

# Commission on Effective Electoral Representation of Acadian and African Nova Scotians

## Terms of Reference

1. The Province of Nova Scotia is committed to the creation of a Commission which shall be responsible to consult with Acadian and African Nova Scotians and those others the Commissioners deem it necessary to hear from, by travelling around the Province of Nova Scotia, to obtain their views and suggestions on how best to achieve effective representation for Acadian and African Nova Scotians in Nova Scotia.
2. In carrying out its public consultations and making its recommendations on how best to achieve effective representation for Acadian and African Nova Scotians, the Commission shall:
  - a. Consider the most recent census and other population data available;
  - b. Recognize the paramount importance of achieving relative parity of voting power through constituencies of equal electoral population to the extent reasonably possible, in a manner consistent with the principles enunciated in the *Carter* decision;
  - c. Be guided by the principle that deviations from parity of voting power are only justified on the basis they contribute to better government of the populace as a whole, giving due weight to regional issues within the populace and geographic factors within the territory governed;
  - d. Consider how the Government might best balance the competing social interests of all Nova Scotians;
  - e. Seek the advice and support of Acadian and African Nova Scotians as it relates to the consideration of such factors as community history, community interests and minority representation;
  - f. Seek the advice, support and hear such presentations and consider such other information in such ways, at such times and in such places as it deems advisable, respecting existing or former electoral districts;
  - g. Consider options for achieving effective representation for Acadian and African Nova Scotians, including, but not limited to, creating designated seats for Acadian and African Nova Scotians as may be similar to Section 6(1) of the *House of Assembly Act*;
  - h. Ensure all submissions to the Commission from individuals and organizations be made in public;

3. The Commission shall continue its work as it deems appropriate during the currency of any election general or otherwise, which might be called or occur during the mandate of the Commission;
4. After completing its public consultations, the Commission shall prepare a report which outlines the Commission's recommendations to inform the Province on how best to achieve effective representation for all Acadian and African Nova Scotians, including in any future Electoral Boundary Review. The Commission's report shall contain a detailed analysis of how the Commission arrived at each recommendation and shall provide the supportive reasons/rationale for how the Commission believes each recommendation will achieve effective representation for Acadian and African Nova Scotians;
5. The Commission shall be comprised of three to five persons appointed by the Governor in Council;
6. The Commission shall submit its report to the Minister of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie, and to the Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs on or before November 1, 2017;
7. Following receipt of the recommendations of the Commission, the Province will take all steps necessary to establish a Select Committee of the House of Assembly, necessary to establish the terms of reference for and appointment of members of an Electoral Boundary Commission by January 31, 2018 in accordance with the provisions of the *House of Assembly Act*.

Signed April 28, 2017 in Halifax, Nova Scotia by Laura Lee Langley,  
Clerk of the Executive Council