# **Elections Nunavut**

2016 Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Municipal Land Sale Referenda/Plebiscites





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June 30, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am pleased to provide you with my report on the conduct of 25 local plebiscites on May ninth of this year, regarding the sale of municipal lands.

Sandy Kusugak

S. Kusugak

**Chief Electoral Officer** 







# Referenda/Plebiscites\* on the Sale of Municipal Lands May 9, 2016

In March 2015, responding to a question in the Legislature, Premier Peter Taptuna announced that referenda on the sale (alienation) of municipal lands would be held in each Nunavut municipality in the spring of 2016 and conducted in accordance with the *Plebiscites Act*.

#### Background:

Article 14.8 of the NLCA (Nunavut Land Claims Agreement), required a referendum be held in each municipality on the alienation of municipal lands within the first and second year after ratification of the NLCA. Consequently referenda were held on April 10, 1995 to determine whether the local council should be able to sell any of its municipal lands or whether a lease-only system should be continued.

At that time all communities voted to reject the sale option.

Article 14.8.4 of the NLCA states that at any time after 20 years, the municipal voters may elect by referendum to remove the restriction on alienation. Therefore after April 10, 2015 it became possible to hold referenda/plebiscites in each Nunavut municipality regarding the sale of municipal lands. Consultation between Community and Government Services (CGS) and Elections Nunavut determined that early spring 2016 would be an appropriate time for the vote.

#### **Public Announcement:**

CGS issued a News Release on December 29, 2015 announcing that referenda would take place on May 9, 2016 and that the referendum question would be "Do you want the municipality of (city or hamlet name) to be able to sell municipal lands?" The news release also informed Nunavummiut that community information meetings would start in February.

#### Consultation and Public Awareness:

Community and Government Services set up a thorough consultation process involving among other means - community meetings, radio phone-in shows, flyers and a website to provide detailed information on land sale issues.

\* The words referendum and plebiscite have the same meaning. The NLCA used the term referendum, therefore CGS continued to use it. The *Plebiscites Act* uses the term plebiscites to refer to any vote, binding or non-binding, to determine the wishes of the voters on a topic.







Elections Nunavut distributed brochures, ran newspaper ads, used Facebook and Twitter and created a website to inform Nunavummiut of the required qualifications of voters and voting options for each community. As well Elections Nunavut developed a Voters Guide and Plebiscite Authorities Guide to assist the process.

The Chief Electoral Officer met with Nunavut media and produced a Media Guide to promote understanding of the plebiscite process.

#### Instructions:

The Minister of Community and Government Services issued formal Plebiscite Instructions to the Chief Electoral Officer on December 4, 2015 confirming the date of the plebiscites and that qualifications needed to be eligible to vote would be the same as at a general election in Nunavut. The instructions further stated that the results of the plebiscites would be binding on the Government.

#### Voting Opportunities:

Voters in every community were able to vote at a mobile poll, at an advance vote or on Plebiscite Day. However, as per *Plebiscites Act 65(3)* additional voting methods were available for larger communities.

#### **Training:**

The Chief Electoral Officer appointed a Returning Officer for each community and conducted two-day regional training sessions in March. Returning Officers and other election workers received further training via Skype and Go-to-meeting prior to voting day.

#### Results:

Every municipality voted very convincingly against the proposal. (Detailed results follow.) Originally the Returning Officer for Grise Fiord declared both verbally and in print, that the 'yes' voters had prevailed in his community. He later realized that he had reversed the results.

### Future plebiscites:

Five years must elapse from Plebiscite Day (May 9. 2016) before voters can again be asked if they would like to be able to purchase municipal lands.







# 2016 Municipal Land Sale Referenda/Plebiscites

# **Arctic Bay**

#### **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Arctic Bay to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

#### **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Advance Vote	Plebiscite Day
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	May 2, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm

#### Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer

RO	ARO		
Joanna Koonoo	Bernice Kalluk		

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-Z	11	104	0	115	-	-
Early Polls	2	6	0	8	-	-
Total votes	13	110	0	123	412	29.85%

YES	ES <b>NO</b>		Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout	
1	11	142	154	264	58%	







#### **Arviat**

#### **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Arviat to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

# **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Voting in the Office of the RO	Plebiscite Day
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	April 25 - May 5, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm

#### Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer

RO	ARO
Nancy Karetak-Lindell	Celina Issakiark

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-K	14	30	6	127	-	-
Plebiscite Day L-Z	16	77	0	93	-	-
Early Polls	14	30	1	45	-	-
Total votes	127	93	45	256	1127	23.51%

YES	YES <b>NO</b>		Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout	
22	7	260	287	693	41%	







# **Baker Lake**

#### **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Baker Lake to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

# **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Voting in the Office of the RO	Plebiscite Day
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	April 25 - May 5, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm

# Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer

RO	ARO
Mary Owingayak	Karen Neigo

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-K	15	84	0	99	-	-
Plebiscite Day L-Z	21	100	0	121	-	-
Early Polls	13	14	0	27	-	-
Total votes	49	198	0	247	952	25.95%

YES	NO	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout	
18	333	351	741	47%	







# **Cambridge Bay**

#### **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Cambridge Bay to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

#### **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Voting in the Office of the RO	Plebiscite Day
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	April 25 - May 5, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm

#### Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer

RO	ARO
Linda Klengenberg	Adeline Kavanna

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-K	43	124	0	167	-	-
Plebiscite Day L-Z	38	91	0	129	-	-
Early Polls	7	7	0	14	-	-
Total votes	88	222	0	310	831	37.30%

YES	es <b>no</b>		Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout	
	18	153	191	581	33%	







# **Cape Dorset**

#### **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Cape Dorset to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

#### **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Advance Vote	Plebiscite Day	
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	May 2, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm	

# Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer

RO	ARO
Joe Kellypalik	Josephee Oqutaq

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-Z	12	106	5	123	-	-
Early Polls	2	12	0	14	-	-
Total votes	14	118	5	137	775	18.90%

YES	YES <b>NO</b>		Total Votes Voters		Voter Turnout
	48	160	208	516	40%







# **Chesterfield Inlet**

# **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Chesterfield Inlet to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

#### **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Advance Vote	Plebiscite Day
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	May 2, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm

#### Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer

RO	ARO
Robert Aggark	Gloria Thompson

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-Z	11	48	1	60	-	-
Early Polls	0	5	0	5	-	-
Total votes	11	53	1	65	201	32.34%

YES	NO	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout	
21	59	80	168	48%	







# **Clyde River**

# **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Clyde River to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

#### **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Advance Vote	Plebiscite Day	
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	May 2, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm	

# Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer

RO	ARO
Gary Aipellee	Clark Kalluk

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-Z	16	205	3	224	-	-
Early Polls	0	8	0	8	-	-
Total votes	16	213	3	232	508	45.67%

YES NO		NO Total Votes Vote		Voter Turnout
24	155	180	298	60%







#### **Coral Harbour**

#### **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Coral Harbour to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

#### **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Advance Vote	Plebiscite Day
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	May 2, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm

# Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer

RO	ARO
Bobbi Jo Saviakjuk	Crystal Eetuk

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-Z	10	142	3	155	-	-
Early Polls	2	15	0	17	-	-
Total votes	12	157	3	172	404	42.57%

YES	YES <b>NO</b>		Total Votes Voters L		st Voter Turnout	
	9	130	142	314	45%	







# Gjoa Haven

# **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Gjoa Haven to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

#### **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Voting in the Office of the RO	Plebiscite Day
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	April 25 - May 5, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm

### **Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer**

RO	ARO
Patty Qamukkaq	Andrea Carter

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-K	8	101	0	109	-	-
Plebiscite Day L-Z	7	126	2	135	-	-
Early Polls	3	41	0	44	-	-
Total votes	18	268	2	288	712	40.45%

YES	NO	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout	
30	208	238	401	59%	







### **Grise Fiord**

#### **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Grise Fiord to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

#### **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Advance Vote	Plebiscite Day
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	May 2, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm

#### Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer

RO	ARO
Bernard Maktar	Jason Pijamini

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-Z	4	29	0	33	246	247
Total votes	4	29	0	33	55	60%

YES NO		Total Votes Voters List		Voter Turnout	
6	31	37	65	56%	







# **Hall Beach**

#### **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Hall Beach to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

# **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Advance Vote	Plebiscite Day
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	May 2, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm

#### Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer

RO	ARO
Mallakai Akearok	Laura Kaernerk

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-Z	13	157	0	170	-	-
Total votes	13	157	0	170	381	44.62%

YES	ES <b>NO</b>		Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout	
	6	154	160	259	62%	







# **Igloolik**

#### **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Igloolik to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

#### **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Voting in the Office of the RO	Plebiscite Day
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	April 25 - May 5, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm

#### Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer

RO	ARO
Beatrice Uttak	Roland Alorut

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-K	18	128	0	146	-	-
Plebiscite Day L-Z	13	72	0	85	-	-
Early Polls	7	5	0	12	-	-
Total votes	38	205	0	243	700	34.71%

YES	NO	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout	
21	298	330	538	61%	







# **Iqaluit**

# **Ballot Question**

Do you want the City of Iqaluit to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

# **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Voting in the Office of the RO	Plebiscite Day
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	April 25 - May 5, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm

#### **Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer**

RO	ARO	
Bonnie Taparti	Joelle Lavallee	

# 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-B	40	112	0	152	-	-
Plebiscite Day C-F	46	69	0	115	-	-
Plebiscite Day G-J	34	90	1	115	-	-
Plebiscite Day K-L	24	128	5	125	-	-
Plebiscite Day M-N	47	126	1	157	-	-
Plebiscite Day O-R	26	111	1	138	-	-
Plebiscite Day S-Z	67	105	0	172	-	-
Early Polls	78	92	0	170		
Total votes	362	833	8	1203	4125	29.16%

YES	NO	O Total Votes		Voter Turnout	
269	310	582	1831	32%	







# **Kimmirut**

#### **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Kimmirut to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

#### **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Advance Vote	Plebiscite Day	
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	May 2, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm	

### Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer

RO	ARO
Simionie Akavak	Jimmy Akpik

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-Z	2	98	0	100	-	-
Early Polls	3	10	0	13	-	-
Total votes	5	108	0	113	256	44.14%

YES NO		Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout	
16	76	92	197	47%	







# Kugaaruk

#### **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Kugaaruk to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

#### **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Advance Vote	Plebiscite Day	
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	May 2, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm	

#### **Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer**

RO	ARO
Sally Kukkuvak	Stephanie Angutialuk

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-Z	15	119	0	134	-	-
Total votes	15	119	0	134	402	33.33%

YES	NO		Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout	
	4	113	117	226	52%	







# Kugluktuk

# **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Kugluktuk to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

#### **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Voting in the Office of the RO	Plebiscite Day
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	April 25 - May 5, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm

#### Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer

RO	ARO
Edna Elias	Bobby Kakolak

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-K	15	114	2	131	-	-
Plebiscite Day L-Z	10	64	2	76	-	-
Early Polls	6	15	0	21	-	-
Total votes	31	193	4	228	671	33.98%

YES	ES <b>NO</b>		NO Total Votes		Voters List	Voter Turnout	
	36	168	204	601	33%		







# **Naujaat**

# **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Naujaat to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

# **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Advance Vote	Plebiscite Day
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	May 2, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm

# Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer

RO	ARO
Wendy Kusugak	Donna Kripanik

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-Z	9	132	3	144	-	-
Early Polls	2	6	0	8	-	-
Total votes	11	138	3	152	401	37.91%

YES	S	NO	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout	
	5	90	95	242	39%	







# **Pangnirtung**

#### **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Pangnirtung to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

#### **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Voting in the Office of the RO	Plebiscite Day
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	April 25 - May 5, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm

#### Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer

RO	ARO
Mary Etuangat	Sheepa Kuluguktuk

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-K	6	105	0	111	-	-
Plebiscite Day L-Z	4	93	0	97	-	-
Early Polls	2	4	0	6	-	-
Total votes	12	202	0	214	688	31.10%

YES NO		Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout	
20	272	295	624	47%	







# **Pond Inlet**

# **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Pond Inlet to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

# **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Voting in the Office of the RO	Plebiscite Day
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	April 25 - May 5, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm

# **Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer**

RO	ARO
Nina Kautuq	Jane Singoorie

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-K	15	166	0	181	-	-
Plebiscite Day L-Z	8	142	0	150	-	-
Early Polls	1	8	1	10	-	-
Total votes	24	316	1	341	724	47.10%

YES <b>NO</b>		NO Total Votes Votes		Voter Turnout
18	265	284	498	57%







# Qikiqtarjuaq

#### **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Qikiqtarjuaq to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

#### **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Advance Vote	Plebiscite Day
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	May 2, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm

#### Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer

RO	ARO
Karen Kooneeliusie	Sarah Kokseak

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-Z	8	148	2	158	-	-
Early Polls	2	3	0	5	-	-
Total votes	10	151	2	163	320	50.94%

YES	NO	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout	
20	129	256	259	60%	







# **Rankin Inlet**

# **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Rankin Inlet to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

### **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Voting in the Office of the RO	Plebiscite Day
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	April 25 - May 5, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm

#### Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer

RO	ARO
Gail Wallace	Maria Kasaluak

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-J	39	97	1	137	-	-
Plebiscite Day K-O	27	70	2	99	-	-
Plebiscite Day P-Z	29	113	0	142	-	-
Early Polls	30	40	1	71	-	-
Total votes	125	320	4	449	1309	34.03%

YES	S NO Total Votes		Voters List	Voter Turnout	
126	309	436	879	50%	







### Resolute

# **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Resolute to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

#### **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Advance Vote	Plebiscite Day	
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	May 2, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm	

#### Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer

RO	ARO
Molleen Anaviapik	Cindy Eckalook

# 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-Z	8	45	0	53	-	-
Total votes	8	45	0	53	100	53.00%

YES <b>NO</b>		Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
7	37	44	106	42%







# Sanikiluaq

#### **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Sanikiluaq to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

#### **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Advance Vote	Plebiscite Day	
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	May 2, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm	

### **Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer**

RO	ARO		
Caroline Arragutainaq	Ashley Appaqaq		

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-Z	10	221	7	238	-	-
Early Polls	2	16	0	18	-	-
Total votes	12	237	7	256	444	57.66%

YES	NO	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout	
20	149	169	310	55%	







# **Taloyoak**

#### **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Taloyoak to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

#### **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Advance Vote	Plebiscite Day	
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	May 2, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm	

#### Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer

RO	ARO
Lindsay Anaija	Louisa Alookee

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-Z	15	166	1	182	-	-
Early Polls	2	8	0	10	-	-
Total votes	17	174	1	192	440	43.64%

YES NO		NO	Total Votes Voters List		Voter Turnout	
	7	142	149	309	48%	







#### **Whale Cove**

#### **Ballot Question**

Do you want the Municipality of Whale Cove to be able to sell Municipal Lands?

# **Voting Options**

Mobile Poll	Advance Vote	Plebiscite Day	
May 2, 9 - 11:30am	May 2, 12 - 7pm	May 9, 9am - 7pm	

### **Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer**

RO	ARO
Liana Kalluak	Florentine Voisey

#### 2016 Official Results

Polling Stations	YES	NO	Rejected Ballots	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout
Plebiscite Day A-Z	2	71	0	73	-	-
Early Polls	0	5	2	7	-	-
Total votes	2	76	2	80	197	40.61%

YES NO		NO	Total Votes	Voters List	Voter Turnout	
	16	39	55	120	45%	







# **Glossary for Plebiscites Act**

Word	Meaning
Affected area or plebiscite area	The geographic area where the plebiscite takes place and has influence. May be Nunavut-wide, a municipality, or other defined area. The writ identifies the affected area.
ARO	Assistant returning officer, Elections Nunavut. The plebiscite officer responsible to help the RO manage everything about the plebiscite in their community or area.
Binding	A plebiscite is binding when the plebiscite authority must follow the results. The writ states if the plebiscite is binding or not. Always binding if the plebiscite is about a municipal borrowing by-law.
Elections Nunavut	Elections Nunavut is an independent agency. They oversee all elections under the <i>Nunavut Elections Act</i> , all plebiscites under the <i>Plebiscites Act</i> , and liquor plebiscites under the <i>Liquor Act</i> .
Local Plebiscite	A plebiscite that happens in one area of Nunavut, usually a municipality.
Non-binding or not binding	A plebiscite is non-binding when the plebiscite authority may choose to follow the results or not. The plebiscite may be a consultation tool. The writ states if the plebiscite is binding or not.
Nunavut-wide plebiscite	A plebiscite where the affected area and voters is all of Nunavut.
Plebiscite	A vote by secret ballot conducted under the <i>Plebiscites Act</i> so that a plebiscite authority can find out what Nunavummiut think about a certain issue.  Separate from a liquor plebiscite conducted under the <i>Liquor Act</i> .
Plebiscite authority	The body or person with authority to initiate a plebiscite. <i>The Plebiscites Act</i> names six plebiscite authorities.
Plebiscite Instructions	The Plebiscite Authority gives instructions to the Chief Electoral Officer to conduct a plebiscite, confirming the Plebiscite Day, the qualifications for eligible voters, and whether the results will be binding or non-binding.
Plebiscite period	A 35-day period that starts with the writ and ends with plebiscite day; the official time for the plebiscite.







Word	Meaning
Plebiscite report	Shows the number of votes for each choice. The RO fills it out when they review all the statements of the poll. The RO can delay the report for up to two weeks after plebiscite day, if needed.
Rejected ballot	A marked ballot that does not count for any choice. The DRO or ARO reject a ballot only for clearly defined reasons.
RENU	An electronic voter registration database for Nunavut; stands for Register for Elections in Nunavut. Elections Nunavut uses the database to keep the voters list up to date and accurate.
RO	Returning officer, Elections Nunavut. The plebiscite officer responsible to manage everything about the plebiscite in their community or area.
Special ballot	The voter applies for and receives a special ballot package. The voter marks the ballot and puts it in the secrecy envelope. The secrecy envelope goes into the certification envelope. The voter signs and sends it to Elections Nunavut.
Spoiled ballot	A ballot that the printer did not print properly. Or a ballot that a voter makes a mistake on when they mark it. The DRO gives the voter a new ballot and marks the first one 'spoiled'. The spoiled ballot does not go in the ballot box.
Statement of the poll	The official Elections Nunavut form that shows the number of votes for each choice to answer the plebiscite question.
Voting in the RO office	If allowed a way to vote before plebiscite day—at the RO's office. Starts 14 days before plebiscite day; ends 4 days before plebiscite day: 12:00 noon to 7:00 pm local time.
Writ	The official notice to say there is a plebiscite. The CEO sends it to each RO. Each RO posts the writ in their office.  The return of the writ is the back side. It shows the plebiscite results. The RO fills it out and sends it to the CEO after plebiscite day.