

Phase 1: Public Consultation Meeting
Dr. Robert J. Williams

- Markham City Council:
 - Mayor elected at-large
 - Four Regional Councillors
 - Eight City Councillors elected in wards
- Present wards modified 2005 with direction to review before 2014 municipal election

- Population 2003 approximately 230,000
 Population 2011 approximately 300,000
 Population 2021 estimated 370,000
- 2010 municipal election: ward populations varied from 27,000 to 50,000

- A ward boundary review is entirely at the discretion of each municipal council: *Municipal Act* s. 222
- May 2012 Markham Council authorized "a comprehensive ward review"

- Terms of Reference: the ward boundary review "will have regard to"
 - consideration of representation by population
 - the protection of communities of interest and neighbourhoods
 - consideration of present and future population trends
 - consideration of physical features as natural boundaries
 - the overriding principle of "effective representation"



- understand and evaluate the present system
- draft options for revised ward boundaries
- gather suggestions or alternatives
- solicit community comments



→Phase Two:

- evaluate options through guiding principles
- prepare interim report for presentation to General Committee (December)

→ Phase Three:

- second public consultation on draft options, as directed by General Committee
- → Phase Four:
 - review and refine options, submit final report to Council by March 2013



- consideration of representation by population (POP)
 - 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



- the protection of communities of interest and neighbourhoods (PCI)
 - It is desirable to avoid fragmenting traditional neighbourhoods or communities of interest within the municipality
 - It is considered desirable to keep historic communities contained within a ward
 - New communities should be represented within a single ward when possible



Ward Boundary Review 2012 – 2013

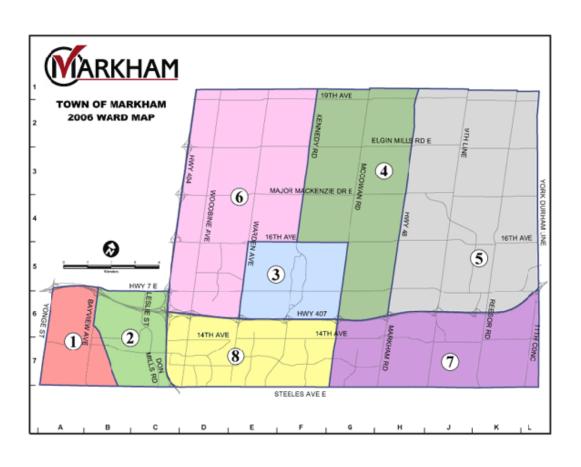
- consideration of present and future population trends (FPT)
 - Given the varying rates of population growth across Markham, any proposed ward designs should take account of projected population changes so that wards will be equitable for up to three (3) terms of Council



- consideration of physical features as natural boundaries (NB)
 - 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



- the overriding principle of "effective representation" (ER)
 - 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





Why should Markham re-draw the ward boundaries?

Criterion	Meets Criterion	Comment
POP		
PCI		
FPT		
NB		
ER		





Population 309,233

Optimal Ward Population 38,654

Ward 1	27,030	0.70
Ward 2	26,907	0.70
Ward 3	35,596	0.92
Ward 4	52,693	1.37
Ward 5	53,026	1.37
Ward 6	40,013	1.04
Ward 7	39,684	1.03
Ward 8	34,283	0.89

Criterion	Meets Criterion	Comment
POP	×	Two optimal but four outside range
PCI		
FPT		
NB		
ER		

Criterion	Meets Criterion	Comment
POP	×	Two optimal but four outside range
PCI	✓ X	Markham BIA split, otherwise good
FPT		
NB		
ER		



2016 Estimated Population 337,877 Optimal Ward Population 42,235

2021 Estimated Population 370,255 Optimal Ward Population 46,282

	2016		2021	
Ward 1	26,740	0.63	28,594	0.62
Ward 2	26,530	0.63	26,187	0.56
Ward 3	39,912	0.94	47,153	1.02
Ward 4	59,259	1.40	62,431	1.35
Ward 5	61,856	1.46	66,092	1.43
Ward 6	46,967	1.11	61,926	1.34
Ward 7	41,601	0.98	42,968	0.93
Ward 8	35,011	0.82	34,905	0.75

Criterion	Meets Criterion	Comment
POP	×	Two optimal but four outside range
PCI	✓ X	Markham BIA split, otherwise good
FPT	×	None optimal 2016, one in 2021; four outside range in 2016, six in 2021
NB	✓ X	Present Ward 2 crosses 407, Wards 3, 4, 5 & 6 cross Hwy 7; Markham Road boundary south of 16 th Ave; otherwise good
ER		

Criterion	Meets Criterion	Comment
POP	X X	Two optimal but four outside range
PCI	✓ X	Markham BIA split, otherwise plausible
FPT	XXX	None optimal 2016, one in 2021; four outside range in 2016, six in 2021
NB	✓ X	Present Ward 2 crosses 407, Wards 3, 4, 5 & 6 cross Hwy 7; Markham Road boundary south of 16 th Ave; otherwise good
ER	X X	Population/area inconsistency



Challenges and Questions:

- 407/404/Highway 7
- Main Street Markham/Highway 48
- Leitchcroft neighbourhood
- limits of communities
- large areas of employment lands, greenspace, etc