

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

October 13, 2009

TO: Board of Trustees  
FROM: Trustee K. Shipka  
SUBJECT: Motion re Ward Boundaries

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board consider the modification of ward boundaries as per the potential realignment presented by the Administration in the June 9, 2009 Responses to Board Requests for Information report (Attachment #1 – page 4).

\* \* \* \* \*

Notice of the above motion was served at the June 9, 2009 board meeting.

Supplementary information has been provided for Trustee reference (Attachment #2)

KS:mmf

Attachment #1 – Excerpt from June 9, 2009 Board Report *Responses to Board Requests for Information*

Attachment #2 – EFCL Areas and New City Ward Boundaries

**Excerpt from June 9, 2009 Report – Responses to Board Requests for Information**

**CONFERENCE REQUEST #207, APRIL 21, 2009, PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED 12 CITY WARDS AND BACKGROUND ON THE BOARD'S OWN WARD CONFIGURATION:**

**City of Edmonton Review Status**

The City of Edmonton passed first reading to establish 12 electoral wards on February 17, 2009. The bylaw will return to City Council on July 22, 2009. The results of a public consultation process will be considered, followed by votes on the second and third readings.

The City's proposed 12 ward system does not directly impact the Board's nine ward system. However, it provides an opportunity for the Board to consider alternatives to the nine ward system. The Board's nine ward system provides a single representative for each ward. One of the concerns raised about the single representative system is that some representatives hold the view that they serve a defined, narrow "constituency" as opposed to the broad citizenry. Rather than a single representative ward system, the Board could consider a multiple representative ward system within the City ward boundaries. For example, three Trustees could be elected from within each of three "super" wards comprised of four city wards.

Edmonton Catholic Schools will have to adopt a new ward system for their seven member board. They currently have six electoral wards coterminous with the City's six ward system with one trustee being elected on the basis of the next highest number of votes from among all of the wards.

**Approval**

A Board motion is required to amend the current ward criteria, and a Board motion and Ministerial approval is required to change the ward boundaries. Changes to ward boundaries for trustee elections could be implemented if Ministerial approval is obtained by March 1, 2010 for the October 2010 General Municipal Election.

In order for the City of Edmonton Elections Office to provide computerized compilation of electoral results, the public school board ward boundaries must conform to existing voting subdivision boundaries.

The next general municipal election will be held on Monday, October 18, 2010.

**Background**

Prior to 1989, all public and separate school trustees were elected city-wide. In 1989 the Minister of Education required trustees to be elected by wards. Nine public and seven separate school trustees were elected from within the existing City of Edmonton's six ward system. For the Edmonton Public School Board, the highest vote recipient from each of the six wards were elected, along with the second highest vote recipients in three of the six wards.

In 1995, nine public school trustee electoral wards were implemented which were distinct from municipal wards. Boundary alignments were chosen in order to distribute future urban growth and to ensure that the ward populations would remain within a  $\pm 10$  per cent of average public school supporting population for at least three elections. Wards were designed on the basis of achieving a balance of total public school supporting population among wards as a priority over seeking to achieve a balance in the number of schools or students within a ward. The potential for population growth or decline within each ward was also considered. In November 2006, a motion was passed by the Board to amend the trustee electoral ward design criteria to have a balance of ward population of  $\pm 15$  per cent.

**Current Trustee Electoral Ward Design Criteria as Passed by Board December 6, 1994; Amended November 7, 2006**

The wards must:

1. have a resident population of public school supporters that is within  $\pm 15$  per cent of the average for all wards (one ninth of the total district-wide public-school supporting population);
2. reflect the potential for population growth or decline with the goal that school ward populations remain within  $\pm 15$  per cent of the average through three municipal general elections;
3. encompass entire school attendance areas where possible;
4. be regular in shape, and be delineated by easily identifiable boundaries such as major roadways, railways, ravines, rivers, etcetera; and
5. ensure where possible that communities of common interests or characteristics are kept within the same ward.

**Current Ward Boundaries**

The data used to complete this review were provided by the City of Edmonton from the 2008 Municipal Census counts. This is the same data source the City of Edmonton used for the Municipal Ward Boundary Review currently underway. Due to a change in the census reporting process not all electors declared themselves as either public or separate supporters.

APPENDIX I (page 5) provides a map of the current electoral ward boundaries.

The data indicates the ‘balanced ward population’ criterion will not be met in 2010 in Ward H (see table below).

<b>Current Ward Boundaries</b>	<b>Total City Population</b>	<b>Public Supporting Population</b>	<b>Difference from Optimum Public Population (± 10%)</b>	<b>Public Population Deviation</b>
A	101,249	68,706	4,383	6.81%
B	90,268	64,503	180	0.28%
C	73,980	58,110	(6,213)	-9.66%
D	72,600	58,086	(6,237)	-9.70%
E	75,742	56,036	(8,287)	-12.88%
F	71,123	61,566	(2,757)	-4.29%
G	88,087	70,869	6,546	10.18%
H	100,915	79,656	15,333	23.84%
I	78,448	61,380	(2,943)	-4.58%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>752,412</b>	<b>578,912</b>		
<b>Ward Average</b>	<b>83,601</b>	<b>64,323</b>		

Population Deviation with the No response as 100 per cent Public Support

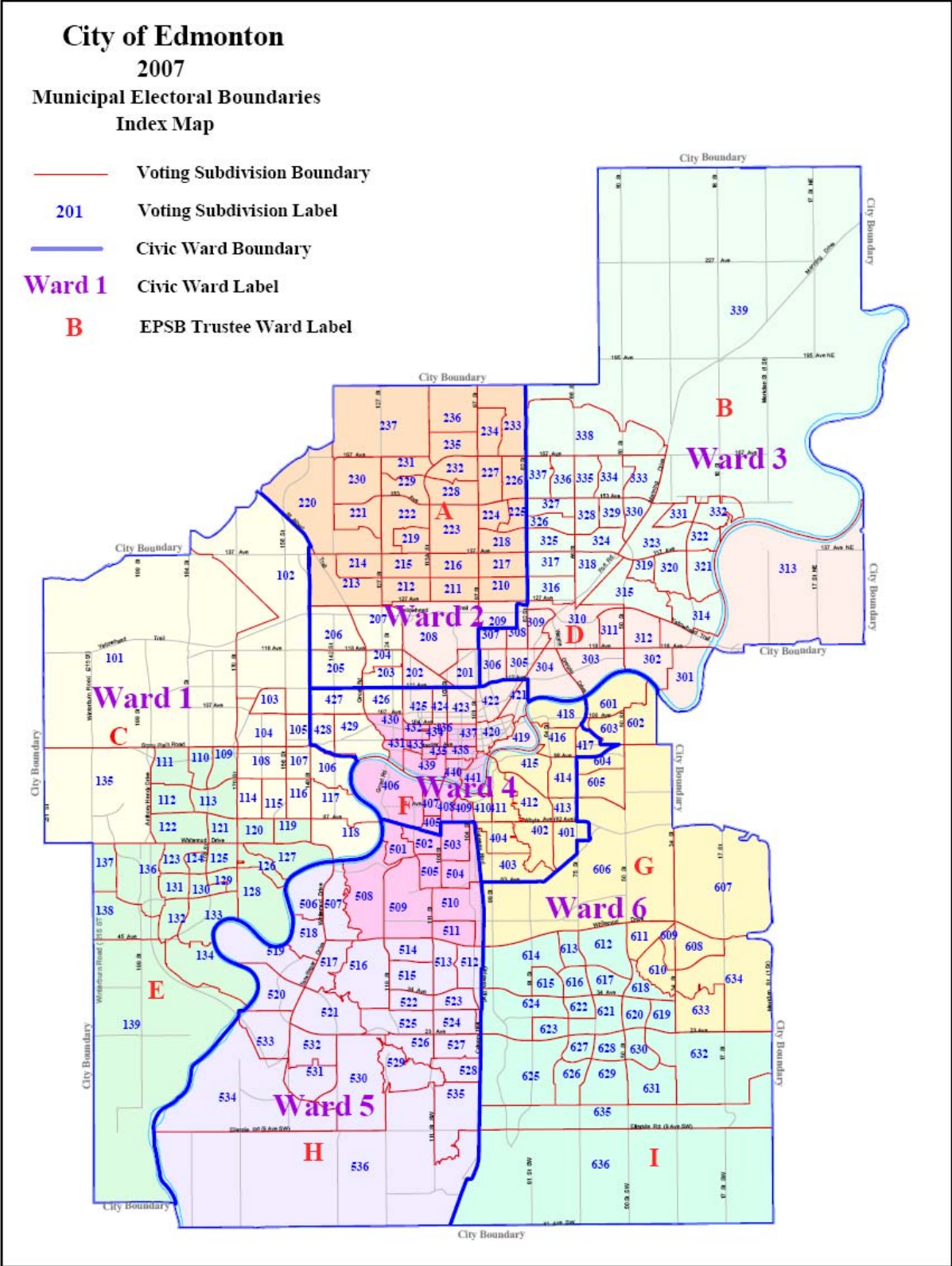
### Potential Realignment

To meet the current criteria, voting subdivisions 506 (Brander Gardens), 507 (Brookside) 517 (Bulyea Heights), 519 (Rhatigan Ridge) and 518 (Ramsay Heights) could be moved from Ward H to Ward F. This area is north of Rabbit Hill Road, west of Whitemud Creek and east of the Saskatchewan River. This realignment would bring all nine wards back into the ± 15 per cent range and provide flexibility for future population growth in Ward H.

<b>Current Ward Boundaries</b>	<b>Total City Population</b>	<b>Public Supporting Population</b>	<b>Difference from Optimum Public Population (+/-10%)</b>	<b>Public Population Deviation</b>
A	101,249	68,706	4,383	6.81 %
B	90,268	64,503	180	0.28 %
C	73,980	58,110	(6,213)	-9.66 %
D	72,600	58,086	(6,237)	-9.70 %
E	75,742	56,036	(8,287)	-12.88 %
F	86,077	73,320	8,997	13.99 %
G	88,087	70,869	6,546	10.18 %
H	85,961	67,902	3,579	5.56 %
I	78,448	61,380	(2,943)	-4.58 %
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>752,412</b>	<b>578,912</b>		
<b>Ward Average</b>	<b>83,601</b>	<b>64,323</b>		

Population Deviation with the No response as 100% Public Support

### APPENDIX I – Map of Current Electoral Boundaries



**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REQUEST #218, JUNE 16, 2009, FURTHER TO TRUSTEE SHIPKA'S MOTION ON THE ELECTORAL WARD BOUNDARIES, PROVIDE MAP INFORMATION ON EFCL AREAS AND NEW CITY WARD BOUNDARIES AS SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.** Background information and data on the District's ward system was provided in Conference Request #207 at the June 9, 2009 public board meeting. Trustee Shipka served notice of the following motion: *That the Board consider the modification of ward boundaries as per the potential realignment presented by the Administration in the June 9, 2009 Responses to Board Requests for Information report.*

At the July 22, 2009 meeting of City Council, third reading was given to Bylaw 15142, the City of Edmonton Ward Boundaries and Council Composition Bylaw. The primary impact of this approval is the establishment of 12 single representative wards to replace the current six wards for City Council.

Attached is a map (APPENDIX I – page 7) of the new 12 ward City of Edmonton boundaries including the current EPSB ward boundaries and a second map (APPENDIX II – page 8) with the proposed realignment of EPSB Wards F and H. Enlarged views of the proposed realignment for Wards F and H are included (APPENDIX III and IV – pages 9 and 10).

If the Board were to approve the proposed realignment, Brander Gardens, Brookside, Earl Buxton, George H. Luck, and Riverbend schools would move from Ward H to Ward F. These schools are contained within the Riverbend and Brookview community league boundaries.

### **Approval**

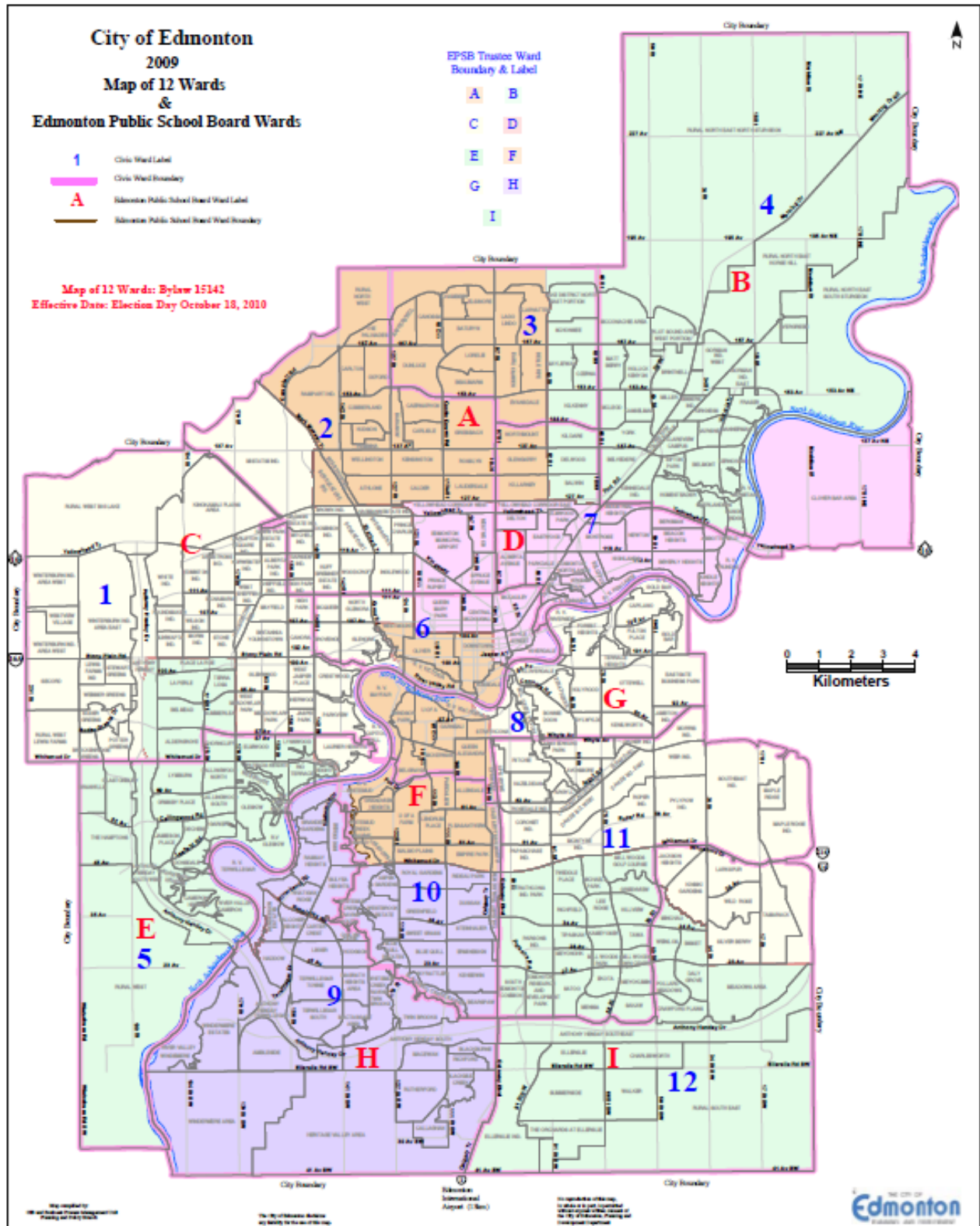
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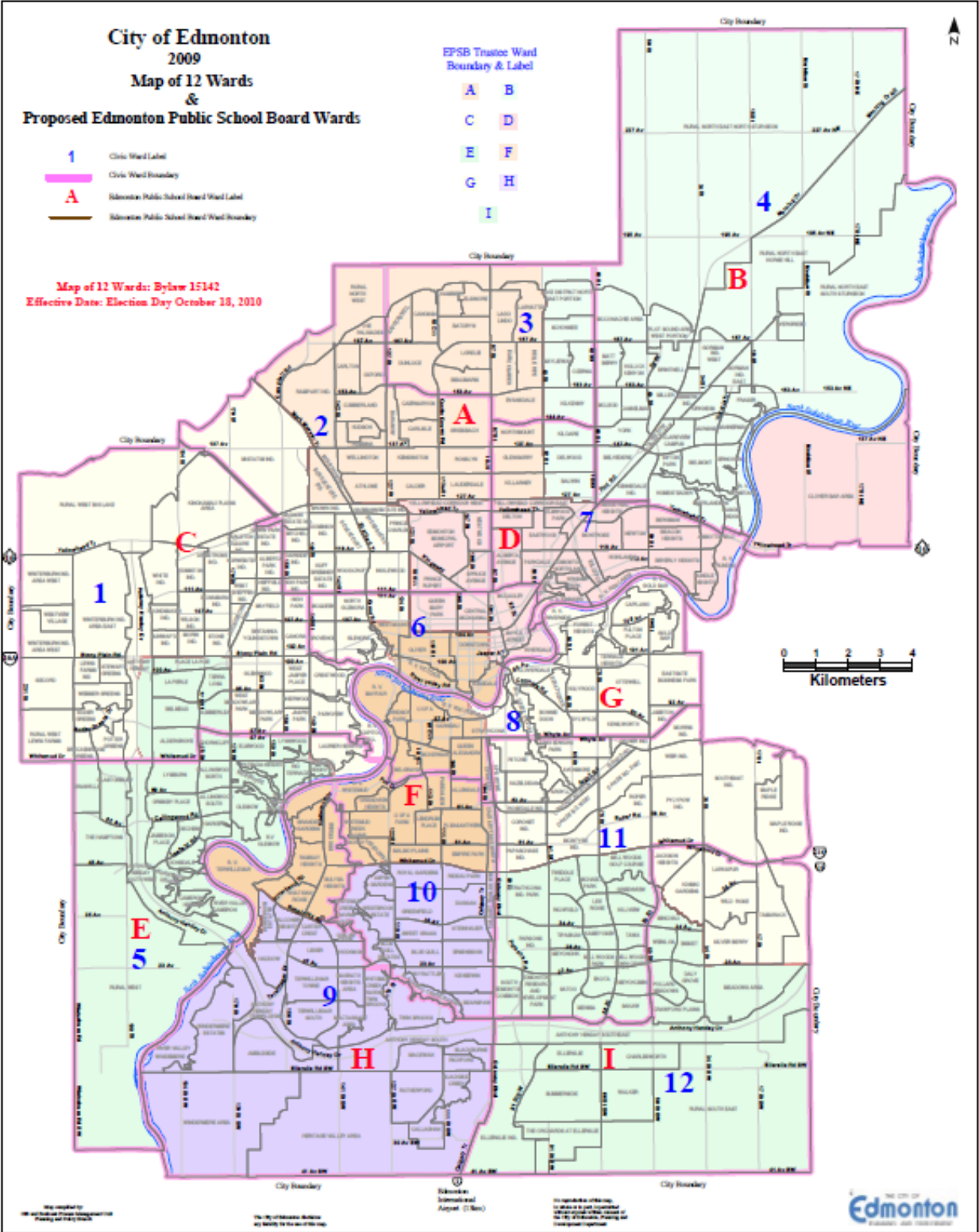
- APPENDIX I - Map of 12 City of Edmonton Ward Boundaries with Current EPSB Wards
- APPENDIX II - Map of 12 City of Edmonton Ward Boundaries with Proposed Realignment
- APPENDIX III - Map of Ward F with Proposed Realignment
- APPENDIX IV - Map of Ward H with Proposed Realignment

### Map of 12 City of Edmonton Ward Boundaries with Current Edmonton Public School Board Wards



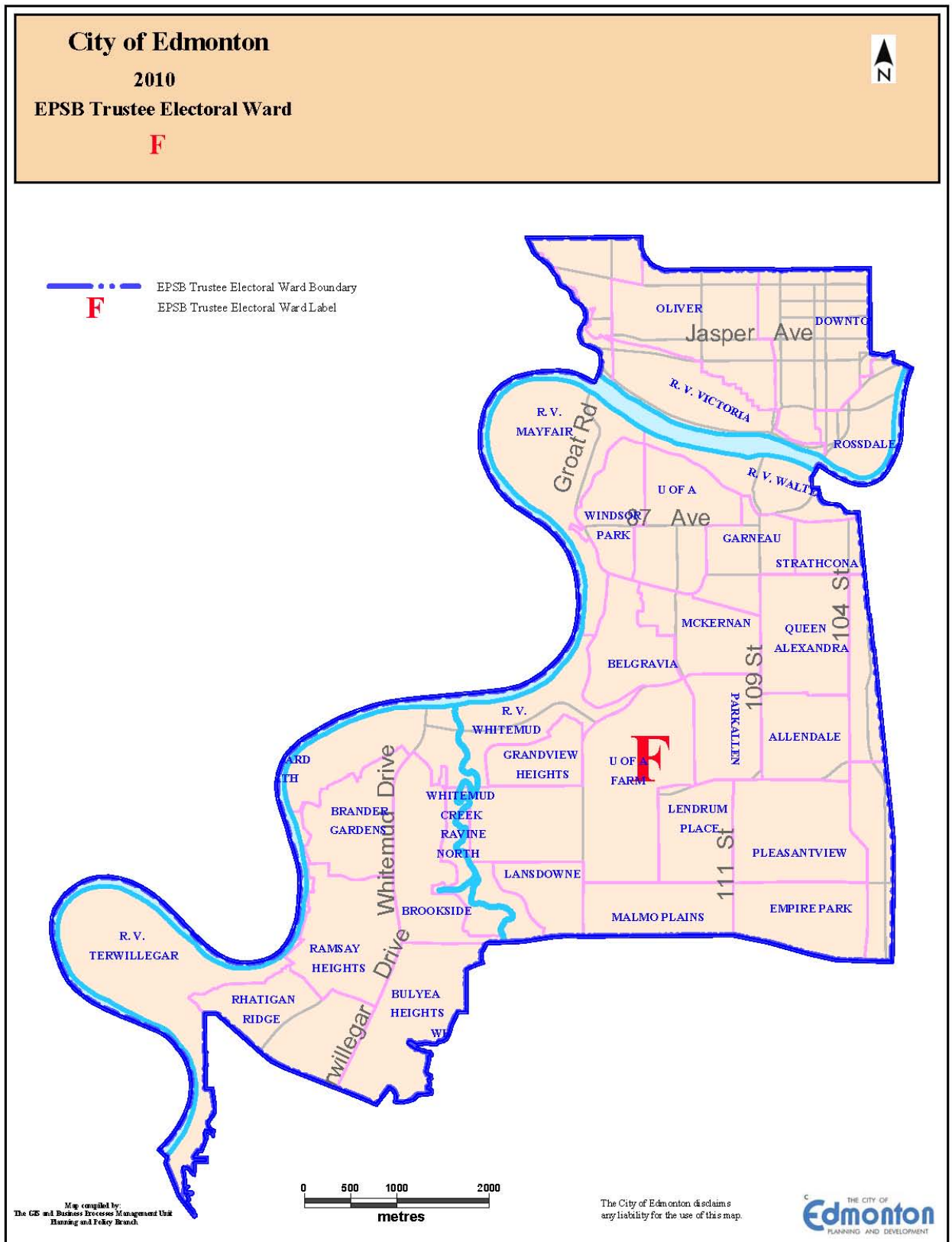


### Map of 12 City of Edmonton Ward Boundaries with the Proposed Realignment of Edmonton Public School Board Wards





Map of Ward F with Proposed Realignment



Map of Ward H with Proposed Realignment

