

A photograph of a fishing boat on a calm river. The boat is white with a red stripe and is positioned in the center of the frame. The river is dark and reflects the boat. The background is a dense forest of evergreen trees, with a large mountain peak visible in the distance under a hazy sky. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Part 3 – Proposed Single Member Plurality Boundaries

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A. The North

1. Our analysis of the North’s electoral districts

The area we describe as the North region currently has eight electoral districts. In our *Preliminary Report*, we proposed that the number of electoral districts be reduced from eight to seven.

In this report, we continue to propose seven electoral districts (see Maps 1–8). However, we propose amendments to the boundaries of:

- Northland, which is now called Peace River North;
- Peace River, which is now called Peace River South;
- Prince George and Fraser–Fort George districts, which are now called Prince George–Mackenzie and Prince George–Valemount;
- Skeena-Stikine; and
- North Coast.

North Coast

For the reasons set out in our *Preliminary Report* (pages 77–78), we continue to recognize that the current North Coast electoral district is an exceedingly difficult geographical area to represent. It has a very small population for an electoral district, with no way to increase its population other than by encroaching into Terrace.

We continue to hold the view that the current North Coast district (see Map 2) should remain largely intact, subject to several boundary adjustments. We proposed in our *Preliminary Report* that:

- Stewart and the Nisga’a Nation communities in the Nass Valley should be included in the same electoral district as Terrace; and

- the North Coast district should be extended farther south to include the remainder of the Central Coast Regional District.

We also propose that Alice Arm and Kitsault be included in the same electoral district as Terrace, given their road connection to Terrace.

Based on 83 electoral districts, North Coast will have a deviation of minus 53.3 percent. For the reasons discussed in our *Preliminary Report*, we are satisfied that very special circumstances exist.

The Peace

Given this area’s sparse population and physical separation from the remainder of the North, we continue to believe that two electoral districts are necessary to ensure effective representation (see *Preliminary Report*, pages 78 and 79).

In our *Preliminary Report*, we proposed that our Northland district extend westward to the Alaska Panhandle and include the communities of Lower Post and Atlin. However, oral presentations and written submissions have persuaded us that these two small communities have stronger provincial community ties along Highway 37 to the south (see the Central North, which follows). Consequently, we propose that the western boundary of the more northerly Peace electoral district follow the boundaries of the Northern Rockies and Peace River regional districts.

In our *Preliminary Report*, we proposed a relatively compact southern electoral district that included Fort St. John, Taylor, Dawson Creek, Pouce Coupé and Tumbler Ridge. The remaining communities of Chetwynd, Hudson’s Hope, Fort Nelson and other Alaska Highway communities constituted a much larger, more sparsely populated district to the north.

We have since considered several other scenarios for dividing the Peace region into two electoral districts. We could have restored the current boundary, placing all of Fort St. John and Hudson’s Hope in the northern district, but separating Fort St. John from its neighbour, Taylor. Or we could have balanced the population by splitting Fort St. John between both electoral districts.

We took several important factors into account:

- The more sparsely populated northern district should, all things considered, have the smaller population.
- Fort St. John (pop. 17,402) is the largest community in the Peace. Including it in the northern district results in the northern district having an anomalously high population.
- Leaving Fort St. John out of the northern district gives the northern district a troublingly high negative deviation.
- We believe that municipal boundaries reflect important community interests and for that reason we try to avoid dividing small communities between two electoral districts.
- Fort St. John and its neighbour, Taylor, should be in the same electoral district.
- The dividing line between the north and south Peace has traditionally been the Peace River.

We ultimately decided that because of community interests and transportation and communication considerations, Fort St. John, Taylor and Hudson’s Hope should all be in the same northern electoral district. Including them in the southern district would have left the northern district with an unacceptably low population, but including them all in the

northern district gives that more sparsely populated district, paradoxically, a higher population than the southern district.

We propose that the Peace River again serve as the dividing line between the two electoral districts, except that the boundary now diverts south of the river around Hudson’s Hope, to include all of that municipality in our proposed Peace River North electoral district. Although the northern district has a larger population, we are satisfied that its residents can receive effective representation, because 73 percent of them live in or close to Fort St. John and Taylor.

These two electoral districts, which we propose be named Peace River North and Peace River South (see Maps 7 and 8), will have deviations of minus 22.4 percent and minus 47.7 percent, respectively. Given the physical configuration of communities in these two districts and the priority we attach to grouping together towns that have long standing and strong community ties, we are satisfied that very special circumstances exist, warranting Peace River South’s high negative deviation.

The Central North

In our *Preliminary Report*, we concluded that Prince George (pop. 70,981), currently divided among three electoral districts, is too large for one electoral district but not large enough for two. We decided that the Fraser–Fort George Regional District boundary should be used as the outer perimeter for two Prince George–based districts. We opted for one district wholly within the city and a second district encompassing the remainder of the regional district.

Some of the people who spoke at the public hearing in Prince George and others who filed written submissions told us there were benefits to combining urban and rural components in electoral districts. Some others called for the continuation of three Prince George–based electoral districts.

For the reasons stated in our *Preliminary Report* (pages

80–82), we maintain that the Fraser–Fort George Regional District (which also defines Prince George School District #57) is an appropriate geographical area for two Prince George–based electoral districts. However, we now propose that the two electoral districts combine parts of the city with adjoining rural areas, using highways 97 and 16 as the principal divider. The more northerly district, which we propose be named Prince George–Mackenzie (see Map 5), would include Mackenzie and the southern half of Williston Lake, but would be significantly smaller than the current Prince George North electoral district. The more southerly district, which we propose be named Prince George–Valemount (see Map 6), would extend southeasterly to include McBride and Valemount and would be similar in size and shape to the current Prince George–Mount Robson electoral district.

These two districts will have deviations of minus 8.4 percent and minus 5.4 percent, respectively. In our view, such modest negative deviations are appropriate, given that approximately 87 percent of the population of each district lives in the very compact and accessible City of Prince George or nearby communities.

The remaining area of the North stretches from Terrace in the west to Vanderhoof in the east. As discussed earlier, we propose that the northern communities of Atlin and Lower Post be included in this area, given the stronger provincial community ties along Highway 37 to the south. This area has a population of 77,069.

In our *Preliminary Report* (page 82), we proposed that this area be divided into two electoral districts – Skeena-Stikine and Bulkley-Nechako

We continue to propose that this area should be divided into the two electoral districts described in our *Preliminary Report*, subject to amendments that would see Atlin, Lower Post, Alice Arm and Kitsault included in our proposed Skeena-Stikine electoral district. With this amendment, our

proposed Skeena-Stikine and Bulkley-Nechako electoral districts (see Maps 3 and 4) will have deviations of minus 21.7 percent and minus 22.8 percent, respectively.

We recognize that our proposed Skeena-Stikine electoral district, a geographically vast area covering 223,607 sq. km., will be the largest electoral district in the province. It will be a challenge, as it has always been, for the MLA to visit constituents in the small communities along Highway 37 and in the two far north communities of Lower Post and Atlin. However, as we noted in our *Preliminary Report* (pages 79–80), recent technological innovations make electronic communication much easier when inclement weather precludes face-to-face meetings.

The great majority of this district’s population (approximately 86 percent) live along or within 10 km. of a 230-km. stretch of highways 37 and 16, between Kitimat and Moricetown.

Our proposed Bulkley-Nechako electoral district is almost identical in configuration to the Bulkley-Nechako Regional District. We do not suggest any amendments to the boundaries proposed in our *Preliminary Report*. Approximately 91 percent of the population lives along or within 10 km. of the combined 390-km. stretch along Highway 16 (between Smithers and Vanderhoof), Highway 118 (to Granisle) and Highway 27 (to Fort St. James).

For these reasons, we propose the two electoral districts of Skeena-Stikine and Bulkley-Nechako.

2. Conclusion

We propose seven electoral districts in the North. These districts differ from those proposed in our *Preliminary Report* in the following ways:

- North Coast – no longer includes Alice Arm and Kitsault.
- Skeena-Stikine – now includes Atlin, Lower Post, Alice

Arm and Kitsault. This district's northeastern boundary now follows the boundaries of the Northern Rockies and Peace River Regional Districts.

- Prince George–Mackenzie and Prince George–Valemount – the City of Prince George is now divided between these two electoral districts, using highways 97 and 16 as the principal divider.
- Peace River North and Peace River South – instead of the Northland electoral district that we proposed in our *Preliminary Report*, we now propose a smaller Peace River North electoral district that does not include Atlin and Lower Post. Also, the Peace River forms the dividing line between the two districts, except that the boundary will divert south of the river around Hudson's Hope so that the entire municipality is included in Peace River North.

TABLE 1: PROPOSED SMP ELECTORAL DISTRICTS IN THE NORTH

Electoral District	Sq. Km.	Population	Deviation*
North Coast	143,922	23,135	-53.3%
Skeena-Stikine	223,607	38,826	-21.7%
Bulkley-Nechako	78,224	38,243	-22.8%
Prince George–Mackenzie	20,361	45,379	-8.4%
Prince George–Valemount	31,539	46,885	-5.4%
Peace River South	30,340	25,926	-47.7%
Peace River North	175,808	38,485	-22.4%

* based on 83 electoral districts, with a provincial electoral quotient of 49,560

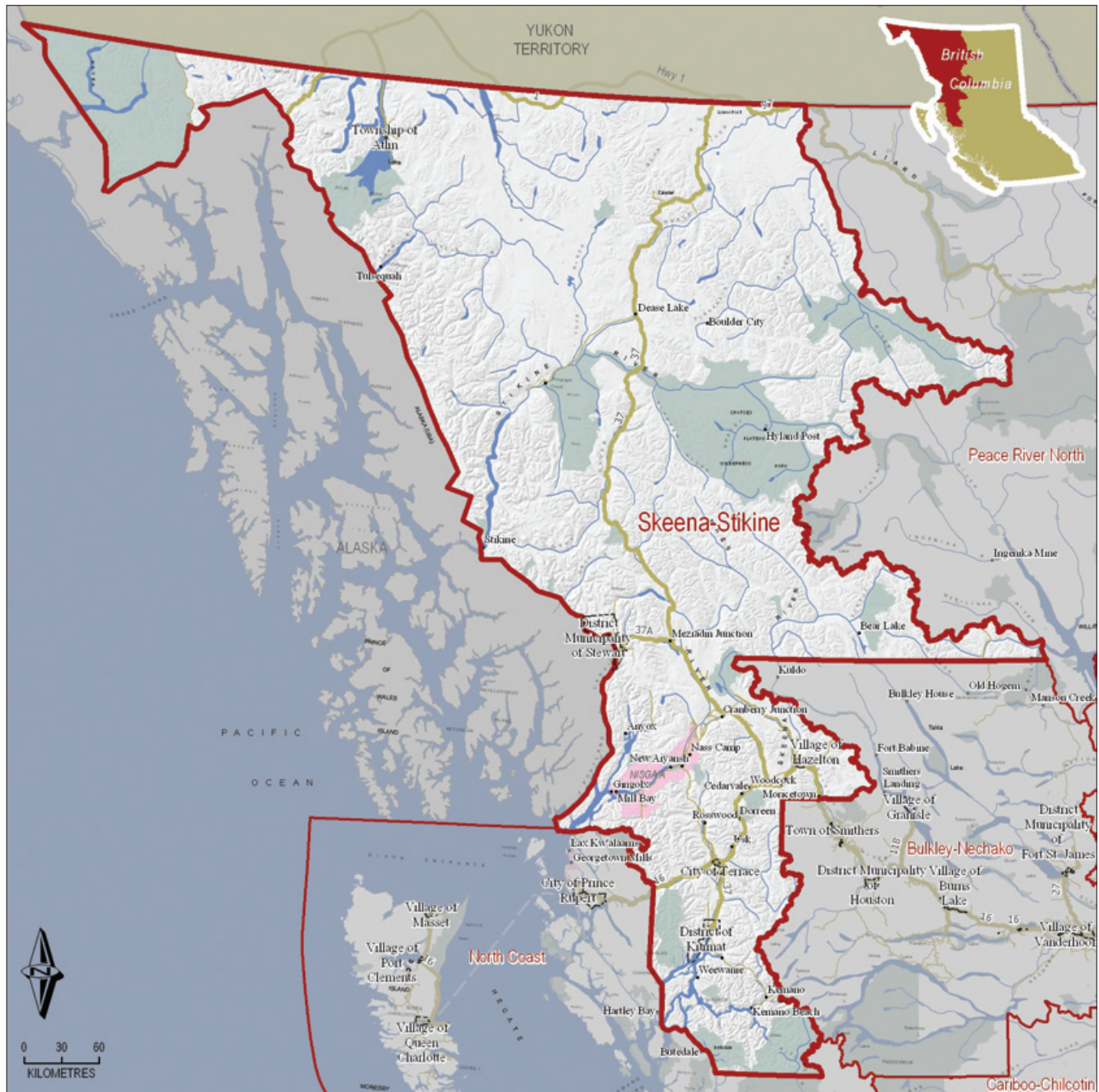
Map 1: Region: The North – Proposed Electoral Districts



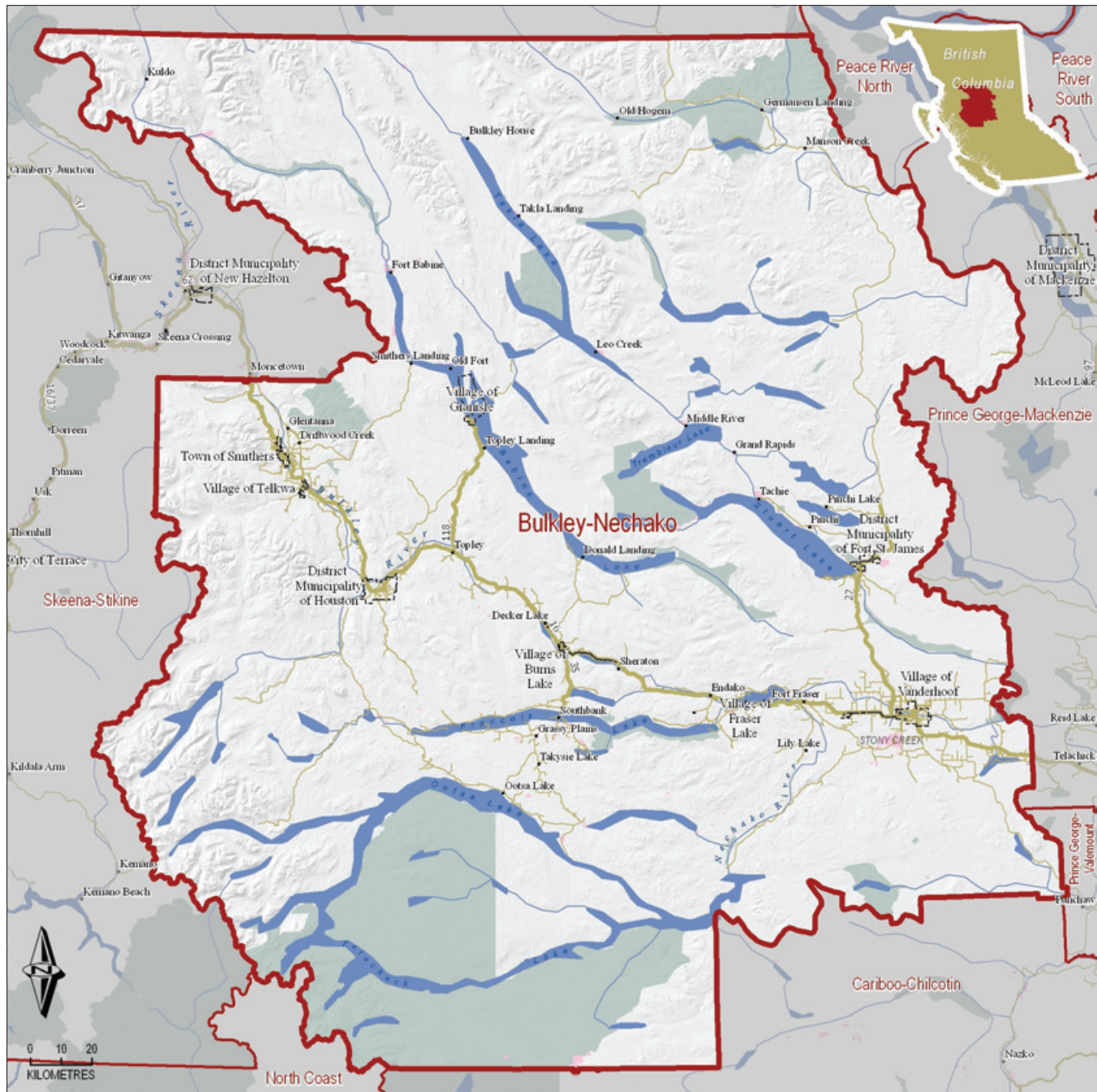
Map 2: Region: The North – Proposed North Coast Electoral District



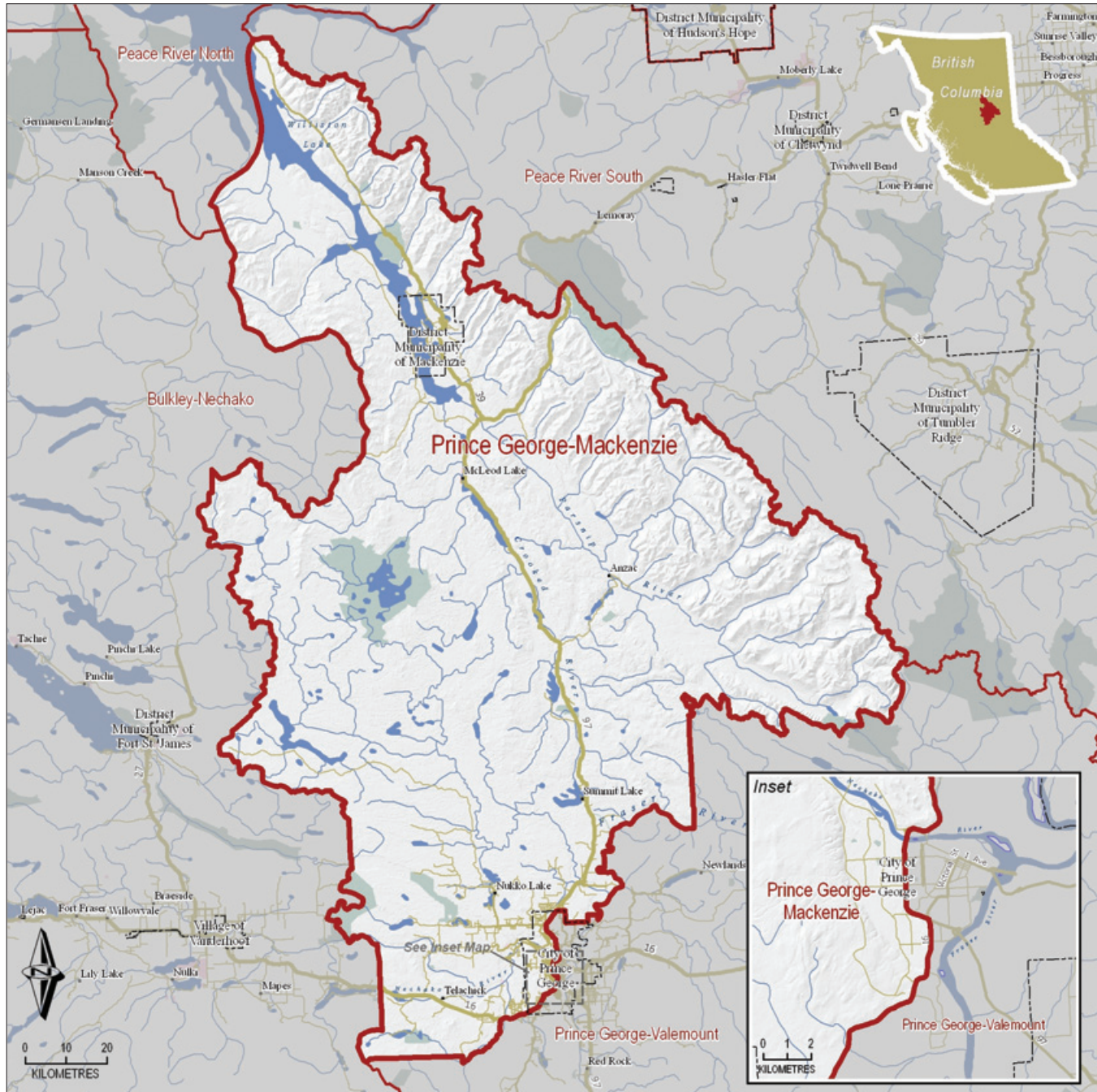
Map 3: Region: The North – Proposed Skeena-Stikine Electoral District



Map 4: Region: The North – Proposed Bulkley-Nechako Electoral District



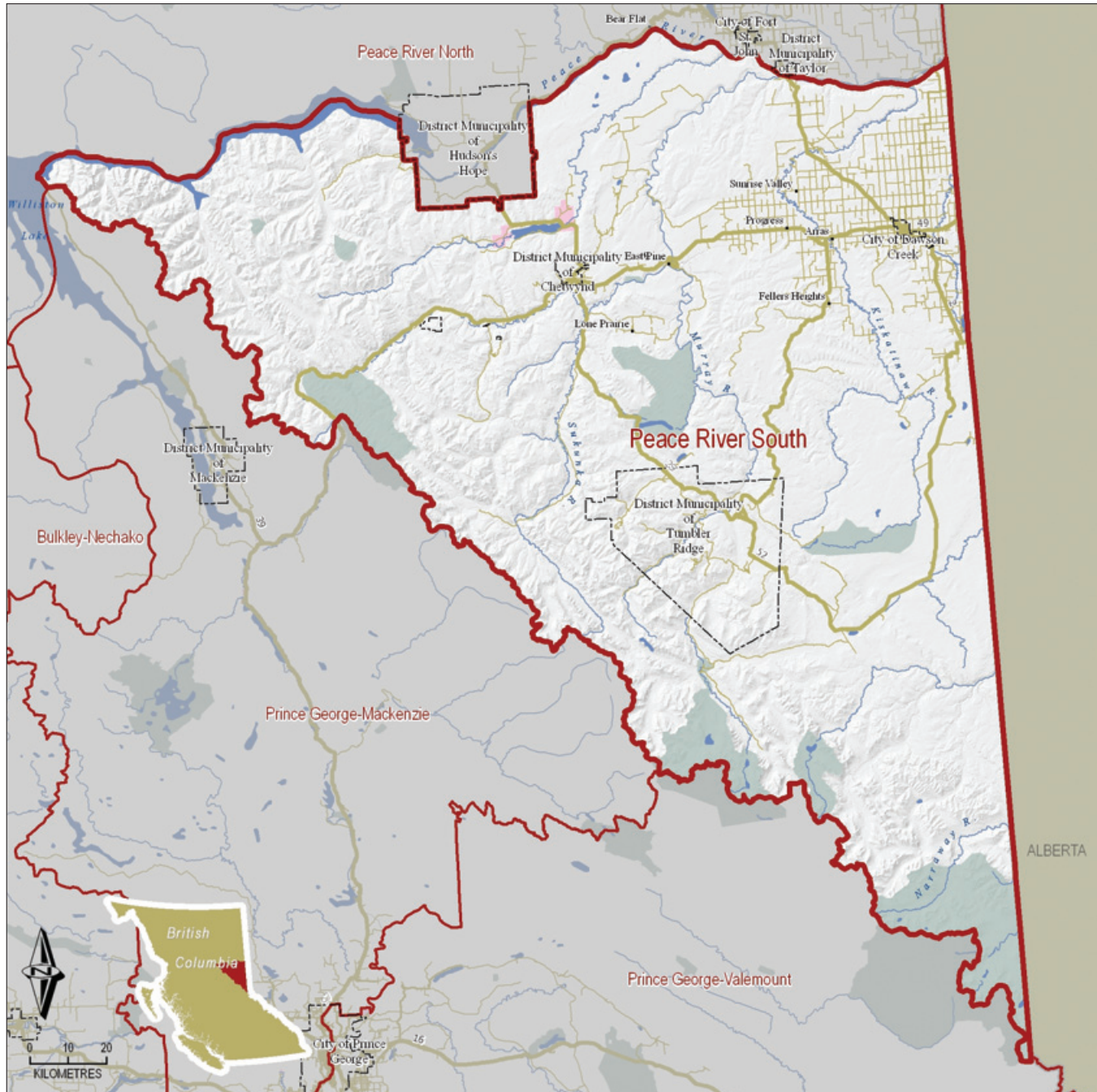
Map 5: Region: The North – Proposed Prince George–Mackenzie Electoral District



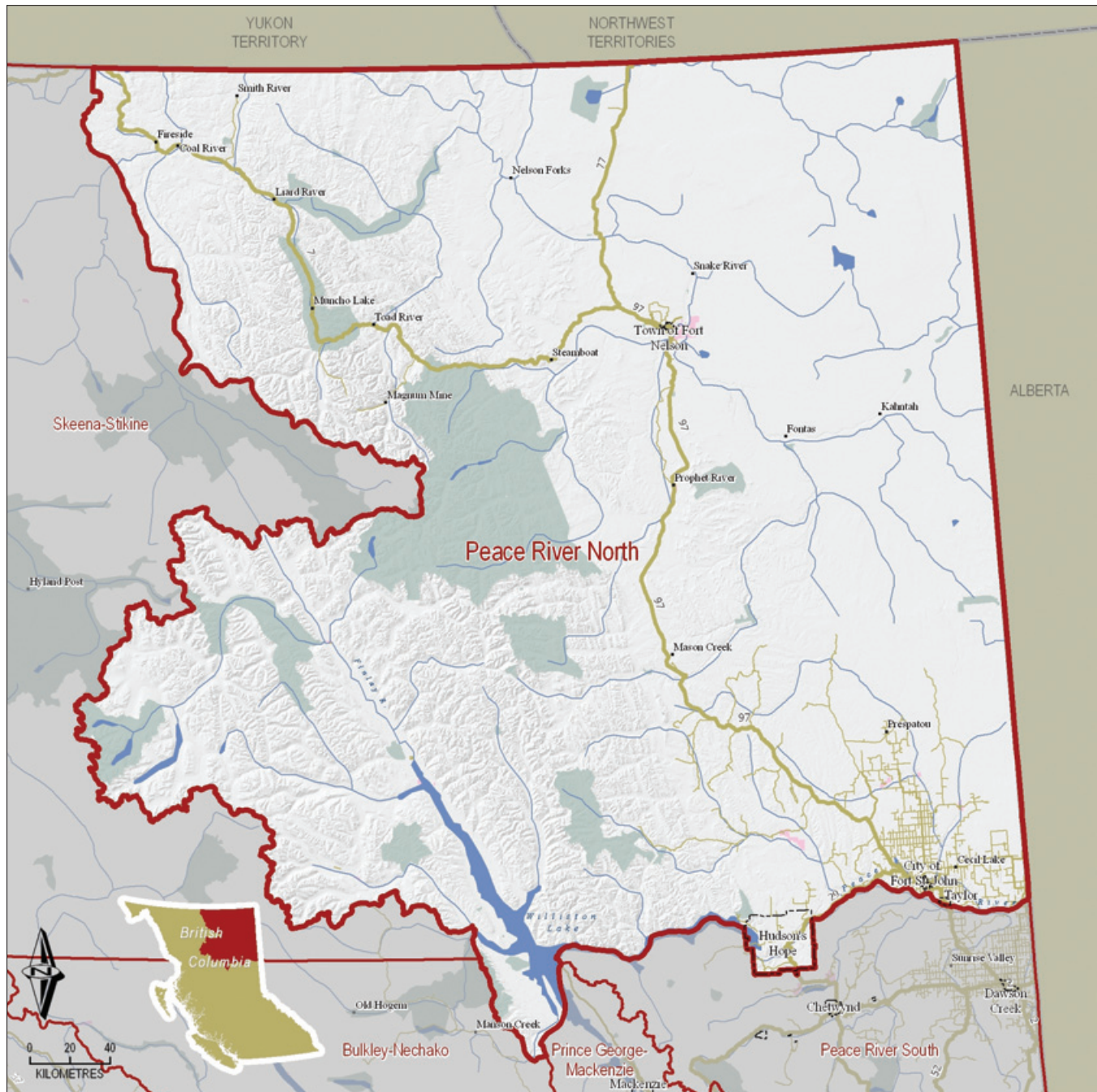
Map 6: Region: The North – Proposed Prince George–Valemount Electoral District



Map 7: Region: The North – Proposed Peace River South Electoral District



Map 8: Region: The North – Proposed Peace River North Electoral District



B. The Cariboo-Thompson

1. Our analysis of the Cariboo-Thompson electoral districts

There are currently five electoral districts in the Cariboo-Thompson region. In our *Preliminary Report*, we proposed that this region be reduced in size and that the number of electoral districts be reduced from five to four.

In this report, we continue to propose four electoral districts (see Maps 9–13). However, we propose one amendment to the boundary of Kamloops–North Thompson.

The size of the region

In our *Preliminary Report*, we proposed that this region be reduced in size in several respects:

- Because we proposed that the Cariboo Regional District’s northern boundary serve as the northern boundary of this region, the communities of Hixon and Woodpecker and other centres along Highway 97 were included in the North region; they have become part of the Prince George–Valemount electoral district proposed in this report.
- Because we proposed that the western boundary of the Cariboo Regional District serve as the western boundary of our proposed Cariboo-Chilcotin electoral district, that district does not extend as far west along Highway 20.
- Hope and nearby Fraser Canyon communities within the Fraser Valley Regional District, such as Yale and Boston Bar, should be included in a Fraser Valley–based electoral district, for the reasons set out on pages 102 to 105.
- The Similkameen communities of Princeton, Hedley, Keremeos, Cawston and Olalla should be included in an Okanagan-based electoral district, for the reasons set out on pages 104 and 105.

We realize some residents may find some of these amendments disruptive, but are persuaded that for the reasons discussed in our *Preliminary Report*, community interests favour making them.

Kamloops

Kamloops (pop. 80,376) is too large for one electoral district but not large enough for two. In our *Preliminary Report*, we proposed that Kamloops be divided between two electoral districts and we continue to propose that configuration. However, we now propose that in Kamloops–North Thompson (see Map 13), for access reasons, the Skeetchestn Reserve at the western end of Kamloops Lake become part of our proposed new Cariboo-Fraser electoral district.

These proposed boundaries result in 80 percent of the combined population of these districts living within the City of Kamloops itself. Kamloops–North Thompson would have a deviation of plus 0.4 percent and Kamloops–South Thompson a deviation of plus 4.5 percent (based on 83 electoral districts). We consider this appropriate, given that they are primarily urban and easily serviceable districts.

The Cariboo, Chilcotin and Fraser areas

The remaining portion of this region (pop. 87,537) is rural and, in some areas, sparsely populated. In the north, the two largest centres are Quesnel (pop. 9,326) and Williams Lake (pop. 10,744). Farther south, small communities predominate. Apart from Merritt (pop. 6,998), no population centre is larger than 3,000.

In our *Preliminary Report*, we proposed dividing this area into two electoral districts, Cariboo-Chilcotin and Cariboo-Fraser, with deviations of minus 11.2 percent and minus 17.0 percent, respectively. For the reasons set out in our *Preliminary Report* (pages 105–106), we continue to propose that this area be divided into these two electoral districts (see Maps 10 and 11).

We received several submissions urging us to include the Fraser Canyon first nations reserves and other communities in the Cariboo-Thompson region. Some submissions also suggested including Hope. After giving careful consideration to these submissions, we concluded that we should not do so for the following reasons:

- Our proposed boundary respects the regional district boundary.
- The Fraser Canyon communities within the Fraser Valley Regional District, including Yale and Boston Bar, have strong ties to Hope, which in turn shares significant community interests with the eastern Fraser Valley.

2. Conclusion

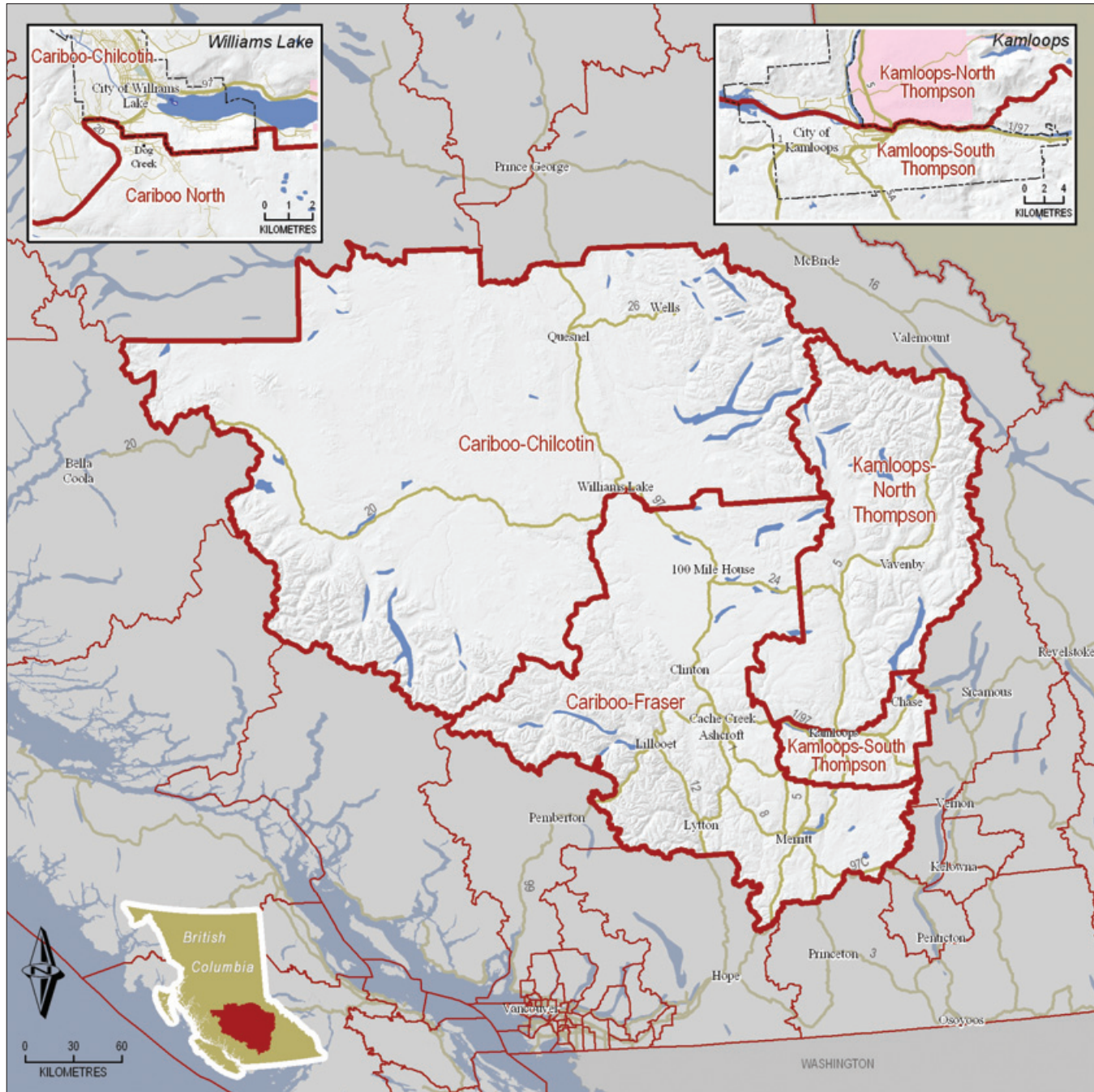
We propose four electoral districts in the Cariboo-Thompson. These districts differ from those proposed in our *Preliminary Report* in one respect. In Kamloops–North Thompson, for access reasons, we propose that the Skeetchestn Reserve at the western end of Kamloops Lake now become part of our proposed new Cariboo-Fraser electoral district.

TABLE 2: PROPOSED SMP ELECTORAL DISTRICTS IN THE CARIBOO-THOMPSON

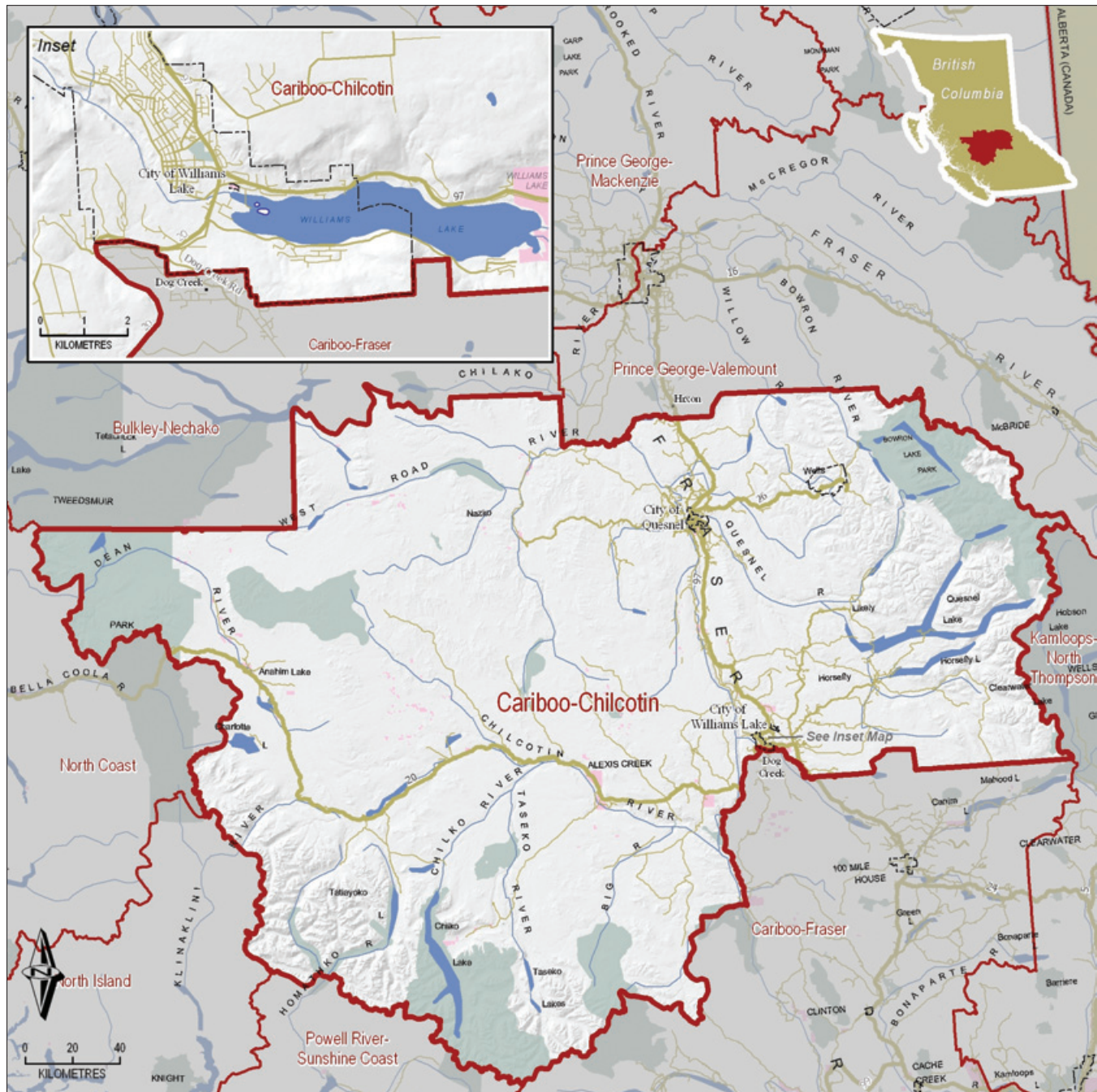
Electoral District	Sq. Km.	Population	Deviation*
Cariboo-Chilcotin	75,061	45,104	-9.0%
Cariboo-Fraser	35,571	42,433	-14.4%
Kamloops–South Thompson	3,852	51,812	+4.5%
Kamloops–North Thompson	21,627	49,779	+0.4%

* based on 83 electoral districts, with a provincial electoral quotient of 49,560

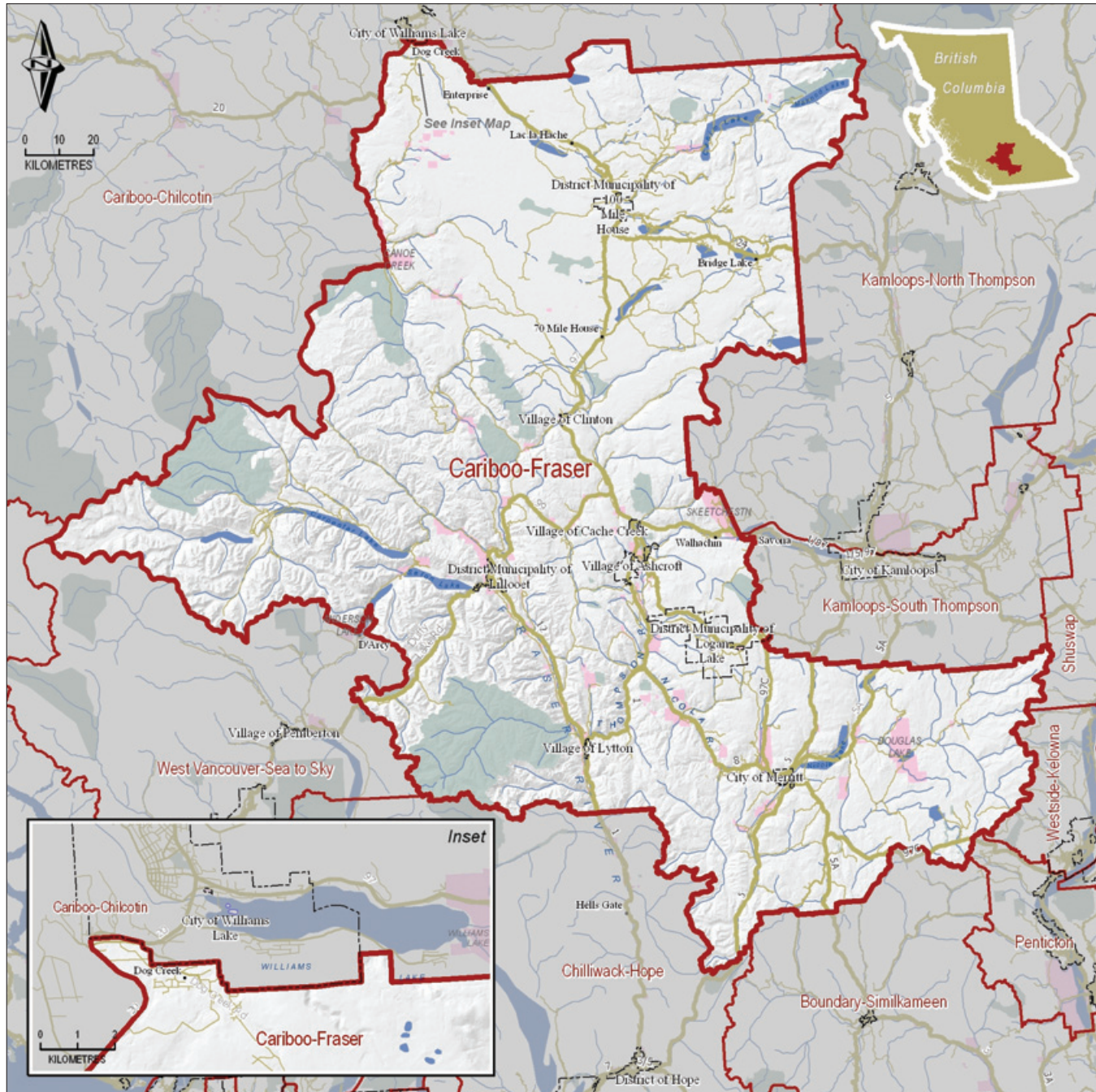
Map 9: Region: Cariboo-Thompson – Proposed Electoral Districts



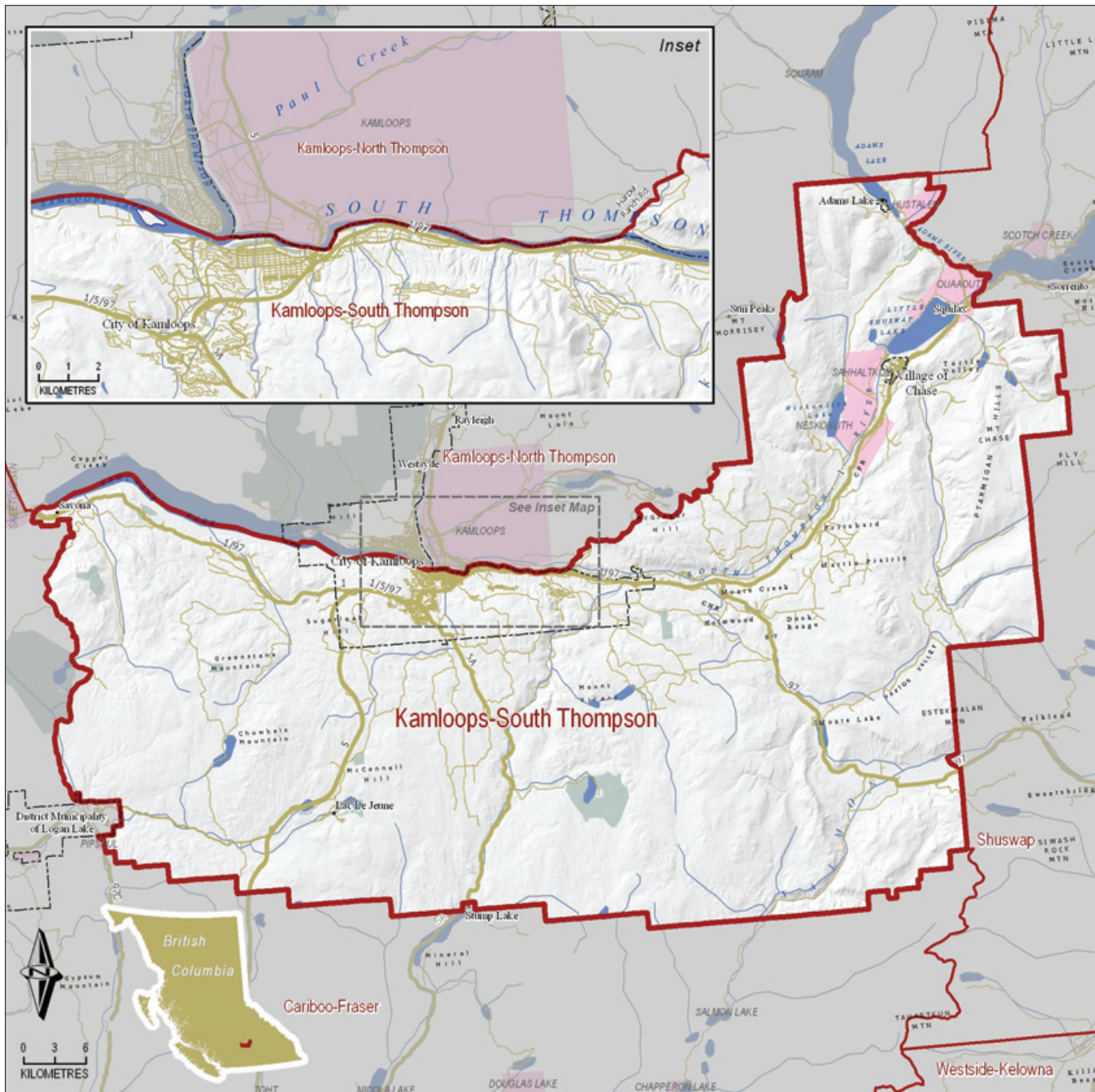
Map 10: Region: Cariboo-Thompson – Proposed Cariboo-Chilcotin Electoral District



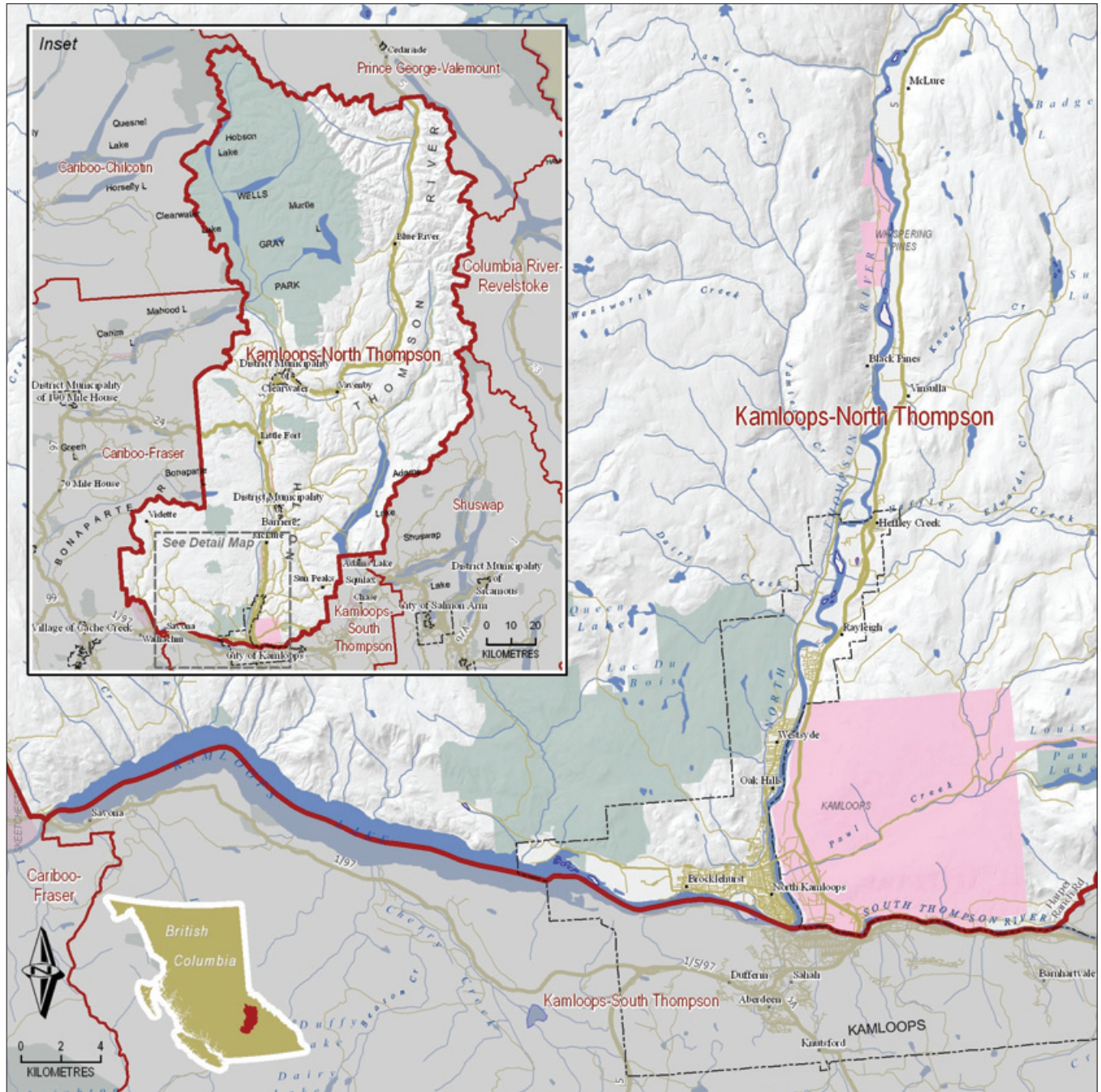
Map 11: Region: Cariboo-Thompson – Proposed Cariboo-Fraser Electoral District



Map 12: Region: Cariboo-Thompson – Proposed Kamloops–South Thompson Electoral District



Map 13: Region: Cariboo-Thompson – Proposed Kamloops–North Thompson Electoral District



C. The Okanagan

1. Our analysis of the Okanagan electoral districts

The Okanagan region currently has six electoral districts. In our *Preliminary Report*, we proposed that the region be enlarged to include the Similkameen area to the southwest and the Boundary area to the southeast and that the number of electoral districts be increased from six to seven.

In this report, we continue to propose seven electoral districts (see Maps 14–21). However, we propose that the Kelowna-Westside electoral district be named Westside-Kelowna to reflect that the majority of the population is in the District of Westside. We also propose that the boundary between our proposed Westside-Kelowna and Penticton electoral districts be amended to follow the municipal boundary between Peachland and the new Westside municipality.

Similkameen electoral districts (total population of 131,664) and creating two new districts with an equal population of 65,832, would result in deviations averaging plus 32.8 percent, based on 83 electoral districts, well outside the statutory limit.

We received several submissions that our proposal for a new Westside-Kelowna electoral district was now less suitable and functional, given the decision of the residents of Westside against amalgamation with Kelowna. Rather, it was suggested that we propose three electoral districts on the east side of Lake Okanagan, comprising all of Kelowna and Lake Country. We gave serious consideration to this proposal, but ultimately decided against it for the following reasons:

- It would result in Kelowna’s three proposed electoral districts having populations averaging 40,738 (and deviations averaging minus 17.8 percent, based on 83 electoral districts), which we consider too low for such a compact, urban area.
- It would reduce the population of our proposed Westside-Kelowna electoral district to 34,925 (with a deviation of minus 29.5 percent, based on 83 electoral districts), well outside the statutory limit. Combining this part of our proposed Westside-Kelowna electoral district with our proposed Penticton and Boundary-

2. Conclusion

We propose seven electoral districts in the Okanagan. These districts differ from those proposed in our *Preliminary Report* in only two respects:

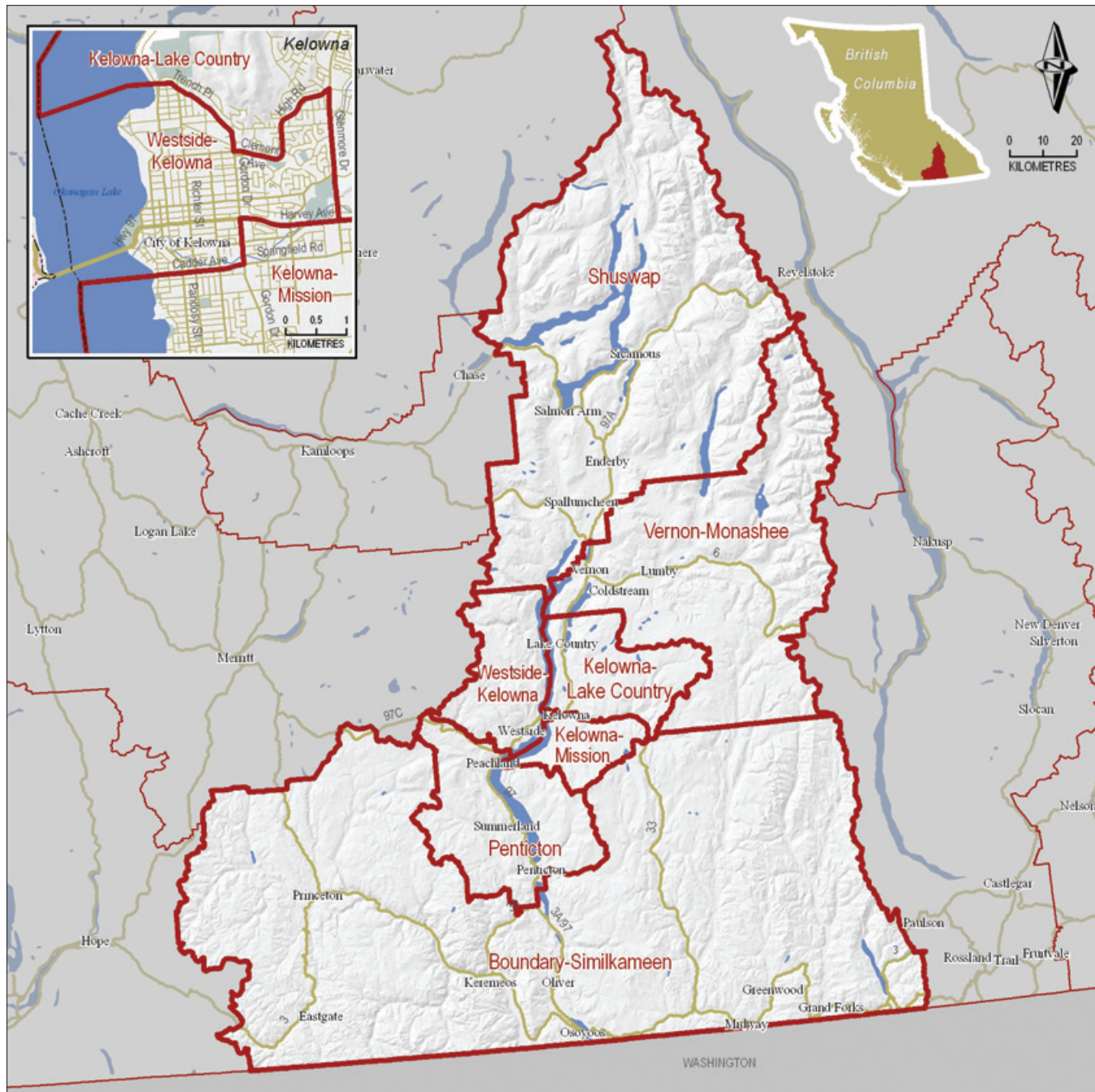
- the name of the proposed Westside-Kelowna electoral district; and
- the boundary between our proposed Westside-Kelowna and Penticton electoral districts now follows the municipal boundary between Peachland and the new Westside municipality.

TABLE 3: PROPOSED SMP ELECTORAL DISTRICTS IN THE OKANAGAN

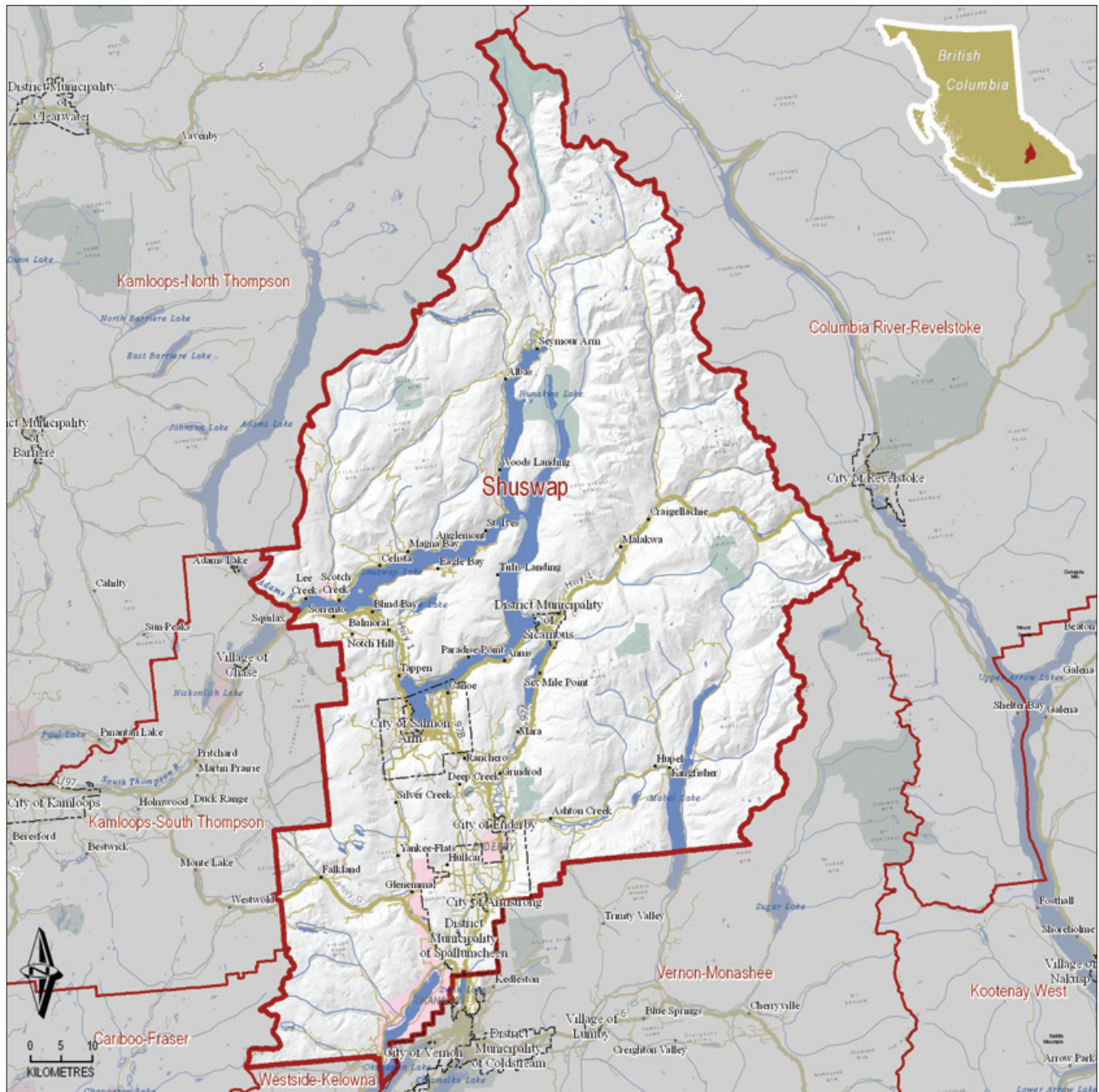
Electoral District	Sq. Km.	Population	Deviation*
Shuswap	8,607	53,658	+8.3%
Vernon-Monashee	5,038	58,538	+18.1%
Kelowna–Lake Country	1,166	51,950	+4.8%
Kelowna-Mission	540	53,231	+7.4%
Westside-Kelowna	1,140	51,958	+4.8%
Penticton	1,904	53,687	+8.3%
Boundary-Similkameen	15,986	43,052	-13.1%

* based on 83 electoral districts, with a provincial electoral quotient of 49,560

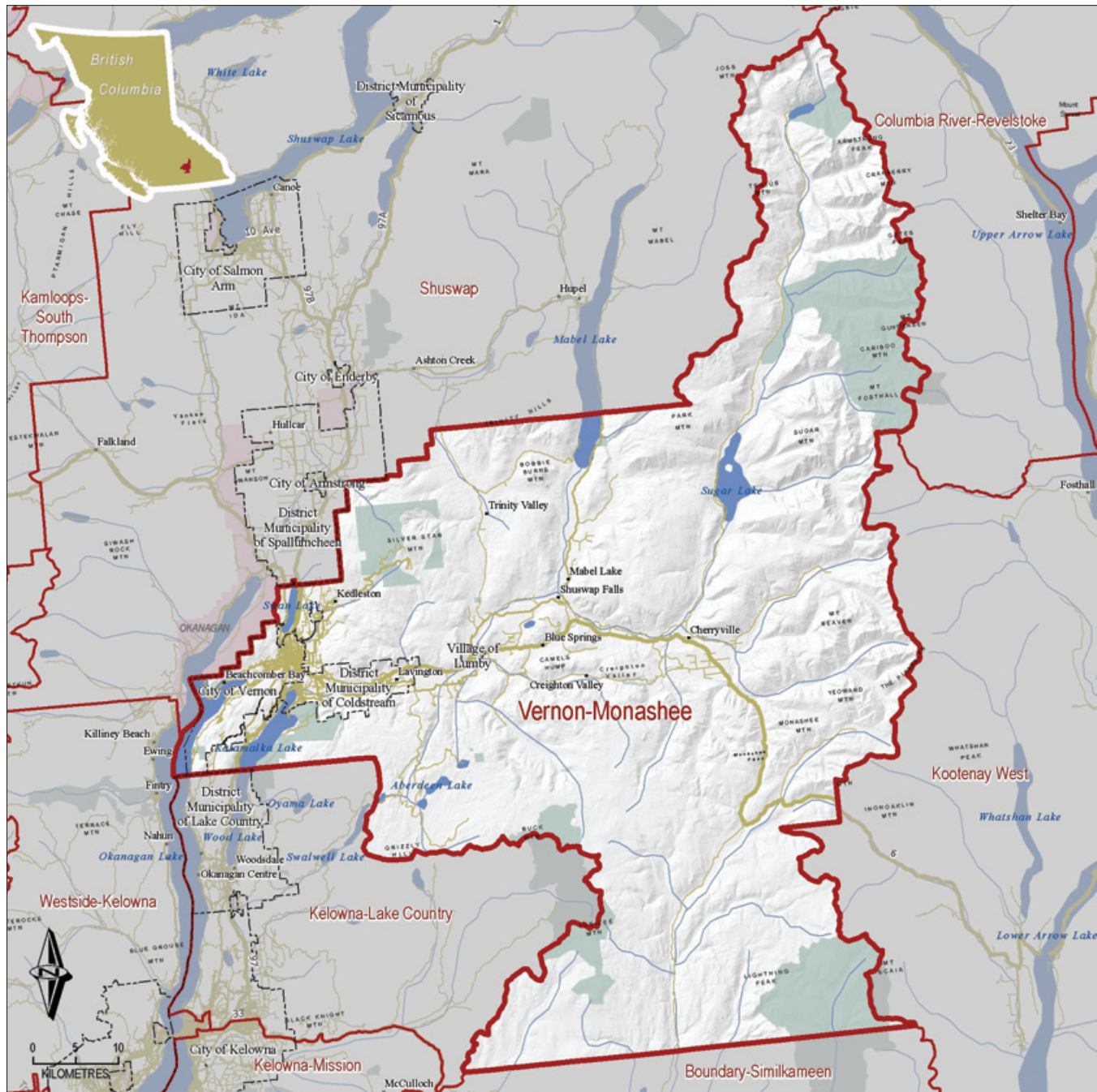
Map 14: Region: Okanagan – Proposed Electoral Districts



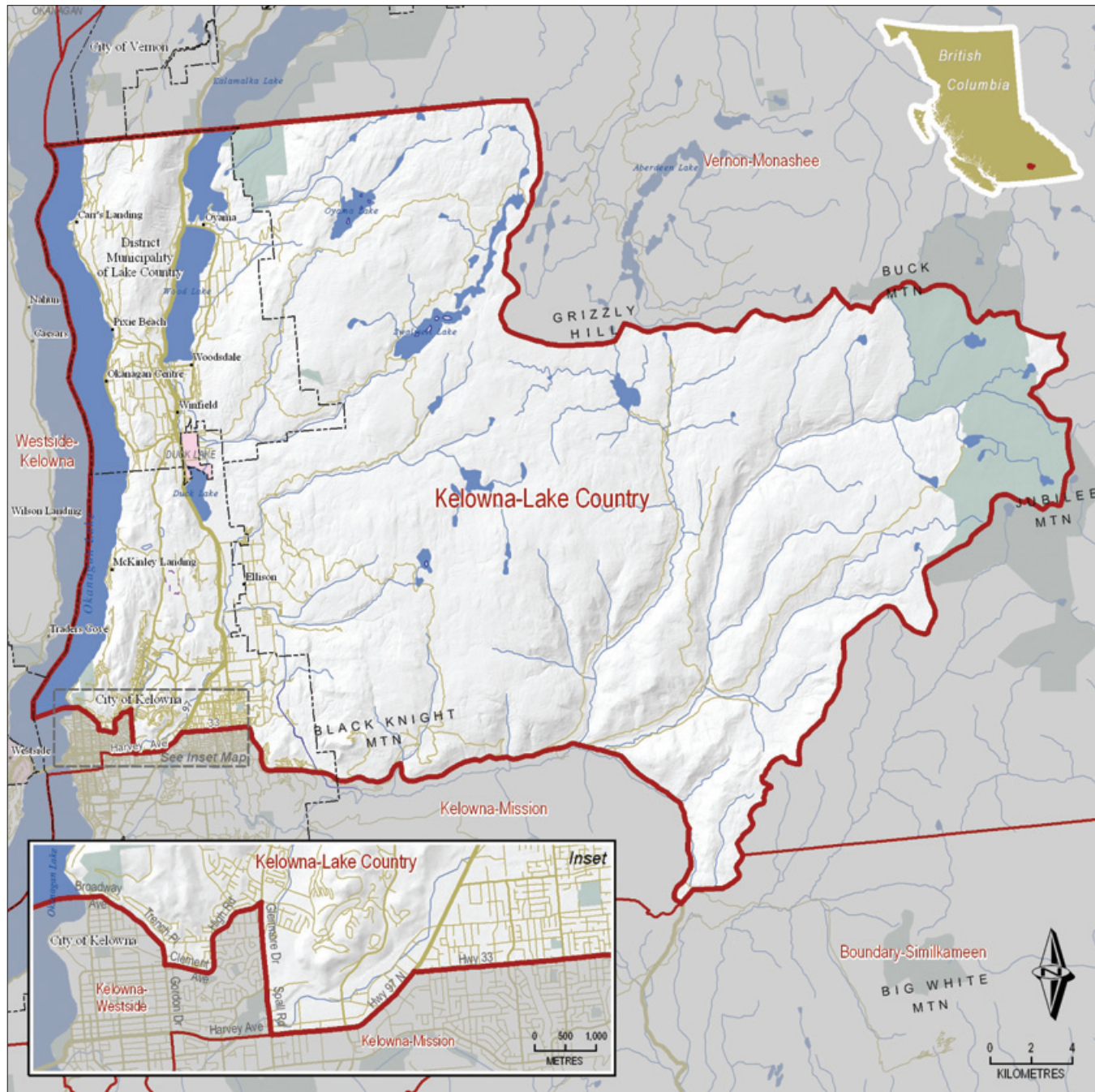
Map 15: Region: Okanagan – Proposed Shuswap Electoral District



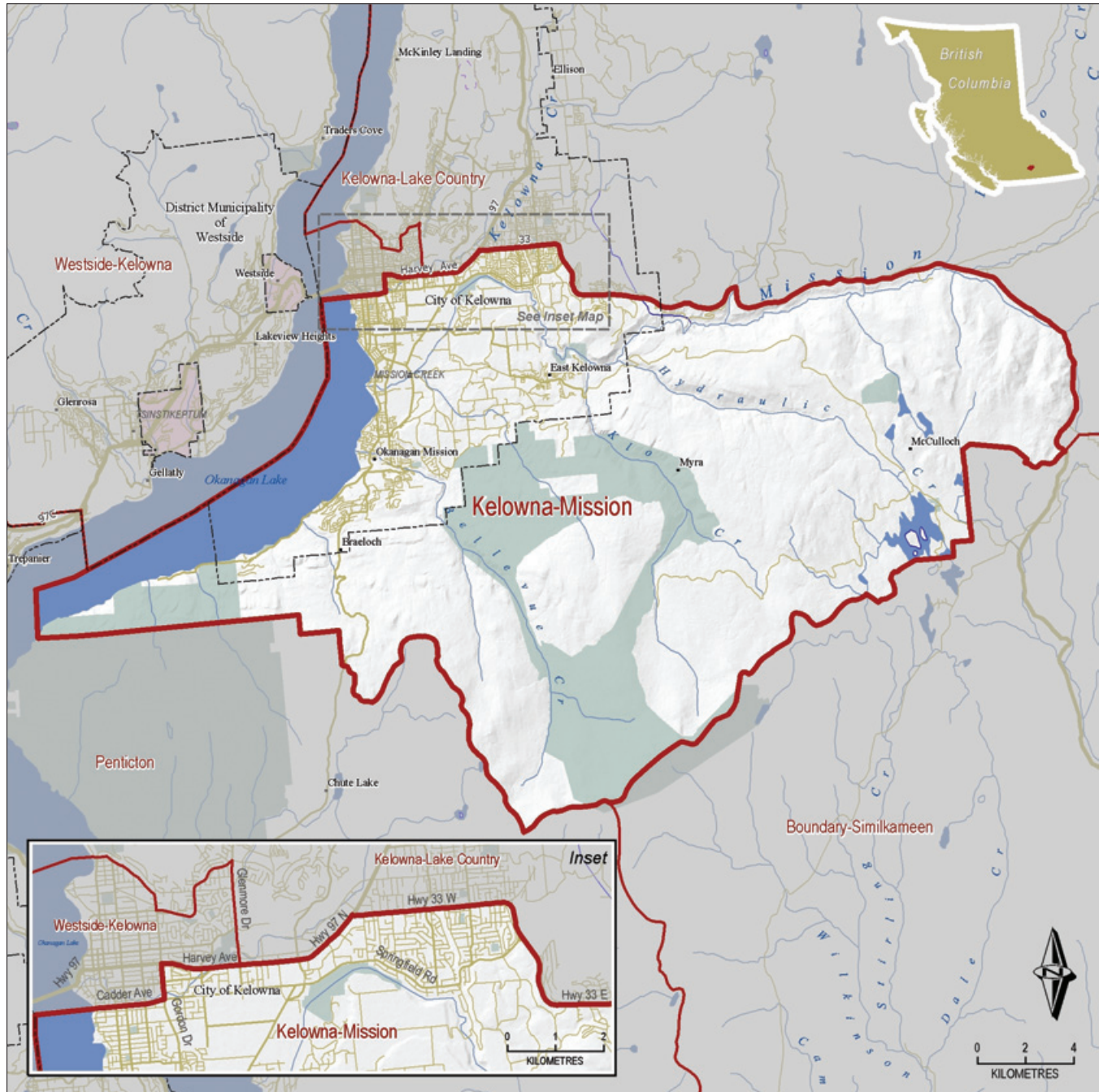
Map 16: Region: Okanagan – Proposed Vernon-Monashee Electoral District



Map 17: Region: Okanagan – Proposed Kelowna–Lake Country Electoral District



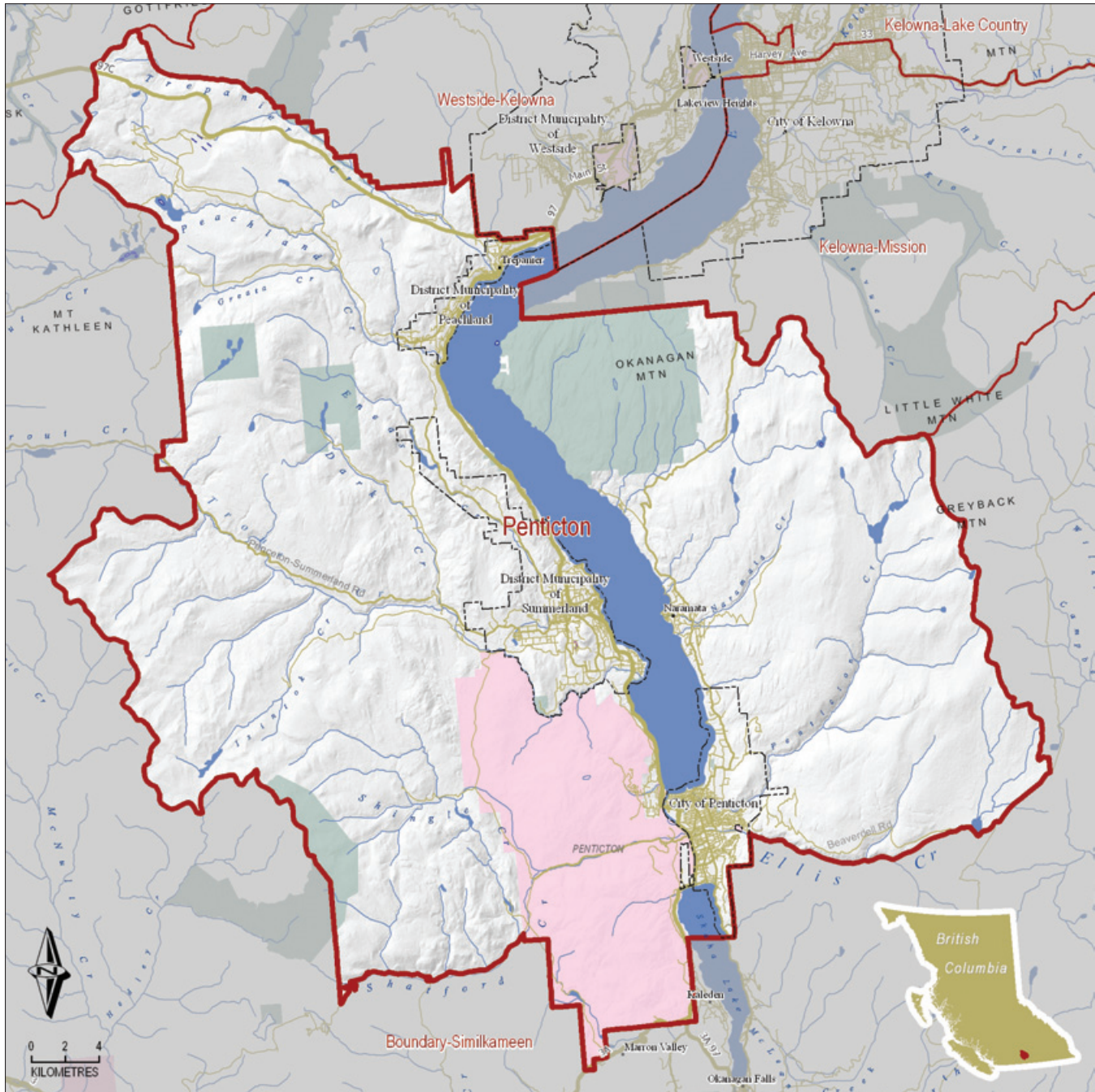
Map 18: Region: Okanagan – Proposed Kelowna-Mission Electoral District



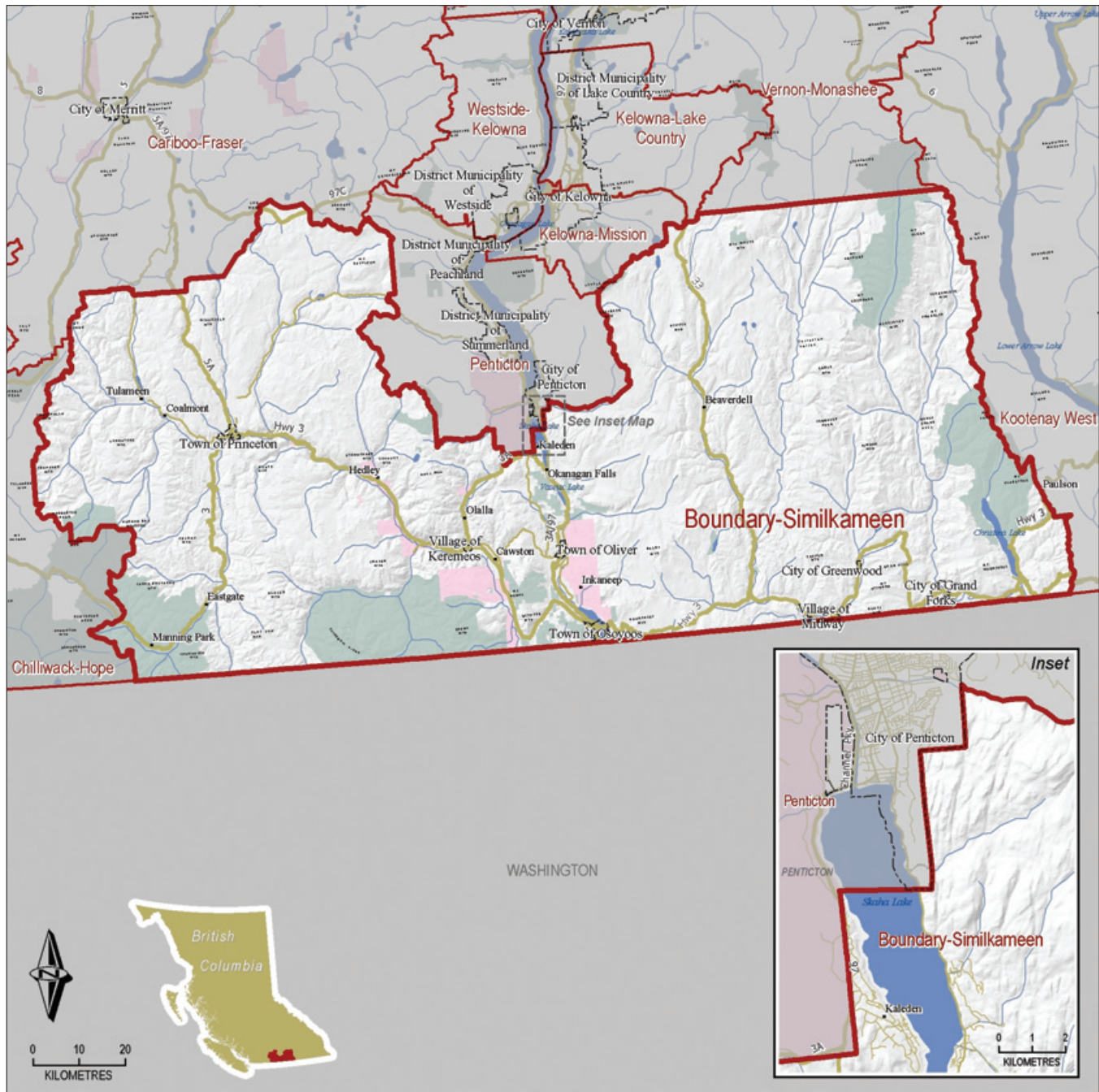
Map 19: Region: Okanagan – Proposed Westside-Kelowna Electoral District



Map 20: Region: Okanagan – Proposed Pentiction Electoral District



Map 21: Region: Okanagan – Proposed Boundary-Similkameen Electoral District



D. The Columbia-Kootenay

1. Our analysis of the Columbia-Kootenay electoral districts

There are currently four electoral districts in the Columbia-Kootenay region. In our *Preliminary Report*, we proposed that this region be reduced in size and that the number of electoral districts be reduced from four to three.

Many oral presentations and written submissions urged us to propose four electoral districts for this region and several suggested that we include some or all of the Boundary communities in this region. We gave serious consideration to these suggestions.

In terms of the statutory criteria that inform our boundary setting exercise (geography, demography, history, community interests, transportation and communications), our Columbia-Kootenay region is an unusually complex area. It has four regional districts, five school districts, 23 municipalities and several clearly identifiable sub-regions:

- In the northeast, Highway 95 stretches between Kimberley and Cranbrook in the south and Golden in the north. Golden, in turn, is connected to Revelstoke farther west by Highway 1 and Rogers Pass.
- In the southeast, highways 3 and 43 connect the Elk Valley communities of Fernie, Sparwood and Elkford, all of which see Cranbrook as their principal commercial and government services centre.
- The southwest, known historically as the West Kootenay, has a concentration of large communities (including Rossland, Trail, Castlegar and Nelson) that account for 35 percent of the entire region's population. Nelson serves as the principal commercial and government services centre for the Arrow Lakes communities farther north, such as Nakusp, and for New Denver, Kaslo and Salmo.
- In the south, Highway 3 connects Creston (to the south of Kootenay Lake) with the principal East Kootenay centres of Cranbrook and Kimberley farther east.

Every electoral boundaries commission, including ours, has wrestled with how to combine these Columbia-Kootenay communities, which are situated very unevenly throughout the region, into electoral districts that respect historical, community, transportation and communications interests.

We considered several options. First, we had to decide whether to include some or all of the Boundary communities in our Columbia-Kootenay region. We concluded that we should not, for the reasons set out on pages 122, 141 and 142 of our *Preliminary Report*.

Then we had to decide whether to propose four or three electoral districts for this region. Proposing three electoral districts would allow us to respect history and community interests in the West Kootenay, but would create a district with over 61,000 people in a predominantly rural part of the province. It would have the highest positive deviation of any proposed district in the province (plus 23.1 percent), yet would border our proposed Boundary-Similkameen electoral district with a deviation of minus 13.1 percent and our proposed Columbia River–Revelstoke electoral district with a deviation of minus 35.2 percent (based on 82 electoral districts). We were also concerned that a single electoral district that included Rossland, Trail, Fruitvale, Castlegar, Nelson, Salmo, Nakusp, New Denver and Kaslo, with numerous municipal governments, school districts and mining, logging, ranching and agricultural interests would bring into question whether one MLA could provide effective representation.

Proposing four electoral districts addresses many of those

concerns, although it would divide West Kootenay communities between two electoral districts (as the current boundaries do) and would result in two of the four electoral districts having deviations in excess of minus 25 percent.

On balance, we are persuaded that the Columbia-Kootenay region should have four electoral districts as follows, beginning in the west (all deviations are based on 83 electoral districts):

- Kootenay West – this district will include Rosland, Trail, Fruitvale, Castlegar, the Arrow Lakes communities such as Nakusp, and the Slocan Lake communities such as New Denver. It will have a deviation of minus 19.9 percent (see Map 26).
- Nelson-Creston – this district will include Nelson and all the Kootenay Lake communities such as Kaslo and Argenta, as well as Salmo and Creston. It will have a deviation of minus 29.6 percent (see Map 25).
- Kootenay East – this district will include Cranbrook and the Elk Valley communities. It will have a deviation of minus 23.9 percent (see Map 24).
- Columbia River–Revelstoke – this district will include Kimberley, Canal Flats, Invermere, Radium Hot Springs, Golden and Revelstoke. It will be substantially the same as the current Columbia River–Revelstoke electoral district, except that the Cranbrook Airport and the St. Mary’s Reserve will become part of our proposed Kootenay East electoral district. Columbia River–Revelstoke will have a deviation of minus 34.4 percent (see Map 23).

It may appear to some readers that there is a contradiction between our proposals in our *Preliminary Report* and this report. In our *Preliminary Report*, we proposed a geographically larger Kootenay East district – one that included all of the current Columbia River–Revelstoke district (except for Kimberley), plus the Elk Valley communities. This additional population gave our proposed district a population of 39,951 and a deviation of minus 21.3 percent.

In this report we now propose an electoral district that is significantly smaller in size (it no longer includes the Elk Valley communities), yet now has a deviation of minus 34.4 percent. Since we did not believe that the larger Kootenay East district proposed in our *Preliminary Report* had very special circumstances, how can we justify that the smaller Columbia River–Revelstoke district we are now proposing does?

Our decision to propose a smaller Columbia River–Revelstoke electoral district is driven more by community interests than by geographical size. We are persuaded that the Elk Valley communities have stronger community ties with Cranbrook than with the North Columbia communities of Golden and Revelstoke and should consequently be in the same electoral district as Cranbrook, even though this has the effect of putting our proposed Columbia River–Revelstoke electoral district well outside the normal statutory limit of minus 25 percent. In this geographical area, as in the Peace River (see Part 3, section A), we believe that respecting the community interests of the region as a whole is relevant in determining whether very special circumstances exist. In this case, we are persuaded that this approach to very special circumstances justifies Columbia River–Revelstoke’s high negative deviation.

Our proposed configuration includes a second electoral district with a deviation in excess of minus 25 percent (Nelson-Creston, at minus 29.6 percent). We are satisfied that very special circumstances exist here too – not because of the proposed district’s size, but because of the community interests of the region as a whole. We concluded, applying our understanding of our legal and constitutional mandate, that four electoral districts are needed in this region to ensure effective representation. Accordingly, we developed boundaries that respect, as much as possible, those community interests, while taking into consideration the reality of the region’s geography and demography. Our proposed Nelson-Creston electoral district is a consequence of that approach.

2. Conclusion

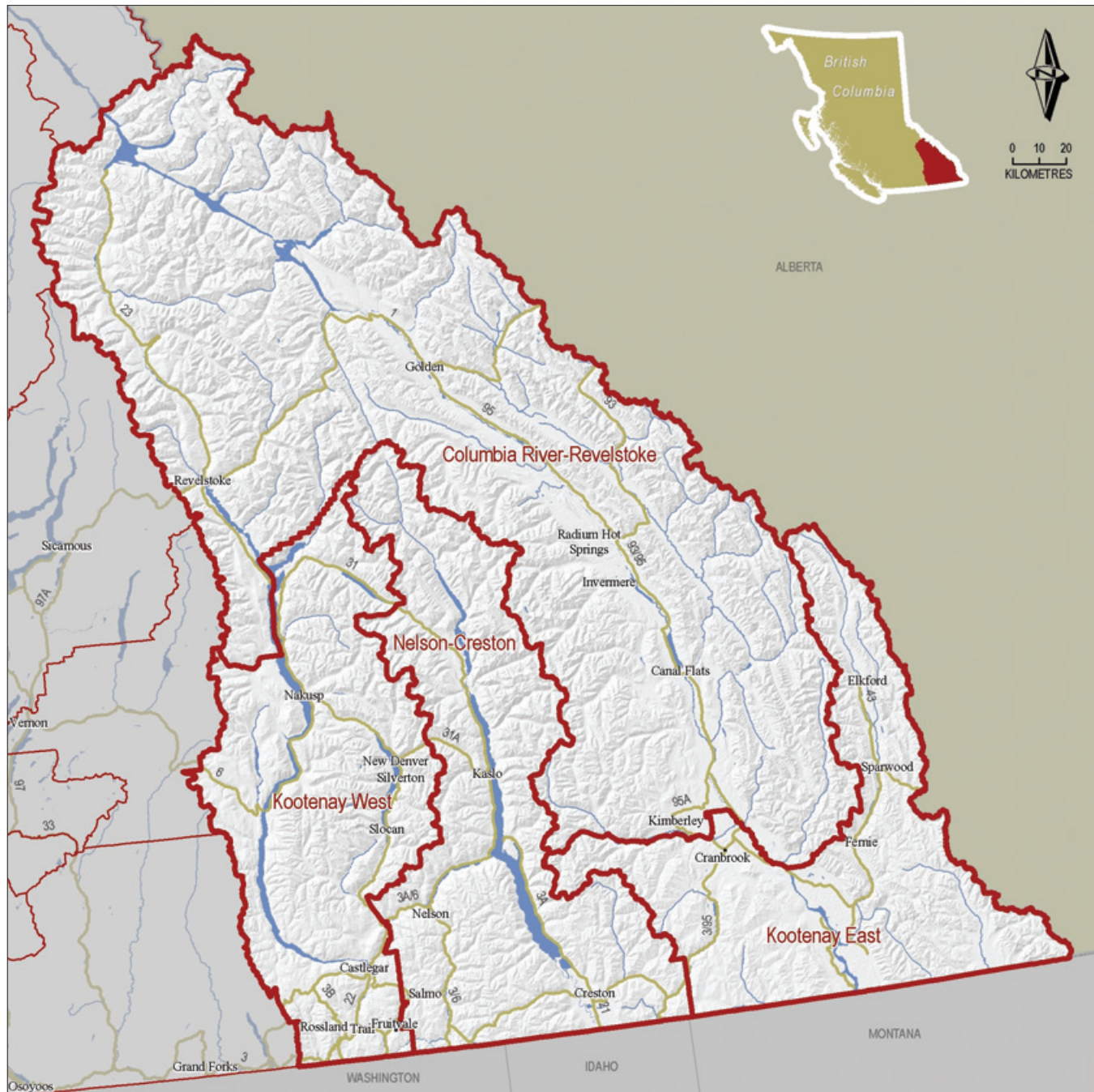
We propose four electoral districts in the Columbia-Kootenay, instead of the three districts proposed in our *Preliminary Report*. The boundaries of these districts are described in the preceding analysis.

TABLE 4: PROPOSED SMP ELECTORAL DISTRICTS IN THE COLUMBIA-KOOTENAY

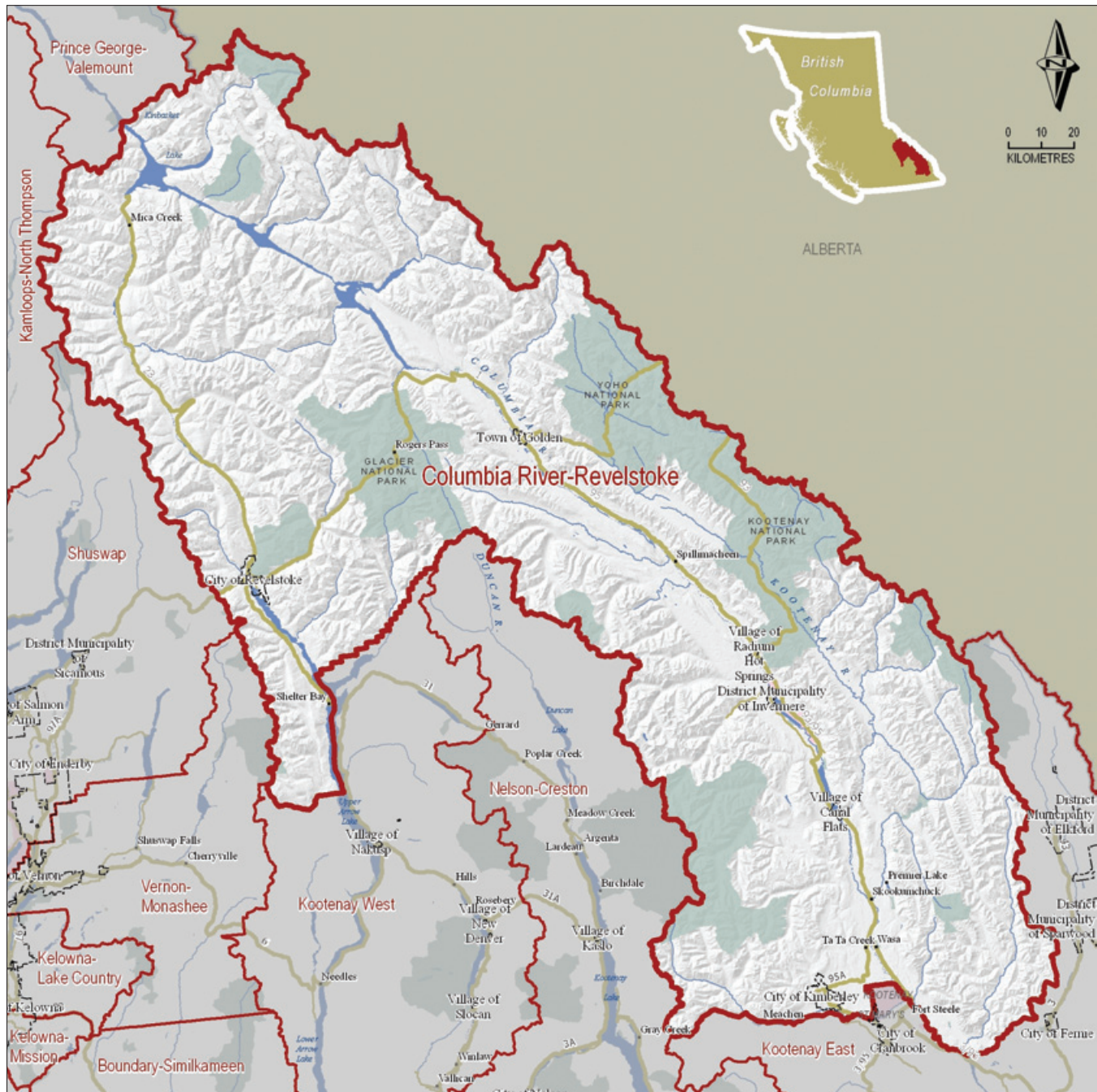
Electoral District	Sq. Km.	Population	Deviation*
Columbia River–Revelstoke	39,714	32,513	-34.4%
Kootenay East	11,172	37,718	-23.9%
Nelson-Creston	13,220	34,883	-29.6%
Kootenay West	12,016	39,713	-19.9%

* based on 83 electoral districts, with a provincial electoral quotient of 49,560

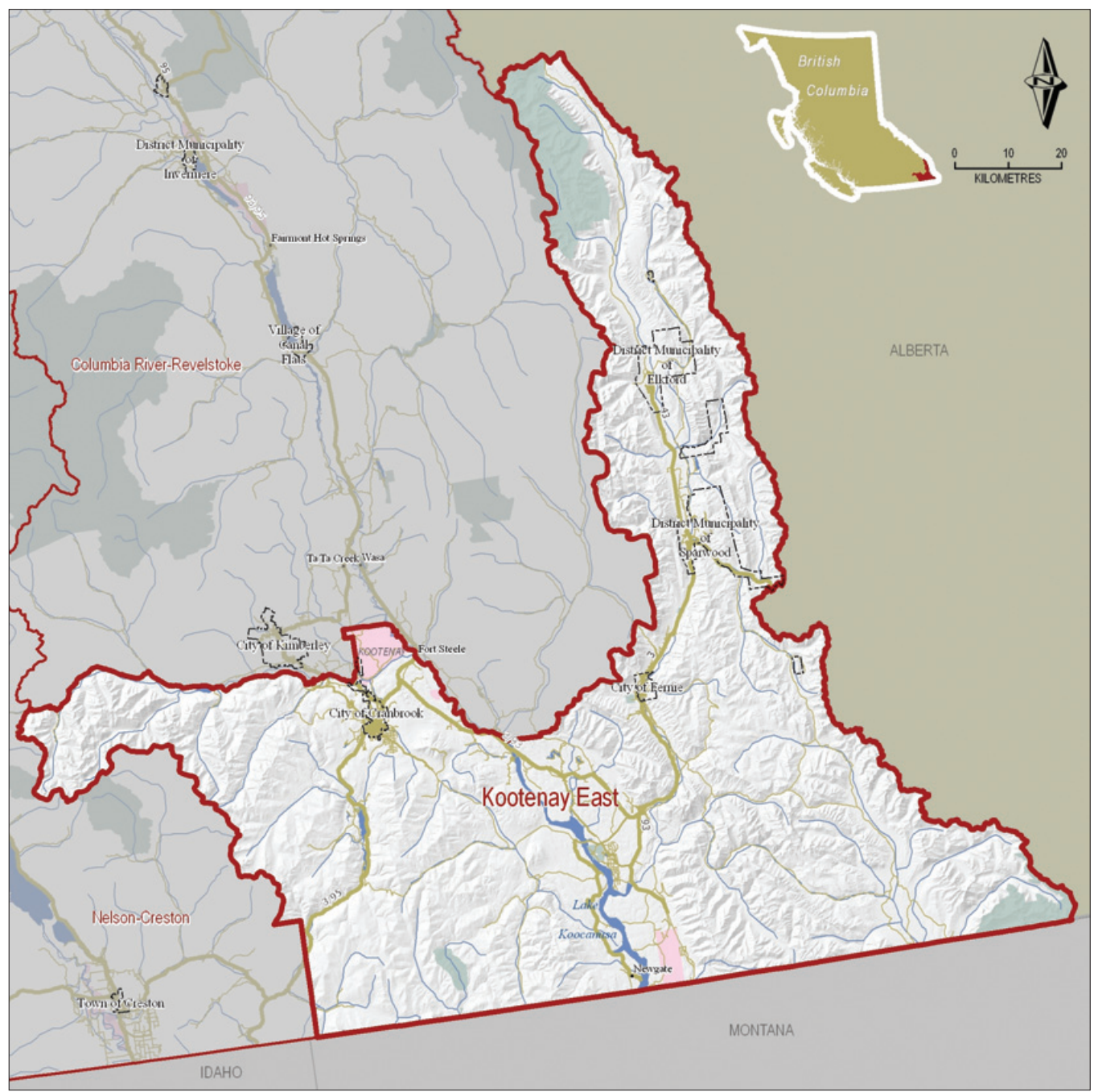
Map 22: Region: Columbia-Kootenay – Proposed Electoral Districts



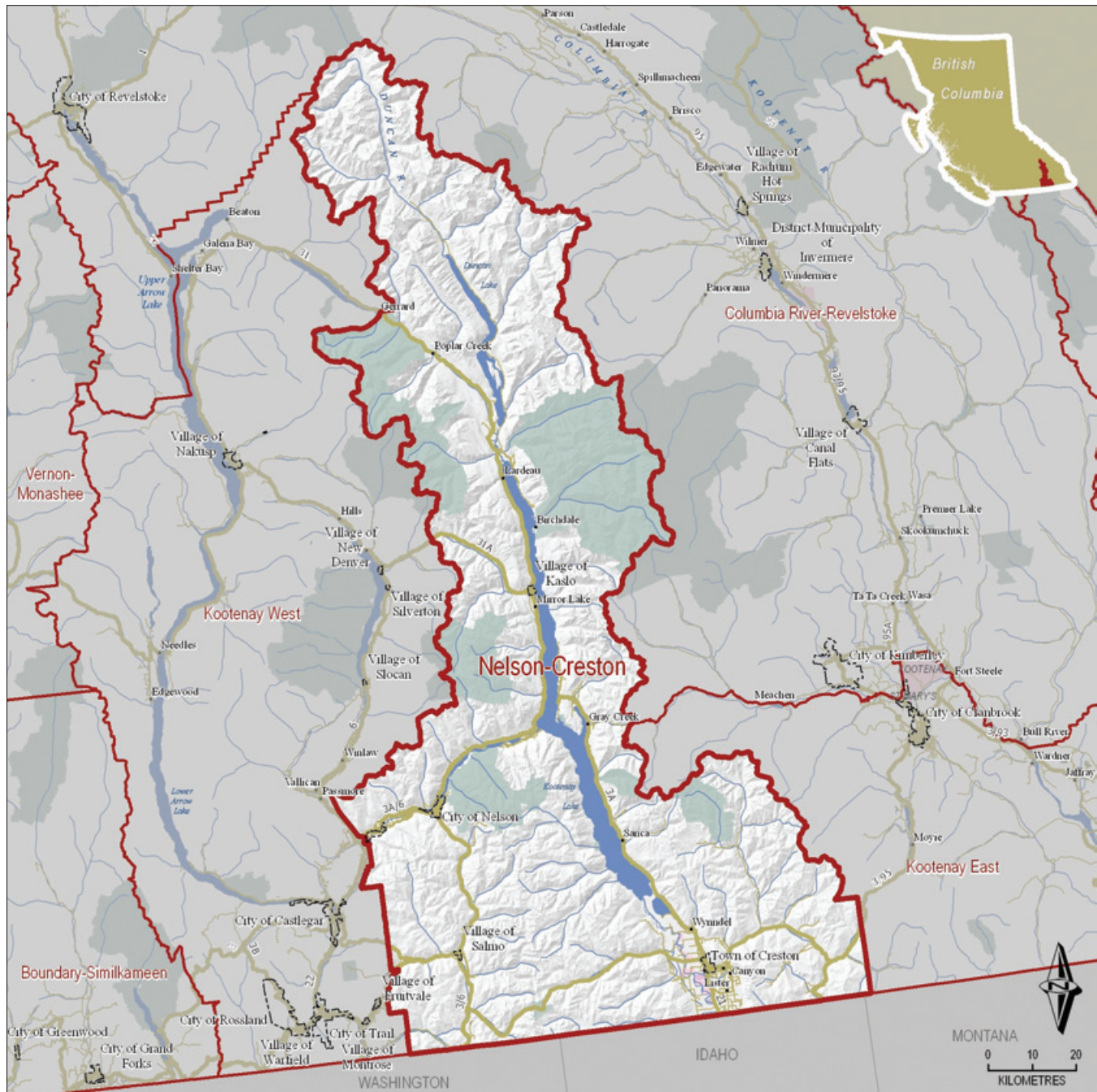
Map 23: Region: Columbia-Kootenay – Proposed Columbia River–Revelstoke Electoral District



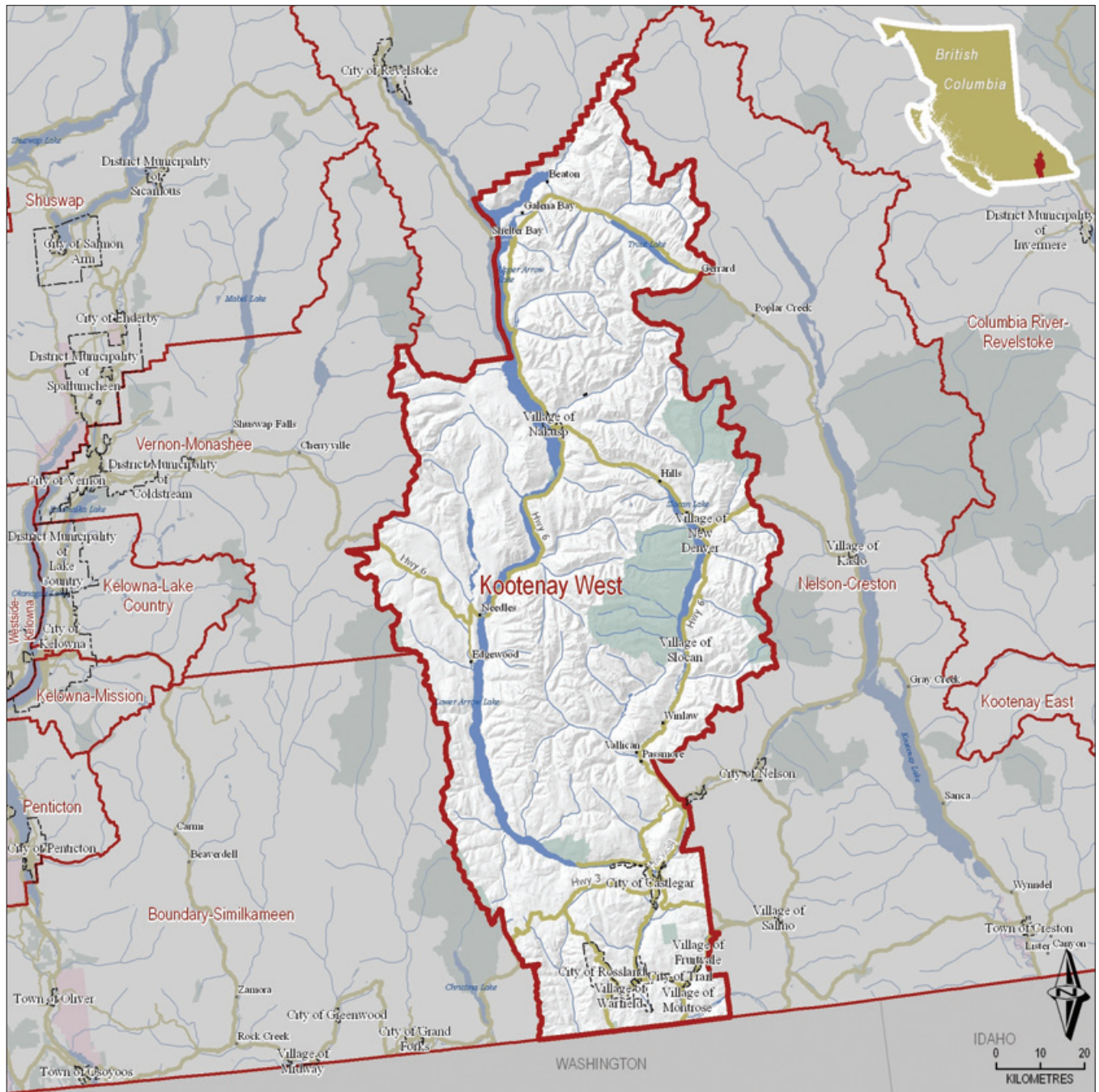
Map 24: Region: Columbia-Kootenay – Proposed Kootenay East Electoral District



Map 25: Region: Columbia-Kootenay – Proposed Nelson-Creston Electoral District



Map 26: Region: Columbia-Kootenay – Proposed Kootenay West Electoral District



E. The Fraser Valley

1. Our analysis of the Fraser Valley electoral districts

In our *Preliminary Report*, we proposed that the number of electoral districts in the Fraser Valley be increased from eight to nine.

Following publication of our *Preliminary Report*, we received oral presentations and written submissions commenting on several aspects of our proposals. For population balancing reasons we had included Aldergrove (part of the Township of Langley) in an Abbotsford-based electoral district. People emphasized that Aldergrove’s community interests are much more aligned with the Township of Langley than with Abbotsford. The boundary between the Township of Langley and the City of Abbotsford (276th Street) constitutes the boundary between the Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley regional districts and we were urged to respect that boundary when revising our proposals.

The City of Abbotsford (pop. 123,864) is too large for two electoral districts, not large enough for three, yet was, under our proposals, divided among four electoral districts. We were told that people did not like the idea of their Abbotsford-based MLAs having an obligation to advocate on behalf of neighbouring communities as well and that the City of Abbotsford should have three (or possibly four) electoral districts wholly within the municipal boundary.

Finally, due to the configuration of municipalities in the Fraser Valley and our statutory obligation to strive for voter parity among electoral districts, we found it necessary to propose a second electoral district that spanned the Fraser River, joining parts of Mission (and unincorporated communities farther east) with the Matsqui and Clayburn areas of Abbotsford. Several residents of Abbotsford spoke against this configuration.

We have addressed most of these points in our revised configuration of electoral districts for the Fraser Valley, as follows:

- Maple Ridge–Pitt Meadows (see Map 28) – no amendment.
- Maple Ridge–Mission (see Map 29) – no amendment.
- Abbotsford–Mission (see Map 30) – we propose amendments to the southwest corner of this district, within the City of Abbotsford, that result in the district’s population being reduced by 3,106. We also propose that this district’s name be changed from Mission–Clayburn to Abbotsford–Mission, in recognition that a majority of constituents live in the City of Abbotsford.
- Chilliwack–Hope (see Map 36) and Chilliwack (see Map 35) – we propose one boundary amendment between these two districts, resulting in Sardis and the Skowkale Indian Reserve (which are within the City of Chilliwack’s outer perimeter) being included in our proposed new Chilliwack electoral district. In addition, our proposed Chilliwack electoral district will no longer include any residents of Abbotsford – it will be wholly within the City of Chilliwack.
- Abbotsford South (see Map 34) and Abbotsford West (see Map 33) – we have been able to create two new electoral districts wholly within the City of Abbotsford.
- Langley (see Map 31) and Fort Langley–Aldergrove (see Map 32) – we accept that Aldergrove has much stronger community ties with the Township of Langley than with the City of Abbotsford. Consequently, we now propose that the two current electoral districts of

Langley and Fort Langley–Aldergrove be retained, with their current names and with no boundary amendments. Although this will result in deviations of plus 18.7 percent and plus 19.1 percent, respectively, we are satisfied that community interests should take precedence over population parity.

2. Conclusion

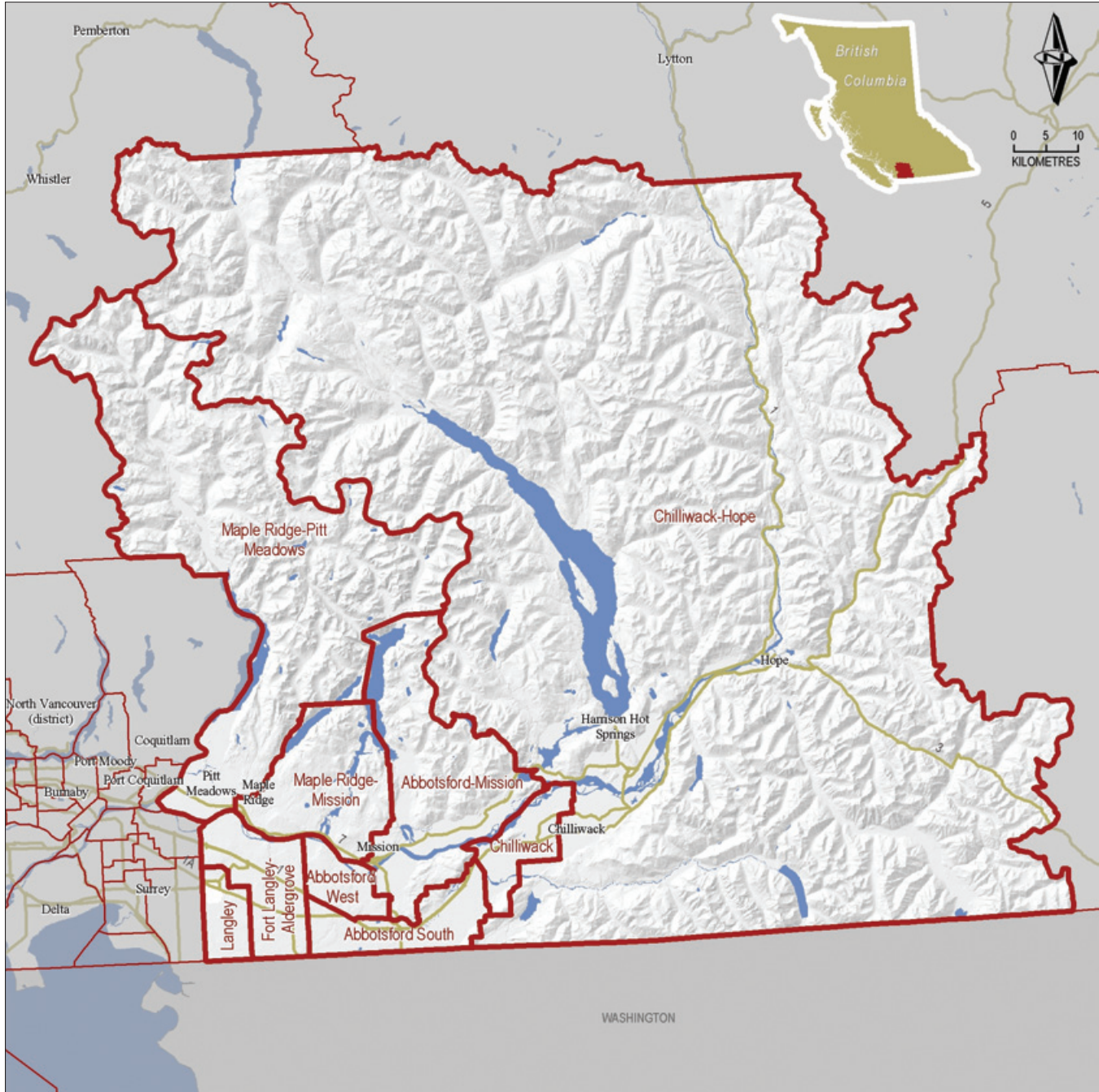
We propose nine electoral districts in the Fraser Valley. These districts differ from those proposed in our *Preliminary Report*, as described in the preceding analysis.

TABLE 5: PROPOSED SMP ELECTORAL DISTRICTS IN THE FRASER VALLEY

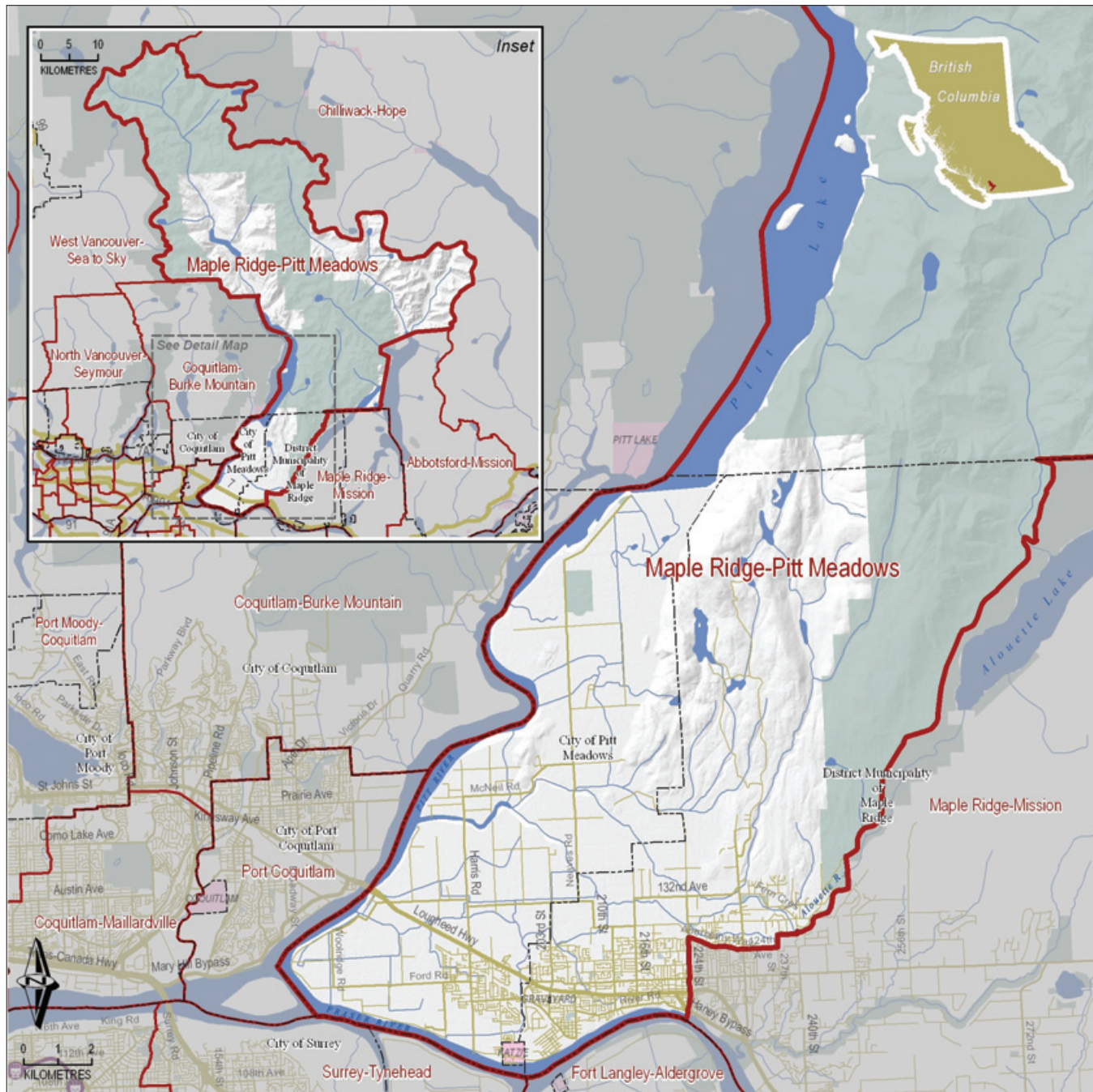
Electoral District	Sq. Km.	Population	Deviation*
Maple Ridge–Pitt Meadows	1,945	50,474	+1.8%
Maple Ridge–Mission	390	50,195	+1.3%
Abbotsford–Mission	663	49,731	+0.3%
Langley	95	58,808	+18.7%
Fort Langley–Aldergrove	234	59,050	+19.1%
Abbotsford West	105	48,541	-2.1%
Abbotsford South	211	49,590	+0.1%
Chilliwack	146	49,338	-0.4%
Chilliwack–Hope	10,833	43,980	-11.3%

* based on 83 electoral districts, with a provincial electoral quotient of 49,560

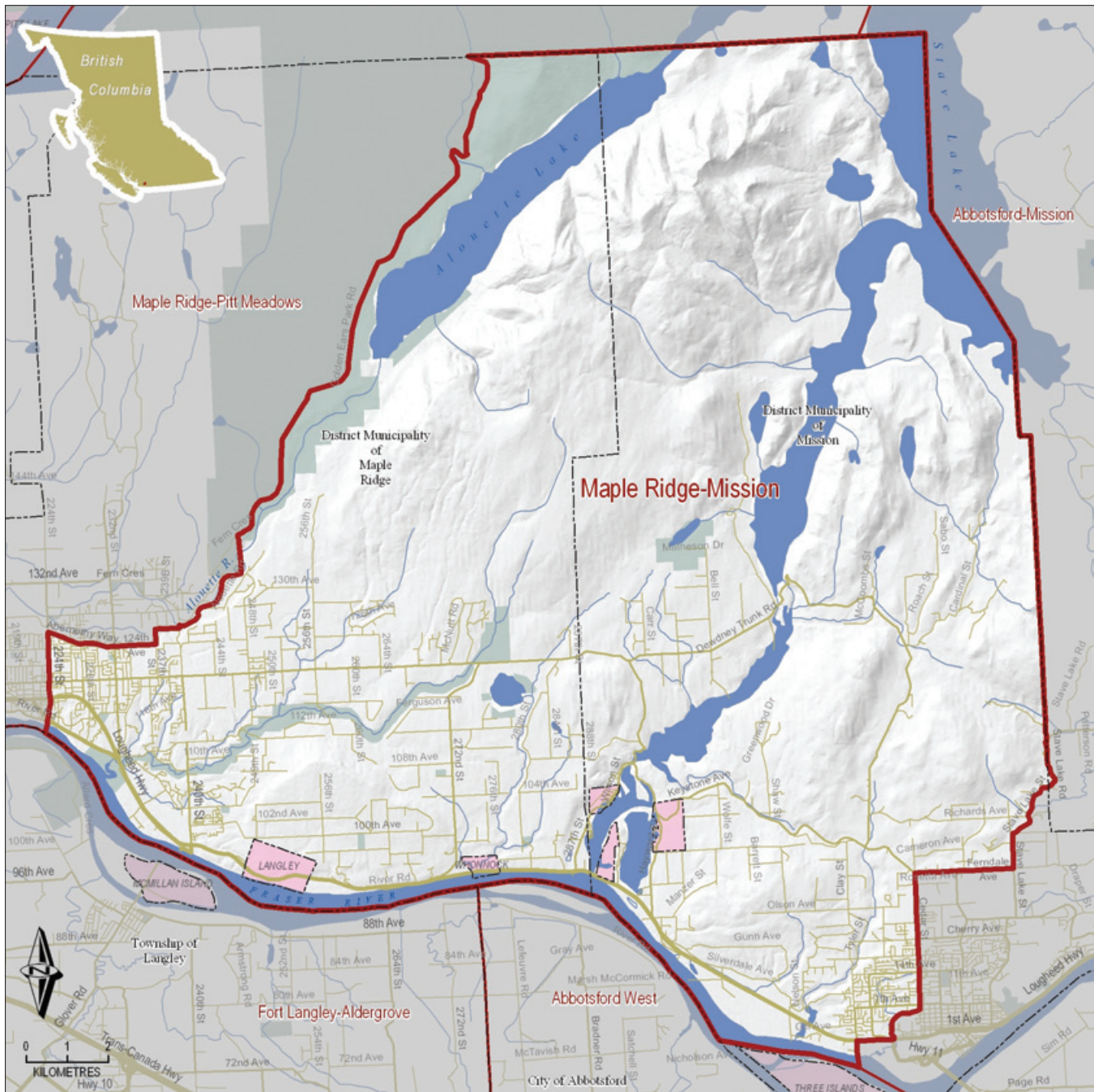
Map 27: Region: Fraser Valley – Proposed Electoral Districts



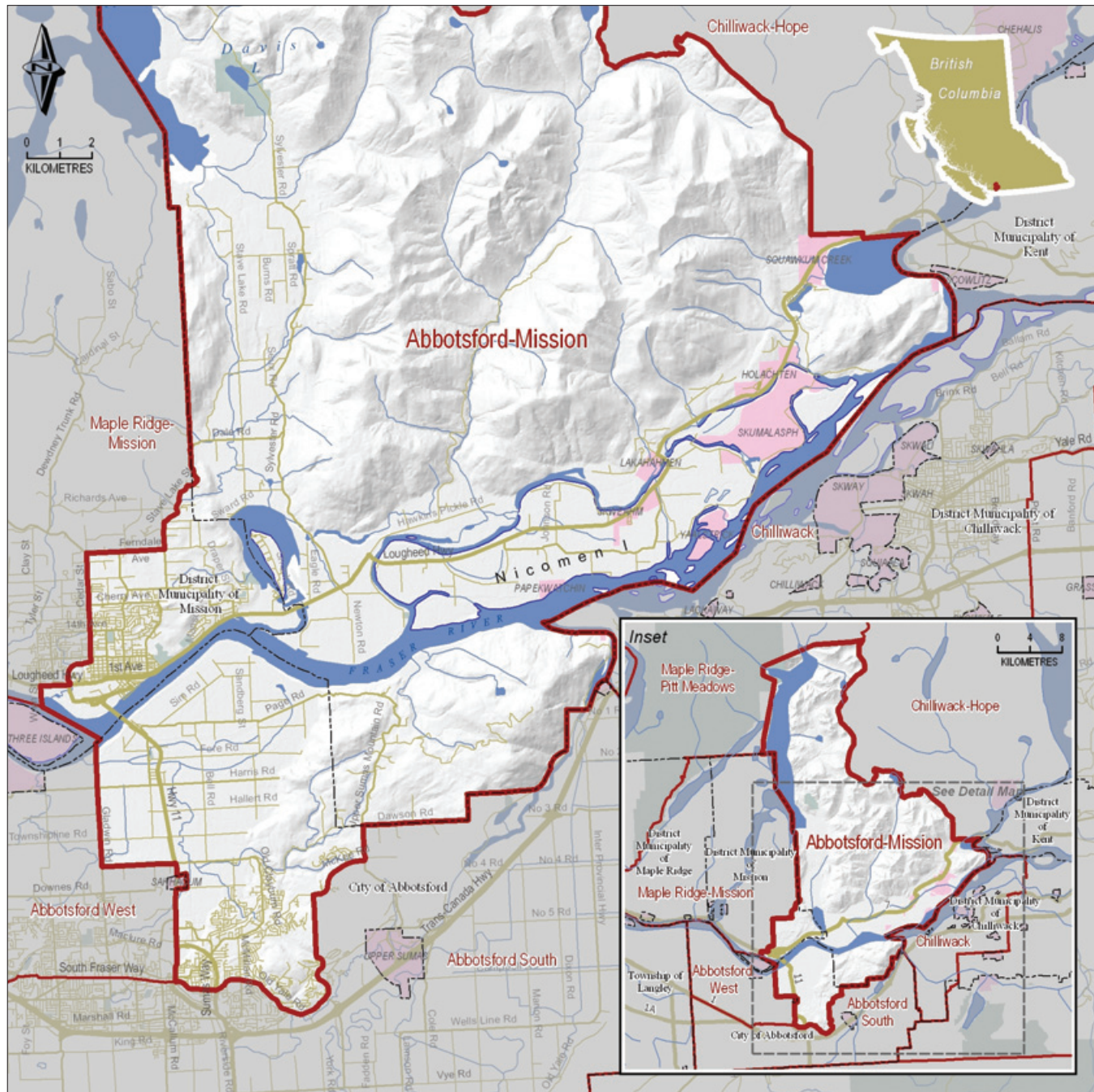
Map 28: Region: Fraser Valley – Proposed Maple Ridge–Pitt Meadows Electoral District



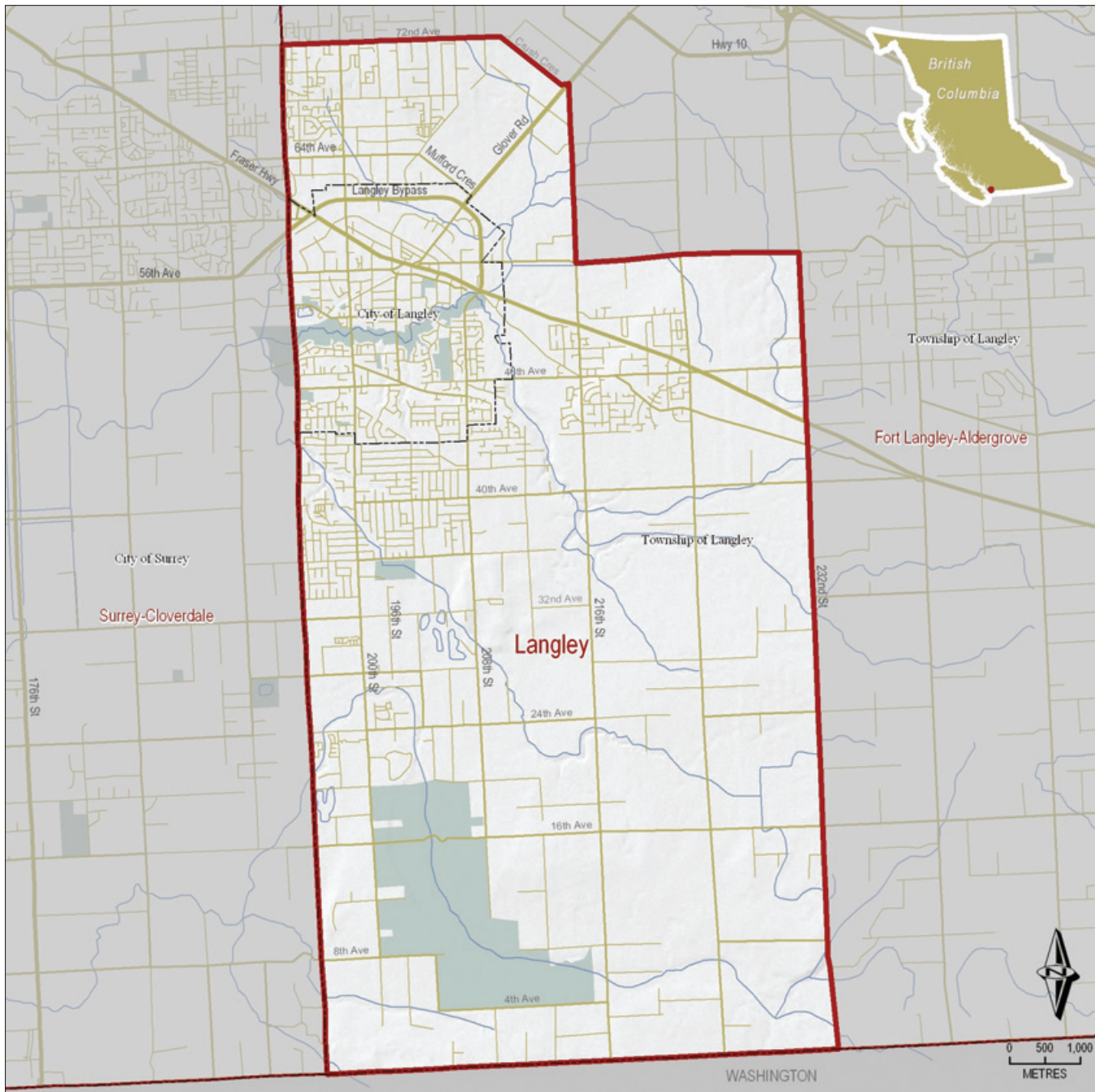
Map 29: Region: Fraser Valley – Proposed Maple Ridge–Mission Electoral District



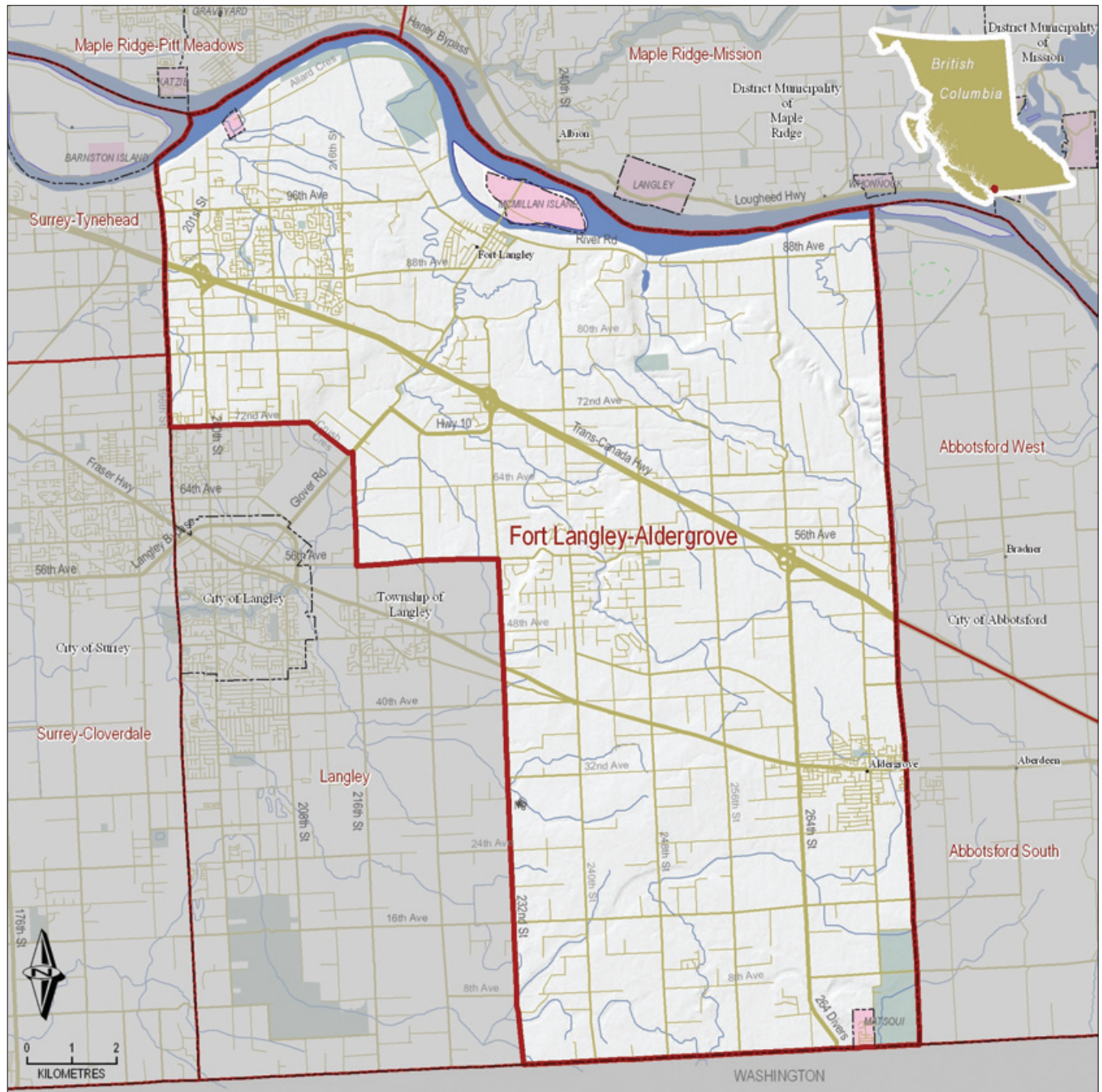
Map 30: Region: Fraser Valley – Proposed Abbotsford-Mission Electoral District



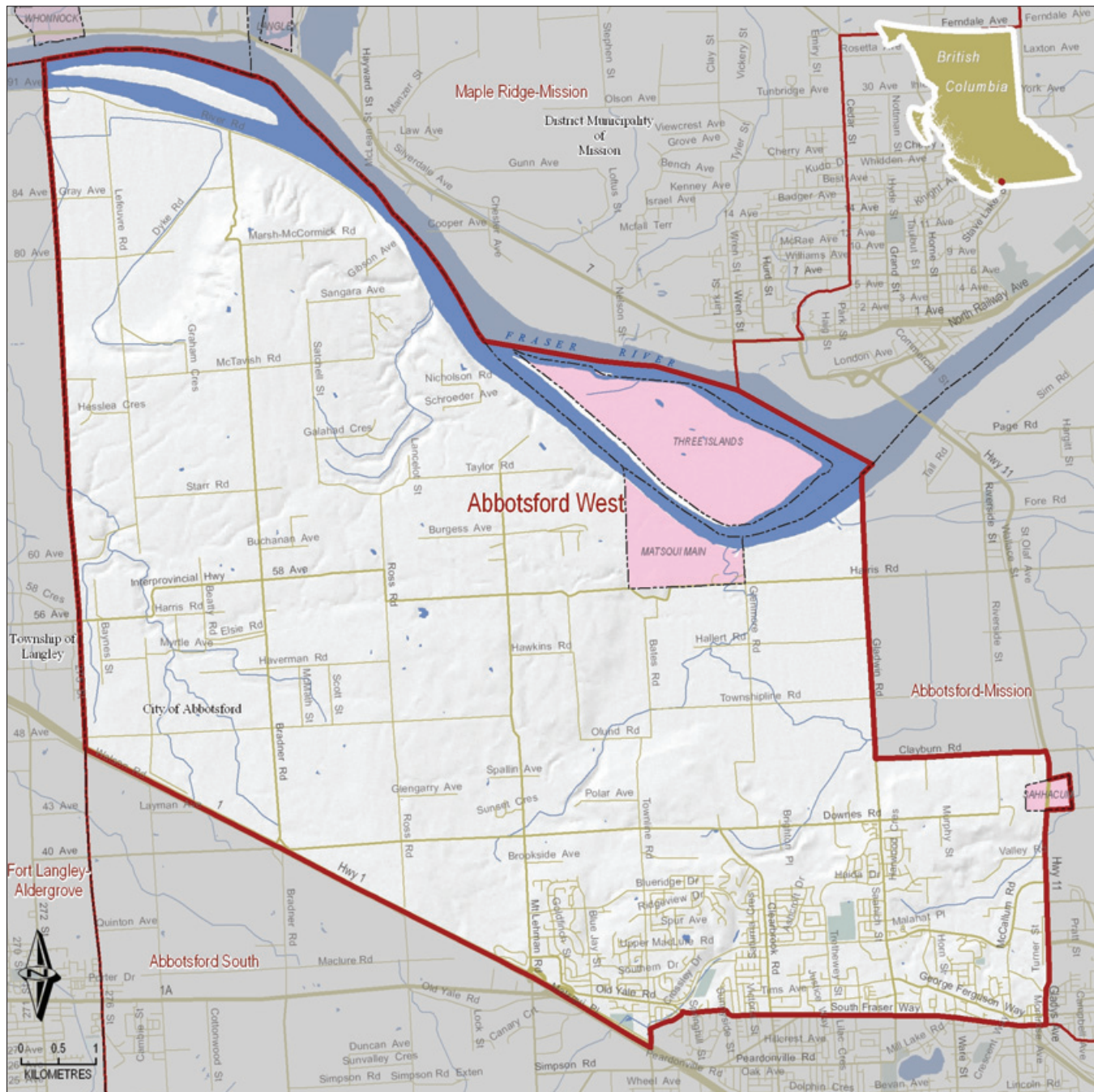
Map 31: Region: Fraser Valley – Proposed Langley Electoral District



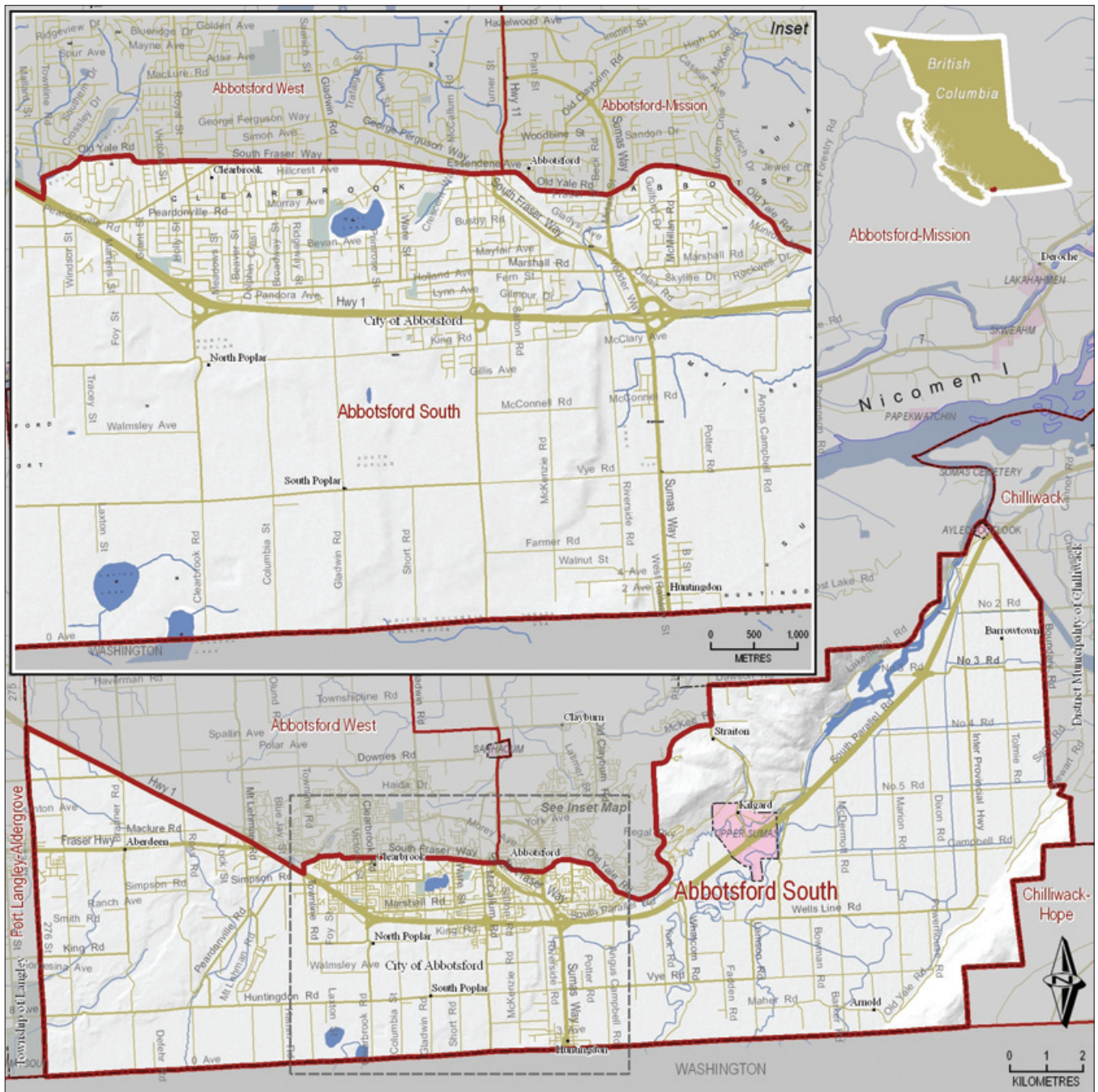
Map 32: Region: Fraser Valley – Proposed Fort Langley–Aldergrove Electoral District



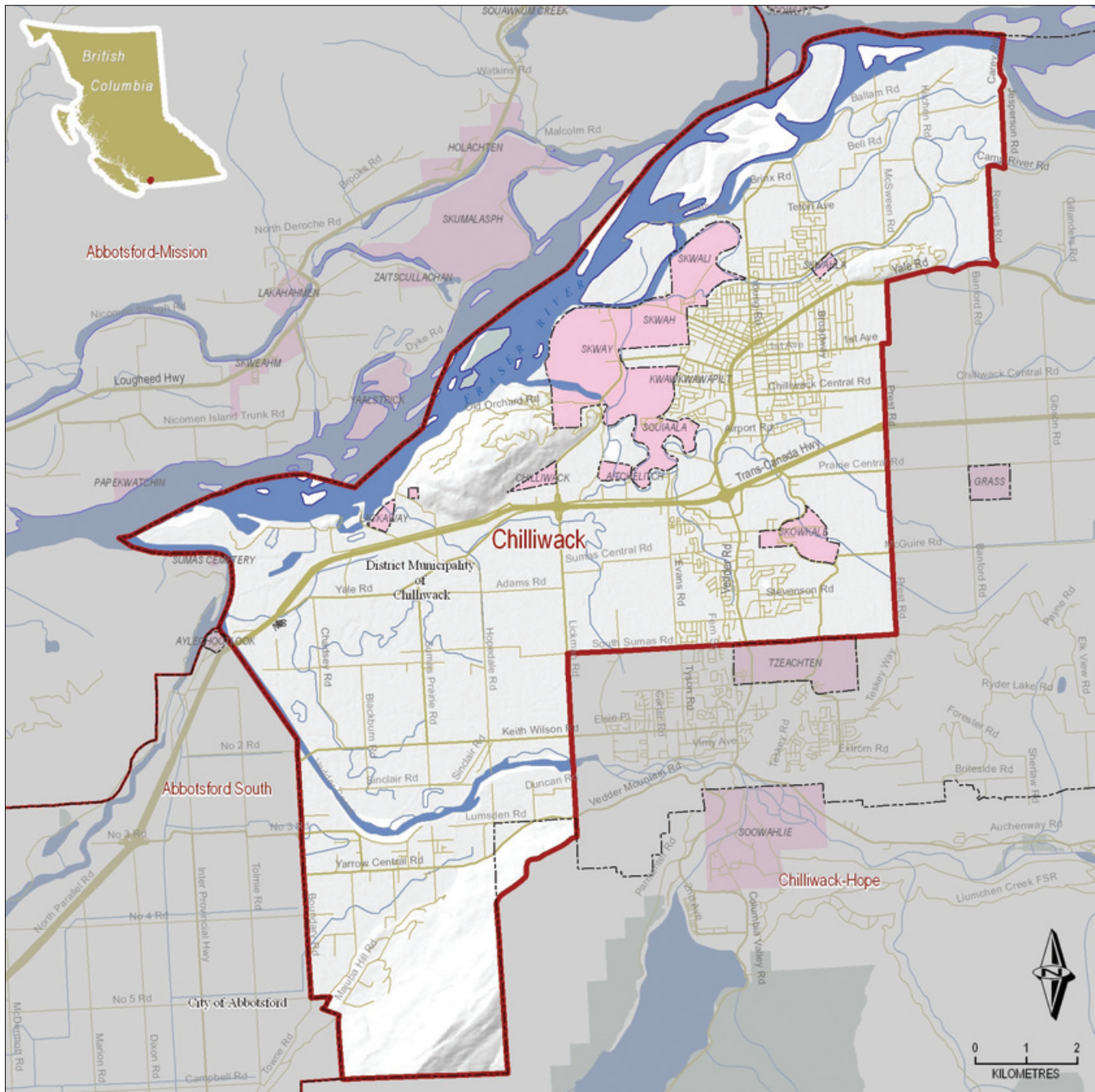
Map 33: Region: Fraser Valley – Proposed Abbotsford West Electoral District



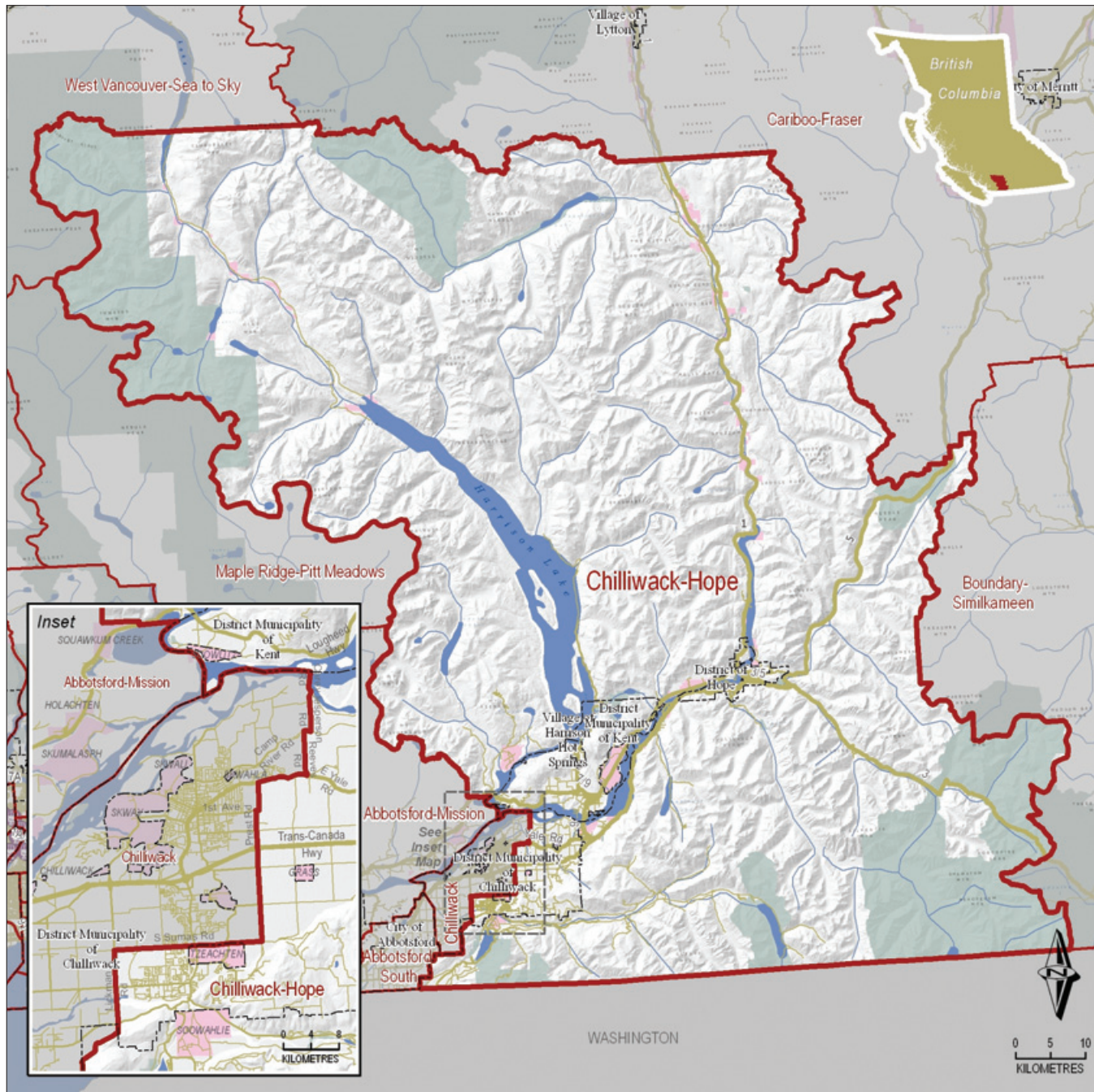
Map 34: Region: Fraser Valley – Proposed Abbotsford South Electoral District



Map 35: Region: Fraser Valley – Proposed Chilliwack Electoral District



Map 36: Region: Fraser Valley – Proposed Chilliwack-Hope Electoral District



F. The Tri-Cities

1. Our analysis of the Tri-Cities electoral districts

In our *Preliminary Report*, we proposed that the number of electoral districts in our Tri-Cities region be increased to four (see Maps 37–41).

We had proposed that, within the City of Coquitlam, the boundary between our proposed Port Moody–Coquitlam and Coquitlam–Maillardville electoral districts begin at North Road, and run east along Austin Avenue and then north along Schoolhouse Street and Crestwood Drive to the Port Moody border. During our public hearings we were told that this would divide the Austin Heights neighbourhood between two electoral districts. We agree, and now propose that this boundary, beginning at North Road, run east along Austin Avenue, north along Blue Mountain Street, east along Foster Avenue and north along Gatensbury Street to the Port Moody border.

2. Conclusion

We propose four electoral districts in the Tri-Cities. These districts differ from those proposed in our *Preliminary Report*, as described in the preceding analysis.

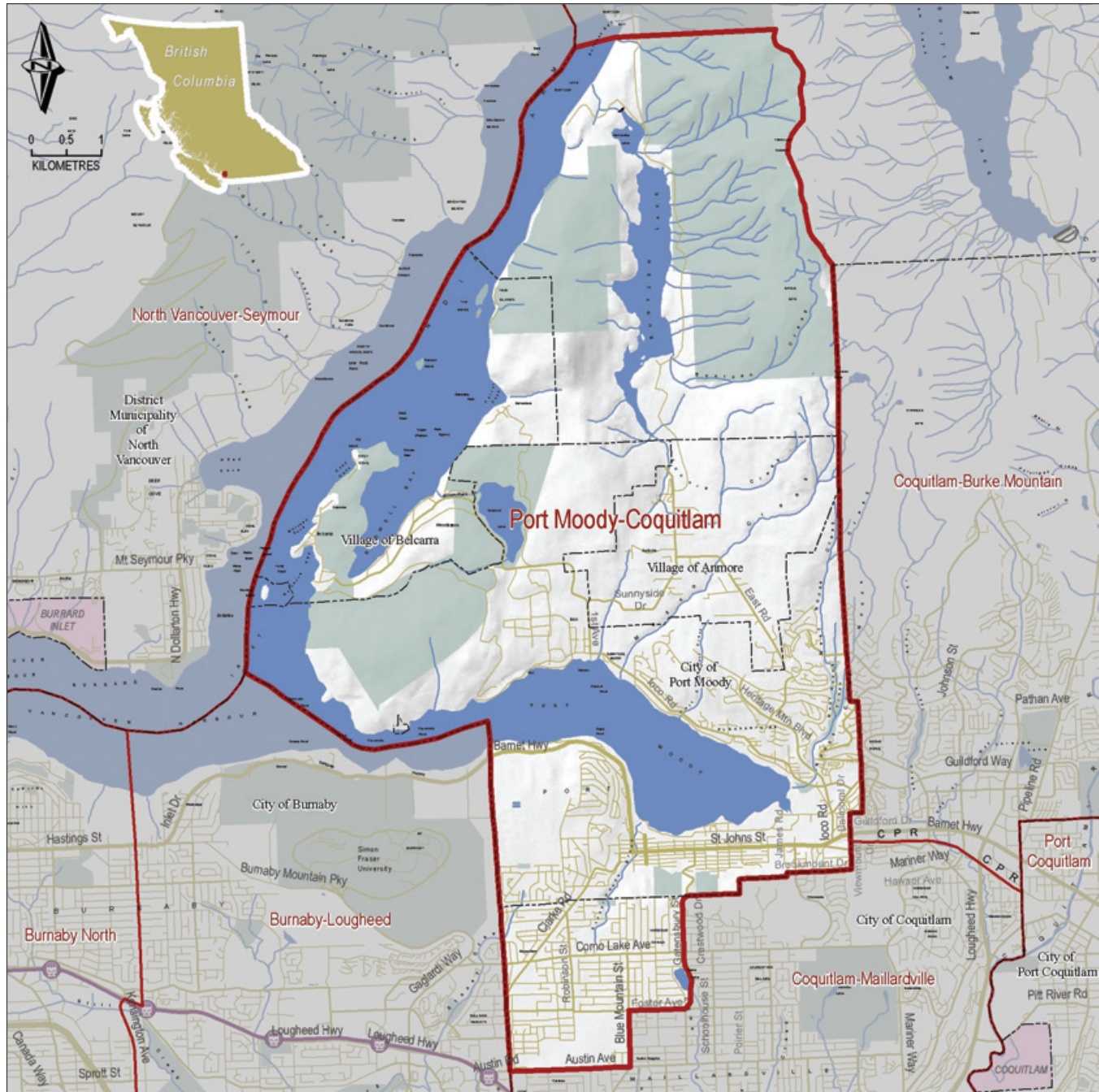
TABLE 6: PROPOSED SMP ELECTORAL DISTRICTS IN THE TRI-CITIES

Electoral District	Sq. Km.	Population	Deviation*
Port Moody–Coquitlam	81	46,148	-6.9%
Coquitlam–Maillardville	32	51,706	+4.3%
Coquitlam–Burke Mountain	619	46,732	-5.7%
Port Coquitlam	35	52,692	+6.3%
* based on 83 electoral districts, with a provincial electoral quotient of 49,560			

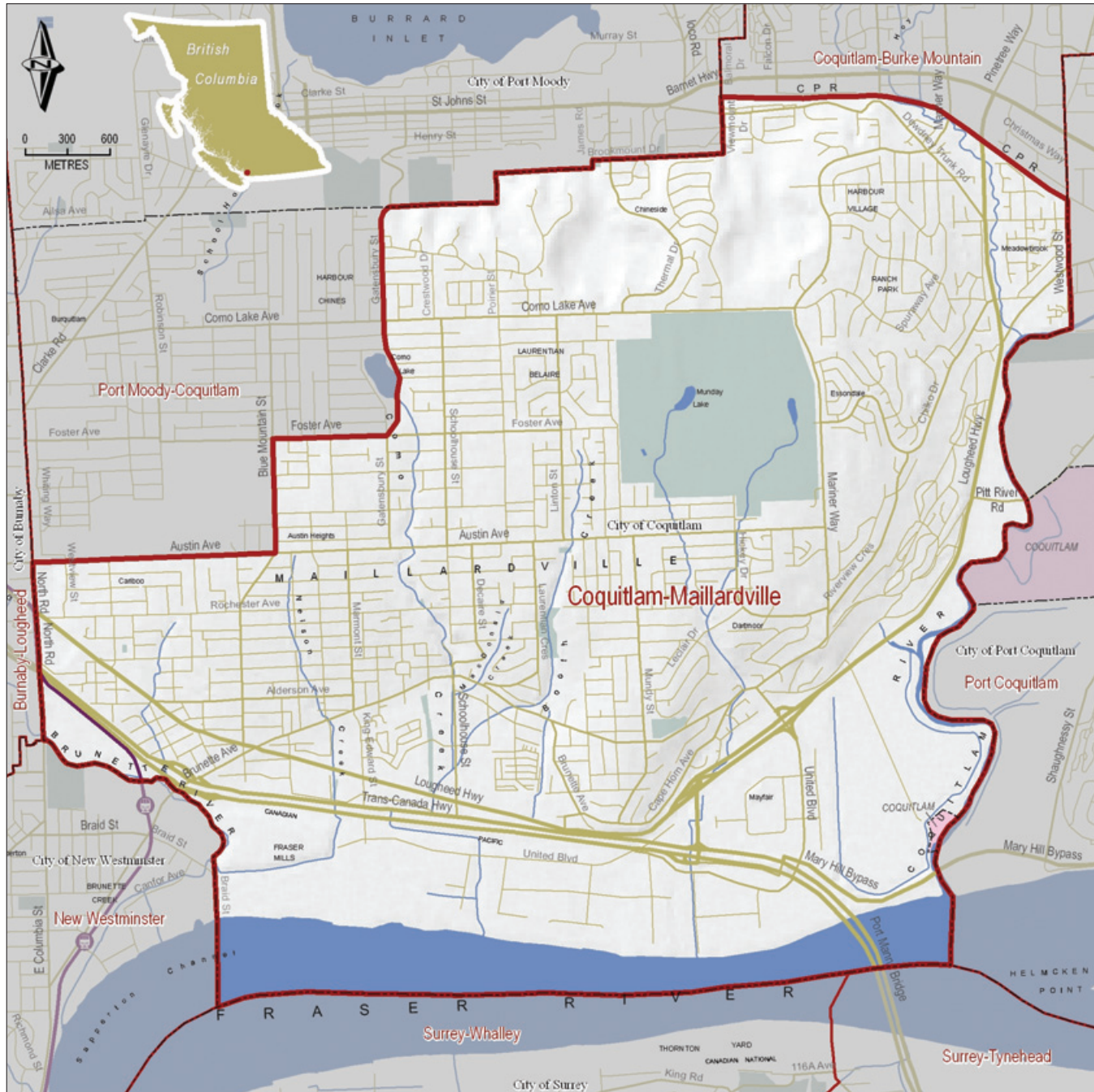
Map 37: Region: Tri-Cities – Proposed Electoral Districts



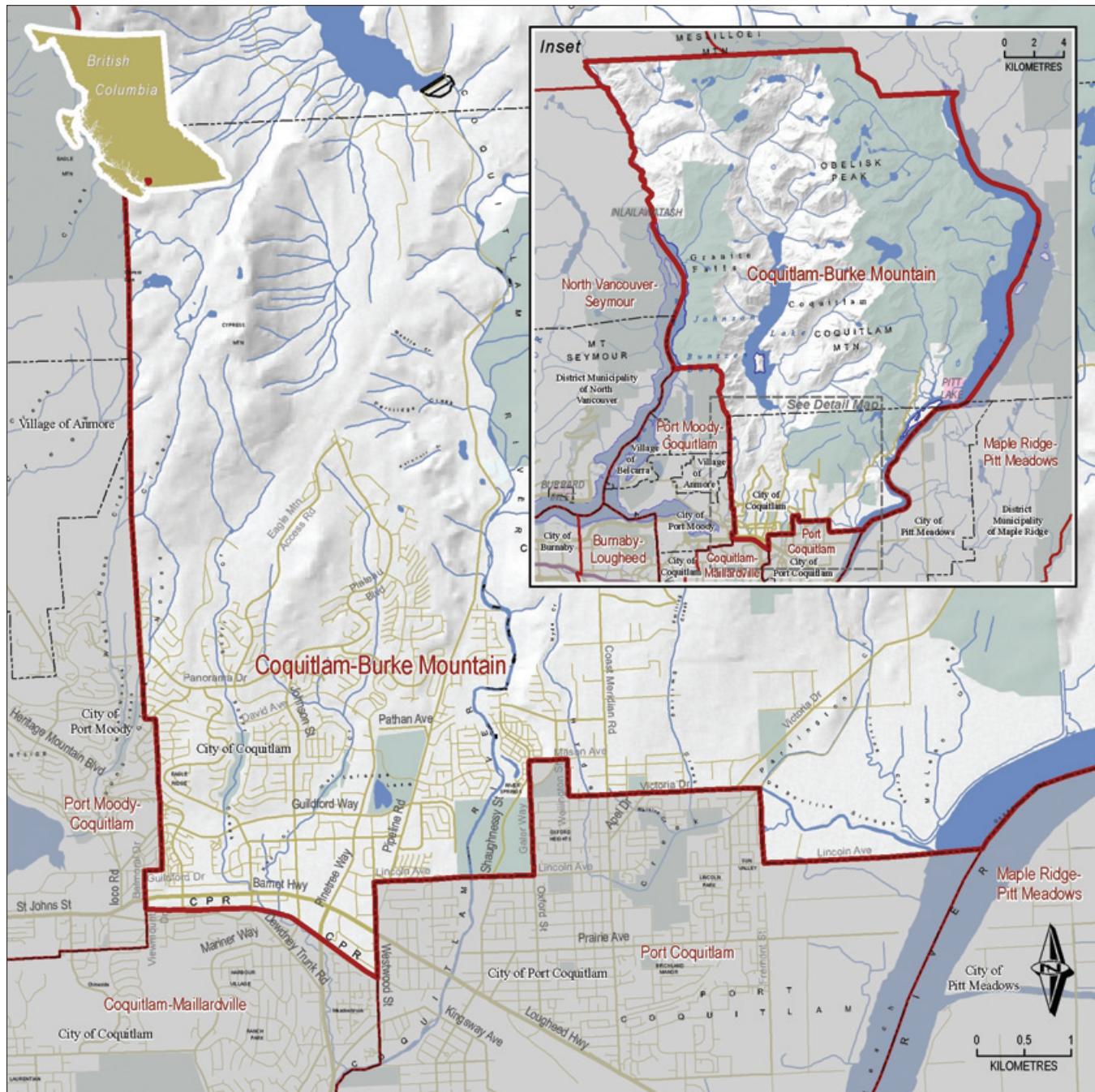
Map 38: Region: Tri-Cities – Proposed Port Moody–Coquitlam Electoral District



Map 39: Region: Tri-Cities – Proposed Coquitlam-Maillardville Electoral District



Map 40: Region: Tri-Cities – Proposed Coquitlam–Burke Mountain Electoral District



Map 41: Region: Tri-Cities – Proposed Port Coquitlam Electoral District

