



Office of the Chief Electoral Officer 2022-2023 Annual Report


**Including reports on the conduct of
plebiscites under the *Liquor Act***


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February 29, 2024

Honourable Tony Akoak
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut,
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Speaker,

In accordance with the requirement of the *Nunavut Elections Act*, I am pleased to provide you with the 2022-2023 annual report of Office of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Rose", with a stylized, cursive script.

Anthony (Tony) Rose
Acting Chief Electoral Officer

Overview

This annual report covers the activities of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Elections Nunavut administered two local options plebiscites under the Liquor Act during this period, provided administrative support to the Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission and commenced preparations for Nunavut's 2023 municipal general election.

Elections Nunavut also hosted provincial, territorial, and federal elections officials in Iqaluit for their annual Conference of Canadian Election Officials.

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2023 Municipal Elections

Forms and Guides

In preparation for the upcoming Municipal Elections, internal and public election forms have been reviewed and updated, procedures modified, training guides updated, and training for Returning Officers has been planned. Development of public notices in all official language versions is ongoing.

Human Resources and Voting Locations

Municipalities are responsible for hiring elections workers and for securing office space and polling locations for their municipal elections (including Alcohol Education Committees).

District Education Authorities (including La Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut) are also responsible to complete these arrangements unless agreements are signed with the corresponding municipalities to carry out the election on their behalf. Elections Nunavut has been proactive in communicating with municipalities and DEAs early to help them understand tasks and timelines that are needed to coordinate their municipal elections.

Nunavut Voters List

Elections Nunavut migrated its electronic voters list prior to the 2021 General Election. The new system allows poll staff to use laptop computers to electronically strike-off persons who have voted rather than crossing names off a printed list.

The upcoming elections on October 23, 2023, will be the first Municipal Elections using the new system. Modifications are being made to the system to allow for community-based rather than constituency-based polling records.

Efforts are made regularly to keep the voters list as accurate as possible by clearing duplications and updating names and addresses in the system.

Local Option Liquor Plebiscites

Elections Nunavut

administers liquor plebiscites on behalf of the Department of Finance, Liquor Management Division. These local option liquor plebiscites are administered according to the *Local Authorities Elections Act*. To effect a change, at least 60% of the total valid votes cast must be in favour of the proposed rules.



KUGLUKTUK

On May 16, 2022, eligible voters in Kugluktuk voted on the following question:

“Are you in favour of replacing the current unrestricted liquor system in Kugluktuk with a restricted quantities system?”

“A restricted quantities system would limit the amount of liquor that a person can purchase in or import into the community every 14 days to:

1. 1.775 litres of spirits (example 1 bottle of 60 ounces);

And one of the following two options:

2. 48 cans of 355 ml or less of beer or other liquor with no more than 8% alcohol by volume (example ciders or coolers)
3. 3.75 litres of wine (example 5 bottles of 750ml).

287 voters cast their ballots in a 38% turnout.
The result of the plebiscite was:

YES: 190 (66.2% of total votes)
NO: 97 (33.8% of total votes)
Rejected: 7

Since the threshold of 60% in favour of YES was exceeded, Kugluktuk moved towards a restricted system for alcohol.

IQALUIT

On October 24, 2022, eligible voters in Iqaluit voted on the following question:

“Are you in favour of off-premise licences being issued in Iqaluit?”

A YES vote means that you approve of a brewery permit holder to be allowed to apply to the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Board for a licence to sell up to 12x355ml cans or bottles of beer per day directly to customers for consumption at home.

A NO vote means that a brewery permit holder could only sell beer for consumption on their premises, for exportation, or to the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission (NULC). This is the status quo for licenced brewery permit holders.

374 voters cast their ballots in a 9.18% turnout.
The result of the plebiscite was:

YES: 180 (48.1% of total votes)
NO: 194 (51.9% of total votes)
Rejected: 4

Since the 60% in favour of YES threshold was not met, the rules will remain the same.

Coordination with Other Agencies

Department of Finance

Elections Nunavut administered two liquor plebiscites on behalf of the Department of Finance. The Chief Electoral Officer and Elections Nunavut staff attended community forums with staff from the Department for each liquor plebiscite.

Elections Canada - ACEP

The Chief Electoral Officer participates on Elections Canada's Advisory Committee for Electoral partners.

This virtual roundtable discussion between all Federal/Provincial/Territorial Chief Electoral Officers provides an in-person forum for discussions of best practices and sharing of information relevant to electoral administration.

Secretariat for Electoral Coordination

The Chief Electoral Officer is also member of the national secretariat advisory committee. The overall mandate of the secretariat is to coordinate the sharing of information and best practices between jurisdictions and provide support for election innovation.

Elections Nunavut, along with all other Canadian provincial, territorial, and federal electoral management bodies, provides funding for the operation of the secretariat.

In the 2022-2023 year, Elections staff joined several online sessions with officials from other jurisdictions to explore and discuss best practices related to voting by mail.

Canadian Society for Election Official Training (CSEOT)

The Chief Electoral Officer assisted in the facilitation of an Executive Leadership course. Some Elections Nunavut staff participated in the course as well.

Vital Statistics



Vital Statistics provides information to Elections Nunavut regarding those voters who are deceased or who have left the Territory. The sharing of this information is supported in both the *Vital Statistics Act* and through an agreement between the Department of Health and Elections Nunavut.

Nunavut Association of Municipalities (NAM)

The Chief Electoral Officer presented an overview of responsibilities and requirements municipalities will have for the upcoming Municipal Elections at the NAM Annual General Meeting in November.

This was also an opportunity to introduce the presiding member of the Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission in preparation for public hearings that would take place in many communities.

Elections Canada - Pilot Project

The Chief Electoral Officer and staff took part in online sessions with Elections Canada in their preliminary examinations of the use of aboriginal languages on future federal election ballots.

Planned Activities 2023-2024

Nunavut Municipal General Election

Elections Nunavut will continue with preparations to provide training, materials, and legal support to Municipalities and District Education Authorities leading up to, and during, the 2023 Municipal Elections.

Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer will continue to provide support to the boundaries commission until the final report has been tabled in the Nunavut Legislature.

By-Elections

Under the *Nunavut Elections Act*, by-elections can be held for MLAs and mayors. Elections Nunavut will be in a constant state of readiness to administer these by-elections.

Plebiscites

Elections Nunavut will be prepared to administer plebiscites under the *Plebiscites Act* and local options liquor plebiscites under the *Liquor Act*.

Legislative Recommendations

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer will table any recommendations for legislative amendments that seem prudent after the 2023 Municipal Elections.

Appendix A: Budget Report

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer

Budget Report for the period ending March 31, 2023

Year 2022-2023



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Nunavut Maligaliurvia

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Assemblée législative du Nunavut

DESCRIPTION	Budget	Spent	Balance
Salaries	996,000	961,767	34,233
Casual Wages	0	9,302	(9,302)
TOTAL SALARIES	996,000	971,069	24,931
Travel & Transportation	50,000	247,976	(197, 976)
Materials & Supplies	50,000	8,817	41,183
Purchased Services	50,000	119,782	(69, 782)
Utilities	-	-	-
Service Contracts	200,000	338,033	(138,033)
Fees and Payments	100,000	(2,566)	102,566
Other Expenses	42,000	0	42,000
Tangible Assets	-	-	-
Computer Hardware & Software	0	77,035	(77,035)
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	492,000	789,077	(297,077)
Total Budget	1,488,000	1,760,146	(272,146)