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For more information or to obtain copies of this report in any of the Nunavut's official languages, in paper or electronic format contact:

Elections Nunavut Box 39

41 Sivulliq Ave. Rankin Inlet, NU X0C 0G0

 800.267.4394

 800.269.1125

 www.elections.nu.ca

 info@elections.nu.ca

Overview

This annual report covers the activities of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

On October 25, 2021, Elections Nunavut Administered the Sixth Nunavut General Election. The comprehensive report on the conduct and administration of that election can be found in the report titled *Report on the Conduct of the Sixth Nunavut General Election*.

Message of the Chief Electoral Officer

2020 and 2021 were extraordinary years. The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer faced and overcame unprecedented challenges, and as such I would like to commend and thank all the headquarter and field election and plebiscite officers who made each event safe and successful.

Koana, merci, qujanamiik, mu'na, thank-you

Finally, on behalf of our office, I would like to thank Hilarie Makpah for the 18 years she dedicated to serving Nunavut.

Dustin J Fredlund
Chief Electoral Officer



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Introduction of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (Elections Nunavut) is an independent office of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut that is overseen by the Chief Electoral Officer. Elections Nunavut is responsible for the administration of territorial and municipal elections and by-elections under the *Nunavut Elections Act*, as well as plebiscites under the *Plebiscite Act*. Under a separate agreement, Elections Nunavut also administers local option liquor plebiscites under the *Liquor Act* for the Department of Finance.

As an independent officer, the Chief Electoral Officer is accountable directly to the Legislative Assembly through the Speaker. This ensures the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer can administer elections and plebiscites in a non-partisan manner; maintaining the integrity of the entire democratic process for all Nunavummiut. The Chief Electoral Officer is appointed by the Commissioner of Nunavut for a 7-year term.

The Management and Services Board provides oversight of the budgetary and human resource requirements of Elections Nunavut. The Chief Electoral Officer is required to report annually to the Legislative Assembly, as well as to report on specific election/plebiscite events. These reports include

recommendations that the Chief Electoral Officer believes will assist in improving the *Nunavut Elections Act* and the election/plebiscite process.

Elections Nunavut provides GIS and mapping support to the Boundaries Commission. The Boundaries Commission is responsible to hold public hearings and propose boundaries and names of constituencies to the Legislative Assembly. The next electoral Boundaries Commission will be conducted in 2022.

Elections Nunavut works with many public and private partners to ensure elections and plebiscites are run as effectively and efficiently as possible. Legal counsel, information technology (IT) support, geographic information system (GIS) upkeep, audit oversight, and electronic voter database management (EVDM) support are all secured through external professional contracts.

The office is located in Rankin Inlet and consists of four permanent employees. The year before and after an event, the casual employees and contract election officers increase the office size to over 190 people.

Sixth Nunavut General Election

Elections Nunavut administered the 6th Nunavut General Election on October 25, 2021. The *Report on the Conduct of the Fifth Nunavut General Election* provides a comprehensive report on the preparation and administration of the 2022 General Election. This report can be accessed through Election Nunavut's website or by contacting Elections Nunavut directly.



Coordination with Other Agencies

Department of Education

The Department of Education collaborated with Elections Nunavut in securing the services of CIVIX to undertake the Youth Vote initiative.

Department of Finance

Elections Nunavut administered two liquor plebiscites on behalf of the Department of Finance. The Chief Electoral Officer attended community forums with staff from the Department for each liquor plebiscite.

Elections Canada - ACEP

The Chief Electoral Officer participated on the Advisory Committee for Electoral partners, which is hosted by Elections

Canada. The virtual roundtable discussion between all Federal/Provincial/Territorial Chief Electoral Officers provided an in-person forum for discussion on best practices and information sharing in the field of electoral administration in Canada.

Secretariat for Electoral Coordination

The Chief Electoral Officer is a member of the national secretariat advisory committee. The overall mandate of the secretariat will be to coordinate the sharing of information and best practices between jurisdictions and provide support for election innovation.

Along with all other electoral management bodies in Canada, Elections Nunavut provides funding for the secretariat.

CEOT

Elections Nunavut staff participated in online training hosted by the Canadian Election Official Training.

Vital Statistics



Vital Statistics provides information to Elections Nunavut regarding those voters who are deceased or who have left the Territory. The sharing of this information is supported in both the *Vital Statistics Act* and through an agreement between the Department of Health and Elections Nunavut.

Local Option Liquor Plebiscite

Elections Nunavut administers liquor plebiscites on behalf of the Department of Finance, Liquor Management Division. These local option liquor plebiscites are administered according to the *Local Authorities Elections Act*. To effect a change, at least 60% of the total valid votes cast must be in favour of the proposed rules.



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Imirlungnut Maligaryuaq
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Liquor Act Elections and Plebiscites
Loi sur les boissons alcoolisées
Élections et référendums

Baker Lake

On April 26, 2021, residents of Baker Lake **voted on the following question,**

“Are you in favour of replacing the current unrestricted system in the Hamlet of Baker Lake and surrounding area to establish an Alcohol Education Committee?”

The AEC is responsible for promoting alcohol awareness and education, as well as regulating the purchase, sale and import of alcohol in the community.”

339 voters cast their ballots in a 32.5% turnout. The result of the plebiscite was:

YES: 182 (54% of total votes)

NO: 154 (46% of total votes)

Rejected: 3

Since the 60% in favour of YES threshold was not met, the rules will remain the same.

Appendix A: Legislative Recommendations

The Chief Electoral Officer proposes the following amendment to the *Nunavut Elections Act* and *Plebiscites Act*.

Add: Allow those who are absent from their home because of long-term medical needs to vote.

Removes barriers for certain voters- especially elders- who leave their community for long-term care.

Recommended wording:

Medical or Care Facility

4(13) Despite subsections (3), (4) and (5), a person who leaves their home or dwelling to be admitted into a medical or care facility, whether inside or outside Nunavut, shall select one of the following places of residence:

- a) the person's place of residence before being admitted to the facility;
- b) if inside Nunavut, the place where the person is temporarily residing; or
- c) the place where the person's family resides.

Repeal: Remove the requirement to provide a voters list to winning candidates after the election.

Strengthens the protection of voter's privacy.

Repeal: Remove the requirement for election and plebiscite officers to sort ballots into a separate envelope at the end of advance voting.

Improves quality control.

Amend: Permit the Chief Electoral Officer to designate places other than the Returning Officer's office to accept declarations of candidacy.

Removes barriers for candidates.

Recommended wording:

Filing period

70(2) *The declaration of candidacy must be filed at the office of the returning officer **or any place the Chief Electoral Officer designates** any time between the day the writ is issued and 2:00 p.m. on the 31st day before election day.*

Amend: Administrative processes need to be modified to reflect our advancement in technology and the real-time information sharing capabilities of this technology.

- Remove requirement to share paper copies of polling records between election officials.
- Remove requirement for HQ to advise field staff when a voter has used a special voting method.
- Allow special ballot applications to be made available prior to the writ being issued.
- Streamline emergency voting procedures.
- Allow emergency voting in non-Nunavut wide plebiscites.
- Allow the Chief Electoral officer to direct what furnishing is required at a polling station.
- Update *Tariff of Fees Regulations* to reflect current legislation.

Improves internal processes.

Appendix B - Budget Report

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer
Budget Report for the period ending March 31, 2022
Year 2021-2022



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Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

DESCRIPTION	Budget	Spent	Balance
Salaries	997,000	768,191	228,809
Casual Wages	0	98,032	(98,032)
TOTAL SALARIES	997,000	866,223	130,777
Travel & Transportation	250,000	184,699	65,301
Materials & Supplies	100,000	46,100	53,900
Purchased Services	150,000	192,210	(42,210)
Utilities	-	-	-
Service Contracts	750,000	1,046,748	(296,748)
Fees and Payments	300,000	83,852	216,148
Other Expenses	250,000	0	250,000
Tangible Assets	-	-	-
Computer Hardware & Software	191,000	29,482	161,518
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	1,991,000	1,583,091	407,909
Total Budget	2,988,000	2,449,314	538,686