

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER
2018-2019





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December 1, 2019

Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
926 Federal Road
Iqaluit, NU
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Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with the requirement of the *Nunavut Elections Act*, I am pleased to provide you with the annual report of the Chief Electoral Officer for 2018-2019.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Fredlund', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dustin J. Fredlund
Chief Electoral Officer

Overview

This annual report covers the activities of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. During this period, Elections Nunavut administered three local options plebiscites under the *Liquor Act*, undertook a privacy and security of information assessment and conducted various outreach initiatives in preparation for the 2019 municipal General Election.

Training

Elections Nunavut will provide in-person training to one Returning Officer for each election. Elections Nunavut developed training plans to ensure the election officers are current with the changes to rules for administering the election. Plain language training manuals were developed to enable election officials to have a better understanding of what is being taught, and how to effectively implement that training in the field.

Website

The online presence of Elections Nunavut is a crucial source of information for voters, candidates, and the media. Extensive work was conducted on the website to ensure the inclusion of municipal elections information would be seamless.

Privacy Management Framework

We recognize that the trust and confidence of voters depends a great deal on how their personal information is treated.

Elections Nunavut has the authority under the *Nunavut Elections Act* to obtain, store and use information acquired from voters in the conduct of elections and plebiscites.

Although public bodies like Elections Nunavut have the authority to require individuals to provide their personal information, there is also a legal and ethical obligation to responsibly manage that information.

Elections Nunavut engaged the services of Elections British Columbia's Privacy Officer to assist in developing a more robust privacy management framework. In February 2019, the privacy officer attended Elections Nunavut's office and provided assistance in developing this framework.

Summary of Key Recommendations for Privacy Management

- Develop, implement and publish an overarching privacy framework;
- Designate the Chief Electoral Officer as the Chief Privacy Officer to be responsible and accountable for all privacy-related matters;
- Include on all forms used to collect personal information how that information will be used;
- Increase accountability by candidates in the distribution of the voters list to them;
- Ensure all employees and contractors are aware of and adhere to the privacy framework; and
- Increase IT safeguards to protect information stored electronically.

Local Option Liquor Plebiscites

KUGLUKTUK

On October 22, 2018, residents of Kugluktuk voted on the following question,

“Are you in favour of ending the current system of liquor restriction in Kugluktuk and having an unrestricted system where only the general liquor laws of Nunavut apply?”

462 voters cast their ballots in a 67.7% turnout. The result of the plebiscite was:

YES: 281 (60.8% of total votes)

NO: 181 (39.2% of total votes)

Since the 60% in favour of YES threshold was exceeded, the liquor restriction was lifted and the Alcohol Education Committee was abolished.

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.

SANIKILUAQ

On February 4, 2019, residents of Sanikiluaq voted on the following question,

“Are you in favour of replacing the current prohibition system in the Hamlet of Sanikiluaq and the rest of the Belcher Islands with a restricted quantities system? In addition to the general liquor laws of Nunavut, the restricted quantities system would limit the amount of liquor that a person can purchase in or import into the community every 14 days to

(a) one litre of spirits;

(b) four litres of wine; and

(c) 18 litres of beer.”

358 voters cast their ballots in a 74% turnout. The result of the plebiscite was:

YES: 134 (37% of total votes)

NO: 224 (63% of total votes)

Since the 60% in favour of YES threshold was not met, the liquor prohibition will continue in Sanikiluaq.

KUGAARUK

On February 25, 2019, residents of Kugaaruk voted on the following question,

“Are you in favour of replacing the current prohibition system in Kugaaruk with a system that restricts quantities of beer and wine and prohibits spirits? In addition to the general liquor laws of Nunavut, this system would

(a) prohibit the possession, purchase or import of spirits in the community; and

(b) limit the amount of beer and wine that a person can purchase in or import into the community every seven days to

(i) four litres of wine, and

(ii) nine litres of beer.

259 voters cast their ballots in a 73% turnout. The result of the plebiscite was:

YES: 135 (46% of total votes)

NO: 160 (54% of total votes)

Since the 60% in favour of YES threshold was not met, the liquor prohibition will continue in Kugaaruk.

Coordination with Other Agencies

Department of Education

The Department of Education collaborated with Elections Nunavut in developing the policies and procedures for conducting the District Education Authority Elections.

Department of CGS

The Department of Community and Government Services collaborated with Elections Nunavut in developing the policies and procedures for conducting the municipal council elections.

Department of Finance

Elections Nunavut administered three liquor plebiscites on behalf of the Department of Finance. The Chief Electoral Officer attended community forums with staff from the Department for all three liquor plebiscites.

Department of Justice

The *Nunavut Elections Act* will include a justice of the peace recount regime for municipal elections. The Department of Justice will be a partner in ensuring local justices of the peace are aware of their important role in municipal elections.

Elections BC

The Chief Privacy Officer for Elections BC provided support to Elections Nunavut in developing the privacy management framework.

Elections Canada - ACEP

The Chief Electoral Officer participated on the Advisory Committee for Electoral partners, which is hosted by Elections Canada. The roundtable discussion between all Federal/Provincial/Territorial Chief Electoral Officers provided an in-person forum for discussion on best practices and information sharing in the field of electoral administration in Canada.

A staff member of Elections Nunavut participated in the regional training session for Elections Canada in preparation for the 2019 federal election.

Secretariat for Electoral Coordination

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

Along with all other electoral management bodies in Canada, Elections Nunavut provides funding for the secretariat.

CSEOT

Elections Nunavut staff participated in training hosted by the Canadian Society for Election Official Training.

CERL



Elections Nunavut continues to contribute funds to a shared library hosted by Elections Manitoba. This forum allows Canadian Electoral Management

Bodies to share information and resources in real time.

Elections Nunavut provides funding and support to maintain this national electoral database.

CCEO

The Chief Electoral Officer attended the annual Conference of Canadian Election Officials in Saint John's NFLD.

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 Statics Act* and through an agreement between the Department of Health and Elections Nunavut.

Nunavut Association of Municipalities

The Chief Electoral Officer attended the NAM/NAMA AGM and provided information to C/SAOs and mayors relating to the upcoming 2019 municipal elections.

Coalition of Nunavut DEAs

The Chief Electoral Officer attended the CNDEA AGM and provided information to delegates concerning the upcoming 2019 municipal elections.

Provincial Election Visitor Programs

The Chief Electoral Officer participated in the visitor's program hosted by Elections Quebec during the 2018 Quebec Provincial election.

The Chief Electoral officer also participated in the visitor's program hosted by Elections BC for the 2018 referendum on electoral reform.

Two Elections Nunavut staff participated in the visitor's program hosted by Elections Ontario for their provincial election.

Planned Activities 2019-2020

October 28, 2019 Municipal General Election

On April 1, 2019, the *Local Authorities Elections Act* will be repealed and the local elections will be harmonized in the *Nunavut Elections Act*. With this transition, Elections Nunavut will become responsible for overseeing an additional 77 different elections across Nunavut, with 410 vacancies to be filled during the first Municipal General Election.

The elections include 25 mayors, 198 councillors and 187 members of District Education Authorities. This includes the five members of the *commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut*.

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 the recommendations made in the report on the conduct of the fifth general election, and in the 2017-2018 annual report.

