



March 13th, 2018 Special Report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission



Hon. Gerard Mitchell, Commission Chair
Lynn Murray, QC, Commissioner
Kerri Carpenter, Commissioner
Elizabeth Shaw, Commissioner
Elmer MacDonald, Commissioner

March 13th, 2018

The Honourable Francis D. Watts
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Prince Edward Island
P.O. Box 2000
Charlottetown, P.E.
C1A 7N8



Dear Mr. Speaker:

Re: 18 Geographic Electoral District Map of PEI

On December 20th, 2017 Premier MacLauchlan sent the chair of the Prince Edward Island Electoral Boundaries Commission, a letter in which he said:

“In the speech from the Throne, the Government committed to the creation of an independent map that lays out the eighteen geographic boundaries inherent in the mixed member proportional model put forward in the 2016 plebiscite. To that end, we would formally request that the Electoral Boundaries Commission undertake this work. This will ensure a level of public education essential on a matter of such fundamental importance in our democratic process.”

The letter was tabled in the House of Assembly on the same day and spoken to briefly by a representative of each party present.

The Electoral Boundaries Commission agreed to do what the Premier’s letter requested of it. The task was a narrow one. The Commission was to create a map laying out the geographic boundaries dividing the Province into eighteen separate electoral districts. The intent of this project was to give Islanders a good understanding of what an independently drawn eighteen electoral district map could look like.

The Commission had no mandate to explain or discuss other aspects of the Mixed Member Proportional model put forward in the 2016 plebiscite. However, at each public meeting the Commission acknowledged that the mixed member proportional model of 2016 contemplated a twenty-seven seat legislative assembly composed of eighteen districts MLAs and nine at-large MLAs without any district boundaries.

In carrying out its work on the eighteen district project, the Commission tried to follow the same principles and procedures and take into account the same considerations as it had in drawing the twenty-seven district map that was adopted by the House of Assembly in May of 2017. However, the reduced number and increased size of districts made it very difficult to keep communities of interest within a single district. Nevertheless, the Commission tried as best it could, though not always successfully, to respect the integrity of municipal boundaries and school zones. It also tried to make at least some allowance for high growth areas and to respect the concerns of far east and far west districts. As a further measure to keep communities of common interest together the

Commission did not use roadways as boundary lines in most rural areas so that neighbors living along the same road would not be voting in different districts.

In the course of its work on the project, the Commission held five public meetings where it heard from approximately 150 Islanders. In addition, the Commission received four written submissions or comments. The Commission also held eight lengthy private meetings. As a result of all the foregoing the Commission has created the enclosed province-wide eighteen district electoral map. The Commission considers this map to be a fair and reasonable lay-out of the geographic boundaries of the eighteen electoral districts inherent in the Mixed Member Proportional model put forward in the 2016 plebiscite. Included with the province-wide map are maps of each individual district. However, the Commission hastens to point out that the map is not a binding one and that it will not be the electoral map for the next provincial general election. It is simply one tool to be used during the referendum process in explaining the Mixed Member Proportional model as put forward in the 2016 plebiscite.

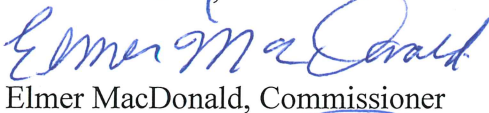
According to the records of Elections PEI there are 99,998 registered voters in PEI. Therefore the provincial average for the eighteen districts would be 5,555 electors. All of the districts on the enclosed map except one (District16), have registered voter populations within 10% of the provincial average. This is consistent with the variations allowed in the twenty-seven district map drawn by the Commission in 2017. The Commission does not consider that deviations from the provincial average greater than 10% are justified in such a small and densely populated province. However, it should be noted that in some cases urban districts (although within 10% of the provincial average) have nearly 20% more voters than some rural ones. The Commission believes this difference is justified because rural districts in the far east and far west have less access to resources than urban ones and ones closer to the center of the Province. District 16 is below the provincial average by 25%. The Commission considers this deviation is justified in order to provide more effective representation for the province's Acadian minority.

The Commission is grateful for the opportunity to have worked on this interesting project. It also hopes that its work will provide a valuable educational contribution for the referendum on electoral reform that is to be held in conjunction with the next provincial general election.

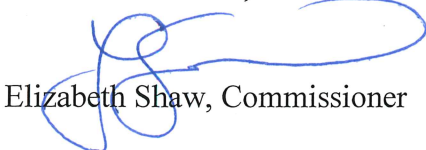
Sincerely,



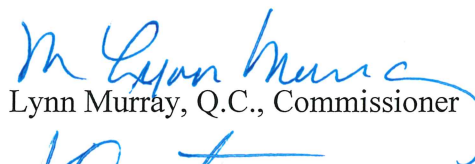
Gerard Mitchell, Commission Chair



Elmer MacDonald, Commissioner



Elizabeth Shaw, Commissioner

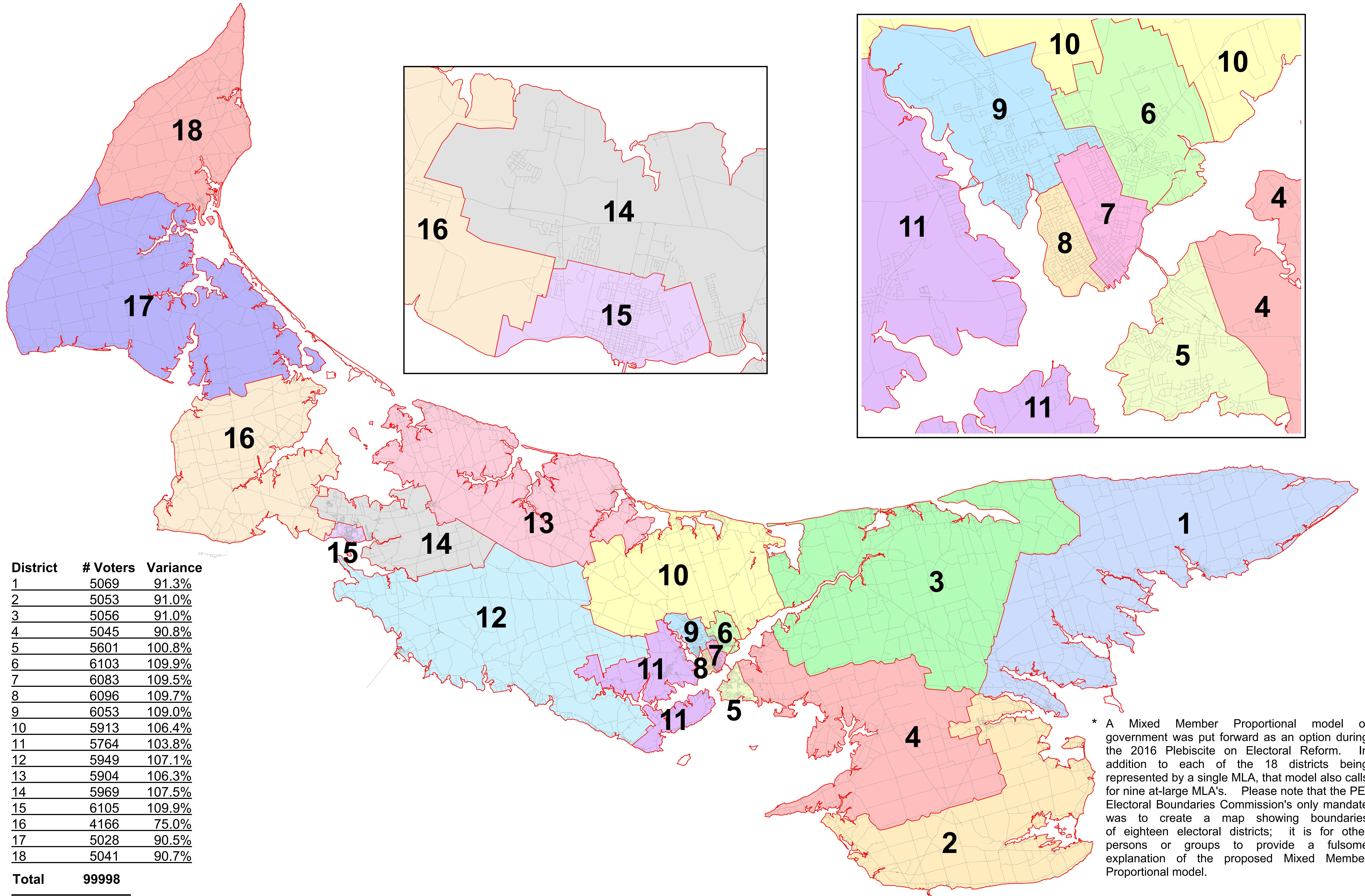


Lynn Murray, Q.C., Commissioner



Kerri Carpenter, Commissioner

Prince Edward Island Map showing 18 geographic electoral districts inherent in the 2016 Mixed Member Proportional model*



District	# Voters	Variance
1	5069	91.3%
2	5053	91.0%
3	5056	91.0%
4	5045	90.8%
5	5601	100.8%
6	6103	109.9%
7	6083	109.5%
8	6096	109.7%
9	6053	109.0%
10	5913	106.4%
11	5764	103.8%
12	5949	107.1%
13	5904	106.3%
14	5969	107.5%
15	6105	109.9%
16	4166	75.0%
17	5028	90.5%
18	5041	90.7%

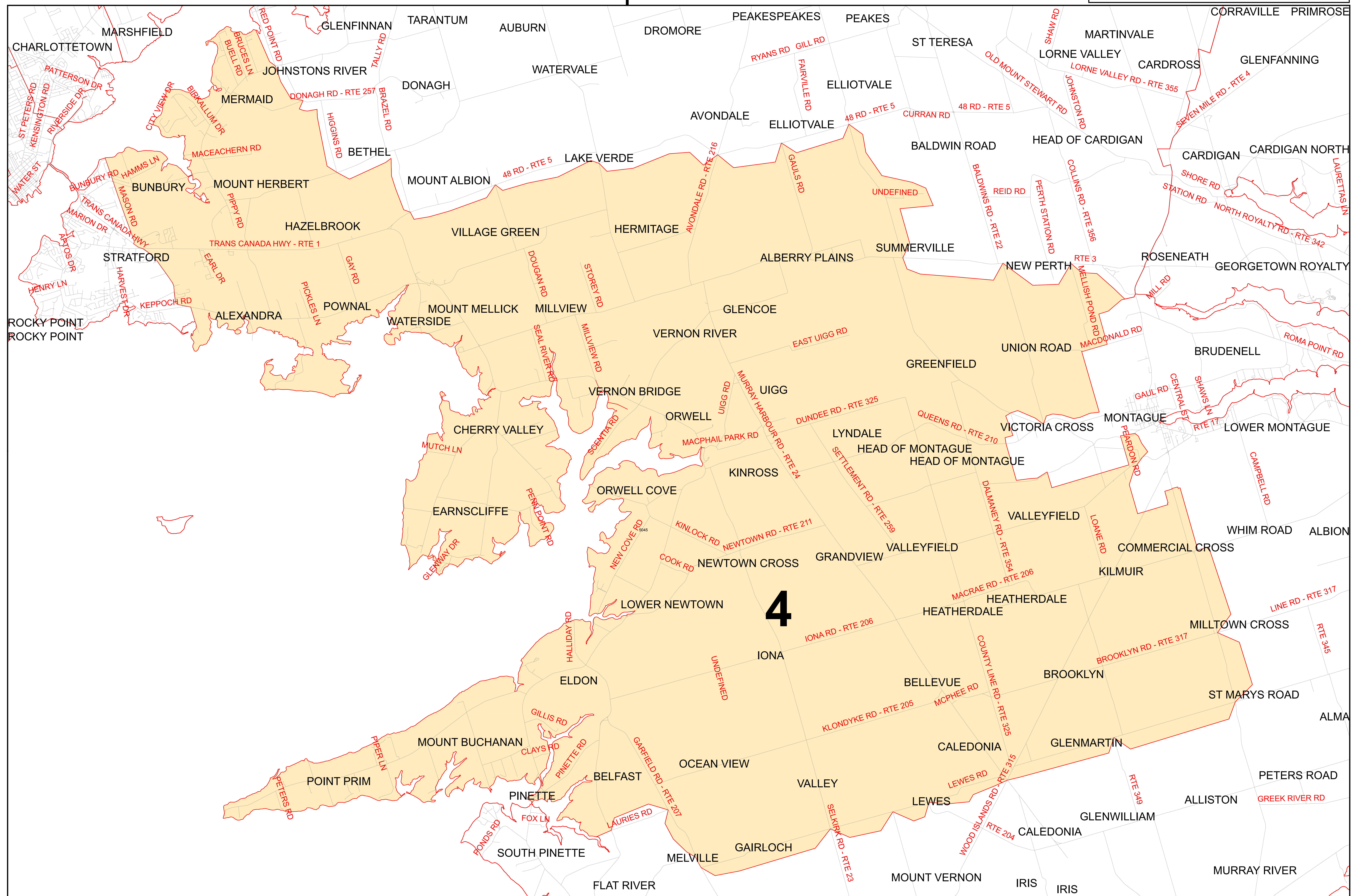
Total 99998

Average amount of electors per district is 5,555 for 18 districts

* A Mixed Member Proportional model of government was put forward as an option during the 2016 Plebiscite on Electoral Reform. In addition to each of the 18 districts being represented by a single MLA, that model also calls for nine at-large MLA's. Please note that the PEI Electoral Boundaries Commission's only mandate was to create a map showing boundaries of eighteen electoral districts; it is for other persons or groups to provide a fulsome explanation of the proposed Mixed Member Proportional model.

Prince Edward Island Map showing 18 geographic electoral districts inherent in the 2016 Mixed Member Proportional model*

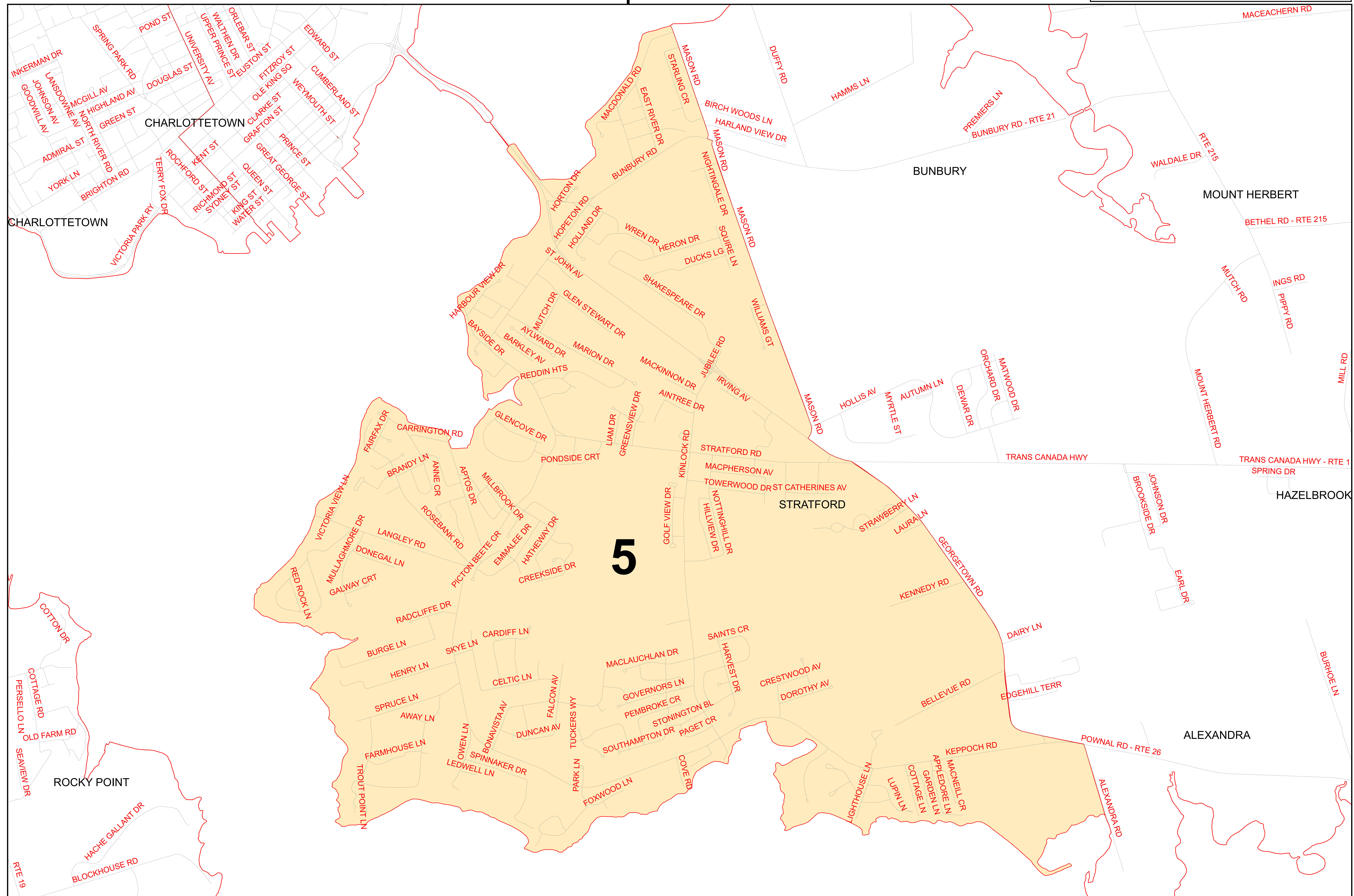
District # 4
of Electors 5045



Prince Edward Island Map

showing 18 geographic electoral districts
inherent in the 2016 Mixed Member Proportional model*

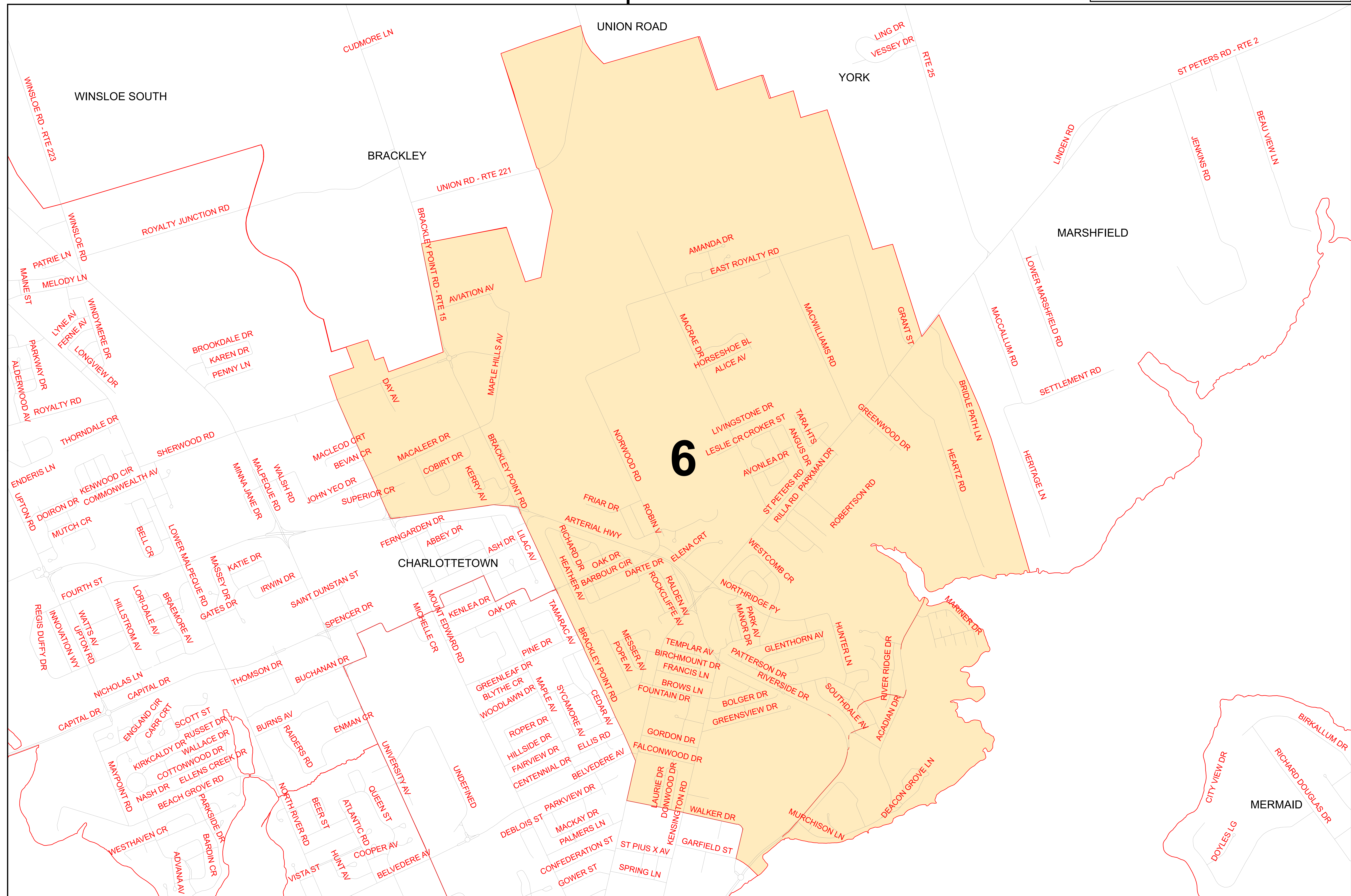
District # 5
of Electors 5601



Prince Edward Island Map

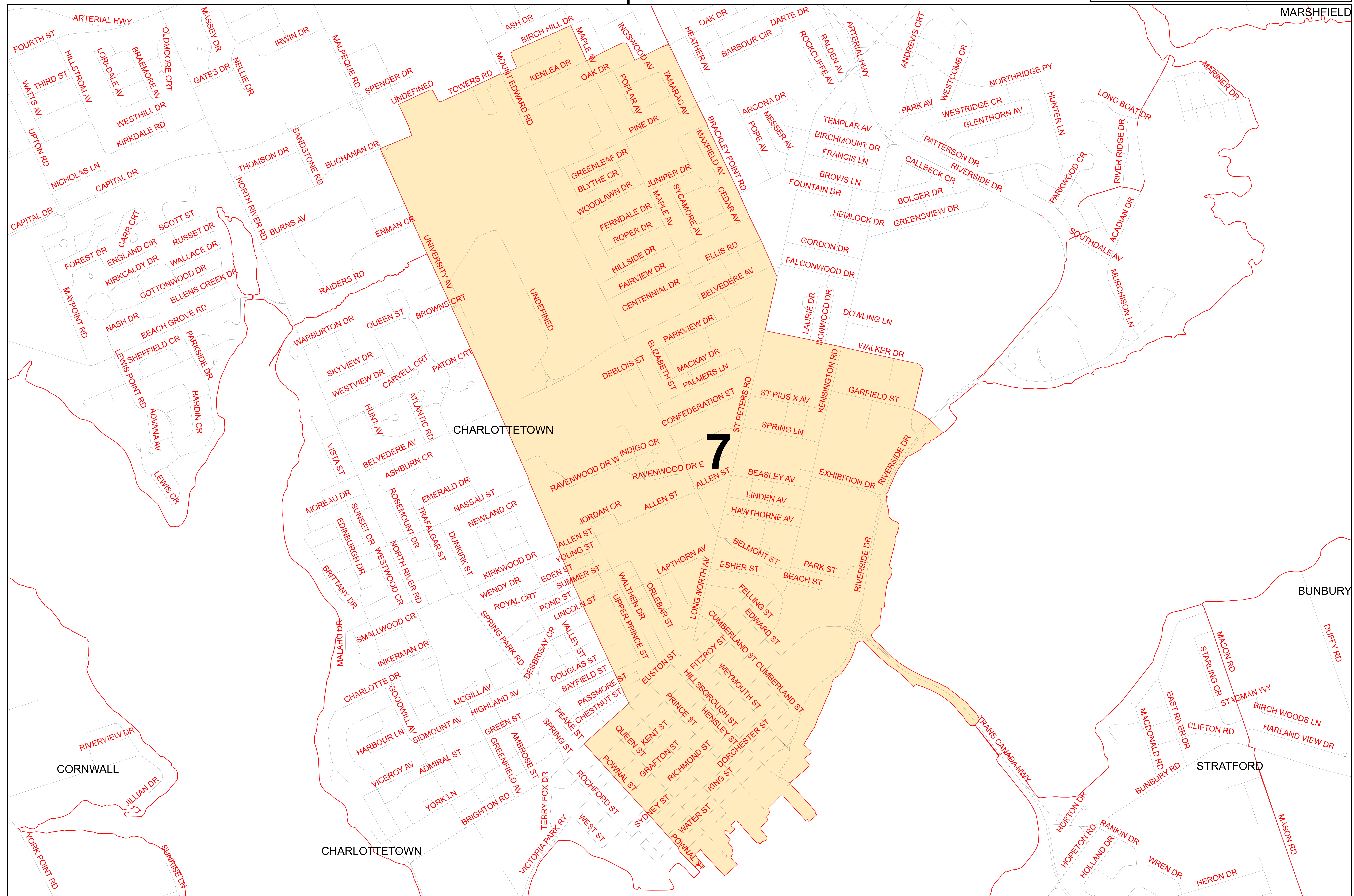
showing 18 geographic electoral districts
inherent in the 2016 Mixed Member Proportional model*

District # 6
of Electors 6103



Prince Edward Island Map showing 18 geographic electoral districts inherent in the 2016 Mixed Member Proportional model*

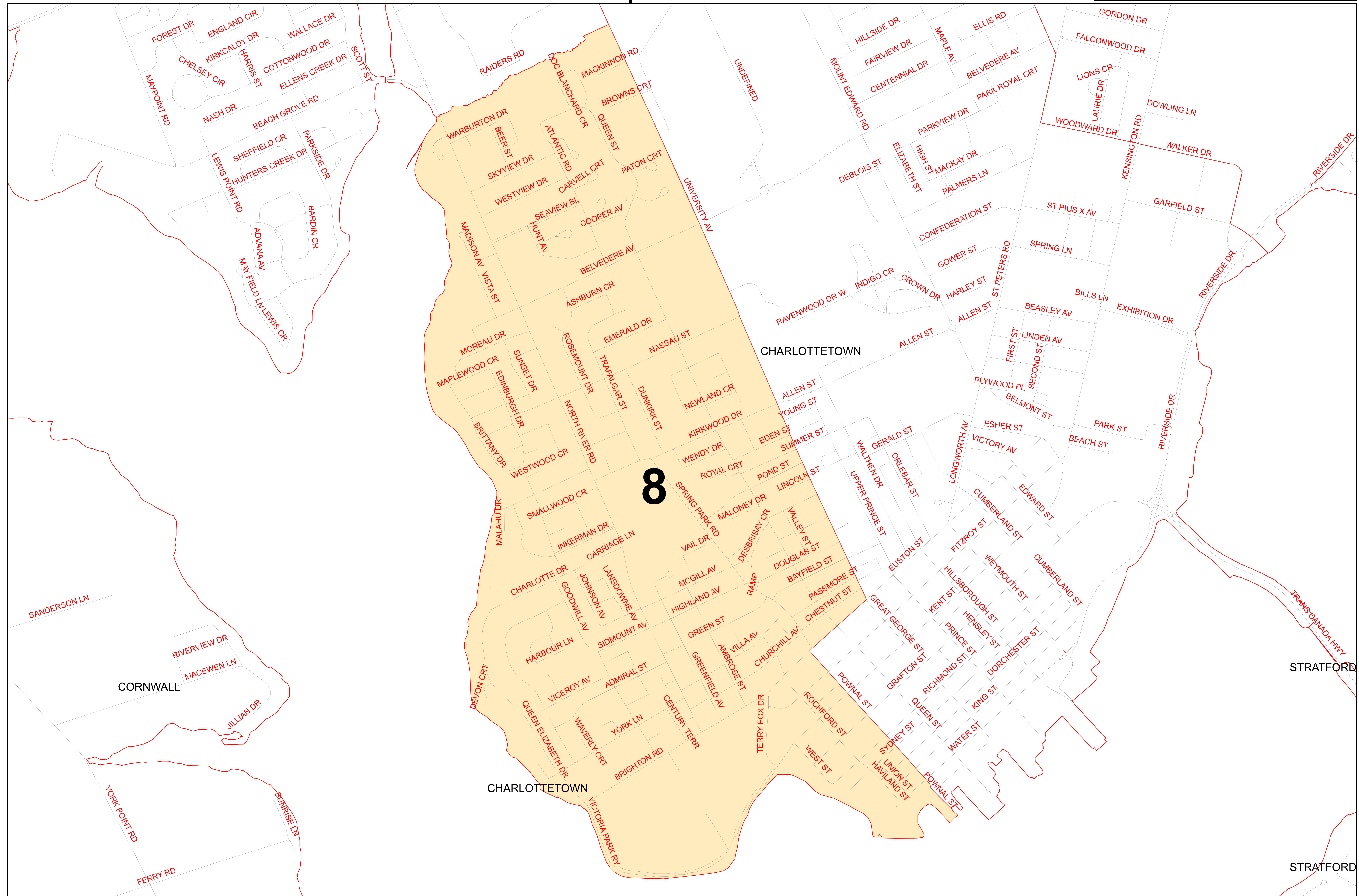
District # 7
of Electors 6083



Prince Edward Island Map

showing 18 geographic electoral districts
inherent in the 2016 Mixed Member Proportional model*

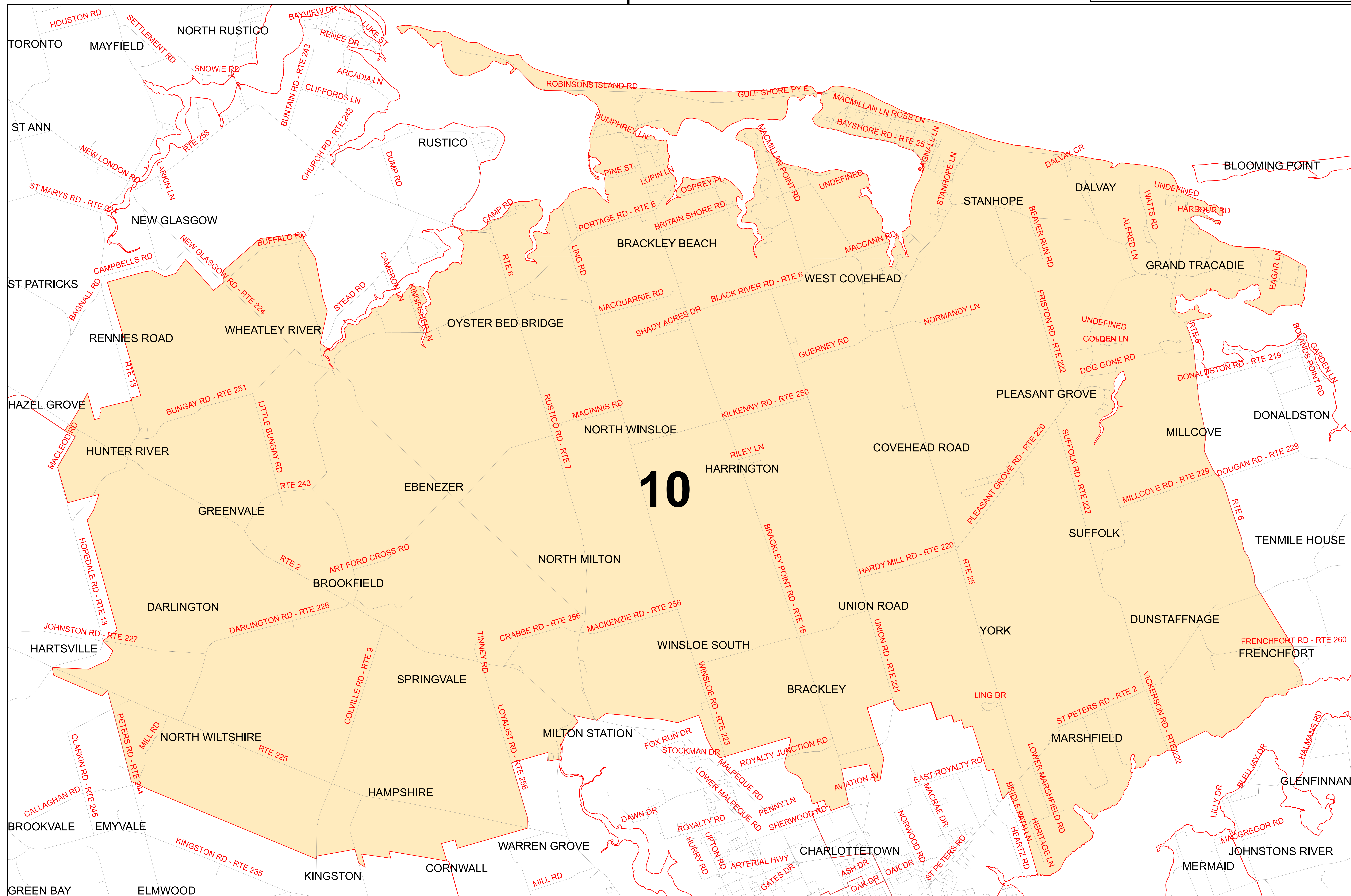
District # 8
of Electors 6096



Prince Edward Island Map

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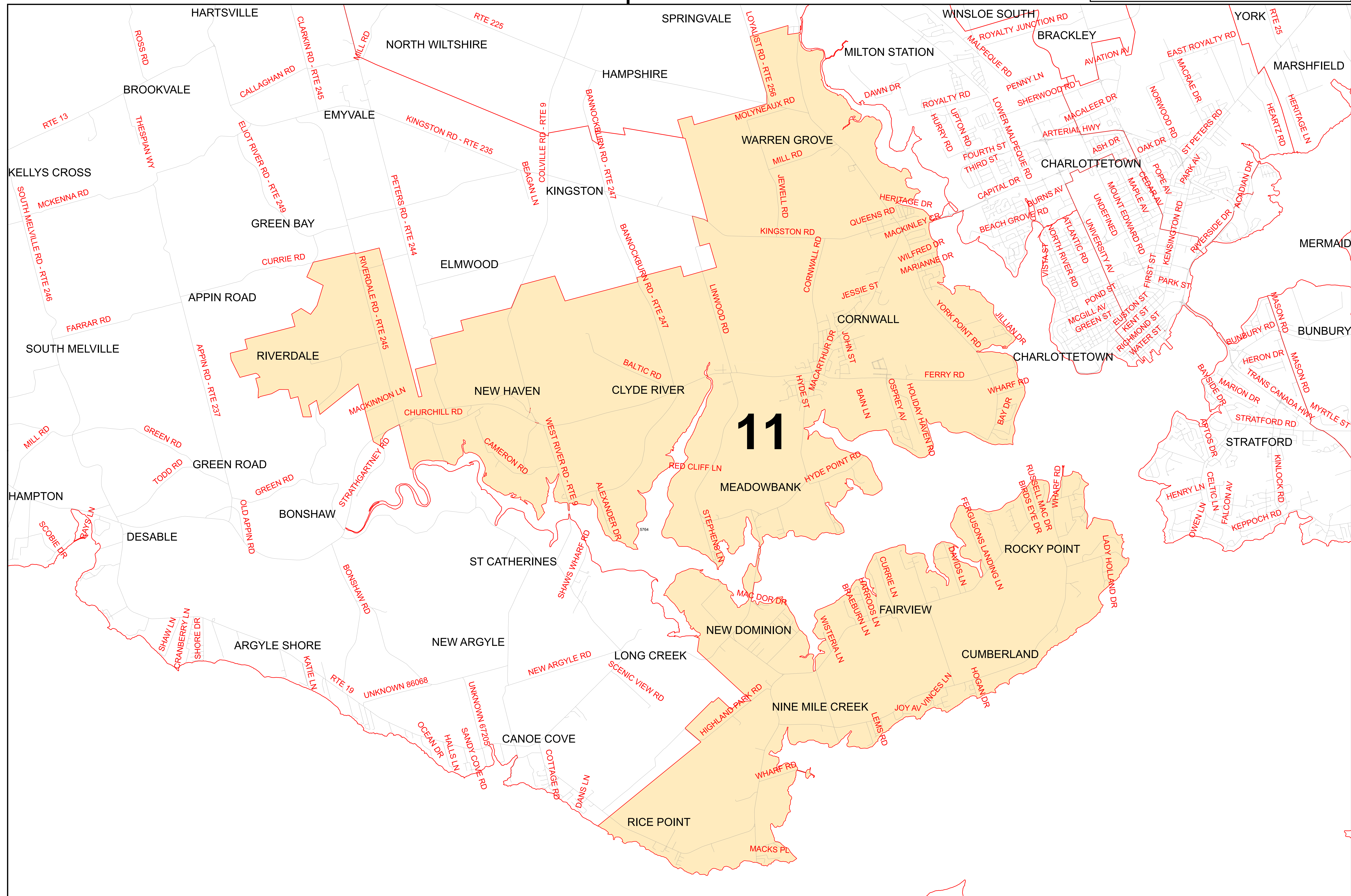
District # 10
of Electors 5913



Prince Edward Island Map

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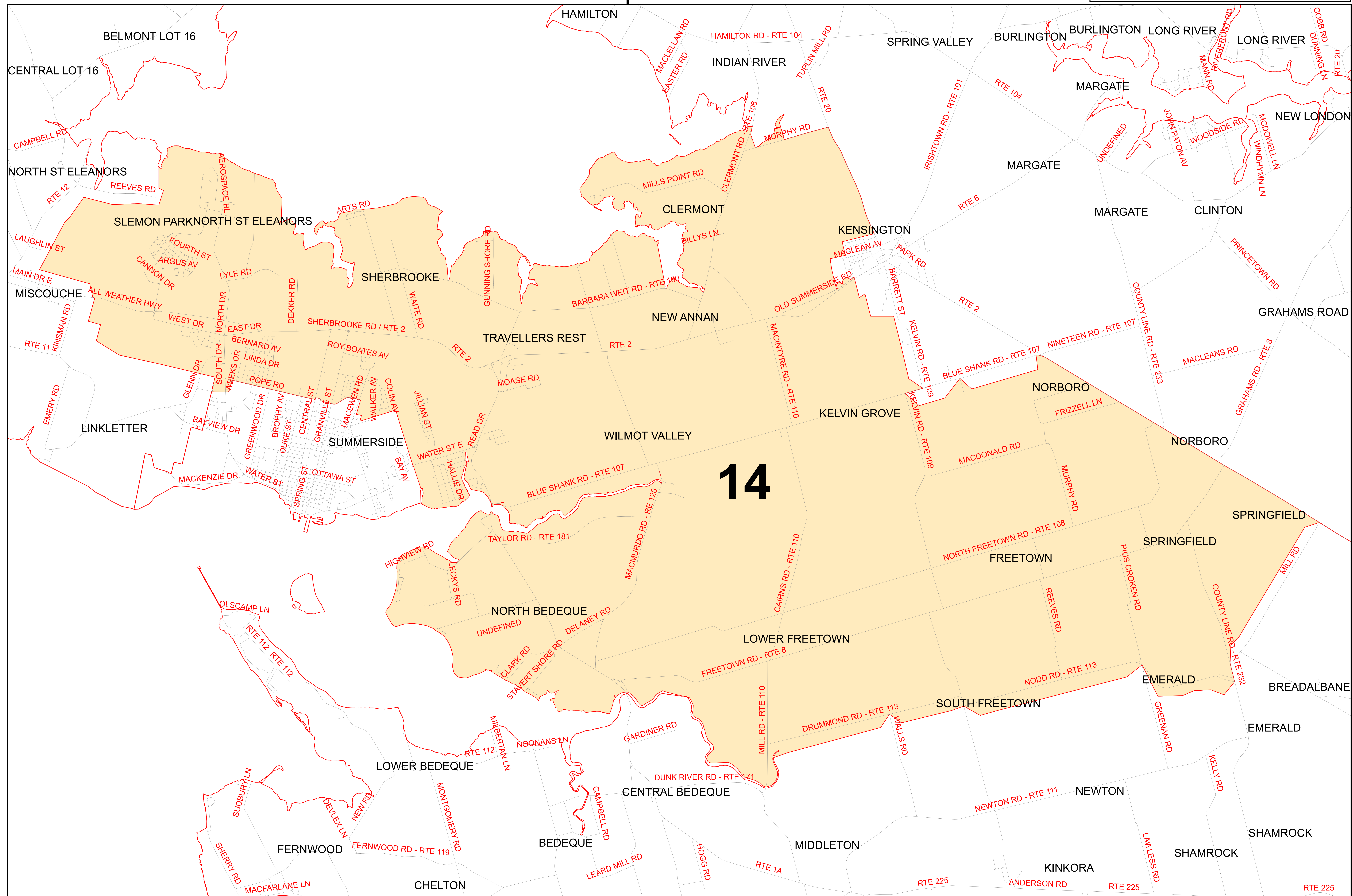
District # 11
of Electors 5764



Prince Edward Island Map

showing 18 geographic electoral districts
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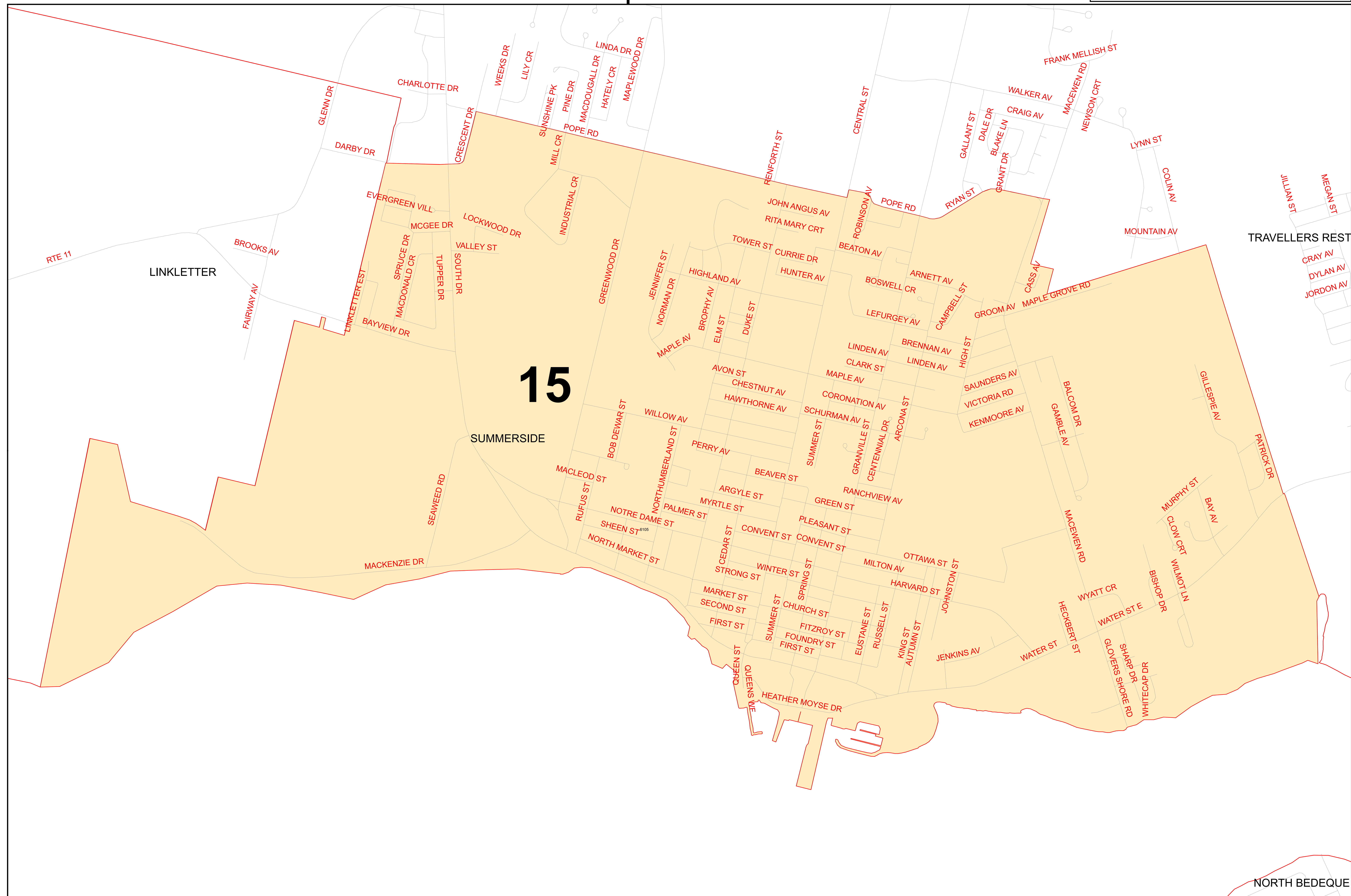
District # 14
of Electors 5969



Prince Edward Island Map

showing 18 geographic electoral districts
inherent in the 2016 Mixed Member Proportional model*

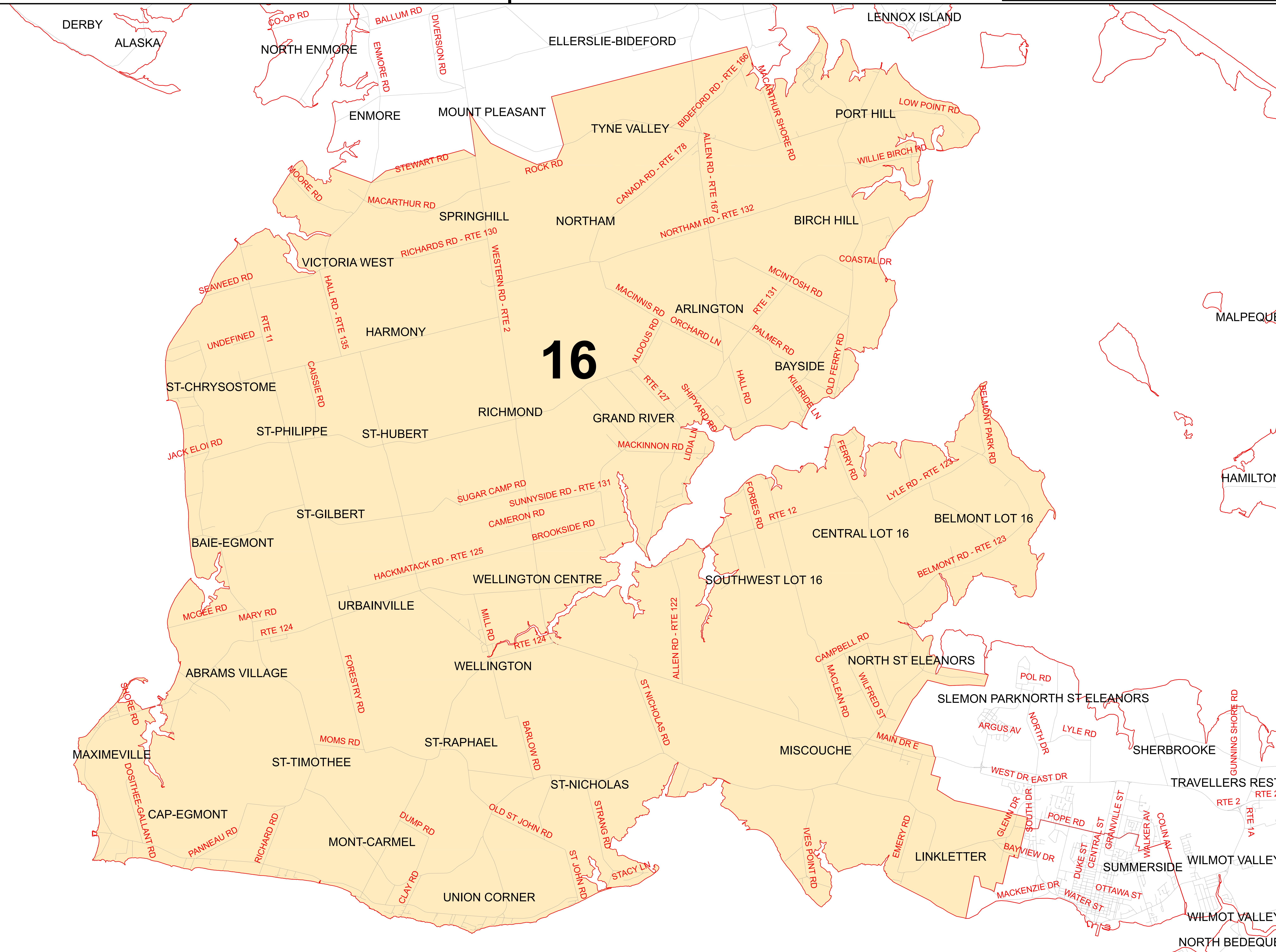
District # 15
of Electors 6105



Prince Edward Island Map

showing 18 geographic electoral districts
inherent in the 2016 Mixed Member Proportional model*

District # 16
of Electors 4166



Prince Edward Island Map

showing 18 geographic electoral districts
inherent in the 2016 Mixed Member Proportional model*

District # 18
of Electors 5041

