

15. Board Policy *Establishment of Wards*

Pursuant to Section 76(1)&(2) of the Education Act and the Board of Trustees of Prairie Rose School Division Bylaw #1 / 2020 (approved by Ministerial Order #003 / 2021) establishing the nomination and election of Trustees by electoral wards and the boundaries of these wards for Prairie Rose School Division as follows:

Ward 1 Northern Ward (New Brigden, Oyen, Acadia Valley, Jenner and Area) – 1 Trustee

Ward 2 Cypress East Ward (Schuler, Irvine and Area) – 1 Trustee

Ward 3 Redcliff/Dunmore Ward– 2 Trustees Elected at Large

Ward 4 Cypress West/Forty Mile East Ward (Ralston, Seven Persons and Area) – 1 Trustee

Ward 5 Bow Island Area Ward (Bow Island, Burdett and Area) – 1 Trustee

Ward 6 South Ward (Foremost and Area) – 1 Trustee

The Board may, if they deem necessary, adjust their electoral boundary wards and / or the number of Trustees through a revised by-law.

1. The by-law must, if practicable, provide that the number of Trustees to be elected in each ward is in the same proportion to the total number of Trustees of the Board as the population of the ward is to the population of the school division.
2. This by-law must be passed prior to December 31 in the year prior to the next general election in order to apply to the next general election.
3. If the by-law is passed prior to December 31 in the year prior to the next general election, the Board composition will not change until subsequent to the next general election that the by-law applies.
4. The Board shall provide a copy of the by-law passed under section 76 of the Education Act to the Minister of Education before December 31 in the year prior to the election year.

Considerations of Determining Ward Structures and Number of Trustees

When considering revising their electoral boundary wards and / or the number of Trustees, the Board shall consider (influenced from Section 14 and 15 of the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act):

- a) Fair representation shall be considered. Trustees should represent approximately +/- 25% the same number of populations as the average of other Trustees in the division.

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- b) Sparsity and density of population,
- c) Wherever possible, the existing municipal boundaries,
- d) Geographical features, including existing road systems,
- e) The desirability of understandable and clear boundaries and,
- f) Any other factors it considers to be appropriate.

Process of Determining Ward Structures and Number of Trustees

1. The Board may contract with a consultant to research and present information to the Board and to the public.
2. Prior to any change in ward boundaries and / or the number of Trustees within a ward, the Board shall provide the public with an opportunity for input. The Board will determine the type, the number and location(s) and advertising process of the public consultation. Information presented will include applicable legislation, current ward structures, current populations from the most recent Census data and any other information deemed necessary
3. After taking into consideration public input, information from the requirements of the Education Act and Electoral Boundaries Commission Act, the Board will determine, at a Regular Board Meeting, whether any changes are necessary to the ward boundaries and / or the number of Trustees.

Cross Reference: Education Act - Sections 76
Electoral Boundaries Commission Act - Section 14 & 15

Approved: September 25th, 2025