

RM 220 COUNCIL REJECTS NEW ELECTORAL BOUNDARY PROPOSAL

BULYEA SK: The RM of McKillop No. 220 Council rejected a new electoral boundary proposal that would move every McKillop No. 220 division towards more proportionate representation of ratepayers in 2017.

On August 21st, 2017 RM Council defeated Resolution 274/2017 (moved by LaBatte) to approve, and send to Municipal Government for approval, a proposed revision of electoral boundaries adapted from the *Fair Representation Act*, S.C. 2011, c. 26. This proposal would replace the current 106-year old division election boundaries used in the 2016 municipal election.

Council members voting in favour of the new proposal were LaBatte (Division 6; representing 18% of RM 220 ratepayers) and Kuderewko (Division 4; representing 54% of ratepayers). Opposed to the resolution were Councillors Wild (Division 1; representing 14% of RM ratepayers), Smith (Division 2; 6% of ratepayers), Wilson (Division 3; 4% of ratepayers) and Helgeson (Division 5; 4% of ratepayers). Reeve Arndt, who campaigned last fall on ‘honesty, transparency and integrity’ (Billboard sign on HWY 20, Aug. 2017) voted against the resolution.

The new electoral boundary proposal supports the principle of the ‘*proportionate representation*’ of all ratepayers in McKillop No. 220 (*Fair Representation Act*). The proposed electoral boundary divisions will ensure that, though currently over-represented stakeholders may lose some of the extra influence conferred by that over-representation, they will nevertheless be fairly and proportionally represented by population. The stakeholders that are presently over-represented would still have a significant voice at the Council table.

Another aspect of this principle of fair representation relates to the workload of RM Council members. While RM Councillor representation of divisional ratepayers cannot realistically be equal, it should be fair. Two counsellors should not be accountable to 4% of ratepayers while another is accountable to approximately 54%, as is the case.

Little discussion was held on the resolution prior to Reeve Arndt calling for Councillors to vote.

The RM of 220 Ratepayers’ Association believes that the only way we can ensure that RM Council fairly revises the 106-year old RM division boundary prior to the October 2018 election is to call for a referendum on the new 2017 electoral division boundary proposal from the RM 220 Ratepayers Association and then the ratepayers (voters) in the RM can decide.

For a copy of the RM 220 Ratepayers Association **RM of McKillop Electoral Division Boundary Proposal 2017** email rm220rpa@gmail.com

Est. % Ratepayers in Current & New Proposed Electoral Divisions

RM 220 DIVISION	CURRENT Boundary	NEW Proposed Boundary	* Councillor Vote
1	14%	19%	Wild—NO
2	6%	12%	Smith—NO
3	4%	21%	Wilson—NO
4	54%	18%	Kuderewko—YES
5	4%	11%	Helgeson—NO
6	18%	19%	LaBatte—YES

* Vote on NEW Proposed Boundary by Division and Current Councillor

BACKGROUND: The Rural Municipality of McKillop No. 220 lies along the east shore of Last Mountain Lake, north of Lumsden, south of Strasbourg with Hwy #20 on its east boundary. There are 732 permanent residents and approximately 2,000 ratepayers in the RM.

If you have any questions please contact us at rm220rpa@gmail.com

Thank you.