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Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

RELEASE

Nunavut Elections Act passes during Pangnirtung Sitting

PANGNIRTUNG, Nunavut (October 31, 2002) - The new Nunavut Elections Act was passed by the Legislative Assembly today.

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

The proposed Act was considered by MLAs for two days this week. During consideration of the Bill today, a significant amendment was proposed by the Hon. Paul Okalik, MLA for Iqaluit West and Minister of Justice.

"We learned this morning of today's Supreme Court of Canada decision regarding the right of federal inmates to vote in elections," said Mr. Okalik. "By the time the Bill received Third Reading later the same evening, we had amended it on the floor of the House to ensure that our own legislation was fully in compliance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms."

Lena Metuq, Nunavut's newly-appointed Deputy Commissioner, is scheduled to give Assent to the new Nunavut Elections Act tomorrow. This will be her first act of office.

Speaker Kevin O'Brien, MLA for Arviat, presented the Bill during proceedings of the Committee of the Whole.

"Our deliberations today reflected the best of our Legislative Assembly," said Speaker O'Brien. "Both Ministers and Regular Members made valuable contributions to our discussion."

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