



**BLACK GOLD
REGIONAL
DIVISION NO. 18**

BACKGROUND

Electoral Ward Boundary Review

Release Date: March 23, 2015

Black Gold Regional Division No. 18 & Board of Trustees

Black Gold Regional Division No. 18 was established on August 25, 1994 by then Education Minister Halvar Johnson, and came into effect on January 1, 1995.

Black Gold Regional Division Board of Trustees is comprised of seven members.

- Beaumont (1 Trustee)
- County Central (1 Trustee)
- County East (1 Trustee)
- County West (1 Trustee)
- Devon (1 Trustee)
- Leduc (2 Trustees)

Role of the Board

As the corporate body elected by the electors that support Black Gold Regional Division No. 18, the Board of Trustees provide overall direction and leadership to the Division and is accountable for the provision of appropriate educational services and programs to resident students of the Division, in keeping with the requirements of government legislation and the values of the electorate.

Specific areas of responsibility include accountability for student learning, accountability to community, accountability to provincial government, advocacy, policy, Board/Superintendent relations, Board development, and fiscal accountability. For more details regarding the role of the Board and specific areas of responsibility please refer to [Becoming a School Trustee](#) document on BGRD's website.

About the Black Gold Regional Division No. 18 Electoral Ward Boundary Review

On September 17, 2014 the Board of Trustees adopted the following motion:

Trustee Koroll - That the Board authorizes the Superintendent to engage ASBA to conduct an electoral ward boundary review and make recommendations to the Board.

During the past 20 years there has been substantial population growth and development throughout the region.

Based on the 1993 census, the population of the region was approximately 35,089 residents; thus each trustee represented about 5,000 people. This ratio has shifted over the past 20 years. From 1994 to 2014 the population in our seven wards grew to 68,450 people.

Ward	Population 1993	Raw Population Voting Percentage	Population 2014	Raw Population Voting Percentage
Beaumont (1 Trustee)	5,564	15.8%	15,828	23.0%
County Central (1 Trustee)	5,475	15.6%	6,223	9.0%
County East (1 Trustee)	4,679	13.3%	6,714	9.8%
County West (1 Trustee)	4,292	12.0%	4,452	6.5%
Devon (1 Trustee)	4,068	11.5%	6,650	9.7%
Leduc (2 Trustees)	11,011	31.3%	28,583	41.7%
Total population	35,089	99.5%	68,450	99.7%

Why is this being done now?

School boards throughout the province are encouraged to review their structure, and it has been 20 years since the Division has undertaken such a review.

Who is responsible?

Mr. Brian Callaghan, Education Consultant, from the Alberta School Boards Association has been retained to review the matter and bring options to the Board for consideration.

How is it being conducted?

In guiding the Board's review, Alberta School Boards Association will follow the same methodology as our federal, provincial and municipal elected representatives:

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 +/- 25%. Therefore, if this rule is applied to the test under Section 262 (7) of the School Act, it follows that trustees should be represented in wards as per Section 262 and should represent approximately (+/- 25%) the same number of population as other trustees in the division.

Public meetings will be held on April 8, 2015 at Calmar Elementary School and April 16, 2015 at the Black Gold Regional Division No. 18 Office to present options and seek community input. As well, the review will be looking at census data to help them with their review.

Section 262 of the [School Act](#) sets out the process for how regional divisions may change their ward or electoral subdivision structure.

Should the Board vote at some future date on an option to change the existing boundaries, the changes would not take place until the next municipal election in October 2017.

It is estimated that the Ward Structure Review process should be completed by June 2015 and will bring forth recommendations and any necessary amendments under the current School Act.

Get involved

The Boundary Review includes a public involvement process that allows Council members, stakeholders and the public to express their opinions on the current ward boundary structure as well as on the options that will be proposed. There are several ways that you can provide input to the Ward Boundary Review, including:

- **Attend a public meeting.**

Wednesday, April 8, 2015 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Calmar Elementary School (Gymnasium) 5402 – 50 Street, Calmar, Alberta	Thursday, April 16, 2015 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Black Gold Regional Division No. 18 Office 5 th Floor, 1101 – 5 Street, Nisku, Alberta
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- **Provide your feedback or make inquiries by emailing:** ewbreview@blackgold.ca.
- **Stay Informed.** Check the BGRD's [website](#) for up-to-date information about the Ward Boundary Review.