



Ottawa, February 21, 2025 – Justice Sébastien Grammond of the Federal Court issued a decision today in file T-1516-23:

**IN THE MATTER OF ALEXIS DESCHÊNES et al.
v.
AGC**

Summary: Every ten years, the boundaries of federal electoral districts are readjusted to ensure that every district has a similar population size. After the 2021 census, the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the province of Quebec [the Commission] recommended that the eastern Quebec district of Avignon–La Mitis–Matane–Matapédia be eliminated and its territory attached to the two neighbouring districts.

The applicants seek judicial review of this recommendation. Their main contention is that it fails to consider the size of the new district of Gaspésie–Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine–Listuguj that will absorb a portion of the existing district of Avignon–La Mitis–Matane–Matapédia. They argue that the area of the district is too large for a single member of Parliament to fulfill their role adequately and provide services to their constituents. More generally, the applicants submit that the elimination of the district is contrary to the right to effective representation, which is a component of the constitutionally protected right to vote.

I dismiss the application. The reasons the Commission provided to justify eliminating the district of Avignon–La Mitis–Matane–Matapédia were reasonable and in keeping with the principle of effective representation developed by the Supreme Court. Relative parity of voting power is the most critical component of that principle. The Commission was aware of the issues related to the size of districts in rural and remote regions, but it reasonably found that those issues no longer justified the existence of a district with a population nearly 36 per cent smaller than the average population of electoral districts in Quebec.

The decision is posted on the [News Bulletins](#) page of the Federal Court website.