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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Languages Commissioner is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut appointed on a five-year term by the Commissioner of Nunavut on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly. The duty of the Languages Commissioner is established under section 22 of the Official Languages Act (OLA) and under section 28 of the Inuit Language Protection Act (ILPA).

The Languages Commissioner position was vacant since June 6, 2016 when the Legislative Assembly approved the five-year appointment of Helen K. Klengenber as Languages Commissioner on September 12, 2017. She has resigned in September 2019 and Karliin Aariak was hired as acting Languages Commissioner on October 21, 2019. She has been designated to serve as the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut, effective February 18, 2020.

In accordance with subsection 24(1) of the Official Languages Act, the Languages Commissioner is required to prepare annual reports which are tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The Languages Commissioner is also required to appear before the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts and before the Management and Services Board to account for respectively annual reports and business plans.

## 2. MANDATE AND VISION

### MANDATE

The Languages Commissioner's mandate is to promote and safeguard the language rights of Nunavummiut enshrined in Nunavut's language legislation.

### VISION

According to the *Official Languages Act* (OLA): Members of the public are able to communicate with and receive services from the Government of Nunavut and its public agencies, the Legislative Assembly and its institutions, Nunavut courts and municipalities<sup>1</sup> in the official language of their choice.

According to the *Inuit Language Protection Act* (ILPA): Members of the public are able to communicate with and receive services from the Government of Nunavut and its public agencies, the Legislative Assembly and its institutions, Nunavut courts, municipalities<sup>2</sup>, private sector organizations and federal departments, agencies and institutions in the Inuit language.

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<sup>1</sup> Municipalities need to provide communications and services in French or English if it is deemed that there is "significant demand." The Government of Nunavut has yet to provide a mechanism to identify what this "significant demand" is and to pass regulations under which municipalities are to provide services and communications in French or English.

<sup>2</sup> The ILPA applies to municipalities regardless of demand.

### 3. PRINCIPLES AND CONCEPTS OF INUIT QAUJIMAJATUQANGIT

The following general principles and concepts of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* apply in respect of the exercise of the powers and performance of the duties of the Languages Commissioner:

1. *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq*: respecting others, relationships and caring for people
2. *Tunnganarniq*: fostering good spirit by being open, welcoming and inclusive
3. *Pijitsirniq*: serving and providing for family or community, or both
4. *Aajiiqatigiinni*: decision-making through discussion and consensus
5. *Piliriqatigiinni* or *Ikajuqatigiinni*: working together for a common cause
6. *Qanuqtuurniq*: being innovative and resourceful

### 4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LANGUAGES COMMISSIONER

The Languages Commissioner has four main responsibilities:

#### **Ombudsman**

The Languages Commissioner reviews any possible breach of the language legislation by territorial institutions, municipalities, private sector organizations, and federal departments, agencies and institutions. The Office can investigate, make findings and reports, mediate settlements and suggest ways to redress language rights violations.

#### **Advocate**

The Languages Commissioner communicates with obligated bodies to influence decision-making, practices or policies about respecting language rights.

#### **Advisor**

The Languages Commissioner advises, assists and works with territorial institutions, municipalities, private sector organizations, and federal departments, agencies and institutions on their service and communication obligations. The Office also informs Nunavummiut of their language rights.

#### **Monitor**

The Languages Commissioner monitors and examines the progress of territorial institutions, municipalities, private sector organizations, and federal departments, agencies and institutions in meeting their obligations under Nunavut's language acts.

The Languages Commissioner's duties are the following:

- To inform Nunavummiut of their language rights
- To inform and advise territorial institutions, municipalities, private sector organizations and federal departments, agencies and institutions of their language obligations

- To monitor territorial institutions, municipalities, private sector organizations and federal departments, agencies and institutions' language services and communications with the public
- To inform municipalities, private sector and federal organizations of their language communication and service requirements pursuant to section 3 of the ILPA and assist them in the planning and implementation of their Inuit language plan
- To investigate, or facilitate resolution, and to recommend corrective actions
- To support and monitor the implementation of the Nunavut's language legislation

The Commissioner also has wider functions, including:

- Promoting language rights through the provision of opportunities to use the official languages
- Keeping under review the adequacy and effectiveness of the laws relating to the official languages rights
- Producing and publishing reports
- Carrying out research or studies
- Making recommendations to obligated bodies and giving advice to any person

## **5. CAPACITY**

The OLC has a total of six positions<sup>3</sup>. In addition to the full-time contingent of employees, the OLC has a contract with a legal firm to provide legal advice and assistance with mediation when required.

The positions are the following:

- Director of Strategic Planning and Policy (indeterminate)
- Public Affairs Officer (indeterminate)
- Investigation and Research Officer – Inuktitut (indeterminate)
- Investigation and Research Officer – French (indeterminate)
- ILPA Liaison Officer (indeterminate)
- Executive Assistant (term, until September 2022)

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<sup>3</sup> As the Languages Commissioner is appointed by the Commissioner of Nunavut on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, we do not take this position into account.

As of March 31, 2020, three positions were staffed:

- Director of Strategic Planning and Policy
- Investigation and Research Officer – Inuktitut
- Investigation and Research Officer – French

and three positions were out to competition:

- Public Affairs Officer
- ILPA Liaison Officer<sup>4</sup>
- Executive Assistant<sup>5</sup>

As of March 31, 2020, out of a total of six positions, two (33%) are filled by Inuktitut-speaking people. Due to COVID-19, competitions were postponed.

#### Inuit Employment Plan (IEP)

The Government of Canada has provided a comprehensive Nunavut Inuit Labour Force Analysis as part of its renewed commitment to funding the implementation of Nunavut. The Government of Nunavut (GN) has matched this analysis of the territory's labour force with a detailed analysis of its own workforce. This data has enabled the GN to develop a strategic Master Inuit Employment Plan to 2023, which will help to accelerate progress towards a representative public service.

The Office of the Languages Commissioner has developed its first Inuit Employment Plan (see Appendix) and will ensure its implementation. The plan includes goals and an action plan to achieve short- and medium-term goals.

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<sup>4</sup> A casual employee has been hired in February 2020.

<sup>5</sup> A casual employee has been hired in March 2020.



## 7. LEGISLATION

In Nunavut, there are two language acts, the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, and three official languages: Inuktitut, English and French.

### **The *Official Languages Act* (OLA)**

Nunavut's *Official Languages Act* was approved by the Legislative Assembly in 2008 and came into force on April 1, 2013. The OLA creates obligations for the Legislative Assembly, the courts and the Government of Nunavut to actively offer their communications and services to the public in all the official languages.

Municipalities also need to provide communications and services in French or English if it is deemed that there is a significant demand for services and communications in these official languages. The Government of Nunavut has yet to provide a mechanism to identify what constitutes this significant demand and to pass regulations under which municipalities are to provide services and communications in French or English.

These obligated bodies must provide an active offer and ensure that members of the public can communicate with and receive services in the official language of their choice from the head or central service offices as well as other offices where there is significant demand for an official language or due to the nature of the service (public safety, security and health).

The implementation of the *Official Languages Act* as it applies to Inuinnaqtun must address the need for language revitalization and improve access to government programs and services specifically in Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay.

The OLA created a minister responsible for languages to coordinate and guide the language service requirements that must be met by territorial institutions and municipalities.

### **The *Inuit Language Protection Act* (ILPA)**

The *Inuit Language Protection Act* was approved in September 2008. The ILPA responds more specifically to the challenges confronting the Inuit language and its speakers by protecting and promoting its use, quality and prevalence throughout Nunavut. The ILPA guarantees the right to education in the Inuit language, protects territorial public servants who prefer to work in the Inuit language, and defines specific obligations for government, municipalities, and private sector and federal organizations for providing their communications and services generally available to the public in the Inuit language.

The ILPA created a minister responsible for coordinating the implementation of policies as well as the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit (IUT), the Inuit Language Authority.

## **8. CORE ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET**

The OLC works in three main areas: legislation, communications and policy, planning and investigations.

### **8.1. LEGISLATION**

At the Office of the Languages Commissioner (OLC), we believe that protecting citizens' language rights and ensuring that they are treated with respect and fairness is central to our work. The Office is supporting official languages users and working with obligated bodies in order to gain a better understanding of their experiences, needs and aspirations. Evidence gathered is used to help ensure compliance with the laws. By doing this, the Office aims to give people the assurance and confidence to use the official language of their choice in their everyday lives.

The OLC expects obligated bodies to comply with the legal duties imposed on them. When they fail to do so, the Office takes appropriate steps to ensure compliance with these duties and, by doing so, it ensures that the rights of official languages users are protected.

### **8.2. COMMUNICATIONS**

The Languages Commissioner recognizes the importance of language rights promotion; it is her duty to inform the public of its language rights, and to inform obligated bodies of their language obligations under the Nunavut's language legislation. The OLC's public awareness work can take many forms, including public education campaigns, presentations, information sessions, informative material, and maintaining the Office's website and Facebook page.

### **8.3. POLICY, PLANNING AND INVESTIGATIONS**

The OLC examines, analyses and makes recommendations with regards to the proposed and existing language policies in territorial institutions, municipalities, private sector organizations and federal departments, agencies and institutions.

#### Official Languages Act (OLA)

According to the OLA, a language rights concern with a territorial institution and a municipality can be filed with the Office of the Languages Commissioner by an individual, or on behalf of another person, group or community, when members of the public are not receiving services and communications in the official language of their choice, in accordance with sections 11 and 12 of the OLA.

A concern can be brought to the OLC in any of these circumstances:

- The status of an official language have not been recognized.
- A provision of the OLA, or any other act or regulation relating to the status, use or protection of an official language has not been complied with.
- The spirit and intent of the OLA or ILPA have not been fulfilled.

The Languages Commissioner can also, on her own initiative, or at the request of a territorial institution, a municipality, a member or committee of the Legislative Assembly, commence an investigation without having received concerns directly from a member of the public.

#### Inuit Language protection Act (ILPA)

A language rights concern with a territorial institution, a municipality, a private sector organization and a federal department, agency or institution can be filed with the Office of the Languages Commissioner when members of the public are not receiving services and communications in the Inuit language. The Languages Commissioner takes all actions and measures to ensure that the rights, status and privileges established by this Act with respect to the Inuit language are recognized and performed.

Also, according to section 11 of the ILPA, territorial institutions must provide an active offer, which means that there must be a “clear explanation in the Inuit Language of an individual’s right to use the Inuit Language during recruitment or employment”. Without the active offer, individuals may be shy or scared to use the Inuit language.

#### Monitoring

To ensure that they are complying with language laws, the OLC monitors the availability of language services and communications and active offer within obligated bodies. Surveys such as e-mail and telephone communication verification, written communication and website reviews are useful measurement tools to collect data.

#### Systemic Investigation

An investigation may take the form of a systemic investigation when non-compliance of language rights is seen as an endemic problem. The decision to conduct a systemic investigation is based on a list of criteria that follows ombudsman practices in Canada, such as:

1. The situation concerns major strategic issues.
2. It is a recurring problem.
3. A large number of people are potentially at risk.
4. The number of concerns received is important.
5. The recommendations made by the Languages Commissioner’s Office were ignored.

#### Ombudsman and Investigative Training

It is important that the OLC employees are informed and have up-to-date knowledge about investigation, ombudsman role and best practices. The Office plans to participate in a training on the investigation process and a training offered by York University and the Forum of Canadian Ombudsman.

#### 8.4. BUDGET

The Languages Commissioner has a budget of \$1,410,000 for 2021-2022:

| Budget (\$000)                      | 2020-2021 | <b>2021-2022</b> | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Directorate and operations          | 628       | <b>628</b>       | 628       | 628       |
| Communications                      | 159       | <b>159</b>       | 159       | 159       |
| Policy, planning and investigations | 623       | <b>623</b>       | 623       | 623       |
| <b>Total</b>                        | 1,410     | <b>1,410</b>     | 1,410     | 1,410     |

#### 9. STATUS OF 2020-2021 PRIORITIES

##### Legislation

- ✓ Conduct information sharing meetings on language legislation with deputy ministers and senior officials from all departments

**Status:** Due to COVID 19, this activity has been postponed.

##### Communications

- ✓ Develop an advertising campaign on language rights

**Status:** Postponed. Due to vacant position and a delay in hiring due to COVID-19, the annual promotional campaign on language rights has been postponed until September 2020.

- ✓ Develop an advertising campaign on the Office of the Languages Commissioner's role

**Status:** Postponed. Due to vacant position and a delay in hiring due to COVID-19, the annual promotional campaign has been postponed until September 2020.

- ✓ Work with private sector organizations on the planning and implementation of their Inuit language plan

**Status:** On-going. As of March 31, 2019, we received 18 Inuit language plans; 6 are approved and 12 are on an ongoing process. We are evaluating each plan and, if required, the request for accommodations.

- ✓ Travel to 4 communities and organize information sessions on language rights

**Status:** Due to COVID-19, this activity has been postponed until the next fiscal year.

- ✓ Review the OLC's website

**Status:** Postponed. The OLC expected to have a new website by the end of the fiscal year but due to vacant positions, this deadline has been postponed.

### **Policy, Planning and Investigations**

- ✓ Monitor territorial institutions' language services by means of a telephone communication verification

**Status:** Partly completed. The call verification consists of two different surveys: the verification of language services through phone calls and the verification of voice-mails. It is usually conducted separately in Inuktitut and in French and the two verifications are not conducted at the same time but with a one-month time lapse between the surveys. Due to COVID-19, we have had time to conduct the survey in French but the survey in Inuktitut has had to be postponed.

- ✓ Monitor territorial institutions' language services by means of a written communication review

**Status:** Completed.

- ✓ Follow up on the Department of Health's and the Qikiqtani General Hospital's compliance with the Languages Commissioner's recommendations

**Status:** This activity was postponed until the next fiscal year.

- ✓ Provide feedback to territorial institutions on the OLC's survey results regarding the right to work in the Inuit language

**Status:** Postponed. To raise awareness of the status of the right to work in the Inuit language in territorial institutions, the Office will provide feedback to territorial institutions on its survey (findings and recommendations) concerning the right to work in the Inuit language. Due to COVID-19, this activity will be conducted during the next fiscal year.

- ✓ Provide staff training and professional development initiatives

**Status:** On-going. The next planned training is an advanced investigative training course. This intensive course teaches advanced investigation techniques for conducting investigations and systemic investigations. The last planned training to be provided to investigators, *Essentials for Ombuds*, is offered by York University and the Forum of Canadian Ombudsman. Delayed due to COVID 19, options are planned for online or distance training.

- ✓ Prepare a strategic plan for the OLC

**Status:** Postponed. An orientation document was distributed to all employees but due to vacant positions and COVID-19, the activity will be conducted during the next fiscal year.

- ✓ Develop a guide on investigation procedure

**Status:** On-going. The Office wants to update the current information on the investigation procedure and to develop a guide on this subject.

## 10. PRIORITIES FOR 2021-2022

### Legislation

- ✓ Conduct information sharing meetings on language legislation with deputy ministers and senior officials from all departments

### Communications

- ✓ Develop an advertising campaign on language rights and on the OLC's role
- ✓ Inform private sector organizations of their language obligations under the *Inuit Language Protection Act*
- ✓ Travel to 4 communities and organize information sessions on language rights
- ✓ Finalize the review of the OLC's website

### Policy, Planning and Investigations

- ✓ Provide feedback to territorial institutions on the OLC's survey results regarding the right to work in the Inuit language
- ✓ Follow up on the Department of Health's and the Qikiqtani General Hospital's compliance with the Languages Commissioner's recommendations
- ✓ Provide staff training and professional development initiatives
- ✓ Finalize the guide on the investigation process and the strategic plan

## 11. PRIORITIES FOR 2022-2023

### Communications

- ✓ Develop an advertising campaign on language rights
- ✓ Develop an advertising campaign on the OLC's role
- ✓ Inform private sector organizations and federal departments, agencies and institutions of their language obligations under the ILPA and providing assistance in the planning and implementation of the Inuit language plan and, if needed, the accommodation request
- ✓ Travel to 4 communities and organize information sessions on language rights

## **Policy, Planning and Investigations**

- ✓ Monitor territorial institutions' implementation of OLC's recommendations regarding the right to work in the Inuit language
- ✓ Monitor territorial institutions' language services through e-mail verification
- ✓ Follow up on recommendations received from the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Independent Officers and Other Entities
- ✓ Provide staff training and professional development initiatives

## **12. PRIORITIES FOR 2023-2024**

### **Communications**

- ✓ Develop an advertising campaign on language rights
- ✓ Develop an advertising campaign on the OLC's roles
- ✓ Inform private sector organizations and federal departments, agencies and institutions of their language obligations under the ILPA and providing assistance in the planning and implementation of the Inuit language plan and, if needed, the accommodation request
- ✓ Travel to 4 communities and organize information sessions on language rights

### **Policy, Planning and Investigations**

- ✓ Monitor territorial institutions' language services through written communication review
- ✓ Monitor private sector' language services through a survey
- ✓ Follow up on recommendations received from the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Independent Officers and Other Entities
- ✓ Provide staff training and professional development initiatives

**13. MAIN ESTIMATES FOR 2021-2024**

| BUSINESS SUMMARY                           | 2020-2021      |     | 2021-2022 |     | 2022 – 2023 |     | 2023 – 2024 |     |
|--|----------------|-----|-----------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|
|  | Main Estimates |     | Planned   |     | Planned     |     | Planned     |     |
|  | \$0            | PYs | \$0       | PYs | \$0         | PYs | \$0         | PYs |
| <b>DIRECTORATE AND OPERATIONS</b>          |                |     |           |     |             |     |             |     |
| Salary                                     | 286            | 2   | 280       | 2   | 280         | 2   | 280         | 2   |
| Grants and Contributions                   | —              |     | —         |     | —           |     | —           |     |
| Other O&M                                  | 342            |     | 348       |     | 348         |     | 348         |     |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                            | 628            |     | 628       |     | 628         |     | 628         |     |
| <b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>                      |                |     |           |     |             |     |             |     |
| Salary                                     | 129            | 1   | 129       | 1   | 129         | 1   | 129         | 1   |
| Grants and Contributions                   | —              |     | —         |     | —           |     | —           |     |
| Other O&M                                  | 30             |     | 30        |     | 30          |     | 30          |     |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                            | 159            |     | 159       |     | 159         |     | 159         |     |
| <b>POLICY, PLANNING AND INVESTIGATIONS</b> |                |     |           |     |             |     |             |     |
| Salary                                     | 575            | 4   | 575       | 4   | 575         | 4   | 575         | 4   |
| Grants and Contributions                   | —              |     | —         |     | —           |     | —           |     |
| Other O&M                                  | 48             |     | 48        |     | 48          |     | 48          |     |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                            | 623            |     | 623       |     | 623         |     | 623         |     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                               | 1 410          | 7   | 1 410     | 7   | 1 410       | 7   | 1 410       | 7   |

**APPENDIX**

**OFFICE OF THE LANGUAGES COMMISSIONER**

**INUIT EMPLOYMENT PLAN**

**2020-2025**



**EMPLOYMENT CATEGORIES IN THE OFFICE AS OF MARCH 31, 2020**

In its Public Service Annual Report and in its *Towards a Representative Public Service* (TRPS) report, the GN reports positions across six employment categories: Executive, Senior Management, Middle Management, Professional, Paraprofessional and Administrative Support. The following applies to the Office of the Languages Commissioner:

| <b>Category</b>        | <b>OLC</b>  |
|------------------------|---|
| Executive              | Not applicable  |
| Senior Management      | Director of Strategic Planning and Policy   |
| Middle Management      | None  |
| Professional           | Public Affairs Officer  |
| Paraprofessional       | Investigation and Research Officer – Inuktitut<br>Investigation and Research Officer – French<br>ILPA Liaison Officer |
| Administrative Support | Executive Assistant   |

Within the Office of the Languages Commissioner, most of the 6 positions (67%) as of March 31, 2020 are categorized as either professional (1) or paraprofessional (3), corresponding with the need for post-secondary (college or university) education as well as on-the-job training and experience. One position (17%) is involved in senior management level, which generally also requires post-secondary education.

**CAPACITY IN THE OFFICE**

The Office of the Languages Commissioner represents three linguistic communities: Inuktitut-speaking, English-speaking and French-speaking people. By the very nature of the Office’s role, the majority of the Office’s positions are in the paraprofessional employment category.

As of March 31, 2020, the Office of the Languages Commissioner had an overall Inuit employment rate of 33%.

## INUIT EMPLOYMENT IN EMPLOYMENT CATEGORIES

The following charts illustrate the Office of the Languages Commissioner's total current capacity (2020).

As of March 31, 2020

| EMPLOYMENT CATEGORIES  | TOTAL POSITIONS     |           |          |            | INUIT EMPLOYMENT |            |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|----------|------------|------------------|------------|
|                        | Number of positions | Vacancies | Filled   | % Capacity | Inuit employed   | % Inuit    |
| Executive              | -                   | -         | -        | -          | -                | -          |
| Senior Management      | 1                   | 0         | 1        | 100%       | 0                | 0%         |
| Middle Management      | -                   | -         | -        | -          | -                | -          |
| Professional           | 1                   | 1         | 0        | 0%         | 0                | 0%         |
| Paraprofessional       | 3                   | 1         | 2        | 67%        | 1                | 50%        |
| Administrative Support | 1                   | 1         | 0        | 0%         | 0                | 0%         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>6</b>            | <b>3</b>  | <b>3</b> | <b>50%</b> | <b>1</b>         | <b>33%</b> |

The Office of the Languages Commissioner hires casual employees to assist with filling positions temporarily that may be vacated due to unsuccessful competition, education leave, maternity leave, annual leave and/or extended medical leave.

As of March 31, 2020, the OLC had 2 casual employees.

## INUIT LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS BY EMPLOYMENT CATEGORY

The Office of the Languages Commissioner has 4 positions that have Inuit language requirements as of March 31, 2020, and 2 positions that identify Inuit language as an asset.

## INUIT REPRESENTATION

The Office of the Languages Commissioner had 33% Inuit representation as of March 31, 2020. Below are areas of Inuit representation:

| EMPLOYMENT CATEGORIES  | TOTAL POSITIONS     |          |            | INUIT EMPLOYMENT |            |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------|------------|------------------|------------|
|                        | Number of positions | Filled   | % Capacity | Inuit employed   | % Inuit    |
| Executive              | -                   | -        | -          | -                | -          |
| Senior Management      | 1                   | 1        | 100%       | 0                | 0%         |
| Middle Management      | -                   | -        | -          | -                | -          |
| Professional           | 1                   | 0        | 0%         | 0                | 0%         |
| Paraprofessional       | 3                   | 2        | 67%        | 1                | 50%        |
| Administrative Support | 1                   | 0        | 0%         | 0                | 0%         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>6</b>            | <b>3</b> | <b>50%</b> | <b>1</b>         | <b>33%</b> |

### TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PLANS

The Office will continue to use the performance review process to identify staff who would like to further develop their skills to progress within their career in the OLC. Through the performance review process, the Office will also use the training and development plans to identify the employees training needs and formulate a plan to assist employees in their development. In addition, the Office will work with the employees to identify if they have aspirations to further their career within the Office so that the appropriate support can be provided to assist in accomplishing these goals.

### CURRENT ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Within the Office of the Languages Commissioner, some of the positions are specialized and require a formal education. While formal education may be a requirement for some positions, the Office identified there is a need to continue to analyse job descriptions as they become vacant to ensure that the education and work experience requirements are not over inflated and that equivalencies are considered. The OLC maintains this process by having the Department of Human Resources work closely with the Office in reviewing the job descriptions.

The Office will continue to ensure that the minimum education, work experience and language(s) identified in job descriptions pertain to roles where it is an absolute requirement. Mentorship is also a value-added investment to help Inuit succeed.

### POTENTIAL FUTURE ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

According to the workforce analysis, in the Government of Nunavut (GN) as a whole, 36% of the workforce was age 50 or over and 25% of the workforce was under 35 years of age. Comparatively, as of March 2020, 50% of the workforce in OLC was the age of 50 or over.

For the purpose of planning and forecasting for possible future vacancies in the Office, OLC is using this data to be informed of the “retirement potential” while keeping in mind those employees may not retire when the time comes.

As of March 31, 2020, there is a total potential for retirement by 2024 of approximately 2 employees or 67% of the current Office’s workforce.

## **ABOUT INUIT EMPLOYMENT GOALS AND TARGETS**

Departments and territorial corporations set their Inuit employment goals and targets by considering labour supply and demand factors in Nunavut as a whole and in the communities where their offices are located. The Office of the Languages Commissioner is considering the same factors. Factors may include:

- The availability, interest and level of preparedness of Inuit for government employment, as documented in Nunavut Inuit Labour Force Analysis products and related summaries prepared by the GN;
- Trends in the number of Inuit who are likely to be qualified now for available positions or high-demand occupations;
- Trends in the number of Inuit who are likely to become qualified over time for available positions or high-demand occupations;
- Competition for skilled Inuit throughout the GN and with other employers in the territory;
- Recent trends in staffing and recruitment in the OLC;
- Operational requirements and approved positions (PYs) and budgets; and
- Vacancies and projected turnover rates in the department or corporation.

In setting short-term and medium-term goals, the Office did not exceed the approved number of positions (PYs) in each employment category as of the date of the IEP.

### **Short-Term and Medium-Term Goals**

Short-term goals are within 3 years from 2020, by March 2023.

By March 2023, the Office will increase Inuit representation from 33% to 67% by:

- Reviewing job descriptions to ensure that education, work experience and language requirements are not inflated in job descriptions;
- Assessing all vacancies to determine whether it is feasible to reprofile the position to create an internship or other career development opportunity;
- Promoting and making use of GN training and career development programs;
- Providing specialized training to current professional and paraprofessional staff to develop their current skills;
- Using restricted competitions;
- Fostering a positive work and learning environment in the Office.

By March 31, 2024, if the budget allows us to do so, the Office intends to increase Inuit representation from 67% to 71% by adding one more position in the paraprofessional category: an assistant executive director position.

Between now and 2025, the Office will focus on initiatives that create long-term, sustainable Inuit employment in all categories. The Office will continue to utilize various human resource initiatives to support the development of our employees internally to provide career advancement opportunities for our paraprofessional and professional positions. Such initiatives include education leave and professional development (both external and internal).

The Office will work with Inuit employees who seek career advancement to ensure opportunities for our identifying positions for the Internships and mentoring programs. This will enable more Inuit candidates into Senior Management roles. These initiatives are long-range in nature and require the commitment of the targeted staff as well as a financial investment on the part of the Office.



**Phone**

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