



Proposed Chapter Boundary Realignment Frequently Asked Questions

Question: So what changes with this proposal?

Answer: This proposal changes the boundaries of chapters, regions without chapters and regions to align with boundaries of electoral districts or “ridings”. If approved, these changes will come into effect on June 1st, 2022.

Question: What is the purpose of doing this?

Answer: Presently, chapter and region boundaries cut across electoral districts and municipal boundaries. This complicates the organization of, and undermines the effectiveness of, political action. Splitting responsibility amongst chapters/regions for political action in a number of ridings (and, prospectively, municipalities) undercuts the role and accountability of chapter and region executives - most specifically the Policy and Political Action Executive Network Officer (PPAN) - and RNAO’s objective of establishing durable and constructive relationships between RNAO executives and political representatives, communities and local media.

Question: Are there other benefits to doing this?

Answer: Re-aligning chapter and region boundaries with electoral riding boundaries has the complementary effects and benefits of a) clarifying the actual coordinates of chapter/regions without chapters and riding boundaries and, b) minimizing the need for revisiting boundary definitions in the future.

Question: Does this add new regions?

Answer: No. There will be no additional regions but the boundaries of the regions will change to follow boundaries of the ridings contained within them.

Question: Does this add new chapters?

Answer: Yes. The proposal creates five new chapters: York East; York West; Dufferin - Caledon Mississauga; and, Brampton. The northern boundaries of region 6 and 7 would be the northern border of the City of Toronto – i.e. Steeles Ave - under this proposal. The Mississauga Chapter would be comprised of the six ridings that make up the City of Mississauga and the Brampton Chapter would be comprised of the five ridings that make up the City of Brampton.

Question: How many members are assigned to a different chapter under this proposal?

Answer: We've proposed chapter boundaries that cause the least disruption possible to the membership. About 70 percent of ridings have a 95 – 100 percent match with their chapter. In other words, there will be virtually no change for members living in those ridings. But, we have some ridings like Wellington-Halton Hills that are divided exactly in half – 50 percent live in Wellington Chapter and 50 percent in Halton.

Question: How do I know if I am a member of a different chapter or region after realignment?

Answer: As always, members can find out which chapter they belong to when they log into their MyRNAO membership account.

Question: What happens to funding?

Answer: The proposal leaves the “per cap” funding formula for chapters and a region without chapters unchanged and, therefore, takes no funding out of the system. Some chapters/regions without chapters will see increased funding due to increased membership and others will see a decrease. Where chapters or regions feel that they are experiencing a diseconomy of scale, they will be able to i) apply for funding from the regional development fund and/or ii) (re)establish programs and undertake initiatives in cooperation with neighbouring chapters/regions.

Question: What about Consultation Representatives?

Answer: The proposed realignment result in an additional four consultation representatives across the RNAO. Sixteen chapters will see no change in the number of consultation representatives and a further 14 will see their number go up or down by one representative. Irrespective of gains or losses in the number of consultation representatives, the new chapter boundaries are intended support/define stronger communities of interest amongst chapter members.

Question: What happens to me if I sit on my Chapter Executive and it is affected by this change?

Answer: The realigned boundaries won't come into effect until June 1st, 2022. Elections for 2020 remain unchanged. Members shall elect the social media ENO, policy and political action ENO, student liaison ENO and workplace liaison ENO, for a term of two years (2020-2022).

During the 2021 election period, members shall elect the president/chair, assembly representative (Regions without Chapters only), communications ENO, finance ENO, and membership ENO for a term of one year (2021-2022).

At the first election following the adoption of these bylaws in 2022, all positions will be elected with staggered terms.

Question: When does the change come into effect?

Answer: The proposal calls for the boundaries to be realigned effective June 1st 2022, in time for Chapter/Region elections.

Question: Do I have to vote?

Answer: You are not required to vote, but we encourage eligible members to do so.

Question: When does this happen?

Answer: Voting will begin at 12 noon (EST) on May 26, 2020 and continue until 12 noon on June 11, 2020 (EST). The results will be announced at the association's Annual General Meeting on June 12, 2020.

Question: How do I vote?

Answer: Voting will take place electronically via RNAO's website. Every eligible member will receive voting instructions about the location of the voting website and any password necessary to cast their vote. Members must create an account at myRNAO.ca in order to vote.

Question: Will anyone at RNAO know how I voted?

Answer: No. Although you will need your RNAO identification information to log on to the voting site, how you voted will be completely anonymous. The process we are using is similar to Elections Canada or Elections Ontario, where you need to present identification so officials can check your name with those on the list of eligible voters. However, once you have a ballot "in hand," how you mark your ballot is private and known only to you. Even though you will need your RNAO information to log on to RNAO's website to cast your vote, the results will be tabulated with no identifiers to track how you actually voted.