



Elections *NWT*



2007

Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the
Administration of the 2007 General Election

The logo for Elections NWT features a stylized 'X' shape on the left containing a crest with a shield and a crown. To the right of the 'X' is the word 'Elections' in a bold, serif font, and 'NWT' in a larger, bold, sans-serif font.

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer

April 1, 2008

The Honourable Paul Delorey
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Dear Mr. Speaker,

Pursuant to section 266(2) of the *Elections and Plebiscites Act*, it is my pleasure to provide you with the Chief Electoral Officer's report on the administration of the 2007 general election held Monday, October 1, 2007 in the Northwest Territories.

This report covers administration of the general election, a summary of investigations and complaints/concerns, as well as actions taken with regards to these matters, a statement of expenditures and recommendations. While there are suggestions for development and change made throughout the document, the formal recommendations, which are all legislative amendments, are contained towards the end in a summary format.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Arberry', written in a cursive style.

S. Arberry
Chief Electoral Officer

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Foreword

The success of an election can be measured, not only by voter turnout, but also by the extent to which the public is involved in the elections process, as volunteers for candidates, at polling stations and for Elections NWT.

I would thus like to thank the staff at Elections NWT and the general public for making this past election a success.

The Northwest Territories is going through many changes, economically, technologically and socially. As society changes, so too must the electoral process. Elections NWT works to keep abreast of changing technologies and electoral processes, while maintaining continuity with past elections. With a general election taking place only every four years – time enough for considerable change – we cannot remain static; we must continually explore new technology and methods of holding elections.

The future promises to be an exciting time and I look forward to participating in the growth and development of Elections NWT; to working with the staff, electorate and Members of the Legislative Assembly; and to ensuring the democratic process remains accessible and functional.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Arberry', written in a cursive style.

S. Arberry

Administration of the Electoral Process

The 2007 general territorial election marked a number of firsts. For the first time in the history of the Northwest Territories, the Writs of Election and the Order signed by the Commissioner directing the Chief Electoral Officer to start the election were separate documents. Previously, these were combined into one document and created for each of the 19 electoral districts. This change brings the Northwest Territories more in line with procedures in the provinces and further defines the independence of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer.



Commissioner Anthony Whitford and Chief Electoral Officer Sandra Arberry with the new Order of Election.

This election also marked the first election to be held on a fixed date. In 2006, the Legislative Assembly replaced existing legislation with a new *Elections and Plebiscites Act*, which requires elections be held every four years on the first Monday in October.

There were very few concerns about the timing of this election from candidates or the general public. Media reports suggested that the timing might be a problem for people out on the land, a few Returning Officers who were required to work on Labour Day expressed some displeasure and there was minor confusion among candidates who were unsure when they could pick up election materials. Otherwise, the timing of this election posed no problems or concerns.

Electoral Boundaries

An Electoral Boundaries Commission is mandated to review the area, boundaries, name and representation of the existing electoral districts of the NWT and recommend changes to the Legislative Assembly. In March 2006, the Commission submitted its report to the Legislative Assembly. The Assembly did not accept the Commissions proposed changes to electoral boundaries in Yellowknife and Monfwi, which would have given each of these electoral districts an additional representative. Instead, they directed the then Chief Electoral Officer to re-draw the existing Yellowknife boundaries to ensure proper representation by population. The new electoral boundaries became effective August 31, 2007.

Elections NWT publicized the boundary changes well in advance of the general election. Members of the Legislative Assembly also publicized the changes through their websites and newsletters. New maps were distributed, electronic files of the new boundaries were placed on the Elections NWT website, and ads were placed in NWT newspapers.

The next Electoral Boundaries Commission will be established after the 2011 general election.

Enumeration

In order to prepare the list of electors for the October 2007 election, Elections NWT conducted a target enumeration in communities that experience a high turnover in population. Election staff went door-to-door checking and adding eligible electors in Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Fort Simpson, Hay River, Inuvik and Norman Wells. Returning Officers in all other communities were provided with elector lists and asked to go through them to ensure they were up-to-date.

When the target enumeration was complete, the preliminary list of electors included 22,976 names. People who could not be confirmed at an existing address were either indicated as “no contact” or removed from the database. Although this created a situation where some voters who had lived at the same address for many years found themselves removed from the list, it was a necessary step to ensure that the number of voters on the list was not inflated due to double or invalid entries.

A few Returning Officers initially experienced difficulty finding people to conduct the enumeration in their district. In other districts, the enumeration was improperly conducted, resulting in incomplete information. Making special provision to hire enumerators from outside the

electoral district and extending the period of enumeration rectified this situation.

After the data from the target enumeration was entered into the elector database, individually addressed voter identification cards were sent to all individuals in the Register of Territorial Electors as another measure to capture and correct elector information.

An advertising campaign highlighting Enumeration and Revision periods ran in all newspapers and radio stations across the Northwest Territories. The cost of this effort was approximately \$9,600. Elections NWT is currently discussing alternatives to enumerations as experience indicates this may not be the most efficient way to collect elector information.

Revision

Revision is the process of giving residents the opportunity to ensure their name and correct information appears on the list of electors in the district in which they reside. Revision week was September 3-7, 2007.

The purpose and timing of Revision was promoted through paid advertising and public service announcements. As well, each Returning Officer in the NWT posted an official notice in his or her communities indicating where and when Revision was being held. Offices were open and Authorized Persons (people hired by the Returning Officers to accept revisions and other election related duties) were available in every community for this purpose. Residents wishing to make changes to their information or be added to the list could do so in any community in the Northwest Territories.

At the end of Revision, the official list of electors contained 23,052 names.

Discussions with the Returning Officers in smaller communities indicate that the Authorized Persons were not proactive in ensuring people participated in the Revision process. Results in Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith were better than in other communities, but there is room for improvement.

The lack of participation in the revision process suggests electors are not aware of the importance of being on the list and listed correctly. A broader advertising campaign, a longer Revision period and a more public presence by

Elections NWT staff may help to mitigate this in the future.

An indeterminate number of eligible electors actively chose not to participate in the electoral process, which means that the list of electors does not contain every eligible elector. No statistical analysis on the quality of NWT elector lists has ever been completed. Therefore, the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer has no way of gauging the accuracy of the list until Revision week numbers and feedback from candidates is received. Based on target enumeration data entry and anecdotal evidence, the elector lists for a number of districts were incomplete for the 2007 territorial election. Returning Officers were instructed to pay particular attention to hiring and training election staff in those districts and to ensure election staff was aware of the repercussions of having an incomplete list.

Nominations

In total, 55 candidates ran for election to the 16th Legislative Assembly. Incumbents in the Sahtu, Inuvik, Boot Lake and Deh Cho electoral districts were acclaimed. There was one withdrawal and all but four candidates included a picture for ballot purposes.

There were stories in the media on candidates' criminal history and unsuitability, questioning whether that should preclude them from running for public office. The *Elections and Plebiscites Act* currently does not address these issues, and it is the opinion of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer that the *Act* should continue to not address these issues. Electors should be left to make the decision who they want to represent them, which they make by voting.

Swearing-in of Eligible Electors

People who are eligible to vote but whose names are not on the list of electors are still eligible to vote if they swear an oath of elector and present identification. The *Elections and Plebiscites Act* also allows the elector to vote if they are personally known by an elections officer present. Over the course of the election period, 1,029 eligible electors were sworn in. Although this is not unusual, it does increase wait times at the polling stations and means more paperwork for elections officials.



Election day staff at the registration desk in Inuvik Twin Lakes.

Candidates Returns of Election Expenses and Contributions

Section 256 of the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* states that within 60 days after polling day an official agent must file, on behalf of their candidate, a return respecting election expenses and contributions. The *Act* provides for an additional 60 day extension, other than for those who have been officially elected and provided the request is made to the Chief Electoral Officer before the original 60 days has expired.

At the time of printing this report the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer had received 51 returns, six of which are incomplete after audit and waiting to be finalized. All 19 elected candidates submitted their returns within the 60-day time limit.

Despite repeated written and personal reminders seven returns remain outstanding and no extension has been requested or granted in any of these matters. The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer is now pursuing these individuals through legal means in order to get them to comply with their statutory obligations under the *Elections and Plebiscites Act*.

While candidates may see the administration of their campaign as secondary to campaigning, the requirement for candidates and official agents to file a report on contributions and expenses is a very important part of the electoral process.

The use of public and personal funds for purposes of running an election campaign must be accounted for, not only so the public knows where their money was spent, but also so that people can see what a candidate spent money on. This is part of the responsibility of running as a candidate. Transparency and accountability are vital to the electoral process.

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer appreciates that the accounting process and completing the financial record may be onerous. In an effort to make the procedure easier the Chief Electoral Officer will look into streamlining the process for the 2011 general election.

In the 2003 report of the Chief Electoral Officer, it was noted that the sections dealing with Candidates' financial returns and enforcement are unclear and should be reviewed. While amendments were made under the new *Act*, further review should be considered. The idea of a civil remedy as a first step against non-compliance should be considered and timeframes and expectations could be more clearly detailed.

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer

A common misperception is that once election day is over, work in the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer is also complete. However, that's when the ongoing work of the electoral process begins. In the months immediately following an election, the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer responds to complaints, conducts investigations, receives and reviews Candidates' Financial Reports, and authors the Chief Electoral Officer's report on the election. Once the Chief Electoral Officer's report is tabled, the next three years are spent implementing the recommendations approved by the Legislative Assembly and improving the administration of the electoral process. In the fourth year, preparation begins once again for the general territorial election.



Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Barb Paquin, and Administrative Assistant, Melissa Woytuik, working on the Register of Territorial Electors.

Presently, the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer is funded for four permanent staff. Additional staff is hired as required in the lead-up to the general election. Traditionally, the financial officer is hired through a transfer assignment.

The practice of hiring staff just in the months leading up to an election is problematic as there is not enough time for new employees to get comfortable in their roles and fully understand the electoral process. They must learn as situations arise, but because they have no historical reference or past experience in election legislation, the learning curve is substantial. This leads to frustration and anxiety for the employees and, to some extent, for the public. There is significant potential for this hiring practice to result in serious problems from incorrect or incomplete information given to the public or candidates.

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer also deals with high staff turnover in the field. During the last election, 11 of the 19 Returning Officers were new to the position. Continuity of employees in the office of the Chief Electoral Officer is therefore needed to reduce the impact of unavoidable turnover in Returning Officer positions. The Chief Electoral Officer will therefore be looking at different ways to accommodate the need for permanent, full-time staff.

Election staff

During the election period, Elections NWT hires upwards of 300 people, culminating in a one-day event. With the strong NWT economy, it is increasingly difficult to find people with the flexibility, freedom, willingness and necessary technical skills to work during an election. The *Elections and Plebiscites Act* sets out strict criteria for who may be an election worker. Combined with the volume of information elections staff are expected to know, the very public forum in which they conduct business, and the nature of the process itself, certain districts and communities are more difficult to staff than others.



The 19 Returning Officers attend a training session in Yellowknife.

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer is responsible for hiring and training 19 Returning Officers. This past election, eight were reappointments and 11 were new hires, including two who were replaced in the month leading up to the election. Returning Officers are responsible for running the election in their district on behalf of the Chief Electoral Officer. Because they are the first point of contact between the electorate and candidates, skilled, consistent Returning Officers are necessary to support a smooth and efficient electoral process.

Elections NWT provides training manuals to elections staff outlining the procedures required for all the voting opportunities. It also provides training for the 19 Returning Officers, covering pre-election subject matter and the election period. After each training session, Returning Officers complete an evaluation, which is assessed to ensure they understand the material and job they are required to perform.



Returning Officers from Tu Nedhe, Sahtu and Deh Cho take notes at a training session.

It is the responsibility of the Returning Officer in each electoral district to hire and provide standardized training for the staff they require. If requested, the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer provides assistance in identifying election field staff. Hiring and training field staff is completed during the 28-day election campaign period. Due to logistical and monetary considerations, training election staff in the communities is conducted via conference calls paired with resources produced by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer. The Returning Officer personally trains the field staff in the larger centres.

During the 2007 election, there were difficulties finding staff in all electoral districts. On polling day, staff in two electoral districts did not show up for work. In those

communities, Returning Officers found last minute replacements, resulting only in a slight delay in opening the polling stations. At the Yellowknife Centre polling station, the Returning Officer had difficulty finding staff in general. Two people were hired at the last moment and the Supervising Elections Officer covered the other position.

This illustrates the importance of hiring staff committed to the election process. In an effort to find and retain qualified and interested individuals, the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer will embark on a new Returning Officer hiring and training program and a highly visible recruitment campaign designed to encourage people to get involved as election staff. A review of the fees paid to election staff under the Tariff of Fees will be required as part of this initiative.

For the 2007 election, hiring and payment of election staff was co-ordinated through the Departments of Human Resources and Finance. Because of the nature of the positions and their duration relative to other hires for the Government of the Northwest Territories, systems and procedures within the Departments of Human Resources and Finance were out of step with the hiring and payment needs of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer. Therefore, the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer will be looking at the use of alternate hiring and payment measures for elections staff in the 2011 territorial election.

Register of Territorial Electors

The establishment of the Register of Territorial Electors (ROTE) prior to the 2003 general election was hailed as a breakthrough in elections technology for the Northwest Territories. With the introduction of a permanent register of electors, it was felt that more complete elector lists would be available without the need for full election enumerations, thus saving time, money, and manpower.

The reality is that establishing complete and accurate elector lists is one of the most difficult aspects of administering an election. Maintaining the database requires weekly updates that are affected by a number of factors such as community development, boundary changes, limited information-sharing agreements, Access to Information and Protection of Privacy requirements, departmental policies/legislation, and staff resources, to name a few. The ROTE database is currently maintained through elector sharing agreements with Elections Canada and five Northwest Territories communities. While these

agreements are helpful, they do not go far enough to ensure up-to-date lists.

Other jurisdictions that use a permanent register of electors have information-sharing agreements with various government departments, including Health, Transportation and Vital Statistics. All agree that these agreements are very important in keeping the elector database updated.

Elections NWT has information-sharing agreements with community governments in Fort Smith, Hay River, Fort Simpson, Yellowknife and Inuvik. However, these are not always honoured. For instance, repeated requests prior to the 2007 general election to Fort Simpson for its community list was met with resistance and ultimately never provided.

Additionally, the requirement that electors live one year in the Northwest Territories to be eligible to vote is not compatible with federal residency and other government service requirements, which require only three months of residency. While resident lists from Elections Canada and the Department of Transportation are helpful in keeping track of people already in the system, Elections NWT cannot enter new people from these lists because of this discrepancy in residency requirement. In order to make these information-sharing agreements more functional, the one-year residency requirement should be reviewed to bring it in line with the residency requirements for Canada and/or other government services. Alternatively, the ROTE system needs to be amended so that new people noted on the information sharing lists can be entered and held in abeyance until a specified time frame has elapsed, thereby ensuring the one-year residency requirement is met.

Accurate, current elector lists are essential both for campaigning and election process administration. Inter-departmental co-operation in sharing information with Elections NWT will go a long way to ensuring better, more accurate lists. Once the issue of residency has been resolved further sources of electronic information from government departments will be evaluated for their potential in updating ROTE on an ongoing basis. Elections NWT will also pursue information-sharing agreements with various bands and community governments for additional sources of elector information.

Technology

Technology has not yet played a significant role in the electoral process in the Northwest Territories. However, technology is becoming increasingly commonplace in our everyday lives and the electoral process, in the not-too-

distant future, will become highly entwined with the technology of the day. As technology plays a more central role in people's lives, it will become essential to be able to deliver increasing levels of sophistication not only within the Elections NWT office but also with the elections staff and the voting public.

In this past election, each Returning Officer received a laptop; a multi-function fax, printer, copier; and a telephone. Those without access to voicemail received an answering machine. While the multi-function units were highly appreciated, some of the laptops, which were Government surplus units, were barely usable while others were totally inoperable despite having been readied and tested by the Technology Service Centre. This caused frustration for the Returning Officers and the public and led to minor delays in relaying correct and accurate information.



Technological equipment is boxed up and ready to be sent to the 19 Returning Officers.

For the 2011 election, Elections NWT will look into leasing new laptops for Returning Officers and ensuring that they are loaded with up-to-date software.

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer will require new equipment capable of handling the increasing demands of the office. Software will play an important role for the 2011 territorial general election and it will be imperative that the office is running the latest software packages supported by the Government of the Northwest Territories,

in addition to software integral to the current elector database.

The purchase of software to manage the Elections NWT website was a big advancement and major cost saving measure. However, in order to maintain this service, Dreamweaver (the current web software) needs to be upgraded to the latest version and Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator programs will need to be purchased to ensure the efficient operation of processes.

In the 2007-2008 Business Plan, the Legislative Assembly states "the continual advancement of technologies is significantly changing the way we communicate in the north. In many respects, the north no longer needs to be an isolated and remote part of Canada. We must leverage new technologies to enhance access to residents and leaders on a regional, national and global scale."

There are a number of areas where Elections NWT can look at implementing technology to make the election process easier and more accessible. Over the next three years the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer will analyze how to take advantage of improved technology. Some preliminary ideas include the following.

Content Management System

Elections NWT will look at installing a content management system (CMS). CMSs are useful for interactive use by a large number of contributors. Among other things, a system of this type would enable the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer to share files and forms electronically with Returning Officers in the field, potentially saving the cost of printing and shipping forms.



Supplies for the Returning Officers are assembled and sent out in August.

It would be important to tie a CMS in with the ROTE and, optimally, an election results reporting module. This would allow the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer to streamline the procedure for reporting results on election night. Developing this system would cost \$60,000 - \$100,000. The cost could vary depending on what features are needed, what is included and what is expected of the system.

Mapping

Mapping is a particularly important area where technology can assist both the citizens of the NWT and elections administration. Essentially, maps are created by building layers of information on top of one another. Starting with the "base" layer, or the topographical outline of the land, one can then add a subdivision layer, a street layer, a building layer, etc depending on the purpose of the map.

Maps for the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer are currently created from a type of program known as AutoCAD. This is a computer aided design (CAD) software application for two-dimensional and three-dimensional drafting. This program is widely available, relatively cost efficient and, once the base data is entered, easily used. However, it is not a specific mapping program and, more importantly, is a static application. Data in this program cannot be managed to provide for specific references and changing landscapes without the creation of new maps, which are costly.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are now commonly used, especially in other election offices. GIS is a collection of computer hardware, software and geographic data used to capture, manage, analyze and display all forms of geographically referenced information.

While a GIS is most often associated with maps, it has numerous other capabilities. A GIS can provide more problem-solving capabilities than using a simple mapping program or adding data to an online mapping tool. As was experienced during the last election, the current mapping system is barely adequate. Difficulties were encountered with attempting to locate the proper electoral district for people residing in places such as Sandy Lake, Moraine Point Lodge, and on Highway #3 beyond Fiddler's Lagoon. The boundaries of a physical map can only extend to the size of the paper and locating a person outside of those boundaries requires time and guesswork.

Preliminary investigations indicate that GIS mapping technology could interface with the ROTE database to create a fuller picture of each electoral district and its electors. Potentially, the public would be able to go to the Elections website, input a civic address or rural land description and get mapping information about what electoral district it lies in, where the polling station is located and the names of candidates and the location of their campaign headquarters.

While converting the system to a GIS would be costly and time consuming, it would prove far superior to the current mapping system.

Paper copies of maps will still be required and the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer will look at purchasing a plotter to print maps and larger signs.

Voting Opportunities

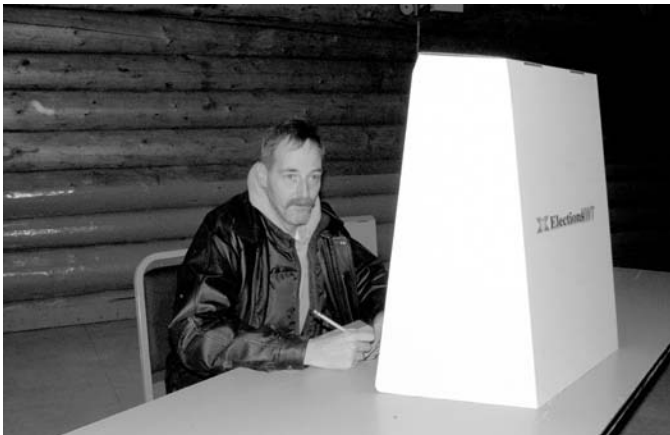
The issue that raised the most questions during this election concerned voting opportunities. The *Elections and Plebiscites Act* allows electors five different ways to cast their votes.

- By special ballot (until 8 p.m. on polling day).
- By special mobile poll.
- By voting in the Office of the Returning Officer in those communities that have one.
- In communities without a Returning Officer and a population of more than 500 people, at a one-day advance poll.
- At polling stations on polling day.

These opportunities mean that voters can cast a ballot, one way or another, for 27 days during the 28-day election period.

Even with this wide range of voting options, many voters did not take advantage of their right to vote. Some electors found the criteria for voting cumbersome, others were unaware of the number of voting opportunities and some electors questioned voting practices.

Although the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer spent \$9,700 advertising special voting opportunities, feedback indicates that more extensive voter education is needed.



A voter marks his ballot on polling day in Inuvik.



A Deputy Returning Officer deposits a ballot in the ballot box in Weledeh.

Voting by Special Ballot

Several voters and candidates expressed concern that special ballots took too long to travel by mail. During this election, Returning Officers were authorized to use Express Post to send special ballots out. This procedure resulted from a recommendation made after the 2003 election and helped decrease the amount of time special ballots were in the mail. However, some special ballots still were not returned to the Returning Officer on or before polling day.

There were suggestions from the public that a polling station be located at mine sites. Previous Chief Electoral Officers reviewed and rejected this idea. Instead, in both the 2003 and the 2007 elections and the 2004 by-election, letters and informational packages were sent to the mine sites encouraging mine workers to vote either by special ballot or in the office of the Returning Officer during their days at home.

However, there is merit in discussing the option of a mobile poll at mine sites. Some issues for consideration include cost, logistics, voter authenticity, and ballot security and integrity.

Voting in the Office of the Returning Officer

Voting in the office of the Returning Officer begins the third Wednesday of the election period and runs until the last Saturday before polling day. Any qualified elector may vote in the office of the Returning Officer during the designated 10-day period. There is no requirement that the voter be unavailable to vote on Election Day.

Voting in the office of the Returning Officer is increasing in popularity, with some electoral districts having up to a quarter of their entire votes cast by this method. If the popularity of this method of voting continues, Elections NWT will look at increasing staff in the returning Offices to accommodate counting of ballots and election night procedures.



Kam Lake Returning Officer, Erika Wallbridge, accepts a ballot in the office of the Returning Officer.

Advance Polls

The *Elections and Plebiscites Act* states that an advance poll will be held in communities with a population of over 500 people. Using current population statistics from the Bureau of Statistics, six communities were originally slated to have advance polls. However, with the acclamation in the Sahtu electoral district that number was reduced to three – one in Monfwi, one in Nahendeh and one in Mackenzie Delta.

As in previous elections, advance polls were once again not well attended. Given the financial and personnel costs associated with offering this method of voting and the consistently poor voter turnout, the need for advance polls should be examined. Although no recommendation is being made to stop providing advance polls, there should be discussion about amending the requirements for this type of voting.

Special Mobile Polls

Voting by special mobile poll is available for those who, by reason of a disability, are unable to attend the polls. A person must apply to the Returning Officer in their district to vote by this method. However, Returning Officers are usually proactive, and often approach nursing homes and assisted living facilities and inquire whether anyone would like to vote via this method.

Voter Identification

During the 2007 election, concerns were raised regarding the verification process of eligible electors. The *Elections and Plebiscites Act* states that in order to be eligible to vote, a person must be

- 18 years of age or older as of polling day;
- a Canadian citizen; and
- a resident of the NWT for at least one year prior to polling day.

NWT residents who wish to vote but are not on the list of electors must show a piece of identification or be personally known by an election official, and swear an oath at the polling station that they meet eligibility requirements. Identification is required only to prove identity, not citizenship or residency. Identification currently accepted for this purpose is very broad and proof of citizenship or residency is not required. Residents whose names appear on the list of electors are not required to show proof of identity before receiving a ballot.

Bill C-31, a bill to amend the *Canada Elections Act*, was passed in June 2007. It requires all voters to produce identification verifying both identity and residency before voting. Residency is verified through identification that shows a civic address. However, because of concerns that large portions of the Canadian population do not have an actual civic address, only postal boxes, an addendum to the Bill was required.

Bill C-18 contains verification of residence and describes what forms of identification are acceptable. Bill C-18

received Royal Assent in December. Effectively, this means that anyone wishing to vote in the next federal election must provide proof of identity and residency before being allowed to do so.

Proving identity before being allowed to cast a ballot, regardless of whether a person's name appears on the list of electors or not, is standard procedure in some jurisdictions (Ontario and Quebec). With the passing of both of Bill C-31 and Bill C-18 the requirement to produce identification is becoming more commonplace. In response to concerns expressed during the 2007 territorial general election, and with Bills C-31 and C-18 in mind, discussion among Members of the Legislative Assembly is required on this topic.

Municipal Elections

In 2003, David Hamilton, then Chief Electoral Officer, recommended that the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer consider the possibility of Elections NWT assuming administrative responsibility for elections of community governments under the *Local Authorities Elections Act*.

However, since 2003, two different people have held the post of Chief Electoral Officer, with the current one having taken office on January 7, 2007. The current Chief Electoral Officer has not had the opportunity to pursue this recommendation as attention was necessarily focused on learning the position and preparing for the upcoming general election.

Preliminary research was initiated but not to a level that would result in a recommendation at this time. Only two other Offices of the Chief Electoral Officer administer elections other than territorial/provincial. Elections Yukon administers school-governance elections and no thought has been given to changing that situation. Elections New Brunswick administers municipal and provincial elections. Preliminary discussions with the Chief Electoral Officer of New Brunswick indicate that this system works well and is something worth considering.

Discussions with Yvette Gonzales, Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Communities, indicate that while this idea has some merit, much groundwork will be required before implementation. Specifically, municipal governments want to ensure their authority and independence are not undermined and any amendments to the *Local Authorities Elections Act* will not be made without their input.

Implementation will require renovations to the existing Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, as well as a transfer

of resources and additional personnel. It would also require amendments to the *Local Authorities Elections Act*.

Investigations

Due to the very public nature of an electoral event complaints and suggestions will be made. While some may view the number and nature of these as a negative reflection that necessitates amendments to legislation, administration or both, it can also be seen as a good indicator of the degree to which citizens are involved in the electoral process. It allows the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer and the electorate to appreciate that the election process is not just a five-minute voting opportunity once every four years.

In the 2007 election, most of the issues raised did not constitute an offence under the *Elections Act*. However, a few required further investigation. More education and awareness activities about the electoral process may be needed to reduce the number of tenuous complaints.

Section 279 of the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* allows the Chief Electoral Officer to investigate any matter that comes to his or her attention. The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer undertook two formal investigations following the 2007 general election.

Investigation - Monfwi

On October 10, 2007, the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer received a written complaint alleging that Diavik Diamond Mines Inc. contravened various sections of the *Elections and Plebiscites Act*. At issue was a fax sent from the Diavik Mine site on polling day urging electors in the Monfwi riding to vote for a specific candidate and casting aspersions on the other candidate and a Chief of one of the Tlicho communities.

The Chief Electoral Officer reviewed the complaint and authorized an independent investigator to conduct further inquiries into the matter and provide a written report of his findings. The investigator was authorized to conduct interviews with those persons identified in the complaint and any others who may have had knowledge of the allegations.

The investigator reported that he was unable to identify either the author of the fax or the name of the individual who sent it. Although the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* gives the Chief Electoral Officer an avenue to investigate matters, it does not provide for any repercussions or alternatives if an individual refuses to cooperate with the

investigation. As a result, the Chief Electoral Officer agreed with the investigator that no further avenues of investigation were open to pursue. The complainant was advised that no further action could be taken and the file was closed.

The cost of this investigation was \$2,200.

Investigation - Yellowknife Centre

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer received a letter on October 23, 2007, that outlined several perceived irregularities in the electoral process in Yellowknife Centre. The letter also contained observations and several recommendations regarding election administration.

The author questioned the procedure for swearing-in electors at the poll and requested an investigation into whether there was malfeasance and collusion associated with the swearing in of voters in the Yellowknife Center riding. The complainant requested an audit of the eligibility and residency of those sworn in.

Another of the author's concern related to improper conduct of a candidate and one of his polling agents at the polling station for the Yellowknife Centre riding.

The Chief Electoral Officer reviewed the complaint and authorized an independent investigator to conduct further inquiries into these two concerns and provide a written report of his findings. The investigator was authorized to conduct interviews with those persons identified in the complaint and any others who may have had knowledge of the allegations.

The investigator provided a written report and, upon review, there was no evidence that any sections of the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* were contravened. The matter was closed with no further action being taken. However, a number of solid recommendations follow from the investigation, notably suggested amendments to the *Elections and Plebiscites Act*, enhanced training for elections staff and an examination of the policy surrounding voter identification.

The cost of this investigation was \$4,000.

Complaints and concerns

Pre-Election Expense Period

Many prospective candidates inquired about the timing of the pre-election period and allowable expenses during that time.

When the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* was revised in 2006, the pre-election period was shortened from six months to three months. Candidates are allowed to spend a total of \$30,000 during the campaign. This includes any amount paid during the pre-election period.

Start Date for Campaigning

Several members of the public complained that candidates were putting up signs, advertising and campaigning door-to-door prior to the issue of the Writs.

The *Elections and Plebiscites Act* does not specify when campaigning may begin. There is nothing in the Act that prohibits campaigning prior to the beginning of the election period.

Submission of Nomination Forms by Fax

Several candidates inquired about sending nomination papers to the Returning Officer by fax. All were informed that the original nomination paper had to be submitted by either the candidate or the official agent.

Eligibility Requirements for Candidates

Several members of the public thought people with criminal records should not be allowed to run as candidates. The *Elections and Plebiscites Act* does not prohibit people with criminal records from running for office.

Other members of the public expressed their concerns that a candidate did not meet the residency requirement of one year in the Northwest Territories prior to the submission of nomination papers. The candidate in question declared in the nomination paper that all eligibility criteria were met. No complainants were willing to put their concerns in writing to the Chief Electoral Officer, so the complaint was not pursued.

Access to Apartment Buildings

Although section 99 of the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* allows candidates access to a multiple dwelling building, there were reports in Yellowknife from candidates and residents that access was being denied or limited in certain apartments.

As one resident in a building that was not allowing candidate access said "It is a violation of the *Elections Act*

and is an infringement upon my right to meet the candidates and make an informed choice in the upcoming election."

The Chief Electoral Officer wrote to all apartment building owners to explain that the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* requires that candidates have access to apartment buildings. One building owner said that as long as someone in the building let a candidate in, they complied with the spirit and intent of the Act. Given that candidates were given access, albeit not proper access, and because the building owner refused to deal further with Elections NWT on this matter, nothing further was done with this building owner. However, an amendment to this section of the Act is required for clarification.

Campaign Signs

There were numerous complaints about candidates' campaign signs. Some members of the public felt that there were too many signs and that some of them were too big. The *Elections and Plebiscites Act* does not address either the number or size of signs.

Complaints were received from candidates and the public that the proper sponsorship notation was not placed or visible on some signs. As one elector said, "I'm 60 years old, I shouldn't have to be crawling around on my hands and knees to look for who paid for the sign."

The *Elections and Plebiscites Act* requires that every sign carry the name of the person authorizing the publication. This is for reasons of transparency and accountability.

Several candidates complained that their signs had been stolen or vandalized, although none had any evidence of who was responsible for the damage or theft. In response to these complaints, the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer posted notices on all the community television channels reminding citizens that tampering with election material is an offence. In severe cases, the candidates were advised to contact the RCMP.

Candidate Assisted Voter to Mark Ballot

One newspaper ran a story about a candidate assisting a voter to mark her ballot during voting in an Office of the Returning Officer. Subsequent suggestions have been received that an amendment should be made to the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* prohibiting this type of action.

The *Elections and Plebiscites Act* provides for an incapacitated voter to be assisted in marking his or her ballot by a friend or relative over the age of 18 years. The voter must take an oath allowing the person of their choice to assist them. The person assisting is also required to take an oath. The *Act* does not prohibit candidates from assisting voters.

Declined Ballots

Two electors were concerned that the poll book was marked to indicate they had declined their ballots. Since candidates' polling agents are permitted to view the poll book, they felt the secrecy of their decision to decline the ballot was compromised.

The *Elections and Plebiscites Act* specifically requires that "declined to vote" be recorded in the poll book.

Voting Opportunities in Communities without a Returning Officer

One candidate felt that voting opportunities should be the same in all communities within an electoral district. He suggested that the 10 days of voting in the office of the Returning Officer gives an unfair advantage to candidates who live in the same community as the Returning Officer.

Each electoral district has one Returning Officer, usually located in the largest community. Voting in the office of the Returning Officer demands high levels of safeguards to ensure the security of the ballot box and the integrity of the voting process during the extended period that voting is open.

The Legislative Assembly, when it enacted the current law, considered this issue. To provide exactly the same voting opportunities in each community would require a Returning Officer for every community with the associated office and administrative costs. It would be expensive and would require an amendment to the current *Act*.

Sign Erected Near Polling Station on Polling Day

A candidate erected a sign on polling day within 100 metres of a polling station. This action is contrary to the *Elections and Plebiscite Act* and the candidate was asked to remove the sign. The candidate refused and the Returning Officer arranged to have the sign removed.

Recommendations

The point of having an election is to let the public decide who will act as its voice. Facilitating a fair and transparent process without onerous administrative regulations is essential. The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer is mandated to administer the election, not to make decisions based on someone's moral or personal judgment. Likewise, any changes to the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* should not be made lightly, or in a reactionary effort post-election. It should remain beyond the scope of the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* to be amended or have sections added simply as a reaction to judgments or actions made during the election period. If legislators increase restrictions to running, campaigning and voting, then the election becomes not a forum for decision and debate but a litany of rules and regulations.

The changes to the act recommended in this report are made after considerable and thoughtful evaluation of their causes and are designed to streamline and facilitate the election process, rather than for the purpose of imposing additional restrictions on voters or candidates.

The Chief Electoral Officer recommends the following amendments.

These recommendations outline changes to general election rules and guidelines that would provide direction but still allow candidates, participants and the Chief Electoral Officer some latitude in action and circumstances.

1. Campaigning

Concern:

The prohibition against placing campaign material within 100 metres of a polling station on polling day creates problems because it includes places 100 metres above ground and places that are not visible to voters attending the polling station. It also applies to places such as a corridor several stories up in the same building as the polling station or a house behind the polling station building.

This section creates confusion for campaign offices located near Returning Offices and polling stations. In a small community, there may be no place for a campaign office except within 100 metres of the polling station, or the campaign office may have been rented before the polling station was chosen.

Relevant Sections: 102(1) & (4), 103(1)(a), 298(2)(a)

Recommendation:

- Reduce the prohibition to within 25 metres of sight of the entrances to a polling station.
- Authorize the Chief Electoral Officer to permit a campaign office to be located within 25 metres if there are extenuating circumstances, e.g. the campaign office was rented first or the community has no other available location for the office.

Concern:

The prohibition against campaigning within 100 metres of a polling station does not apply to voting in the office of the Returning Officer.

Relevant Section: 103

Recommendation:

- Amend the Act to make the prohibition against campaigning within 25 metres of polling stations apply to the office of the Returning Officer.
- Authorize the Chief Electoral Officer to make exceptions where the office of the Returning Officer is close to residences where legitimate campaigning may take place.

Concern:

The prohibition against placing campaign material within 100 metres of a polling station on polling day is ambiguous with respect to time. A person who places material before polling day may argue that nothing was illegally placed on polling day.

Relevant Section: 103(1)(a)

Recommendation:

- Amend Section 103(1)(a) to make it clear that this applies to placing campaign material before the advance and regular polling days.

Concern:

The Act requires a sponsor to be identified on all campaign material. However, individual interpretations of this section have led to confusion and problems during the campaign period. Some candidates attempted to get around the requirement by putting the sponsor notation on the back of a sign or making it too small to be legible.

Relevant Section: 101(1)

Recommendation:

- Amend the Act to require that sponsorship information be clearly visible and legible.

Concern:

There is no provision to allow a Returning Officer to remove illegal signs that do not have sponsorship information.

Relevant Sections: 102(4), 103(3)

Recommendation:

- Amend the Act to give the Returning Officer power to remove illegal campaign material including material that does not have proper sponsorship information.

Concern:

Although Returning Officers may remove campaign material placed on polling days, they cannot charge the reasonable cost of removal to the candidate who failed to remove the material.

Relevant Sections: 102(4); 103(3)

Recommendation:

- Allow removal costs to be charged to a candidate.
- Create a sanction for failure to pay the costs of removal.

Concern:

People who control access to a multiple dwelling site have argued they are not obliged to make special arrangements to allow candidates to campaign in the building, but merely allow a candidate to buzz each resident of the building.

Relevant Section: 99

Recommendation:

- Make it clear that the owner or manager of the building bears the responsibility to provide access to multiple dwelling sites.
- Make it clear that the owner or manager of the building must personally and actively provide a reasonable opportunity for candidates to enter the building.

2. Illegal Practices and Corrupt Practices

Concern:

The Act characterizes offences as "illegal practices", "corrupt practices" or doesn't characterize them at all. These distinctions no longer serve a useful purpose and lead to confusion.

Relevant Sections: 79(2) & (3): 324-350

Recommendation:

- The Act should be amended to remove the distinction of "illegal practice" and "corrupt practice" among election and plebiscite offences and simply refer to "election offences".

Concern:

The Act provides different disqualification periods for conviction of an "illegal" or "corrupt" practice. There is a five-year disqualification period for conviction for an illegal practice and seven years for conviction for a corrupt practice. Because these penalties breach section 3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, they must be justified under section 1 of the *Charter*. In the case of *Harvey v. New Brunswick (Attorney General)*, the Supreme Court of Canada considered whether a provision of the *New Brunswick Elections Act*, which prohibited a person convicted of an illegal practice from running as a candidate for five years from the date of the conviction, was a breach of section 3 of the *Charter*. The court held that a five-year prohibition was reasonable, but left in doubt the question of whether a longer period of ineligibility would be justified.

Relevant Sections: 79(2) & (3)

Recommendation:

- Amend the Act to provide a standard disqualification period up to five years for conviction of any offence under the Act.

Concern:

The Act states that an elector and a candidate be ineligible if the person is disqualified from voting under any law of Canada, a province or a territory relating to the disqualification of electors for "corrupt" or "illegal practices". This reference does not specify who can

disqualify the person, at what time and for how long. It is also difficult to enforce. There is no consistency between jurisdictions, and some jurisdictions do not make the distinction between illegal and corrupt practices. It is also not clear if plebiscite offences are included and checking for a conviction record for every voter is not possible.

The right to vote, unlike the eligibility to be a candidate, should not be removed for offences committed in another jurisdiction.

Relevant Sections: 37(3)(b), 79(4)(b)

Recommendation:

- Remove the disqualification with respect to voting in paragraph 37(3)(b).
- Amend s. 79(4)(b) to refer to being disqualified from voting or being a candidate under the laws of another jurisdiction in Canada.

3. Residency Requirements

Concern:

To be eligible to vote or run as a candidate, the *Act* requires a person to establish a residence in the Northwest Territories and to have lived here for a period of at least one year. The current one-year period of residency precludes bona fide residents from voting or running as a candidate, even if they have established a permanent residence in the Northwest Territories. It disenfranchises people from participating in the electoral process. The one year requirement is inconsistent with eligibility for other NWT government services such as health care, which are available after three months. As mentioned under the ROTE heading, it also creates difficulties in maintaining a register of electors due to the discrepancy in residency requirements between jurisdictions.

Students, workers and others leaving the Northwest Territories for temporary purposes are granted special provisions to prevent the loss of residency.

Relevant Sections: 2; 37(2)(c); 79(3)(c)

Recommendation:

- Reduce the residency requirement to three months.

Concern:

Workers who perform short-term shift work in the Northwest

Territories may be able to claim residency despite their possession of a residence outside the Northwest Territories.

Relevant Section: 2

Recommendation:

- Add a provision to make it clear that workers who are only resident in the Northwest Territories for regular short-term periods do not acquire residency for election purposes.

4. Polling Stations

Concern:

The list of persons allowed to be present at a polling station or during a judicial recount is very specific and includes the Chief or Deputy Chief Electoral Officer but not a designate of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Relevant Sections: 170, 210(3)

Recommendation:

- Amend the *Act* to allow a designate of the Chief Electoral Officer to be present at a polling station and a recount.

Concern:

The *Act* currently allows both a candidate and one of his or her polling agents to remain inside a polling station during polling and attend the counting of the votes.

Relevant Sections: 170(h)

Recommendation:

- The *Act* should be amended to provide that only one person for each candidate OR the candidate himself may remain at the polling station and the count. This person can be either the candidate or a polling agent appointed by the candidate.

Concern:

Candidates who attend a polling station are not required to take an oath or affirmation not to interfere with the conduct of the poll, while polling agents are required to take one before entry into the polling station is allowed.

Relevant Section: 126(2)(b)

Recommendation:

- Require candidates to take the same oath as polling agents when attending a poll.

5. Chief Electoral Officer

Concern:

The Act currently provides for a four-year term of office for the Chief Electoral Officer. This term does not allow a Chief Electoral Officer to administer more than one general election and thus does not provide for continuity of experience in office. In addition, a Chief Electoral Officer who is appointed for only one election at a time could be subject to political pressure because he or she does not have sufficient independence of office. All but two other jurisdictions in Canada provide for either a term of office of at least seven years or no specific limit to the term of office.

Relevant Section: 5(2)

Recommendation:

- Provide a term of office for the Chief Electoral Officer of seven years, with the possibility of re-appointment.

Concern:

The Chief Electoral Officer does not have the right to vote. This prohibition breaches section 3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Relevant Section: 37(3)(a)

Recommendation:

- Amend s. 37(3)(a) leaving the right to vote up to the Chief Electoral Officer.

6. Privacy of Voter Information

Concern:

The Act provides a special procedure for electors who wish to decline a ballot. This information is recorded in the poll book. However, this does not protect the secrecy of the elector's choice as the written record makes it possible for a candidate to discover whether an elector declined to vote.

Relevant Section: 188(3)

Recommendation:

- Delete s. 188(3).

7. Nomination Papers

Concern:

The nomination process is unnecessarily complicated. Elections Canada and Elections Nunavut have removed the nomination process for candidates in federal and Nunavut elections and replaced it with a much simpler system of a declaration of candidacy.

The Royal Commission on Electoral Reform and Party Financing stated that the current nomination process, which goes back almost to Confederation, was a method used in the past to ensure that a candidate had some local support and to prevent frivolous candidates. However, the \$200 deposit already acts as some deterrent in this regard. Democracy is for everyone and there is little risk that this abuse of the electoral process will occur. An Elections Canada report in 2001, *Modernizing the Electoral Process*, recommended that the nomination process should be a purely administrative matter. It should indicate the desire of the person to be a candidate, provide the necessary information and include a deposit.

If the Northwest Territories were to follow this recommendation, it would mean removing the need for 15 nominators and witnesses from the nomination process. It would also remove the need to have the names and contact information for these people and the declarations of each person who witnessed a signature on the nomination paper.

Since the value of the requirement is nominal at best and probably no longer directly related to the prospect of success, it serves little purpose except to present an administrative burden on a candidate and the Returning Officer in reviewing the adequacy of the nomination papers.

Relevant Sections: 80, 81

Recommendations:

- Replace the current process with a simpler administrative process where people declare themselves candidates and swear an oath stating they meet the eligibility requirements.

- All other requirements for becoming a candidate would remain.
- Replace all references to the current nomination process in the *Act* and regulations with the new declaration process.

8. Voting Opportunities

Concern:

Currently, the *Act* only allows a person to request a mobile poll in the case of a disability. However, there are other reasons why a mobile poll may be reasonable, e.g. to accommodate persons in a hospital or nursing home. Mobile polls could also be used to service remote locations like mining sites.

Relevant Section: 138(1)

Recommendation:

- Amend the *Act* to allow mobile polls to service hospitals, nursing homes, remote locations and people confined to their residences because of illness.
- Amend the *Act* to allow the Chief Electoral Officer to establish mobile polls in major airports for the convenience of voters in transit from different electoral districts.

Concern:

The *Act* allows a Returning Officer, with the approval of the Chief Electoral Officer, to establish an advance poll in a community having a population less than 500 people. This does not allow enough lead time for Elections NWT to have ballots printed and materials sent to the community requesting the advance poll.

Relevant Section: 152

Recommendation:

- Amend the *Act* so that the authority to establish an advance poll rests with the Chief Electoral Officer, not the Returning Officer.

9. Financial

Concern:

The requirement for the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to be notified of the financial reporting status of all

candidates is outdated and unnecessary. This requirement is a holdover from the *NWT Elections Act*. The Clerk need only be notified on the status of Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Relevant Sections: 261(1) and (2)

Recommendation:

- Amend s. 261(1) to remove the word “candidate” and replace with “Member of the Legislative Assembly”.
- Amend s. 261(2) to remove the word “candidate” and replace with “Member of the Legislative Assembly”.

Concern:

The sections dealing with the requirement to file a financial report are too vague to adequately deal with such an important issue.

Relevant Section: s.256-264, s.333

Recommendation:

The timeframes for filing and providing further information need to be tightened up, the section surrounding sitting members needs to be clarified and a civil remedy should be considered as a first step before prosecution.

10. Housekeeping Amendments

Concern:

There are various places in the *Act* where repetition and minor or typographical errors should be corrected.

Recommendation:

Delete the redundant word “premises” from Section 102(1). The definition of “polling station” already includes the concept of premises.

Concerns:

1. Subsection 38(1) does not clearly set out that an elector has the right to vote for candidates for the electoral district in which he or she is ordinarily resident.
2. Subsection 38(2) relates to the timing of eligibility of an elector as a Canadian citizen. It refers to Subsection

38(1), but does not relate to the right of electors to vote or be on a list of electors. Instead it appears to refer to subsection 37(1).

3. Subsections 38(3), (4) and (5), which require a person to be ordinarily resident in the Northwest Territories or district on the day he or she casts a vote, appears to be more related to eligibility as an elector.

Relevant Section: 38

Recommendations:

- Revise s. 38(1) to make it clear that an elector has the right to vote guaranteed by s. 3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
- Move s. 38(2) into s. 37.
- Consider whether s. 38(3), (4) and (5) relate to disqualification from voting and thus should be moved into s. 37.

Moving Forward

Elections are about making ideas and opinions heard. They are about participating in the democratic process that is the right of residents of the Northwest Territories. Elections are a very public, very important facet of democracy. People involved in an election often become emotionally invested. That level of participation needs to be supported as it encourages voter turnout and ensures people are taking advantage of their democratic right.

Because elections occur every four years, the *NWT Elections and Plebiscite Act* lags behind changing technology and new ideas. Four years ago, websites and social networking discussion boards for promoting and advertising candidates and the election were not options that were largely considered and the *Act* does not address their usage. However, during the current election, a number of candidates used these types of sites, and Elections Ontario used them in their recent election to promote voting opportunities. People evolve, circumstances change and new ideas and creative ways for engaging voters are constantly being developed. Elections NWT must change as well to maintain its relevance in today's society.

This year, Elections NWT will undertake an environmental scan of where it currently sits in terms of technology, event preparation, election processes, legislative requirements and day-to-day business delivery requirements. From this scan, Elections NWT will create a three-year strategic plan, identifying measurable goals and detailed deliverables that will take us forward into the next election.

Some of these deliverables may include:

- increased voter education programs,
- a broader communications strategy,
- improving the hiring and training structure for election staff at all levels,
- amendments to legislation,
- a review of voting and election processes, and
- installing technology that will assist in improving the efficiency and accuracy of electoral information.

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer remains committed to educating, informing and empowering all eligible electors and candidates in the Northwest Territories to exercise their democratic right accorded to them in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* so that they may participate fully in the election process.

Votes Cast by Electoral District

Electoral District	Polling Stations	Rejected Ballots	Declined Ballots	Total Votes (including rejected and declined)	Electors on List	Voter Turn-out
Deh Cho	Acclamation					
Frame Lake	6	6	0	694	1,533	45.27%
Great Slave	5	1	3	771	1,359	56.73%
Hay River North	5	2	0	845	1,242	68.04%
Hay River South	4	16	1	834	1,078	77.37%
Inuvik Boot Lake	Acclamation					
Inuvik Twin Lakes	3	1	1	569	604	94.21%
Kam Lake	6	6	2	615	1,227	50.12%
Mackenzie Delta	5	1	2	602	985	61.12%
Monfwi	9	13	2	1,089	1,645	66.20%
Nahendeh	10	2	0	894	1,569	56.98%
Nunakput	5	18	0	650	914	71.12%
Range Lake	7	3	0	777	1,491	52.11%
Sahtu	Acclamation					
Thebacha	7	13	0	1,185	1,422	83.33%
Tu Nedhe	3	1	0	478	526	90.87%
Weledeh	7	2	1	1,212	1,513	80.11%
Yellowknife Centre	7	12	0	933	1,521	61.34%
Yellowknife South	6	2	1	877	1,529	57.36%
Totals	95	99	13	13,025	20,232	67.02%

Note: Polling stations include advance polls in Aklavik, Wha'ti and Fort Liard, as well as all special voting opportunities.

Votes Cast by Method of Voting

Electoral District	Voting in the Office	%	Special Ballot	%	Special Mobile	%	Advance Poll	%	Polling Day	%	Total Votes	Voter Turnout
Deh Cho	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frame Lake	112	16.14%	11	1.59%	0	0.00%	-	-	571	82.28%	694	45.27%
Great Slave	167	21.66%	12	1.56%	0	0.00%	-	-	592	76.78%	771	56.73%
Hay River North	91	10.77%	20	2.37%	11	1.30%	-	-	723	85.56%	845	68.04%
Hay River South	192	23.02%	26	3.12%	0	0.00%	-	-	616	73.86%	834	77.37%
Inuvik Boot Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inuvik Twin Lakes	64	11.25%	0	0.00%	7	1.23%	-	-	498	87.52%	569	94.21%
Kam Lake	92	14.96%	5	0.81%	0	0.00%	-	-	518	84.23%	615	50.12%
Mackenzie Delta	21	3.49%	1	0.17%	10	1.66%	10	1.66%	560	93.02%	602	61.12%
Monfwi	19	1.74%	22	2.02%	0	0.00%	3	0.28%	1,045	95.96%	1,089	66.20%
Nahendeh	65	7.27%	29	3.24%	32	3.58%	37	4.14%	731	81.77%	894	56.98%
Nunakput	11	1.69%	6	0.92%	0	0.00%	-	-	633	97.38%	650	71.12%
Range Lake	107	13.77%	11	1.42%	0	0.00%	-	-	659	84.81%	777	52.11%
Sahtu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thebacha	354	29.87%	28	2.36%	0	0.00%	-	-	803	67.76%	1,185	83.33%
Tu Nedhe	71	14.85%	10	2.09%	0	0.00%	-	-	397	83.05%	478	90.87%
Weledeh	218	17.99%	38	3.14%	0	0.00%	-	-	956	78.88%	1,212	80.11%
Yellowknife Centre	212	22.72%	31	3.32%	11	1.18%	-	-	679	72.78%	933	61.34%
Yellowknife South	94	10.72%	14	1.60%	0	0.00%	-	-	769	87.69%	877	57.36%
Totals	1,890	13.87%	264	1.86%	71	0.56%	50	0.38%	10,750	83.33%	13,025	67.02%

Summary of Candidates' Financial Reports

Permitted limit of contributions - \$30,000.00
 Permitted limit of expenses - \$30,000.00
 Contributions - includes money, services and property.
 Election expenses - any amounts paid or liabilities incurred during the pre-election and campaign periods, and includes any contribution of services or property.
 * elected or acclaimed candidate
 ** report under review
 *** candidate failed to file

Electoral District of
Deh Cho

Candidate	McLEOD* Michael V.
Official Agent	Villeneuve Joyce M.
Contributions	\$2,438.29
Election Expenses	\$1,538.29
Unpaid Expenses	NIL
Total Election Expenses	\$1,538.29
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$900.00

Electoral District of
Frame Lake

Candidate	BISARO* Wendy	GROENEWEGEN Jeff	JOHNSTON Chris
Official Agent	Malakoe Garth	Wallington Kevin	Arychuk Sheila
Contributions	\$11,834.89	\$3,158.00	\$18,500.00
Election Expenses	\$20,812.99	\$3,161.52	\$26,327.53
Unpaid Expenses	NIL	NIL	NIL
Total Election Expenses	\$20,812.99	\$3,161.52	\$26,327.53
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$8,978.10)	(\$3.52)	(\$7,827.53)

Electoral District of
Great Slave

Candidate	ABERNETHY* Glen	BOGAN*** Mark	HUNT Christopher	MacKENZIE Beaton	RITCHIE Doug
Official Agent	Bauhaus Bernie	Prichard David	Eirkson Jim	MacKenzie James	Cooke Lindsay Ann
Contributions	\$16,670.00		\$2,719.52	\$500.00	\$12,505.68
Election Expenses	\$13,434.06		\$2,719.52	\$7,058.36	\$19,707.67
Unpaid Expenses	NIL		NIL	NIL	NIL
Total Election Expenses	\$13,434.06		\$2,719.52	\$7,058.36	\$19,707.67
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$3,235.94			(\$6,558.36)	(\$7,201.99)

Electoral District of
Hay River North

Candidate	DELOREY* Paul	McKAY Vince
Official Agent	Fizer Janet-Marie	Lake Colleen
Contributions	\$11,768.73	\$9,412.93
Election Expenses	\$11,768.73	\$9,436.32
Unpaid Expenses	NIL	NIL
Total Election Expenses	\$11,768.73	\$9,436.32
Surplus/(Deficit)		(\$23.39)

Electoral District of
Hay River South

Candidate	GROENEWEGEN* Jane	McMEEKIN Greg	MILTENBERGER Marc
Official Agent	Morgan Wendy	Biggin Bruce	Gammon Paul
Contributions	\$13,100.00	NIL	\$21,150.00
Election Expenses	\$19,434.46	NIL	\$24,242.88
Unpaid Expenses	NIL	NIL	NIL
Total Election Expenses	\$19,434.46	NIL	\$24,242.88
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$6,334.46)		(\$3,092.88)

Electoral District of
Inuvik Boot Lake

Candidate	ROLAND* Floyd
Official Agent	Cockney Linda
Contributions	NIL
Election Expenses	NIL
Unpaid Expenses	NIL
Total Election Expenses	NIL
Surplus/(Deficit)	

Electoral District of
Inuvik Twin Lakes

Candidate	KURSZEWski Denise	McLEOD* Robert C.
Official Agent	Baxter Diane	MacLeod Veronica
Contributions	\$7,200.00	\$5,950.00
Election Expenses	\$8,627.05	\$4,870.39
Unpaid Expenses	NIL	NIL
Total Election Expenses	\$8,627.05	\$4,870.39
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$1,427.05)	\$1,079.61

Electoral District of
Kam Lake

Candidate	ENGE** Brad	RAMSAY * Dave
Official Agent	Woodside Trystan	Anstey Brad
Contributions	\$13,350.00	
Election Expenses	\$13,071.76	
Unpaid Expenses		NIL
Total Election Expenses	\$13,071.76	
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$278.24	

Electoral District of
Mackenzie Delta

Candidate	CLARK Mary	KRUTKO* David M.	ROBERT Donald
Official Agent	Blake Norma	Wright Liz	Francis Kendra J.
Contributions	\$750.00	\$4,000.00	\$350.00
Election Expenses	\$1,152.84	\$2,426.61	\$1,055.41
Unpaid Expenses	NIL	NIL	\$2,745.40
Total Election Expenses	\$1,152.84	\$2,426.61	\$3,800.81
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$402.84)	\$1,573.39	(\$3,450.81)

Electoral District of
Monfwi

Candidate	LAFFERTY * Jackson	ZOE Henry
Official Agent	MacPherson Morven	Plourde Rachel
Contributions	\$13,368.93	\$4,630.00
Election Expenses	\$13,368.93	\$4,629.93
Unpaid Expenses	NIL	NIL
Total Election Expenses	\$13,368.93	\$4,629.93
Surplus/(Deficit)		\$0.07

Summary of Candidates' Financial Reports

Electoral District of
Nahendeh

Candidate	HANNA Bob	HOPE Arnold	MENICOCHÉ* Kevin	NORWEGIAN*** Keyna
Official Agent	Hanna Ryan	Lafferty Lisa	Whelly Sean	Wright Rosa
Contributions	\$300.00	NIL	\$17,036.93	
Election Expenses	\$2,929.51	\$2,624.43	\$18,614.49	
Unpaid Expenses	NIL	NIL	\$10,199.00	
Total Election Expenses	\$2,929.51	\$2,624.43	\$28,813.49	
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$2,629.51)	(\$2,624.43)	(\$11,776.56)	

Electoral District of
Nunakput

Candidate	DILLON*** Eddie T.	JACOBSON* Jackie	POKIAK Calvin Patrick	TEDDY Vince J.
Official Agent	Nogasak-Thrasher Jackie	Jacobson Jenny	Kikoak Tina Rita	Wolki Emma
Contributions		\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$800.00
Election Expenses		\$20,186.17	\$1,470.21	\$1,196.00
Unpaid Expenses		NIL	NIL	NIL
Total Election Expenses		\$20,186.17	\$1,470.21	\$1,196.00
Surplus/(Deficit)		(\$18,686.17)	(\$470.21)	(\$396.00)

Electoral District of
Range Lake

Candidate	GERAGHTY Ashley A.	LEE * Sandy
Official Agent	Black Deanna	Theil Abe
Contributions	\$2,850.00	\$17,102.93
Election Expenses	\$9,754.67	\$17,816.60
Unpaid Expenses	NIL	NIL
Total Election Expenses	\$9,754.67	\$17,816.60
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$6,904.67)	(\$ 713.67)

Electoral District of
Sahtu

Candidate	YAKELEYA* Norman
Official Agent	Yakeleya Cheryl
Contributions	\$3,576.52
Election Expenses	\$2,867.90
Unpaid Expenses	NIL
Total Election Expenses	\$2,867.90
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$708.62

Electoral District of
Thebacha

Candidate	MARIE-JEWELL Jeannie	MARTSELOS Peter	MILTENBERGER* J. Michael
Official Agent	Masson Gordon	Olsen Earl J.	Yuhis Denise
Contributions	\$2,410.00	\$6,475.00	\$6,300.00
Election Expenses	\$2,415.00	\$6,472.91	\$5,598.13
Unpaid Expenses	NIL	NIL	NIL
Total Election Expenses	\$2,415.00	\$6,472.91	\$5,598.13
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$5.00)	\$2.09	\$701.87

Electoral District of
Tu Nedhe

Candidate	BEAULIEU* Tom	BUTLER Andrew	ELLIS Steve	McPHERSON James W.	SIMON*** Raymond	VILLENEUVE*** Bobby J.
Official Agent	Froude Sue	Sanderson Jerry	Poole Stephanie	Hunter Stan K.	Bjornson Emilie	McKay Angela
Contributions	\$6,435.00	\$1,187.54	\$6,240.00	NIL		
Election Expenses	\$6,435.98	\$1,189.32	\$5,956.21	\$2,198.39		
Unpaid Expenses	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL		
Total Election Expenses	\$6,435.98	\$1,189.32	\$5,956.21	\$2,198.39		
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$0.98)	(\$1.78)	\$283.79	(\$2,198.39)		

Electoral District of
Weledeh

Candidate	BROMLEY* Bob	MORIN Carol	SANGRIS Jonas	WONG Andy
Official Agent	Dundas-Matthews Louise	Rasmussen Blake	Beaulieu Darrell	Robertson Randy
Contributions	\$22,858.88	\$6,510.55	\$15,986.71	\$19,020.00
Election Expenses	\$22,858.88	\$8,661.42	\$15,986.41	\$19,020.00
Unpaid Expenses	NIL	\$1,015.50	NIL	NIL
Total Election Expenses	\$22,858.88	\$9,676.92	\$15,986.41	\$19,020.00
Surplus/(Deficit)		(\$3,166.37)	\$0.30	

Electoral District of
Yellowknife Centre

Candidate	GLOWACH** Sue	HAWKINS* Robert	MCDONALD Ben	SUTHERLAND Bryan
Official Agent	Clowes Tara	Summerfield Coady	Brockman Aggie	Yamada Miki
Contributions		\$24,100.00	\$17,411.11	\$4,640.51
Election Expenses		\$24,185.79	\$24,136.02	\$4,640.51
Unpaid Expenses		NIL	NIL	NIL
Total Election Expenses		\$24,185.79	\$24,136.02	\$4,640.51
Surplus/(Deficit)		(\$85.79)	(\$6,724.91)	

Electoral District of
Yellowknife South

Candidate	COCHRANE*** Garrett	HACALA Amy	McLEOD* Bob
Official Agent	Nabi Syed Payam	More-Curran Jugjit	Heron-Herbert Sue
Contributions		\$19,850.00	\$13,552.00
Election Expenses		\$26,157.71	\$24,844.42
Unpaid Expenses		NIL	NIL
Total Election Expenses		\$26,157.71	\$24,844.42
Surplus/(Deficit)		(\$6,307.71)	(\$11,292.42)

Actual and Projected Cost of the 2007 General Election

Electoral District	Salaries		Travel	Materials & Supplies	Services	Rentals	Total
	RO Fees	Other Fees					
Deh Cho	5,230.13	2,489.17	2,459.57	54.00	476.98	2,310.00	13,019.85
Frame Lake	9,488.38	13,226.54	-	43.87	502.06	2,200.00	25,460.85
Great Slave	8,773.64	10,280.09	-	50.66	332.61	2,500.00	21,937.00
Hay River North	8,986.45	6,178.06	2,593.17	293.87	925.49	1,455.00	20,432.04
Hay River South	8,304.63	9,971.00	2,524.20	68.26	764.11	1,405.00	23,037.20
Inuvik Boot Lake	6,172.43	4,069.18	3,690.67	43.87	999.01	1,125.00	16,100.16
Inuvik Twin Lakes	9,581.93	7,837.67	5,001.49	43.87	2,049.84	3,885.00	28,399.80
Kam Lake	8,270.62	10,520.85	-	100.42	501.80	2,584.60	21,978.29
Mackenzie Delta	7,351.52	7,495.99	4,685.54	43.87	3,487.14	3,675.48	26,739.54
Monfwi	7,439.93	10,257.16	1,997.80	43.87	1,600.27	7,400.00	28,739.03
Nahendeh	8,705.50	14,050.73	4,325.97	224.08	4,684.85	5,170.00	37,161.13
Nunakput	7,798.67	8,895.63	5,810.92	48.87	3,016.02	4,599.75	30,169.86
Range Lake	8,957.41	13,627.29	-	66.39	472.05	2,200.00	25,323.14
Sahtu	6,395.97	5,309.81	3,997.06	138.86	1,199.23	3,000.00	20,040.93
Thebacha	8,879.64	3,326.21	4,062.68	117.98	1,387.92	2,100.00	29,874.43
Tu Nedhe	6,700.97	6,842.14	4,099.78	43.87	2,637.68	2,100.00	22,424.44
Weledeh	8,870.36	14,034.17	78.00	51.33	1,317.91	3,324.00	27,675.77
Yellowknife Centre	9,572.10	12,662.66	5.00	120.69	519.66	2,500.00	25,380.11
Yellowknife South	8,532.69	12,223.84	-	98.54	417.20	2,200.00	23,472.27
Sub Total	154,012.97	183,298.19	45,331.85	1,697.17	27,291.83	55,733.83	467,365.84
C.E.O Office	201,515.00	-	-	34,624.04	236,646.91	-	472,785.95
Total	355,527.97	183,298.19	45,331.85	36,321.21	263,938.74	55,733.83	940,151.79