

**Chief Polling Officer****PUBLIC VOTE ON GUARANTEED EQUAL REPRESENTATION**

97-25

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****OFFICIAL COUNT SHOWS LITTLE CHANGE IN PUBLIC VOTE RESULTS**

Iqaluit NT. (June 12, 1997) - Results from the May 26 Public Vote on Guaranteed Equal Representation remain unchanged with only minor revisions following the Official Count held in Iqaluit June 12th.

The official count confirmed that a majority of the Nunavut residents who voted in the Public Vote did not support the proposal to elect one male and one female MLA to the first Nunavut Legislative Assembly, said Chief Polling Officer David Hamilton.

A total of 4668 ballots were cast on May 26, 1997 with 18 rejected and 4650 accepted in the Official Addition. Official results showed that 2,666 people voted no (57%) to the proposal, 1,984 voted yes (43%). Voter turnout showed 39 percent, or 4,668, of the 12,044 eligible voters cast ballots.

The official count was done by Mr. Hamilton in Iqaluit in the presence of representatives from the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Nunavut Implementation Commission.

The results of the official count will now be forwarded to the Federal and Territorial governments, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated for their consideration.

**Contact:**

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Chief Polling Officer

PUBLIC VOTE ON GUARANTEED EQUAL REPRESENTATION

Official Results

NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS: 12044      NUMBER OF VOTERS WHO VOTED: 4668

PERCENTAGE TURN OUT: 39%

VOTING RESULTS

PERCENTAGE OF VOTE

YES:	1984	43%
NO:	2666	57%

NUMBER OF REJECTED BALLOTS: 18  
 NUMBER OF BALLOTS ACCEPTED: 4650  
 NUMBER OF SPOILED BALLOTS: 3  
 NUMBER OF BALLOTS USED: 4671  
 NUMBER OF BALLOTS NOT USED: 10829  
 TOTAL NUMBER OF BALLOTS: 15500

*B. McDonald*  
 Representative, Federal Government

*[Signature]*  
 Representative, Government of the Northwest Territories

*[Signature]*  
 Representative, Nunavut Inuvik Incorporated

*[Signature]*  
 Representative, Nunavut Implementation Commission

Dated at Iqaluit NT. this 12<sup>th</sup> day of June 1997.

*[Signature]*  
 Chief Polling Officer

**THE PUBLIC VOTE ON GUARANTEED EQUAL REPRESENTATION**

<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Arctic Bay	54	50
Arviat	81	192
Baker Lake	94	113
Bathurst Inlet	10	1
Broughton Island	83	68
Cambridge Bay	105	87
Cape Dorset	90	80
Chesterfield Inlet	9	117
Clyde River	40	47
Coral Harbour	25	79
Gjoa Haven	90	53
Grise Fiord	17	28
Hall Beach	33	55
Igloolik	119	162
Iqaluit	387	328
Kimmirut	49	72
Kugluktuk	68	66
Nanisivik	10	20
Pangnirtung	122	169
Pelly Bay	32	48
Polaris Mine	6	3
Pond Inlet	68	141
Rankin Inlet	112	305
Repulse Bay	16	143
Resolute	16	28
Sanikiluaq	55	91
Taloyoak	93	59
Umingmaktok	22	5
Whale Cove	24	28
Correctional Facilities	48	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1978</b>	<b>2662</b>

97-08

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PUBLIC VOTE ON GUARANTEED REPRESENTATION**

Yellowknife (March 17) - Residents in Nunavut will vote Monday, May 26 on whether or not the first Nunavut Legislative Assembly should have guaranteed representation for men and women.

The following question will appear on the ballot:

**Should the first Nunavut Legislative Assembly have equal numbers of men and women MLAs, with one man and woman elected to represent each electoral district?**

Nunavut Leaders agreed on the need for the Public Vote at the Cambridge Bay summit meeting last month. They felt that the residents of Nunavut must be given the opportunity to express their opinion on such a fundamental change to the way Members are elected to the Legislative Assembly.

Individuals 18 years and older, who have resided in Nunavut since May 26, 1996, will be eligible to vote. Voters list will be posted in communities in Nunavut no later than April 18, 1997. Eligible voters whose names do not appear on the list may apply to the returning officer by 3 p.m. Thursday, May 8, 1997 to have their names added.

A simple majority -- 50 per cent plus one -- of the votes cast will determine the outcome of the Public Vote.

The Chief Polling Officer, David Hamilton, hopes that despite the time of year the vote is being held in Nunavut that eligible voters will understand the urgency that has been placed on this vote by the parties to the Political Accord so that the people of Nunavut can express those views in this important matter.

Advance Polls will be held on Thursday, May 15, 1997. Proxy voting will be available to all eligible voters, application forms will be available from the returning officer in your community. Students, who are eligible to vote, and attending educational institutions outside their home communities can vote by proxy.

The Chief Polling Officer according to guidelines approved by the three parties, will be responsible for conducting the vote. The Federal Government will cover the costs of the public vote, estimated to be \$350,000.

Factual information, developed jointly by the Federal Government, the Government of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Nunavut Implementation Commission, concerning the subject of the Public Vote will be released in early April.

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**Chief Polling Officer**

**PUBLIC VOTE ON GUARANTEED EQUAL REPRESENTATION**

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97-16

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PROCLAMATION FOR PUBLIC VOTE ISSUED**

**Yellowknife (April 11) - The Proclamation to permit the May 26 Public Vote on the Guaranteed Equal Representation of men and women in the Nunavut Legislative Assembly was issued by the Chief Polling Officer today.**

"A guide to the public vote which contains information explaining the concept of Guaranteed Representation and the voting procedures will be circulated in Nunavut beginning the week of April 21st," said Mr. David Hamilton, Chief Polling Officer.

A preliminary list of eligible voters has been prepared and will be posted in all municipal offices in Nunavut by Friday, April 18. Voters have until 3:00 p.m., Thursday, May 8, 1997 to contact the local returning officer to have their name added to the list.

The question that will appear on the ballot is:

**Should the Nunavut Legislative Assembly have equal numbers of men and women MLAs, with one man and woman elected to represent each electoral district?**

Canadian citizens 18 years and older who have lived in Nunavut since May 26, 1996 are eligible to vote.

Polls will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m local time on voting day in communities throughout Nunavut.

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## **--- Media Release ---**

### ***Nunavut Leaders Seek to Inform Public On Gender Parity***

Iqaluit, Nunavut – April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1997

Five Nunavut leaders today announced that their organizations are co-operating to inform people about the May 26<sup>th</sup> public vote on the proposal for Gender Parity in the Nunavut Legislative Assembly.

Nunavut Implementation Commission Chief Commissioner John Amagoalik, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. President Jose Kusugak, First Vice-President James Eetoolook and Secretary / Treasurer Natsiq Kango, along with Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association President Martha Flaherty believe that NIC, NTI and Pauktuutit have a responsibility to distribute factual information to the voters.

"We need to communicate the issues and the details of the proposal to every man and every woman in every Nunavut community," Natsiq Kango said. "That's why we will be distributing clear and concise information in Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, English and French. We are asking people to embrace what we believe is a better way of selecting a government. People need to feel very comfortable with the proposal if they are going to vote for positive change."

"We respect the opinions of people who have given the Gender Parity proposal fair consideration, and have decided that they can't support it," added Martha Flaherty. "We are looking forward to honest and open public debate about the merits of the proposal for Gender Parity.. The men, women and children of Nunavut deserve nothing less."

"It makes me sad when I hear people saying that this proposal would divide men and women," Flaherty continued. "The who point of this proposal is to bring men and women together to restore balance in decision making. It's about respecting the different perspectives that men and women bring to politics."

"Many people have changed their minds from a 'No' position to a 'Yes' position once they learned how the proposal would actually work," notes James Eetoolook. We plan to be factual and positive, and to create an atmosphere of hope for a better future for our families."

"For example, we hear people on the radio saying the proposal would be too expensive," Eetoolook continued. "That's simply not true. All the parties at the

But by having 2 MLAs for each electoral district, one man and one woman, the goal would be achieved simply and efficiently. This proposal is NOT affirmative action, and it doesn't discriminate against anyone - but it would be more effective than any affirmative action strategy.

**Is Nunavut the only jurisdiction considering such a proposal?**

No. Countries like Sweden and Norway have used various methods to achieve more balance in political representation, and some countries (such as Scotland and France) are considering proposals similar to the recommendations made by the NIC.

**Is this proposal democratic?**

Yes, absolutely. MLAs would be elected in a completely democratic way, on the basis of merit. No one would have to vote for a candidate they don't want to support. The proposal conforms to the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. The NIC, NTL, Pauktuutit, and many men and women across Nunavut believe that this proposal is really an improved kind of democracy - one that will give the people of Nunavut a better, more balanced government.

**How can I learn more about this proposal?**

Phone: Nunavut Implementation Commission (819) 979-4199  
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (819) 979-3232  
Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association (613) 238-3977

These organizations would be happy to send you further information or answer any questions you may have.

**Some final thoughts...**

Before casting your ballot, you may wish to reflect on what will be achieved if people vote 'Yes', and what will be achieved if people vote 'No'...

If people vote 'Yes' on May 26, they will be agreeing that Nunavut doesn't have to be a copy of the existing government. Instead, the Nunavut government will be a better, healthier government than what we have now. The balance and respect between men and women which characterized Inuit society for centuries would be restored, and men and women legislators could work together on the social problems and other challenges which the new Nunavut government will face. People around the world would respect Nunavut as a pioneer in achieving reconciliation between men and women, and for finding a way for men and women to be true partners in decision-making.

If people vote 'No' on May 26, what will be achieved? Nothing.