

Division Boundary Review Policy

Purpose:

This Policy is to establish procedures in which Council will review the division boundaries within the RM of Reno No. 51 as per *The Municipalities Act*.

Background:

A rural municipality Council may review the divisions of the rural municipality on its own initiative at any time and for any reason. Section 49.1 of *The Municipalities Act* enacts that Council shall establish a policy setting out the manner in which it will review the divisions of the municipality for the purpose of providing that each division of the RM has, as nearly as is reasonably practicable, the same population or number of voters.

Procedure:

1. The Council will establish a Council Committee or other body to undertake the review. The Council Committee shall be composed of the Reeve and two councilors. This committee of Council will receive regular remuneration for time spent.
2. Events that trigger division boundary review may be:
 - a. an order by the Minister;
 - b. by resolution of Council;
 - c. petition of ratepayers as presented, in accordance to the MA, requesting for a review;
 - d. Federal Census; or
 - e. potential future growth or depopulation.
3. Factors to be considered when completing the review may include, but not limited to:
 - a. Representation by Population
 - i. population density;
 - b. Representation of Communities of Interest
 - i. boundaries will be composed of plausible groupings of communities and established settlements
 - c. Geographical and Topographical Features
 - i. the boundaries used to delineate divisions should be straightforward and easily recognizable, and
 - ii. boundaries will be contiguous in shape and as compact as possible.
 - iii. Miles of graveled road to be monitored and maintained or area to be covered
4. The review must be completed within 6 months of being initiated,
5. The Council committee will provide a report and its recommendations to the Council;
6. The review will be presented to Council at a regular meeting and will be open for public inspection for 30 calendar days before Council can apply to the Ministry to alter boundaries;
7. If once public inspection is closed, council can apply to ministry to alter boundaries, in accordance to section 49 of *The Municipalities Act*.
8. The Minister's order will take effect:
 - a. If the application is made 180 days or more prior to a general election, with respect to that general election and all subsequent general elections and by-elections held in the rural municipality; or

- b. If the application is made less than 180 days before a general election, with respect to all general elections and by-elections commencing with the second general election after the report is filed.
- 9. The Lieutenant Governor may make regulations respecting:
 - a. The number of members to be elected;
 - b. The manner and means of determining the population or number of voters;
 - c. The minimum frequency of reviews;
 - d. Any requirements for the purposes of subsection (6).

Adopted by Resolution No. 179/22, August 10, 2022