

TO: CITY MANAGER

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

OUR FILE: 06.100

SUBJECT: BC ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

PURPOSE: To request that the BC Electoral Boundaries Commission reexamine the new electoral boundaries proposed for the City of Burnaby.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Mayor make a presentation to the B.C. Electoral Boundaries Commission at its public hearing in Burnaby on 1999 March 18 at the Executive Inn.
2. **THAT** the City's submission to the B.C. Electoral Boundaries Commission be based on section 3.0 of this report.
3. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to Burnaby's four Members of the Legislative Assembly, the City of Coquitlam, and the BC Electoral Boundaries Commission.

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND

The B.C. Electoral Boundaries Commission was established under the Electoral Boundaries Act which requires a review of the electoral district boundaries every second provincial election. The last changes to the provincial electoral boundaries occurred in 1989.

In July 1998, the City of Burnaby communicated with the B.C. Electoral District Boundaries Commission regarding the City's growth and population projections and desired electoral boundaries. In addition to a formal submission, staff met with the Commission's representatives to review detailed population figures and projections. On 1998 December 08, the Electoral Boundaries Commission submitted its draft report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. This report provides information on the draft report and recommends changes to the proposed electoral districts as outlined for Burnaby. Comments regarding the draft report must be submitted to the Commission by 1999 March 31.

2.0 PROPOSED ELECTORAL DISTRICTS FOR BURNABY

In its communications with the BC Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission, the City of Burnaby had requested four electoral districts, all contained within municipal boundaries and

organized around four quadrants with a town centre as the focus of each (see Figure 1, *attached*).

The Commission has outlined four electoral districts for Burnaby, three of which are wholly contained within Burnaby and one which includes a portion of Coquitlam (see Figure 2, *attached*). The Commission notes in the draft report that the electoral districts proposed by the City of Burnaby produced populations too low to be justified in Burnaby, given its urban density and growth rates.

As the proposed boundaries are not completely contained within Burnaby's borders, and do not reflect the four quadrant structure, there is a desire to reiterate to the Commission the feasibility of Burnaby's original proposal, as well as to suggest an alternative approach. *Of paramount importance to the City is that the four quadrant structure be reflected in the electoral districts.*

3.0 PROPOSED CHANGES TO BURNABY'S ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

3.1 Proposal #1: Four Districts within Burnaby

When Burnaby presented its case to the Commission in July, a number of factors were offered in support of four electoral districts being defined within Burnaby's municipal boundaries. As detailed in Burnaby's recently adopted Official Community Plan, Burnaby is organized around four quadrants with a town centre as the focus of each quadrant. Having four electoral districts within Burnaby and reflecting a similar organization would allow elected members of the provincial legislature to represent community values and concerns unique to these areas. Similarly, the electorate will more readily identify with and seek assistance from MLAs who are able to focus on the issues and concerns of one community. In addition, it is felt that this structure would assist in the coordination of municipal and provincial initiatives, as well as allow for collaboration among MLAs on municipal-wide initiatives.

It is recognized that the Commission's work is based on, above all else, the principle of representation by population (with no electoral district having greater than a 25 percent deviation from the electoral quota), and supported by the principles of preserving regional representation; respecting historic and geographic regions; minimizing changes to electoral boundaries wherever possible; keeping the deviations from the electoral quota of electoral districts within a region to a similar range; making use of existing jurisdictional boundaries; aligning electoral boundaries with municipal boundaries; proposing districts which would remain within the statutory limit of a 25 percent deviation from the electoral quota until the next

boundary review (in eight to ten years); correcting anomalies created by the present boundaries and considering the impact on the affiliations of First Nations.

It is felt that Burnaby's proposal to create four electoral districts within the municipal boundaries meets these criteria. Burnaby's proposal would result in the following electoral district populations:

<i>Boundaries Proposed by Burnaby</i>	<i>1996 Population (1996 Census)</i>	<i>% Deviation from Electoral Quota (47,146)</i>	<i>2006 Population (Estimated)</i>	<i>% Deviation from 1998 Electoral Quota (47,146)</i>
<i>Burnaby-Brentwood</i>	46,515	-1.3	54,800	16.2
<i>Burnaby-Lougheed</i>	43,305	-8.2	50,800	7.8
<i>Burnaby-Metrotown</i>	45,655	-3.2	50,200	6.5
<i>Burnaby-Edmonds</i>	43,690	-7.3	61,200	29.8

Despite the negative values associated with the 1996 deviation from the electoral quota, these still fall within the range of deviations for the proposed electoral districts in the Lower Mainland, the lowest being -8.4% for Surrey Newton and the highest being +13.6% for Vancouver-Hastings.

As is the case with Surrey, whose electoral boundaries proposed by the Commission also have negative deviations, Burnaby is experiencing levels of growth which will bring all the proposed electoral districts to positive deviations within the next ten years, thereby abating the need to redraw the boundaries at the next review stage some eight to ten years hence. (At most, depending upon actual rates of growth in the various town centres, slight adjustments to the boundaries would keep all four districts within the permitted 25% deviation, using the 1998 electoral quota of 47,146, while maintaining the four quadrant structure.) Further, the Commission has stated that it uses municipal boundaries wherever possible, recognizing that dealings with other levels of government and other communities are facilitated when residents only have to work with one M.L.A. Jurisdictional consistency and effective representation are thus significantly enhanced, as citizens would be able to deal with similar boundaries when dealing with their neighbourhood issues, municipal planning areas, and elected officials.

3.2 Proposal #2: Modified Four Quadrant

An alternative approach is also being proposed which may address both the City of Burnaby and the BC Electoral Boundaries Commission's concerns. While the City prefers the approach as outlined in Section 3.1 of this report, an alternative approach which includes portions of Coquitlam while respecting the four quadrant structure is outlined here.

The modified four quadrant structure (see Figure 3, *attached*) includes portions of Coquitlam with the northeast quadrant, logically including the Coquitlam census tracts near the Lougheed Town Centre. This results in the following population counts:

<i>Boundaries Proposed by Burnaby</i>	<i>1996 Population (1996 Census)</i>	<i>% Deviation from Electoral Quota (47,146)</i>
<i>Burnaby-Brentwood</i>	50,999	+8.2
<i>Burquitlam</i>	48,380	+2.6
<i>Burnaby-Metrotown</i>	48,440	+2.7
<i>Burnaby-Edmonds</i>	49,906	+5.9

The 1996 figures are well within the range of deviations for electoral districts in the Lower Mainland. The Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody electoral districts (which this proposal would impact), would also remain well within the range of deviations (averaging +7.9% per district).

Furthermore, this proposal maintains the four quadrants with a town centre as the focus of each quadrant. In the boundaries proposed in the Commission's draft report, the Edmonds Town Centre area is divided between two electoral areas. It is desirable that each town centre be associated with one elected member of the provincial legislature, who can represent community values and concerns unique to these areas. The electorate will more readily identify with and seek assistance from MLAs who are able to focus on the issues and concerns of one community.

The 2006 population estimates for the modified four quadrant proposal indicate that some boundary revision would be necessary at the next electoral boundaries review some eight to ten years hence. Based on the growth projections embodied within our Official Community Plan, it is anticipated that at the next electoral boundaries review, Burnaby's population will accommodate four electoral districts within its

municipal boundaries. The Coquitlam areas included in this modified four quadrant proposal, as well as in the Commission's proposed electoral areas, would therefore be excluded. A slight adjustment of the boundaries within Burnaby, as shown on Figure 4, *attached*, would bring all four electoral districts to within the permitted 25% deviation, as outlined below:

<i>Boundaries Proposed by Burnaby</i>	<i>2006 Population (Estimated)</i>	<i>% Deviation from 1998 Electoral Quota (47,146)</i>
<i>Burnaby-Brentwood</i>	49,913	5.9%
<i>Burnaby-Longheed</i>	54,670	16.0%
<i>Burnaby-Metrotown</i>	57,354	21.7%
<i>Burnaby-Edmonds</i>	55,443	17.6%

A similar boundary adjustment would be necessitated by the boundaries put forth by the Commission. Using available population estimates, the projected 2006 populations for the electoral areas as defined by the Commission generate extremely large deviations, as shown below:

<i>Boundaries Proposed by the BC Electoral Boundaries Commission</i>	<i>1996 Population (1996 Census)</i>	<i>% Deviation from Electoral Quota (47,146)</i>	<i>2006 Population (Estimated)</i>	<i>% Deviation from 1998 Electoral Quota (47,146)</i>
<i>Burnaby-North</i>	51,570	+9.4	59,100	25.4%
<i>Burquitlam</i>	49,870	+5.8	84,154	78.5%
<i>Burnaby-Willingdon</i>	50,300	+6.7	67,012	42.1%
<i>Burnaby-South</i>	49,160	+4.3	58,449	24.0%

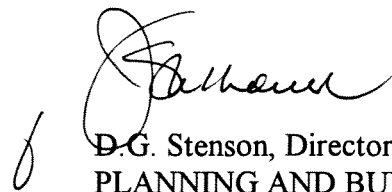
4.0 CONCLUSION

The B.C. Electoral Boundaries Commission has submitted its draft report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly on 1998 December 08. Comments regarding the draft report must be submitted to the Commission by 1999 March 31.

As the electoral district boundaries proposed for Burnaby are not completely contained within Burnaby's borders, and do not reflect the four quadrant structure, it is desirable to

convey to the Commission alternative approaches as outlined in Section 3.0 of this report, and to emphasize the importance to the City that the four quadrants be reflected in the final electoral district boundaries.

It is recommended that the City of Burnaby make a presentation to the B.C. Electoral Boundaries Commission at its public hearing in Burnaby on 1999 March 18 at the Executive Inn.


D.G. Stenson, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

KSF

cc. City Clerk
City Solicitor
MLAs for Burnaby

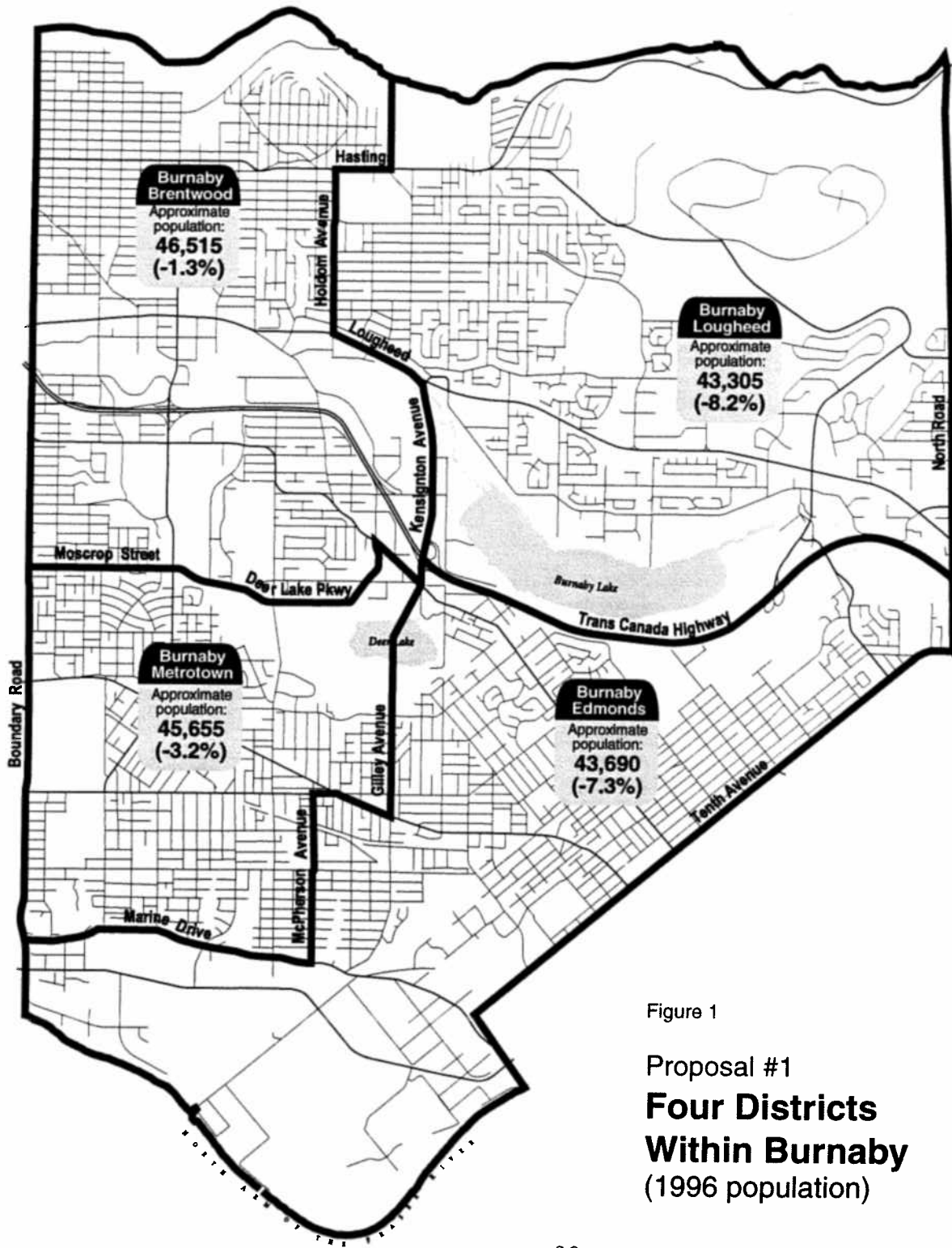


Figure 1

Proposal #1
**Four Districts
 Within Burnaby**
 (1996 population)



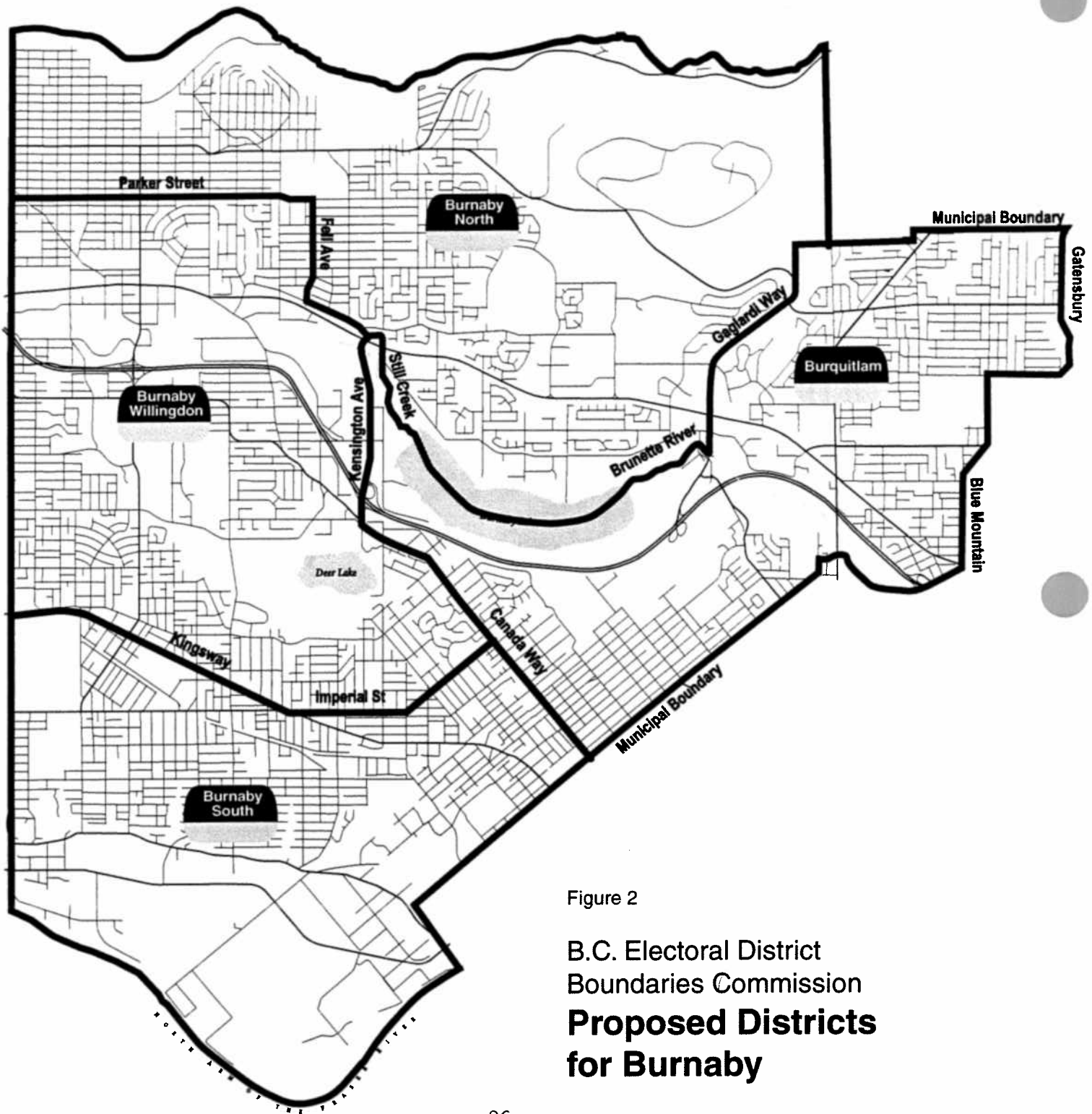
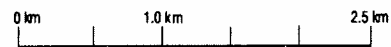
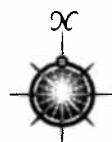


Figure 2
 B.C. Electoral District
 Boundaries Commission
**Proposed Districts
 for Burnaby**



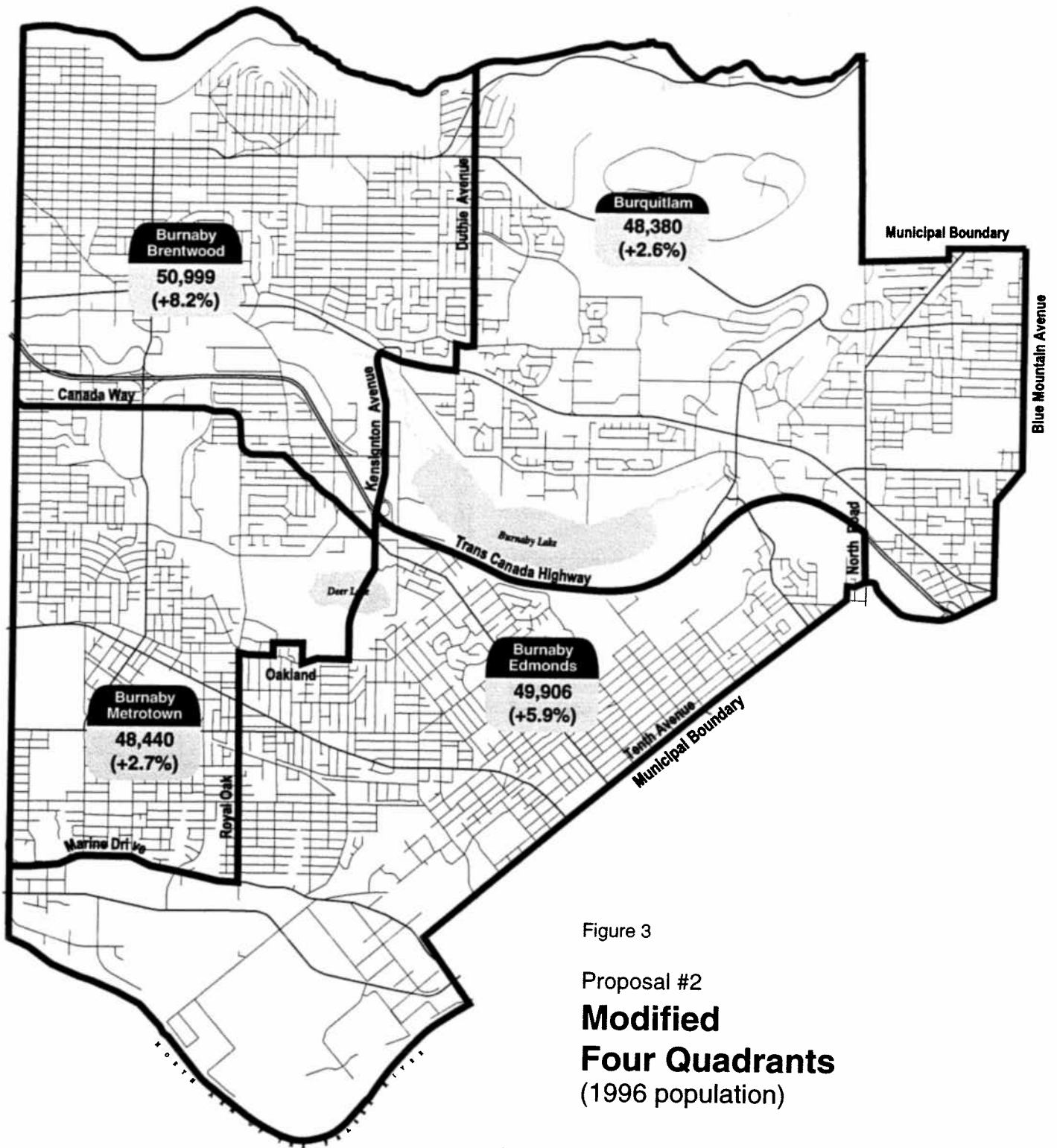
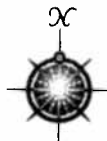


Figure 3

Proposal #2

**Modified
Four Quadrants**
(1996 population)



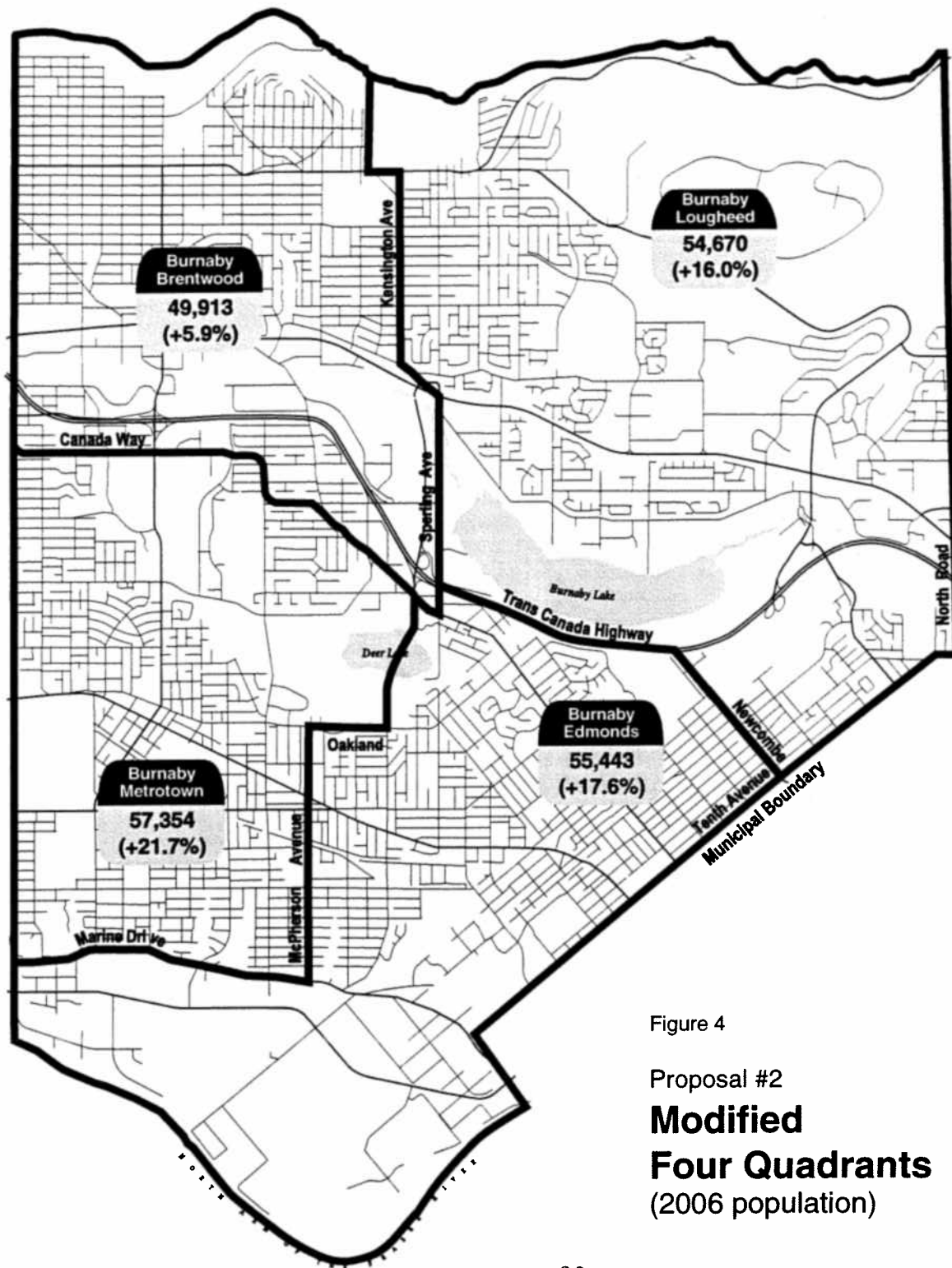


Figure 4

Proposal #2

**Modified
Four Quadrants**
(2006 population)

