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Elections Nunavut
Élections Nunavut

Guide for Candidates To Elect Members of the Nunavut Legislative Assembly



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Introduction

This Guide is a summary of parts of the *Nunavut Elections Act*—the laws to elect Members of the Legislative Assembly. Candidates must use and follow this Guide, but it does not replace the laws.

The Guide has the following information:

- Who can and cannot be a candidate.
- What candidates must do, when and how to do it.

The Guide has information about general elections and by-elections. Most of the laws are the same for both. The Guide clearly shows where the laws are different for a by-election.

Each candidate must have a financial agent. Elections Nunavut has other information that candidates may find useful:

- Guide for Financial Agents
- Guide to Manage a Campaign
- Guide to the Nunavut Elections Act
- Constituency Maps
- Nunavut Elections Act

Contact Elections Nunavut for copies of these documents, in any of Nunavut's Official languages.

Who is a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)?

An MLA is an elected official that represents their constituents in the Legislative Assembly. Nunavut has 22 MLAs.

As a representative and legislator, MLAs advocate for their community's needs and help determine how the government will address Nunavut-wide issues. They also assist constituents with problems or requests for information from the government.

MLAs meet at the Legislative Assembly in Iqaluit throughout the year for sittings and committee meetings. The sittings and committee meetings typically last for 7 to 8 weeks each.

What are some things MLAs do?

- Participate in the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly by making statements and asking the government questions.
- Examine and vote on proposed laws, budgets, and business plans of the government.
- Participate and serve as a member of committees.
- Participate in full caucus and regular member's caucus.
- Meet regularly with their constituents, community leaders and organizations.
- Present petitions on behalf of constituents.
- Attend and speak at community functions.
- Keep constituents informed of their activities by holding public meetings and speaking on local media.

Recap from 2021 General Election

The Following amendments were made to the *Nunavut Elections Act* for candidates and voters in the 2021 General Election.

Local Time to be used on Election Day

The polls will now be open on Election Day from 9 am to 7 pm local time in every community.

Introduction of a Future Voters List

16 and 17 year-olds can now register to vote (they will still have to wait until they turn 18 to vote).

Rules for Members of Municipal Council who want to run

Mayors or councillors who wish to become a candidate in an MLA election must take leave from their position on council.

Expand Emergency Voting

The use of emergency voting (telephone voting) has been expanded to allow for those who are unable to vote on Election Day because of an unexpected absence.

Elimination of Proxy Voting

By expanding emergency voting, anyone who may have voted by proxy can now vote by emergency voting. Proxy voting will no longer be available.

Deadline for Special mail-in ballot applications

To ensure ballots can be processed, delivered, and returned on time, the deadline for applying for a mail-in ballot is 7 days before Election Day.

Exception for Audit Requirement

Audits will not be required if the candidate received less than \$500 in contributions and spent less than \$500 on their campaign.

Limit on total amount of Anonymous Contributions

A Financial Agent cannot accept more than \$2,500 in total anonymous contributions.

Clarify when an account needs to be opened by the Financial Agent

A Financial Agent must open an account before receiving contributions, and no later than 21 days before Election Day.

What's New for the 2025 Territorial Elections

Residency

A person does not lose residency status if they move for temporary employment, or for the purpose of medical treatment/care facility, whether inside or outside Nunavut.

Prisoners confined to a penal or correctional institution, can select a place of residence whether inside or outside Nunavut.

Declaration of Candidacy

The declaration of candidacy can be filed at any Returning Office location that is designated by the Chief Electoral Officer.

Information to candidates

Three days before Election Day, the returning officer shall provide a list of early voters to candidates.

Constituency Boundaries

Eight Constituency Boundaries have been amended, the new lines affect these following communities:

- Iqaluit
- Igloolik
- Arviat

Maps can be found on the Elections Nunavut website.

The new boundary maps are effective September 22, 2025

Privacy and the Voters List

Elections Nunavut takes the privacy and security of voter information seriously.

All candidates in the General Election who request a voters list within the prescribed time will receive a copy of the voters list for their constituency. The candidate will be required to sign a privacy policy form indicating that they will use the voters list only during the election period.

After the election, the candidate is legally responsible for destroying the voters list or returning the voters list to the Returning Officer. Paper and electronic copies must be destroyed.

The Election Period

The election period starts 35 days before Election Day and ends on Election Day.

The post-election period is 60 days after Election Day.

In a general election, the pre-election period starts 90 days before the writ is issued and ends when the CEO issues the writ.

In a by-election, the pre-election period starts when the date of the election is announced and ends when the CEO issues the writ.

Candidates and Financial Agents must meet strict deadlines during the election and post-election period.

Election period calendar

Important Dates	What happens on that day
June 24	Pre-election period starts.
September 22	Chief Electoral Officer sends the writ to each returning officer (RO). Each RO posts it in their office.
	First day a person can file a declaration of candidacy.
	First day a person can apply for a special mail-in ballot.
September 23	Elections Nunavut sends a Voter Information Card (VIC) to every voter on the voters list.
September 26	Deadline to file a declaration of candidacy, 2 pm local time.
	Deadline to withdraw declaration of candidacy, 5 pm local time.
October 13	First day that a voter can vote at the returning office from 12 to 7 pm local time.
October 20	Mobile Poll in all communities from 9 to 11:30 am local time.
	Advance vote from 12 to 7 pm local time.
October 23	Last day that a voter can vote at the returning office from 12 to 7 pm local time.
October 27 Election Day	Elections Nunavut must receive Special ballots by 5 pm local time.

Post election period calendar

Important Dates	What happens on that day
10 days after Election Day	Candidates must remove all campaign materials.
After Election Day	Candidates and financial agents must complete and file the campaign financial return within 60 days.
	Candidates must destroy all copies of the voters list that they received or return them to the Returning Office.

Candidate

A candidate is a person whose declaration of candidacy is accepted according to the rules in the *Nunavut Elections Act*. A candidate is a person who wants to be a Member of the Nunavut Legislative Assembly, to represent the people in their constituency.

Check with your employer to see if they have any rules or policies you must follow about being a candidate. For example, you may have to take a leave of absence from your work during the election period.

Who can be a candidate

You can be a candidate if:

- You are eligible to vote on Election Day.
- You are not disqualified.

You can only run as a candidate in one constituency. However, you may choose to be a candidate in any constituency within Nunavut.

A candidate cannot sign any document that would force them to resign from their seat in the Legislative Assembly or restrict their ability to act freely in the Legislative Assembly.

Who cannot be a candidate

You cannot be a candidate if, on the day you file your declaration of candidacy you:

- Were a candidate or a financial agent in the last election and did not file the campaign financial return on time.
- Work for Elections Nunavut.
- Are a Government of Nunavut employee who did not take a leave of absence.
- Are a member of Municipal Council (mayor or councillor) who did not take a leave of absence.
- Are a member of the House of Commons, Senate, or legislature of another territory or province.
- Are a judge, except in a citizenship court.
- Are in jail and still in jail after Election Day.
- Did not follow a compliance agreement from the last election.
- Have been convicted of an election offence anywhere in Canada in the last 5 years.

A member of the Legislative Assembly may leave their seat because they are charged with or convicted of a crime under Nunavut or Canadian laws. The individual can be a candidate again, five years after the constituency elects someone to take their place.

Elected by acclamation

Elected by acclamation means there is only one candidate. The candidate becomes the acclaimed MLA for that constituency.

Withdrawal of candidacy

To formally withdraw your candidacy, you are required to write a letter witnessed by two eligible voters. The letter of withdrawal must be signed and delivered to the Returning Officer by 5 pm local time, 31 days before Election Day. The ballot will not include the name of the candidate that withdrew.

If a candidate withdraws after the deadline, their name stays on the ballot - even if they send the Returning Officer a signed letter.

The candidate does not get their \$200 deposit back.

Death of a candidate

If a candidate dies after the deadline for declarations of candidacy and before the polls close on Election Day:

- The election is cancelled in that constituency, and
- A new election process begins for that constituency.

Elections Nunavut will destroy all the old ballots if a new election is called.

Declaration of Candidacy

The declaration of candidacy is the form an eligible voter completes to become a candidate.

Financial agent

A candidate is required to have a financial agent with good financial skills. Choose a financial agent before you fill out the declaration of candidacy. The financial agent manages the campaign funds. The financial agent must be a Nunavut resident.

They cannot be:

- A Candidate.
- Employed by Elections Nunavut.
- A Government employee who did not obtain proper approval as per the *Public Service Act*.
- A business, unless it is an accounting business in Nunavut.

Anyone can be your financial agent, including a relative. Be sure the person checks with their employer to see if they need to follow any rules or policies before they take on the job.

If the financial agent leaves their job: A financial agent may choose to leave their job for any reason, or the candidate may ask them to leave. The candidate is required to appoint a new financial agent immediately.

The candidate is responsible for ensuring that the financial related documents are transferred to the new financial agent.

Complete the notice to replace financial agent form and send it to your Returning Officer.

Campaign manager

The campaign manager coordinates the campaign. You are not required to have a campaign manager by law. A campaign manager could be beneficial.

The campaign manager organizes campaign materials and activities such as:

- Buttons, brochures, signs, ads for TV, radio, newspaper.
- Candidate website and social media platforms.
- Door-to-door canvassing and other campaign activities.
- Candidate travel to communities in the constituency, if needed.
- Volunteers to help with the campaign.
- Candidate representatives for each polling station on Election Day.

If you choose to have a campaign manager, make sure they follow their employer rules or policies before they take on the job.

If the campaign manager leaves their job: Complete the notice to replace campaign manager form and send it to your Returning Officer.

Filing the declaration of candidacy

The *Nunavut Elections Act* clearly defines the process to file the declaration of candidacy.

Complete information: Fill out all parts of the form. The RO cannot accept incomplete forms. File ahead of the deadline in case you need to make any changes.

Oath and signatures: The candidate and financial agent are required to sign the declaration and take an oath. A voter signs as a witness. The candidate and financial agent cannot be a witness.

If you have a campaign manager, that person also signs and takes an oath.

Candidate ballot information: Print your name on the declaration of candidacy the exact way you want it on the ballot. You are strongly encouraged to provide your name in Inuktitut used in your community.

When to file: File any time between the day the CEO issues the writ—35 days before Election Day—and 2 pm local time, 31 days before Election Day.

Do not wait until the last minute.

The declaration form must be complete and properly filled out by that date and time.

Where to file: File at the returning office in your constituency.

What to include: File the completed form and pay the \$200 deposit, with a money order, certified cheque, or a draft from the Northern Store or Co-op, payable to the Government of Nunavut.

A digital photo, Elections Nunavut produces a poster of a ballot with each candidate's picture beside their name. It hangs at the polling station to help voters know who they want to vote for. If you do not give Elections Nunavut a photo, your name appears on the poster with a blank space beside it.

The digital photo must meet these standards or Elections Nunavut will not use it. Elections Nunavut will not edit the photo.

- Show the candidate's head and shoulders against a plain, light-coloured background.
- The photo must be taken within 12 months of Election Day.
- Sent to Elections Nunavut as a 72-dpi compressed jpeg file.
- Be able to produce a printed photo 12.7 cm square at 300 dpi and contain at least two million pixels.

The RO or someone they appoint receives the declaration of candidacy and reviews it. The Returning Officer can:

- Accept the Declaration of Candidacy.
- Reject the Declaration of Candidacy.
- Accept the Declaration of Candidacy but give official notice that they suspect the candidate is not eligible, for the CEO to decide.

If the RO accepts a declaration of candidacy

The RO accepts the declaration of candidacy if:

- You are clearly an eligible candidate.
- You properly filled out the declaration of candidacy or have time before the deadline to correct or change it.
- You filed before the deadline.
- You paid the \$200 deposit—with a money order, certified cheque, or a draft from the Northern Store or Co-op, payable to the Government of Nunavut.

The candidate receives a certificate to say they are a qualified candidate. As soon as a person becomes a candidate the financial agent becomes responsible under the *Nunavut Elections Act*.

As a candidate, you, and the financial agent both receive a package from the Returning Officer. The candidate's package includes:

- Guide for Candidates, including copies of important forms.
- Guide to the Nunavut Elections Act.
- Privacy Policy – Voters List.
- Consent forms and instructions for candidate representatives at the polling station.
- Sign-off sheet to show you got the package.

Once you get the package contact Elections Nunavut office for any questions or concerns. See contact info at the front of this Guide.

Once you become a candidate, you can expect only certain things from your constituency's RO, such as:

- Official notices.
- Copies of the voters list for the constituency.
- List of voters who voted in the early polls.
- Election report.

If the RO rejects a declaration of candidacy

The Returning Officer rejects the declaration of candidacy if you:

- Did not pay the \$200 deposit.
- Filed after the deadline.
- Did not fill out the declaration of candidacy correctly and have no time to correct it before the deadline.
- Filed a declaration in more than one constituency. If you did this, you cannot be a candidate in any constituency.
- Are on Election Nunavut's list of people who are disqualified.
- Did not follow a compliance agreement within the past five years.
- Were an MLA convicted of an offence and had to leave office.
- Work for Elections Nunavut.
- Are a Government of Nunavut employee who did not take a leave of absence.
- Are a member of Municipal Council (mayor or councillor) who did not take a leave of absence.
- Are a member of the House of Commons, Senate, or legislature of another territory or province.
- Are a judge, except in a citizenship court.
- Are in jail and still in jail after Election Day.
- Have been convicted of an election offence anywhere in Canada in the last 5 years.

If the RO accepts a declaration, but sends an official notice

The RO may suspect a person is not eligible to be a candidate on other grounds, that only the CEO can decide. If this happens, the RO accepts the declaration and sends you an official notice to say why they suspect you are not eligible. The notice also goes to the CEO, who must review the information and decide.

If you think you are still eligible, you must immediately tell the CEO why in writing and provide evidence to support your case. The CEO decides within two days of the close of candidacy and sends you a notice about their decision.

If you disagree with the CEO's decision, you can apply to the court within seven days, to review the decision. A judge hears the case and decides as soon as possible.

The election continues without you as a candidate, unless the court decides that you are eligible and orders a new election.

Campaign

As a candidate, your campaign involves different campaign activities, materials, and campaign finances.

Campaign budget

A campaign budget can be a helpful tool. A budget helps you set priorities and not spend more money than the campaign raises through contributions.

The candidate, financial agent, and campaign manager can work together to create a budget.

For example:

- Buttons, signs, brochures, or posters? How many? What size?
- Does your constituency have more than one community? Do you need to travel there? How often? For how long?
- Do you need a campaign office?
- What ads do you plan to put on radio, TV, internet, or in newspapers?
- Do you plan to have a website? Or use social media platforms?

Talk regularly to the financial agent and campaign manager as you plan and carry out the campaign. You may need to adjust the budget many times during the campaign. You may receive more or less contributions than you expected.

Campaign activities and materials

Candidates, campaign managers, and financial agents must follow certain rules for campaign activities and materials.

Name and contact info: All your campaign materials, including ads, must have the name of the financial agent or campaign manager and their phone number or email address.

Example: “Sponsored by (name financial agent or campaign manager) for (name candidate). Phone xxx-xxx-xxxx (or email xxx@xxxxx.ca)

Put this at the bottom or in a corner in print no smaller than the smallest text on the campaign material.

Broadcast time: Radio and TV that operate in the candidate’s community may make free airtime available. Each candidate should have equal access and the same notice for any free airtime. Every broadcast must include the financial agent’s name and contact info.

Where to post campaign signs and other materials: Check with the hamlet and other authorities and businesses in your community to find out what rules they have, if any, about where you can put up campaign materials.

- No campaign materials on any office type property that the Government of Nunavut owns, rents, or leases.
- No campaign materials on any power poles.
- No campaign materials allowed on the land or building at the polling station.
- People cannot wear, use, or show any campaign material at the polling station.

No one can take down, cover up, damage, or change your campaign material, unless they have your authority.

You may place this notice on all your posters, “Section 250(2) *Nunavut Elections Act*: Any person who without authority takes down, removes, covers up, mutilates, defaces or alters any campaign material is guilty of an offence.”

Campaign gatherings: Campaign workers may organize a gathering to promote the candidate. You can offer food, non-alcoholic drinks, gifts, and prizes, at a gathering. The value of prizes cannot exceed \$500. For example, you cannot offer a truck or snowmobile.

People and businesses from outside Nunavut: If a person, business, or group does not live or operate in Nunavut, they cannot actively campaign for any candidate. They also cannot pay for or donate any campaign activity or materials.

Remove campaign materials: Each candidate must remove all campaign materials within 10 days after Election Day.

Slander, libel, insults: Candidates should not make comments towards or about other candidates that involve lies, slander, libel, and insults. This applies to all social media platforms.

Voters list: The candidate, financial agent, campaign manager, and all other campaign workers must use the voters list for campaign purposes. It is a serious offence to misuse it.

At the end of the campaign, return the voters list to the Returning Office, or destroy them.

Campaign contributions

Campaign contributions can be money, goods, and/or services. The financial agent is responsible for all campaign finances, including all contributions and expenses. The candidate or campaign manager cannot accept any contributions.

Who can contribute: The financial agent can accept campaign contributions only from:

- Individuals that live in Nunavut.
- Companies that do business or work in Nunavut.
- Groups or associations that operate in Nunavut, must include a list of names and the amount that each person contributed.

Maximum contribution: Each person, business, or group can contribute a maximum of \$2500. They may contribute money, goods and services.

If someone contributes transportation or accommodation services, the maximum can be more than \$2500.

When/how to contribute: A person, business, or group can contribute. The campaign can accept contributions, under certain conditions:

- During the election period.
- If the candidate is an official candidate.
- If they give the contribution to the financial agent or someone the financial agent authorizes in writing. The candidate cannot directly accept any contributions.

Financial contributions: Can be 'named' or 'anonymous.' Any contribution over \$100 is required to be named. The financial agent records the name and address of the contributor.

The financial agent writes a tax receipt for the exact amount of each ‘named’ contribution—to the maximum of \$2500. The financial agent is the only person who can give out tax receipts.

A person, business, or group can give up to \$100 as an anonymous contribution. If the campaign receives an anonymous contribution worth more than \$100 the financial agent must give it back if they know where it came from. If they cannot return it, the financial agent must send it to the CEO.

The maximum amount of all anonymous contributions combined is \$2500.

Campaign account: The financial agent sets up a campaign account and deposits all campaign contributions into the account. The money belongs to the campaign, not to the candidate or the financial agent. The financial agent cannot accept contributions until the campaign account is opened.

Goods and services—contributions and expenses: The financial agent uses the market value of any goods and services contributions to measure the contribution. The same amount is recorded as an expense.

Example: an airline provides one or more free tickets for the candidate to travel in the constituency during the campaign. The financial agent records the name of the airline and the value of the ticket as a contribution and as an expense.

Example: A local business donates printing services. The Financial agent records the name of the business and the market value of the services as a contribution and as an expense.

People often do volunteer work for a candidate's campaign. The financial agent does not count volunteer labour as a contribution. Unless a self-employed person does the kind of work for the campaign that they usually get paid for. The financial agent does not give any tax receipts for any goods or services contributions.

Campaign expenses

The financial agent pays all campaign expenses from the campaign account.

Maximum total campaign expenses: The maximum amount a campaign can collect and spend is \$30,000. This includes pre-election and election expenses. With the CEO's approval, total campaign expenses can be more than \$30,000 to pay for:

- Travel within the constituency.
- Expenses related to childcare.
- Expenses related to a candidate's disability.

Candidate's personal money: A candidate can spend up to \$30,000 of their own money.

If you have enough contributions, the financial agent can reimburse the candidate for expenses they paid for, including pre-election expenses.

The candidate gets a tax receipt for the actual amount they spend, up to the \$2500 maximum. This does not include any reimbursed expenses.

Examples of acceptable expenses:

- Rent, utilities, supplies for the campaign office.
- Wages to pay someone to run the office, or to hire a campaign manager or financial agent.
- Campaign materials.
- Campaign ads.
- Travel and accommodation—only within the constituency.
- Childcare expenses connected with the campaign.
- Expenses related to a candidate's disability.
- Food and non-alcoholic drinks at a voters' gathering.
- Food and non-alcoholic drinks for a candidate or their representatives at the polling station on Election Day.
- Gifts or prizes at a gathering of voters to promote the candidate if the total value of gifts and prizes is \$500 or less.

Examples of unacceptable expenses:

- Travel outside the constituency unless the candidate must do that to reach a community inside the constituency.
- Money, food, drink, gifts, prizes, or other valuable handouts that you offer at a voters' gathering to promote the candidate, if the total value is more than \$500. For example, you cannot offer a truck or snowmobile.
- Money, food, drinks, gifts, prizes, or other handouts you offer to bribe a voter to vote a certain way, or to not vote. For example, you can offer a glass of juice but not a case of juice, and not wine or beer.
- The \$200 deposit the candidate made to file the declaration of candidacy.

Campaign Financial Return

The financial return is the official record of campaign contributions and expenses. The financial agent prepares the financial return and sends it to the CEO. Both the financial agent and the candidate take an oath to declare that it is complete and sign it.

If the campaign had any contributions or expenses, the financial agent must complete the long form. The financial agent completes the short form only if the campaign had no contributions and no expenses.

The financial agent can complete a paper or electronic version of the financial return. If they fill out the electronic version, they must print and sign it and send that copy to the CEO.

The CEO has an auditor review each financial return if the campaign contributions or expenses that are greater than \$500.

Every financial return is a public document. At the end of the post election period, the CEO publishes on the Elections Nunavut website and at least one local social media platform. This includes information about candidates who fail to file their financial return on time.

Financial records

During the campaign, the financial agent must keep careful and detailed financial records of contributions and expenses, including all receipts. The financial agent needs these records to prepare the financial return.

You may need more money to pay election expenses. The financial agent can receive contributions post-election period.

The candidate is responsible for unpaid bills. If the campaign has money left over, you have two choices:

- Give the money to an approved charitable organization and get a receipt. Contact Legal Registries to choose a registered society in good standing, or
- Issue a cheque to the 'Government of Nunavut.'

Important deadline

The candidate sends the completed financial return to the CEO before the end of the post election period—60 days after Election Day. Candidates get their \$200 deposit back if they file the financial return on time.

The financial agent or candidate can apply to the CEO to extend the deadline in writing before the end of the post election period. You must have a good reason. The CEO decides how long the extension is, if approved.

An elected candidate must submit their financial return before they can sit in the Legislative Assembly. They cannot apply for an extension.

If the financial return is late and the candidate has no extension:

- The candidate does not get their \$200 deposit.
- The candidate nor the financial agent can be a candidate in a territorial election or municipal election for the next five years.

Election Day

On Election Day, the polling stations are from 9 am to 7 pm local time.

No one except election officers can use phones, cameras, two-way radios, or other devices at the polling station. Campaign materials are not allowed at the polling station.

Candidate representatives

Each candidate is allowed one representative at each polling station unless the candidate is present.

Consent form: Each candidate representative needs a signed consent form.

When the candidate representative arrives at the polling station, they give the form to the deputy returning officer.

Rules during voting: The candidate or their representative may watch what happens during voting. And they:

- Must always respect and stay out of the way of voters and election officers.
- May collect information from the polling record during voting.
- Must go outside the polling station to receive/make calls or text.
- May arrive at the polling station 15 minutes before the poll opens, to watch the election officers count and initial the ballots, inspect the ballots and other official papers.
- May question a voter's identity, even if the voter's name is on the voters list.

Counting the ballots: A candidate or their representative may watch the DRO count the ballots. They must follow these rules:

- Observe the count, the DRO is the only person to handle the ballots.
- Stay until the end. Do not send or receive phone calls or text messages until after the DRO sends the results to Elections Nunavut.
- If you disagree when the DRO accepts or rejects a ballot, tell them why you object. The DRO records your objection in the polling record and decides to accept or reject the ballot. The DRO's decision is final.

Election report

The returning officer receives a Statement of the Poll from each poll. The RO totals all the votes from all the polls in the constituency and prepares an election report certifying the total number of votes each candidate received.

If two candidates receive the same number of votes

Two candidates may get the same number of votes, or close to the same number. If the difference is less than 2% of the total votes, the RO does an automatic administrative recount. If the difference is still less than 2% after the administrative recount, the RO must apply to the Nunavut Court of Justice for a judicial recount.

Here are two examples:

Example 1		
1000 people voted	2% of 1000 is 20 votes	The winning candidate must have at least 20 votes more than the candidate who came in second. If they do not, there is a recount.
Example 2		
500 people voted	2% of 500 is 10 votes.	The winning candidate must have at least 10 votes more than the candidate who came in second. If they do not, there is a recount.

Breaking the Laws

The Nunavut Elections Act is like any other law. If people break the law they can be charged with a crime and punished.

There are many ways to break the law, such as bribe a voter, campaigning at a polling station, misuse of campaign funds, etc.

Read the *Nunavut Elections Act* and make sure you follow the law.

Consequences

If you break the law and you are charged and convicted, you:

- Pay a maximum fine of \$5000; or
- Go to jail for up to one year; or
- Pay a fine and go to jail.

For five years you cannot:

- Be elected to the Legislative Assembly.
- Sit as a member of the Legislative Assembly.
- Have a job appointed by the Commissioner, a Minister or official of the Government of Nunavut, or the Legislative Assembly.

A judge can also require you to:

- Publish the facts about your crime.
- Pay the people you hurt because of your crime.
- Do community service.

Who can complain

Any person who believes a *Nunavut Elections Act* law has been broken must file a complaint in writing to the R.C.M.P. within 90 days. They do not complain to Elections Nunavut.

Who investigates

The R.C.M.P. investigate all formal complaints. Unless they think it will affect their investigation they will inform you.

The R.C.M.P. works with the CEO and the Integrity Commissioner to address the complaint. The Integrity Commissioner is an officer of the Legislative Assembly who oversees the *Integrity Act*.

Compliance agreement

A compliance agreement is a contract between the Integrity Commissioner and the alleged offender. It is an option before an alleged offender is charged with a crime.

The Integrity Commissioner will decide whether to negotiate a compliance agreement. They consider the following before they decide to negotiate:

- The kind of crime and how bad it is.
- The punishment for 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 accused both sign the agreement. The Commissioner publishes a summary of each signed agreement. It is a public document.

The compliance agreement may include the following examples:

- Pay money to one or more people.
- Apologize to the public and to the people involved.
- Apply Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Values and Principles (traditional Inuit knowledge).
- Do community service.

If you do not follow the agreement:

- You can be charged and go to court.
- You cannot be a candidate for five years.
- You can be convicted and punished.

If you follow the agreement, you are not charged, and you do not have a record.

The Integrity Commissioner makes a public report on whether a person follows their compliance agreement.

Glossary of Election Terms

Acclamation: A candidate wins by acclamation when they are the only candidate in their constituency. Nobody votes.

Advance vote: A way to vote before Election Day. You vote at the polling station seven days before Election Day.

Affirm: 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 is the same as breaking the law.

Assistant Returning Officer (ARO): The returning officer hires one or more AROs for their constituency. The ARO can accept declarations of candidacy and helps the RO with all other work during the election period.

Auditor: The person that the Chief Electoral Officer hires to review each candidate's financial return, to make sure it is complete and accurate.

Ballot: The official paper we use to mark our vote. It lists the candidates' names in alphabetical order.

By-election: An election in only one constituency. It happens after a general election when a seat in the Legislative Assembly becomes vacant for some reason.

Campaign: The advertising, signs, buttons, speeches, and other things a candidate uses to encourage people to vote for them.

Campaign Manager: The person who coordinates and looks after a candidate's campaign. The candidate appoints the campaign manager.

Campaign material: Any ads, signs, buttons, banners, posters, and other things in favour of one candidate, or against other candidates. Ads may be on radio, TV, Internet, and in newspapers.

Candidate: An eligible voter who wants to be a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), and who files a declaration of candidacy that Elections Nunavut accepts.

Candidate's representative: The person that a candidate appoints to go to a polling station on Election Day to watch over the voting on behalf of the candidate. Each candidate may have only one representative at a time at each polling station. The candidate's representative must bring the correct, signed form and give it to the deputy returning officer (DRO).

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO): The CEO is in charge of Elections Nunavut. The Commissioner of Nunavut appoints this person to oversee the *Nunavut Elections Act*.

Close of candidacy: The last day a person can file a declaration of candidacy. It happens at 2 pm local time, 31 days before Election Day.

Constituency: A geographic area and the people who live there. The people in each constituency elect a MLA.

Contribution: Any money, goods, and/or services a person or business donates to help elect a candidate.

Declaration: A formal or legal statement a person makes to say something is true or they intend to do something. If you break this promise, it is the same as breaking the law.

Declaration of candidacy: The form a person completes to become a candidate in an election.

Deputy Returning Officer (DRO): The election officer in charge of a polling station on Election Day. They give out the ballots and count them.

Elect: To choose a person by voting. During a territorial election, we elect our MLAs.

Election Day: The date on the writ for voting in an election. Most voters go to a polling station on Election Day to vote. Elections Nunavut also offers other ways for voters to vote before Election Day.

Election expenses: Any money paid or owed during an election period, as part of a candidate's campaign. Includes any goods and services that people contribute, and any costs of the financial agent and campaign manager.

Election officers: The people who work for Elections Nunavut and help to run a territorial election. Election officers include returning officers (RO), assistant returning officers (ARO), deputy returning officers (DRO), poll clerks (PC), and registration clerks (RC).

Election period: A 35-day period that starts with the writ and ends with Election Day.

Election report: This document details the number of votes received by each candidate. It is completed by the Returning Officer upon reviewing the Statement of the Polls.

Elections Nunavut: The office and staff of the CEO. These people organize and run territorial elections.

Electoral boundaries: The borders that define each Nunavut constituency. In 2025 there are 22 constituencies.

Electoral Boundaries Commission: A group of three people responsible for reviewing electoral boundaries, the borders that define each constituency in Nunavut. The Legislative Assembly appoints the Commission members every 10 years. In their report, the Commission may propose changes to Nunavut's electoral boundaries and constituency names.

Emergency method: A way to vote by phone or radio if you are in a remote place on Election Day. You must contact Elections Nunavut to vote this way, and you must meet strict conditions:

- You cannot get to a polling station on Election Day; and
- You cannot vote any other way; and
- You were unable to vote because of an unexpected absence.

Final voters list: This list includes all the voters that were on the list when the election started, plus those who registered during the election period.

Financial agent: The person who handles all the money for a candidate's campaign. The candidate appoints the financial agent; they both sign the declaration of candidacy. The financial agent accepts contributions and pays all the expenses. Together with the candidate, the financial agent completes the financial return after the election.

Financial return: The official report of a campaign's election contributions and expenses, as required under the *Nunavut Elections Act*. The candidate and financial agent complete the report, sign it, and make a declaration that the information is true.

General Election: An election that takes place in all the constituencies.

Integrity Commissioner: An independent officer of the Nunavut Legislative Assembly, with certain responsibilities under the *Nunavut Elections Act*.

Judicial recount: A judge of the Nunavut Court recounts all the ballots for a constituency. This happens if two candidates have the same number of votes or the same number—within 2% of each other.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut: The people we elect to form the Government of Nunavut.

Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs): The people who are elected during a territorial election; the people who work for the Government Nunavut.

Mobile poll: A way to vote if you physically cannot get out to vote. The poll comes to you.

Notice of Election: Shows the name and contact information for each candidate in a constituency. The CEO sends out the election notice 30 days before Election Day.

Nunavut Elections Act: The laws that Nunavummiut use to organize and run a territorial election.

Oath: A formal, legal promise that something is true; a promise to do something. Election officers take an oath to be impartial in their job; elected candidates take an oath as MLAs.

Poll Clerk (PC): An election officer who works at a polling station with the DRO. PCs look after the polling record.

Polling record: A list of everyone who voted at the polling station, any changes to the voters list, and notes about everything that happened during voting.

Polling place: A building that holds polling stations.

Polling station: The place where voters go to vote.

Post-election period: 60 days right after Election Day.

Pre-election expense: A campaign expense that the candidate pays for during the pre-election period.

Pre-election period: In a general election, the pre-election period starts 90 days before the writ is issued and ends when the CEO issues the writ. In a by-election, the pre-election period starts when the date of the election is announced and ends when the CEO issues the writ.

Proclamation: The official paper the Commissioner sends to the CEO to say there will be an election. The proclamation tells the CEO things such as when to issue the writ and the date of Election Day.

Public Notice of Election: Elections Nunavut posts the Notice to tell everyone about the upcoming election. It shows these four things:

- Dates for Election Day and early polls.
- Contact information for RO's.
- Deadline to file a Declaration of Candidacy.
- Deadline to object to a name on the voters list.

Registration Clerk (RC): An election officer who works under an RO to register voters, either between elections or during an election or by-election.

Rejected ballot: A marked ballot that does NOT count for any candidate. When the DRO / ARO count the ballots in the ballot box they reject a ballot for clearly defined reasons. If a person watching the ballot count disagrees with the DRO's / ARO's decision, the election officers must record the objection in the polling record.

Returning Officer (RO): The election officer in charge of a constituency.

ROs oversee everything about the election in their constituency.

Special ballot: A way to vote by mail if you are away at school, on vacation, in hospital, at a treatment centre, or in jail. Other voters can use a special ballot if they need or want to. Voters must apply to Elections Nunavut to get a special ballot. They receive a package, follow the directions, and mail the ballot back in a special envelope.

Spoiled ballot: A spoiled ballot is a ballot that a voter makes a mistake on. The DRO gives the voter a new ballot and marks the first one 'spoiled.' The spoiled ballot does not go into the ballot box.

Statement of the Poll: The official Elections Nunavut form that shows the number of votes for each candidate for that poll.

Swear: A formal, religious promise that something is true; a promise to do something; the most serious promise you can make. If you break this promise, it is like breaking the law. A person gives their word and swears on the Bible that something is true.

Vote: Voters mark a secret ballot in a territorial election. They choose the candidate in their constituency that they want to elect as their MLA.

Voter: A person eligible to vote in a territorial election:

- Canadian citizen.
- Nunavut resident for at least one year on Election Day.
- 18 years or older on Election Day.
- Not disqualified from voting.

Voters list: The list of voters that Elections Nunavut prepares for each constituency.

Voter Information Card: Each voter on the voters list receives this card in the mail about a month before Election Day. The card tells the voter where and when to vote.

Voting in the office of the returning officer (VORO): A way to vote before Election Day, starting the 14th day before election day, and ending, on the 4th day before election day.

Witness: A person who signs a document to say that another person's signature is truly their signature.

Writ: The Chief Electoral Officer shall, without delay and in accordance with the proclamation, issue a writ of election to the returning officer of each constituency where an election is to be held.

Candidate's Checklist

Before the election period begins

- Check with your employer to see if there are any policies, such as taking a leave of absence during the election period.
- When you appoint a financial agent or campaign manager (optional), ensure they are eligible and that they also check with their employers regarding any relevant rules or requirements.
- Plan your campaign and discuss a campaign budget with the financial agent and campaign manager.
- Keep receipts for eligible campaign expenses during the pre-election period.
- Read and understand the Nunavut Elections Act.
- Review the declaration of candidacy form from the Elections Nunavut website: www.elections.nu.ca
- Get your digital photo ready. Make sure it meets Elections Nunavut standards.
- Make sure your name is correctly transliterated for the ballot.

The election period - up to election day

- Complete the declaration of candidacy.
- File the declaration of candidacy before the deadline:
 - Include the \$200 deposit.
 - Submit your digital photo to Elections Nunavut(optional).
- Tell your financial agent to participate in weekly calls with Elections Nunavut.
- Ensure that your campaign managers, and financial agents follow rules for campaign activities and materials.
- The voters list is available from Elections Nunavut upon request.
- Contact Elections Nunavut to suggest changes to the voters list.
- Request and review the list of people who voted in the early polls.
- Note where the polling stations are in your constituency.
- Note the local time for voting on Election Day.
- Find campaign representatives to watch each polling station on Election Day (optional). Complete and sign the consent form.

Election day

- Vote—if you did not already vote.
- Make sure you do not have any campaigning material at the polling station.
- You can share the results published by Elections Nunavut.

After election day

- Remove all your campaign materials within 10 days.
- Return all voters lists to the returning officer or destroy them.
- Give any money left over from your campaign to a charitable organization or to the Government of Nunavut.
 - If you decide to give the money to a group, choose a registered society in good standing.
- Make sure the financial agent prepares the financial return. You and the financial agent sign and send it to the CEO within 60 days after Election Day. Include all necessary documents mentioned in the Financial Agent Guide.

If you win the election, you must file the financial return before you can sit in the Legislative Assembly.

Apply to the CEO to extend the deadline for the financial return, if needed. Apply in writing before the end of the post-election period. The CEO approves the extension only if you have a good reason.

NOTE: If you are the elected MLA, you cannot apply for an extension. You cannot sit in the Legislative Assembly until the CEO receives your financial return.