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NUNAVUNMI NIGUAKNIK
ELECTIONS NUNAVUT
ÉLECTIONS NUNAVUT

# 2025-2026 Annual Report
# Office of the Chief Electoral Officer

Including reports on the By-Election for Mayor

in Sanirajak and Pangnirtung

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For more information or to obtain copies of this report in any of Nunavut's official languages contact:

Elections Nunavut
41 Sivulliq Avenue
Box 39 Rankin Inlet, NU
X0C 0G0

☎ 800-267-4394
🖷 800-269-1125
💻 www.elections.nu.ca
📻 info@elections.nu.ca

Kiran Situt
Chief Electoral Officer
Elections Nunavut
41 Sivulliq Ave
Rankin Inlet, NU
X0C 0G0

July 02, 2026

Honourable David Joanasie
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
926 Sivumugiaq St
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 3H0

Dear Mr. Speaker,

In accordance with the requirements of the Nunavut Elections Act, section 196, I am pleased to provide you with Elections Nunavut's annual report for the fiscal year 2025-2026.

Respectfully,

Kiran Situt CPA, CMA
Chief Electoral Officer

## Overview

This annual report covers the activities of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer for the fiscal year 2025-2026.

The territorial elections were conducted in October 2025 after months of preparation and hard work of the Election Nunavut staff at the Head Office in Rankin Inlet and casual employees during the election period.

Elections Nunavut administered two by-elections for the Mayors of Sanirajak and Pangnirtung in March 2026.

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# Introduction to 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 seven-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 may also include recommendations that the Chief Electoral Officer believes will assist in improving the Nunavut Elections Act and the election/plebiscite process.

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. During the election year, the workforce expands significantly, with casual employees and contract election officers increasing the employee size to around 200 staff.

Activities 2025-2026

## Territorial Elections

The seventh territorial elections were successfully conducted on October 27th, 2025. Please refer to the Election Report tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 21st, 2026.

The new boundaries, as recommended by the NEBC Boundaries Commission, were in effect for the elections. Extensive work was undertaken to remap housing in accordance with these new boundaries, which came into effect the day after the dissolution of the Sixth Legislative Assembly.

Head Office staff in Rankin inlet along with casual Staff during the election period worked hard for months to ensure the elections were conducted smoothly and impartially.

## Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Ezra Green for mapping the new boundaries, and to Randy Miller for his important contribution in assisting with special ballots and emergency voting, particularly in light of the Canada Post strike.

I would like to extend my appreciation to Jaban David of Naikoon Technologies for his support in managing the IT components.

I would also like to sincerely thank Ms. Martine Dupont and Mr. Francois Fortin for their invaluable assistance with logistical coordination, oversight of polling operations, and for providing administrative and supervisory support on Election Day in Iqaluit.

## Training

The Elections Nunavut Team along with the Chief Electoral Office conducted various training sessions for the Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers for the three regions during August and September 2025.

## Seminar/Conference

The Chief Electoral Officer attended the Canadian Vote summit conducted by the Democratic Engagement Exchange in Montreal in May 2025.

The Chief Electoral Officer attended the annual CCEO conference in Whitehorse in July 2025.

Pamela Painchaud attended the ‘Introduction to Election Administration’ course conducted by Canadian Election Official Training, a division of the Secretariat for Electoral Coordination, in the month of January 2026 in Calgary.

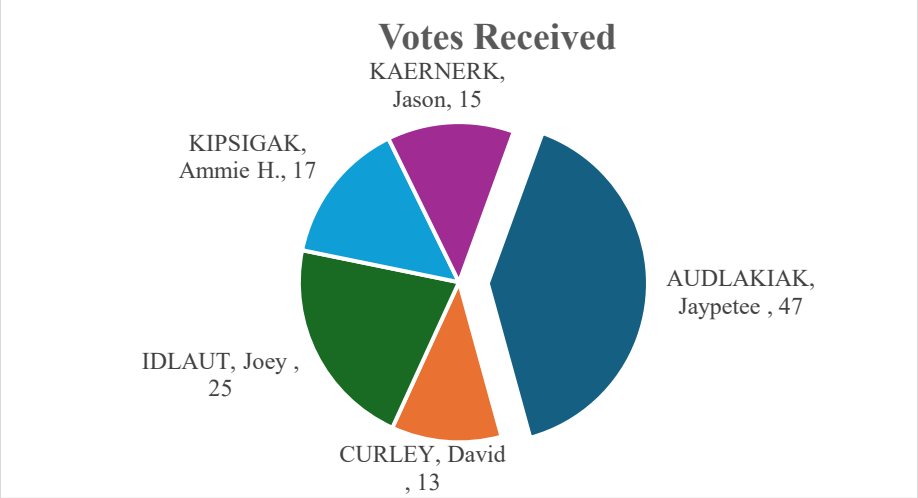
# By-Elections 2025-2026

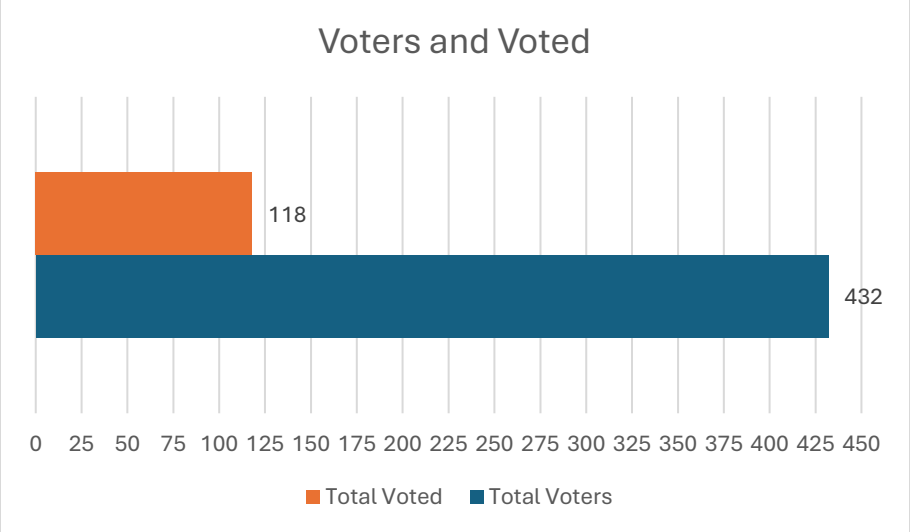
## Sanirajak Mayor by-election

Following the termination of Mayor Philip Anguratsiaq a by-election in Sanirajak was called for March 2nd, 2026.
Five candidates contested the race, and Jaypetee Audlakiak was elected as the new Mayor.

Results of the by-elections. The election saw a 27.31 % voter turnout.

| Last Name | First Name | Votes Received |
|---|---|---|
| Audlakiak | Jaypetee | 47 |
| Curley | David | 13 |
| Idlaut | Joey | 25 |
| Kipsigak | Ammie H | 17 |
| Kaernerk | Jason | 15 |



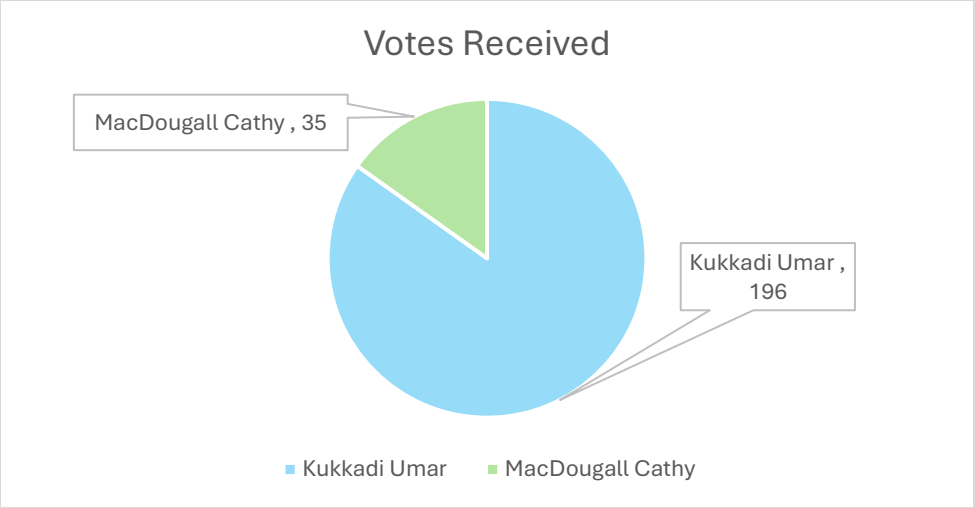
## Pangnirtung Mayor by-election

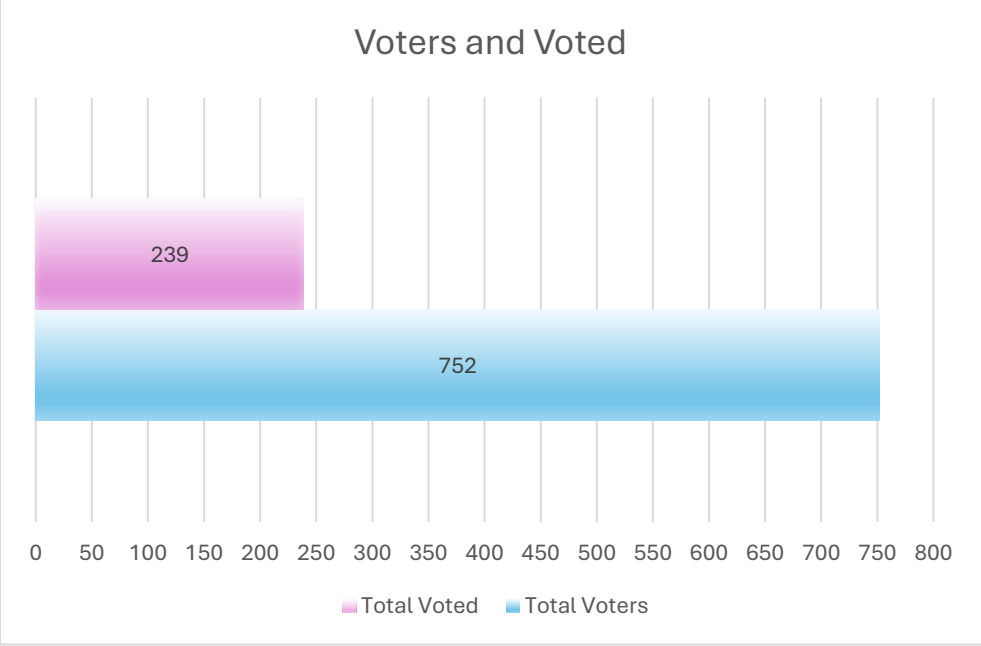
By-election was announced for March 30th, 2026, due to the resignation of Mayor Lynn Mike
Two candidates contested the race, and Umar Kukkadi was elected as the new Mayor.

The election saw a 31.78 % voter turnout.

Results of the by-elections.

| Last Name | First Name | Votes Received |
|---|---|---|
| Kukkadi | Umar | 196 |
| MacDougall | Cathy | 35 |



## Planned Activities 2026-2027

- Constant updates to voter and physical address details in the Nunavut Voters List database.
- Outreach to engage new and repeat voters through media, social media, and civic education in high schools.
- Continuing to incorporate and refine modern technologies to be used at the polls, including electronic poll books, live strike-off, and online voter registration.
- Outreach to institutions, businesses, and organizations with post-secondary students, rotational workers, medical travelers and escorts, and inmates to promote awareness of various in-person voting opportunities, and Special Ballot by Mail.
- Updating, producing, ordering, and organizing materials and supplies for distribution to the communities well ahead of election day.

### By-Elections

Under the Nunavut Elections Act, by-elections can be held for MLAs and mayors. Elections Nunavut will be in a constant state of readiness to administer these by-elections.

- A by-election for MLA for the constituency of Hudson Bay is scheduled for September 28, 2026

### Plebiscites

Elections Nunavut will be prepared to administer plebiscites under the Plebiscites Act and local option liquor plebiscites under the Liquor Act.

### Legislative Recommendations

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (OCEO) is committed to maintaining the integrity, transparency, and effectiveness of the electoral framework. In fulfilling this mandate, the OCEO shall systematically review electoral legislation, administrative practices, and operational processes, and may, where appropriate, present recommendations for legislative amendments to the appropriate authority.

These recommendations may address the following areas:

- **Tariff of Fees:** Evaluation and adjustment of compensation structures to ensure fairness, consistency, and alignment with current standards and operational requirements.
- **Working Time:** Review of staffing hours, scheduling practices, and workload management to promote efficiency, compliance, and employee well-being.
- **VORO Schedules:** Optimization and standardization of VORO (Voting Office Returning Officer) schedules to improve service delivery and electoral process coordination.

- **Declaration of Candidacy Requirements:** Clarification, modernization, and strengthening of eligibility criteria, documentation standards, and submission procedures for candidates.
- **Financial Reporting:** Enhancement of reporting requirements to ensure accuracy, transparency, and accountability in electoral financing.
- **Audit Reporting:** Strengthening audit processes and requirements to support compliance monitoring and reinforce public trust.

In addition, the OCEO retains the authority to identify and recommend legislative changes on **any other matters** that may arise during the course of electoral administration, oversight, or stakeholder engagement.

All recommendations shall be evidence-based, informed by operational experience, stakeholder feedback, and best practices, and aimed at improving the accessibility, fairness, and integrity of the electoral system.

## Staff Development

Elections Nunavut will provide opportunities for staff training and professional development through engagement with Canada's community of electoral management bodies.

# Appendix C – Budget Summary

**Office of the Chief Electoral Officer**
**Budget Report for the period ending March 31, 2026**
**Year 2025-2026**

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Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

| DESCRIPTION | Budget | Spent | Balance |
|---|---|---|---|
| Salaries | 1,073,000 | 826,044 | 246,956 |
| Casual Wages | 0 | 242,147 | (242,147) |
| Employee Benefits | 0 | 25,000 | (25,000) |
| TOTAL SALARIES | 1,073,000 | 1,093,191 | (20,191) |
| Travel & Transportation | 50,000 | 257,537 | (207,537) |
| Materials & Supplies | 50,000 | 56,162 | (6, 162) |
| Purchased Services | 50,000 | 142,462 | (92,462) |
| Service Contracts | 1,675,000 | 974,168 | 700,832 |
| Fees and Payments | 100,000 | 15,990 | 84,010 |
| Other Expenses | 31,000 | 0 | 31,000 |
| Tangible Assets | 0 | 4,414 | (4,414) |
| Computer Hardware & Software | 0 | 69,422 | (69,422) |
| TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES | 1,956,000 | 1,520,155 | 435,845 |
| Total Budget | 3,029,000 | 2,613,346 | 415,654 |