



Toronto Ward Boundary Review Round One Public Consultation **CONSULTATION GUIDE & SURVEY**

OCTOBER 2014



1.

READ THIS FIRST

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Why is the Toronto Ward Boundary Review being conducted?

The Toronto Ward Boundary Review is being conducted by an independent [team of consultants](#) to ensure that each person in Toronto is fairly represented at Toronto City Council. Currently the City of Toronto is divided into 44 wards that vary in population between approximately 45,000 and 94,000. Due to factors like population growth and new construction, some of the City's wards are 30% to 45% above the population of an average City ward (approximately 59,000). Therefore, each Torontonian is not being represented equally at City Council.

What is the Toronto Ward Boundary Review?

The Toronto Ward Boundary Review is looking at the size and shape of Toronto's wards.

A key focus of the Review is making sure the number of people in each ward is similar to other wards in the City. It also takes into account factors such as geographic communities of interest and neighbourhoods, major physical and natural boundaries and population trends.

The Toronto Ward Boundary Review **does not** cover items such as: how municipal government is organized (e.g. whether there should be political parties or whether there should be more community representation); how people vote; who votes (e.g. Canadian citizens only or all Toronto residents); the quality of a job a Councillor is doing; or how City departments operate.

The Review will propose changes to the current ward boundaries. Toronto City Council will make the final decision on whether or not to accept the recommendations and must pass a by-law to implement any new ward structure. Any changes that occur as a result of the Review will come into effect for the municipal election that takes place in 2018.

About Toronto's Wards

Toronto's wards vary in size, demographic composition and population. Voters in each ward elect one Councillor to deal with local and city-wide issues and represent their interests on City Council. More information about your ward is available here: <http://www.drawthelines.ca/wards>

The current ward structure was developed in 2000. It was based generally on the 22 federal ridings (electoral districts) that covered Toronto. Each riding was split to create the current system of 44 wards.





Criteria for Evaluating Ward Boundaries

There are some generally accepted criteria that are considered when defining or refining ward boundaries. No ward system design can perfectly meet all of them; rather the ward design that is recommended will be the one that best fulfills these criteria. Consider these criteria as you fill out the survey questions.

- **Representation by Population:** In a successful ward system, every Councillor will represent generally the same number of people. This is often referred to as ‘voter parity’. Usually, population variations of up to 25% above or below the average size are considered acceptable.
- **Consideration of present and future population trends:** A ward boundary review must consider future increases or decreases in population in order to ensure that wards continue to meet the representation by population criterion as the City grows. The goal is to design a system that can be used for 3 elections. Population projections can be found here: <http://www.drawthelines.ca/wards>
- **Consideration of natural and physical boundaries:** Natural and physical boundaries shape patterns of life in cities, and so ward designs should work within these features.
- **Communities of Interest:** Ward boundaries should consider settlement patterns, traditional neighbourhoods and community groupings in specific geographic locations. Where possible, ward boundaries should not fragment a community.
- **Effective Representation:** Considered the ultimate goal of all ward boundary reviews, effective representation aims at achieving fair and equal representation for voters to the greatest extent possible. The primary consideration is voter parity, but effective representation also takes into account the other criteria.

Examples of natural and physical boundaries:

- Hills, valleys, rivers
- Man-made boundaries such as highways, railways
- Green spaces such as parks, trails

Examples of communities of interest:

- Neighbourhoods
- Heritage Conservation Districts
- Business Improvement Areas
- Ethno-cultural groups that live in the same area

For more information about the Toronto Ward Boundary Review please visit: www.drawthelines.ca



2. COMPLETE A SURVEY

The purpose of this survey is to ask residents and stakeholders what they think about Toronto’s current ward boundaries. The questions in this survey will be asked at the 12 public meetings happening in December 2014 and January 2015. You can also complete this survey online.

The feedback received from these questions will inform the development of several options for structuring Toronto’s wards. Once the options are developed, a second ‘round’ of consultation will occur starting in May 2015. At that time, the public and stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed ward boundary options.

Options for Submitting Your Answers:

- 1) **Online:** Fill in your answers directly through the online survey www.drawthelines.ca/survey
- 2) **Print this Form and Send them in:**
 - a. By mail (To: Toronto Ward Boundary Review; 555 Richmond St. W, PO Box 612, Suite 402, M5V 3B1)
 - b. By fax (416.365.0650)
 - c. By email info@drawthelines.ca
- 3) **Attend a Public Meeting:** Go here for dates and locations www.drawthelines.ca/meetingdates

⇒ START HERE

I have read the background information.

a) Your Ward: _____

b) Your Councillor _____

Don’t know your ward or Councillor? Go to <http://app.toronto.ca/wards/jsp/wards.jsp> and enter your address to find out.

1. Do you have any concerns related to the current boundaries of your Ward?

Yes No

If yes, please describe in detail:





2. "Communities of interest" are neighbourhoods or specific ethno-cultural groups that live in the same area. Do the boundaries of your Ward divide any communities of interest?

Yes No

If yes, which one(s) and where are they located:

3. Current Toronto wards range in population between approximately 45,000 and 94,000. What do you think the population of a Toronto ward should be, so that a Councillor can effectively represent the ward?

4. By 2031 Toronto's population is expected to grow to 3.2 million people. In your opinion, what should be the total number of wards for Toronto to achieve good representation?

5. Is there value for Toronto's ward boundaries to be similar to the boundaries of provincial or federal ridings?

Yes No

Please tell us why:





6. Do you have any other comments regarding Toronto's ward boundaries? Please describe:

Thank you for taking the time to provide your input.

This survey is anonymous. All comments will become part of the public record and used as part of the Toronto Ward Boundary Review process. Any questions can be directed to the Project Manager, TWBR, Suite 402, P.O. Box 612, Toronto, Ontario or 416-365-0816 ext. 223.

3. STAY CONNECTED

Please sign-up here <http://www.drawthelines.ca/mailling-list-sign-up> to receive a summary of the results of this survey, updates on the TWBR and notice of community meetings.

Contact Information

- Visit the website: www.drawthelines.ca
- Follow us on Twitter @drawthelinesTO
- Email us: info@drawthelines.ca