

BUILDING CONSENSUS

Ottawa Ward Boundary Review

Public Consultation Workbook

Wards are a key component in our system of local government. The voters in each ward elect one Councillor to deal with city-wide issues and represent their interests on Council. The City of Ottawa has 21 wards, which vary significantly in geographic area and population. The rural wards are much larger in area but lower in population than the urban wards. Some of the suburban wards are both large and have the highest populations.

The provincial government established the initial ward structure for the newly amalgamated city in 2001. Later in 2001, City Council initiated a process to revise the ward structure, placing particular emphasis on the principle of representation by population. Council passed a by-law in 2002 to implement a new ward structure, which sought to balance the populations among existing wards, while keeping the total number of wards at 21. Rural ratepayer associations filed an appeal against the by-law. In 2003, the Ontario Municipal Board concluded that the proposed new ward structure was too focused on representation by population and had failed to consider the principle of "effective representation" as outlined by the Supreme Court of Canada in 1991. The Board repealed the by-law, thereby leaving the existing ward structure unchanged for the 2003 municipal elections.

In 2004, the newly elected City Council again faces pressures arising from continued population growth in the suburban wards. To arrive at a more equitable and durable system of representation, Council has initiated a comprehensive review that will look at both ward boundaries and the size of Council. The work is being conducted by a team of consultants, supported by City staff.

The comprehensive Ottawa Ward Boundary Review has an active public involvement component, which includes the testing of various ward-design options. The review respects the principle of effective representation as well as other lessons learned from the previous ward review. It looks at whether the size of Council should be increased as well as any necessary adjustments to ward boundaries.

We want to hear what you think!

Who is leading the Ward Boundary Review?

The lead consultant is Dr. Gary Davidson of The Davidson Group. Dr. Davidson works in association with Beate Bowron of Beate Bowron Etcetera. The consultant team is familiar with Ottawa's ward structure.

Both consultants have distinguished careers in the public service including:

- over 25 years experience working with rural and urban communities;
- previous responsibility for large, complex public involvement projects;
- demonstrated expertise in planning, strategic approaches and teaching;
- Dr. Davidson holds a Ph.D. in Political Science and has been a policy advisor to provincial ministries; and
- Ms. Bowron has considerable experience in conflict resolution.

The team remains constant throughout the entire project.

What is the role of the consultants?

The consultants will conduct the Ward Boundary Review which includes:

- leading the public consultation process;
- receiving and reviewing comments and submissions from citizens, community groups and associations, and members of Council ;
- formulating and testing options with the public and community organizations;
- developing options for a ward structure and Council size that will accommodate growth and population shifts for at least the next 10 years; and,
- preparing and presenting a final report and recommendations to the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee and Council.

What principles guide the Ward Boundary Review?

City Council has agreed that, subject to the overriding principle of "**effective representation**", the Ward Boundary Review should have regard for the following principles:

- ***Protection of communities of interest and neighbourhoods.***
It is desirable to avoid fragmenting traditional neighbourhoods or communities of interest within the city.
- ***Consideration of present and future population trends.***

It is necessary to look at long-term growth patterns in order to establish a ward structure that will be sustainable for a number of terms of Council.

- ***Consideration of physical features as natural boundaries.***
Ottawa has a number of significant natural and man-made features that serve as physical boundaries. Where possible, these features will be respected in this review process. The Greenbelt, the Queensway/Highway 417 and the Rideau River are examples, among others, of features that can act as natural boundaries.
- ***Consideration of representation by population.***
To the extent possible, and keeping in mind the requirements for effective representation, voters should be equally represented and wards should have reasonably equal population totals. Given Ottawa’s size and mix of rural and urban wards, a degree of variation will be acceptable. No specific targets have been established with respect to the possible variation.

Timelines

October 2004	Ward Boundary Review process commences
November/December 2004	First round of public consultation
All consultations begin with informal discussions at 7 p.m., followed by the public meeting at 7:30 p.m.	
November 17	Kinburn Client Service Centre, 5670 Carp Road
November 22	Carleton Golf & Yacht Club, 6627 Marina Drive
November 23	Ottawa City Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue West
November 24	Orléans Client Service Centre, 255 Centrum Blvd
November 30	Goulbourn Municipal Building, 2135 Huntley Road
December 1	Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centrepointe Drive
December 6, 2004	Deadline for public comments
February 2005	Second round of public consultation – release for public comment a discussion paper containing one or more draft options for new ward boundaries and council size
February 28, 2005	Deadline for public comments on options
April/May 2005	Report to Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee on proposed ward structure and council size

Ottawa's Existing Wards

Ward	Population 2004 (est.)
Ward	Population 2004 (mid-year)
Ward 1 – Orléans	47,800
Ward 2 – Innes	38,825
Ward 3 – Bell-South Nepean	66,175
Ward 4 – Kanata	68,450
Ward 5 – West Carleton	18,950
Ward 6 – Goulbourn	28,100
Ward 7 – Bay	46,675
Ward 8 – Baseline	42,225
Ward 9 – Knoxdale-Merivale	39,400
Ward 10 – Gloucester-Southgate	57,375
Ward 11 – Beacon Hill-Cyrville	35,100
Ward 12 – Rideau-Vanier	45,550
Ward 13 – Rideau-Rockcliffe	40,300
Ward 14 – Somerset	38,000
Ward 15 – Kitchissippi	38,600
Ward 16 – River	49,075
Ward 17 – Capital	35,500
Ward 18 – Alta Vista	46,025
Ward 19 – Cumberland	29,525
Ward 20 – Osgoode	20,500
Ward 21 – Rideau	13,725
Total	845,875

Your views are important!

Changing the City's ward boundaries is both a challenge and an opportunity for the citizens of Ottawa. You can help by giving us your comments and suggestions by completing the feedback sheets contained in this workbook.

Keeping in mind the guiding principles of the Ward Boundary Review, take a close look at your community, both where you live and where you work or obtain community services. Tell us what ward system you think would improve the representation of your own and other communities. Your input will assist in the development of ward boundary options and recommendations, which will be reviewed by Council in June 2005.

Need more information?

- Visit the Ward Boundary Review Web site at ottawa.ca/ward to learn more about your ward's boundaries and demographics, announcements and upcoming events, and to leave your questions and comments.
- If you don't have Internet access, you can visit one of the City's **SmartSite** locations. These sites, conveniently located in schools, libraries and other community facilities, feature Internet-ready computers that are available for public use. For information on the SmartSite location near you, contact the City's Call Centre at 613-580-2400.
- Attend a public meeting in your area. Visit ottawa.ca for the list of upcoming meetings.
- Call and leave a message at 613-580-2660 (TTY: 613-580-2401), or e-mail your questions to ward@ottawa.ca.

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Feedback Sheets

Your opinion counts!

To ensure your ideas are included in the Ward Boundary Review, you may wish to use the attached feedback sheets. Submissions may be made at any time, but final comments during the first round of public consultation should be received **no later than Monday, December 6, 2004**. Comments on the draft options for new ward boundaries and Council size should be received **no later than Monday, February 28, 2005**.

Here's how to submit your comments.

First, detach the feedback sheets and answer the questions. When you are finished, please return them as soon as possible. You can:

- Hand them in at the public meetings
- Fax them to 613-580-2661
- Take them to any Client Service Centre (visit ottawa.ca or phone 613-580-2400 for locations and times of operation)
- Mail them to: The Davidson Group, c/o City of Ottawa, Ward Boundary Review, 110 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa ON K1P 1J1

You can also give us feedback online at ottawa.ca. Just click on Ward Boundary Review and follow the links for "Public Consultation Workbook".

PART 1 - Questions

1. In which City Ward do you live (or own property if a non-resident)?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 1 – Orléans (Councillor Herb Kreling) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 5 – West Carleton (Councillor Eli El-Chantiry) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 2 – Innes (Councillor Rainer Bloess) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 6 – Goulbourn (Councillor Janet Stavinga) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 3 – Bell-South Nepean (Councillor Jan Harder) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 7 – Bay (Councillor Alex Cullen) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 4 – Kanata (Councillor Peggy Feltmate) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 8 – Baseline (Councillor Rick Chiarelli) |

- ❑ Ward 9 – Knoxdale-Merivale (Councillor Gord Hunter)
- ❑ Ward 10 – Gloucester-Southgate (Councillor Diane Deans)
- ❑ Ward 11 – Beacon Hill-Cyrville (Councillor Michel Bellemare)
- ❑ Ward 12 – Rideau-Vanier (Councillor Georges Bédard)
- ❑ Ward 13 – Rideau-Rockcliffe (Councillor Jacques Legendre)
- ❑ Ward 14 – Somerset (Councillor Diane Holmes)
- ❑ Ward 15 – Kitchissippi (Councillor Shawn Little)
- ❑ Ward 16 – River (Councillor Maria McRae)
- ❑ Ward 17 – Capital (Councillor Clive Doucet)
- ❑ Ward 18 – Alta Vista (Councillor Peter Hume)
- ❑ Ward 19 – Cumberland (Councillor Rob Jellett)
- ❑ Ward 20 – Osgoode (Councillor Doug Thompson)
- ❑ Ward 21 – Rideau (Councillor Glenn Brooks)

2. Would you consider your Ward to be

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural
- A combination of: _____

3. What is the name of your neighbourhood (e.g. Fallingbrook, Kanata Lakes, Chapman Mills, Sarsfield, Sandy Hill, etc.)?

4. Would you consider your neighbourhood to be

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural
- A combination of: _____

5. Are there any natural or artificial physical features that are important to your neighbourhood (i.e. River, Forest, Hwy. etc.)?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

6. Do you work in your Ward?

- Yes
- No

7. Do you do the majority of your basic needs shopping within your Ward (groceries and other basic necessities)?

- Yes
- No

8. Do you access the majority of your day-to-day services within your Ward? (City services, post office, banks, day care, etc.)

- Yes
- No

9. Does the majority of your social activity (sports activities, cultural events, etc.) take place within your Ward?

- Yes
- No

10. Do you have immediate or extended family members who live within your Ward?

- Yes
- No

11. I feel that my interests are effectively represented, given the current mix of communities within my Ward.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

12. I feel that my interests are effectively represented given the current number of people within my Ward.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

PART 2 - Comments

Please provide any comments, concerns or suggestions that you may have relating to the Ward Boundary Review in the space provided below. Please feel free to attach further documentation as per your thoughts and proposals.

The current Ward Boundary Review is not required to maintain the existing number of wards/Councillors. However, it is estimated that each new ward/Councillor's office would cost about \$320,000 annually.

All forms of written input will be received and considered by the consultants, but should not be treated as a substitute for any presentation you may wish to make to the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee in the spring of 2005.

Thank you for taking the time to be an active partner in shaping your City's future. Your feedback will be reviewed and considered by the Ward Boundary Review consultants.

Please forward your feedback sheets:
By Fax :613-580-2661

By Mail: The Davidson Group c/o City of Ottawa Ward Boundary Review, 110 Laurier Avenue
West, Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1
