

WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW 2012

Terms of Reference

Background

Markham Council is comprised of thirteen Members, including the Mayor and four (4) Regional Councillors who are elected at-large, and eight (8) local ward councillors. Markham's current system of eight (8) Local Ward Councillors was adopted in 1997, as a result of a 1996 Ward Boundary Review Process.

The boundaries of the eight (8) wards were last reviewed in 2005. During the 2005 review, Markham Council directed that the ward boundaries be reviewed prior to the 2014 Municipal Election. The 2005 review estimated that the total population of Markham in 2012 would be two hundred and seventy-five thousand (275,000). According to the recently released 2011 Census data, the current population of Markham is almost three hundred and two thousand (302,000).

The current eight (8) local wards have the following estimated voter population and total population counts:

Ward	Voter Population	Total Population (estimate)
1	16,582	28,298
2	17,493	26,608
3	22,121	35,296
4	28,595	49,410
5	27,669	50,273
6	23,589	41,444
7	26,426	38,054
8	24,092	30,704
Total	186,567	300,089

Objective

To conduct a comprehensive review of Markham's ward boundaries in order to arrive at an effective and equitable system of representation with particular reference overall projected growth within the municipality. The revised ward structure is to be in place for the 2014 Municipal Election.

The 2012 Ward Boundary Review shall be conducted within the following parameters:

- Build from the experience gained through previous Markham ward boundary reviews, other municipal ward boundary reviews and the outcome of OMB hearings and Supreme Court of Canada decision in those cases where a review has been appealed;
- Provide options for a realignment of the existing eight (8) wards and for an increased number of local wards;
- Develop a ward structure that will accommodate growth and population shifts for approximately 3 Municipal Elections (2014, 2018, 2022);
- Conduct all steps in the work program including research, public consultation, consultation with current Members of Council and the provision of a final report and recommendations to the General Committee no later than March 15, 2013; and,
- Work within any parameters established by Council upon Council approval of the 2012 Ward Boundary Review.

Guiding Principles

The 2012 Ward Boundary Review in Markham will have regard to the following principles:

1) CONSIDERATION OF REPRESENTATION BY POPULATION

- To the extent possible, wards should have relatively equal population totals.
- Given the geography and varying population densities and characteristics of the municipality, a degree of variation will be acceptable.

2) PROTECTION OF COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

- It is desirable to avoid fragmenting traditional neighbourhoods or communities of interest within Markham.
- It is considered desirable to keep historic communities contained within a ward.
- New communities should be represented within a single ward when possible.

3) CONSIDERATION OF PRESENT AND FUTURE POPULATION TRENDS

- Given the varying rates of population growth across Markham, any proposed ward designs should take account of projected population changes so that wards will be equitable for up to three (3) terms of Council.

4) CONSIDERATION OF PHYSICAL FEATURES AS NATURAL BOUNDARIES

- Consideration will be given to using natural and man-made features as ward boundaries that already serve as physical boundaries of communities.
- Where feasible, the preferred features to define a ward boundary are arterial roads, highways, railway lines, rivers and creeks.

5) THE OVERRIDING PRINCIPLE OF “EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION”

- The specific principles are all subject to the overriding principle of “effective representation” as enunciated by the Supreme Court of Canada in its decision on the Carter case.

Deliverables

The Consultant will be responsible for the conduct of all aspects of the project including research, public consultation (including consultation with current Members of Council), formulation of options, and presentation of the final report and recommendations for the consideration of the General Committee.

The Consultant will develop, in consultation with the Clerk, a comprehensive work plan and project schedule based on the following general parameters:

- PHASE 1: lead Initial public consultation process, which shall include: engagement of Members of Council, community groups and associations, school boards, any other identified organizations, and individual residents.
 - as part of the public consultation process, Consultant to attend community meetings to be arranged in each of the current (8) wards
 - Receive and review comments and submissions from the initial public consultation process
- PHASE 2: Formulate draft options for revised ward boundaries. Prepare and present an interim report, recommendations, and draft options to the General Committee
 - The report shall include several options for a ward structure and Council size that will accommodate projected growth and population shifts until 2022.
- PHASE 3: Lead second public consultation on draft ‘Options’ presented in the interim report, as directed by General Committee
 - As part of the second public consultation, Consultant to attend at least one (1) community meeting to be held at the Markham Civic Centre

- PHASE 4: Prepare final options and report for presentation to General Committee & Council

The Clerk will be responsible for overseeing the contract for the Consultant, ensuring the necessary staff resources are available; timelines are met; and public consultation proceeds in accordance with municipal policy and procedures.

The Legislative Services Department shall:

- Provide general assistance and act as liaison between the municipality and Consultant
- Oversee the provision of printing services, GIS mapping, communications, correspondence and other services as arranged between Consultant and the Clerk

Time Table

A detailed time table and work plan will be established by the Consultant with agreement from the Clerk. The following is the general time table:

- **June – July 2012** – Consultant contract awarded, work program to be finalized
- **August – October 2012** – PHASE 1: Consultant to conduct to review background data, and initiate first public consultation process
- **October – December 2012** – PHASE 2: Consultant to formulate draft options for revised ward boundaries, prepare interim report for presentation to General Committee
- **January 2013** – PHASE 3: Lead second public consultation on draft options presented in interim report, as directed by General Committee
- **February - March 2013** – PHASE 4: Prepare final options of and report for presentation to General Committee & Council.