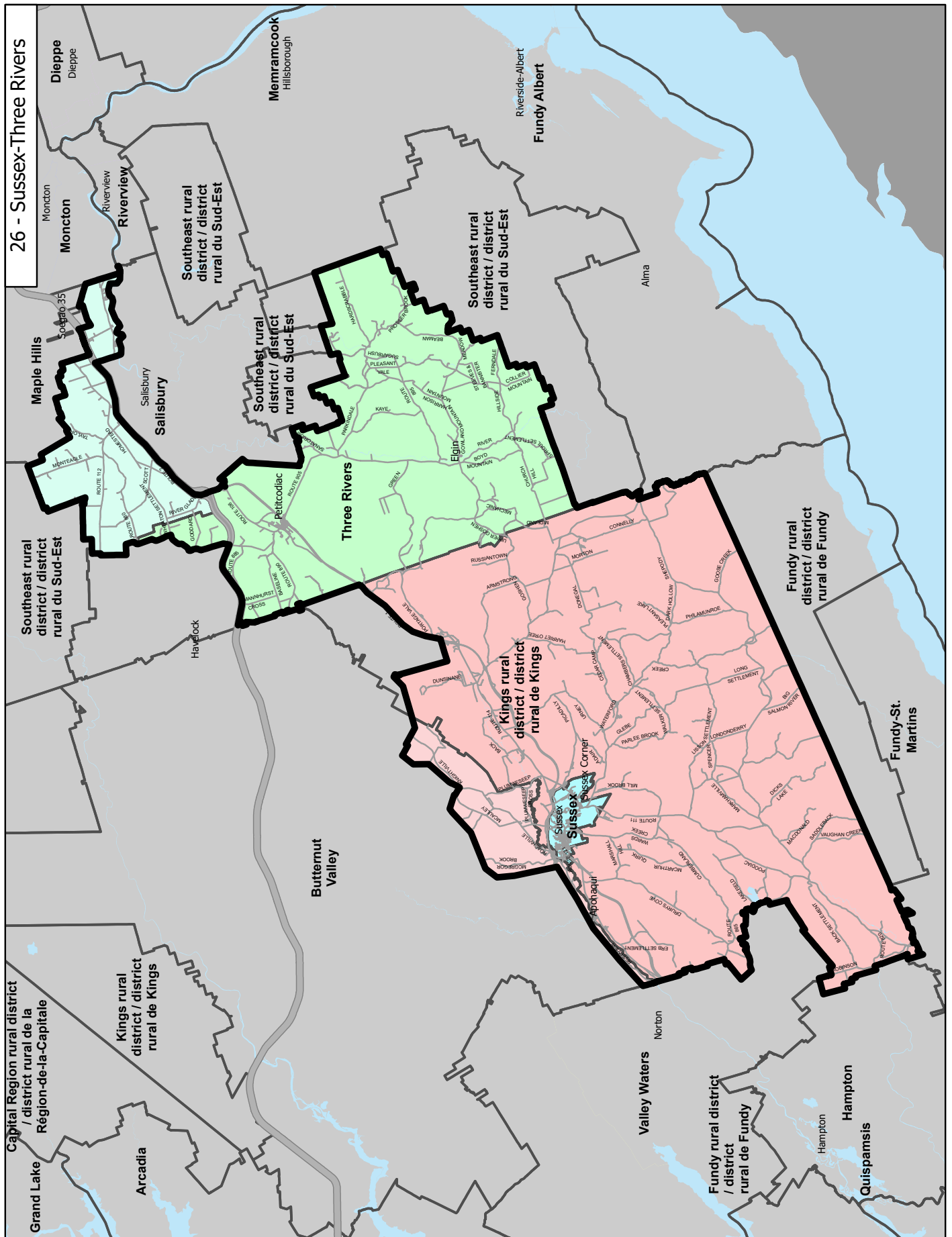
Using the electoral quotient, the south region contains sufficient voters for 11.97 ridings. The commission proposes maintaining 12 ridings for this region. The riding names and electors (after revisions) for the South region are as follows:

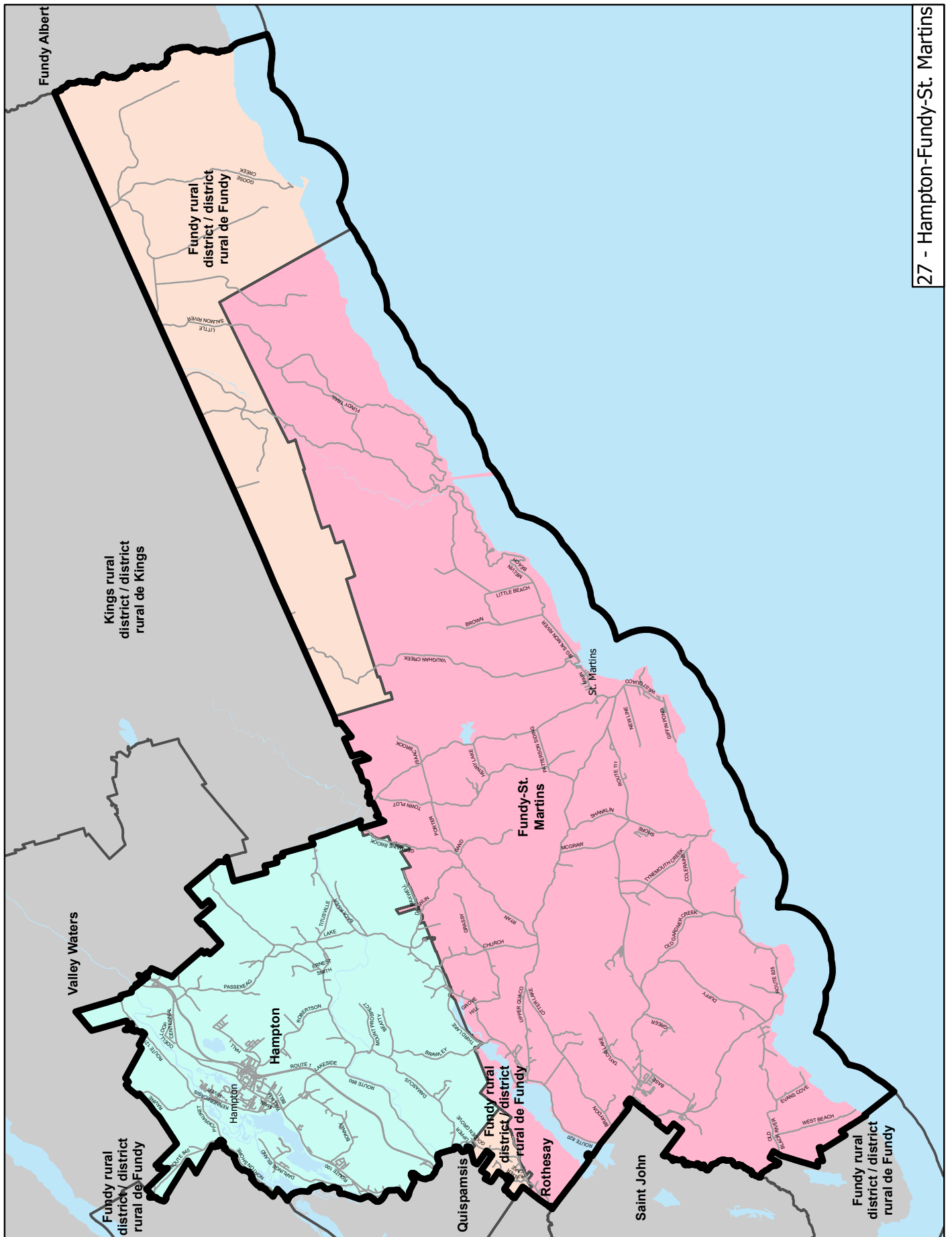
	NAME	TOTAL VOTERS	VARIANCE	PERCENT
25	Arcadia-Butternut Valley-Maple Hills *	11,565	-102	-0.87
26	Sussex-Three Rivers	12,753	+1,086	+9.31
27	Hampton-Fundy-St. Martins	11,270	-397	-3.40
28	Quispamsis	11,124	-543	-4.65
29	Rothesay	11,205	-462	-3.96
30	Saint John East	12,328	+661	+5.67
31	Saint John Portland-Simonds	12,029	+362	+3.10
32	Saint John Harbour	12,011	+344	+2.95
33	Saint John West-Lancaster	11,585	-82	-0.70
34	Kings Centre	11,512	-155	-1.33
35	Fundy-The Isles-Saint John Lorneville	10,402	-1,265	-10.84
36	Saint Croix	11,679	+12	+0.10

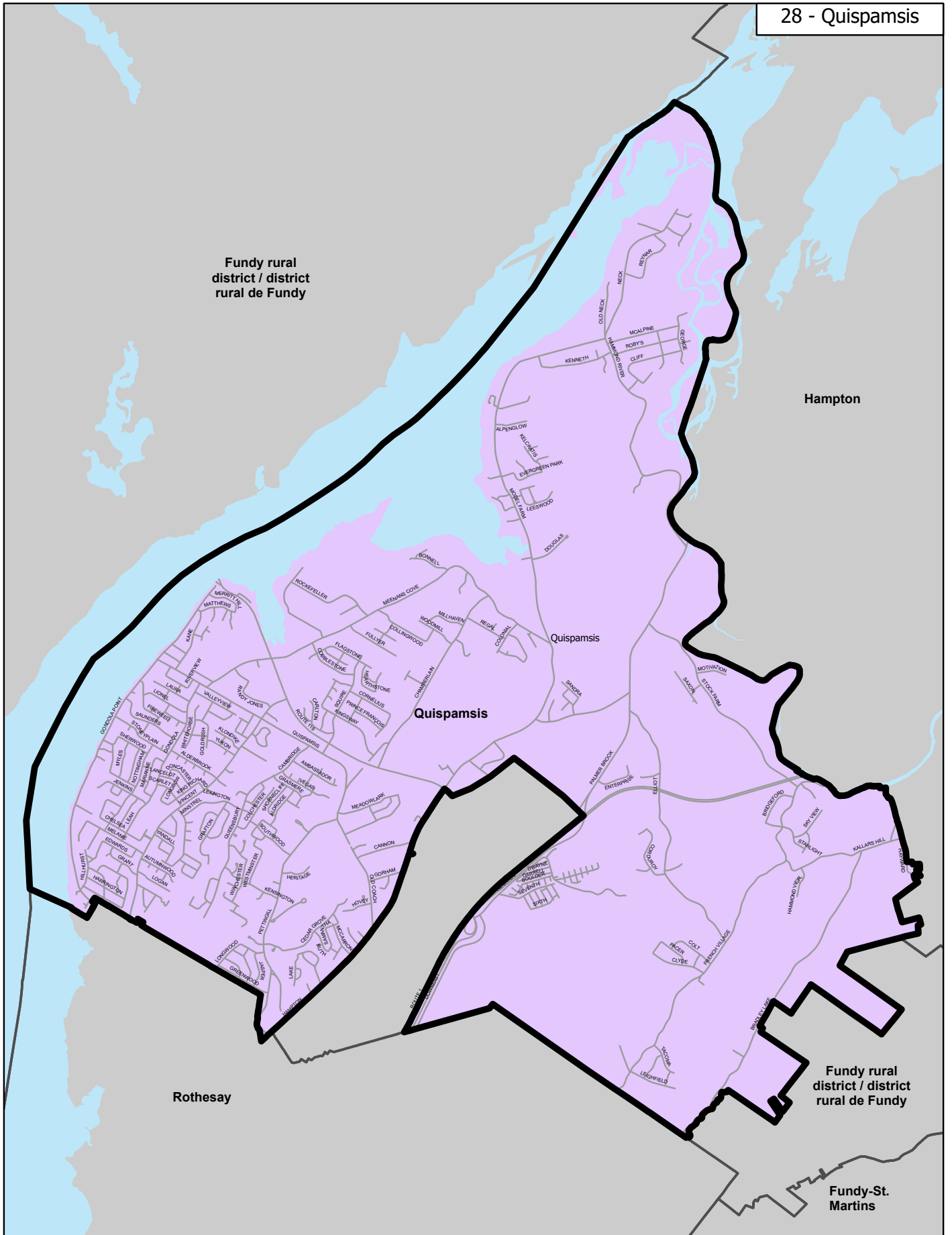
*- indicates name change from preliminary report

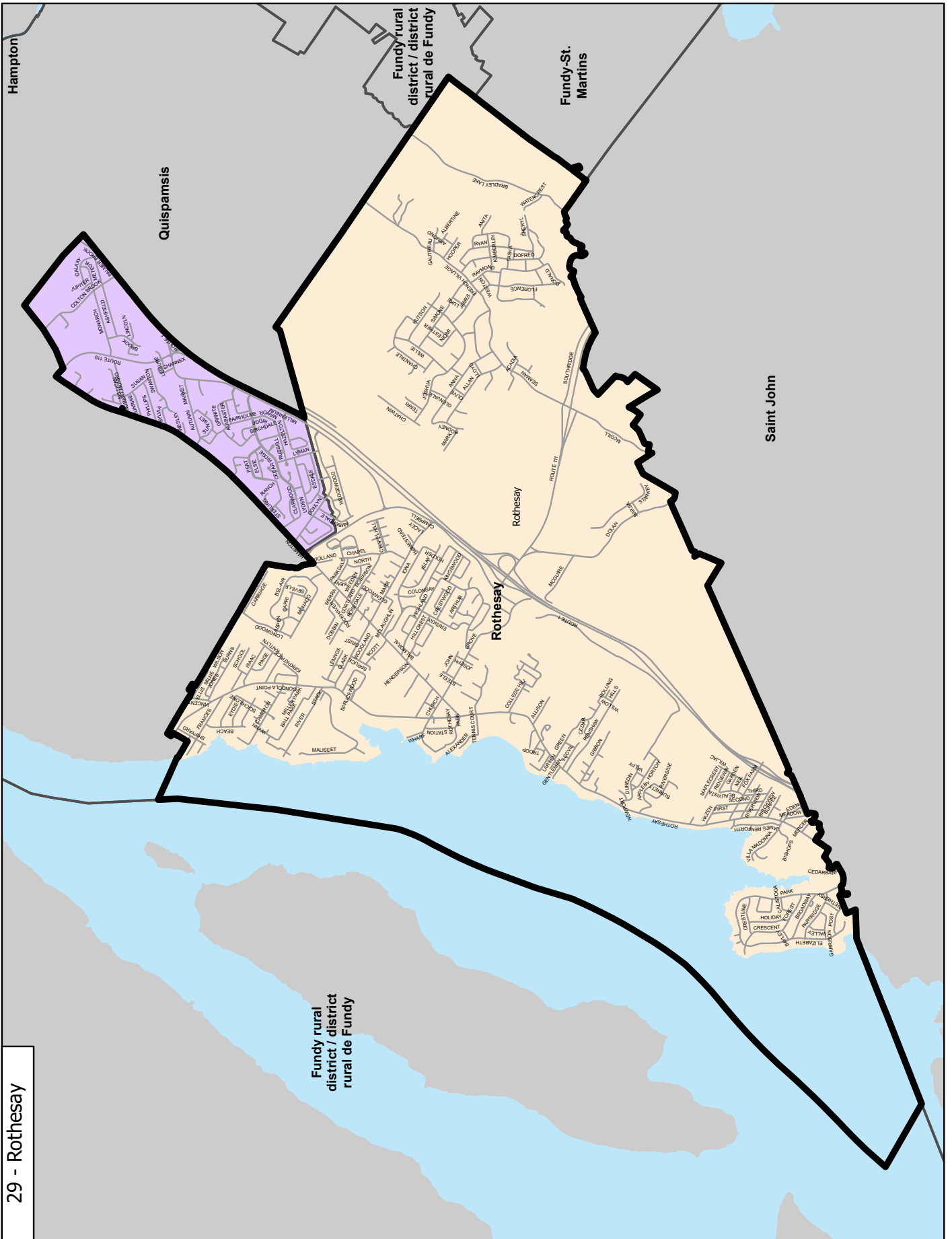
25 - Arcadia-Butternut Valley-Maple Hills



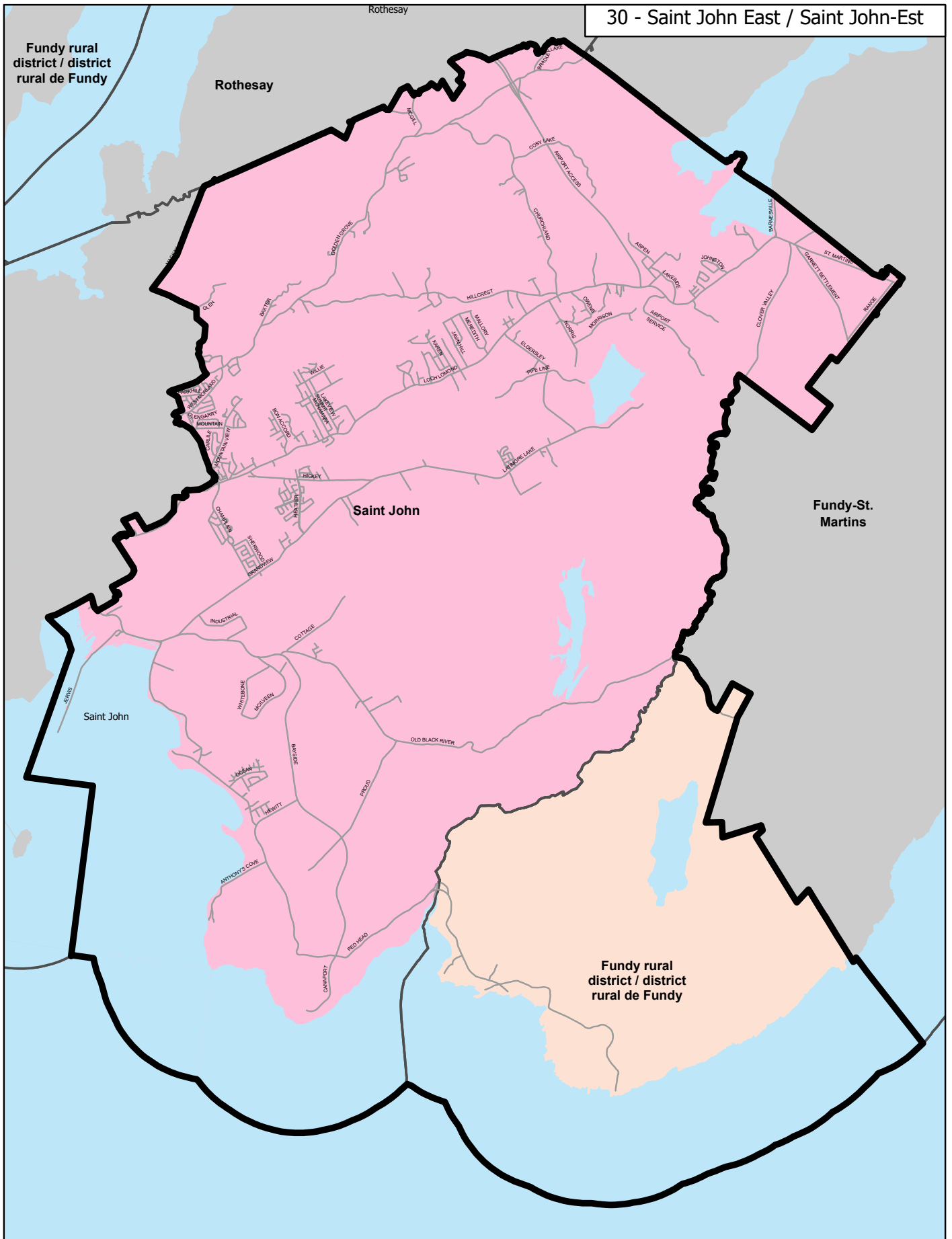




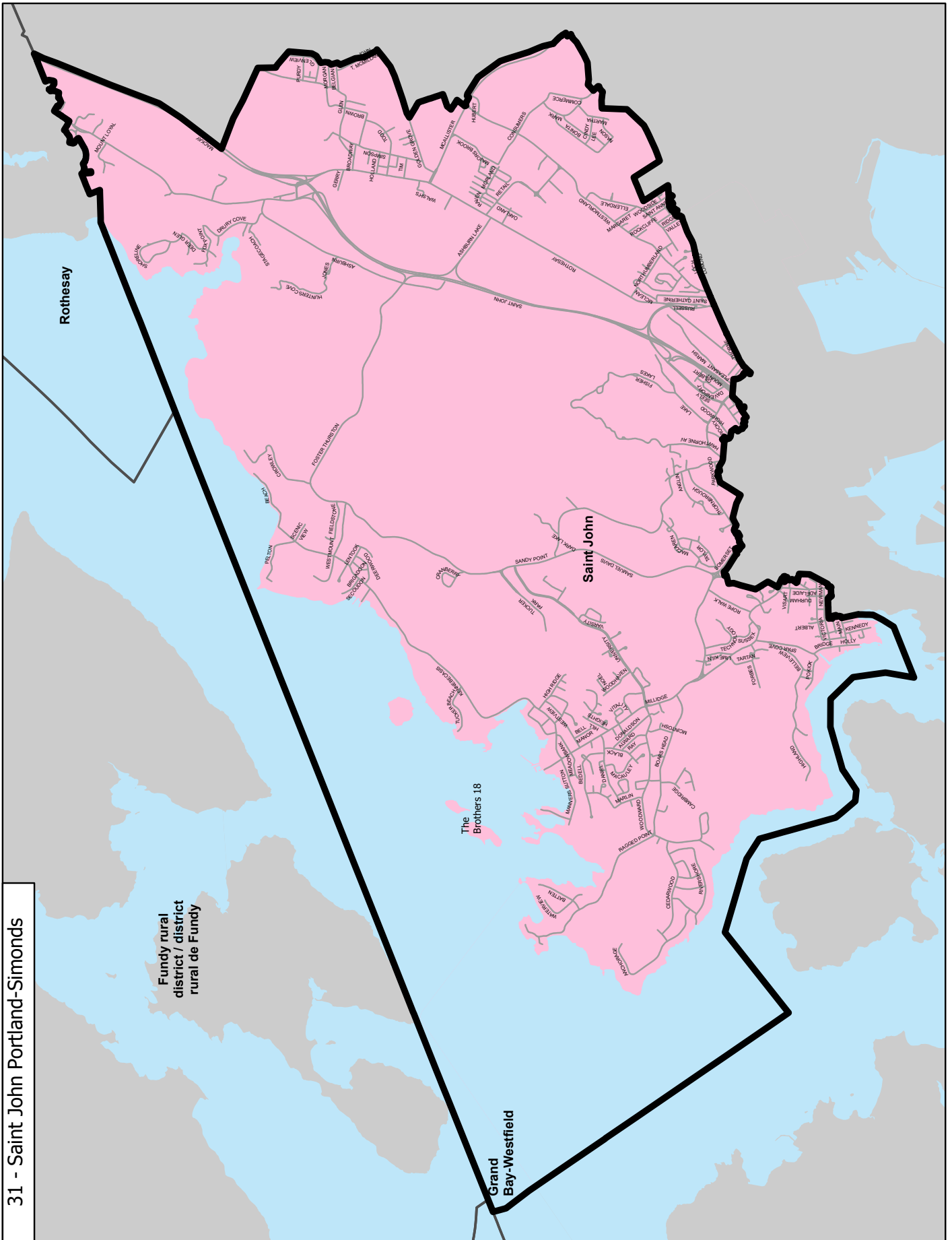


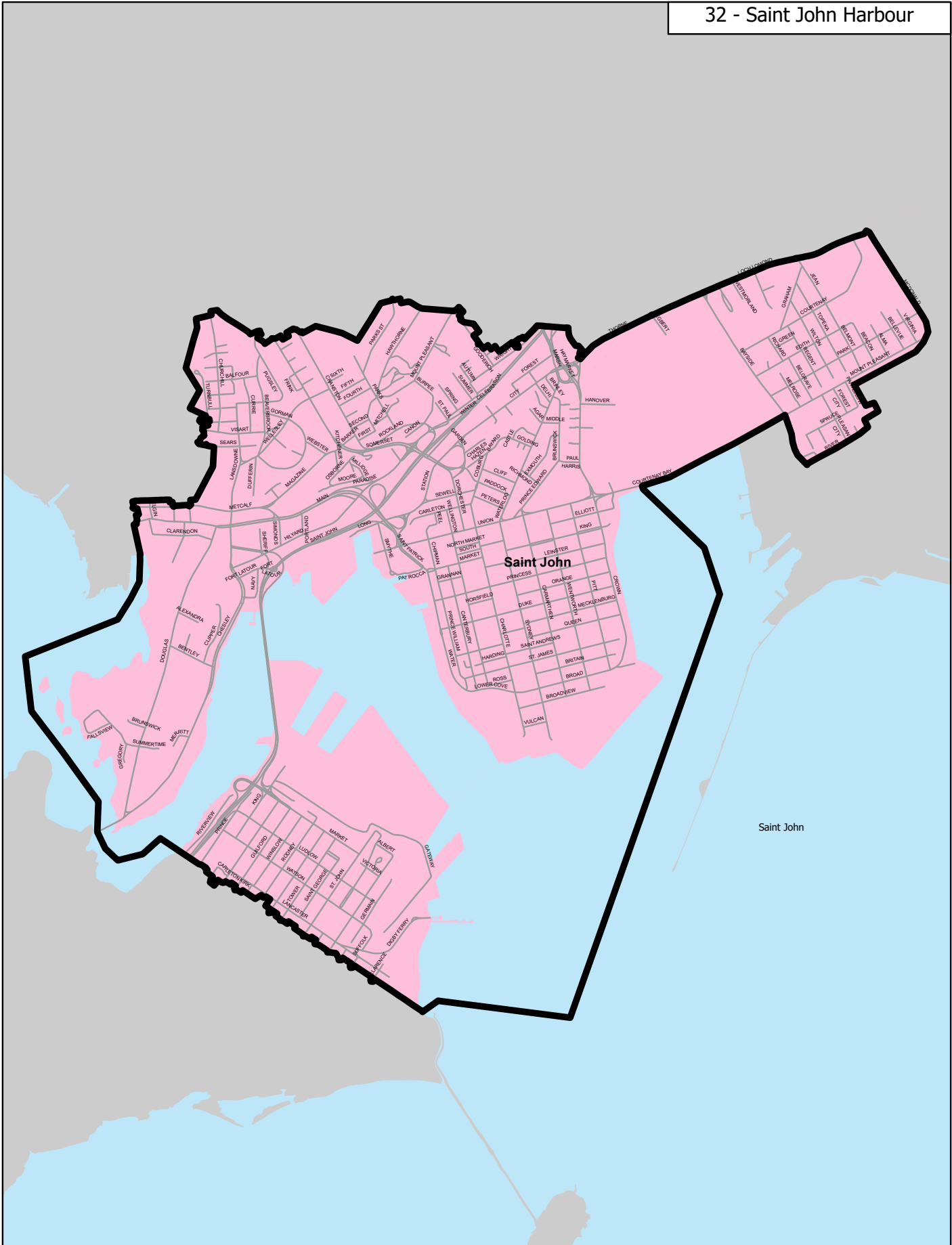


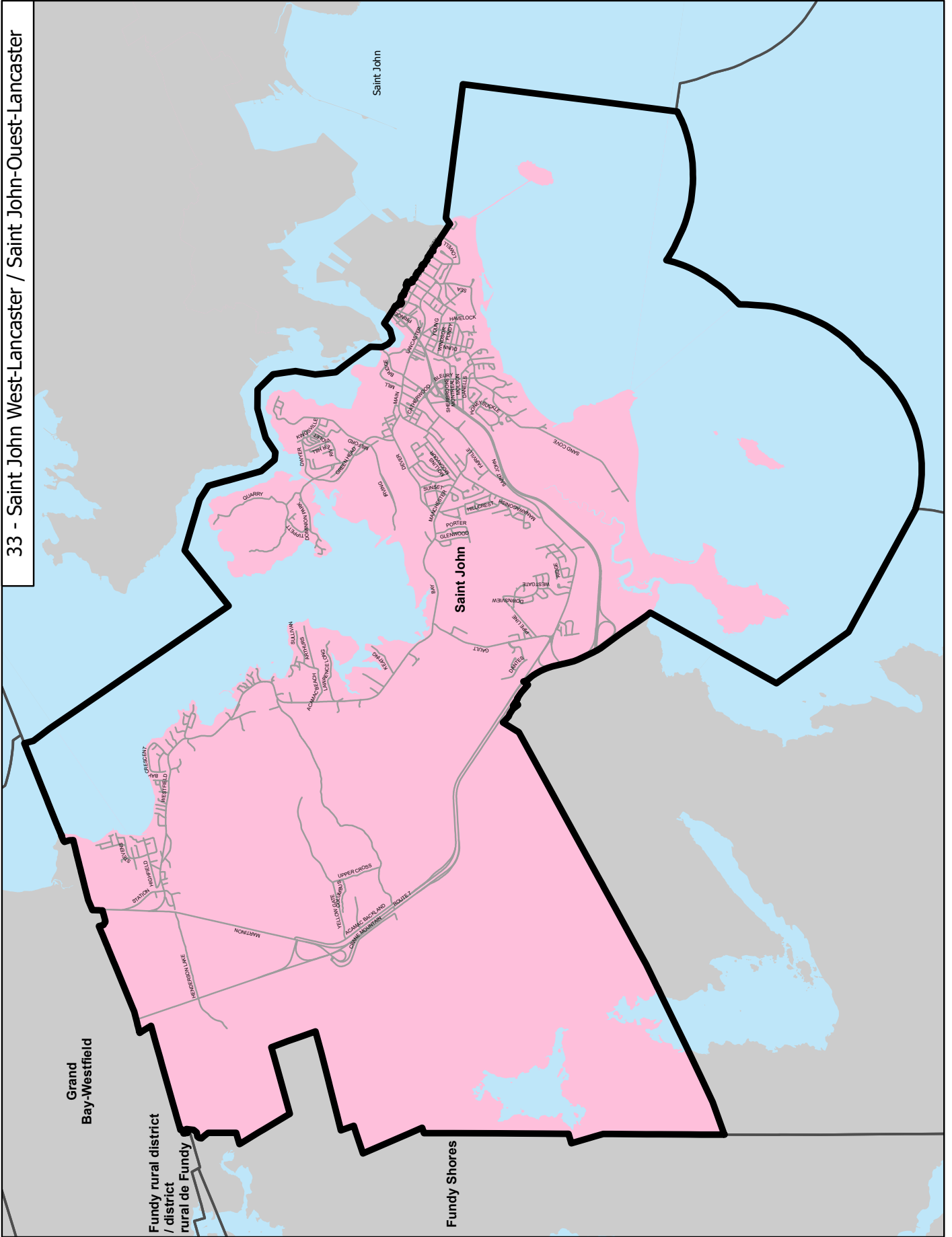
30 - Saint John East / Saint John-Est

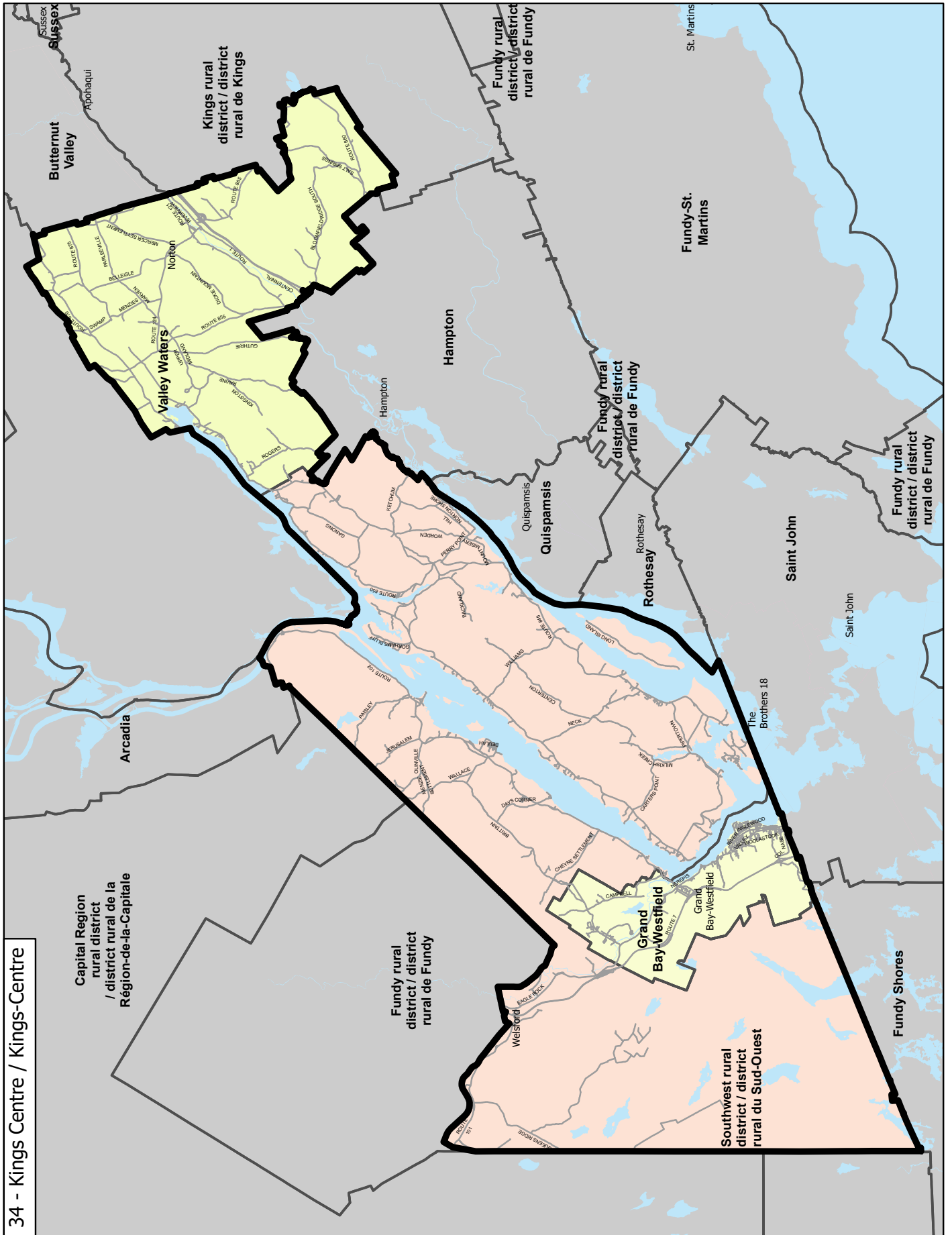


31 - Saint John Portland-Simonds



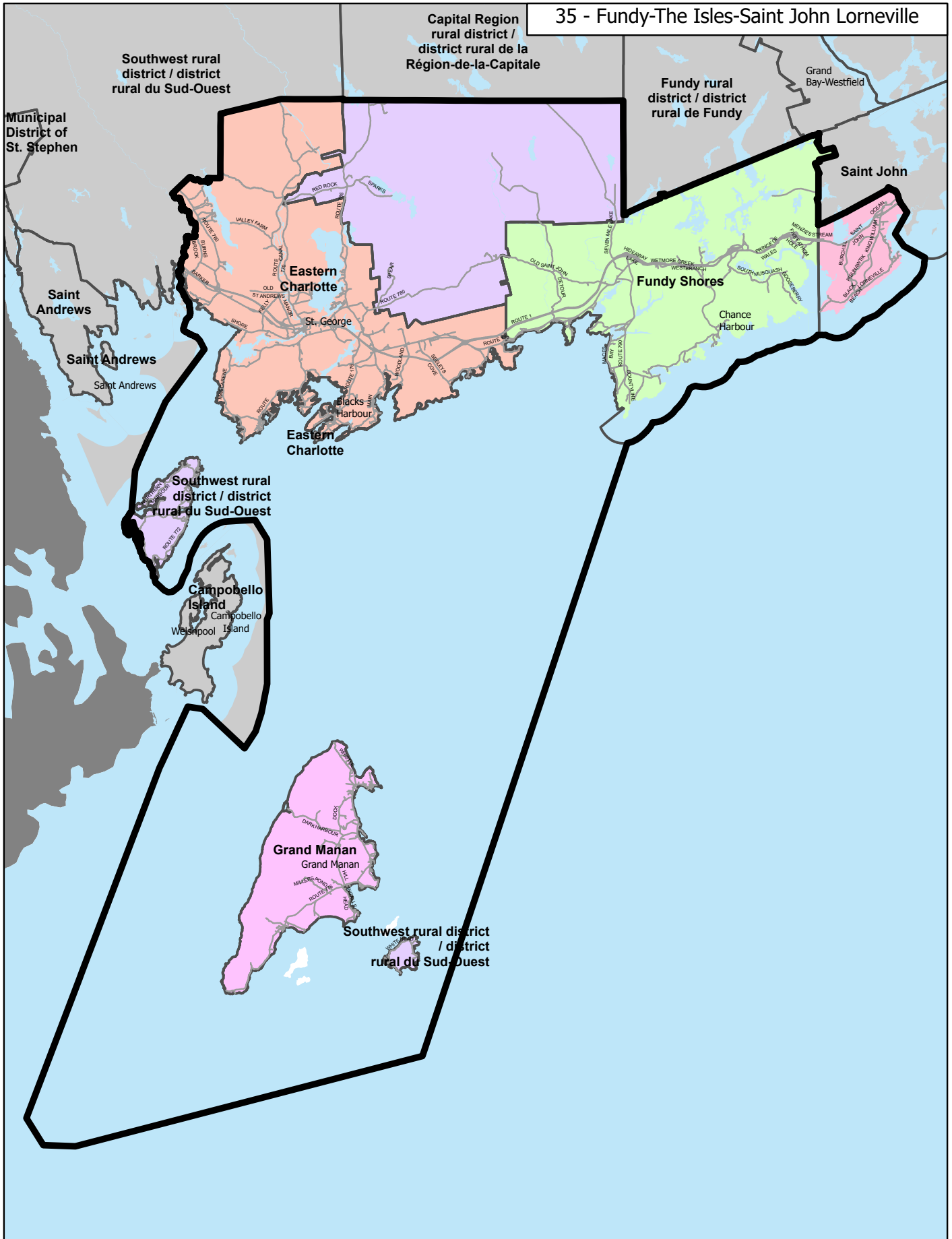


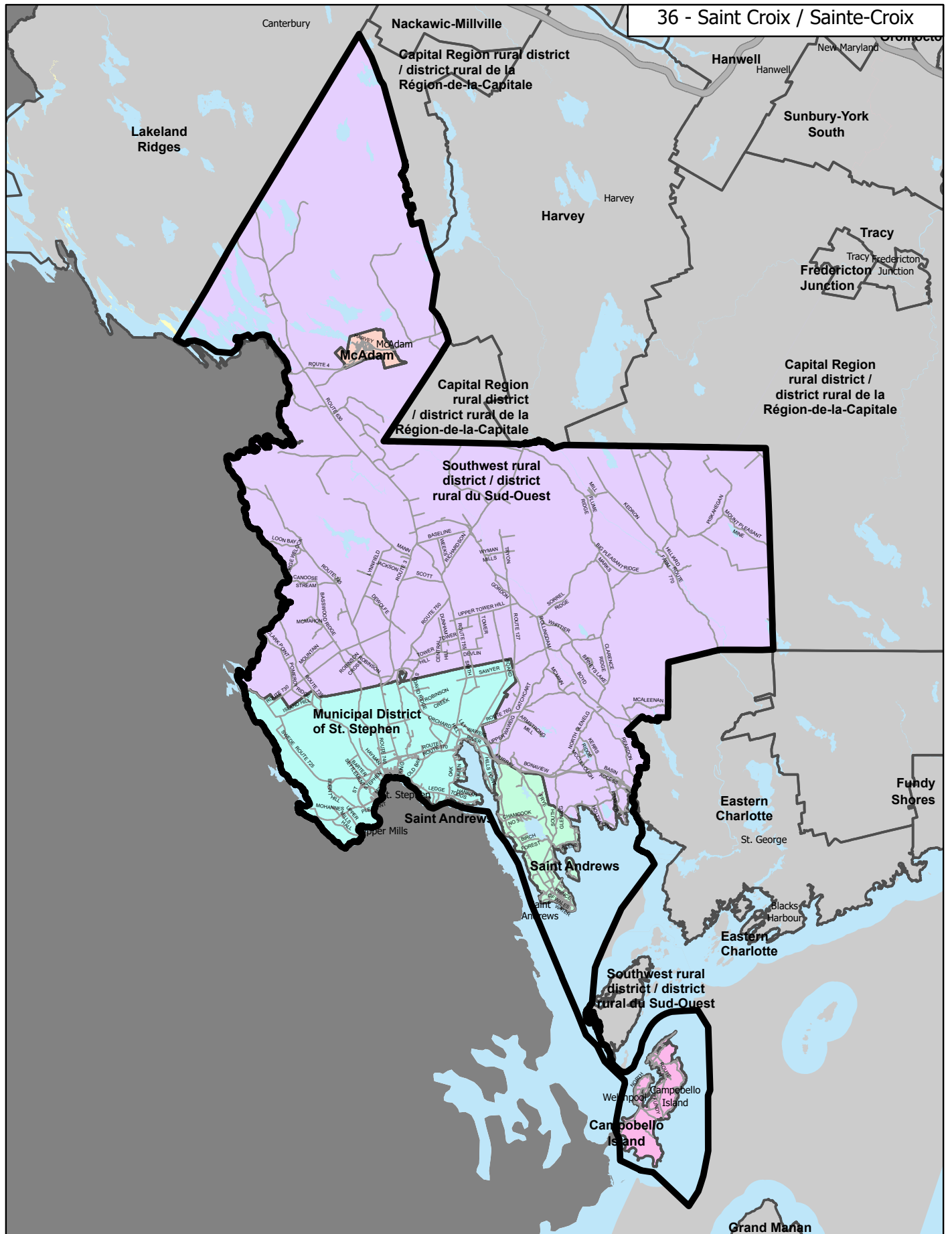




34 - Kings Centre / Kings-Centre

35 - Fundy-The Isles-Saint John Lorneville





CAPITAL REGION

The capital region of New Brunswick consists chiefly of York, Queen, and Sunbury counties. There are currently eight ridings in this area.

As outlined in a previous section of this report, during the second round of public hearings, there was discussion with respect to the placement of the Fredericton district of Marysville. The decision of the commission has been noted previously in this report.

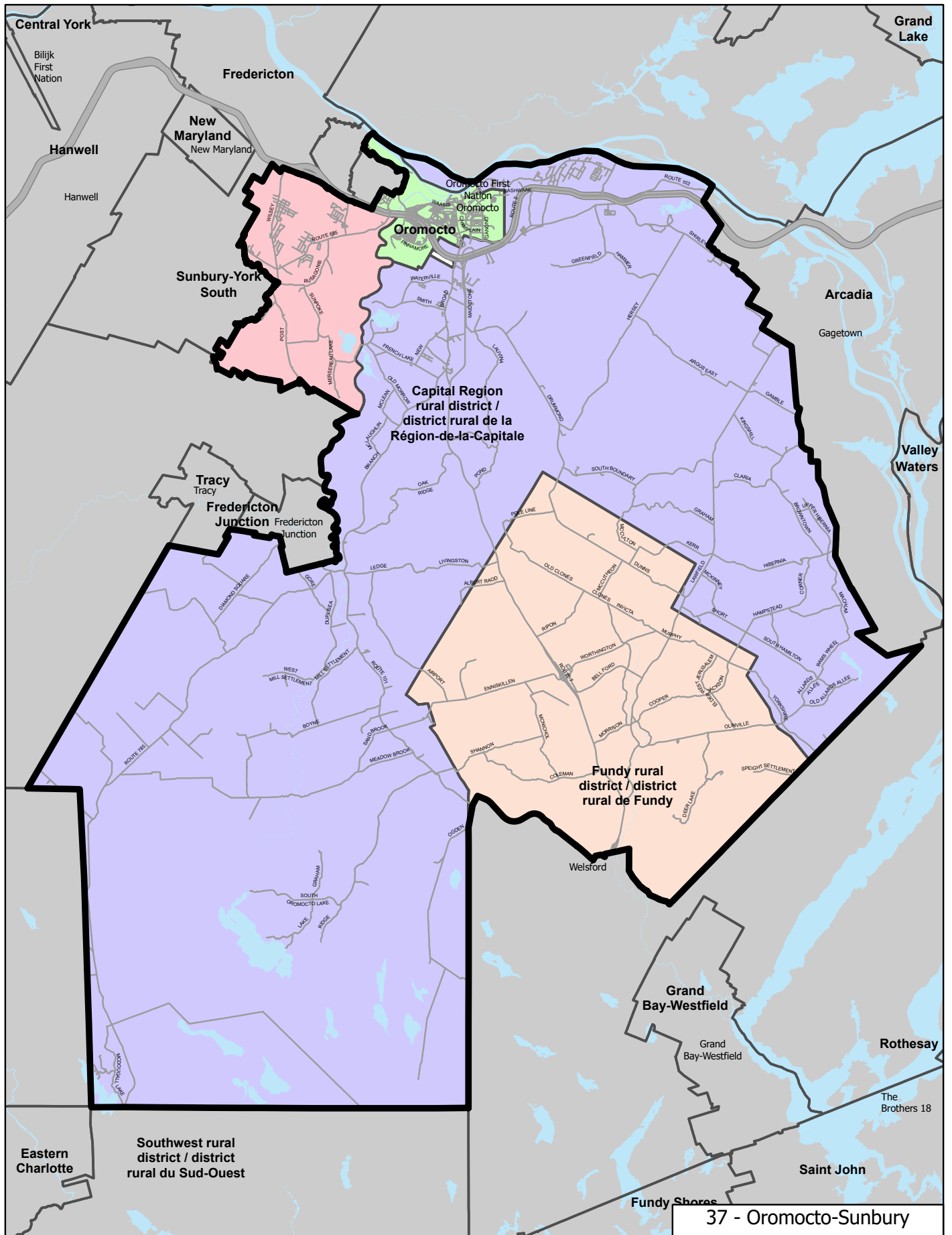
Other adjustments recommended to the commission following the preliminary report and included in the final report are:

1. Adjusting the boundary between Arcadia-Butternut Valley-Maple Hills (ED #25) and Oromocto-Sunbury (ED #37) to keep the community of Burton intact,
2. Removing small portions of the Capital Region Rural District from Saint Croix (ED #36) to Carleton-York (ED #44) and from Arcadia-Butternut Valley-Maple Hills (ED #25) to Fredericton-Grand Lake (ED #38). Neither of these changes impact electors and,
3. Removing a small portion of Carleton-York (ED #44) in the vicinity of Yoho Lake to Hanwell-New Maryland (ED #43) to keep the municipality of Hanwell intact.

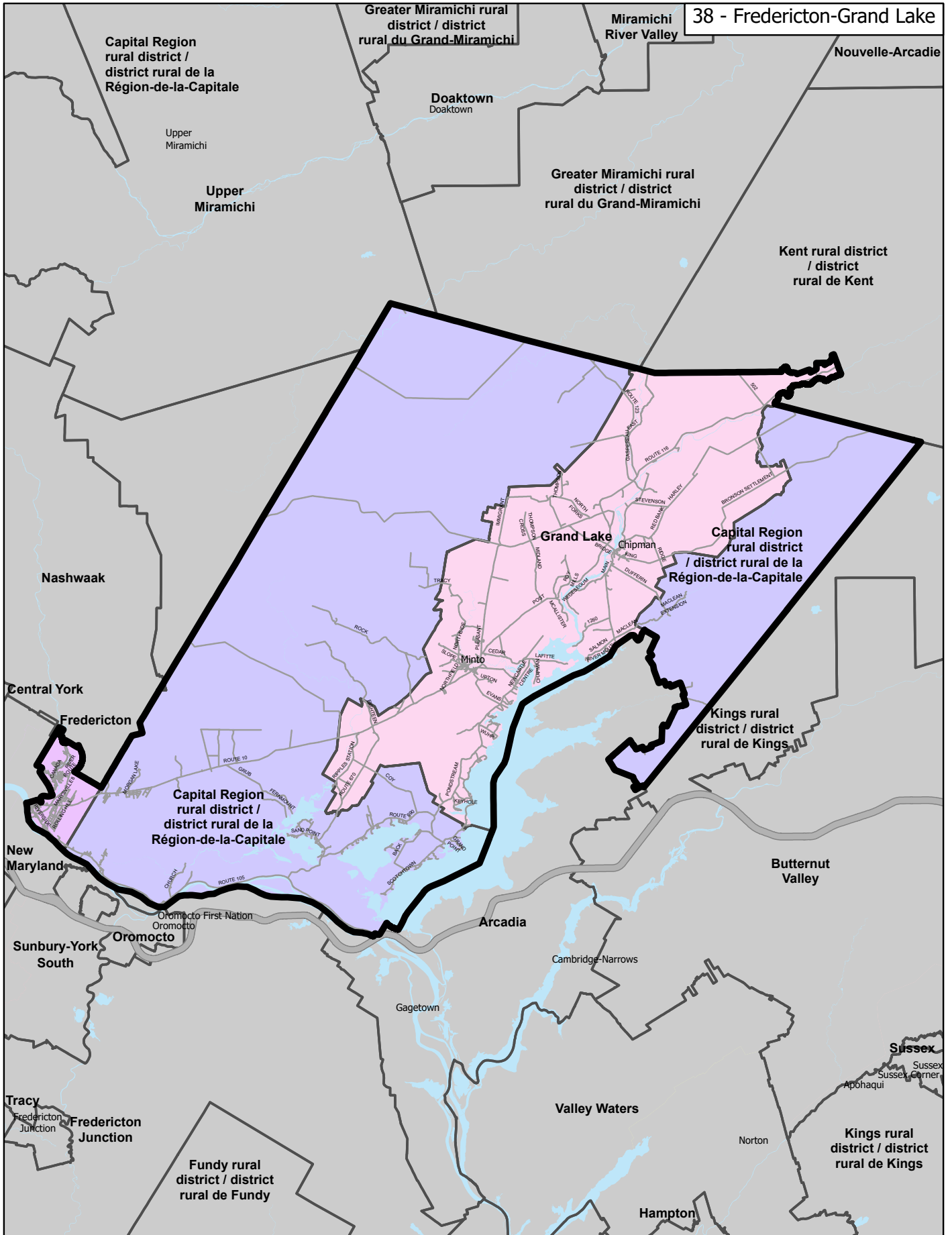
Using the electoral quotient, the capital region contains sufficient voters for 8.37 ridings. The commission proposes maintaining 8 ridings for this region. The riding names and electors (after revision) for the capital region are as follows:

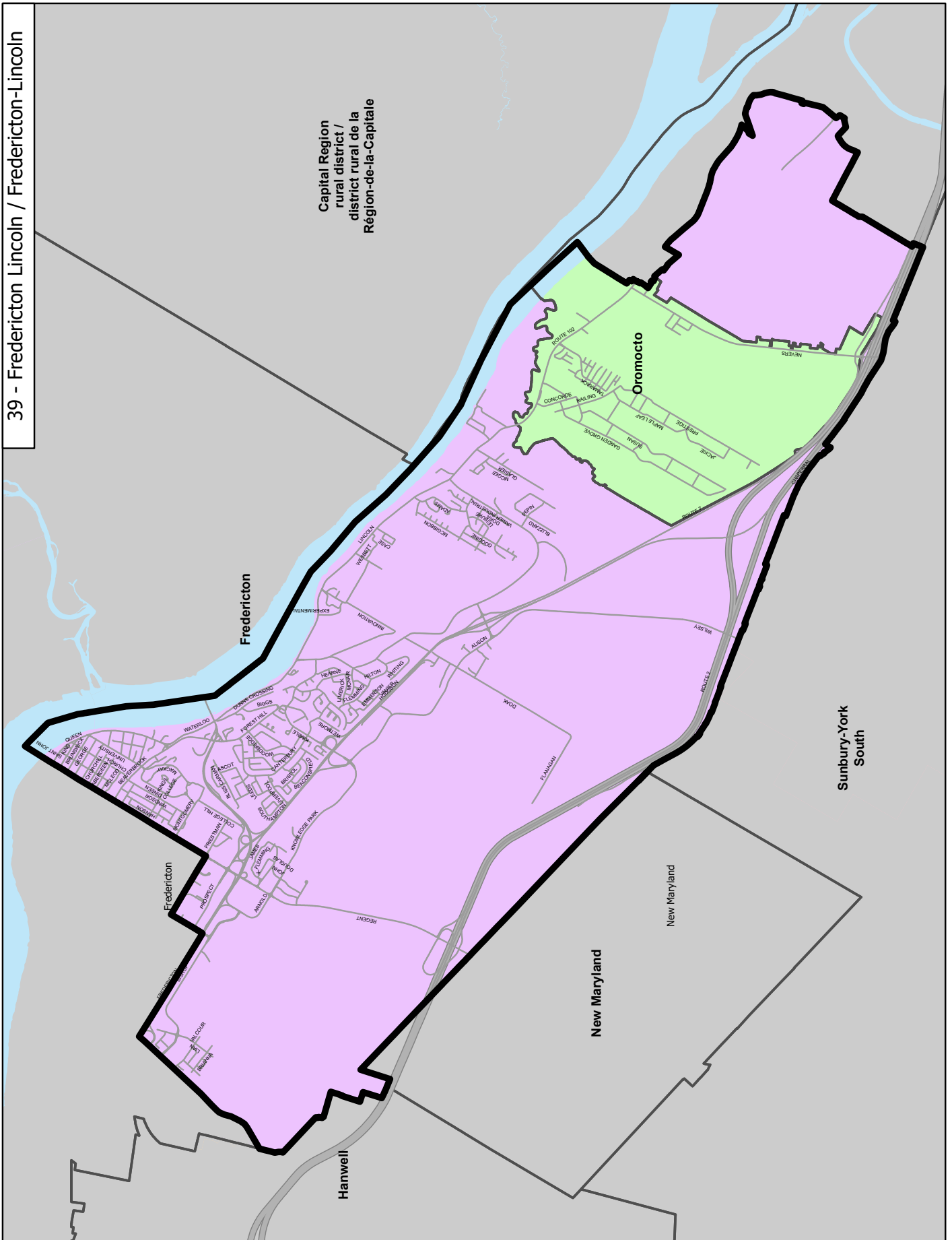
	NAME	TOTAL VOTERS	VARIANCE	PERCENT
37	Oromocto-Sunbury	13,256	+1589	+13.62
38	Fredericton-Grand Lake	12,538	+871	+7.47
39	Fredericton Lincoln	12,006	+339	+2.91
40	Fredericton South-Silverwood	12,300	+633	+5.43
41	Fredericton North	11,972	+305	+2.61
42	Fredericton-York	11,530	-137	-1.17
43	Hanwell-New Maryland	12,630	+963	+8.25
44	Carleton-York	11,416	-251	-2.15

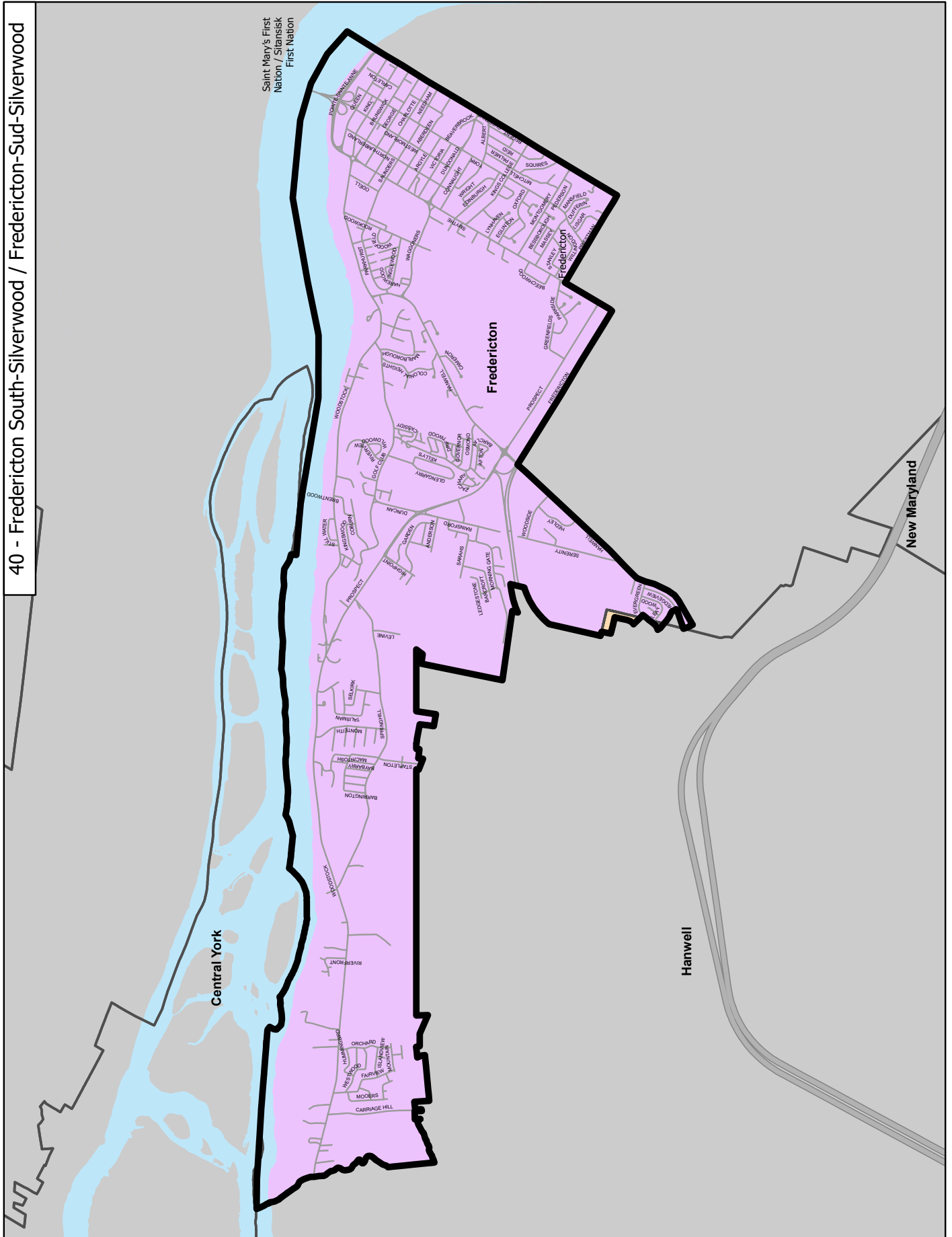
*- indicates name change from preliminary report

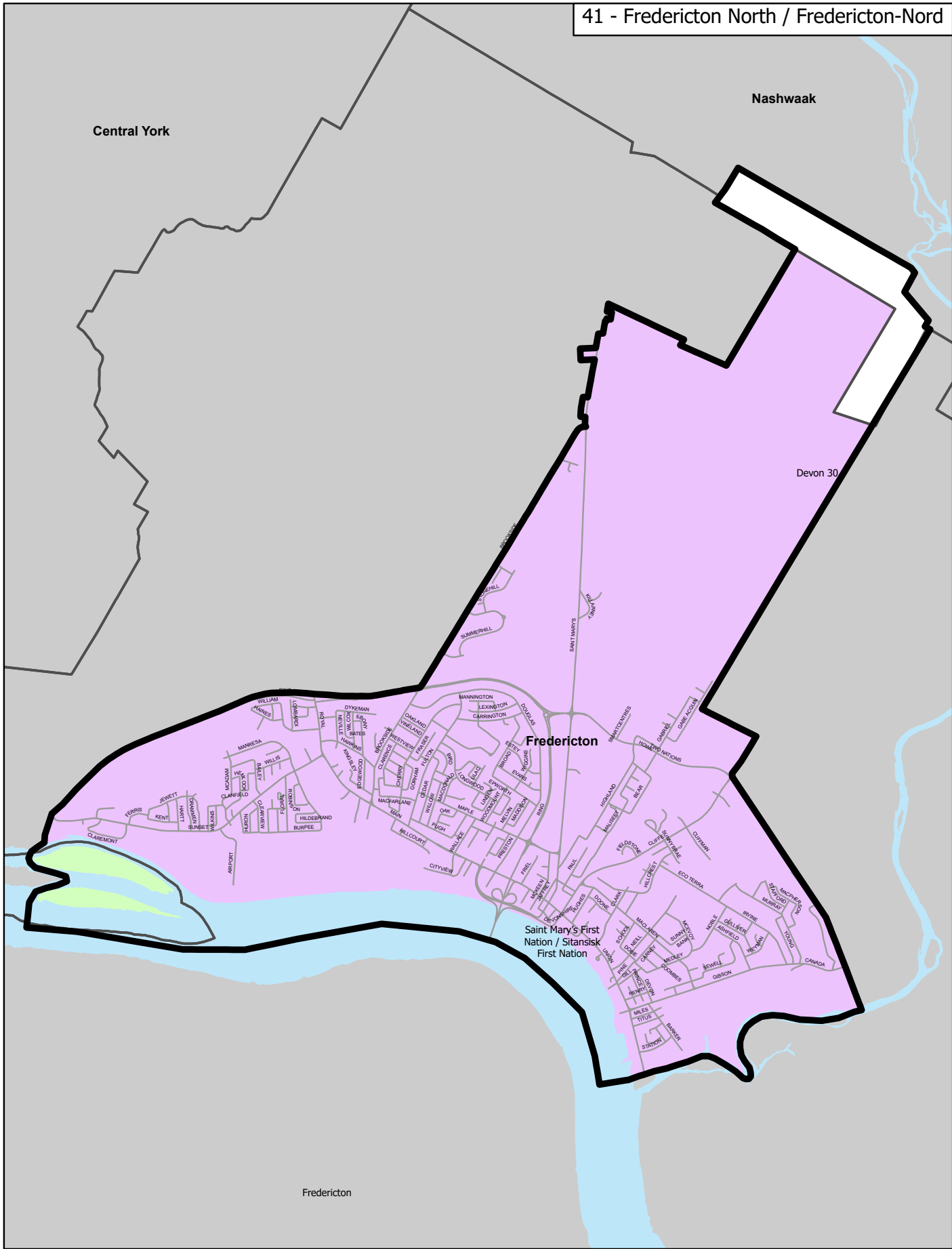


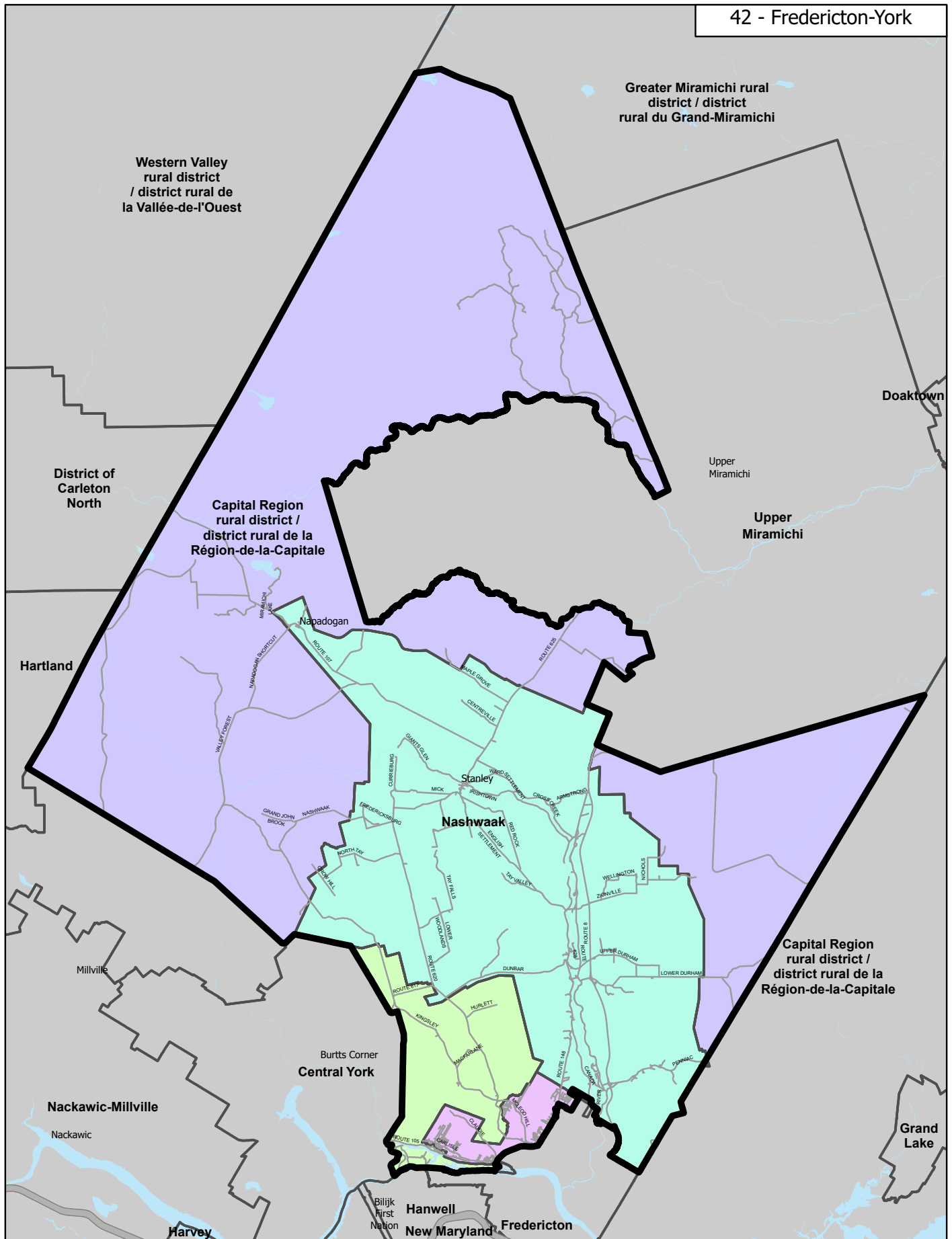
37 - Oromocto-Sunbury



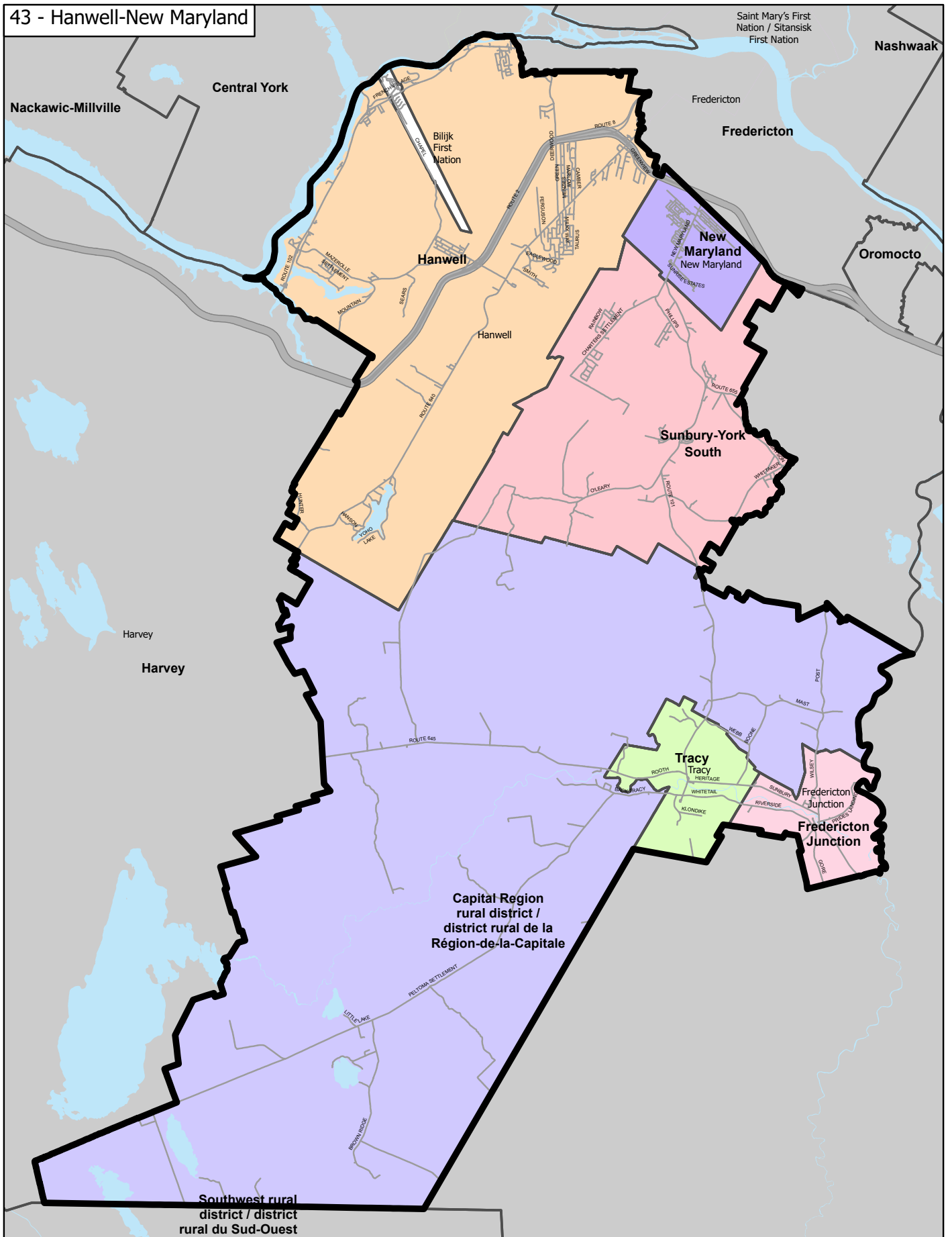


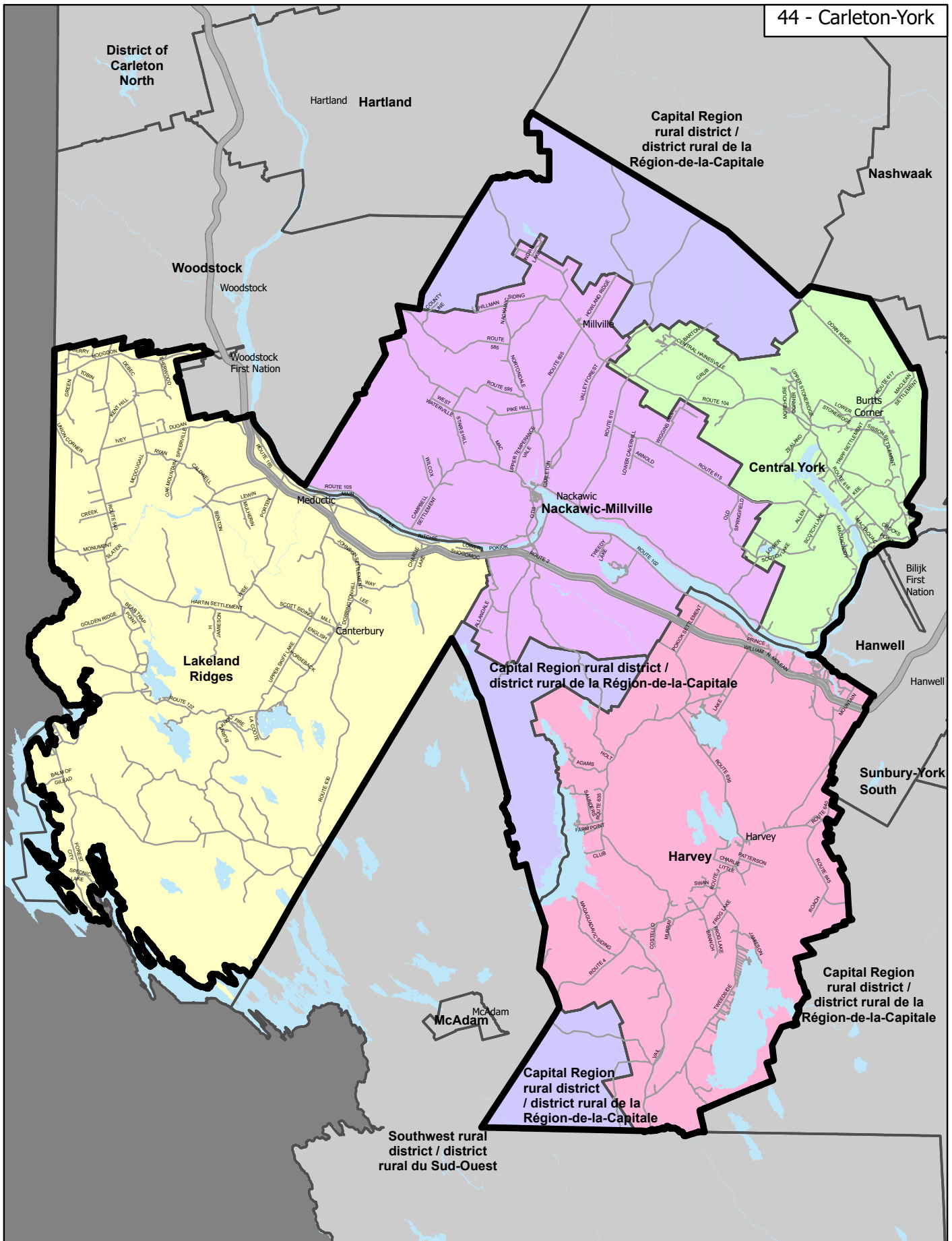






43 - Hanwell-New Maryland





UPPER RIVER VALLEY REGION

The upper river valley region of New Brunswick consists chiefly of Carleton, Victoria, and Madawaska counties. There are currently five ridings in this area.

As outlined in a previous section of this report, during the second round of public hearings, there was considerable discussion with respect to the placement of the municipality of Saint-Quentin. The decision of the commission has been noted previously in this report.

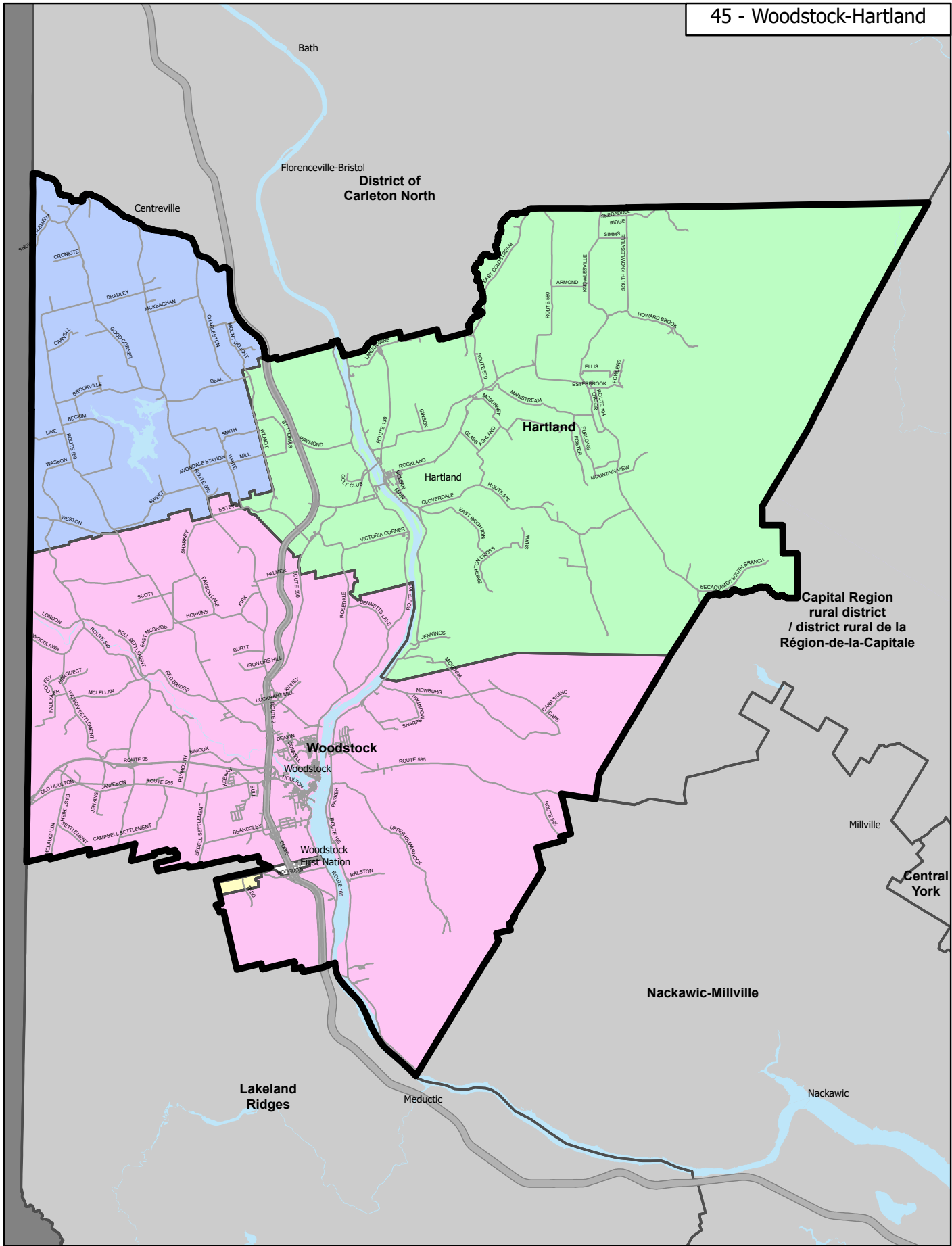
Other adjustments recommended to the commission following the preliminary report and included in the final report are:

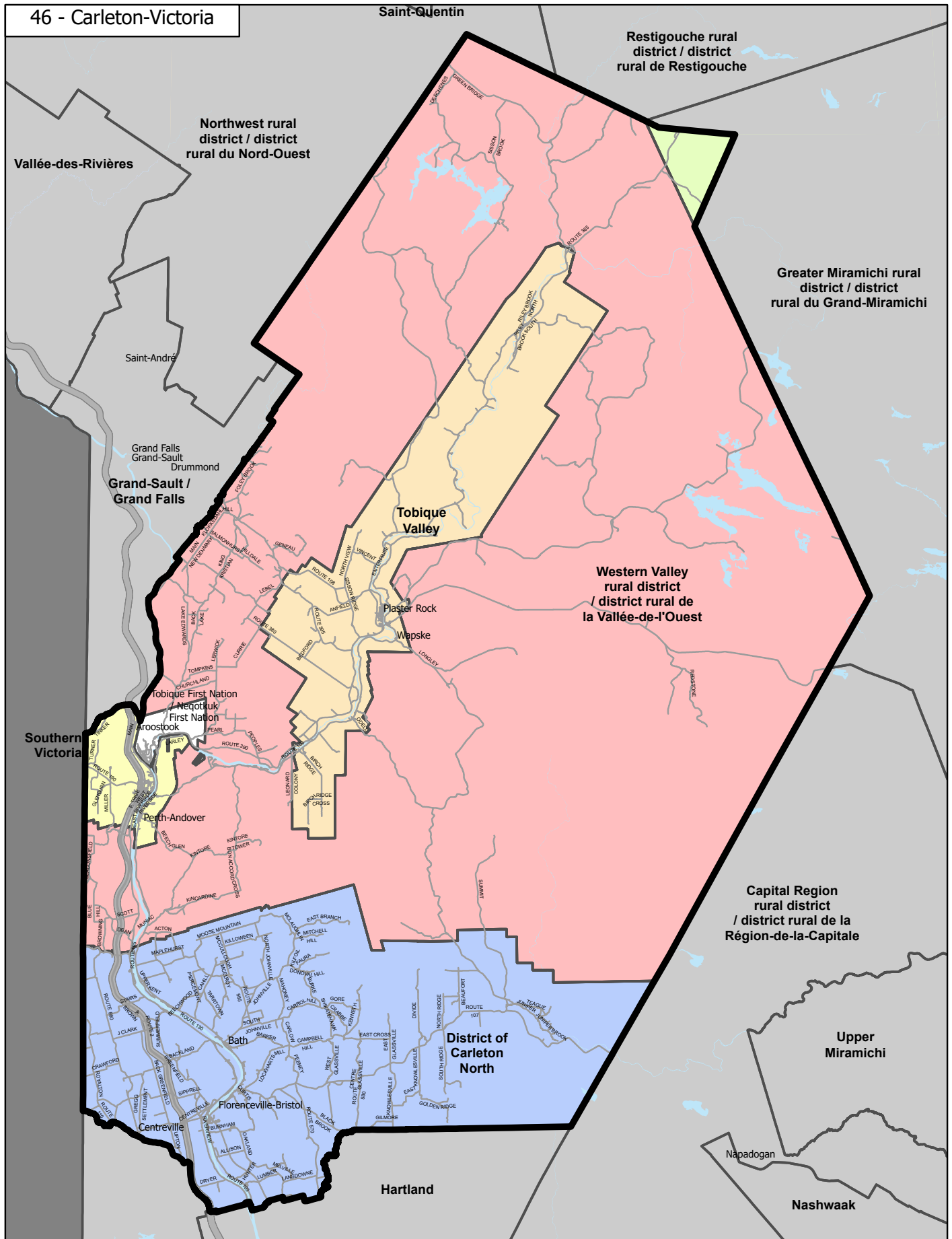
1. Adjusting the boundary between Edmundston-Vallée-des-Rivières (ED #48) and Madawaska Les Lacs-Edmundston slightly to better match Edmundston city boundaries and,
2. Removing the portion of the Western Valley rural district of Grand Falls-Saint-Quentin (ED #47) to Carleton-Victoria (ED #46) to better align with regional service commission boundaries and to provide more effective representation of the local linguistic community.

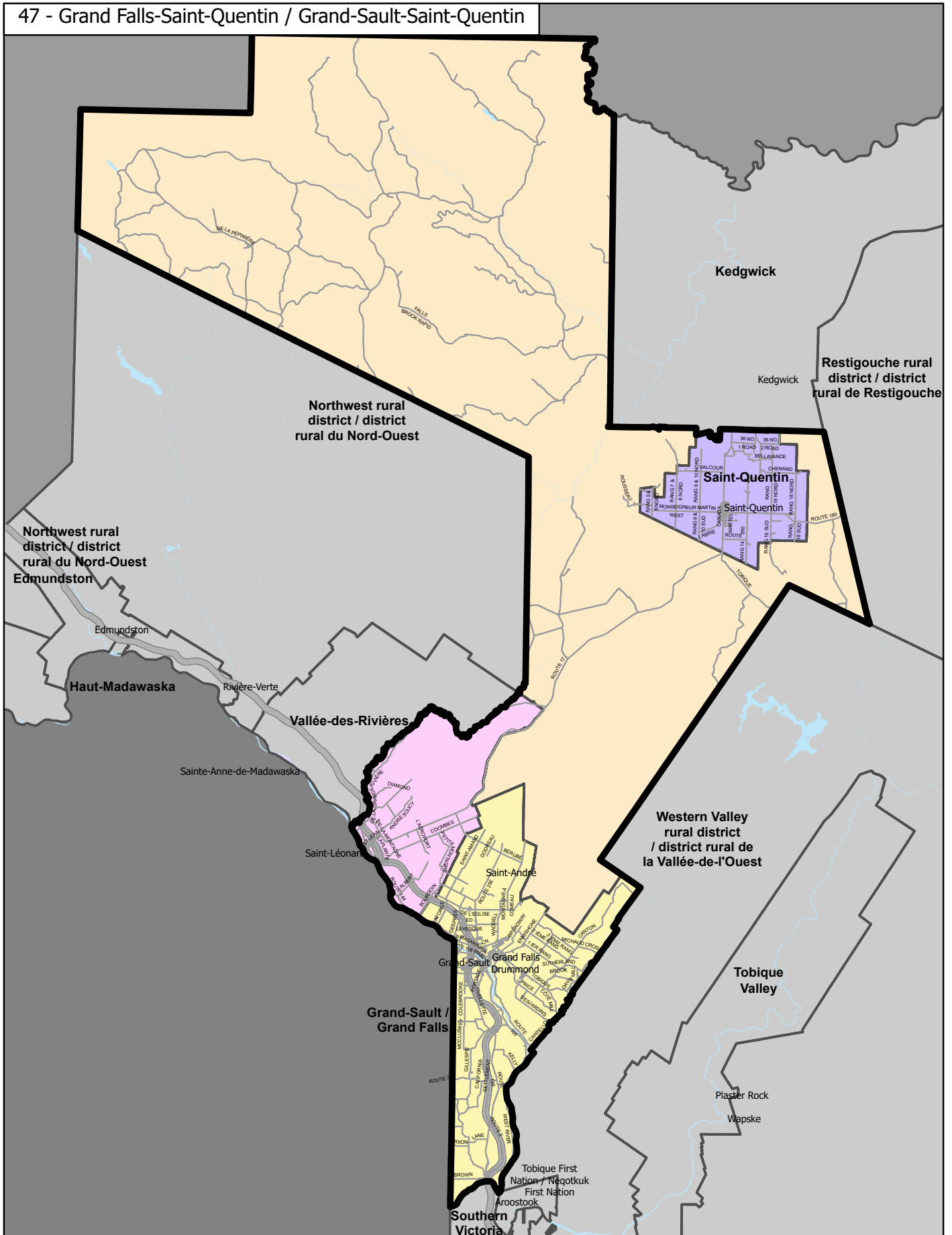
Using the electoral quotient, the upper river valley region contains sufficient voters for 5.19 ridings. The commission proposes maintaining five ridings for this region. The riding names and electors (after revision) for the Upper River Valley region are as follows:

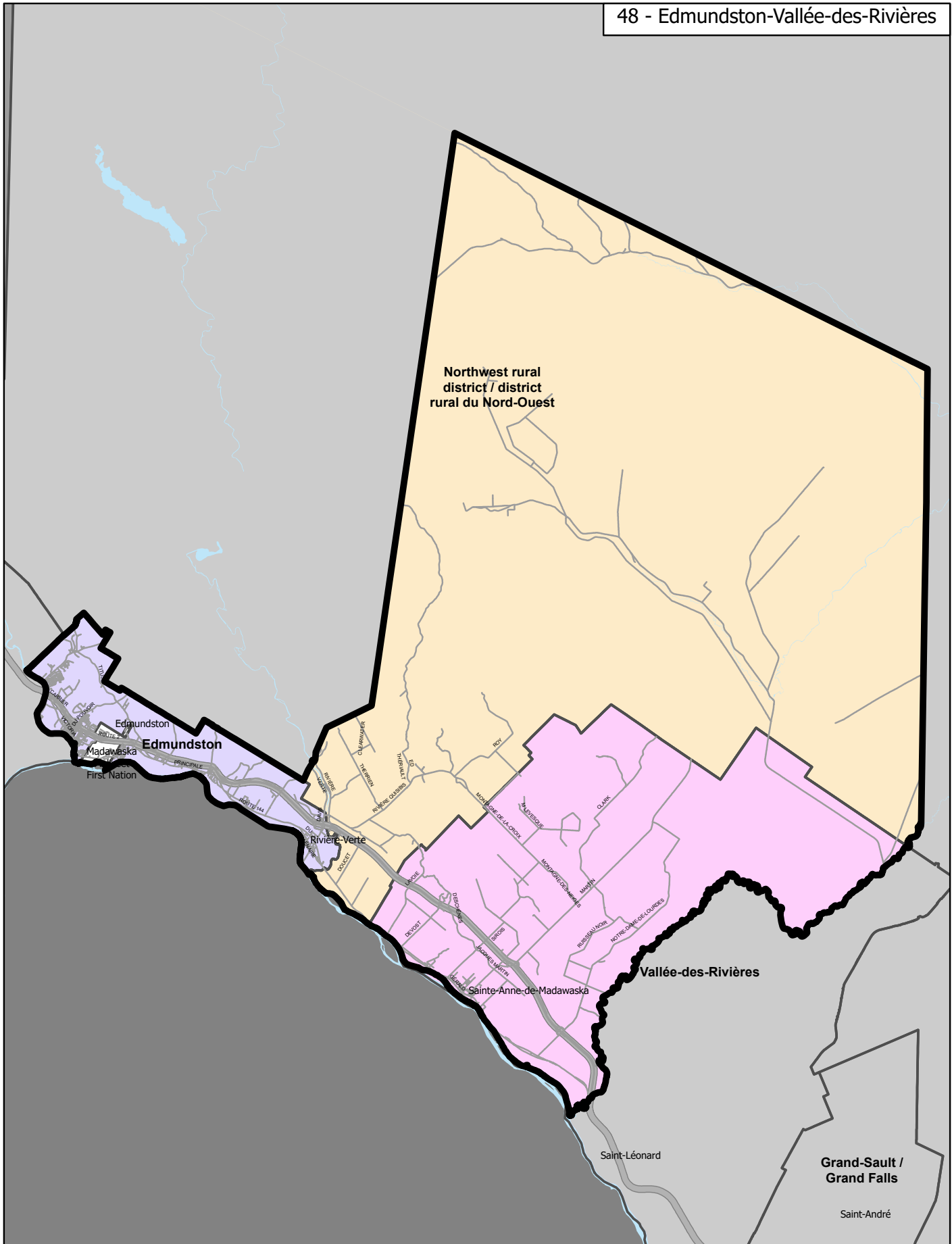
	NAME	TOTAL VOTERS	VARIANCE	PERCENT
45	Woodstock-Hartland	12,187	+520	+4.46
46	Carleton-Victoria	13,096	+1,429	+12.25
47	Grand Falls-Saint-Quentin *	13,082	+1,415	+12.13
48	Edmundston-Vallée-des-Rivières*	10,910	-757	-6.49
49	Madawaska Les Lacs-Edmundston	11,318	-349	-2.99

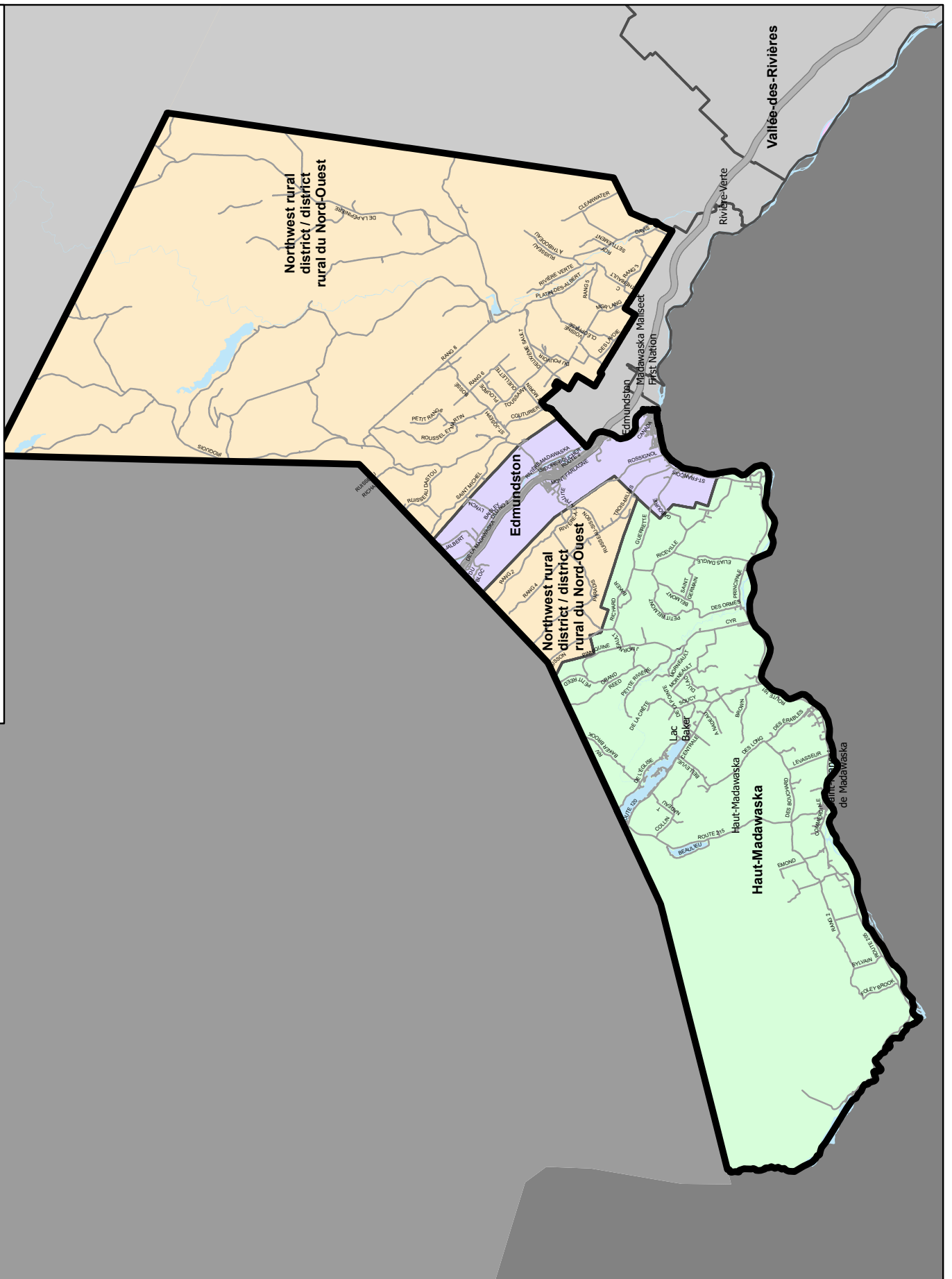
*- indicates name change from preliminary report











Recommendations

With due respect to the legislature, the commission would like to take the opportunity to provide recommendations based on the critiques and challenges noted previously for consideration by future electoral boundary reviews.

1. Process Timeframe / Resources

The commission recommends that the time frames as provided by legislation be extended by 30 days for the first two phases of the electoral boundary review. This would allow 180 days for the filing of the preliminary report and 120 days subsequently for the filing of the final report.

With an electoral boundary review only occurring every 10 years, it takes some time to properly staff the commission, to gather necessary resources, educate the commissioners, advertise, and conduct public consultations, prepare, translate, and then finally produce the preliminary report.

As noted previously in this report, the commission also received significant feedback from the public that the 90 days allowed from the filing of the preliminary report to the filing of the final report makes it difficult for meaningful feedback to be prepared for presentation at the second round of public consultations. When a major holiday period occurs during the 90-day period, as happened during this commission's term, the ability to organize, conduct and respond to public feedback is significantly hampered.

Translation of the report to ensure that it is provided in both official languages is also a significant time constraint in the production of the commission's major reports. An additional 30 days in the first two phases of the process would provide the commission with adequate additional time for production of the reports

Finally, developing the commission budget and onboarding staff resources takes time and requires diligent management. Staffing for future commissions should take place at minimum 30 days prior to the appointment of commissioners to allow time for budget and planning activities to occur before the commission begins its work.

2. Initial conditions for consultations

As noted above, the commission was told that a lack of an initial proposed map of possible revisions made it difficult for presenters to know what changes to the electoral map might be under consideration by the commission.

For example, during the first round of consultations there was general concern among presenters from the north that there might be the need to reduce the overall number of electoral districts from that region. Similarly, in the southeast portion of the province, presenters were wondering if there would be increased electoral districts due to significant population growth.

The commission recommends that future commissions be provided with the resources and the opportunity to issue a pre-consultation report that would provide background information to the public. The information might include elector and population information, linguistic profile information, municipal and local governance maps and commentary about areas of concern that the commission will be reviewing.

3. Undue adherence to voter parity versus other guiding principles

The commission has noted that the guiding principles prescribed by legislation often provide competing directions for the decision-making process. The previous commission has described the difficulty in maintaining an allowable variance from the electoral quotient of +/- 5% while recognizing the impact of other guiding principles.

This commission has found that the current variance from the electoral quotient of +/- 15% has in almost all situations, provided a much greater degree of flexibility when determining the revised electoral boundaries and has given the commission the ability to consider all the guiding principles in more equal measure.

The commission recommends that the allowable variance from the electoral quotient should be reviewed for taking in consideration particularly the effective representation of the English and French linguistic communities and the effective representation of rural areas. A Canadian cross-jurisdictional scan is provided in Appendix E: Electoral quotient deviation for the federal ridings and for the 10 provinces.

4. Comprehensive Review

Considering the challenges faced by this commission in the execution of its duties to provide effective representation through the revision of the current electoral boundaries, the commission recommends that the legislature consider a comprehensive review of the *Electoral Boundaries and Representation Act* prior to the appointment of the next commission.

Said review would examine the issues that make New Brunswick unique within Canada and would consider ways that the act could be modified to ensure that all New Brunswick residents achieve effective representation to the greatest extent possible. The review could consider the impact of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* on effective representation given the intermingled nature of French and English communities in New Brunswick and could also consider the nature of the urban / rural divide within the province.

Acknowledgements

The commission wishes to thank all those who contributed to their work.

First and foremost, the commission expresses its appreciation to the groups and individuals who took the time to prepare briefs and accepted the invitation to attend public hearings to share their thoughts. Appreciation is also expressed to those who provided their comments directly to the office of the commission. As is evidenced by many of the changes made from the preliminary report to the final report, the commissioners listened carefully to the comments and submissions made during the public hearing process. The feedback received was instrumental in helping the commissioners better understand local conditions and concerns during the decision-making process.

The commissioners were impressed by the calibre of the submissions received. Many of the submissions and presentations clearly demonstrated the passion of New Brunswickers for their province, their region, and their local communities.

The commissioners took special note of the respect that was shown by all presenters when discussing language and effective representation. Time and again, the commissioners heard from people who expressed deep respect for their neighbours regardless of cultural background. Despite occasional disagreements, submissions were generally respectful of opposing viewpoints and of the overall process of electoral boundary review.

The commission wishes to express its gratitude to the public servants of the Province of New Brunswick who contributed to the work of the commission. They are exemplary individuals who spent many long hours, including evenings and weekends, preparing briefings, options requested by the commission and catering to our wishes and needs throughout the process.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to these public servants, and we express a huge “Thank You” for their enormous contribution in assisting us in bringing our mandate to fruition.

Commission Staff

Executive Director, France Haché; Policy Advisors, Bernard Arseneau and Kevin Duff; and Administrative Assistant, Suzanne Frigault.

Elections New Brunswick

Chief Electoral Officer, Kim Poffenroth; Director of Communications, Paul Harpelle; and GIS Analyst, Colin Steele.

Executive Council Office:

Joanna Mills, Brand Lead, Marketing and Communications; and Stewart Tower, Designer.

Service New Brunswick, Land Information Secretariat:

Bernie Connors, Geomatics Engineer; Julie McKay, Manager; and Lara Chessie, Remote Sensing Specialist, Service New Brunswick, Printing Services

The commission would like to offer its thanks to Charles Murray. As Executive Director of the previous commission, Mr. Murray was generous with his time and offered invaluable advice to the current commission.

Finally, the commission was able to conduct numerous public meetings in both official languages, in person and virtually because of the contributions of the Lynwood Strategy team; Chad Peters, Tracey Stephenson and Maurice Robichaud and the entire team of translators who made a superb effort to ensure that the input of all New Brunswickers was received and understood by the commission.

Appendix A - List of Presenters

Here is a list of all persons who made representations to the commission, either through email, mail, in-person, or as a registered presenter at a public hearing, during the second round of public hearings. The commission thanks all those who took the time to share their views and apologizes for any errors or omissions in this list.

AFMNB	Archie Allain
Jacqueline Allain	Julie Allain
Rachel Allain	Daniel Allain, MLA
Mathieu Allard	Richard Ames, MLA
Andrea Anderson Mason, MLA	Guy Arseneault, MLA
Ghislaine Auger	Nancy Avery
Anthony Azard, Cap-Acadie Chamber of Commerce	John B. Bigger
Gerald Babineau	Marc Babineau, Deputy Mayor Champdoré
Dany Benoit	Hannah Bergeron
Lois Best	Kathy Bockus, MLA
Louis J. Boudreau	Maxime Bourgeois, Mayor, Memramcook
Jean Bourgois	Jean-Paul Bourque
Benoit Bourque, MLA	Bertrand Brideau
Monique Brideau	Karen Brideau-Haché
Carman C. Bryenton	Nadine Chiasson
Keith Chiasson, MLA	Jean Clement Martin
Leo Comeau	Tanya Comeau
David Coon, MLA	Gilles Cormier
Roland Cormier	Benoit Couturier
Mike Dawson, MLA	Eric Demers
Francis Despres	Sharon Despres
Amand Doiron	Everett Doucet
Melvin Doucet	Rolande Doucet
Rose-May Doucet	Ven Doucet
Marlene Dugas	Samantha Duplessis
Greg Ericson, Deputy Mayor, Fredericton	Claudine Ferron
Paul Fisher	Eric Gagnon, Mayor, Kedgwick
Pierre Godin	Dr. Nancy Grant, Mayor, Rothesay
Edward and Ghislain Gregan	James and Joyce Gregan
Loisanne Gregan	Lynn Gregan
Nicholas Gregan	Myrna Gunther
Lynn Hambroo	Gail Harding
Mary Hartt	Nicolas Jelic
George Jenkins	Shawn Jenkins
Aaron Kennedy	Ginette Kervin

Libby Kingston
Denis Landry, Mayor, Hautes-Terres
Norman Laverty
Emilien LeBreton
Serge Léger
Jean-Guy Levesque, Mayor, Campbellton
Adam Lordon, Mayor, Miramichi
Graham MacDonald
Roseline Maillet
Arthur and Karen Martin
Collette Martin
Harvey Matthews
Susanne McAllister
William McCallum
John McKay
Marjorie McLeod
Libby O'Hara, Mayor, Quispamsis
Rachelle Pelletier
Normand Pelletier, Mayor, Heron Bay
Adam Pottle
Anne Price
Stephan Richard
Floran Richardson
Carmel Robichaud
Ernest Robichaud, Mayor, Alnwick
Phyllis Robie
Lloyd Ross
D. Savoie
Réjean Savoie, MLA
Nicole Somers, Mayor, Saint-Quentin
Yvette Stewart
Véronique Taylor
Fernand Thibodeau
Carla Vautour
Dave Wagner
Neil Wallace
Claude Williams
Jean Williston
Ted Williston
Robert Wishart

Lillian and Winston Kingston
Paul Lang, RSC Kent
Jacques LeBlanc, MLA
Catherine Leger
Gilles LePage, MLA
Mona Lloyd
Denis Losier, Mayor, Tracadie
Ruth MacDonald
Brad Mann, RSC Restigouche
Clement R. Martin
Monique Martin
Huberte Mazerolle
Fraser McCallum
Dale McIntyre
Gertrude McLaughlin
Craig Melanson
Léopold Ouellet
Mario Pelletier, Mayor, Bois-Joli
Lisa Poirier
Terry Power
Bernard Richard
Rachelle Richard-Collette
Deb Robbie
Jean-Claude Robichaud
Jeanne Robichaud-Comeau
Kate Rogers, Mayor, Fredericton
Roger Saint Pierre
Georges R. Savoie, Mayor, Neguac
Rhondene Simms
Georges St-Cœur
Chris Taylor
Isabelle Theriault, MLA
Brendan Turner
Marc-André Vienneau
Gill Wallace
Ross Wetmore, MLA
Elda Williston
Mark A. Williston
Theodore Williston
Paul Wood

Appendix B - Riding Profiles

	NAME	ESTIMATED ELECTORS	ELECTORAL QUOTIENT	DIFFERENCE FROM ELECTORAL QUOTIENT	% DIFFERENCE	ANGLOPHONE	FRANCOPHONE	BOTH OR OTHER
1	Restigouche West	10,397	11667	(1,270)	-10.89%	35.8%	59.4%	4.6%
2	Restigouche East	10,008	11667	(1,659)	-14.22%	35.7%	60.9%	3.0%
3	Belle-Baie-Belledune	12,618	11667	951	8.15%	19.1%	78.2%	2.8%
4	Bathurst	10,009	11667	(1,658)	-14.21%	44.3%	50.6%	5.7%
5	Hautes-Terres-Nepisiguit	9,969	11667	(1,698)	-14.55%	21.2%	76.7%	1.9%
6	Caraquet	9,933	11667	(1,734)	-14.86%	2.7%	96.0%	1.6%
7	Shippagan-Les-Îles	9,922	11667	(1,745)	-14.96%	3.0%	95.1%	1.7%
8	Tracadie	12,754	11667	1,087	9.32%	2.1%	96.2%	1.5%
9	Miramichi Bay - Neguac	12,432	11667	765	6.56%	62.9%	30.9%	6.6%
10	Miramichi East	10,227	11667	(1,440)	-12.34%	85.7%	10.9%	3.5%
11	Miramichi West	10,016	11667	(1,651)	-14.15%	93.9%	4.5%	2.0%
12	Kent North	12,900	11667	1,233	10.57%	31.1%	59.2%	9.7%
13	Beausoleil-Grand-Bouctouche-Kent	12,804	11667	1,137	9.75%	28.4%	66.4%	5.1%
14	Shediac Bay-Dieppe	13,396	11667	1,729	14.82%	28.3%	63.3%	8.4%
15	Shediac-Cap-Acadie	12,530	11667	863	7.40%	25.8%	67.3%	6.8%
16	Tantramar	9,058	11667	(2,609)	-22.36%	79.8%	15.4%	4.9%
17	Dieppe-Memramcook	12,230	11667	563	4.83%	25.6%	65.6%	8.9%
18	Moncton East	12,557	11667	890	7.63%	49.7%	40.7%	9.7%
19	Moncton Centre	11,531	11667	(136)	-1.17%	59.1%	27.9%	13.2%
20	Moncton South	11,282	11667	(385)	-3.30%	66.5%	22.4%	11.2%
21	Moncton Northwest	12,420	11667	753	6.45%	63.1%	23.1%	13.8%
22	Champdoré-Irishtown	10,047	11667	(1,620)	-13.89%	39.1%	55.9%	5.2%
23	Riverview	12,012	11667	345	2.96%	85.9%	9.0%	5.3%
24	Albert-Riverview	12,906	11667	1,239	10.62%	89.2%	6.9%	3.7%
25	Arcadia-Butternut Valley-Maple Hills	11,565	11667	(102)	-0.87%	89.8%	7.4%	3.1%
26	Sussex-Three Rivers	12,753	11667	1,086	9.31%	93.6%	3.5%	3.0%
27	Hampton-Fundy-St. Martins	11,270	11667	(397)	-3.40%	95.3%	3.3%	1.3%
28	Quispamsis	11,124	11667	(543)	-4.65%	91.0%	4.6%	4.5%

	NAME	ESTIMATED ELECTORS	ELECTORAL QUOTIENT	DIFFERENCE FROM ELECTORAL QUOTIENT	% DIFFERENCE	ANGLOPHONE	FRANCOPHONE	BOTH OR OTHER
29	Rothesay	11,205	11667	(462)	-3.96%	90.5%	3.8%	5.2%
30	Saint John East	12,328	11667	661	5.67%	90.6%	3.8%	5.4%
31	Saint John Portland-Simonds	12,029	11667	362	3.10%	82.3%	4.7%	12.9%
32	Saint John Harbour	12,011	11667	344	2.95%	88.2%	3.6%	8.3%
33	Saint John West-Lancaster	11,585	11667	(82)	-0.70%	92.4%	4.6%	3.1%
34	Kings Centre	11,512	11667	(155)	-1.33%	93.7%	3.3%	2.9%
35	Fundy-The Isles- Saint John Lorneville	10,402	11667	(1,265)	-10.84%	93.0%	2.8%	4.6%
36	Saint Croix	11,679	11667	12	0.10%	95.1%	2.1%	3.2%
37	Oromocto-Sunbury	13,256	11667	1,589	13.62%	86.7%	10.2%	3.0%
38	Fredericton-Grand Lake	12,538	11667	871	7.47%	90.5%	5.7%	3.9%
39	Fredericton Lincoln	12,006	11667	339	2.91%	77.1%	6.5%	16.3%
40	Fredericton South-Silverwood	12,300	11667	633	5.43%	80.5%	6.7%	13.1%
41	Fredericton North	11,972	11667	305	2.61%	87.4%	5.7%	6.7%
42	Fredericton-York	11,530	11667	(137)	-1.17%	89.0%	6.3%	4.7%
43	Hanwell-New Maryland	12,630	11667	963	8.25%	86.2%	9.0%	4.7%
44	Carleton-York	11,416	11667	(251)	-2.15%	93.7%	4.0%	2.3%
45	Woodstock-Hartland	12,187	11667	520	4.46%	92.8%	1.6%	5.8%
46	Carleton-Victoria	13,096	11667	1,429	12.25%	91.5%	5.4%	3.1%
47	Grand Falls-Saint-Quentin	13,082	11667	1,415	12.13%	13.8%	82.9%	3.2%
48	Edmundston-Vallée- des-Rivières	10,910	11667	(757)	-6.49%	4.5%	92.2%	3.4%
49	Madawaska Les Lacs-Edmundston	11,318	11667	(349)	-2.99%	5.4%	91.5%	3.1%

Please note that the linguistic profile percentages do not necessarily add to 100% due to rounding and small differences between electoral boundaries and census divisions.

Appendix C - What We Heard

Over 112 people attended the virtual sessions and more than 138 submissions were received by email. Below represents a summary of the feedback we receive by region.

NORTHERN (EDS 1-8)

- Our community is not in support of dividing Tracadie-Sheila in three sections. We need to keep the riding as it currently is because dividing will create division between Francophones and Anglophones.
- Oppose changes to EDs 8 and 9 as they are counterproductive to the establishment of a community of interest and would be better served with one representative for our small community.
- Two electoral districts to represent Restigouche will work best for our community.
- Campbellton should remain with Kedgwick to build on the community of interest.
- Disappointed that Bathurst is still divided, which causes us to lose some of the city.
- Fair Isle should stay with Tracadie-Sheila.
- Do not understand why Sugarloaf Provincial Park is excluded from Restigouche, recommend reinstating with Restigouche.
- Relocate the LSDs of Chaleur and Lorne to either Campbellton-Heron Bay or Belledune.
- The addition of Chaleur and Lorne LSDs to Restigouche does not take into consideration the principles of communities of interest, geography, or effective representation. These voters have more in common with Belledune and Dalhousie.
- Pont-Lafrance, Leech and St. Irénée should not be moved to Bathurst and should remain with Tracadie-Sheila.
- The changes to Tracadie-Sheila do not represent guiding principles and will only lead to division.
- Expressed concern over the timing to provide feedback.
- Tracadie-Sheila should remain within current limits. We also suggest adding the missing part of Ste-Rose, which is currently part of the electoral district of Shippagan. By recovering the locality of Ste-Rose, this would include the entire Regional Municipality of Tracadie-Sheila.
- What the commission is currently proposing would result in Pont-La France and St-Irénée ending up with Bathurst-Est Nepisiguit St-Isidore and Losier Settlement would end up with the riding of Shippagan. These changes don't make sense. For example, our constituency of Tracadie-Sheila is divided and would have to engage with three MLAs.
- We should keep Pont LaFrance, Leech and St-Irénée with Tracadie-Sheila.
- We would like to keep Pont LaFrance with Tracadie-Sheila.
- Pont LaFrance, Leech and St-Irénée should stay with our community of interest with is Tracadie-Sheila not Bathurst.
- I'm happy with the changes especially the positioning of Sugarloaf Provincial Park.

MIRAMICHI (EDS 9-11)

- Neguac should remain with Miramichi Bay-Neguac where services are, don't divide the greater community.
- Keep Alnwick as part of the Miramichi East riding to respect the wishes of the people.
- The communities of Escuminac, Baie Ste Anne, Hardwicke, Bay Du Vin, Black River Ridge, Napan, St. Margarets, and the former LSD of Chatham should remain together in what has been named the Electoral District 10 Miramichi East.
- Hardwicke, Baie Ste Anne, and Escuminac should stay in Miramichi East - approximately 1,500 voters.
- Barnaby River and Lower 118 Highway could return to Miramichi West.
- There is a small piece of Miramichi East (by Ferry Road area) that should be put in Miramichi Bay to keep ridings divided by the river.
- Keep Natoaganeg (Eel Ground) in Miramichi Bay-Neguac riding.
- Beaverbrook-Patterson should go in Miramichi East to keep the community together.
- The Village of Neguac and the former Tabusintac LSD should go with Electoral District 9 Miramichi Bay-Neguac.
- Keep Tabusintac in Miramichi Bay-Neguac. This riding has an excellent mix of English/French residents that have always cooperated and worked well together, (numerous submissions were received pertaining to this).
- The Chamber of Commerce for Grand-Neguac is opposed to moving Neguac out of the riding of Miramichi Bay-Neguac.
- We wish to keep the Village of Neguac in Miramichi Bay-Neguac.

SOUTHEASTERN (EDS 12-24)

Propose the following suggestions for the three Kent Electoral Districts

KENT NORTH	KENT CENTRE	KENT SOUTH
Village of Nouvelle-Arcadie (Village of Rogersville, DSL of Collette, DSL of Acadieville, Kent Junction, Murray Settlement, and a small section of the DSL of Harcourt)	South coast of the Richibucto River (excluding the village of Rexton, Jardineville, Indian Island)	Beausoleil Rural Community (Cocagne Rural Community, Grande-Digue LSD, Dundas LSD, Grande-Digue LSD, Shediac Bridge - Shediac River LSD, Small sections of the Shediac and Moncton)
Town of Beaurivage (Village of Saint-Louis-de-Kent, DSL of Saint-Louis, DSL of Saint-Charles, DSL of Aldouane, DSL of Saint-Ignace, City of Richibucto)	Town of Grand-Bouctouche (City of Bouctouche, Major part of Wellington LSD, Sainte-Anne LSD)	Scoudouc, Scoudouc Road, Saint-Philippe (to Cape Breton Road), Shediac Cape, Irishtown (from Beausoleil's south border on Route 115 to Scotch Settlement Road), MacDougall Settlement, Scotch Settlement.
Kent Rural District (Pointe-Sapin, Carleton LSD, Baie-Sainte-Anne LSD, Escuminac LSD, small Hardwicke DSL section)	Kent Rural District (Cape de Richibucto LSD)	Lakeville
Village of Rexton, north side of the Richibucto River, Elsipogtog and the community of Harcourt (excluding Coal Branch and Adamsville)	Town of Champdoré (Saint-Antoine, McKees Mills, Sainte-Marie, Saint-Paul)	

- The four communities of Botsford Portage, Petit-Cap, Shemogue and Pointe Comeau are predominantly Acadian and francophone and should not be placed with Tantramar, which is primarily anglophone. The communities are part of the new Cap-Acadie and are a natural community of interest with Shediac.
- Scoudouc, Chapman Corner and south of Grand Pré Street on Route 133 should be included in the new riding of Shediac Bay-Dieppe.
- Champdoré should not be in Moncton, Bouctouche is a better option.
- Champdoré should not be a part of Irishtown, Moncton, and Lakeville. These are Anglophone and mainly urban communities and have not community of interest with Champdoré.
- Champdoré should remain in Kent, and we support the proposal from Kent RSC.
- Urge the commission to reduce the number of electors in rural ridings and make urban ones bigger.
- Leave Shediac, Beaubassin and Cap Pelé with Cap-Acadie.
- Summary of suggested changes:
 - Current proposed riding #18:
 - Add Polls from proposed ED-22 (Currently in Moncton East) and transfer to ED18: 2, 4, 5, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25
 - Polls removed from ED18 (Currently in Moncton South) to proposed Moncton South (ED20) 1, 2, 3, 4
 - Polls removed from ED18 (Currently Moncton Centre) to proposed Moncton Centre (ED19) 1, 2, 30, 31, 32, 33
 - New proposed Moncton East #18
 - Polls removed from existing Moncton South (ED20) could be transferred to proposed Moncton South (ED20)
 - Polls removed from existing Moncton Centre (ED19) could be transferred to proposed Moncton Centre (ED19)
 - Current proposed riding #22
 - Polls removed from ED-22 to ED18 - 2, 4, 5, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25
 - Polls added (Maple Hills) current Polls 27 (ED-18) and current 27-30 (ED-21) 1911 electors and Poll 13 (MacDougall Sett) ED-14 (180 electors)
 - Outline in the White Paper of the Local Governance, the communities of Maple Hills and Saint Antoine have an estimated population of 13,000.
- Oppose removing Champdoré out of Kent and combining with Moncton.
- Including St. Paul with Lakeville is not right.
- Champdoré will likely get Moncton MLA and that is not right, as we will not receive proper representation.
- Champdoré is part of Kent Sud and should remain with Bouctouche/Beausoleil region
- Lewisville should remain in Moncton and suggest moving the dividing line further north and east to Highway 2.

- Champdoré should remain with Bouctouche Beausoleil region.
- A petition with 30 responses was signed by members of the community of Hardwicke expressing their desire to stay in Northumberland County

SOUTHERN (EDS 25-36)

- Recommend that west from the Sunbury/Queens County line along route 102 become part of Oromocto/Sunbury.
- Remove municipality of Maple Hills, portion West of highway 490 and Soegao Indian Reserve.
 - Remove from ED 34 and add to ED 25:
 - Hatfield Point
 - Springfield
 - Elm Brook
 - Bellisle Creek
 - Remove from ED 26 and add to ED 25:
 - South of Trans Canada to Wheaton Settlement Road
 - North along Wheaton Settlement (east side of road) to Morton Road
 - ED 28 - Quispamsis should include the Municipality of Quispamsis except for the following:
 - From Rothesay boundary between Hampton Road and Millennium Drive along Hampton Road to the east, Gondola Point Arterial to the North, and Millennium Drive to the East
 - All of Ashfield Drive, Banshee Court, Brook Street, Chrysler Crescent, Colton Brook Road, Galaxy Drive, Jupiter Drive, Lincoln Drive, Meteor Drive, Monarch Drive and Phinney Road.
- Quispamsis Town Hall is situated in the new proposed Rothesay riding, and we would like to see this returned to the Quispamsis riding.
- Opposed to the separation of Ocean Westway/Birchwood Place Street from riding 33.

CAPITAL (EDS 37-44)

- The Commission's proposal to bisect Fredericton South in two ridings will divide communities and spilt municipalities. It will divide the downtown core, neighbourhoods, Community Health Care, educations and Francophones and Anglophones.
- Do not recommend dividing Oromocto with some citizens being represented by a Fredericton MLA.
- Urban and rural have different needs and should not be split up.
- Reconsider where the boundary is drawn for citizens in the Marysville/Pepper Creek areas of the City of Fredericton so that we have local representation and a shared community of interest.
- We suggest leaving the riding boundaries of New Maryland-Sunbury as they currently are, except for that portion that is within the Fredericton City limits. This should be removed and included in Fredericton South.

- Questioning of the integrity and composition of the commission
- The commission should revisit the City of Fredericton's initial proposal.
- The proposed riding of Oromocto Sunbury should include Tracyville (beginning at York/Sunbury County line) Tracy, and Fredericton Junction. To get the population closer to the Electoral Quotient, the area north of Waasis Road from the Route & through to Route 101 and include the Wilsey Road from the Waasis Road to the Fredericton City Limits could be removed and become part of one of the neighboring ridings.
- Geary, Rusagonis, Tracyville, Tracy, Fredericton Junction, Blissville, Wirral and South Branch should become the Rural riding of Sunbury West.

UPPER RIVER VALLEY (EDS 45-49)

- St. Quentin should become part of Victoria-La Vallée instead of leaving it in Restigouche-Ouest due to social, economic ties, relationships with Grand Falls and Edmundston, reinforcement of regional services, and the fact that the municipality sits on the board of the CSRNO (which is the Northwest RSC).
 - The new municipal council in Saint-Quentin passed a resolution, 4-2 in favour of the above recommendations.
- Would like the Commission to consider changing the electoral boundaries within the Parish of Denmark-New Denmark and Lake Edward. We would like to join Carleton Victoria.

PROVINCIAL (ALL EDS)

Recommendations to change names of Electoral Districts:

- (a) 25 - Arcadia-Butternut Valley-Maple Hills West
- (b) 13 - Beausoleil-Grand-Bouctouche-Kent South
- (c) 22 - Moncton-Maple Hills East-Champdoré
- (d) 23 - Riverview West
- (e) 24 - Salisbury-Riverview East-Fundy Albert
- (f) 33 - Saint John Lancaster
- (g) 39 - Fredericton Southeast
- (h) 40 - Fredericton Southwest

Appendix D – Legal Opinion

Executive Summary

January 24, 2023

Electoral Boundaries and Representation Commission/Commission de la délimitation des circonscriptions électorales
Government of New Brunswick | Gouvernement du Nouveau-Brunswick
Fredericton, NB

VIA EMAIL : france.hache@gnb.ca

Attention: France Haché

Dear Ms. Haché :

Re: Executive Summary - Opinion on Interpretation of the *Electoral Boundaries and Representation Act*

This follows my opinion dated January 20, 2023. You have asked me to prepare a brief, “executive summary” of my opinion to assist the public in understanding the interpretation of the *Electoral Boundaries and Representation Act* (the Act) guiding the work of the Electoral Boundaries and Representation Commission (the Commission).

The key question I have investigated is whether the Act permits the Commission to set electoral boundaries that exceed the statutorily prescribed deviations from voter parity (*i.e.*, that each riding contains the same number of voters). These deviations are up to 15% and 25% (in “extraordinary circumstances”) to ensure “effective representation,” as guaranteed by section 3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. I refer to these deviations below as the “caps.”

A central consideration under “effective representation” is relative voter parity. However, it is not the sole consideration. According to the Supreme Court of Canada, “effective representation” also includes considerations of geography, demography, and “communities of interest.”

My opinion is based on the legislative history of the caps from 2005 onward, the structure of the Act, its purpose, relevant jurisprudence concerning the work of electoral boundary commissions, administrative law principles, and constitutional law.

Highlights of my opinion are as follows:

- The Commission does not have the power to bypass the caps, even if it believes that “effective representation” would be better ensured by exceeding them.
- The Act nevertheless imposes a duty on the Commission to deviate from voter parity if it determines that this is needed for “effective representation.”

- The extent to which the Commission may deviate from voter parity up to the caps is discretionary. The Commission has broad discretion to deviate from voter parity up to the 15% cap but must find “extraordinary circumstances” to deviate up to a further 10% (25% in total). The Act deems “extraordinary circumstances” to include effective representation of English and French linguistic communities.
- Even if the Commission has the power to decide constitutional questions, the entire context suggests that the New Brunswick Legislature did not intend it to have the power to determine the caps’ constitutionality.
- “*Charter* values” may be used in statutory interpretation to prefer one interpretation in the event there are at least two equally plausible interpretations. As noted above, it is my opinion that there is only one plausible interpretation of the Act in relation to the caps.
- Whether the caps themselves are unconstitutional is not a straightforward question. Even if a court were to find that the caps violated *Charter* section 3 (which is far from certain), the government would have the opportunity to prove that they are nevertheless justifiable as “reasonable limits” under *Charter* section 1.
- The Commission should endeavour, within its statutory authority, to make recommendations on electoral boundaries that are *Charter*-compliant.
- In its report, the Commission may make suggestions to the government that relate to its statutory mandate, including a suggestion that the Act’s 25% cap in cases of “extraordinary circumstances” be increased to better ensure “effective representation” for all voters.
- The Commission has no discretion in the Act to depart from the timelines for delivery of its final report. Cabinet has little discretion in the Act in terms of the timing of the regulation it must make based on the Commission’s recommendation.
- Exploring legislative possibilities for correcting any difficulties posed by the caps, so that commissions may better ensure the next and subsequent elections result in “effective representation” of the entire New Brunswick electorate is beyond the scope of this opinion.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kerri A. Froc

Appendix E - Electoral quotient deviation: Federal and the 10 Provinces

PROVINCE	ELECTORAL QUOTIENT DEVIATION	
Alberta	No greater than +/-25%	For maximum 4 districts meeting at least 3 criteria can have much as 50% below of the average population
British Columbia	No greater than +/-25%	May exceed 25% to provide effective representation
Prince Edward Island	No greater than +/-25%	
Manitoba	+/-10%	South 53 parallel, +/-25 % North 53 parallel
New Brunswick	No greater than +/-15%	No greater than 25% for extraordinary circumstances
Nova Scotia	No greater than +/-25%	Above/below 25% for extraordinary circumstances
Ontario	No greater than +/-25%	Mirrored federal one since 1999
Québec	No greater than +/-25%	Above/below 25% to provide effective representation
Saskatchewan	+/-5% South	North no quotient (2 districts)
Newfoundland and Labrador	No greater than +/-10%	Above/below 25% for special geographic considerations
Federal	No greater than +/-25%	Above/below 25% for extraordinary circumstances

Source: *Electoral boundaries Act* of each jurisdiction compiled by Commissioner Roger Ouellette