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OVERVIEW

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (OCEO) is an independent office of the Legislative Assembly and is located in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. The Management and Services Board of the Legislative Assembly provides direction and approves budgets for the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer. The *Nunavut Elections Act* permits the term Elections Nunavut to be used to describe the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer.

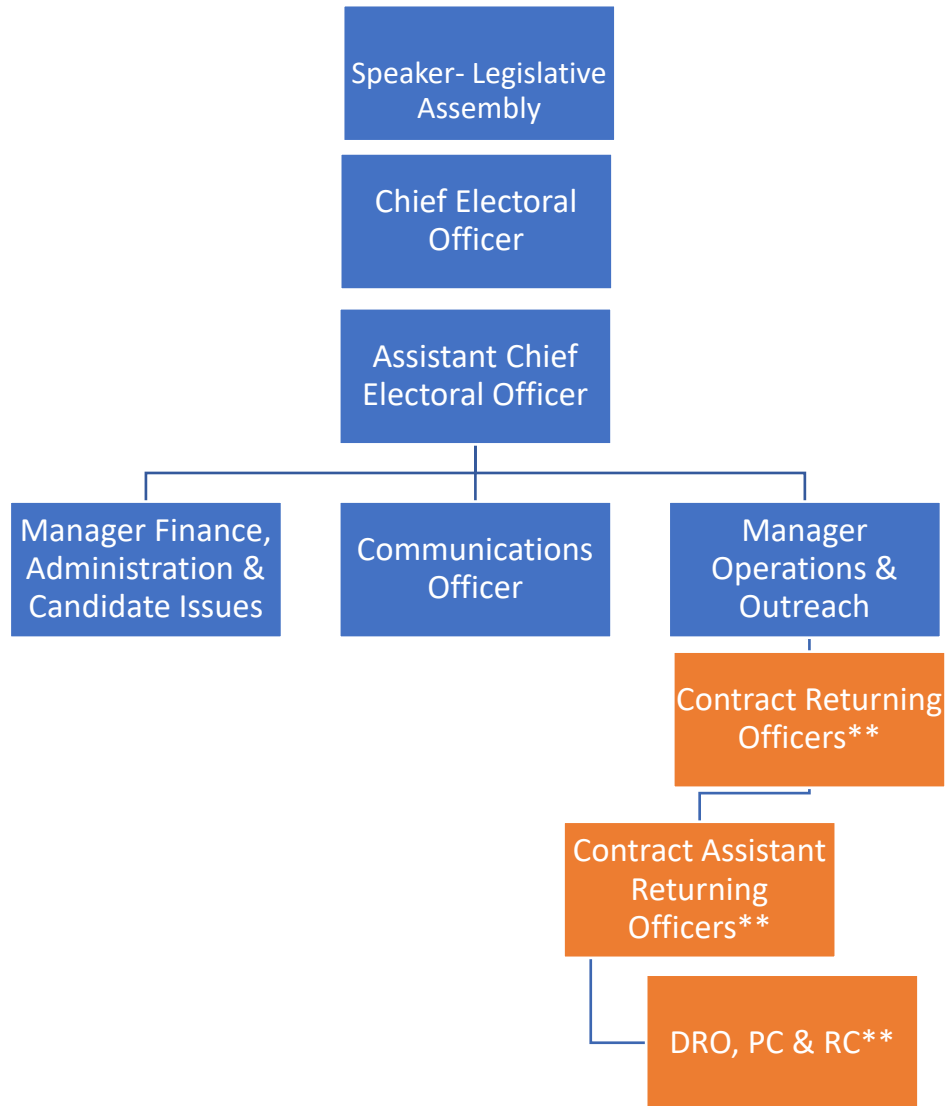
The Chief Electoral Officer is appointed by the Commissioner of Nunavut on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly for a seven-year term. The Chief Electoral Officer fulfills a wide range of statutorily-prescribed responsibilities under the *Nunavut Elections Act*, the *Plebiscites Act*, the *Education Act*, the *Cities Towns and Villages Act*, the *Hamlets Act* and the *Liquor and Plebiscites Regulations* (under the *Liquor Act*).

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer has a budget of \$1.283 million for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The office includes the Chief Electoral Officer and four indeterminate positions. These positions are the Assistant Chief Electoral Officer, Manager of Finance, Administration & Candidate Issues, Manager of Operations & Outreach and a Communications Officer.

During the election period, the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer contracts 22 Returning Officers and 31 Assistant Returning Officers. During the early voting opportunities and Election Day, 47 Deputy Returning Officers, 47 Poll Clerks and 30 Registration Clerks are employed as casuals.

The OCEO contracts the services of legal counsel, information technology (IT) support, geographic information system (GIS) support and electronic voter database management (EVDM) support.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



** Employed During Plebiscites and Elections

OCEO BUDGET (\$000)

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
<i>Office of the Chief Electoral Officer</i>	1,283	1,488	2,988	1,283

MANDATE

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer is to establish a regime that promotes the meaningful exercise of the democratic rights and freedoms of the residents of Nunavut and the equality of opportunity to participate in determining the outcome of elections and plebiscites.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer will endeavor to:

- Encourage participation by every voter in Nunavut;
- Ensure that it is easy for every voter to vote if they wish to, taking into consideration the unique circumstances in Nunavut;
- Minimize barriers for prospective candidates;
- Ensure public awareness of all aspects of elections and plebiscites;
- Provide information in the Official Languages of Nunavut;
- Cooperate with other jurisdictions within Nunavut, Canada and other International Electoral Management Bodies;
- Run elections and plebiscites as effectively and efficiently as possible;
- Incorporate flexibility in the rules governing elections and plebiscites to address unique circumstances in Nunavut as they arise;
- Evaluate the election and plebiscite process, to learn from experience and ensure it is meeting the needs of Nunavummiut.

CORE BUSINESS

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (OCEO) administers territorial and municipal elections and plebiscites, in addition to entering into agreements with other agencies to administer plebiscites outside of the *Plebiscites Act*.

LEGISLATION

Nunavut Elections Act

The *Nunavut Elections Act* came into force in September 2003. It is the statutory instrument that guides all territorial elections and by-elections and municipal elections.

Plebiscites Act

The *Plebiscites Act* came into force in January 2014. It is the statutory instrument that guides all plebiscites in Nunavut, with the exception of local option liquor plebiscites.

Education Act, Town, Cities and Villages Act, and the Hamlets Act

With the inclusion of municipal elections into the *Nunavut Elections Act*, the OCEO is responsible under these *Acts* to consult with the respective Ministers on the logistics of running a new election to return the council/DEA to a locally elected body.

Liquor Act- Liquor and Plebiscites Regulations

Through an agreement with the Minister of Finance, the OCEO is responsible for conducting liquor plebiscites and Alcohol Education Committee (AEC) elections under the *Liquor and Plebiscites Regulations*.

FUNCTIONS OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER AND THE OCEO

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The OCEO develops policies regarding the conduct of general elections, by-elections and plebiscites. These policies provide the foundation for election

officials to conduct elections and plebiscites in a consistent and equitable manner, and to ensure compliance with legislation is maintained.

ENFORCEMENT

The OCEO proactively works with candidates, financial agents and campaign managers to ensure compliance with the Acts.

The OCEO provides support to the Integrity Commissioner, Public Prosecution Services Canada and the RCMP during investigations into contraventions under the *Nunavut Elections Act* and the *Plebiscites Act*. An enforcement protocol is established between these parties to ensure cooperation and that the exchange of information is effective.

- Compliance Agreements are utilized by the Integrity Commissioner with a person who is alleged to have committed an offence, in exchange for the stay of prosecution in respect to the offence. The compliance agreement may include the following: restitution, making a public or private apology, seeking atonement in accordance with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and community service. The RCMP and the Chief Electoral Officer supply information to the Integrity Commissioner to assist in determining if a compliance agreement is appropriate.

The *Summary Convictions Procedures Regulations* provides the RCMP with an option to issue a fine to candidates and their financial agents for failing to prepare and send in their financial return before the end of the post-election period.

GUIDELINES AND FORMS

The *Nunavut Elections Act* and the *Plebiscites Act* specify the forms to be used during an election or plebiscite. The OCEO prepares these forms with accompanying guides and provides them to candidates, financial agents, election officials and the general public.

OVERSIGHT OF ELECTIONS NUNAVUT

The Chief Electoral Office provides direction and manages the staff of the OCEO.

REPORTING ON PRIORITIES 2019-2020

Administer the General Election for all Municipal Elections for Council, Mayors and directors for local District Education Authorities on October 28, 2019.

The OCEO administered 77 municipal elections throughout Nunavut: including all mayor, councillor and District Education Authority elections. The report on the conduct of the *First Municipal General Election* will be submitted in the 2020-2021 annual report of the OCEO.

Administer by-elections for Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) under the *Nunavut Elections Act*.

The OCEO administered a by-election for the constituency of Tununig. The report on the conduct of the Tununig by-election will be submitted in the winter of 2020.

Administer by-elections for Mayors under the *Nunavut Elections Act*.

The OCEO will administer a by-election for a mayor of municipal corporation if requested by council.

Administer plebiscites under the *Plebiscites Act*

There were no requests to administer plebiscites under the *Plebiscites Act*.

Administer local options plebiscites under the *Liquor Act*

The OCEO administered 2 *Liquor Act* plebiscites in Sanikiluaq and Kugaaruk under the *Liquor Act*.

The OCEO administered 12 Alcohol Education Committee elections and one by-election in Kimmirut under the *Liquor and Plebiscites Regulations*. These elections were administered during the municipal elections.

Participate in the Conference of Canadian Chief Electoral Officers (CCEOC)

The Chief Electoral officer participated in the CCEOC in St. Andrews, NB in July.

Provide continued opportunities for staff training through the Canadian Society for Election Official Training (CSEOT).

The Chief Electoral Officer and one staff member participated in the *Privacy in Elections* workshop held in Ottawa, Ont.

Commence preparations for the October 25, 2021 Territorial General Elections.

The OCEO has begun preparations for the 6th General Election.

PRIORITIES FOR THE OCEO 2020-2023

PRIORITIES 2020-2021

- Administer by-elections for MLAs under the *Nunavut Elections Act*.
- Administer by-elections for mayors under the *Nunavut Elections Act*.
- Administer plebiscites under the *Plebiscites Act*.
- Administer plebiscites and elections under the *Liquor Act* and the *Liquor and Plebiscites Regulations*.
- Continued preparations for the October 25, 2021 Territorial General Election.
- Provide continued opportunities for staff training through the Canadian Society for Election Official Training (CSEOT).
- Provide support to the Electoral Boundaries Commission in preparation for the 2022 review.
- Participate in the Conference of the Canadian Chief Electoral Officers.

PRIORITIES 2021-2022

- Administer the Sixth Nunavut General Election on October 25, 2021.
- Administer by-elections for MLAs under the *Nunavut Elections Act*.
- Administer by-elections for mayors under the *Nunavut Elections Act*.
- Administer plebiscites under the *Plebiscites Act*.
- Administer local options plebiscites under the *Liquor Act* and the *Liquor and Plebiscites Regulations*.
- Provide support to the Electoral Boundaries Commission in preparation for the 2022 review.
- Provide continued opportunities for staff training through the Canadian Society for Election Official Training (CSEOT).
- Chair the Conference of the Canadian Chief Electoral Officers in July 2021.

PRIORITIES 2022-2023

- Provide support to the 2022 Electoral Boundaries Commission.
- Preparations for the Second Municipal General Election.
- Administer MLA by-elections under the *Nunavut Elections Act*.
- Administer mayor by-elections under the *Nunavut Elections Act*.
- Administer plebiscites under the *Plebiscites Act*.
- Administer local options plebiscites under the *Liquor Act* the *Liquor and Plebiscites Regulations*.
- Provide continued opportunities for staff training through the Canadian Society for Election Official Training (CSEOT).
- Host Conference of the Canadian Chief Electoral Officers in July 2022.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

BUSINESS SUMMARY Office of the Chief Electoral Officer	2019-2020 MAIN ESTIMATES		2020-2021 PLANNED		2021-2022 PLANNED		2022-2023 PLANNED	
	\$000	PYs	\$000	PYs	\$000	PYs	\$000	PYs
Permanent Salaries	634	5	634	5	900	5	634	5
Casual Wages	-		-		274		-	
Grants & Contributions	-		-		25		-	
Subtotal	634		634		1,199		634	
Other O&M								
Travel & Transportation	105		105		284		105	
Materials & Supplies	50		56		169		50	
Purchased Services	80		80		400		80	
Service Contracts	270		353		760		270	
Fees and Payments	40		156		62		40	
Other Expenses	77		77		85		77	
Tangible Assets								
Computer Hardware & Software	27		27		29		27	
Subtotal	649		854		1789		649	
Total	1,283	5	1,488 ¹	5	2,988 ^{2,3}	5	1,283	5

¹ Associated with the increased costs with preparation for the 6th Territorial General Election.

² Associated with the increased costs associated with administering the 6th Territorial General Election.

³ It is anticipated that more financial resources will be required to administer the 6th Territorial General Election. This is attributed to Nunavut's population growth; subsequently requiring more elections officers, and the expanding mandate of the OCEO (i.e. municipal elections and liquor plebiscites)