Timeline for the Redistribution of Federal Electoral Districts

Below you will find the main steps of the redistribution of federal electoral districts as legislated by the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act* (the Act). The process is set to begin in February 2012 when Statistics Canada releases the population numbers from the 2011 Census. Please note that the expected timeline does not account for possible extensions.

PRELIMINARY STEPS			
Steps	**Summary and references to EBRA**	**EBRA deadline**	**Expected timeline for this redistribution**
1. Allocation of seats	*(section 12.1)* The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) receives the population estimates from the Chief Statistician.	–	December 16, 2011
	(section 14) The CEO calculates the number of seats allocated to each province using the population estimates and a formula found in the Constitution. The results are published in the *Canada Gazette*.	As soon as possible after receipt of the population estimates	December 16, 2011
2. Publication of census data	*(section 13)* The Chief Statistician releases the census population numbers broken down by electoral district. This data is provided to the CEO and the Minister designated for the purpose of the Act.	–	February 8, 2012
3. Establishment of commissions	*(sections 3 to 8)* A three-member commission is established in each province by the Governor in Council and a notice to that effect is published in the *Canada Gazette*. The chair of each commission is	Within 60 days after publication of the census data	No later than April 8, 2012

	appointed by the provincial chief justice while members are appointed by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Each commission receives the census population numbers for its province from the CEO.		

REDISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL ELECTORAL DISTRICTS **Each commission works separately to determine the electoral boundaries within its province.**			
Steps	**Summary and references to EBRA**	**EBRA deadline**	**Expected timeline for this redistribution**
4. Publication of commission proposals	*(section 19)* Each commission develops a boundaries proposal for its province. It is published in the *Canada Gazette* and at least one newspaper of general circulation and includes the time and place of public hearings.	–	–
5. Public hearings	*(section 19)* Each commission must hold at least one public hearing.	At least 30 days after the publication of its proposal	–
	(section 19) Members of the public notify the commission if they want to appear at a public hearing. MPs may also make presentations at these hearings.	Within 23 days after the proposal is published	–
6. Completion of the report	*(section 20)* Each commission finalizes its report on the new electoral	No later than 10 months after the commission	No later than February 8, 2013

	districts. *(section 21)* The report is sent to the Speaker of the House of Commons, through the CEO, where it is tabled and referred to a designated parliamentary committee. Note: If Parliament is not in session when the Speaker receives the report, the Speaker is required to publish the report in the *Canada Gazette* and send it by mail to each member of the House of Commons for that province.	received the census data The CEO may grant a two-month extension	assuming that a commission has not requested additional time
7. Objections from MPs	*(section 22)* Written objections to a report may be filed with the designated parliamentary committee. They must be signed by at least 10 MPs.	Within 30 days after publication in the *Canada Gazette*	No later than March 10, 2013
	(section 22) The parliamentary committee considers the objections. The report is then returned to the commission, through the CEO, with a copy of the objections and the minutes of the committee.	Within 30 days after expiration of date for objections The committee may request additional time.	No later than April 9, 2013 assuming that Parliament is sitting and the committee has not requested additional time
8. Commissions consider objections	*(section 23)* The commission decides whether to modify the boundaries or district names before submitting its final report to the Speaker of the House of Commons through the CEO.	Within 30 days after receipt of the objections from MPs	No later than May 9, 2013

9. Representation order	*(section 24)* The CEO drafts the representation order, which describes the electoral districts established by the commissions, and sends it to the Leader of Government in the House of Commons.	–	September 2013 assuming there were no extensions
	(section 25) The new representation order is proclaimed by the Governor in Council ...	Within five days of receipt	September 2013
	(section 26) ... and published in the *Canada Gazette*.	Within five days of proclamation	September 2013

ELECTION READINESS			
Steps	**Summary and references to EBRA**	**EBRA deadline**	**Expected timeline for this redistribution**
10. Boundaries in effect	*(section 25)* The new boundaries can only be applied at a general election called at least seven months after the representation order is proclaimed. This time allows Elections Canada, political parties, candidates and sitting MPs to prepare for the next general election (i.e. hire or reappoint returning officers; adjust the National Register of Electors; reorganize electoral district associations).	Seven months after the new representation order is proclaimed	–