



Time for a Tune Up or a Trade In?

Reviewing Electoral Arrangements Across Zone 5
in 2023 and Beyond



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Electoral Arrangements and Representation



A Look Across Zone 5



Ward Boundary and Council Composition Reviews



Highlights from Past Reviews

Electoral Arrangements and Representation



Consider
these
Questions



- **How does the present electoral arrangement in your municipality measure up?** Has it been fair in the past? Is it fair now?
- Does the current electoral arrangement deliver **fair representation conducive to good governance**?
- Are the governance structures in harmony with **the contemporary municipality**?
- Is the electoral system **aligned with the size, diversity and complexity** of the municipality?
- **Are local reviews of electoral arrangements scheduled, orderly and principled?**

Electoral Arrangements and Representation



Electoral Arrangements

Electoral Systems

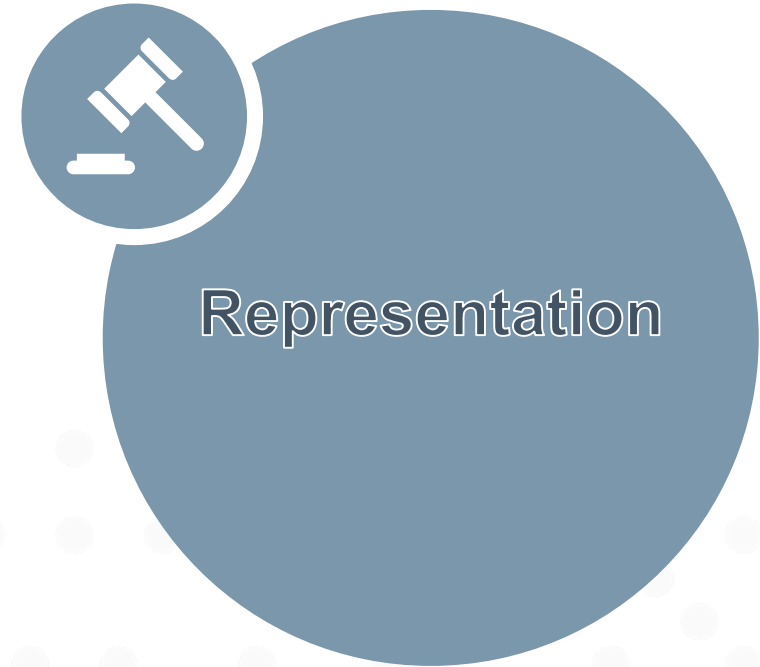
- At large (general) or ward boundary systems or both
- Number of wards

Governance Structures

- Council composition as a decision-making body
- Election or selection of a deputy head of Council
- Number of councillors

Standard: a head of Council elected by general vote with a minimum of 5 members

Variable: a deputy head of Council (or not), elected by general vote (or not), additional councillors to reach at least 5 elected members by general vote (in uniform or different numbers)



Electoral Arrangements and Representation



The Municipal Act

Ontario's *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes a lower-tier municipality to:

Change the size of the Council

- Requirement that there is a minimum of five members, including the head of Council
- No appeal rights associated with this executing this authority

Determine how Council (other than the Mayor) will be elected

- May be elected by general vote, wards, or any combination of a general vote and wards
- No appeal rights associated with this executing this authority

Divide or re-divide the municipality into wards or dissolve the existing wards

- A by-law adopted by Council is subject to appeal rights

The Elections Municipal Act

The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* standardizes key elements:

- Date of elections
- Term of office
- Eligibility
- Counting of ballots



Electoral Arrangements and Representation



In Ontario, basic review of electoral arrangements is discretionary for municipalities.

No stipulated schedule, standardized process or established criteria exist for electoral reviews in Ontario.

- No standard practices, terms of reference, criteria or guiding principles either in provincial legislation or regulation that can be used to evaluate a municipality's electoral system.
- Each municipality must set its own terms, parameters, guiding principles, etc.
- A review is typically framed by established procedures and principles applied in several Ontario municipalities, by decisions of the Ontario Land Tribunal, and judicial rulings on representation.



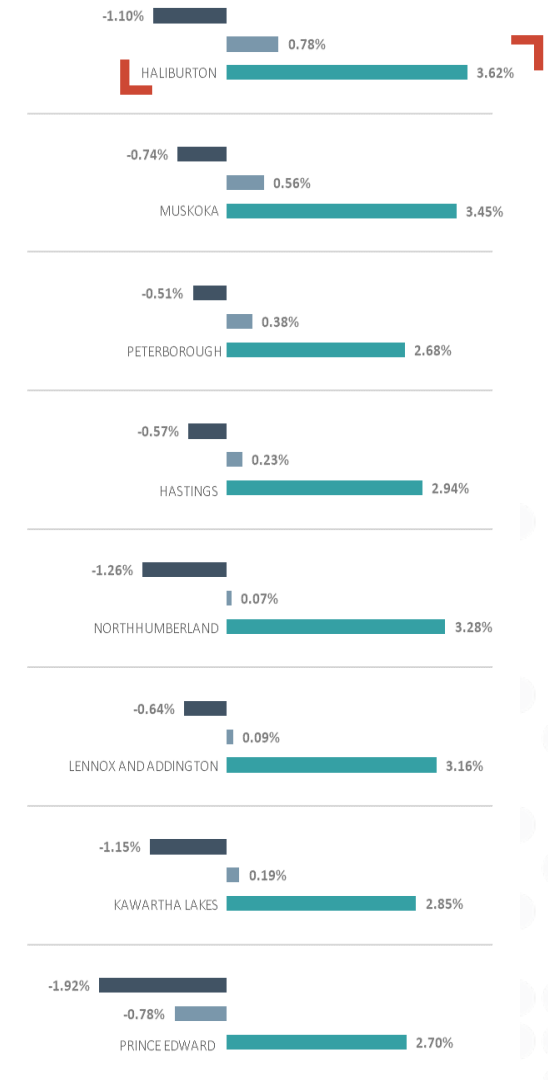
Electoral Arrangements and Representation

Changing Communities

- Municipalities must navigate population growth, shifting demographics, and changing community needs.
- Outdated electoral arrangements, include electoral systems and governance structures, may lead to unequal representation and make it challenging for elected officials to best serve the varied and changing needs of communities.
- It is a standard municipal practice to review services considered “necessary or desirable” and organizational arrangements to deliver them – the structure of the body that makes authoritative decisions (the Council) should also be reviewed from time to time.



Annual Growth Rate by Population Cohort



■ 0-18 Growth Rate ■ 19-60 Growth Rate ■ 60 Plus Growth rate



A Look Across AMCTO Zone 5

Past and Present



1996

> 1,400

Ontario Municipalities

119

Zone 5 Municipalities

2021

444

Ontario Municipalities

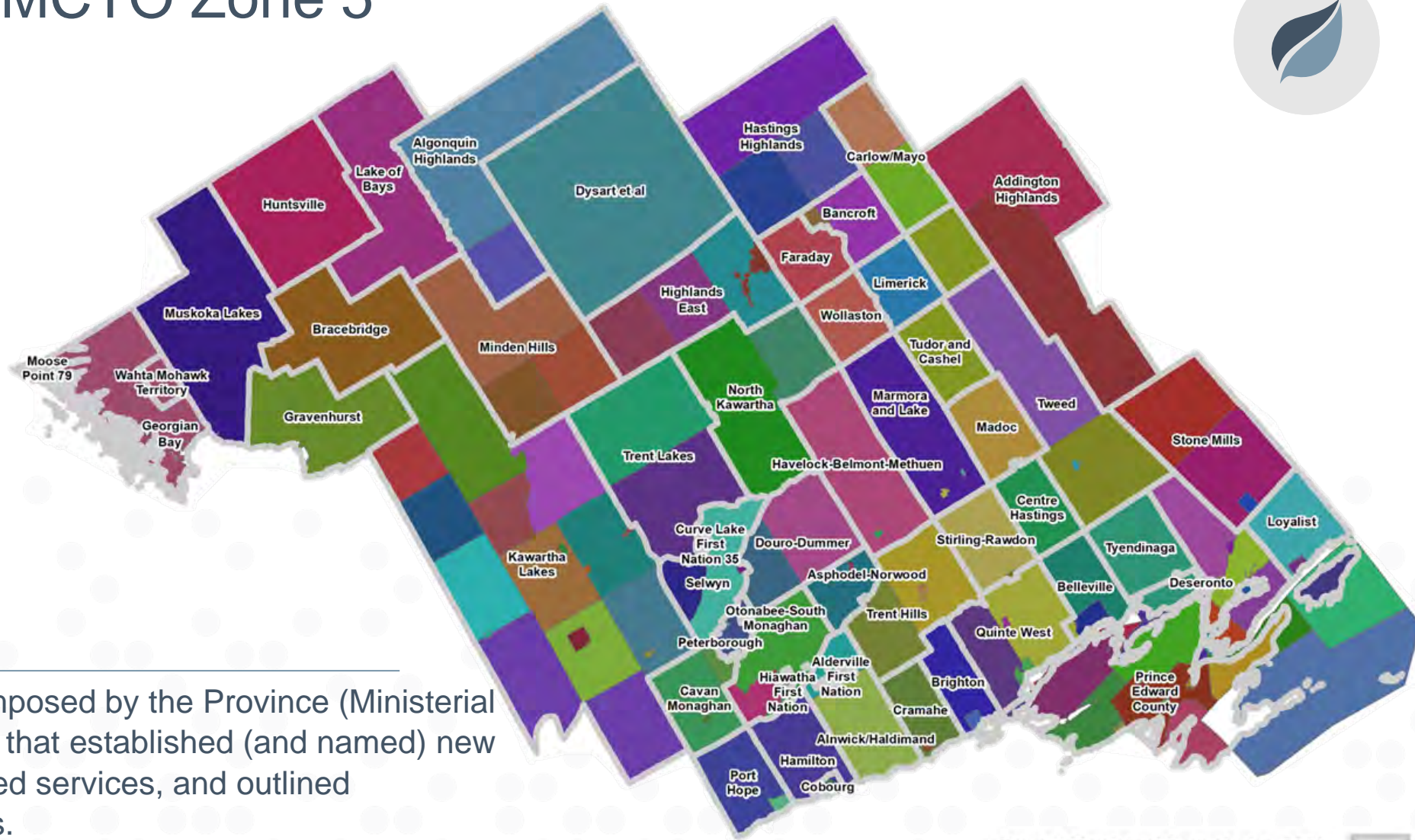
48

Zone 5 Municipalities



Amalgamation

- Most arrangements imposed by the Province (Ministerial Restructuring Orders) that established (and named) new municipalities, assigned services, and outlined governance structures.
- In a significant number of municipalities, the Provincially-determined governance structure has never been reviewed or modified with respect to current conditions.

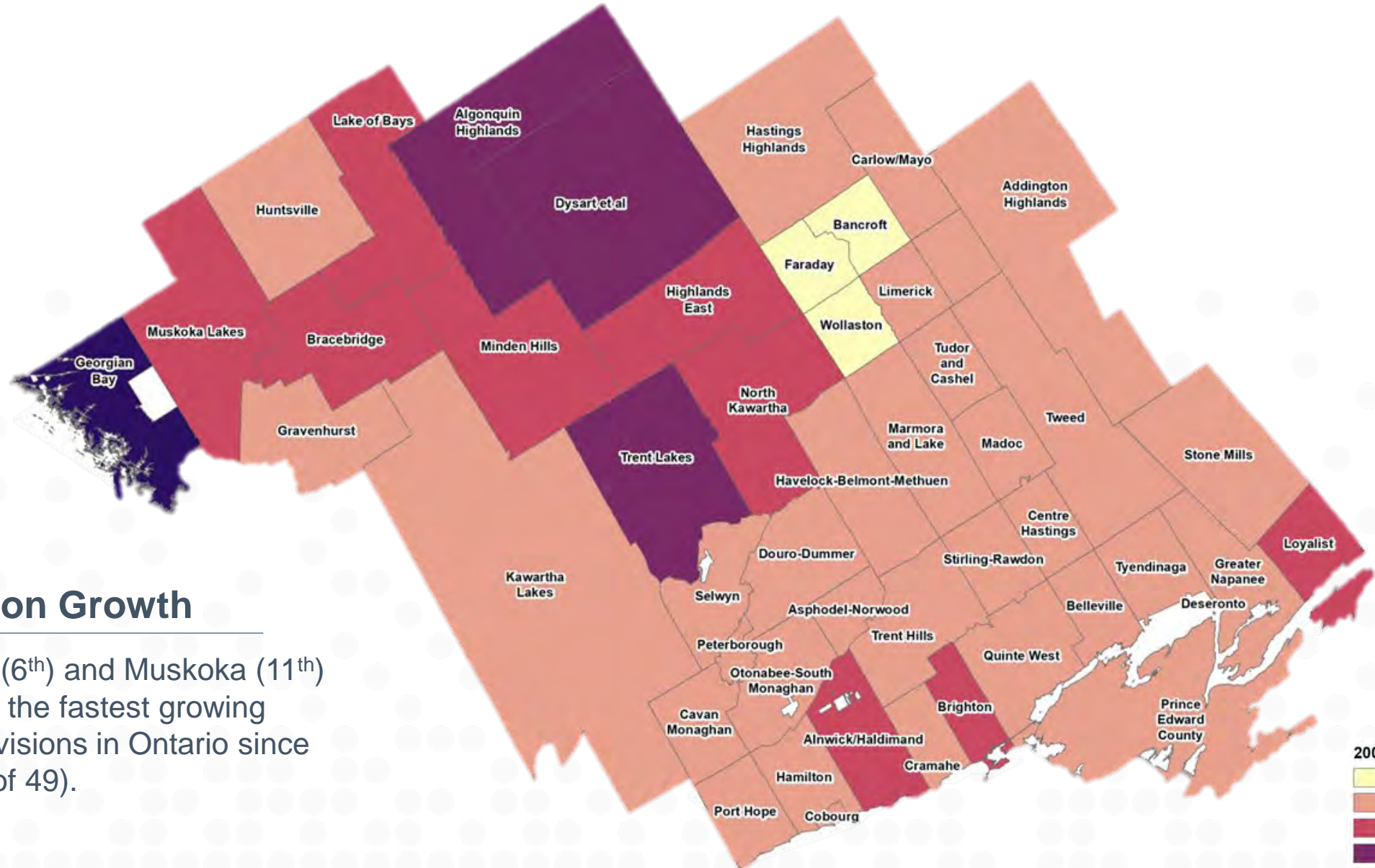


Zone 5 Municipal Boundaries 2021

Zone 5 Municipal Boundaries 1996



A Look Across AMCTO Zone 5



Population Growth

Haliburton (6th) and Muskoka (11th) are among the fastest growing Census Divisions in Ontario since 2001 (out of 49).

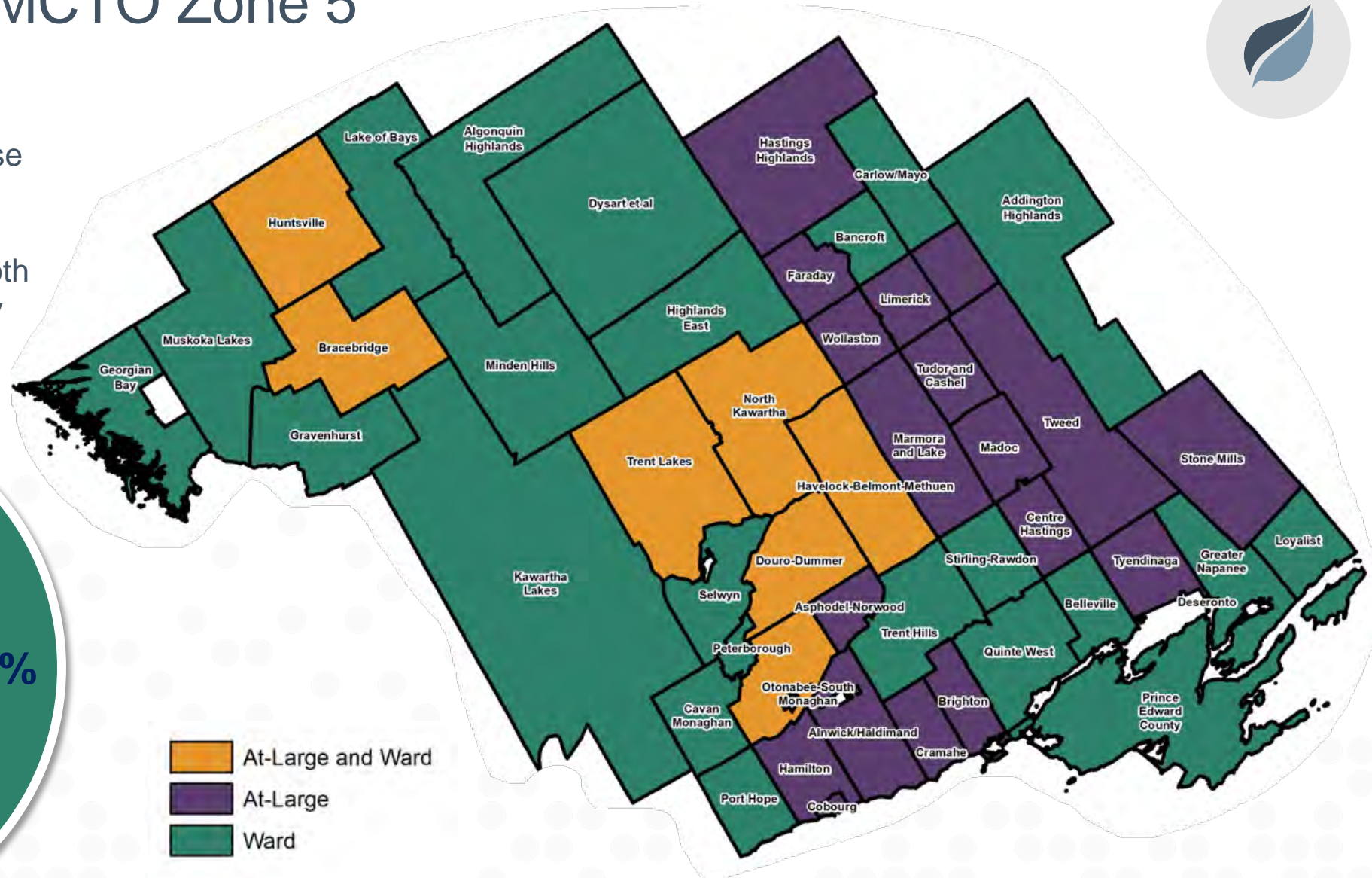
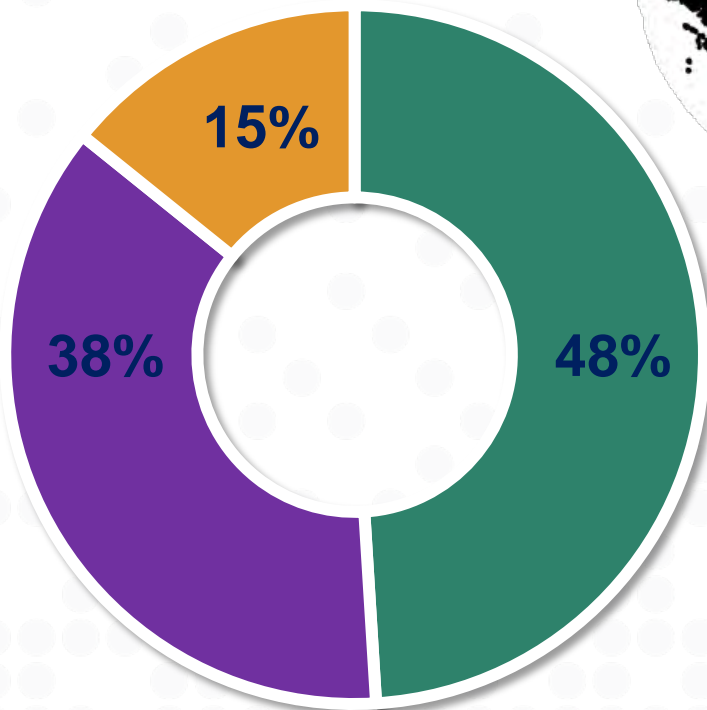


A Look Across AMCTO Zone 5



Electoral Systems

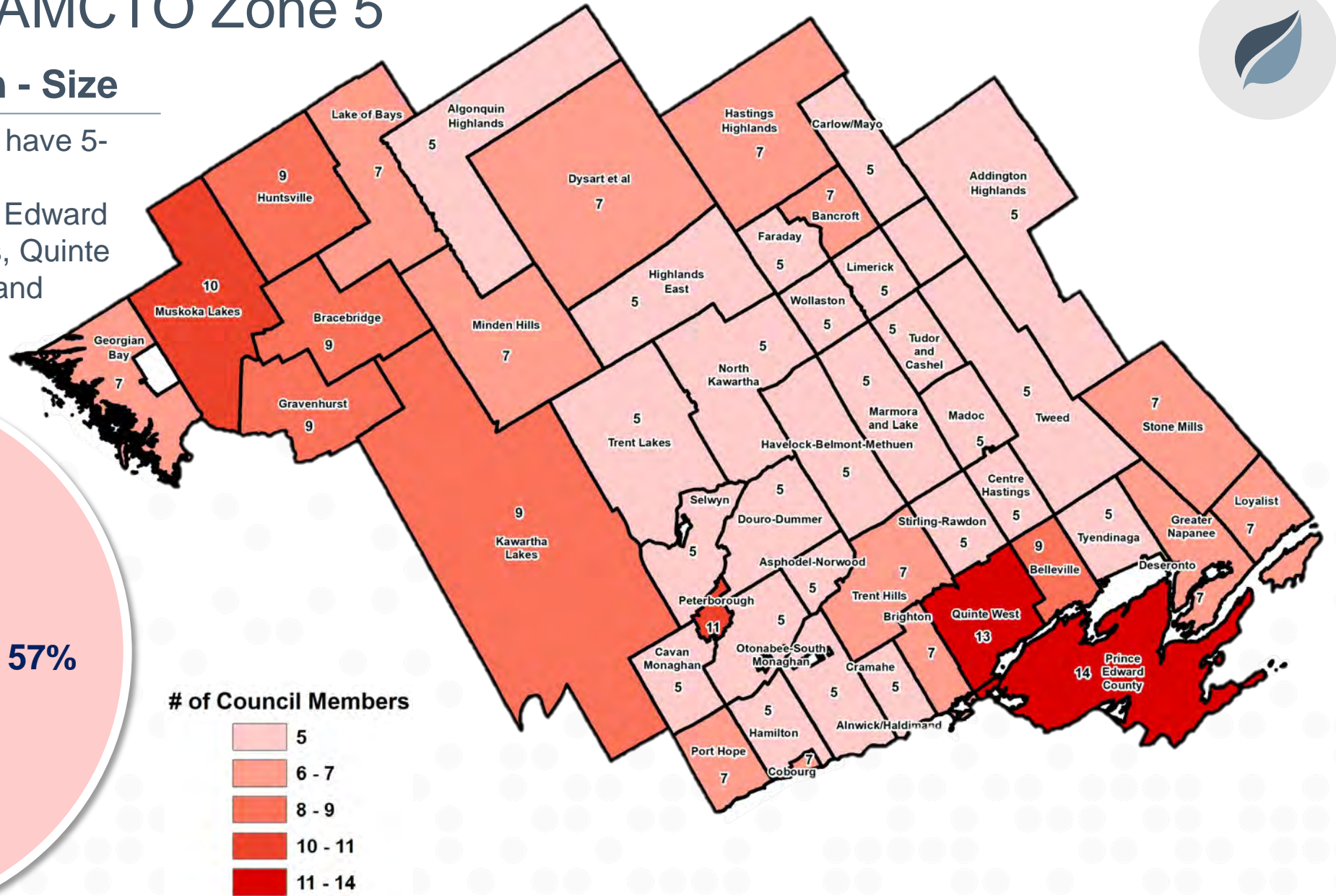
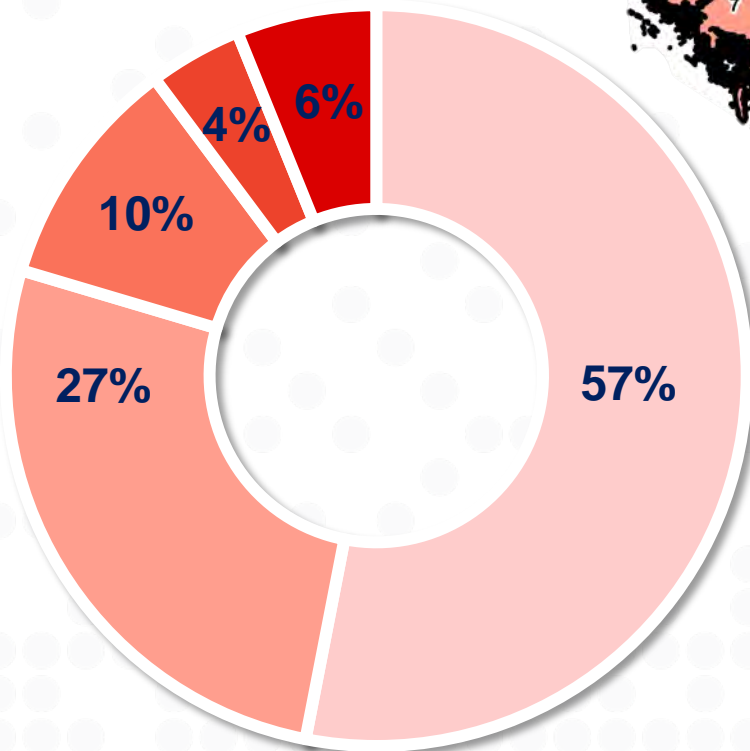
- Majority of municipalities use a ward boundary electoral system
- Some municipalities use both at large and ward boundary systems



A Look Across AMCTO Zone 5

Council Composition - Size

- Majority of municipalities have 5-member Councils
- Largest Councils: Prince Edward County with 14 members, Quinte West with 13 members, and Muskoka Lakes with 10 members



A Look Across AMCTO Zone 5

Observations



- Non-uniform wards in Loyalist, Prince Edward County, Port Hope, Belleville, Quinte West
- In Prince Edward County, one part of a settlement area (Consecon) elects one councillor while the other part elects three
- Ministerial Order for Peterborough determined that a councillor-at-large be one of the members of council in Douro Dummer, North Kawartha, Otonabee-South Monaghan, Selwyn (since changed) - all these municipalities have a five-member council
- In Hastings: Township of Tudor and Cashel Hastings: amalgamation of the geographically non-contiguous townships, Mayor, Deputy Mayor, three councillors elected at-large

Ward Boundary and Council Composition Reviews



Why Initiate a Review?

Prepare Council to make decisions on whether to maintain the existing electoral arrangement or consider an alternative arrangement.

Objectives

Fair Representation

Reviewing electoral arrangements can help ensure equal representation and give communities a voice in decision-making processes.

Address Change

A review can align boundaries, reflect population shifts and change, and better serve evolving community composition and interests.

Improve Democracy

A review promotes transparency and accountability, bolstering trust in the democratic system, and increasing civic engagement.

What would a consultative, transparent and impartial process look like in your municipality?



Ward Boundary and Council Composition Reviews



The Review Process

In Ontario, most reviews occur almost entirely at the discretion of the municipal council. Council members are the people with the most at stake in.



Tune-Up

Undertake community engagement and consultation



Trade In

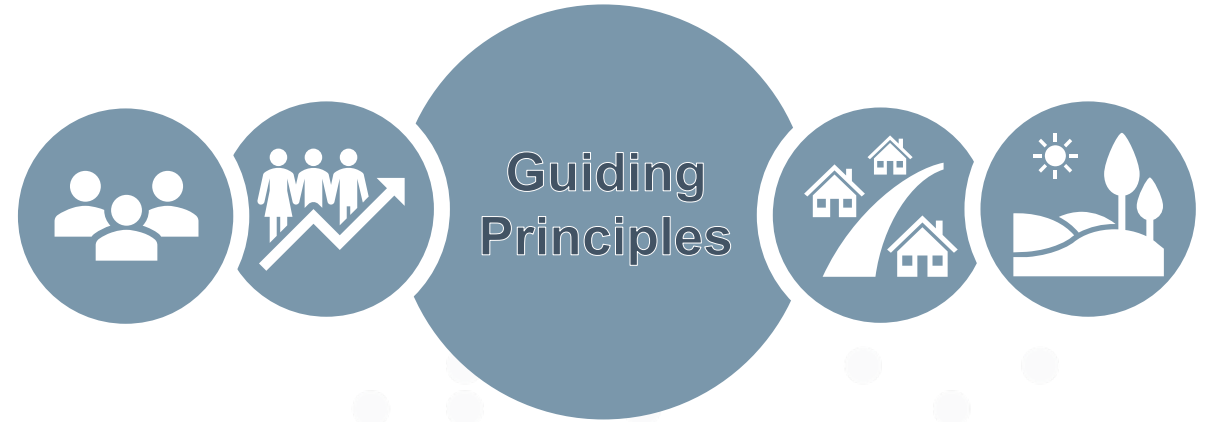
Establish guiding principles for review

Compile and consider quantitative and qualitative data

Take the governance structure apart
(a composition review)

Assess each component of the electoral system (especially
wards)

Develop options and scenarios for alternative electoral
arrangements (structure and system) to put it back together



Representation by Population

Future Population Growth and
Population Distribution

Existing Natural and Physical
Boundaries

Communities of Interest

Highlights from Past Reviews



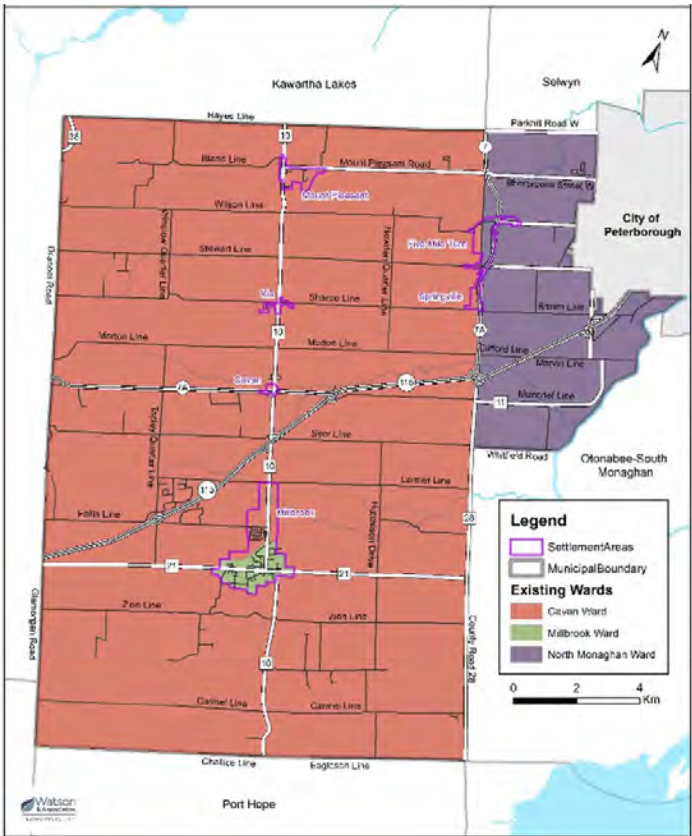
2021

Township of Cavan Monaghan

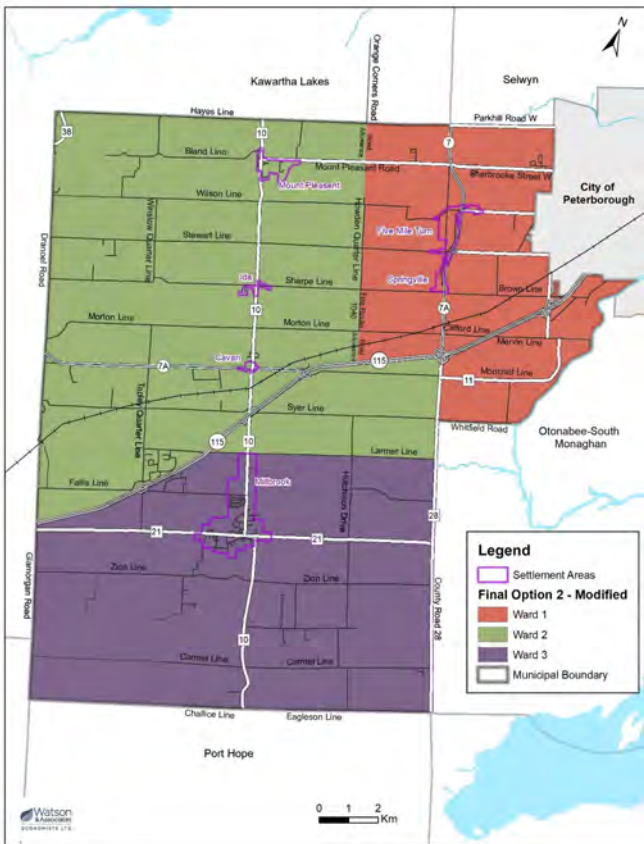
The adoption of a ward system in Cavan Monaghan was part of amalgamation and the establishment of wards was based simply on respecting the three pre-amalgamation municipalities.

Population significantly unbalanced with one ward (Cavan) home to over three times as many people as each of the other wards and the same ward covers over three quarters of the area of the Township.

Pre-2021 Ward Boundaries



2021 Ward Boundary Review
Final Option 2



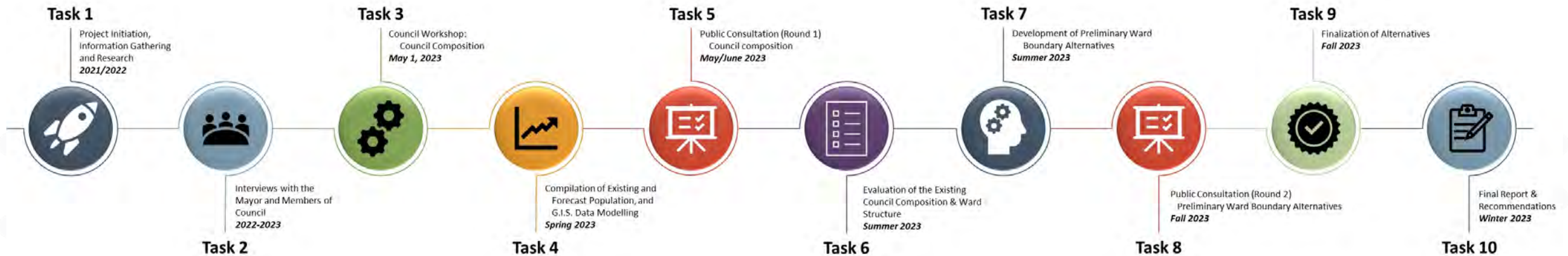
Principle	Does the Proposed Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle?
Representation by Population	Partially successful
Population and Electoral Trends	Partially successful
Representation of Communities of Interest	Largely successful
Geographical and Topographical Features as Boundaries	Yes
Effective Representation	Largely successful

Highlights from Past Reviews

2023

Municipality of North Perth

North Perth is an amalgamation of the former Townships of Wallace and Elma and the former Town of Listowel, created by Ministerial Order effective January 1, 1998. It has been almost 25 years since the current electoral structure was established. In the last 10 years, the Municipality's population increased by 23% to over 15,500 in 2021.



Highlights from Past Reviews



Communication and Public Engagement

Website Materials and Interactive Tools



Preliminary
Options Map



Preliminary
Options
Presentation



Survey



About



Current Ward
Boundaries



Get Involved



Background



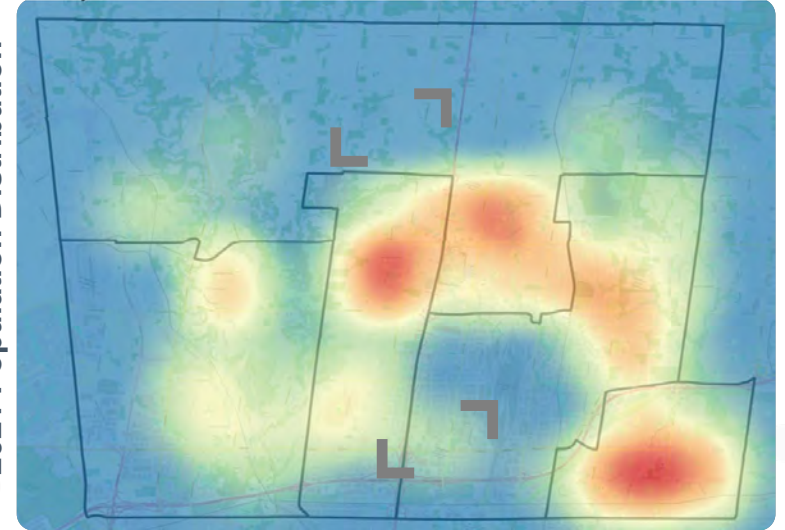
City Council

Educational Videos

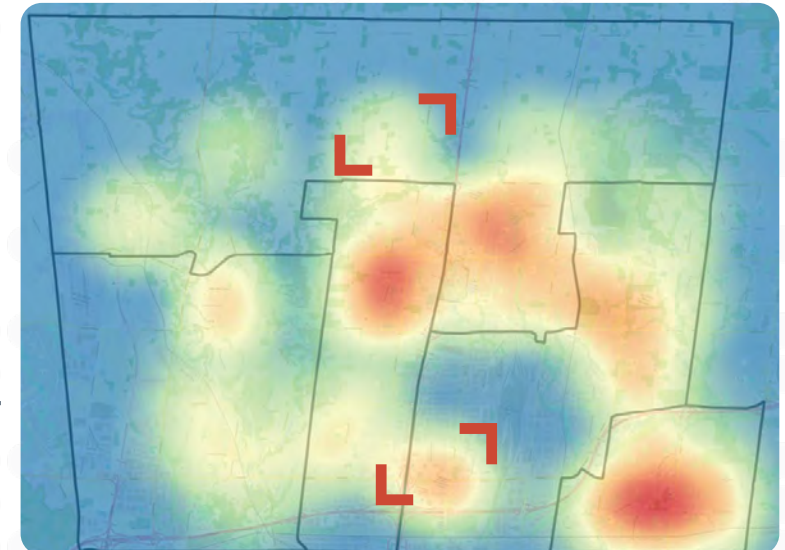


Mapping and Visualizations

2021 Population Distribution



2030 Population Distribution





Discussion And Questions

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