

# **Boundary Review 2022**

June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Initial Findings & Analysis Review  
Municipality Of The District of Clare

# Presentation Overview



# Municipal Boundary Reviews

- **All Municipalities are required to perform a Boundary Review every 8 years**
- **The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board is responsible for reviewing applications and ensuring they follow the Municipal Government Act**
  - to review both the number of Municipal Councillors as well as District Boundaries.
  - The NSUARB suggest a population variance parity of 10% between Districts

*“All councils must conduct a study into the reasonableness and fairness of the number and boundaries of polling districts and the number of Councillors before making the application to the Board. - NSUARB*

# Introduction

2022 Boundary Review

Municipality of the District of Clare

Clare's last Boundary Review was in 2014, where the Municipality applied to maintain Status Quo

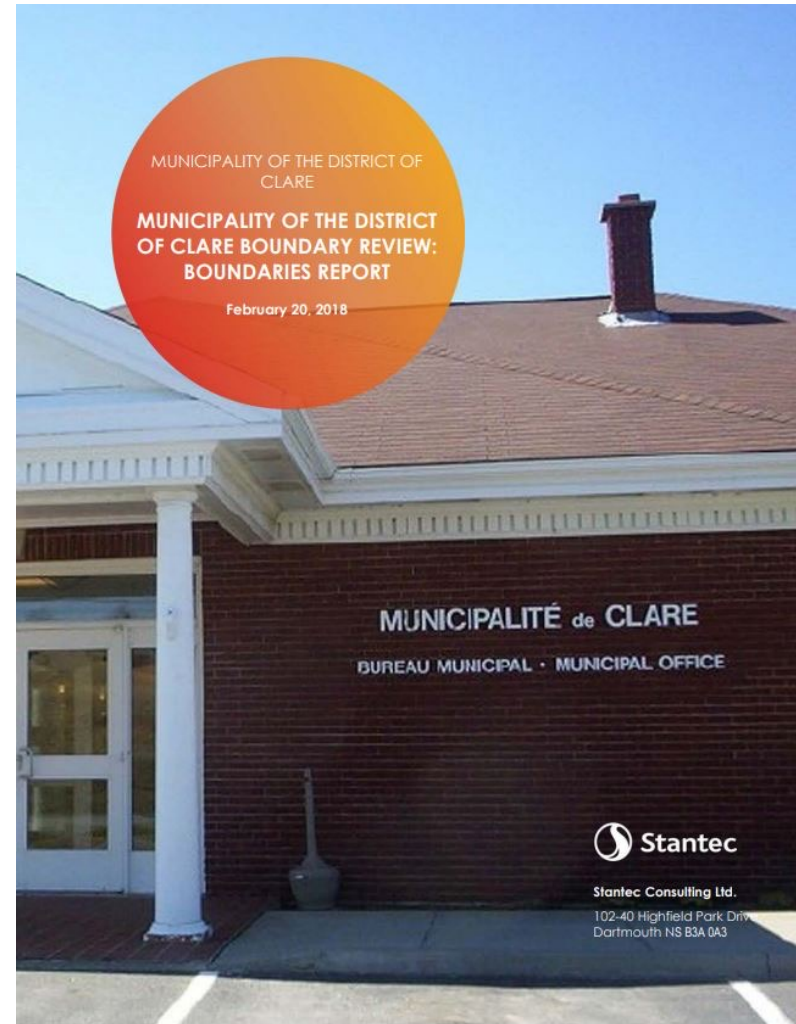
There were revisions for appropriate public consultation in 2016 and again with the Stantec Report in 2018

The 2018 Report was deemed adequate by the NSUARB

NSUARB has indicated a new Boundary Review is required in 2022 with any changes to be implemented in the next Municipal Election

# 2018 Stantec Report

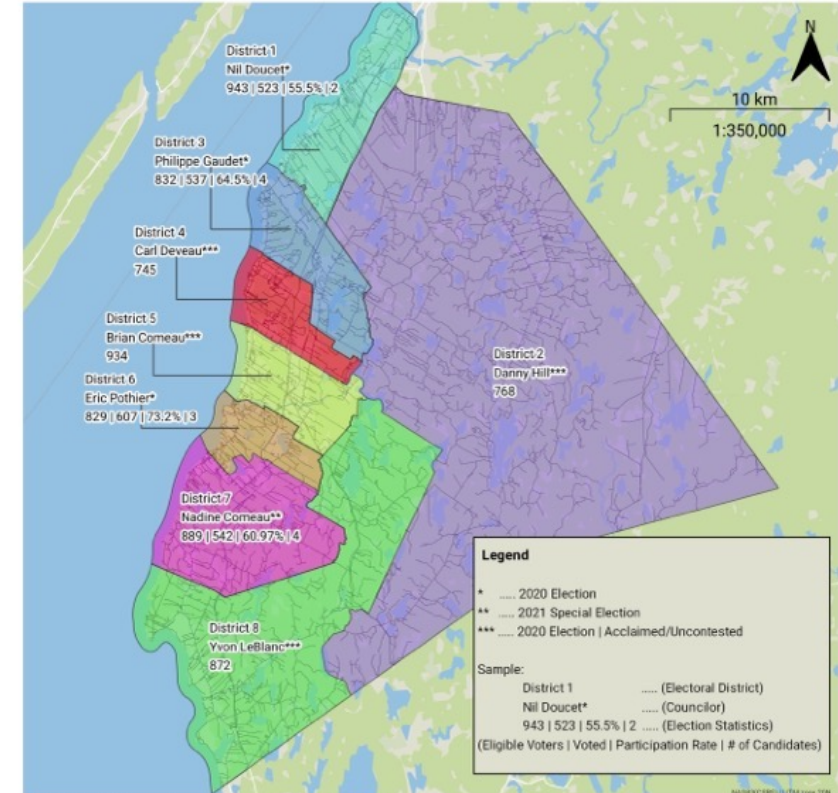
- Offered the public two options of continuing 8 District framework or transitioning to 5 District framework
- Public was perceived as indifferent, with 55.4% 8 districts and 44.6% in favor of a reduction.
- It was decided Public and Council ultimately favored Status Quo
- Clare Civic Association argued for Council size reduction, Clare Civic Association tried to petition the NSUARB in the past.



# Election Results 2020

- The results of the Municipality of Clare election show a relatively high voter turnout, an average of 64%, for the 2020 Election.
- District 4, District 5, District 8 and District 2 were all acclaimed positions.
- A Special Election was held in 2021 for District 7.
- To get Electoral data on acclaimed Districts we sourced from Elections Nova Scotia in April of 2022

## Election Results



District Boundaries courtesy of Government of Nova Scotia, 2020.  
Municipal Polling Districts, GeoNova.ca

Election Statistics courtesy of Municipality of the District of Clare



This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, navigational, or surveying purposes.



# Overview of Existing Electoral Districts

Municipality of the District of Clare

8 Districts

Stantec Report shows a Decrease in Population of 4% Annually

In 2021 Population of Clare was 7678

In 2016 the Population of Clare was 8035

The Provincial Growth Rate is 5%, the National Growth rate is also 5%

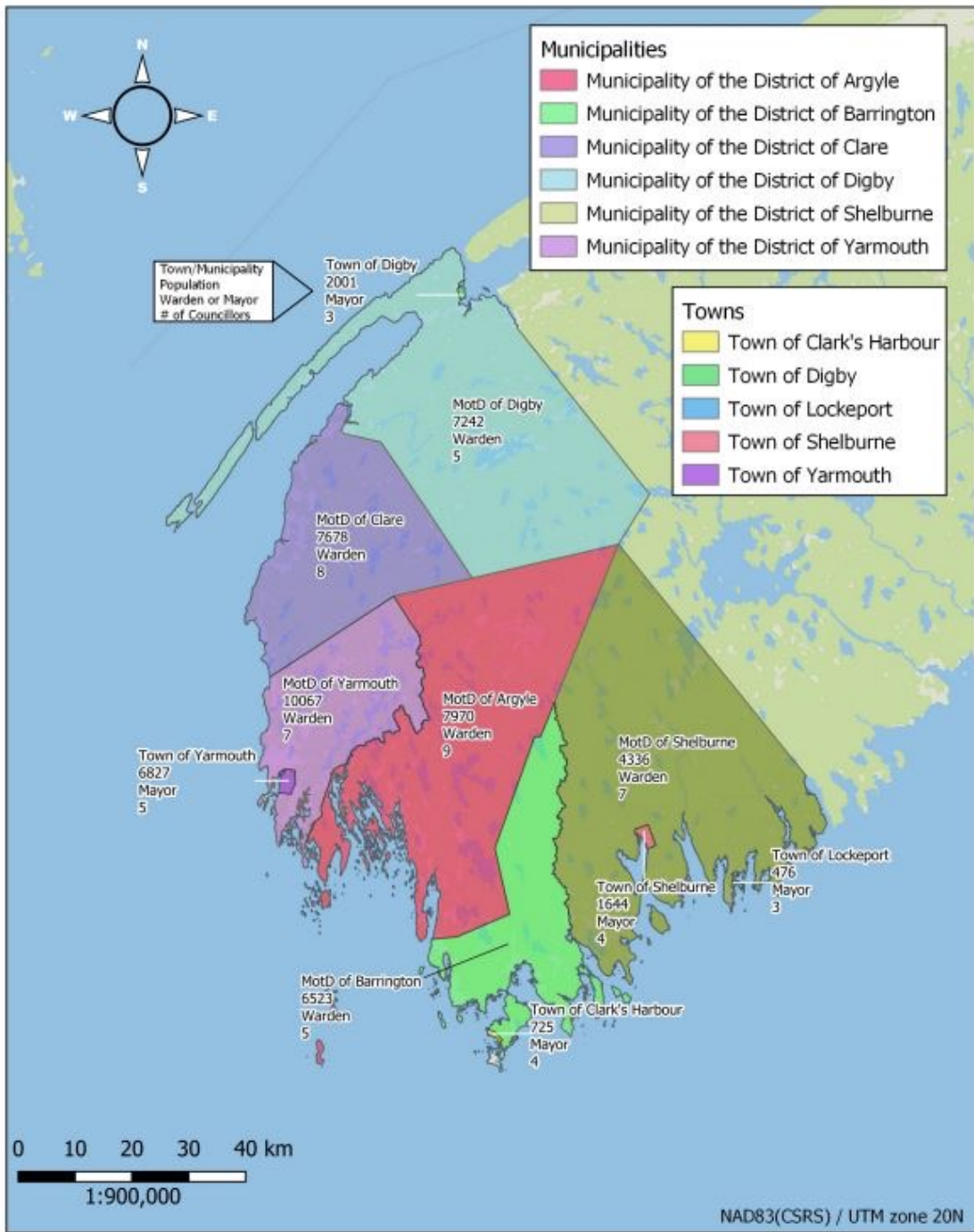
- Population Decline and Movement within the Municipality has many Districts outside the Suggest 10% Parity Guideline

In order to maintain Status Quo for Districts the Boundaries of each District will need some revisions

# Council Composition Comparison for Southwest Nova Scotia

- Of the 11 Municipalities that comprise Southwest Nova Scotia, the average number of Councillors is 5
- When we look at the Municipality of the Districts designations units, these tend to be larger geographic areas and have a higher number of Councillors, with an average of 6.8.
- The Municipality of Clare has the second highest representation of eight (8) Councillors with only the Municipality of the District of Argyle having higher with a representation of nine (9) Councillors.
- Both the Municipality of Clare and the Municipality of the District of Argyle contain several predominately French language communities. This may apply to Community of Interest criteria and can be defined and determined in a few ways, including language consideration. This may attribute to the need for a larger Council size in these Municipalities.
  - *Boundaries should be within 10% variance from average number of electors however this can vary up to 25% when considering community of interest criteria. – NSUARB*
- The 2018 Stantec Report confirmed that the Public and Council are comfortable with the existing Council composition of eight (8)-districts. For this reason, we will be engaging Council and the Public on Boundary Alterations to reach parity and will not be addressing Council size and composition.

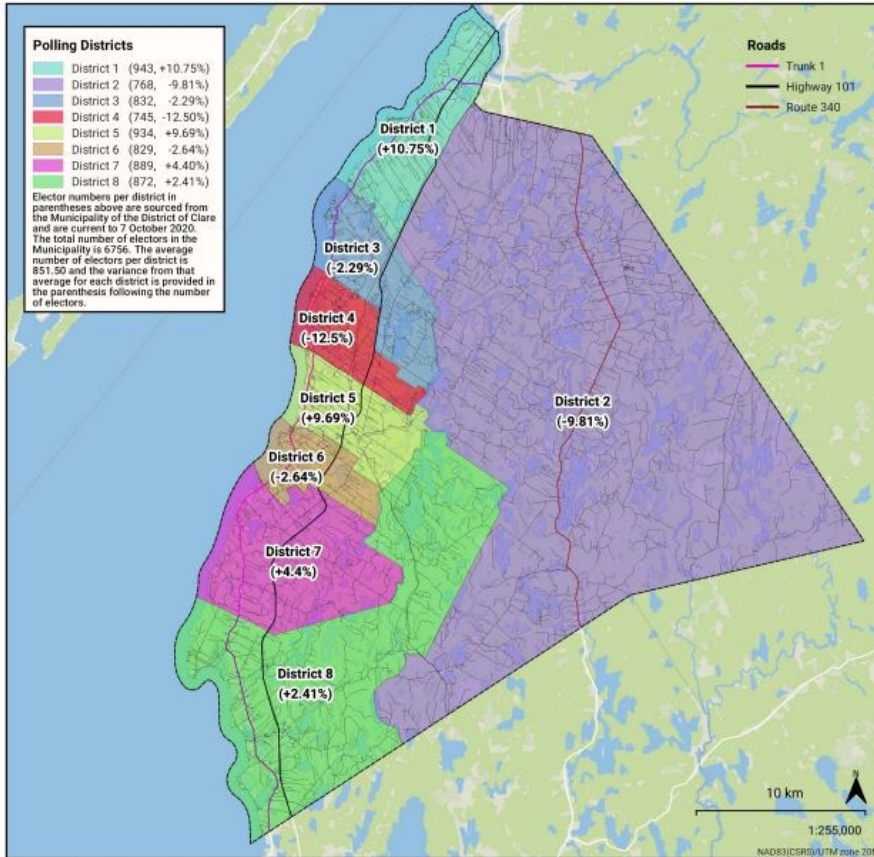




# Council Composition Comparison for Southwest Nova Scotia

# Current Electors by District

Polling Districts - Variance from the Average Number of Electors Per District



District Boundaries courtesy of Government of Nova Scotia, 2020. 'Municipal Polling Districts', GeoNova.ca

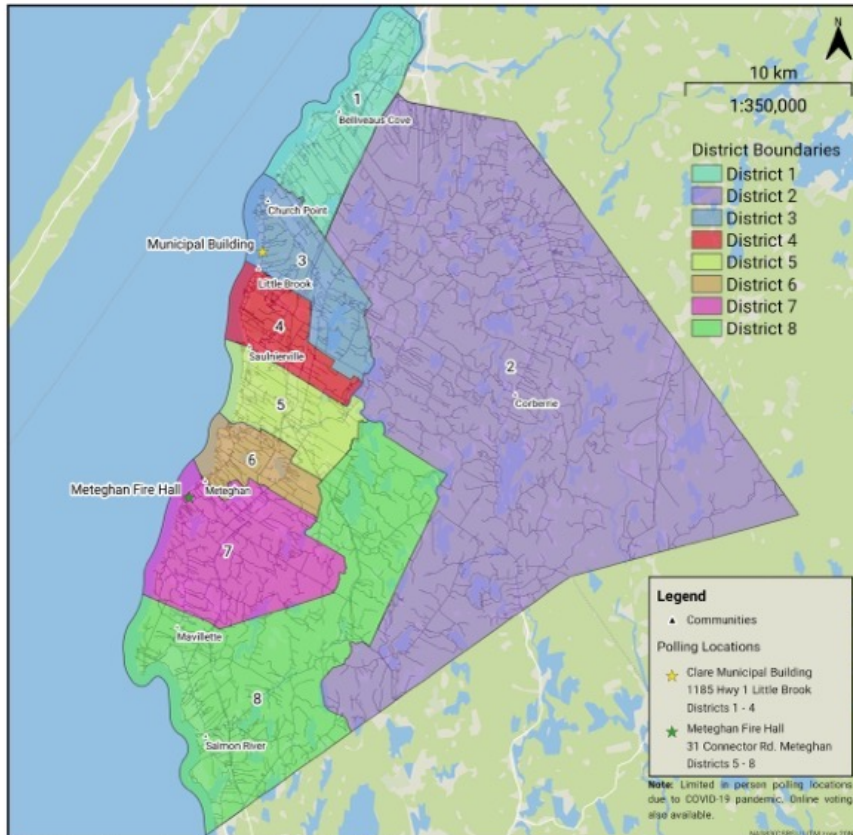
Election Statistics courtesy of The Municipality of the District of Clare

District	# of Electors	% of the total number of electors	Average number of electors per Councillor	# to which excess or is less than the average number of electors per Councillor	% to which excess or is less than the average number of electors per Councillor
District 1	943	13.6%	869	74	8.5%
District 2	768	11.1%		-101	-11.7%
District 3	832	12%		-37	+4.3%
District 4	745	10.7%		-124	-14.3%
District 5	934	13.4%		65	+7.4%
District 6	829	12%		-40	-4.7%
District 7	889	12.8%		20	+2.3%
District 8	872	12.6%		3	+0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6945</b>				

# Communities of Interest

Map Available on Page 20 of the Initial Findings Report

Polling Locations - 2020 Election



District Boundaries courtesy of Government of Nova Scotia, 2020. 'Municipal Polling Districts', GeoNova.ca

Polling Stations courtesy of Municipality of the District of Clare



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- *In the past, the NSUARB has considered polling locations to be important places of community interest, with their locations playing a part in deciding district boundary alterations.*
- *“While the Board will permit variances up to  $\pm 25\%$ , the outer limits of this range should only apply in exceptional cases, where the affected municipality provides detailed written reasons showing that population density, community of interest or geographic size clearly justify the necessity of an increased variance within a polling district. In most cases, however, the Board expects municipalities to meet a target variance of the number of electors in each polling district which is within a  $\pm 10\%$  range of the average.” - NSUARB*
- The Municipality of Clare offered two polling locations within the 2020 election, The Municipal Building located within District 3 North of Little Brook and the Meteghan Fire Hall located within District 7 within Meteghan.
- Important communities within the Municipality include Belliveaus Cove, Church Point, Little Brook, Saulnierville, Meteghan, Mavillette, Salmon River and Corberrie.



# Boundary Alteration Recommendations

## Methodology

- This scenario includes revisions to every District in the Municipality.
- These revisions were prepared with the intent to preserve communities instead of dividing boundaries along roads. Options were prepared with consideration towards maintaining continuous borders for District Boundaries.
- To affirm the number of Councilors, the boundaries must be balanced appropriately so that they meet the NSUARB standard of 10% parity. There are several districts nearing or greater than the recommended 10% parity. To balance the districts C+D Community Design is making the following suggestions.

## Proposed Revisions

- District 1 will be relinquishing the communities of Ohio and New Edinburgh in their entirety to District 2. The community of Margo from District 2 will be placed within District 1.
- With District 2, in addition to relinquishing the community of Margo, District 2 will also be relinquishing Hectanooga to District 6.
- District 3 will receive the community of Little Brook in its entirety from District 4. It will also receive the entirety of Lower Concession from Districts 4 and 5.
- District 4 as mentioned will be losing Little Brook to District 3.
- District 5 will contain the communities of Bangor, Lower Saulnierville, Meteghan River and St. Benoni in their entirety.
- District 6 will undergo the most changes. Meteghan will be relinquished to District 7 in its entirety This leaves the communities of Meteghan Station and Meteghan Centre. It is then recommended that the communities of Maxwellton, Mayflower, Lake Doucette and Springdale be added to District 6.
- District 7 upon receiving Meteghan will need to relinquish St. Alphonse onto District 8.
- District 8 will also see significant changes. With the new larger community of St. Alphonse in order to balance District 8 we would need to move Maxwellton, Mayflower, Lake Doucette and Springdale to District 6.

# Communities Under Consideration

## District 1 (From 1005 to 808 Electors)

- St Bernard 226
- Belliveaus Cove 292
- Grosses Coques 286
- Margo 4

## District 2 (From 692 to 833 Electors)

- Weaver Settlement 93
- Hassett 75
- Southville 34
- Hilltown 89
- St. Joseph 72
- Havelock 59
- Easton 39
- New tusket 69
- Corberrie 64
- Moodys Corner 8
- Briar Lake 9
- Richfield 21
- Ohio 38
- New Edinburgh 163

## District 3 (From 725 to 926 Electors)

- Church Point 346
- Concession 366
- Little Brook 170
- Church Point Station 13
- Lower Concession 31

## District 4 (From 1073 to 903 Electors)

- Comeauville 235
- Little Brook Station 92
- Saulnierville 281
- Saulvierville Station 295

## District 5 (From 860 to 877 Electors)

- Bangor 166
- Lower Saulnierville 289
- Meteghan River 353
- St. Benoni 69

## District 6 (From 1274 to 858 Electors)

- Meteghan Centre 210
- Meteghan Station 374
- Maxwellton 21
- Mayflower 89
- Springdale 34
- Hectanooga 56
- Lake Doucette 74

## District 7 (From 474 to 882 Electors)

- St. Martin 240
- Meteghan 642

## District 8 (From 844 to 860 Electors)

- Beaver River 66
- Cape St. Marys 59
- Cedar Lake 48
- Mavillette 194
- Salmon River 201
- Woodvale 58
- St. Alphonse 234

## Method

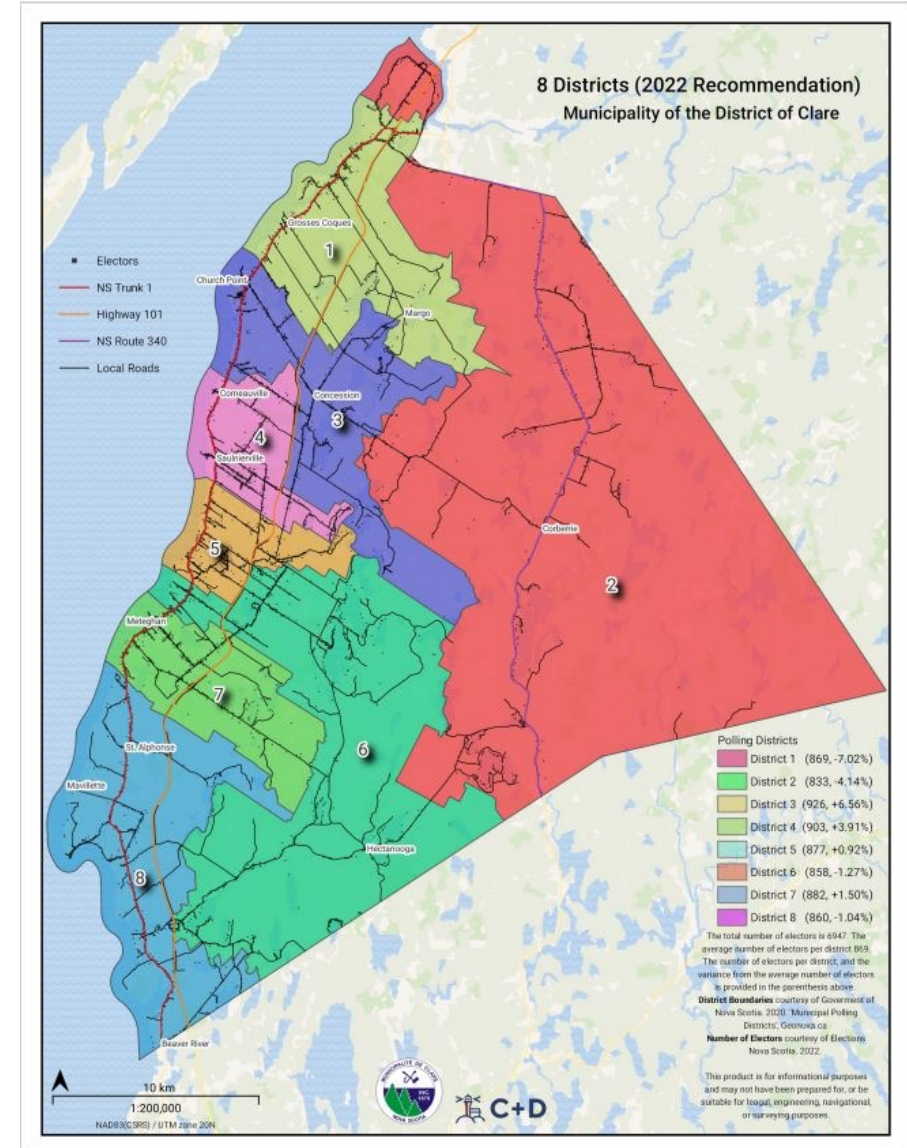
- In order to create the recommendation we began by pairing entire communities into their perceived district and geographic location
- The communities were then dispersed among the appropriate Districts to develop an appropriate recommendation



# Proposed Boundaries

## New Population of Districts pg 25

District	# of Electors	% of the total number of electors	Average number of electors per Councillor	# to which excess or is less than the average number of electors per Councillor	% to which excess or is less than the average number of electors per Councillor
District 1	808	11.6%	869	-61	-7%
District 2	833	12%		-36	-4.2%
District 3	926	13.3%		57	6.5%
District 4	903	13%		34	3.9%
District 5	877	12.6%		8	0.9%
District 6	858	12.4%		-11	-1.3%
District 7	882	12.7%		13	1.5%
District 8	860	12.4%		-9	-1.1%
<b>Total</b>	6945				



Map Available on Page 16 of the Initial Findings Report



# Alternative Scenario

- It has been expressed that having New Edinburgh as an island on its own could negatively affect community identity or continuity of boundaries. In light of this realization C+D has come up with an alternative to placing New Edinburgh in District 2.
- If we were to place New Edinburgh back within District 1 and instead place Margo and Grosses Coques into District 2 we could start to balance the two Districts. In order for District 1 to achieve recommended parity we would then have to move the communities of Weaver Settlement and Ohio into District 1.

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<b>Total</b>	6945				

## District 1

- St. Bernard 226
- Belliveaus Cove 292
- **New Edinburgh 163**
- **Weaver Settlement 93**
- **Ohio 38**

## District 2

- Southville 34
- Hilltown 89
- St. Joseph 72
- Havelock 59
- Easton 39
- New Tusket 69
- Corberrie 64
- Moodys Corner 8
- Briar Lake 9
- Richfield 21
- **Grosses Coques 286**
- **Margo 4**
- Hasset 75



# Next Steps

- Council to decide which scenario to move forward with
- Preparation of Public Engagement Process (Final documents for staff review)
  - Online Survey
  - Newspaper Ads
  - Mailout Package
  - Website Content
  - Confirm Date for Two Public Meetings and Public Hearing
- Any Additional Information and Requests that Council or Staff May Need to Move Forward with Process