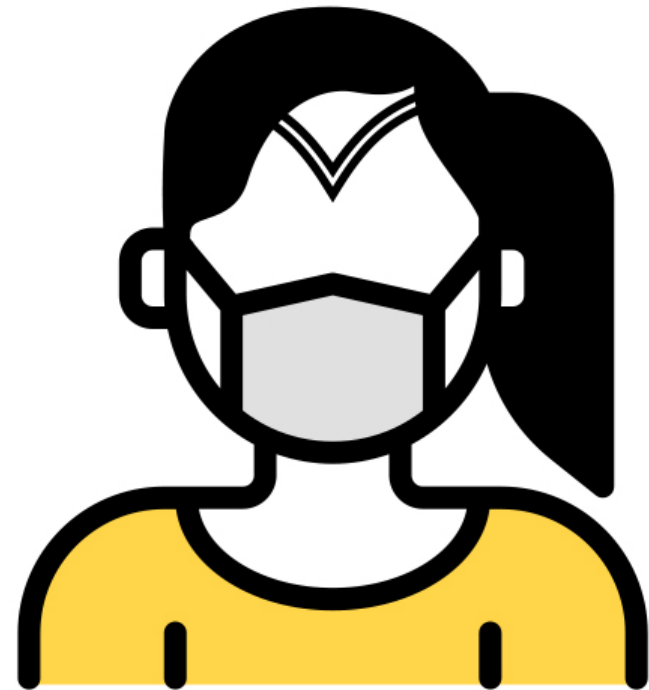


**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER  
2020-2021**







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November 29, 2021

Hon. Tony Akoak  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut  
926 Federal Road  
Iqaluit, NU  
X0A 0H0



Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Nunavut Elections Act*, I am pleased to provide you with the annual report of the Chief Electoral Officer for 2020-2021.

Respectfully,



Dustin J Fredlund  
Chief Electoral Officer



## **Overview**

This annual report covers the activities of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.







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## Introduction of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (Elections Nunavut) is an independent office of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut that is overseen by the Chief Electoral Officer. Elections Nunavut is responsible for the administration of territorial and municipal elections and by-elections under the *Nunavut Elections Act*, as well as plebiscites under the *Plebiscite Act*. Under a separate agreement, Elections Nunavut also administers local option liquor plebiscites under the *Liquor Act* for the Department of Finance.

As an independent officer, the Chief Electoral Officer is accountable directly to the Legislative Assembly through the Speaker. This ensures the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer can administer elections and plebiscites in a non-partisan manner; maintaining the integrity of the entire democratic process for all Nunavummiut. The Chief Electoral Officer is appointed by the Commissioner of Nunavut for a 7-year term.

The Management and Services Board provides oversight of the budgetary and human resource requirements of Elections Nunavut. The Chief Electoral Officer is required to report annually to the Legislative Assembly, as well as to report on specific election/plebiscite events. These reports include

recommendations that the Chief Electoral Officer believes will assist in improving the *Nunavut Elections Act* and the election/plebiscite process.

Elections Nunavut provides GIS and mapping support to the Boundaries Commission. The Boundaries Commission is responsible to hold public hearings and propose boundaries and names of constituencies to the Legislative Assembly. The next electoral Boundaries Commission will be conducted in 2022.

Elections Nunavut works with many public and private partners to ensure elections and plebiscites are run as effectively and efficiently as possible. Legal counsel, information technology (IT) support, geographic information system (GIS) upkeep, audit oversight, and electronic voter database management (EVDM) support are all secured through external professional contracts.

The office is located in Rankin Inlet and consists of four permanent employees. The year before and after an event, the casual employees and contract election officers increase the office size to over 190 people.

## By-Elections 2020-2021

### Baker Lake MLA By-Election

After the resignation of the member for Baker Lake Simeon Mikkungwak on February 24<sup>th</sup>, A by-election was announced to take place on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Baker Lake by-election was postponed to August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

The writ of election was issued on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Only one candidate declared their candidacy, and Craig Simailak was acclaimed.



### Kugluktuk MLA By-Election

After the resignation of the member for Kugluktuk Mila Kamingoak on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, A by-election was announced to take place on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

The writ of election was issued on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Only one candidate declared their candidacy, and Calvin Aivgak Petersen was acclaimed.

### Pangnirtung Mayor By-Election



After the passing of their mayor, Pangnirtung's municipal council chose to hold a by-election. The by-election took place on August 24, 2020. Eric Lawlor was elected with 97 votes.

**RETURNING OFFICER:** Peepeelee Qappik  
**ADVANCE POLL:** August 17, 2020  
**ELECTION DAY:** August 24, 2020



MAYOR BY-ELECTION					
CANDIDATES	Stevie Komoartok	<b>Eric Lawlor</b> ✓	REJECTED BALLOTS	TOTAL VOTES	VOTERS LIST
Total Votes	77	<b>97</b>	2	176	733

## 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.



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Imirlungnut Maligaryuaq  
Niruarniit unalu Apirhuutit Mighaanut  
Liquor Act Elections and Plebiscites  
Loi sur les boissons alcoolisées  
Élections et référendums

### Arviat

On November 9, 2020, residents of Arviat voted on the following question,

*“Are you in favour of replacing the current liquor prohibition system in the Hamlet of Arviat and surrounding area 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 7 days to:*

- a) 8.52 litres of beer (24 x 355ml)
- b) 8 litres of wine (2 boxes of 4 L or 10 bottles of 750ml)”

745 voters cast their ballots in a 59% turnout. The result of the plebiscite was:

**YES:** 392 (52.6% of total votes)  
**NO:** 353 (47.4% of total votes)  
**Rejected:** 5

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

### Coral Harbour

On November 9, 2020, residents of Coral Harbour voted on the following question,

*“Are you in favour of replacing the current liquor prohibition system in the Hamlet of Coral Harbour and surrounding area 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”

337 voters cast their ballots in a 78% turnout. The result of the plebiscite was:

**YES:** 147 (43.6% of total votes)  
**NO:** 190 (56.4% of total votes)  
**Rejected:** 5

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



## Coordination with Other Agencies

### Department of Education

The Department of Education collaborated with Elections Nunavut in securing the services of CIVIX to undertake the Youth Vote initiative.

### Department of Finance

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

### Elections Canada - ACEP

The Chief Electoral Officer participated on the Advisory Committee for Electoral partners, which is hosted by Elections Canada. The virtual 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.

### 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 online 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.

### 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.

## Appearances Before the Legislative Assembly

On September 28, 2020, the Chief Electoral Officer presented the *Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Conduct of the 5<sup>th</sup> Nunavut General Election* to the Committee of the Whole.

On January 28, 2021, the Chief Electoral Officer presented the initial recommendations for legislative amendments to the *Nunavut Elections Act* and Regulations and the *Plebiscites Act* and Regulations to the Management and Services Board.

On March 12, 2021, the Chief Electoral Officer presented the revised recommendations for legislative amendments.

On March 15, 2021, Bill 66, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act and the Cities, Towns and Villages Act* was presented to the Committee of the Whole.

Assertion was given to Bill 66 on March 16, 2021. Details of this Bill can be found in the *Legislative Amendments* section of this report.

## Planned Activities 2021-2022

### Territorial General Election

The Office of the Chief Electoral officer will administer the Sixth Nunavut Territorial General Election on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

### 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 to be made in the report on the conduct of the sixth general election.

### Boundaries Commission

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer will provide support to the boundaries commission.



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Apirhuutitut Vutiqtittiniit  
Plebiscites  
Référendums

## Legislative Amendments

The following amendments were based on recommendations of the Chief Electoral Officer to ensure elections and plebiscites are safe, equitable, efficient and transparent. These amendments are found in *Bill 66* and were enacted in March 2021.

### Cities Towns and Villages Act and Hamlets Act

#### Members of Council Take Leave Prior to Running in a Territorial Election

- 1 *Elected members of a municipal council (mayors and councillors) must take a leave of absence before running as a candidate in a Territorial election.*

### Nunavut Elections Act and Plebiscites Act

#### Inclusion of ‘municipal council’ and ‘district education authorities’ in the Main Purpose Section of the Act

- 2 *The Nunavut Elections Act no longer deals exclusively with the elections of members of the Legislative Assembly. The terms municipal councils and district education authorities are included in the main purpose of the Act.*

#### Removing the Definition for Liquor in the Act

*The definition of liquor is no longer relevant and was removed from the Act.*

- 4 **Replaced the Term ‘DVD’ With ‘electronic copy’**

#### Authority to Certify to the Commissioner in Executive Council for a Withdrawal of a Writ

- 5 *The Chief Electoral Officer now has the authority to certify to the Commissioner in Executive Council that a pandemic, or other similar public emergency, puts or may put the health and safety of persons in any constituency at risk.*

#### Provisional Registration of 16 and 17-year-old Nunavummiut

- 6 *This allows for the provisional registration of Nunavummiut when they reach 16 years of age for those who request to be on a provisional voters list. The persons are transferred to the voters list when they reach voting age (18).*

#### Repeal Proxy Voting

- 7 *Proxy voting was repealed.*

#### Deadline for Special (mail-in) Ballots Applications

- 8 *To account for realistic mailing times, the deadline for applying for special ballots by mail is 7 days before Election Day.*

9

**Allow Voters to Apply to Chief Electoral Officer for a Special Ballot**

*Expands the ability of the Chief Electoral Officer to provide voters with a special ballot.*

10

**Hours of Polling Stations on Election Day**

*Voting times for all constituencies across Nunavut will be local time.*

11

**Time of Counting**

*Special ballots may be counted at 5pm on Election Day rather than waiting until all polls are closed at 7pm.*

12

**Exception to Maximum Contribution**

*Expanded exception to the maximum contribution made to a candidate will also exempt accommodation services.*

13

**Opening a Bank/Co-op/Northern Store Account**

*Financial agents must open an account before a campaign contribution can be accepted.*

14

**Total Amount of Anonymous Contributions**

*Limit of \$2500 total amount of anonymous contributions a financial agent may accept on behalf of a candidate.*

15

**Social Media Expenses for Advertising**

*Includes the cost of advertising through social media as an expense.*

16

**Issuing Cheques Made out to the Government**

*Cheques will be made out to the "Government of Nunavut".*

17

**Improve Voting by Telecommunication Device**

*Emergency voting procedures are expanded to ensure a voter who is unexpectedly absent on election day and has no other means of voting, is given an opportunity to vote.*

18

**No Requirement for Audit if Less than \$500**

*Removed the requirement for an audit of a financial return where a campaign received less than \$500 in contributions and incurred less than \$500 in expenditures during the pre-election and election periods.*

19

**Publication of Notices in Newspapers**

*Although still widely used, notifications are not required to be published in print newspapers.*

- 20 Powers to Adapt the Act**  
*Removed the prohibition on extending the time to receive special ballots.*
- 21 Disqualification Election Officer**  
*Non-compliance under the Plebiscites Act is a source of disqualification to be an election officer.*
- 22 Time to Fill Council and District Education Authority Vacancies**  
*Vacancies must be filled as soon as reasonably practicable and that the timing of mayor by-elections will be determined by the Chief Electoral Officer.*
- 23 Automatic Recount- Municipal Elections**  
*A minimum number of votes (5) rather than a percentage of votes (2%) between two candidates will trigger an automatic administrative recount. The time to request a recount is reduced to 4 days from 10 days and must be made to the Chief Electoral Officer.*
- 24 Making False Statement When Registering to Vote**  
*Includes making a false statement when registering to vote online.*

- 25 Nunavut-Wide Plebiscite in Conjunction with Election**  
*A Nunavut-wide plebiscite can now be held in a constituency where there is no election due to an acclamation.*

## **Election and Plebiscite Regulations**

- 26 Publication of Notices in Newspapers**  
*Although readily used, notifications will not be required to be published in newspapers.*
- 27 Repeal Proxy Voting**  
*Proxy voting is repealed.*
- 28 Counterfoil**  
*Removed the requirement for a counterfoil.*
- 29 Amend FORM 3**  
*Updated the contact section.*
- 30 Amend FORM 4**  
*Removed the requirement to show the sex of voters on the voters list.*

## Tariff of Fees Regulations

Appointment	2011 Payment Schedule	2021 Payment Schedule
<b>Returning Officer 1 Community</b>	\$12,000 if there is an election in their constituency \$6,000 if a candidate is acclaimed \$350 per day for work done outside the election period \$175 for four hours or less worked outside the election \$100 per month retainer during the period of appointment	\$13,000 if there is an election in their constituency \$6,500 if a candidate is acclaimed \$375 per day for work done outside the election period \$187 for four hours or less worked outside of the election \$100 per month retainer during the period of appointment
<b>Returning Officer 2+ Communities</b>	\$12,000 if there is an election in their constituency \$6,000 if a candidate is acclaimed \$350 per day for work done outside the election period \$175 for four hours or less worked outside of the election \$100 per month retainer during the period of appointment	\$14,500 if there is an election in their constituency \$7250 if a candidate is acclaimed \$375 per day for work done outside the election period \$187 for four hours or less worked outside of the election \$100 per month retainer during the period of appointment
<b>Assistant Returning Officer</b>	\$6,000 if there is an election in their constituency \$3,000 if a candidate is elected by acclamation	\$6,500 if there is an election in their constituency \$3,250 if a candidate is elected by acclamation \$275 per day for work done outside the election period
<b>Assistant Returning Officer in a Separate Community</b>	\$6,000 if there is an election in their constituency \$3,000 if a candidate is elected by acclamation	\$7250 if there is an election in their constituency \$3,625 if a candidate is elected by acclamation \$275 per day for work done outside the election period
<b>Deputy Returning Officer</b>	\$30.22/hr for 7.5 hr + 4.5 overtime hours on Election Day. \$423.08+NNA	\$335 for an advance vote \$100 to conduct a mobile poll \$100 per day for training \$625 on Election Day
<b>Supervisory Deputy Returning Officer</b>	\$37.79/hrs for 7.5hr + 4.5 overtime hours on Election Day. \$547.96+NNA	\$750 on Election Day
<b>Poll Clerk &amp; Registration Clerk</b>	\$23.68/hr for 7.5 hr + 4.5 overtime hours on Election Day. \$331.52 +NNA	\$275 for an advance vote \$100 to conduct a mobile poll \$100 per day for training \$490 on Election Day

## APPENDIX A - Budget Report

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer  
 Budget Report for the period ending March 31, 2021  
 Year 2020-2021



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 Nunavut Maligaliurvia  
 Legislative Assembly of Nunavut  
 Assemblée législative du Nunavut

DESCRIPTION	Budget	Spent	Balance
Salaries	848,000	967,000	(119,000)
Casual Wages	0	2,300	(2,300)
<b>TOTAL SALARIES</b>	<b>848,000</b>	<b>969,300</b>	<b>(121,300)</b>
Travel & Transportation	105,000	31,000	74,000
Materials & Supplies	56,000	12,200	43,800
Purchased Services	80,000	61,400	18,600
Utilities	0	0	0
Service Contracts	353,000	339,000	13,100
Fees and Payments	156,000	5,300	150,700
Other Expenses	77,000	0	77,000
Tangible Assets	0	6,800	(6,800)
Computer Hardware & Software	27,000	42,100	(15,100)
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES</b>	<b>857,000</b>	<b>498,700</b>	<b>355,300</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>1,702,000</b>	<b>1,468,000</b>	<b>234,000</b>

