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## Introduction

This guide gives some basic information for voters about Nunavut's *Plebiscites Act*.

Read the Act to know the exact laws.

This is one of seven Elections Nunavut guides about the *Plebiscites Act*.

- Voters Guide to the *Plebiscites Act*
- Plebiscite Authorities Guide—Administer a Local (non-municipal) Plebiscite
- Plebiscite Authorities Guide—Administer a Nunavut-wide Plebiscite
- Plebiscite Authorities Guide—Administer a Municipal Plebiscite
- Financial Agent Guide—Nunavut-wide Plebiscite
- Registered Group and Authorized Representative Guide—Nunavut-wide Plebiscite
- Public Guide—Produce a Petition for a Local (non-municipal) Plebiscite
- Public Guide – Produce a Petition for a Municipal Plebiscite
- Public Guide—Produce a Petition for a Nunavut-wide Plebiscite

## Plebiscite Basics

The *Plebiscites Act* is the law we follow to conduct all plebiscites in Nunavut, except liquor plebiscites.

A plebiscite is when eligible voters answer a question on a secret ballot, to vote and give their opinion about an important public issue.

Three examples of past plebiscites:

- Do you agree with dividing the NWT—yes or no?
- Where do you want to have Nunavut’s capital—Iqaluit or Rankin?
- Should each Nunavut constituency elect one female and one male MLA—yes or no?

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### Plebiscite area

The plebiscite area is the geographic area where people are eligible to vote on the plebiscite.

- Nunavut-wide: for all eligible voters in Nunavut.
- Local: for all eligible voters in an affected area—such as a hamlet or other defined geographic area.

On plebiscite day, each community in the plebiscite area has at least one polling station. Eligible voters go there to vote. Look for an Elections Nunavut sign on the outside of the building.

For a Nunavut-wide plebiscite, the plebiscite area is all of Nunavut. Elections Nunavut uses the constituencies in the *Elections Act* to organize plebiscite officers and voting.

For a local plebiscite, Elections Nunavut uses the hamlet or other geographic region to organize plebiscite officers and voting.

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## **Plebiscite authority**

A plebiscite authority is the body or person that can start a plebiscite. The Act names six plebiscite authorities:

- Nunavut Legislative Assembly.
- Commissioner in Executive Council.
- A Minister of a GN Department—only for a matter the Minister is responsible for.
- Municipal council—only in the municipality; and only for a matter within their jurisdiction.
- Education authority—only for a matter they are responsible for; only when they hold an election for authority members.
- Any other person or body that enters into an agreement with Elections Nunavut to conduct a plebiscite.

A plebiscite authority may start up a plebiscite if they:

- Want to know what people think about a certain issue.
- Receive a public petition that asks for one.

If a plebiscite authority decides to have a plebiscite, they send instructions to Elections Nunavut. Elections Nunavut makes the plebiscite happen, according to the laws.

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## Petition

A petition is a document that asks for a plebiscite about a certain question. It is a way for the public to ask a plebiscite authority to have a plebiscite. At least 20% of eligible voters in the affected area — Nunavut-wide or local—must sign the petition.

The petition goes to the plebiscite authority that is responsible for the topic of the petition. When they receive a petition, the plebiscite authority sends it to Elections Nunavut to see if the petition is valid — if it follows all the rules. If it is valid, the plebiscite authority can decide to hold a plebiscite, or not. The petition is a request, not a demand.

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## Plebiscite question

The plebiscite question must be clear and neutral; people must understand what it means. The plebiscite authority writes the question or it may come from a petition. If it comes from a petition, the plebiscite authority can include another question if needed. If the question is not clear and neutral, Elections Nunavut asks the plebiscite authority to re-write it.

The plebiscite authority cannot ask the same question twice in five years in the same area.

The plebiscite authority must provide information about the plebiscite issue to any people that ask for it. Elections Nunavut is responsible to provide neutral public information about the topic or issue.



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## Elections Nunavut

Elections Nunavut is the agency responsible to conduct plebiscites under the *Plebiscites Act*. The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) and staff in Rankin Inlet manage everything about Nunavut's plebiscites. They hire plebiscite officers when they need to conduct a plebiscite.

Plebiscite officers do the same work for a plebiscite as election officers do for a territorial election.

- Returning officer (RO): organizes everything for the plebiscite in the plebiscite area; the person in charge of their area.
- Assistant returning officer (ARO): helps the RO organize everything in the plebiscite area.
- Registration clerk (RC): works with the RO and ARO to register voters in the plebiscite area.
- Deputy returning officer (DRO): manages voting on plebiscite day and counts the ballots; one for each polling station.
- Poll clerk (PC): works with the DRO to manage voting and count the ballots on plebiscite day: one for each polling station.

A person must be an eligible voter to be an RO, ARO, or DRO. All plebiscite officers need to have certain talents.

- Be fair and impartial.
- Respect and follow plebiscite laws.
- Treat all voters the same and respect their rights.
- Not show they like one choice to the plebiscite question more than another.
- Not give money, goods, or services to any groups that lobby for one side or the other of the plebiscite question.

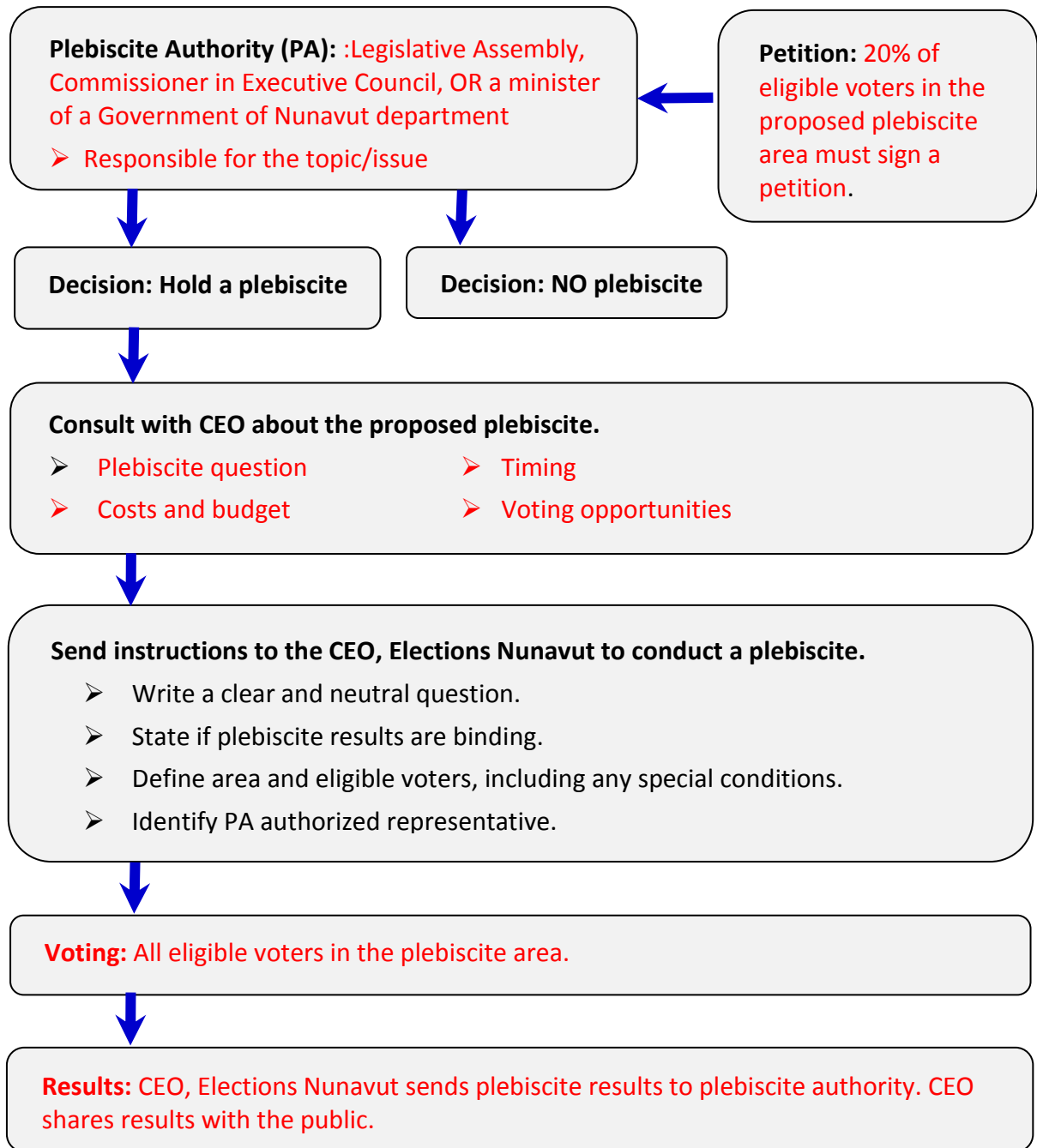
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## **Plebiscite results—binding or non-binding**

When they start the plebiscite, the plebiscite authority says if the results are binding or non-binding. The results of a plebiscite about a municipal borrowing by-law are always binding.

- Non-binding means that the plebiscite authority may choose to follow the results, or not.
- Binding means that the plebiscite authority must follow the results as soon as practical and within their capability. For example:
  - To change programs or policies.
  - To introduce new programs or policies.
  - To take steps to introduce an appropriate law/by-law or regulations.

## Diagram of Basic Process for local Plebiscite



## The Plebiscite Period

The plebiscite period usually starts 35 days before plebiscite day and ends on plebiscite day. During the plebiscite period certain things must happen on certain days. A Nunavut-wide plebiscite has more voting opportunities than a local plebiscite.

### Plebiscite Period Calendar

| Important days                       | What happens on that day  |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>35 days before Plebiscite Day</b> | CEO sends the writ to RO.<br>RO posts the writ in their office.   |
| <b>34 days before Plebiscite Day</b> | Nunavut-wide only: Elections Nunavut sends a voter information card to each voter.<br>Local plebiscite: no voter information cards.   |
| <b>29 days before Plebiscite Day</b> | CEO sends plebiscite notice to each RO.<br>Nunavut-wide only: CEO sends notice to any registered group.   |
| <b>14 days before Plebiscite Day</b> | Nunavut-wide only: Close of registrations at 2:00 pm local time.<br>First day voters can vote at the RO’s office—from 12:00 noon to 7:00 pm local time.<br><i>Local plebiscite: Where permitted - first day voters can vote at the RO’s office—from 12:00 noon to 7:00 pm local time.</i> |
| <b>7 days before Plebiscite Day</b>  | Mobile poll from 9:00 am to 11:30 am local time.<br>Advance vote from 12:00 noon to 7:00 pm local time.   |
| <b>5 days before Plebiscite Day</b>  | Nunavut-wide only: First day voters can get a proxy certificate from Elections Nunavut. Must meet strict criteria.<br><i>Local Plebiscites: Where permitted – first day voters can get a proxy certificate from Elections Nunavut. Must meet strict criteria.</i>                         |
| <b>Plebiscite Day</b>                | Voting at the polling stations.<br>Authorized reps follow the rules at the polling station.   |

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## Post plebiscite period

The post plebiscite period starts the day after plebiscite day and ends 60 days after plebiscite day. During the post plebiscite period certain things must happen on certain days.

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### Post Plebiscite Period Calendar

| <b>Important days</b>               | <b>What happens on that day</b>   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>10 days after Plebiscite Day</b> | Deadline to remove any campaign materials.  |
| <b>60 days after Plebiscite Day</b> | Nunavut-wide plebiscite: Deadline for registered groups and financial agents to complete and file the campaign financial return.  |
|                                     | Nunavut-wide plebiscite: Deadline for registered groups to destroy all electronic and hard copies of the voters list that they received, or return them to Elections Nunavut. |

## The Campaign

The campaign is all the statements, ads, and other materials—audio, visual, digital—that promote or oppose one choice for the plebiscite question.

To campaign during a plebiscite, you must be a Nunavut resident or business or group that legally operates in Nunavut. All campaign materials must show the sponsor’s name and contact information.

For a local plebiscite, no one can give or receive contributions to pay for campaign expenses. Anyone may say they support one side or the other, display campaign materials, and make general statements about the issue.

Departments and agencies of the Government of Nunavut and the Legislative Assembly can NOT participate in a campaign.

Employers can NOT make an employee or person they supervise participate in a campaign, unless it is part of their job.

## Nunavut-wide Plebiscites

The following rules apply only to Nunavut-wide plebiscites.

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### Registered groups

A group may register with Elections Nunavut so they can receive contributions to pay campaign expenses.

The following are eligible to be a registered group:

- A corporation registered under Nunavut laws.
- A society registered under the *Societies Act*.
- A co-operative association registered under the *Co-operative Associations Act*.
- A trade union that represents Nunavut workers.
- A partnership of Nunavut individual residents or Nunavut businesses.
- An unincorporated group of people that are all Nunavut residents.

A group is not eligible to be a registered group if they:

- Do not have a true interest in the plebiscite question.
- Are not governed by a written constitution, memorandum of association, membership agreement, or similar document.
- Are bankrupt.
- Or any of their members have broken a law within the last five years—anywhere in Canada—that relates to an election, plebiscite, or referendum.
- Are not in good standing with Government of Nunavut Legal Registries.





The registered group gets a certificate if Elections Nunavut accepts the application.

Elections Nunavut rejects the application if:

- The application is incomplete or filed after the deadline.
- The application does not include all the needed information.
- The application includes false information.
- The name of the group is misleading, confusing, or deceiving.
- The group is not eligible.
- The person appointed as authorized representative or financial agent is not eligible.

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### **Rules about who can contribute and how much**

Only the following can contribute to a campaign:

- Any Nunavut resident.
- Any company that does business legally in Nunavut.
- Any group that works in Nunavut.

Plebiscite officers or other people that work for Elections Nunavut can NOT contribute.

The Act has rules about how much to contribute.

- A person, business, or group can give up to \$2500 for each plebiscite. An organization has to list the people who give money for their contribution.
- A person, business, or organization must give their name and address, unless they contribute less than \$100. If they contribute less than \$100 they can choose to give their name or not.

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### **Other rules about campaign contributions**

The *Plebiscites Act* has other rules about contributions.

- People can contribute only during the plebiscite period — from 35 days before plebiscite day to plebiscite day.
- People contribute only to a registered group. The money belongs to the campaign, not to the authorized representative, financial agent, or any other individual.
- People give money only to the financial agent or someone they authorize. If a person writes a cheque, they make it out to “the campaign to \_\_\_\_\_”
- The \$200 fee that the registered group pays when they file their application to register is not a campaign contribution or expense.
- A registered group may contribute their own money to the campaign.

## Voters—All Plebiscites

People who are eligible to vote in an election for MLAs have the right to vote in a plebiscite.

You are eligible to vote if you are:

- A Canadian citizen.
- 18 years or older on plebiscite day.
- A Nunavut resident for at least a year on plebiscite day.
- For a **local** plebiscite: resident in the **plebiscite area on plebiscite day**.

You are not eligible to vote if you:

- Have a court order that says you don’t understand your actions—you can’t decide things for yourself. OR
- Broke the laws under the criminal code and you are in a place for people with mental illness. OR
- Broke a law related to an election, plebiscite, or referendum anywhere in Canada in the last five years and were convicted.

### Special voter qualifications

A plebiscite authority may want or need to direct the plebiscite to a group of people other than eligible voters named above. For example, if the plebiscite question directly concerns a certain group of people who are not eligible voters.

In this case, the plebiscite authority and the writ set out the qualifications of eligible voters for that plebiscite.

### Nunavut resident

Eligible voters vote where they live. Being a Nunavut resident means the voter actually lives in a place—they work and sleep there.



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## Voter registration

Voters register with Elections Nunavut to get their name on the voters list. Elections Nunavut holds voter registration activities to keep the list up to date and accurate. Voters can also register when they go to vote if their name isn't on the voters list.

Elections Nunavut uses two forms to register voters:

- Voter registration form: Voters fill out and sign the voter registration form if their name is not on the voters list.
- Form to change or correct voter information: Voters fill out and sign the change and correct form if their name is on the list and the voter information needs to change. For example:
  - A voter moves from one community to another in the same constituency or to a different house in the same community.
  - A voter moves to a community in a different constituency.
  - A voter's name or address is spelled wrong.
  - A voter changes their name.

Voters can call or email Elections Nunavut or go on the website to get a form to fill out on their own. During registration activities and on plebiscite day, the registration clerk fills out the form and the voter signs.

To fill out the forms, voters need to know their house and lot number or civic address, and their mailing address. Voters may need to provide ID to show their civic or mailing address OR to prove their identity if the plebiscite officer does not personally know you.

If you need to show ID you must provide:

- One piece of ID that shows your name, current address, and signature.

Examples:

- Drivers licence
  - Vehicle registration
  - Government of Nunavut general ID card
- Two pieces of ID: one that shows your name and signature and one that shows your name and address.

Examples of ID that shows your name and signature:

- Enrolment card – Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
- Health insurance card
- Passport
- Citizenship card
- Old age security card
- Social insurance card
- Bank card or credit card
- Library card
- Student card

Examples of ID that shows your name and address:

- Phone or other bill
- Car insurance
- Magazine or other mail with a label

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## Voter information card

For a Nunavut-wide plebiscite, every voter on the voters list gets a Voter Information Card in the mail, early in the plebiscite period. This card shows:

- Name and address.
- Constituency.
- Where and when to vote on plebiscite day.
- Where and when to vote in the advance vote.
- Other ways to vote if you can't vote on plebiscite day.
- A toll-free number to call for more information.

Voters should check the voter information card to see if the information is correct. Call the returning officer or Elections Nunavut to change the information if needed. Keep the card and take it with you when you go to vote. It makes voting easier and faster.

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## Voters list

The voters list is a list that Elections Nunavut makes of all registered voters. The voters list shows each voter's name, mailing address, and civic address or house and lot number, or street address.

Elections Nunavut may use the voters list for an election or plebiscite. They use it to keep track of who voted and they keep the information on it very safe. No one uses the voters list for jury duty.

Early in the plebiscite period, Elections Nunavut sends a copy of the voters list to each RO. Voters should check the list to see if their name is on it and the information is correct.





## Ways to vote

There are different ways to vote in a Nunavut-wide plebiscite and a local plebiscite. Every voter that wants to vote can choose the way that suits them best. If a voter’s name is not on the voters list, they can register when they go to vote.

| Ways to vote  | Nunavut-wide     | Local                          |
|---|------------------|--------------------------------|
| <p><b>Plebiscite day</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Mountain time</li> <li>➤ 9:00 am to 7:00 pm Central time</li> <li>➤ 10:00 am to 8:00 pm Eastern time</li> </ul>  | <p>✓<br/>Yes</p> | <p>✓<br/>Yes</p>               |
| <p><b>Advance vote</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 12:00 noon to 7:00 pm local time.</li> <li>➤ Seven days before plebiscite day.</li> </ul>   | <p>✓<br/>Yes</p> | <p>✓<br/>Yes</p>               |
| <p><b>Vote at the RO’s office</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 12:00 noon to 7:00 pm local time.</li> <li>➤ Starts 14 days before plebiscite day.</li> <li>➤ Ends four days before plebiscite day.</li> </ul>   | <p>✓<br/>Yes</p> | <p>x<br/>No<br/>If allowed</p> |
| <p><b>Mobile poll</b></p> <p>For voters who physically can’t get to the polling station; the poll comes to the voter’s home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ From 9:00 am to 11:30 am local time.</li> <li>➤ Seven days before plebiscite day.</li> </ul>  | <p>✓<br/>Yes</p> | <p>✓<br/>Yes</p>               |
| <p><b>Special mail-in ballot</b></p> <p>For voters temporarily away from home: students, inmates, etc. Any voter that gets a special ballot cannot vote any other way, even if they do not mail the ballot on time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Must apply to Elections Nunavut to get a special ballot kit.</li> <li>➤ Mailed ballots must reach Elections Nunavut in Rankin Inlet by 5:00 pm on</li> </ul> | <p>✓<br/>Yes</p> | <p>x<br/>No<br/>If allowed</p> |

| Ways to vote  | Nunavut-wide     | Local                          |
|---|------------------|--------------------------------|
| <p>plebiscite day.</p>  |                  |                                |
| <p><b>Proxy</b></p> <p>For voters that meet strict conditions and get approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Had to suddenly leave their community.</li> <li>➤ Cannot vote on plebiscite day.</li> <li>➤ Cannot vote any other way.</li> </ul> <p>The proxy voter votes for the voter. The proxy voter’s name and the voter’s name must both be on the constituency’s voters list.</p> <p>A voter can be a proxy voter only once during a plebiscite.</p> | <p>✓<br/>Yes</p> | <p>✗<br/>No<br/>If allowed</p> |
| <p><b>Emergency voting</b></p> <p>For voters that meet strict conditions and get approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Cannot get to a polling station on plebiscite day.</li> <li>➤ Can communicate ONLY by radio or SAT phone.</li> <li>➤ Had no other way to vote before going to a remote place.</li> </ul>  | <p>✓<br/>Yes</p> | <p>✗<br/>No<br/>If allowed</p> |

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### Voters who can’t get inside the polling station

If a voter can’t get inside the polling station for some reason, the DRO can go outside the polling station to let a person vote in a place they can get to. The DRO shuts down the polling station for a short time. They bring the poll outside to the place where the voter can vote.

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### Important rules during voting

Rules everyone must follow at the polling station:

- No one except plebiscite officers can use phones, cameras, two-way radios, or other recording or communication devices at the polling station.
- Everyone must turn off their cell phone inside the polling station.
- No one can put any campaign material on the land or building at the polling station.
- No one can wear, use, or show any campaign buttons, ball caps, T-shirts, or other materials at the polling station.
- No one can just stand around within 10 metres of the polling station.

Special rules for voters:

- Voters must just vote and leave. They can't stay at the polling station and watch the voting.
- Every voter can vote only once in a plebiscite.
- No one can force a voter to say how they voted. Their vote is secret.



## Offences under the *Plebiscites Act*

The *Plebiscites Act* is like any other law. If people break the law, they can be charged with an offence.

### Sample offences

|                                    | Example 1  | Example 2  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Vote improperly</b>             | Voting when not eligible to vote   | Voting more than once.   |
| <b>Influence voters improperly</b> | Bribing a voter with money, liquor, a job, food, or other things                 | Preventing a voter from voting.                                      |
| <b>Use information improperly</b>  | Using the voters list for something besides the plebiscite                       | Damaging Elections Nunavut notices.                                  |
| <b>Tell lies or cheat</b>          | Agreeing to be a financial agent or authorized representative when not eligible. | Knowingly giving false information on the campaign financial return. |
| <b>Use money improperly</b>        | Accepting a campaign contribution of more than \$2500.                           | Using campaign money for personal expenses.                          |



power and responsibility to enforce the *Plebiscites Act* as other Nunavut and Canadian laws.

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### Compliance agreement

A compliance agreement is a contract between the Integrity Commissioner and someone who probably broke the law. It's an option any time, before a person gets convicted of a crime.

The Integrity Commissioner decides whether or not to negotiate a compliance agreement. They consider these things before they decide to negotiate:

- The kind of crime and how bad it is.
- The punishment for doing the crime.
- The public interest.
- The interests of justice.
- Other factors they consider relevant.

If they negotiate a compliance agreement, the Integrity Commissioner and the person both sign. The Commissioner publishes a summary of each signed agreement. It's a public document.

When a person signs the compliance agreement, they take responsibility for the crime. They agree to do one or more of these things:

- Pay money to one or more people.
- Apologize to the public and to the people involved.
- Use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit / IQ (traditional Inuit knowledge) to make the wrong better.
- Do some community service.
- Agree to do or not to do some specific actions.

If a person does not follow the agreement, they:

- Can be charged and go to court.
- For five years can NOT be a financial agent or authorized representative for a registered group for a plebiscite; OR a candidate or financial agent in a territorial election.
- May be convicted and punished.

If a person follows the agreement, they are not charged and do not have a record.

The Commissioner makes a public report on whether or not a person follows their compliance agreement.



## Glossary for *Plebiscites Act*

| Word                                      | Meaning  |
|---|--|
| <b>Advance vote</b>                       | A way to vote before plebiscite day; seven days before plebiscite day from 12:00 noon to 7:00 pm local time.   |
| <b>Affected area or plebiscite area</b>   | The geographic area where the plebiscite takes place and has influence. May be Nunavut-wide, a municipality, or other defined area. The writ identifies the affected area.   |
| <b>Affected voters or eligible voters</b> | The people within the affected area who are eligible to vote in the plebiscite. For most plebiscites this is anyone eligible to vote in an election for MLAs.<br>For some plebiscites, the plebiscite authority may need or want other groups of Nunavummiut to vote. The writ identifies eligible voters, including any special conditions. |
| <b>Affirm</b>                             | A formal, legal promise that something is true; a promise to do something; the most serious promise a person can make. If you break this promise it's the same as breaking the law. Similar to declaration, oath, or swear.  |
| <b>ARO</b>                                | Assistant returning officer, Elections Nunavut. The plebiscite officer responsible to help the RO manage everything about the plebiscite in their community or area.   |
| <b>Auditor</b>                            | The person that the CEO hires to review each registered group's financial return, to make sure it is complete and accurate.  |
| <b>Authorized representative</b>          | Person appointed or designated to represent a group of petitioners, the plebiscite authority, or a registered group.   |
| <b>Ballot</b>                             | The official paper where voters make a mark in the circle beside their choice to answer the plebiscite question.   |
| <b>Binding</b>                            | A plebiscite is binding when the plebiscite authority must follow the results. The writ states if the plebiscite is binding or not. Always binding if the plebiscite is about a municipal borrowing by-law.  |
| <b>Campaign</b>                           | Any ads or other materials—audio, visual, digital—that promote or oppose one side of the plebiscite question.  |

| <b>Word</b>                   | <b>Meaning</b>  |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>CEO</b>                    | Chief Electoral Officer—the person in charge of Elections Nunavut.  |
| <b>Civic address</b>          | Lot and house number; different from a mailing address. To register with Elections Nunavut, voters need to give their civic address.  |
| <b>Close of registrations</b> | Only for a Nunavut-wide plebiscite—the deadline to register as a group with Elections Nunavut: 2:00 pm local time, 14 days before plebiscite day.   |
| <b>Compliance agreement</b>   | An agreement with a person who allegedly broke the laws. The person agrees to do certain things. In exchange, the Integrity Commissioner agrees to not go ahead with a trial.   |
| <b>Constituency</b>           | A geographic area and the people who live there. Elections Nunavut uses constituencies to organize voting for a Nunavut-wide plebiscite.  |
| <b>Contribution</b>           | Any money, goods, and/or services a person or business gives to a registered group to campaign for the plebiscite.  |
| <b>Counterfoil</b>            | The numbered tab on a ballot. The DRO rips it off just before the ballot goes in the ballot box.  |
| <b>Declaration</b>            | A formal or legal statement a person makes to say something is true or they intent to do something. If you break this promise it's the same as breaking the law. Declaration is similar to affirm, oath, or swear.      |
| <b>DRO</b>                    | Deputy returning officer, Elections Nunavut. The plebiscite officer responsible for each polling station on plebiscite day.   |
| <b>Education authority</b>    | A District Education Authority or other governing body of a school under the <i>Education Act</i> .   |
| <b>Elections Nunavut</b>      | Elections Nunavut is an independent agency. They oversee all elections under the <i>Nunavut Elections Act</i> , all plebiscites under the <i>Plebiscites Act</i> , and liquor plebiscites under the <i>Liquor Act</i> . |

| Word                              | Meaning  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Financial agent</b>            | Nunavut-wide plebiscite only: The person that a registered group appoints—on their application—to manage their finances; who must complete the financial return and submit it to Elections Nunavut.  |
| <b>Financial return</b>           | Nunavut-wide plebiscite only: The official report of a registered group’s contributions and expenses for the campaign. The authorized representative and financial agent complete the report, sign it, and make a declaration that the information is true and complete. |
| <b>Judicial recount</b>           | Elections Nunavut applies to the court for a recount when the difference between the number of votes for the first choice and any other choice is less than 2% of the total number of votes.   |
| <b>Local Plebiscite</b>           | A plebiscite that happens in one area of Nunavut, usually a municipality.  |
| <b>Non-binding or not binding</b> | A plebiscite is non-binding when the plebiscite authority may choose to follow the results or not. The plebiscite may be a consultation tool. The writ states if the plebiscite is binding or not.   |
| <b>Nunavut-wide plebiscite</b>    | A plebiscite where the affected area and voters is all of Nunavut.   |
| <b>Oath</b>                       | A formal, legal promise that something is true; a promise to do something. Plebiscite officers take an oath to be impartial in their job. Oath is similar to affirm, declaration, or swear.  |
| <b>PC</b>                         | Poll clerk, Elections Nunavut. The plebiscite officer that works with the DRO at the polling station on plebiscite day.  |
| <b>Petition</b>                   | For the <i>Plebiscites Act</i> , a public document that asks a plebiscite authority to conduct a plebiscite. It is a request, not a demand. At least 20% of eligible voters in the affected area must sign it.   |
| <b>Plebiscite</b>                 | A vote by secret ballot conducted under the <i>Plebiscites Act</i> so that a plebiscite authority can find out what Nunavummiut think about a certain issue.<br>Separate from a liquor plebiscite conducted under the <i>Liquor Act</i> .                                |

| <b>Word</b>                   | <b>Meaning</b>   |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Plebiscite authority</b>   | The body or person with authority to initiate a plebiscite. The <i>Plebiscites Act</i> names six plebiscite authorities.   |
| <b>Plebiscite officers</b>    | The people that work for Elections Nunavut to run the plebiscite: returning officer (RO), assistant returning officer (ARO), deputy returning officer (DRO), poll clerk (PC), registration clerk (RC). Same as election officers.        |
| <b>Plebiscite period</b>      | A 35-day period that starts with the writ and ends with plebiscite day; the official time for the plebiscite.  |
| <b>Plebiscite question</b>    | The question(s) and choice(s) set out in the writ and on the ballot that eligible voters can vote on.  |
| <b>Plebiscite report</b>      | Shows the number of votes for each choice. The RO fills it out when they review all the statements of the poll. The RO can delay the report for up to two weeks after plebiscite day, if needed.   |
| <b>Polling record</b>         | A list of everyone who voted at the polling station; any changes to the voters list; notes about everything that happens during voting.  |
| <b>Polling place</b>          | A building that holds one, two, or more polling stations. Each polling place has an ARO and RC. Communities such as Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet have more than one constituency. The polling place has an ARO and RC for each constituency. |
| <b>Polling station</b>        | The place voters go to vote; where voters get a ballot from the DRO.   |
| <b>Post plebiscite period</b> | The 60 days rights after plebiscite day. Registered groups must submit their financial return before this ends.  |
| <b>Registered group</b>       | Only Nunavut-wide plebiscite: A group that registers with Elections Nunavut to raise money to campaign during the plebiscite. The Act outlines who is eligible and other rules.  |
| <b>RC</b>                     | Registration clerk, Elections Nunavut. The plebiscite officer responsible to register voters before plebiscite day and during voting on plebiscite day.  |
| <b>Rejected ballot</b>        | A marked ballot that does not count for any choice. The DRO or ARO reject a ballot only for clearly defined reasons.   |



| Word        | Meaning   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>Writ</b> | The official notice to say there is a plebiscite. The CEO sends it to each RO. Each RO posts the writ in their office.<br>The return of the writ is the back side. It shows the plebiscite results. The RO fills it out and sends it to the CEO after plebiscite day. |