

NEW ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES IN RM 220—FINALLY!

BULYEA, SK: After 108 years, RM of McKillop ratepayers have voted for new electoral boundaries that more fairly represent the 2018 voter demographics in the area.

Referendum Question #1—73% voted to change the electoral boundaries as shown on the MAP. (806 Voted Yes, 299 Voted No).

Referendum Question #2—29.5% voted to leave the boundaries as they are and to explore options. This is not a majority. (324 Voted Yes, 771 Voted No).

Thank you to all the ratepayers who got out to vote in either the Regina or Bulyea polling stations. Also thank you to all the administrative staff who helped at the polling stations.

So What Happens Now?

According to *The Municipalities Act*, Results of Referendum, sec. 137,

- (1) If a proposed bylaw or resolution is approved by a vote at a referendum by a majority of the persons voting whose ballots are not rejected, the council shall pass the bylaw or resolution at the first meeting following the vote.
- (2) If a majority of the persons voting at a referendum do not approve the proposed resolution or bylaw, the council is not required to pass the proposed resolution or bylaw, but the council may pass the proposed resolution or bylaw if it chooses to do so.

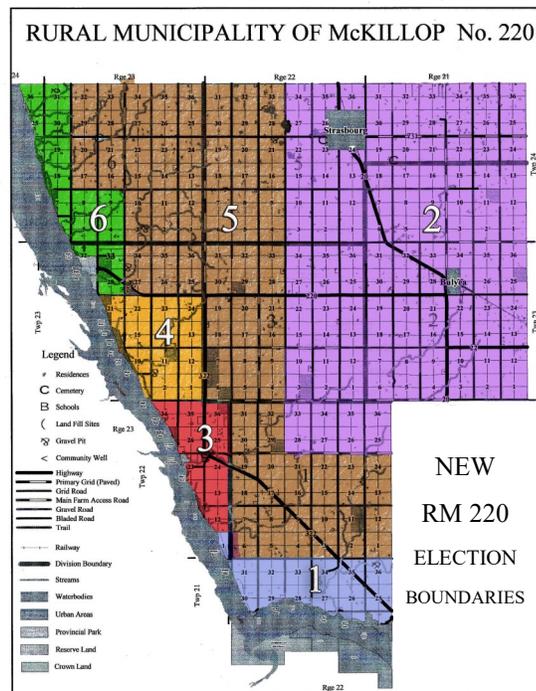
So that's how it's supposed to work. But never say never.

Having danced with this RM Reeve and Council for the past 2 years, it seems to us that Council's majority vote will probably try to complicate the process for as long as possible. They may ask the RM lawyer, Merrilee Rasmussen (at \$400/hr) to provide yet ANOTHER legal opinion or to take this matter before the Court again for some reason—See [Judge Leurer's decision on July 18, 2018](#). That would just be an attempt to delay passing the resolution to change the boundaries and to delay sending it to the Minister of Government Relations for approval. It would also keep ratepayers from exercising their democratic right to elect a new Council. In the end though, any such stalling will only mean more money in the lawyer's pocket and unnecessary legal bills that all ratepayers will have to pay for.

Have faith RM 220 ratepayers! There was a similar situation in the RM of Corman Park (land surrounding Saskatoon) in 2011. Electoral boundaries had not been revised in many years. That RM experienced tremendous growth in its developing subdivisions, but the existing electoral boundaries continued to favour the agricultural population at the Council table even though it was shrinking as a proportion of the total ratepayers. A majority of voters in a November 2011 plebiscite (a Council initiated referendum) voted to change the electoral boundaries to fairly represent the changing voter population. Corman Park's elected councillors of the day requested that the provincial government not take action on the plebiscite. But the request was refused and the municipal boundaries were redrawn based on the majority vote. A new council was elected on February 29, 2012.

Our boundaries are 108 years old. Council increased residential taxes in August without justification, mismanaged the 2018 budget, seems to be largely ignoring the recommendations of the September Government Inspector's Report, and is required by the Minister to have a Supervisor oversee the general operations of the RM for 1 year (to ensure Council does things properly). The RM has received a lot of negative media attention. It's time for this Council to gracefully accept the democratic will of its ratepayers, pass a resolution to change the boundaries for the approval of the Minister, and make way for a new Council.

Note—The RM of Corman Park plebiscite was voted on in November and the election held in February. This RM 220 Council cannot justify stalling on the inevitable outcome of this vote that clearly shows voters want the RM division boundaries changed.



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RM 220
ELECTION
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The Rural Municipality of McKillop No. 220 lies along the east shore of Last Mountain Lake, north of Lumsden. There are 732 permanent residents and approximately 2,000 ratepayers in the RM. The RM 220 RPA is a citizen's group dedicated to ensuring fair taxes, minimizing waste, reducing spending, and holding RM Council accountable.

If you have any questions please contact us at rm220rpa@gmail.com, www.rpa220.ca or visit us on Facebook