



2024 Ward Boundary Review

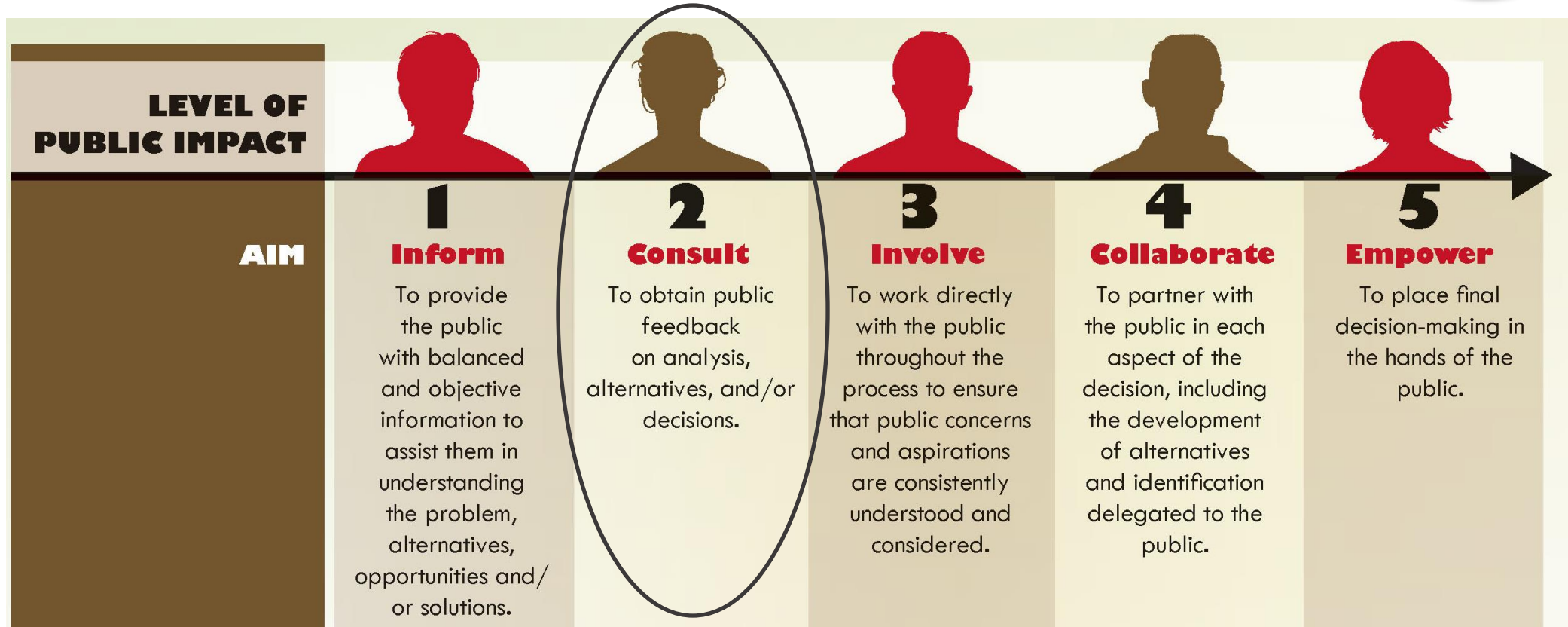
Ward Boundary Review Public Meetings



- May 14, 2024 6:30-8pm East Lake School (325 Kinniburgh Blvd) in Chestermere
- May 15, 2024 6:30-8pm Cochrane Christian Academy (129 Powell Street) in Cochrane
- May 21, 2024 6:30-8pm W.H. Croxford High School (2654 Chinook Winds Drive SW) in Airdrie
- May 27, 2024 6:30 to 8pm Online via Zoom <https://rockyview.zoom.us/my/rvsboard>

* Policy 29: Section 3. A review of ward boundaries shall include consultation with all communities within the RVS boundaries and appropriate stakeholders.

Level of Public Consultation



International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum of Participation RVS Policy 25

What is the role of the trustee?



- Advocate for their community
- Politician
- Goal setter
- Future Planner
- Evaluator
- Policy maker
- Problem-solver
- Act in best interest of division
- Financial planner
- Adjudicator
- Communicator
- Lobbyist
- Decision-maker
- Life-long learner
- Ambassador

Electoral Boundary Review Background



On November 16, 2023 the RVS Board of Trustees passed the following motion:

The Board authorizes a review of RVS' ward boundaries and instructs the Superintendent to retain a consultant and legal advisors, as deemed necessary, to complete the review. Parameters to guide the ward boundary review will be consistent with Policy 29 Ward Structure with the format and level of public consultation to be determined by the Board Planning Committee. The consultant shall report to the Board findings and recommendations by the middle of October 2024.

Policy 29



- 4.2 Number of Trustees: Consideration shall be given as to the number of trustees required for effective governance keeping in mind the prudent use of resources, workload, and accessibility.
- 4.3 Easily Identifiable Borders: Ward boundaries should be clear and easily identifiable so as to avoid voter confusion. Roads, existing municipal boundaries, or geographical features should be used for boundaries. In so far as it is possible, they should avoid having a voter required to vote at two different polling stations for municipal and school board elections.
- 4.4 Consider the rural/urban nature of the division and its associated communities.

Electoral Boundary Review Education Act: Section 76



The *Education Act Section 76* sets out the process for how school divisions may change their ward or electoral subdivision. In particular, Section 76 (1)(5) states the following:

Electoral Boundary Review

Education Act: Section 76



- (1) The board of a school division, may by bylaw
 - a) provide for the nomination and election of trustees by wards and determine the boundaries of the wards, or
 - b) provide for the election of trustees by the general vote of the electors.

Electoral Boundary Review Education Act: Section 76



- (2) A bylaw passed under this section:
- a) does not apply to the general election next following the passing of the bylaw unless it is passed before December 31 in the year prior to that general election being held, and
 - b) does not apply to or affect the composition of the board until the date of the next general election to which the bylaw applies.

Electoral Boundary Review Education Act: Section 76



(2.1) Subject to subsection (2.2) a board shall provide a copy of a bylaw passed under this section to the Minister as soon as possible after the bylaw is passed.

(2.2) A board shall provide a copy of a bylaw passed under this section to the Minister before December 31 in the year prior to an election year.

Electoral Boundary Review

Education Act: Section 76



(3) A bylaw passed under this section 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 population of the school division.

(4) A board shall establish, implement and make publicly available a policy respecting the consideration and process used by the board to determine ward structure.

*(RVS Policy 29)

Government of Alberta

Further considerations



When a board is considering changes to their structure, representation by population must be considered. Provincial, municipal, and federal population data will be used as the baseline.

Government of Alberta

Further considerations



“The standard variance applicable to an assessment of ‘fair representation’ is the standard used in municipal, provincial and federal elections, which is a variance of $\pm 25\%$. Therefore, if this rule is applied to the test under Section 76 (3), it follows that trustees should be represented in wards as per Section (3) and should represent approximately ($\pm 25\%$) the same number of population as other trustees in the division.”

**RVS Policy 29 Section 4.1*

Rocky View Schools



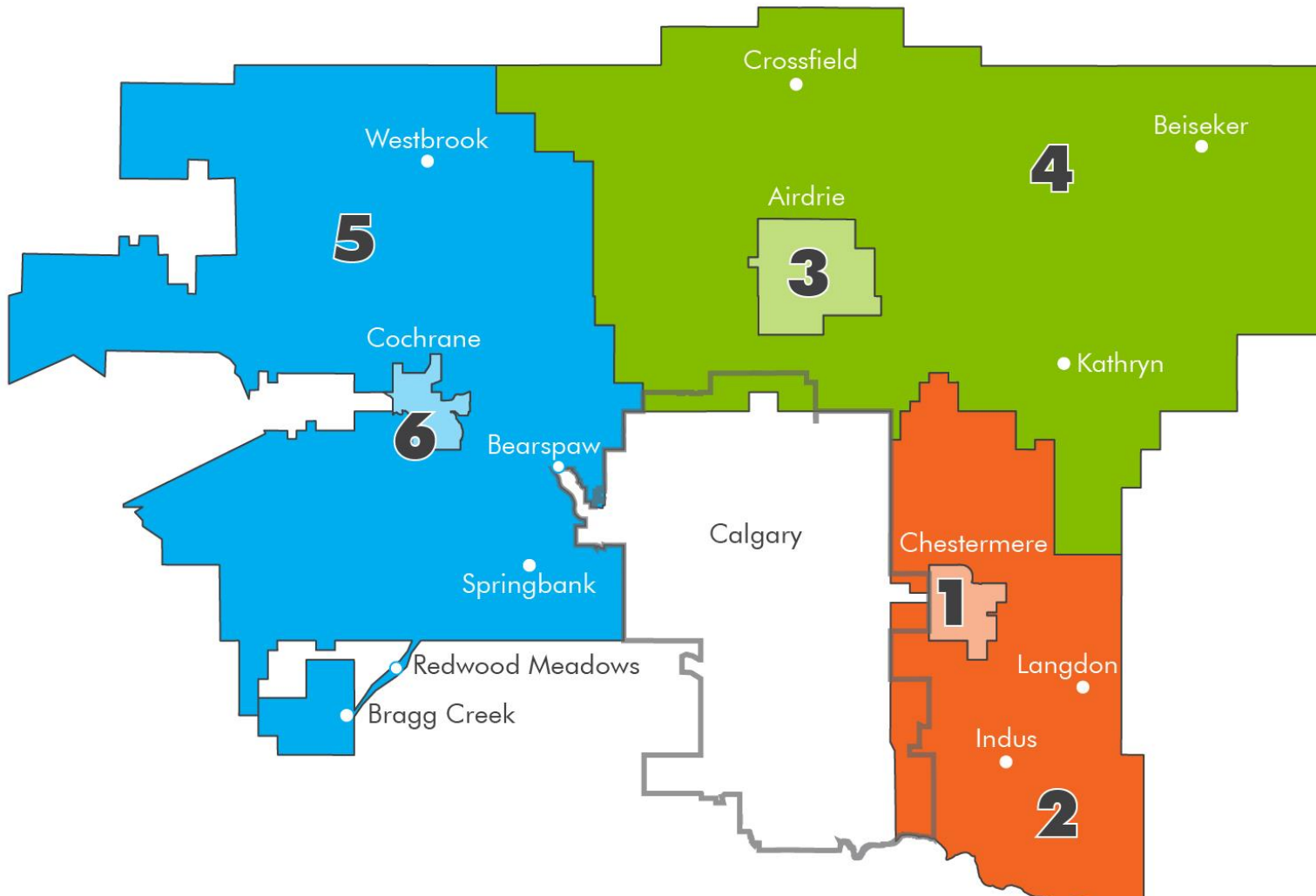
Rocky View Schools (RVS) is the 5th largest school jurisdiction in Alberta with approximately 28,600 students and 3,000 staff members. The division wraps around the City of Calgary on its western, northern and eastern edges.

RVS: Division's Population



- As of January 2013, the total population of RVS was approximately 122,220; by 2015 it had grown to 145,363.
- As of January 2024, the population was estimated to be 192,239.

Current Ward Boundaries with 8 Trustees



Ward	# Trustees
Ward 1 Chestermere	1
Ward 2 SE Rural	1
Ward 3 Airdrie	3
Ward 4 NE Rural	1
Ward 5 W Rural	1
Ward 6 Cochrane	1

Current Wards



Ward (number of trustees)	Description
Ward 1 Chestermere (1)	City of Chestermere
Ward 2 SE Rural (1)	Langdon, Indus and Chestermere rural areas
Ward 3 Airdrie (3)	City of Airdrie
Ward 4 NE Rural (1)	Crossfield, Beiseker, Irricana, Kathryn, and Airdrie rural areas
Ward 5 W Rural (1)	Bragg Creek, Springbank, Bearspaw, Westbrook and Cochrane rural areas
Ward 6 Cochrane (1)	Town of Cochrane

Population by Ward 2024



Ward (number of trustees)	Population 2015	Population 2024	% of Pop
Ward 1 Chestermere (1)	18,496	24,649 (GOA)	12.8%
Ward 2 SE Rural (1)	10,651	12,061 (RVC)	6.3%
Ward 3 Airdrie (3)	59,110	84,000 (City)	43.7%
Ward 4 NE Rural (1)	11,345	12,119 (RVC)	6.3%
Ward 5 W Rural (1)	22,677	23,610 (RVC)	12.3%
Ward 6 Cochrane (1)	23,084	35,800 (GOA)	18.6%
TOTAL	145,363	192,239	100%

Representation by Population with 8 Trustees



- If we take the total population (192,239) and maintain 8 trustees, each trustee should represent 24,029 residents.
- Using the government standard that each ward should be within $\pm 25\%$ of the average, the range for a ward would be:
 - 18,022 at the low end
 - 30,036 at the high end
- If maintaining 8 trustees, then each ward should fall between 18,022 and 30,036 residents

Population by Trustee 2024



Ward (number of trustees)	Population 2024	Population per Trustee	Compared to Ave 24,029 Pop per Trustee	In the -/+ 25% zone? (18,022 to 30,036)
Ward 1 Chestermere (1)	24,649	24,649	+620	Yes
Ward 2 SE Rural (1)	12,061	12,061	-11,968	No
Ward 3 Airdrie (3)	84,000	28,000	+3,971	Yes
Ward 4 NE Rural (1)	12,119	12,119	-11,910	No
Ward 5 W Rural (1)	23,610	23,610	-419	Yes
Ward 6 Cochrane (1)	35,800	35,800	+11,771	No

Options



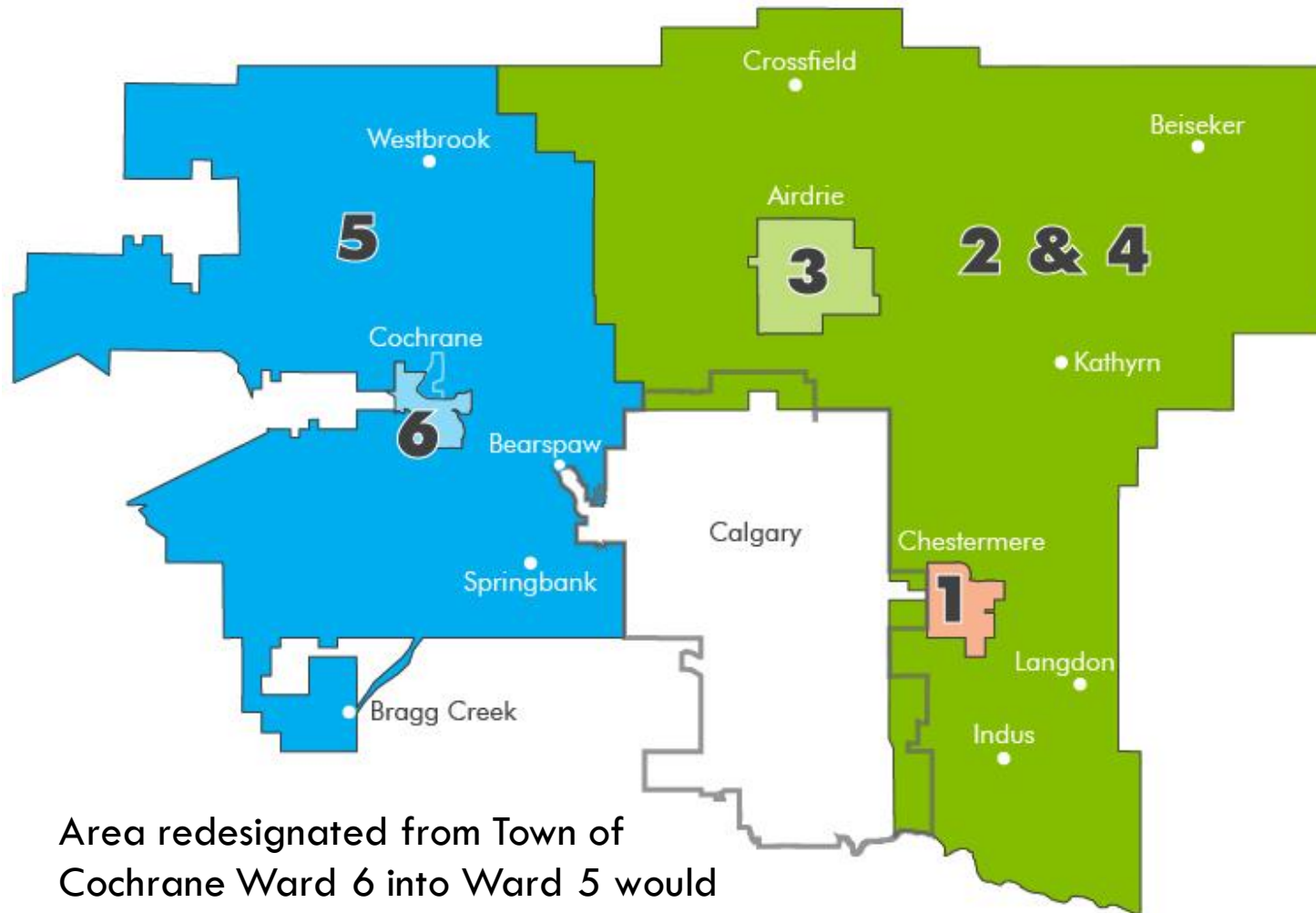
- A. 7 trustee option combining ward 2 (Langdon, Indus and Chestermere rural areas) and ward 4 (Crossfield, Beiseker, Irricana, Kathyrn, and Airdrie rural areas) and redistributing 5,600 residents from ward 6 (Cochrane: Sunset Ridge) into ward 5 (Bragg Creek, Springbank, Bearspaw, Westbrook and Cochrane rural areas).
- B. 8 trustee option adding a trustee to ward 6 (Cochrane would now have two trustees) and combining ward 2 (Langdon, Indus and Chestermere rural areas) and ward 4 (Crossfield, Beiseker, Irricana, Kathyrn, and Airdrie rural areas).
- C. 9 trustee option adding a trustee to ward 6 (Cochrane would now have two trustees), and redistributing 8,600 residents from ward 3 (Airdrie: North of Veterans Blvd) into ward 4 (Crossfield, Beiseker, Irricana, Kathyrn, and Airdrie rural areas) and redistributing 5,100 residents from ward 1 (Chestermere: East side of the Lake and East of Range Road 282 on the south end of the lake) into ward 2 (Langdon, Indus and Chestermere rural areas).

Option A - Representation by Population with 7 Trustees



- 7 trustee option combining ward 2 (Langdon, Indus and Chestermere rural areas) and ward 4 (Crossfield, Beiseker, Irricana, Kathryn, and Airdrie rural areas) and redistributing 5,600 residents from ward 6 (Cochrane: Sunset Ridge) into ward 5 (Bragg Creek, Springbank, Bearspaw, Westbrook and Cochrane rural areas).
- If we take the total population (192,239) and have 7 trustees, then each trustee should represent 27,463 residents.
- Using the government standard that each ward should be within $\pm 25\%$, the range for a ward would be:
 - 20,597 at the low end
 - 34,328 at the high end
- If having 7 trustees, then each ward should fall between 20,597 and 34,328 residents.

Option A - Representation by Population with 7 Trustees



Area redesignated from Town of Cochrane Ward 6 into Ward 5 would be the community of Sunset Ridge

Ward	# Trustees
Ward 1 Chestermere	1
Combined Ward 2 SE Rural & Ward 4 NE Rural	1
Ward 3 Airdrie	3
Ward 5 W Rural plus 5,600 Cochrane residents	1
Ward 6 Cochrane less 5,600 Cochrane residents	1

Option A - Representation by Population with 7 Trustees



Ward (number of trustees)	Population 2024	Population per Trustee	Compared to Ave 27,463 Pop per Trustee	In the -/+ 25% zone? (20,597 to 34,328)
Ward 1 Chestermere (1)	24,649	24,649	-2,814	YES
Combined Ward 2 SE Rural & Ward 4 NE Rural (1)	12,061 + 12,119 = 24,180	24,180	-3,283	YES
Ward 3 Airdrie (3)	84,000	28,000	+537	YES
Ward 5 W Rural plus 5,600 residents from Sunset Ridge within Town of Cochrane (1)	23,610 + 5,600 = 29,210	29,210	+1,747	YES
Ward 6 Cochrane less 5,600 Sunset Ridge residents moved into Ward 5 (1)	35,800 – 5,600 = 30,200	30,200	+2,737	YES

Consultant's Rationale for Option A With 7 Trustees



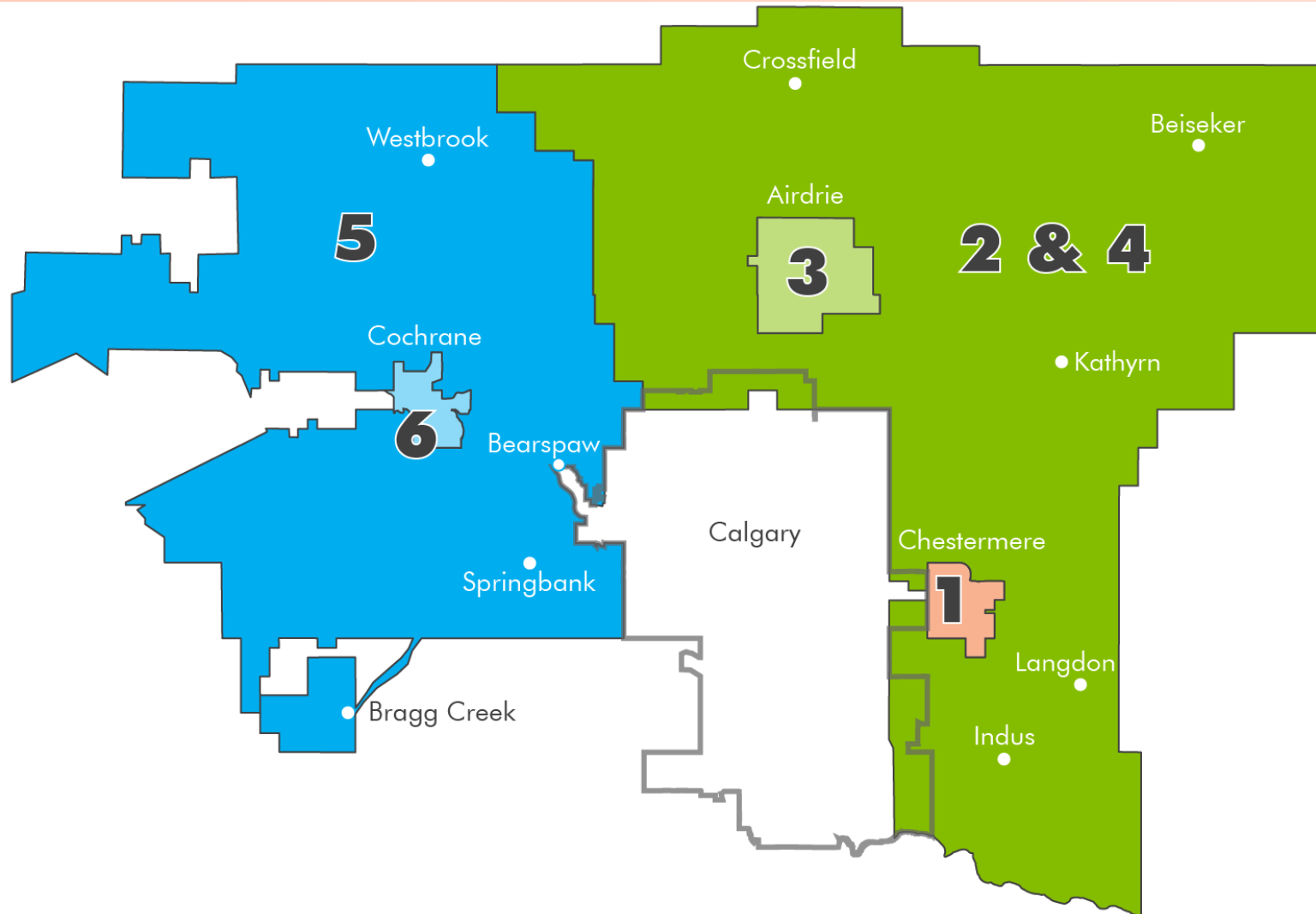
- Geographical boundaries are clearly understood
- Six Wards would fall into the -25/+25 % representation range
- 5,600 population redistribution
- Establishes a representative balance of 73% urban/27% rural
- Represented by 71% urban trustees/ 29% rural trustees 5/2 of 7
- Maintains with slight change the rural/urban identity and is politically viable

Option B - Representation by Population with 8 Trustees



- 8 trustee option adding a trustee to ward 6 (Cochrane would now have two trustees) and combining ward 2 (Langdon, Indus and Chestermere rural areas) and ward 4 (Crossfield, Beiseker, Irricana, Kathryn, and Airdrie rural areas).
- If we take the total population (192,239) and have 8 trustees, then each trustee should represent 24,029 residents.
- Using the government standard that each ward should be within $\pm 25\%$ of the average, the range for a ward would be:
 - 18,022 at the low end
 - 30,036 at the high end
- If having 8 trustees, then each ward should fall between 18,022 and 30,036 residents.

Option B - Representation by Population with 8 Trustees



Ward	Number of Trustees
Ward 1 Chestermere	1
Combined Ward 2 SE Rural & Ward 4 NE Rural	1
Ward 3 Airdrie	3
Ward 5 W Rural	1
Ward 6 Cochrane	2

Option B - Representation by Population with 8 Trustees



Ward (number of trustees)	Population 2024	Population per Trustee	Compared to Ave 24,029 Pop per Trustee	In the -/+ 25% zone? (18,022 to 30,036)
Ward 1 Chestermere (1)	24,649	24,649	+620	YES
Combined Ward 2 SE Rural & Ward 4 NE Rural (1)	12,061 + 12,119 = 24,180	24,180	+151	YES
Ward 3 Airdrie (3)	84,000	28,000	+3,971	YES
Ward 5 W Rural (1)	23,610	23,610	-419	YES
Ward 6 Cochrane (2)	35,800	17,900	-6,129	YES (within rounding error)

Consultant's Rationale for Option B with 8 Trustees



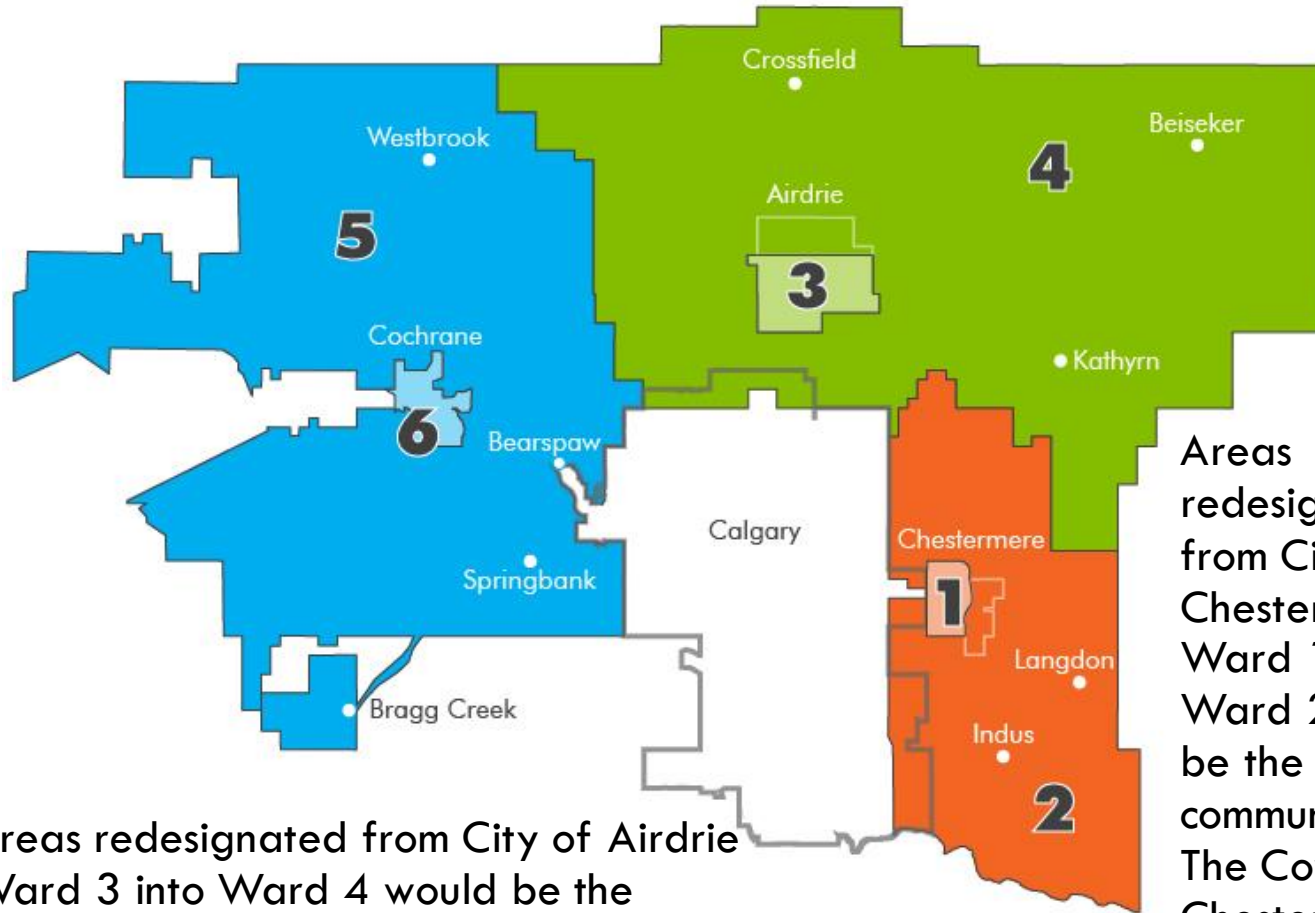
- Geographical boundaries are clearly understood
- Maintains the current trustee working responsibilities
- All Wards would fall into the -25/+25 % representation range
- Cochrane Ward increases by one trustee
- No population redistribution
- Establishes a balance of 75% urban/25% rural
- Represented by 75% urban trustees (6) / 25% rural trustees (2)
- Maintains the rural/urban identity and is politically viable

Option C - Representation by Population with 9 Trustees



- 9 trustee option adding a trustee to ward 6 (Cochrane would now have two trustees), and redistributing 8,600 residents from ward 3 (Airdrie: North of Veterans Blvd) into ward 4 (Crossfield, Beiseker, Irricana, Kathryn, and Airdrie rural areas) and redistributing 5,100 residents from ward 1 (Chestermere: East side of the Lake and East of Range Road 282 on the south end of the lake) into ward 2 (Langdon, Indus and Chestermere rural areas).
- If we take the total population (192,239) and have 9 trustees, each trustee should represent 21,360 residents.
- Using the government standard that each ward should be within +/- 25% of the average, the range for a ward would be:
 - 16,020 at the low end
 - 26,700 at the high end
- If having 9 trustees, then each ward should fall between 16,020 and 26,700 residents.

Option C - Representation by Population with 9 Trustees



Areas
redesignated
from City of
Chestermere
Ward 1 into
Ward 2 would
be the
communities of
The Cove, East
Chestermere,
Kinniburgh,
Kinniburgh South

Areas redesignated from City of Airdrie
Ward 3 into Ward 4 would be the
communities of Reunion, Williamstown,
Silver Creek, Stonegate, Gateway,
Sawgrass, Hamilton Green, Highland Park

Ward	# Trustees
Ward 1 Chestermere less 5,100 residents	1
Ward 2 SE Rural plus 5,100 residents	1
Ward 3 Airdrie less 8,600 residents	3
Ward 4 NE Rural plus 8,600 residents	1
Ward 5 W Rural	1
Ward 6 Cochrane	2

Option C - Representation by Population with 9 Trustees



Ward (number of trustees)	Population 2024	Population per Trustee	Compared to Ave 21,360 Pop per Trustee	In the -/+ 25% zone? (16,020 to 26,700)
Ward 1 Chestermere less 5,100 residents east of the lake/east of Range Road 282 in the south redistributed to Ward 2 SE Rural (1)	24,649 – 5,100 = 19,549	19,549	-1,811	YES
Ward 2 SE Rural plus 5,100 residents east of the lake/east of Range Road 282 in the south redistributed from Ward 1 Chestermere (1)	12,061 + 5,100 = 17,161	17,161	-4,199	YES

Option C - Representation by Population with 9 Trustees (continued)



Ward (number of trustees)	Population 2024	Population per Trustee	Compared to Ave 21,360 Pop per Trustee	In the -/+ 25% zone? (16,020 to 26,700)
Ward 3 Airdrie less 8,600 residents north of Veterans Blvd redistributed to Ward 4 NE Rural (3)	84,000 – 8,600 = 75,400	75,400 / 3 = 25,133	+3,773	YES
Ward 4 NE Rural plus 8,600 residents north of Veterans Blvd redistributed from Ward 3 Airdrie (1)	12,119 + 8,600 = 20,719	20,719	-641	YES
Ward 5 W Rural (1)	23,610	23,610	+2,250	YES
Ward 6 Cochrane (2)	35,800	17,900	-3,460	YES

Consultant's Rationale for Option C With 9 Trustees



- Geographical boundaries are clearly understood
- Six Wards would fall into the -25/+25 % representation range
- Cochrane Ward adds a trustee
- 13,700 population redistribution
- Establishes a population balance of 69% urban/31% rural
- Represented by 66.6% urban trustees/ 33.3% rural trustees 6/3 of 9
- Changes rural/urban mix identity and is politically viable

Decision



- The Board of Trustees will ultimately make the decision on the ward boundaries and number of trustees.
- If number of trustees are recommended to be changed then the Minister of Education must approve the change to the number of trustees. *Education Act 78(2)*
- Board can select one of the above options, create a hybrid or new option or choose not to make any changes.
- Anticipated date of the decision is October 17-31, 2024

Feedback



Go to RVSENGAGE and click on the *Ward Boundary Review* icon for more information and to be able to provide feedback to the Board of Trustees.

