ELECTIONS NUNAVUT
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NUNAVUNMI NIGUAKNIK

NEWS RELEASE

Liquor Plebiscites

Rankin Inlet, Nunavut - October 26, 2009

Liquor plebiscites were held today in Pangnirtung and in Rankin Inlet.

In Pangnirtung voters were asked if they wanted to replace liquor prohibition with the establishment of an Alcohol Education Committee. 536 voters, 85% of the eligible municipal voters cast a ballot. 159 votes (30%) were in favour of the change, while 375 (70%) were opposed to it. 2 ballots were rejected. As a result of this vote an Alcohol Education Committee will not be established.

Rankin Inlet voters faced two quite different questions. The first ballot asked if voters wanted to eliminate the current liquor regulations that disallow the purchase and sale of beer in the community. 217 (52%) said 'Yes' and 197 (48%) said 'No'. There were 4 rejected ballots. Beer sales will not be allowed.

The second ballot asked if voters wanted to authorize the Liquor Licensing Board to grant dining room licenses. 220 (53%) voted in favour of this option while 195 (47%) voted against. There were 2 rejected ballots. As a result, the Liquor Licensing Board will not be authorized to issue dining room licenses.

In Rankin Inlet 418 voters, 31% of the eligible municipal voters cast their ballots.

A liquor plebiscite takes place when the Minister responsible for the Liquor Act gives his consent to a petition signed by 20 or more eligible voters in a community.

For change to occur in a community's liquor status at least 60% of the valid votes cast must be in favour of the question.

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