

# **ELECTIONS NWT ANNUAL REPORT**

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2024-2025

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kīspin ki nitawihtīn ē nīhīyawihk ōma ācimōwin, tipwāsinān.

Tłichq yatı k'ee. Dı wegodı newq dè, gots'o gonede.

ʔerihł'ı̄s Dēne Sų́ı̄né yatı t'a huts'elkēr xa beyáyatı theʔą ʔat'e, nuwe ts'ēn yółtı.

Edı gondı dehgáh got'ıe zhatıé k'ee edat'éh enahddhę nıde naxets'e edahı.

K'áhshó got'ıne xədə k'é hederı ʔediht'é yerııwę nıde dúle.

Jii gwandak izhii ginjık vat'atr'ıjähch'uu zhit yinothän jı', diits'ät ginohkhii.

Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, ququaqluta.

Ĉ'ḃḋḌḤḦḨḪḬḰḲḴᶜ ḤḶḸḺḼḶḸᶜ ḤḶḸḺḼḶḸᶜ ḤḶḸḺḼḶḸᶜ, ḤḶḸḺḼḶḸᶜ ḤḶḸḺḼḶḸᶜ.

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.

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## Message from the CEO

2024-25 was a period of reflection and renewal following the 2023 Territorial General Election. We have issued our strategic plan, which will guide our work through the next election cycle. This plan underscores our unwavering commitment to democracy and dedication to enhancing our processes as we work on our initiatives for the next general election.

Our priorities include expanding the availability of election materials in all official languages, improving voter outreach and education, adopting proven technologies for use at polling locations and updating our election legislation.

These initiatives reflect our dedication to ensuring a fair, accessible, and efficient electoral process for all.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Sincerely,



Stephen Dunbar  
Chief Electoral Officer

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## Vision

A politically engaged electorate who can freely exercise their democratic rights.

## Mandate

- Conduct territorial general elections, by-elections and plebiscites
- Ensure compliance with territorial election law
- Maintain election-related information, including the territorial register of electors
- Keep the public informed about elections

## Values

Professional  
Impartial

Respectful  
Elector-focused

Apolitical  
Accurate

## Mission

Ensure a high degree of public confidence in the electoral process through the delivery of free and fair elections

## 2025-2029 Strategic Plan

In February 2025, Elections NWT published a Strategic Plan for 2025-2029. Our five key strategic actions provide direction to all staff at Elections NWT as we prepare for the next territorial election in 2027.

Five key areas were identified to begin work:

1. Modernizing the Electoral Process

2. Supporting Indigenous Languages

3. Education
4. Engagement with Local Authorities

5. Enhancing Training

## Modernizing the Electoral Process

### Management of the Register of Territorial Electors (ROTE)

The Elections Operations Officer has continually updated the register of territorial electors using data from Elections Canada and NTHSSA.

Elections NWT entered an Information Sharing Agreement with the town of Hay River to share the list of electors for their municipal election and with Tsiigehtchic in advance of their referendum on becoming a hamlet.

Change Type	Count
<b>Elector Added</b>	<b>3,818</b>
New Registrations	3,031
Made Eligible	787
<b>Elector Updated</b>	<b>7,279</b>
Elector Moved	3,456
Other	3,823
<b>Elector Removed</b>	<b>2,309</b>
Deceased	572
Not At This Address	1,537
Other	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,406</b>

*Changes to the ROTE from January 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025*

## Elections and Plebiscites Act rewrite

Upon receiving directions from the Legislative Assembly to create a new Elections Act, we started by comparing the existing Act to our procedures and processes, and noting where the current legislation is overly prescriptive, outdated or silent. A jurisdictional review was also done on reports from other election management bodies proposing amendments or updates to their respective legislative frameworks. The CEO also started reaching out to academics who study election law to seek advice on best practices that can be considered in the drafting of new election legislation. This work will continue through the next reporting year, with a draft Act ready for the Legislative Assembly’s consideration by October 2026.

## Work in 2025-26

- Working with new partners to expand available datasets (e.g. Department of Infrastructure Driver and Vehicle Licensing division)

- Preparing a draft *Elections Act*



*Inuktitut Directional Arrow*

## Work in 2025-26

- Continue to develop election materials and guides in indigenous languages
- Work with indigenous governments to develop a guide for election terminology

## Education


### Engagement with Students

Elections NWT developed a presentation aimed at high school students explaining democracy and how voting works in the Northwest Territories. This presentation was delivered to students at St Patrick's High School and Sir John Franklin High School, with the aim to continue to deliver in more schools across the territory.

Elections NWT also presents to the annual Youth Parliament in an interactive session covering democracy, voting and youth attitudes towards democracy and voting.

## Supporting Indigenous Languages

We increased the availability and distribution of Indigenous language materials for the 2023 general election. The feedback we received from voters and election workers has encouraged us to broaden the scope of materials, including the availability of audio files to assist voters, reviewing our existing materials with local language speakers to better reflect how the community would explain our processes in their language, and making more of our educational materials available in official languages.

Ek'ètehtsòo Dòq - Naxikwi Nìht'èchìi Wègoat'ì ha hòt'e			
Edzanèk'e ek'ètehtsòo Aahitsì gha dī hane'e ha:		Edzanèk'e ek'ètehtsòo aahitsì gha naxikwi nìht'èchìi wèk'e dī wègoat'ì ha:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ek'ètehtsòo Dòq k'e '18 naxighoò hani-le-dè wègoat'ì.</li><li>• Naxighoò hani-le-dè wègoat'ì.</li><li>• Còndà gòrjìyàhìj ha.</li><li>• Ek'ètehtsòo Dòq k'e ek'ètai sa deghàa Edzanèk'e nàahde ha.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nìzi</li><li>• Eys'eq</li><li>• Fdìj nàajìk</li></ul>	
Asii Tai t'à Nek'èhodzò ha			
1. Nìht'è Jìe	2. Nìht'è Nàk'e	3. Asii eyil-le t'ats'et'ì ha dīi-le	
<p>Edzanèk'e behchij k'ets'edii nìht'è</p> <p>HANI-LE-DE</p> <p>Edzanèk'e gokwi nìht'èchìi asii hazòq gha wèt'a ts'et'ìj</p> 	<p><u>Jìe nuzi wèk'e dek'èht'è</u></p> <p>Nìht'è dī lani:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dòts'ìjìj nìht'è</li><li>• Nìht'èkò ats'et'ìj nìht'è</li><li>• Nàedi nìht'è</li><li>• Sòmba Nàzèe nìht'è</li><li>• Edzanèk'e</li><li>• Whik'èe nìht'è</li><li>• La nìht'è</li><li>• Edzanèk'e</li><li>• Nàts'ezèe nìht'è</li></ul>	<p><u>Jìe wèk'e Edzanèk'e edij nàade dek'èht'è</u></p> <p>Nìht'è dī lani:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sòmbaehshekò nìht'è</li><li>• Kò Goghaet'èe nìht'è hani-le-dè nìht'è</li><li>• Kò nàts'edii nìht'è</li><li>• Insurance nìht'è</li><li>• Wèt'a gots'edee hani-le-dè</li><li>• Ek'aak'òhì nìht'è</li><li>• Ek'its'edaa</li><li>• Sòmba nìht'è</li><li>• Ek'its'edaa nìht'è</li><li>• K'elats'edii-le nìht'è</li><li>• Chak'aa sòmba nìht'è</li><li>• Satsòbehchij/ela nìht'è</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ek'ètehtsòo dòq eyil-le yatìnatsoo nìht'è k'e dizi dek'èht'è ha dīi-le. Nek'ègèz ha eys'eq nexhehtë ek'ètehtsòo hòlee k'e gizi dek'èht'è ha hòt'e.</li><li>• Nek'ègèz eys'eq nì si gik'èzq nìde. Ek'ètehtsòo Hòlbe gha Eghàladaa Dòq negha gode ha dīi-le.</li></ul>	

*Tìychq Voter ID poster*

## Work in 2025-26

- Create a digital newsletter for residents that will provide updates on the work Elections NWT is undertaking, encourage engagement, while providing information relevant to voters and the general public.
- Develop a new website to provide more user-friendly access and better deliver important information about elections.

## Engagement with Local Authorities

Elections NWT provided support to two municipalities who were holding elections in 2024-25 by sharing a list of electors. The CEO met with the NWT Association of Communities on how best to engage their members on what support Elections NWT can provide to local authorities holding elections. As part of this work the CEO attended the 2025 NWT Association of Communities AGM and met with various local leaders on their election needs.

## Work in 2025-26

- Engage with school boards
- Indigenous governments
- Continue to offer support for local elections
- Engage with the Local Government Administrators NWT

## Enhancing Training

### Work in 2025-26

- Develop a new online training system, our previous Online Learning Management was at the end of its life. Elections NWT will be revamping both in-person and online training to provide tailored training to multi-district and multi-community districts based on feedback we received.
- Collaborate with local authorities for training, if they are interested

## Engagement

### Ontario legislature Internship Program (OLIP)

Elections NWT met with the 2024 and 2025 Ontario Legislature Internship Program participants and delivered a presentation on Elections NWT history, the mandate of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, our electoral districts, what makes the NWT unique from an election perspective, non-partisan candidates, and north of 60 challenges in delivering elections.

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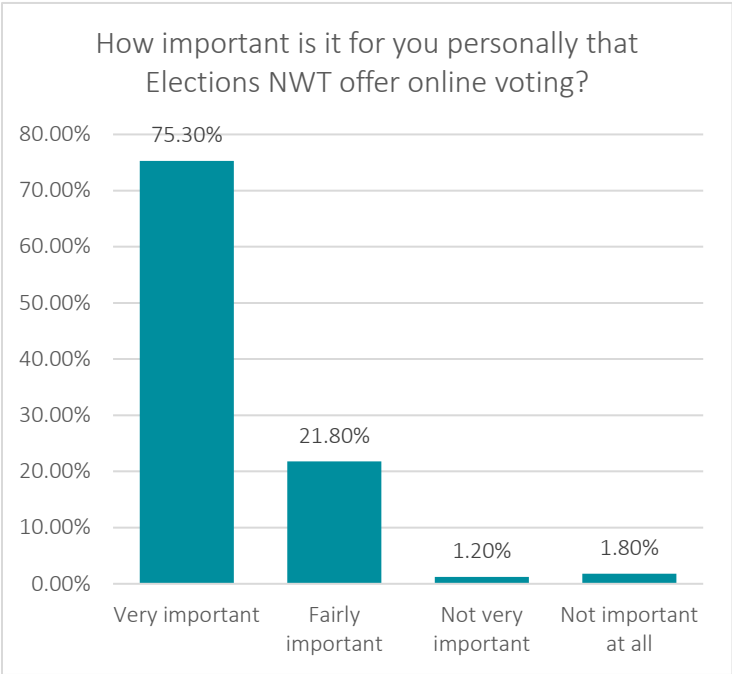
CEO with the 2025 OLIP participants

## Elections Canada First Nations, Metis and Inuit Advisory Circle

Elections NWT attended the advisory circle hosted by Elections Canada, building off their listening sessions and report “What Was Said – Including Indigenous Peoples in Electoral Democracy”. The Deputy CEO delivered a well-received presentation on Indigenous language election materials that were developed in collaboration with NWT interpreters and translators. Discussion after the presentation included questions on how we developed the materials, how the development was funded and if we intended to provide further materials.

## Survey of the Online Voting Absentee Voters

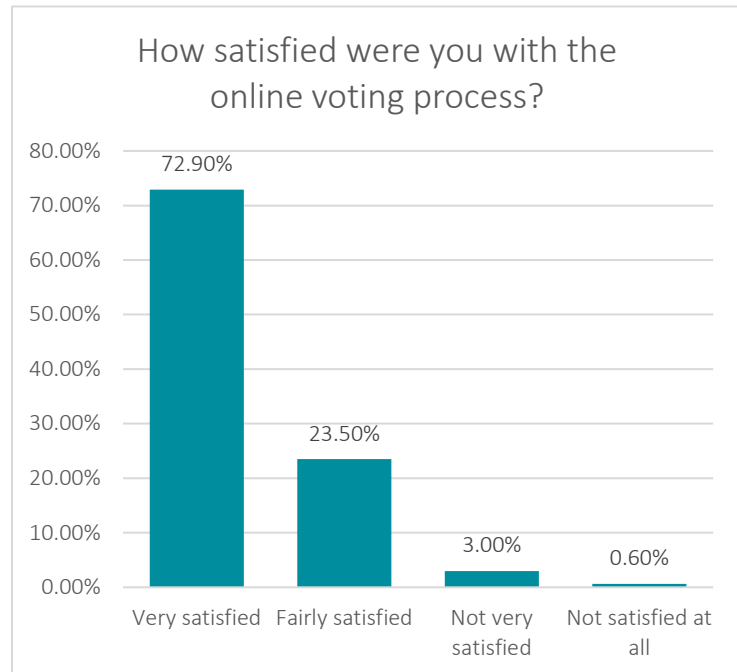
Elections NWT conducted a survey of voters who used the absentee online voting option in the 2023 TGE. 171 voters completed the survey (out of 395). Respondents ranged in age from 18-78, with 67% of respondents living in Yellowknife, 25% in Inuvik, Fort Smith and Hay River, and 9% of respondents coming from small communities. The geographic breakdown is similar to the proportion of voters using the online option.



Survey questions sought out voters satisfaction with voting online, their reasons for using the online voting option, desirability to see the online option continue in the future, trust in the option, perceived risk, digital access and literacy, and previous voting history.

Key findings include that young people were more likely to cast an online ballot, familiarity with the internet was high amongst respondents, accessibility was the main reason for using the online option, 96% of respondents were

satisfied with the online voting process, and 75% said it was important for Elections NWT to continue offering online voting in future elections. 42% of respondents said they likely would not have voted without the online voting option. The full survey report is available on the Elections NWT website.



## Canadian Conference of Election Officials

The Chief Electoral Officer delivered a presentation about the 2023 Territorial General Election at the annual summer meeting of Chief Electoral Officers. The presentation focused on the administration of the election during the wildfire season and evacuation, explaining the necessary delay of the election, and how Elections NWT was impacted and adapted to the situation to ensure voters were able to exercise their democratic rights. The presentation also covered some of the challenges that were addressed due to the later election date.

## 2023 General Election Report

The Chief Electoral Officer was called to present to the Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges on the administration of the 2023 Territorial General Election that included recommendations to improve the administration of elections.

## International E-Vote ID conference, Tarragona Spain

The CEO co-presented a paper he co-wrote with Dr. Nicole Goodman of Brock University on the attitudes of NWT voters towards online voting, including concerns over security, access and whether voters would still cast a vote if online voting had not been an option. The CEO also was part of a roundtable panel with Élections Québec, the Swiss Federal Chancellery and the Estonian State Electoral Office on internet voting initiatives in our respective jurisdictions. The CEO focused on the decision-making process he uses when deciding when to adopt a new technology.



*CEO presenting at the International E-Vote ID Conference*

The paper was included in the official proceedings of the conference, one of 10 submissions that was accepted for publication.

## Visitor's Programs

Election management bodies will occasionally host a visitor's program to highlight key initiatives used in that jurisdiction, technology, voter outreach and engagement, which also includes visiting polling locations, meeting with election workers and engaging professional development opportunities from other jurisdictions. In 2024, three provincial election management bodies offered a visitor's program.

### British Columbia General Election Visitor's Program

The Elections Operations Officer attended the Elections BC visitors program for their general election. The program included presentations from Elections BC's senior staff on misinformation, updated nomination processes, new technology, and enforcement. Participants also toured a warehouse/mail-in ballot facility, an urban poll, and a rural poll.

### New Brunswick General Election Visitor's Program

The CEO attended the New Brunswick General Election Visitor's Program. New Brunswick extensively uses technology at polling locations, including iPads instead of laptops.

The program included presentations from Elections NB senior staff on technology used in polling locations, pre-bunking information campaign, political financing rules, as well as visiting Returning Offices and voting locations to meet with front-line staff. Participants were given a detailed training on the technology used and got hands-on experience.

### Saskatchewan General Election Visitor's Program

The Deputy CEO participated in the visitor's program during voting week. Elections Saskatchewan offered two visitors program streams, one for urban centres and the other for indigenous communities, the latter which the DCEO attended. Meeting with Leaders of first nations and indigenous Election workers, observing the polls in Indigenous communities. Discussions focused on interest in working the polls, positive experiences and challenges.



*DCEO at the Saskatchewan Visitor's Program*

### NWT Association of Communities Annual General Meeting

The Chief Electoral Officer attended the AGM, engaged in discussion with attendees and provided a survey on how Elections NWT can support municipalities during their elections. Questions included if support was desired, levels of support such as reviewing/understanding legislation, staffing support, training support, support in obtaining election materials and supplies, voters lists, and technology.

### Media

May 2024 – CBC Radio interview about the proposed change to the voting age

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/nwt-voting-age-change-1.7199659>

February 2024 – International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) published a paper where the CEO was interviewed about wildfires

<https://www.idea.int/publications/catalogue/impact-2023-wildfires-subnational-elections-canada?lang=en>

February 2025 – CBC Radio, Cabin Radio on the publication of the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan  
<https://cabinradio.ca/223661/news/politics/elections-nwt-unveils-plans-ahead-of-2027-territorial-election/>

## Other activities

The Deputy Chief Electoral officer was invited to provide support to Elections Yukon as they prepared for election readiness in early 2024. This included working with staff in the Elections Yukon head office and participating in the training sessions.

### Secretariat for Electoral Coordination

- The Chief Electoral Officer is the territorial (NWT/Nunavut/Yukon) representative on the Steering Committee.
- Subcommittee on Enhancing Indigenous Experiences in Electoral Democracy – The Deputy CEO co-chaired this committee with Elections Canada. The subcommittee was tasked with developing a Compendium document outlining what services are currently available for Indigenous electors so there is an understanding of what is happening across Canadian jurisdictions. The subcommittee participants also served as key contacts in planning and coordinating provincial/territorial participation in the Elections Canada Indigenous Electoral Services Review (IESR) Dialogue Sessions. This committee was tasked with making recommendations to the steering committee to improve Indigenous experiences. The recommendations were supported by the Steering Committee and resulted in working groups on recruitment and training, voter services and youth engagement. The subcommittee on Enhancing Indigenous Experiences completed its work in October 2024 and transitioned to a community of practice under the Secretariat.
- Subcommittee on Data – The Elections Operations Officer has been on this subcommittee since March 2024. The objective is to develop standards of data collection and organization to better facilitate data sharing between election management bodies (EMB). There has been ongoing work to define types of data and harmonize each jurisdiction's understanding of how their datasets compare with others. The Elections Operations Officer currently sits on a working group to pilot a data structure for comparing statistics from election events between all EMBs.



## 2024-2025 Budget

DESCRIPTION	ANNUAL BUDGET	PRE-ENCUM	ENCUM	ACTUALS
Compensation and Benefits				
Permanent Salaries	440,000.00			510,124.13
Casual Wages				6,176.48
Employee Benefits				47,774.89
Employee Related Benefits				
Employee Medical Travel				
Compensation and Benefits	440,000.00			564,075.50
Grants and Contributions				
Grants				
Block Funding				
Contributions				
Infrastructure Contributions				
Resource Revenue Transfer				
Grants and Contributions				
Other Expenses				
Valuation Allowances				
Travel & Transportation	37,000.00			27,508.08
Materials & Supplies	40,000.00			6,376.14
Purchased Services	25,000.00			2,851.83
Utilities				
Contract Services	31,000.00			14,120.65
Fees & Payments	30,000.00			5,502.59
Loss on Asset Disposal				
Interest Expense				
Chargeback Expense				
TSC Chargeback Recoveries				
Controllable Assets				
Computer Hardware/Software	10,000.00			
Other Expenses	173,000.00			56,359.29
Expense	613,000.00			620,434.79