



**WEST HANTS**  
NOVA SCOTIA



# **Windsor-West Hants Governance Review**

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**Public Meeting Presentation**

# Region of Windsor and West Hants Act

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- Co-ordinating Committee
  - Appointed Co-Ordinator is Chair
  - Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Town of Windsor
  - Warden and Deputy Warden of the District of West Hants
- Co-Ordinator to apply for number of Councillors and district boundaries
- First election in March 2020
- Sit until October 2024 election

# Council Features

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- Mayor
  - Required by *Municipal Government Act*
  - Chair of Council
  - Must be elected at large
- Councillors
  - A minimum of three
  - No maximum number
  - Elected from separate districts
  - One councillor per district

# Governance Review Process

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## Phase 1 Council Size

... the desired style of Council, the governance structure of Council, and a determination of an effective and efficient **number of councillors** ... should not be decided ... until adequate **public consultation** has occurred.

## Phase 2 Boundary Review

... the task becomes one of **distributing the polling districts** to satisfy the objectives ... of the Act. Just as with determining the desired number of polling districts, **public consultation** is essential to a successful process of setting boundaries.





# Phase 1

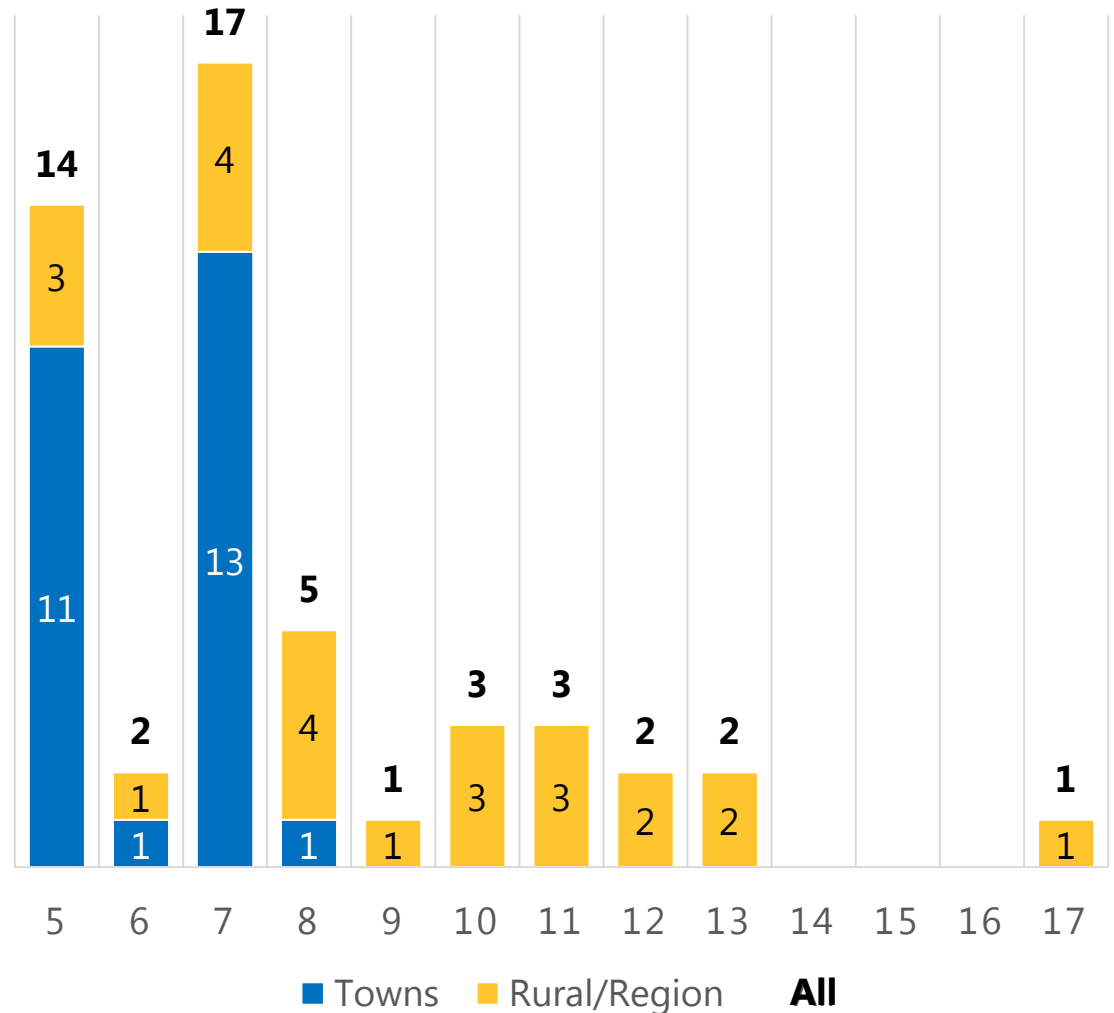
## Council Size

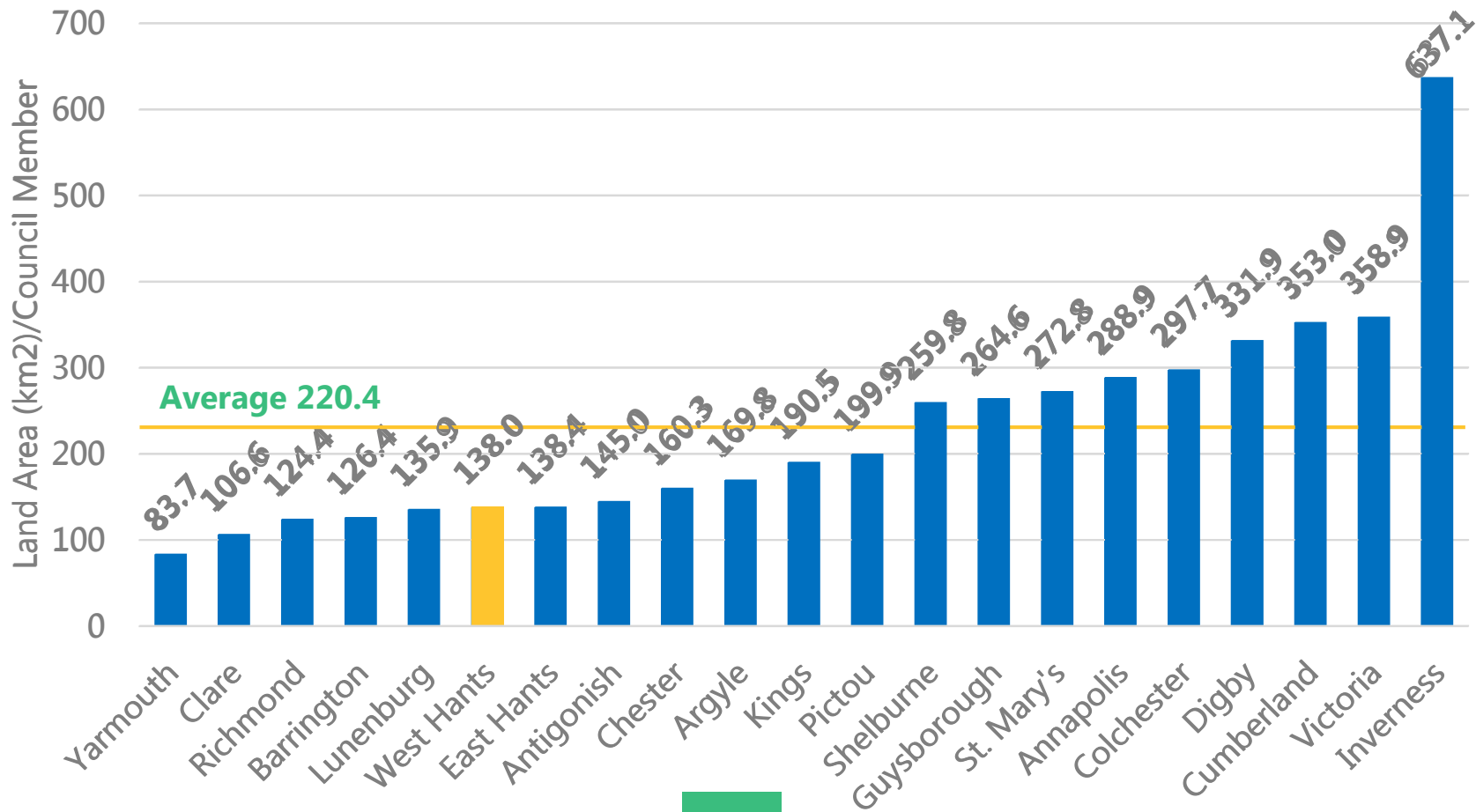
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1. Background Review
2. Council Size Benchmarking
3. Start-up Meeting
4. Council Size Online Survey
5. Council Size Consultation
6. Council Size Report

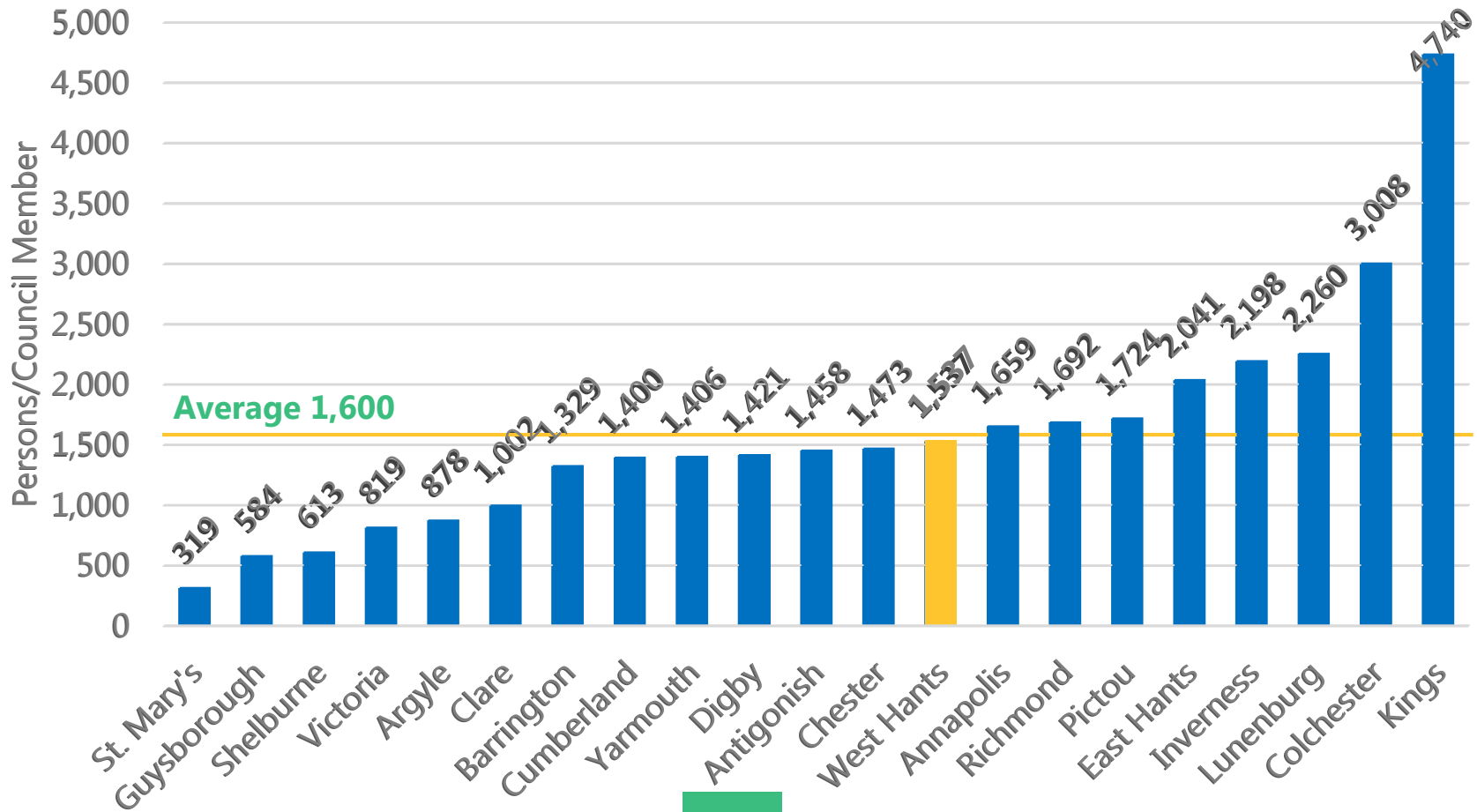
# Councils Compared

- **Largest Council**
  - HRM (17)
- **West Hants (10)**
  - Barrington & Richmond (5)
  - Cumberland (13)
- **Windsor (5)**
  - 24 towns have 5 or 7
  - Bridgewater (8)
- **12 of 50 are even-numbered**

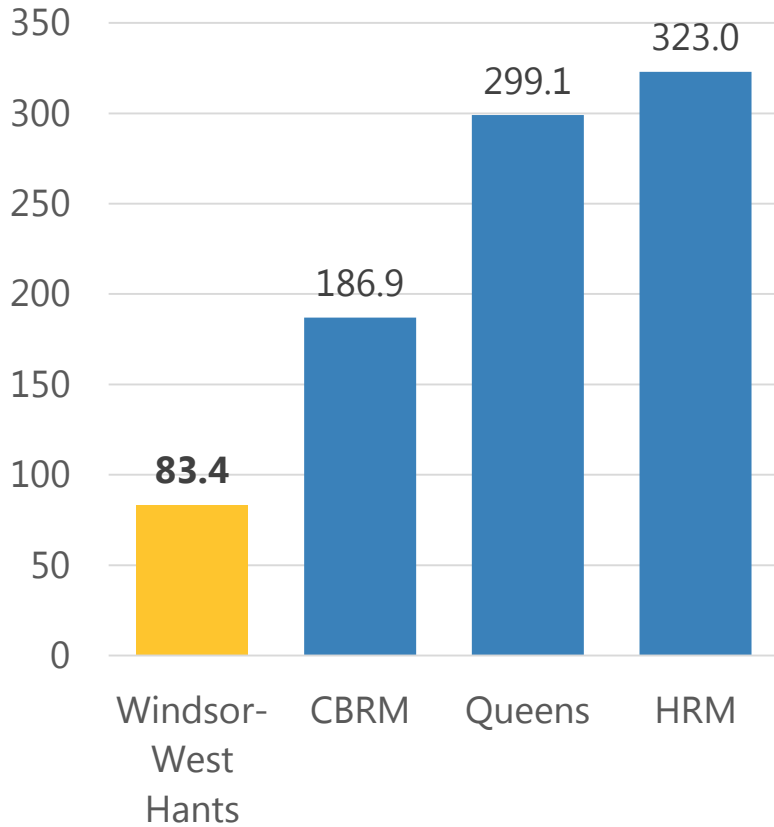




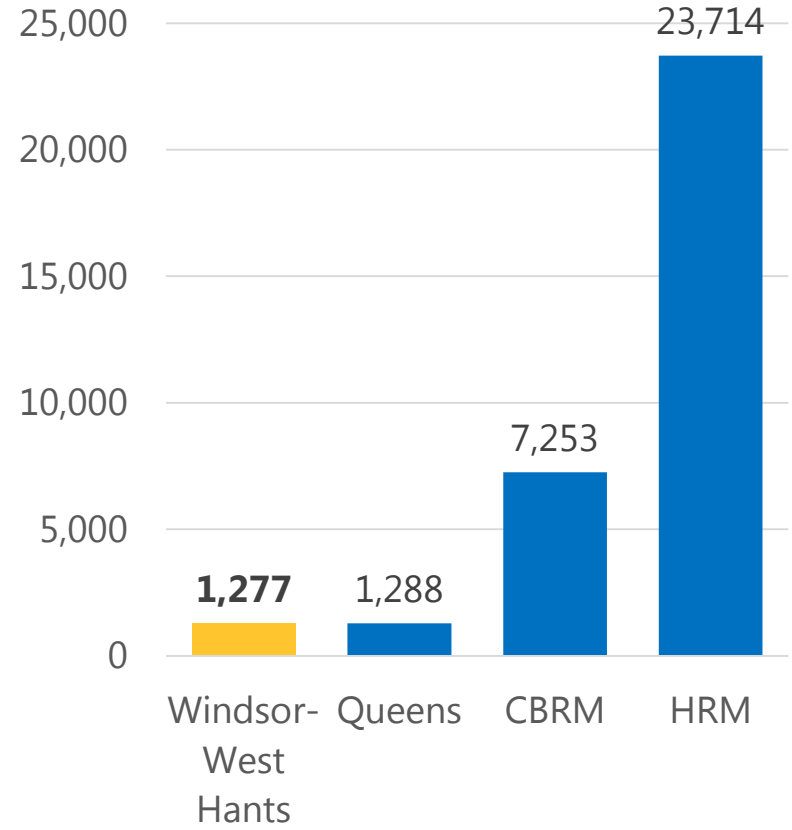




## Land Area (km<sup>2</sup>)

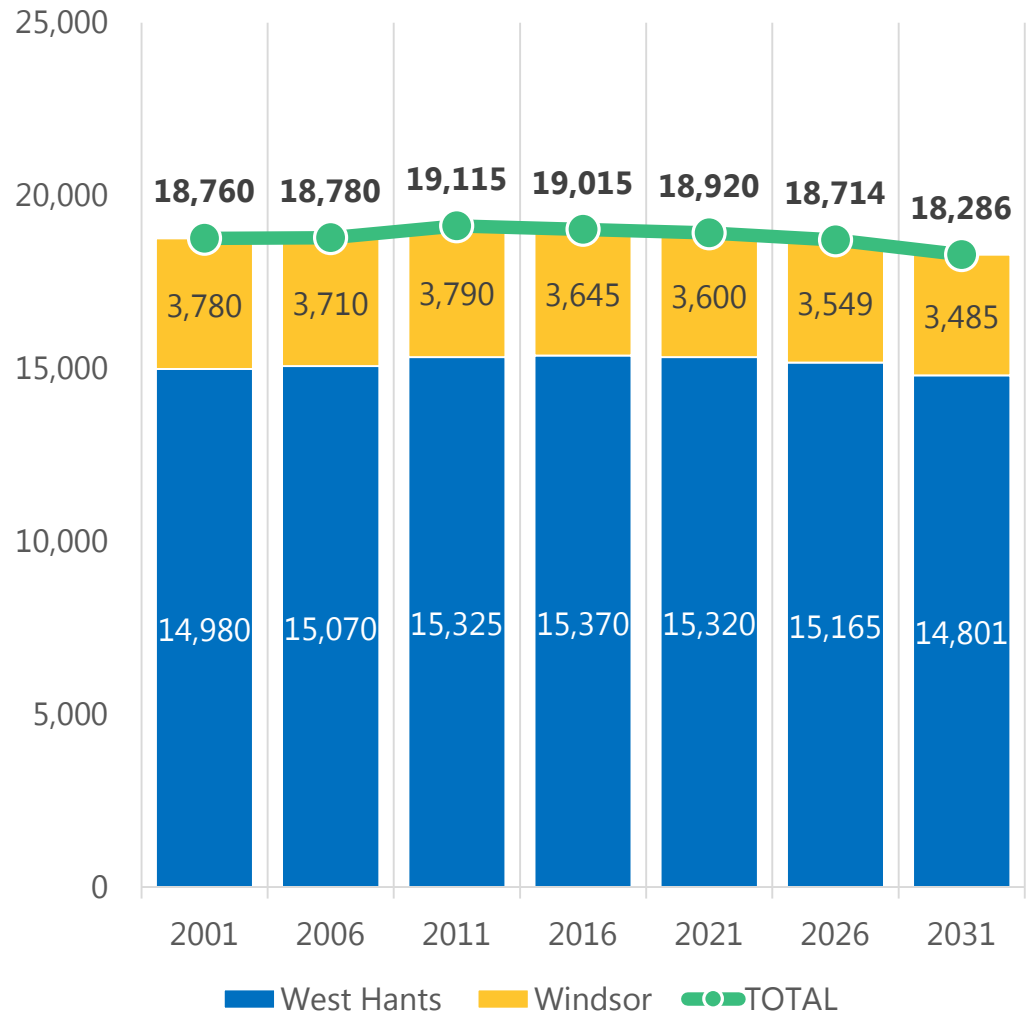


## Per capita



# Population Distribution

- **West Hants**
  - West Hants gained 390 residents (2.6%) between 2001 and 2016
  - Projected to decline by 569 (-3.7%) between 2016 and 2031
- **Windsor**
  - Windsor lost 135 (-3.6%) residents between 2001 and 2016
  - Projected to decline further by 160 (-4.3%) between 2016 and 2031





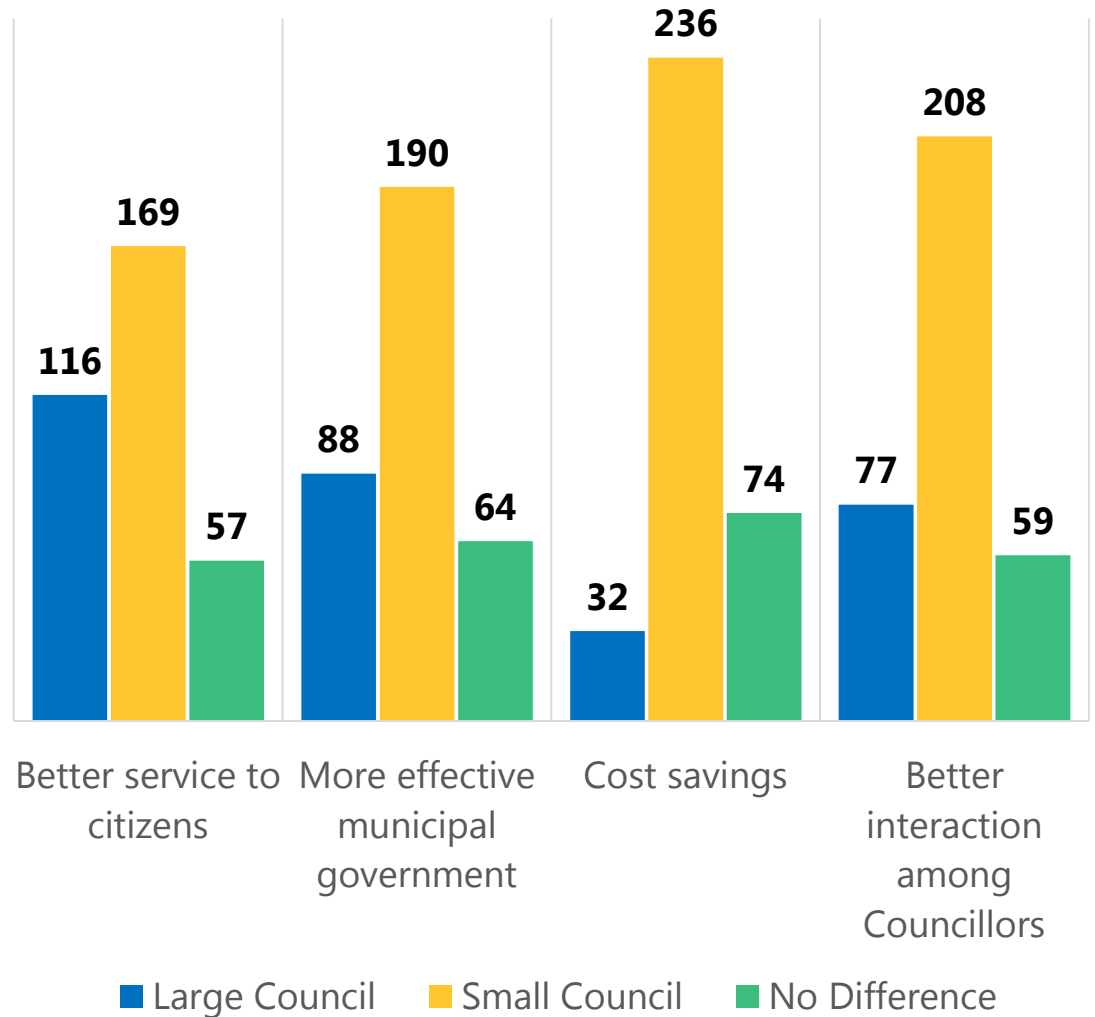
# Council Size

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- **Cost** – council stipends and benefits
- **Service** – responses to residents' needs and concerns
- **Interaction** – quality of debate and collaboration
- **Effectiveness** – quality of municipal management and decision-making

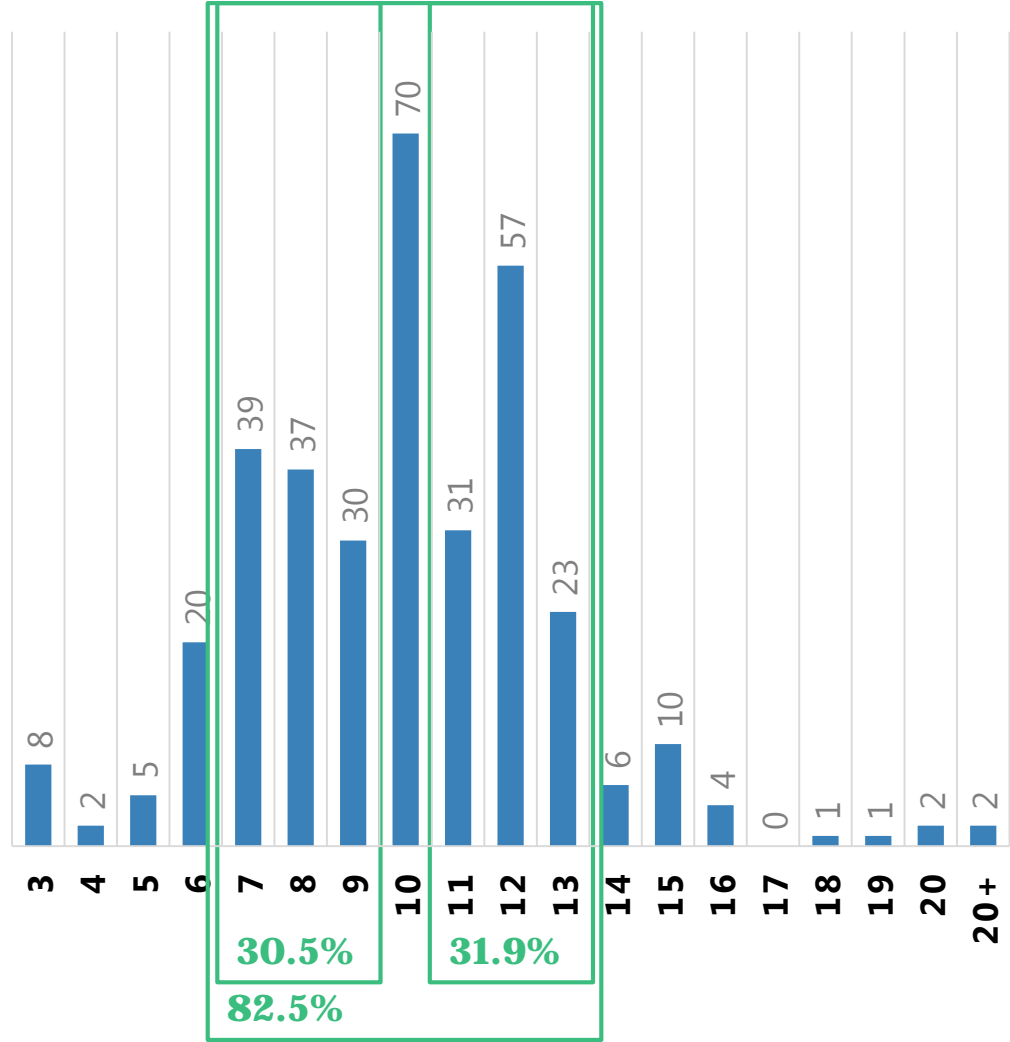
# Council Preferences\*

\* Results as of 2/7/2019

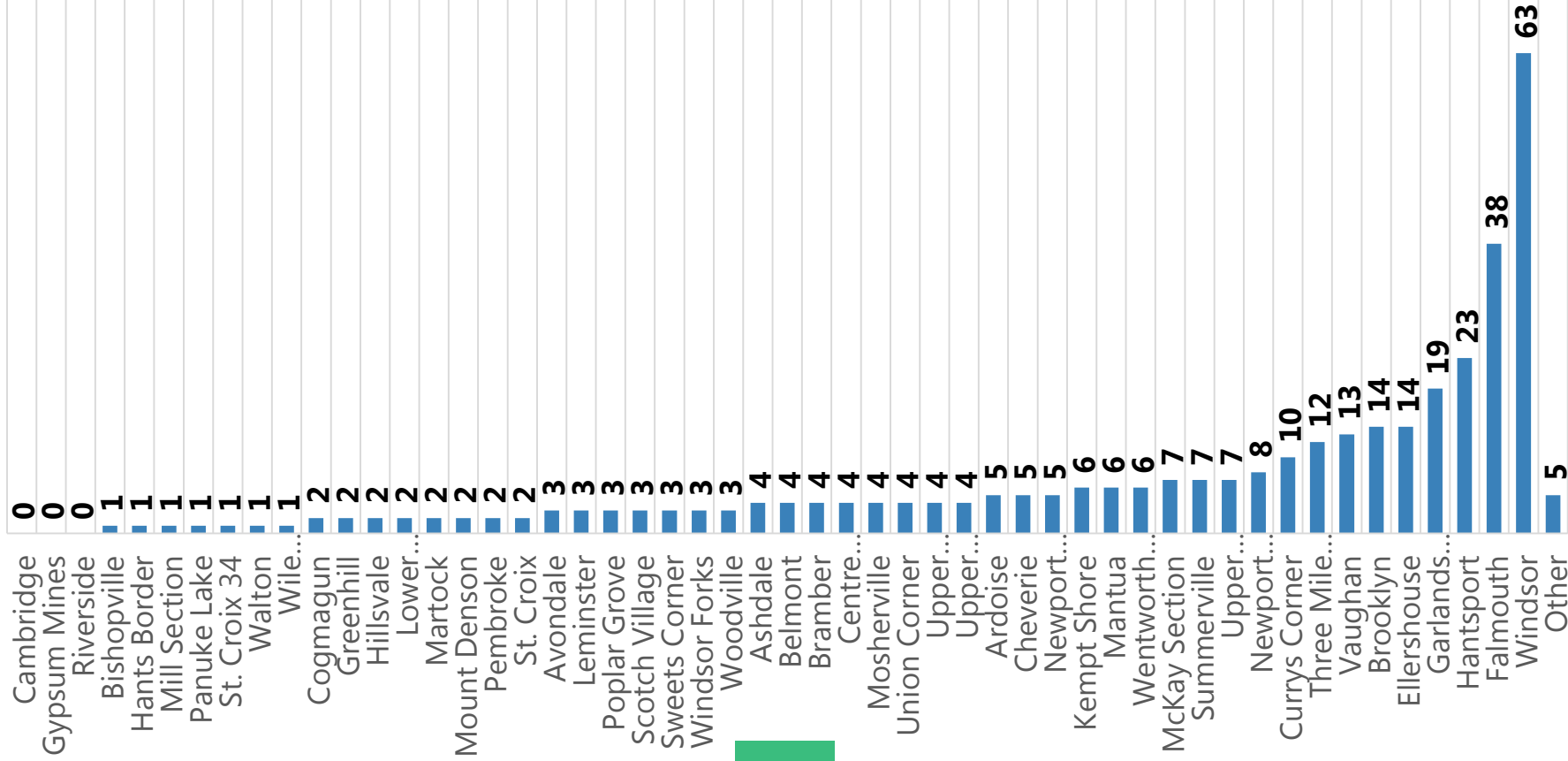


# Council Members\*

- **Leading Responses:**
  - 10 – 20.1%
  - 7 – 11.2%
  - 12 – 16.4%
- **Average Response: 10.0**



\* Results as of 2/7/2019



## Phase 2

# Boundary Review

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1. Assemble and Plot Enumeration Data
2. Create Boundary Scenarios
3. Electoral Boundary Online Survey
4. Boundary Scenario Consultation
5. Council Boundary Consultation
6. Council Consultation Presentation
7. Boundary Review Report
8. Report Presentation and Submission





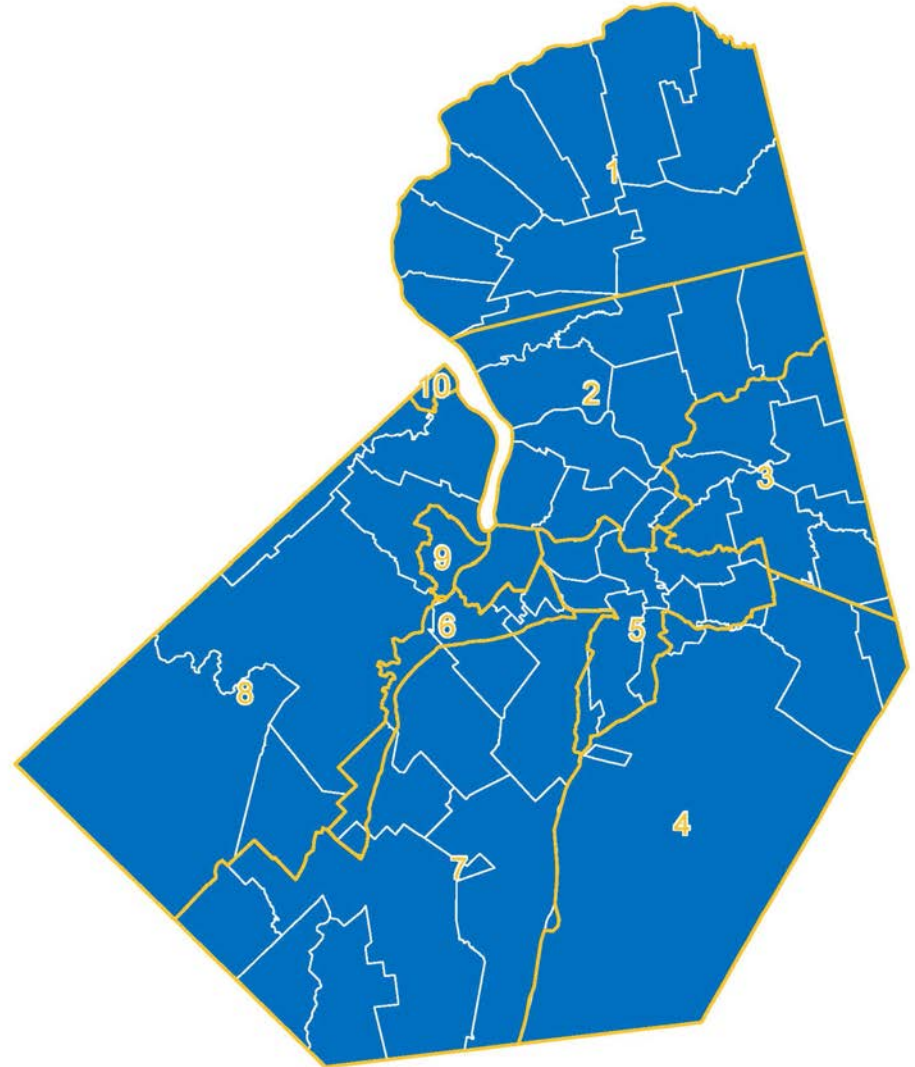
# Boundary Criteria

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- **Voter Parity** – within  $\pm 10\%$  of average of all districts
- **Community of Interest** – recognize distinct communities and maintain their integrity
- **Population and Area** – manageable population and territory
- **Contiguity** – a single area
- **Strong Recognizable Boundaries**

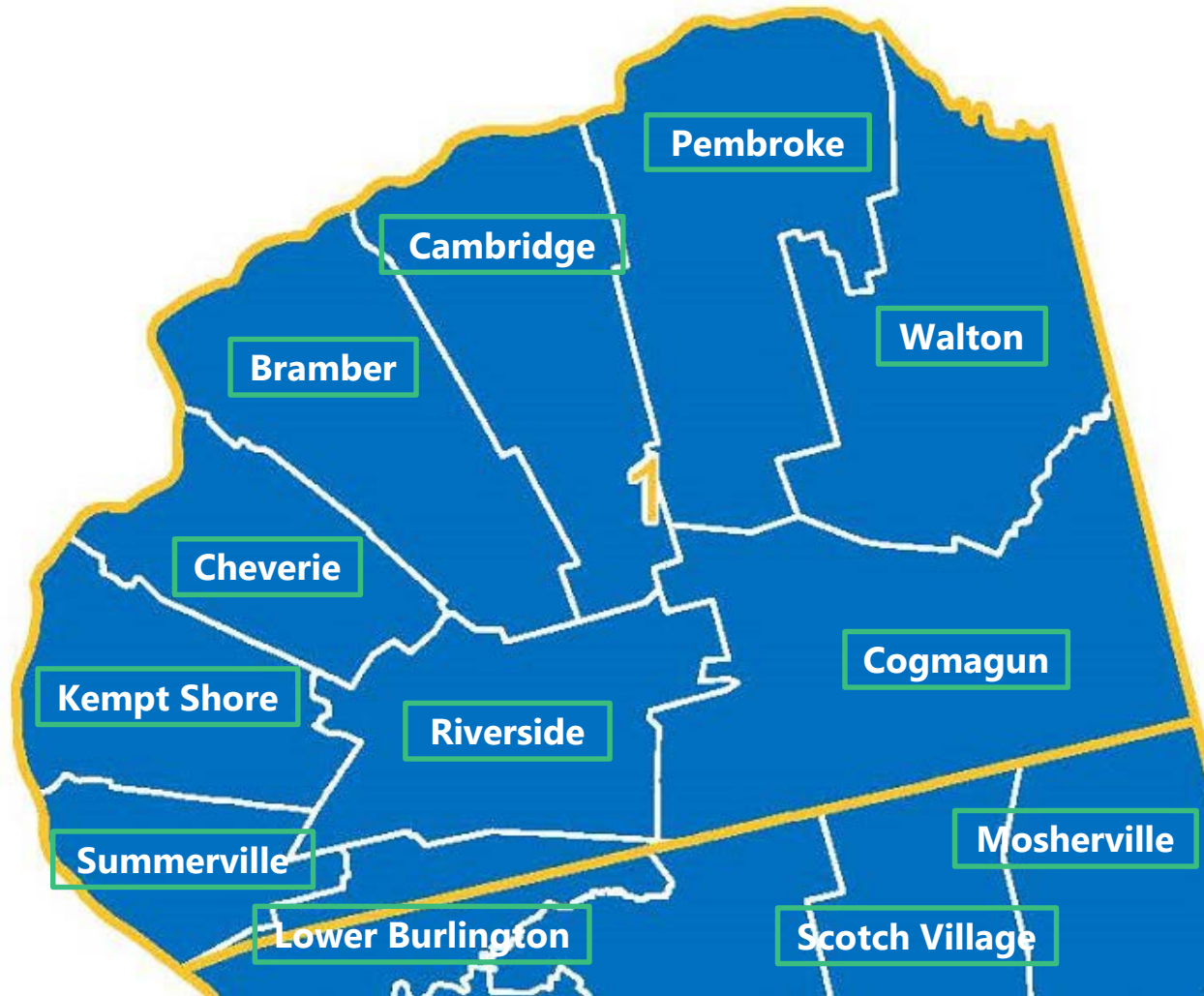
# Boundary Definition

- Starting Framework is NSCAF Community Boundaries
- Shift communities or community divisions to achieve voter parity
- Assess against Community of Interest, Land Area, Contiguity, and Boundary Recognition concerns
- Review with public/Council members



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# Contact us

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<https://www.strongerregion.ca/>



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