



PLEBISCITES UNDER THE LIQUOR ACT

1) What is a plebiscite?

A plebiscite is a vote by the eligible voters of a community to find out how a community feels about a particular issue.

Like elections, plebiscites are done with secret ballots, but instead of choosing candidates, voters are asked to answer a “yes” or “no” question that will decide how the community feels about the issue they are voting on.

2) What is a liquor plebiscite?

Plebiscites under the *Liquor Act* ask community members to decide how or if alcohol will be controlled in their community.

3) Who can vote in a plebiscite that is held under the *Liquor Act*?

Any Canadian citizen who is at least 19 years old by voting day and has lived in Pangnirtung continuously for at least the 12 month period prior to voting day can vote in the plebiscite.

4) Why is Pangnirtung having a liquor plebiscite?

The *Liquor Act* sets out how a liquor plebiscite is triggered in Nunavut. The *Act* requires at least 20 interested community members who are eligible voters to sign a petition asking for a plebiscite.

The Hon. Keith Peterson, MLA, Minister responsible for the *Liquor Act*, received a petition signed by 20 qualified voters who live in Pangnirtung. The petition asked the Minister to hold a plebiscite to see if voters from the community wanted to establish an Alcohol Education Committee and establish Pangnirtung as a restricted community.

5) What question will the Pangnirtung liquor plebiscite ask?

The question is determined based on the petition that was received from the community. The Pangnirtung petition asked that the status of the community be changed from prohibited to restricted, with the creation of an Alcohol Education Committee. The Department of Justice has written the question that will appear on the ballot:

QUESTION

Are you in favour of ending the current system of liquor prohibition in Pangnirtung and establishing an Alcohol Education Committee? The Pangnirtung Alcohol Education Committee would decide:

- (a) who may possess, purchase or transport liquor in Pangnirtung;
- (b) who may import liquor into Pangnirtung; and
- (c) the amount of liquor that a person may possess, purchase or transport in or import into Pangnirtung.

YES

NO

6) How many votes are required to change the community's status?

A total of 60% of the valid votes cast in the plebiscite must be in favour of the question (must be YES votes) for an Alcohol Education Committee to be established. For example:

- If 60% or more of the votes cast under the Question are “YES”:

A Pangnirtung Alcohol Education Committee will be established.

- If less than 60% of the valid votes are YES, what happens?

There will be no change.

7) What happens after the vote is held to see if Pangnirtung wants to establish an Alcohol Education Committee?

If the results are in favour (more than 60% of votes are “Yes”) of establishing an Alcohol Education Committee, then consultations will be held to determine who can be a member, how many members will be on the Committee and how long they will serve as members.

Once these questions have been answered and regulations written and approved, it will be possible to elect an Alcohol Education Committee.