

Elections Nunavut

- 2016-2017 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer



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ELECTIONS NUNAVUT
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December 29, 2017

Hon. Joe Enook
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
926 Federal Road
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with the requirement of the *Nunavut Elections Act*, I am honoured to provide you with the annual report of the Chief Electoral Officer for 2016-2017.

Respectfully,

Dustin J. Fredlund
Chief Electoral Officer

Activities 2016-2017

Public Engagement - Proposed Bill 49

Harmonizing the *Local Authorities Elections Act* with the *Nunavut Elections Act*

Elections Nunavut continued consultations on proposed changes to the administration of elections currently held under the *Local Authorities Elections Act*. Preparation of the draft legislation is near completion.

Representatives from Municipal Councils and District Education Authority in the Qikiqtaaluk and Kivalliq region participated in focus group sessions on the proposed changes in Iqaluit (May 2-7) and Rankin Inlet (April 27-29). Kitikmeot focus group sessions were held during 2015-2016.

The Chief Electoral Officer also presented the proposed changes at the AGM of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities (NAM) on May 16; the Kivalliq Mayors Meeting on October 4; and at the AGM of the Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities (CNDEA) on October 19.

Plebiscites

Plebiscites on the Sale of Municipal Lands

In December 2015 the Minister of Community and Government Services as the plebiscite authority, instructed the CEO to conduct binding plebiscites in all Nunavut communities on May 9, 2016 asking voters, "Do you want the municipality of XXX to be able to sell municipal lands?" Every community rejected the proposal. As per the *Plebiscites Act*, any further plebiscite on this subject can only take place after a period of 5 years has elapsed and will be conducted on the instructions of any interested municipal corporation.

The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement required a referendum on the sale of municipal lands within 2 years of the ratification of the Agreement with the condition that if the voters rejected the proposal, no further plebiscite would be held for 20 years. In 1995, binding referenda were held in all Nunavut communities. Every community voted 'No'.

The report on the sale of municipal lands plebiscite will be tabled during the 2017 winter sitting.

Administrative Activities

Chief Electoral Officer

In August 2016, after almost 15 years serving as the Chief Electoral Officer for Nunavut, Sandy Kusugak retired from Elections Nunavut. Sandy oversaw many General Elections, By-Elections and Plebiscites over her tenure.

Through Sandy's guidance, knowledge and astute partnership-building skills, Elections Nunavut has developed into an agency that is both modern and responsive to the unique needs of Nunavummiut.

In October 2016, Dustin Fredlund was appointed the Chief Electoral Officer for Nunavut.

Website Development

Elections Nunavut released the current version of the website in February. The new website allows for a more robust sharing of information with the public and provides greater access for partners and researchers.

Public Documents

Elections Nunavut updated all the manuals in relation to the General Election and Plebiscites to reflect any new changes to the *Nunavut Elections Act* and the *Plebiscites Act*. Guides to the different types of plebiscites have been translated and posted to the website.

Preparation for the Beer and Wine Store Plebiscites for Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay

The Minister of Finance provided instructions to hold Beer and Wine Store Plebiscites in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay on May 1. The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer is preparing the logistics and securing the Returning Officer, registration/information office and voting locations.

Legislative Assembly: Speaker's Youth Parliament

The Chief Electoral Officer provided an overview of the role and history of elections in Nunavut to 22 youths selected to attend the Speaker's Youth Parliament.

2017 General Election

Information Technology

Information Technology is an integral part of administering elections in Nunavut. The varying levels of infrastructure within the communities was taken into consideration while identifying offices and procuring technology that will best meet the needs of election officers. This technology included servers, computers, internet modems, scanners, printers and mobile phones that are robust yet user-friendly. RFPs were sought and the successful companies were engaged to procure this equipment.

Geographical Information Systems

Elections Nunavut contracted the services of a local, Inuit owned company who specializes in Geographic Information Systems to update the current maps for the 2017 General Election. In communities with multi-constituencies, it is imperative this information is accurate and current to ensure voters are registered to vote in their correct constituency.

Election Officer Recruitment

Most of the Returning Officers have been identified and formally appointed for their constituencies. Identifying qualified individuals is at times challenging, as the commitment and responsibility may intimidate many prospective Returning Officers.

Returning Officers' Office and Polling Locations

Competition for office space in Nunavut communities is fierce. Compounded with the fact that the office is only required for 6-8 weeks, many landlords are hesitant to rent for the short term.

As such, preemptive and timely measures have been taken to secure Returning Officers' offices and polling locations throughout Nunavut.

Coordination with Other Agencies

Elections Canada

The Chief Electoral Officer attended the Advisory Committee of Electoral Partners (ACEP) in Gatineau, Quebec. The roundtable discussion between all Federal/Provincial/Territorial Chief Electoral Officers provided a forum for discussion on best practices and information sharing in the field of electoral administration in Canada.

Canadian Election Visitors Programs

The Chief Electoral Officer participated in the visitor's program at the *Referendum on Democratic Renewal* in Prince Edward Island in November. For the first time Elections PEI utilized numerous voting methods to conduct the plebiscite, including telephone and internet voting.

Canadian Elections Resource Library

Elections Nunavut continues to contribute funds to a shared library hosted by Elections Manitoba. This forum allows Canadian Electoral Management Bodies to share information and resources in real time.

Conference of Canadian Election Officials

The annual conference of Canadian election officials was held in Toronto from July 19-21. All Canadian provincial and territorial Chief Electoral Officer participate in this annual event.

Canadian Society for Electoral Officer Training

A committee of the Conference of Canadian Election Officials (CSEOT) was created to foster professional development for senior Provincial and Territorial election staff.

The Assistant Chief Electoral Officer attended workshops hosted by CSEOT on electoral financing and electoral operations.

Vital Statistics

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer continues to obtain information on registered voters who are deceased or have relinquished their Nunavut health insurance because they have left the Territory. This information enables Elections Nunavut to make updates to the voters list to reflect these changes.

The sharing of information is guided by a Memorandum of Understanding between Elections Nunavut and the Department of Health.

Motor Vehicles

Elections Nunavut and Nunavut's Motor Vehicles Division is working together to create a system of information sharing that will ensure voter information is accurate and current. This sharing of information will be guided by a Memorandum of Understanding and will enable eligible voters to consent to sharing information with Elections Nunavut when applying for Drivers Licenses and General Identification Cards.

Planned Activities 2017-2018

Preparation for the 2017 General Election

For the coming year, efforts will be focused largely on the preparation and execution of the October 30, 2017 Nunavut General Election.

Identifying and Training of Election Officers

Over 180 election officers will be employed during the 2017 General Election. Each of these officers will be trained for their specific roles during the election period. In-person training of election officers must be effective and efficient and consider our geographic and climate-related challenges. Training of ROs and AROs will take place 2 months prior to the election.

Returning Officer: 22 Returning Officers (RO) are responsible for administering the election in their constituency. ROs will participate in a 3-day training course conducted by Elections Nunavut staff.

Assistant Returning Officer: 31 Assistant Returning Officers (ARO) are appointed by the ROs to manage the day-to-day operations during the election. AROs will participate in a 3-day training course conducted by Elections Nunavut staff.

Registration Clerk: 30 Registration Clerks (RC) are employed to ensure eligible voters are registered accurately and vote in the correct constituency. RCs will participate in a 1-day training course conducted by their RO and ARO.

Deputy Returning Officer: 48 Deputy Returning Officers (DRO) are employed to supervise the polling stations and administer the ballots to voters. DROs will participate in a 1-day training course conducted by their RO and ARO.

Supervisory Deputy Returning Officer: Supervisory Deputy Returning Officers (SDRO) are employed to provide assistance and guidance to DROs during Election Day. SDROs are experienced election officers and may participate in training courses as required.

Poll Clerk: 48 Poll Clerks (PC) are employed to ensure eligible voters are recorded as voted and to make additions to the polling record. PCs will participate in a 1-day training course conducted by their RO and ARO.

Deputy Returning Officer-Special Ballot Coordinator: One Deputy Returning Officer-Special Ballot Coordinator (DRO-SBC) is appointed to coordinate the application process, delivery of special ballots and counting of the cast votes after the close of polls on Election Day. The DRO-SBC is an experienced election officer and may participate in training courses as required.

Poll Clerk-Special Ballot Coordinator: 1 PC-Special Ballot Coordinator (PC-SBC) is appointed to assist the DRO-SBC in the counting of cast votes after the close of polls on Election Day. The PC-SBC is an experienced election officer and may participate in training courses as required.

Preparing and Distributing Candidate and Voter Information

The pre-election period commences on June 27, 2017. Prospective candidates can begin actively promoting their candidacy or opposing other prospective candidates. Information on the roles and responsibilities during the election periods for these prospective candidates will be made available. The general public will also have accessible information in Nunavut's Official languages on their rights and obligations as voters.

Elections Nunavut will be working with a contractor to prepare a public outreach strategy.

Returning Officers Office Setup

RO offices will be required to be set up and functional at least 2 weeks prior to the election period. This includes setting up telephones and ensuring the office is accessible and suitable for all members of the community. Elections Nunavut will be working with local municipalities and private companies to ensure these offices are secured and equipped.

Civic Education Partnerships

Partnership agreements are being established with the Department of Education and CIVIX to encourage students who are not yet eligible voters to become engaged in our democratic process.

Beer and Wine Store Plebiscites

Elections Nunavut will administer Beer and Wine Store Plebiscites in both Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay on May 1, 2017.

Enforcement Issues

A case against a candidate who failed to file a financial return in the 2013 general election was dismissed in April 2016.

Other Legislative Projects in Progress

Bill 49 - Municipal Elections

Elections Nunavut completed Bill 49, *An Act to Provide for Elections for Municipal Councils and District Education Authorities* which will be introduced to the Legislative Assembly during the spring 2017 sitting. The Bill proposes the harmonization of elections procedures and administration for municipalities and District Education Authorities under the *Nunavut Elections Act*.

Further discussions in the new year will be held in the communities to ensure municipalities and District Education Authorities are aware of the proposed repealing of the *Local Authorities Elections Act* and changes to the *Nunavut Elections Act*.

Amendment to the *Summary Conviction Procedures Regulations*

An amendment to the *Summary Conviction Procedures Regulations* is being developed with the Department of Justice to allow for tickets to be issued to candidates and their financial agents who fail to prepare and file a financial return prior to the end of the post-election period.

Currently, candidates and their financial agents who fail to prepare and file a financial return are either prosecuted or are required to undertake a *compliance agreement* with Nunavut's Integrity Commissioner.



**BUDGET REPORT FOR THE PERIOD MARCH
2017**

Budget year 2016-17

Summary

	Budget	Spent	Committed	Balance
Permanent Salaries (100)	725,000.00	533,279.00	-	191,721.00
Casual Wages (110)	25,000.00	112,738.00	-	(87,738.00)
TOTAL	750,000.00	646,017.00	-	103,983.00

Elections-General - 0170000

Travel & Transportation (310)	115,000.00	52,964.00	-	62,036.00
Materials & Supplies (320)	55,000.00	19,127.00	-	35,873.00
Purchased Services (330)	105,000.00	64,658.00	-	40,342.00
Service Contracts (350)	345,000.00	310,195.00	-	34,805.00
Fees and Payments (360)	40,000.00	10,474.00	-	29,526.00
Other Expenses (370)	-	-	-	-
Tangible Assets (380)	-	4,845.00	-	(4,845.00)
Computer Hardware & Software (390)	-	14,513.00	-	(14,513.00)
TOTAL	660,000.00	476,776.00	-	183,224.00

Post Election Expenses - 0170003

Permanent Salaries (100)	-	-	-	-
Casual Wages (110)	-	-	-	-
Travel & Transportation (310)	-	-	-	-
Materials & Supplies (320)	-	-	-	-
Purchased Services (330)	-	-	-	-
Service Contracts (350)	-	23,237.00	-	(23,237.00)
Fees and Payments (360)	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses (370)	-	-	-	-
Tangible Assets (380)	-	-	-	-
Computer Hardware & Software (390)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	23,237.00	-	(23,237.00)

Election Legislation Dev. 0170006

Permanent Salaries (100)	-	3,000.00	-	(3,000.00)
Casual Wages (110)	-	-	-	-
Travel & Transportation (310)	-	49,606.00	-	(49,606.00)
Materials & Supplies (320)	-	-	-	-
Purchased Services (330)	-	4,624.00	-	(4,624.00)
Service Contracts (350)	-	32,513.00	-	(32,513.00)
Fees and Payments (360)	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses (370)	-	-	-	-
Tangible Assets (380)	-	-	-	-
Computer Hardware & Software (390)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	89,743.00	-	(89,743.00)

By-Election Netsilik - 0171001

Permanent Salaries (100)	-	-	-	-
Casual Wages (110)	-	-	-	-
Travel & Transportation (310)	-	-	-	-
Materials & Supplies (320)	-	-	-	-
Purchased Services (330)	-	4,195.00	-	(4,195.00)
Service Contracts (350)	-	6,000.00	-	(6,000.00)
Fees and Payments (360)	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses (370)	-	-	-	-
Tangible Assets (380)	-	-	-	-
Computer Hardware & Software (390)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	10,195.00	-	(10,195.00)

Plebiscites - 0172000

Permanent Salaries (100)	-	-	-	-
Casual Wages (110)	-	-	-	-
Travel & Transportation (310)	-	-	-	-
Materials & Supplies (320)	-	640.00	-	(640.00)
Purchased Services (330)	-	28,577.00	-	(28,577.00)
Service Contracts (350)	-	275.00	-	(275.00)
Fees and Payments (360)	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses (370)	-	-	-	-
Tangible Assets (380)	-	-	-	-
Computer Hardware & Software (390)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	29,492.00	-	(29,492.00)

JV'd to Liq. 29,492.00
Bal. -

	Budget	Spent	Committed	Balance
Municipal Lands Plebiscite - 0172002				
Casual Wages		45,949.00		(45,949.00)
Travel & Transportation (310)		34,843.00		(34,843.00)
Materials & Supplies (320)		36,888.00	-	(36,888.00)
Purchased Services (330)		46,575.00	-	(46,575.00)
Service Contracts (350)		190,162.00	-	(190,162.00)
Fees and Payments (360)				-
Other Expenses (370)		2,500.00	-	(2,500.00)
Tangible Assets (380)			-	-
Computer Hardware & Software (390)			-	-
Total	-	356,917.00	-	(356,917.00)
Charged back to CGS		356,917.00		
			-	

Beer & Wine Store Plebiscite - 0172003

Permanent Salaries (100)	-		-	-
Casual Wages (110)	-			-
Travel & Transportation (310)	-			-
Materials & Supplies (320)	-	2,625.00		(2,625.00)
Purchased Services (330)	-	51.00		(51.00)
Service Contracts (350)	-			-
Fees and Payments (360)	-			-
Other Expenses (370)	-			-
Tangible Assets (380)	-		-	-
Computer Hardware & Software (390)				
TOTAL	-	2,676.00	-	(2,676.00)
	JV'd to Liq.	2,676.00		

Total Budget	1,410,000.00	1,278,136.00	-	131,864.00
Municipal Land Pleb (See tab)		1.00		
GRAND TOTAL BUDGET	1,410,000.00	1,245,969.00	-	164,031.00

