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Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

RELEASE

***Nunavut Elections Act* introduced in the Legislative Assembly**

PANGNIRTUNG, Nunavut (October 29, 2002) - A new *Nunavut Elections Act* was introduced in the Legislative Assembly today.

The *Nunavut Elections Act* replaces the statute that was inherited by Nunavut from the NWT upon division in 1999. The Act governs all aspects of the conduct of elections to the Legislative Assembly.

"This initiative reflects our commitment to the development of legislation that meets the needs of Nunavummiut," said Speaker Kevin O'Brien. "The Act establishes a strong, transparent framework in which residents of the territory can exercise their fundamental democratic rights."

The process for developing a new *Nunavut Elections Act* began after the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee Ajauqtiit undertook community consultations in 2000, following the tabling of the Chief Electoral Officer's report on the conduct of the first Nunavut election.

"The Act makes it easier for voters in our communities to exercise their rights," said David Iqaqrialu, Chair of the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit. "For example, the Act allows for mobile polls to travel to the homes of persons with disabilities or special requirements, such as Elders."

The responsibility for administering the Act rests with the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut, an independent position that reports to the Legislative Assembly as a whole.

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