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Our Reference #: MC-2017-6947

September 13, 2017

I am pleased to tell you that our government is taking steps to improve representation in Northern Ontario.

Yesterday, I introduced the Representation Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017, which includes reforms to create additional ridings in Northern Ontario, called Kiiwetinoong, Mushkegowuk, Kenora-Rainy River, and Timmins. These ridings would replace the current electoral districts of Timmins-James Bay and Kenora-Rainy River.

As you know, the government established the Far North Electoral Boundaries Commission to provide recommendations to improve the representation of people living in northern communities, including Indigenous peoples, earlier this spring. The proposed changes implement the recommendations in the independent commission's final report.

You will be able to review the full text of the bill on the Legislative Assembly of Ontario's website in the coming days, and follow its progress as it proceeds to Second and Third Reading in the legislature. If the bill is passed, the new ridings would be in place in time for the scheduled provincial election in 2018.

As a community leader in the north, your insight and perspective is greatly valued and appreciated by our government. I would like to thank you once again for your support as we work towards our goal to build a stronger, more representative election system for all Ontarians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yasir Naqvi".

Yasir Naqvi
Attorney General