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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
9<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY, 3<sup>RD</sup> SESSION**

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**REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER**

**TO THE  
COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
ON THE NINTH GENERAL ELECTION,  
OCTOBER 1, 1979**

**Pursuant to subsection 57(1) of the  
Northwest Territories *Elections Ordinance, 1978***



The Chief Electoral Officer  
Le Directeur général des élections

OTTAWA, Ontario K1A 0M6  
March 21, 1980

Mr. John H. Parker,  
Commissioner of the Northwest Territories,  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2L9

Dear Commissioner Parker:

In accordance with subsection 57(1) of the Northwest Territories Elections Ordinance, I submit herewith my report on the administration of the Ordinance and, more particularly, on the general election held on October 1, 1979.

In view of the fact that this was the first election to be conducted under the provisions of the Elections Ordinance, 1978, a number of modifications to the Ordinance would seem to be in order, the more significant of which are mentioned in this report for possible future consideration by the Legislative Assembly.

Yours sincerely,

J.-M. Hamel

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## I- MAIN EVENTS SINCE 1975 GENERAL ELECTION

### Enactment of Elections Ordinance, 1978

In October 1978 the Legislative Assembly adopted an Ordinance Respecting the Franchise of Electors and the Election of Members to the Council of the Northwest Territories, also referred to as the Elections Ordinance. The Ordinance was assented to on October 27, 1978, its passage having been made possible by an amendment to the Northwest Territories Act which had been passed by the Parliament of Canada in March 1978 and which empowered the Commissioner in Council to make ordinances respecting the election of members of the Council and controverted elections.

The Elections Ordinance empowers the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada to conduct Territorial elections using a Territorial Elections Ordinance instead of the Canada Elections Act. In developing this legislation, the Canada Elections Act was used as a starting point and modified where necessary to meet northern needs and conditions. The adoption of the Elections Ordinance represented the first step of a two-phase transfer of responsibilities for Territorial elections from the Federal to the Territorial administration.

Under an agreement signed by Commissioner Hodgson and myself dated December 27, 1978 and made pursuant to subsection 112(1) of the Canada Elections Act (as amended in March 1978) and section 104 of the Ordinance, I undertook to administer the general election held on October 1, 1979, for which writs were issued on July 30, 1979.

The adoption of the Elections Ordinance together with a number of other changes, was to have a significant impact on the conduct of the 1979 general election. The first application of the Ordinance revealed a number of areas for review by the Assembly which are outlined in Section IV of this Report. Generally however, this first experience with the new Ordinance must be considered to have been a success.

#### Representation in the Legislative Assembly

One further significant difference between the 1975 and 1979 general elections was in the number of electoral districts which were to be represented in the Legislative Assembly. After consideration by the Legislative Assembly of the report submitted by the Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission, the Council Ordinance was amended in October 1978 to provide for an increase in the number of electoral districts from fifteen to twenty-two. The provisions of the Council (Amendment) Ordinance 1978 came into force with the passing of an amendment to the Northwest Territories Act, which was given royal assent in March 1979 and which gave the Commissioner in Council the power to establish a maximum of twenty-five electoral districts.

Following the passing of the Council (Amendment) Ordinance 1978, my office acted as a liaison with the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources for the purpose of producing a new set of official electoral district boundary maps which were subsequently shipped to Yellowknife.

Appointment and training of returning officers

A full complement of returning officers was appointed by Commissioner Parker on April 9, 1979, of which only six had previous experience in this capacity either at the federal or territorial level. Of those original twenty-two, four had to be replaced before or after the issue of writs of election for a variety of reasons. Of the final twenty-two, it was of particular interest to us to find that eight returning officers were of N.W.T. native origin. The number had not been nearly so significant at previous territorial elections and it was to be a factor in the subsequent training and coaching provided by my staff.

It should be noted that, in the case of the returning officer for western Arctic, who was appointed after the issue of the writ of election on August 3, 1979, I had to invoke subsection 4(3) of the Elections Ordinance in order to waive the requirement of subsection 93(2) respecting the citizenship of election officials. This action, which was taken with the concurrence of Commissioner Parker, was found to be necessary after the new returning officer had been appointed and trained.

At the time of the original appointments, my own staff was deeply involved in the conduct of a federal general election, with the result that plans were made to hold a training session for returning officers in Yellowknife as soon as possible after the federal election but allowing a short time for my staff to prepare training aids for the session.

The adoption of the Elections Ordinance together with a number of other changes, was to have a significant impact on the conduct of the 1979 general election. The first application of the Ordinance revealed a number of areas for review by the Assembly which are outlined in Section IV of this Report. Generally however, this first experience with the new Ordinance must be considered to have been a success.

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Following the passing of the Council (Amendment) Ordinance 1978, my office acted as a liaison with the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources for the purpose of producing a new set of official electoral district boundary maps which were subsequently shipped to Yellowknife.



A three-day training session was held by three of my officers in Yellowknife on June 13, 14 and 15, 1979. In retrospect and as result of meetings held with returning officers in December 1979, it is felt that meetings should not be restricted to Yellowknife and that training would be more effective if conducted in smaller groups and perhaps over a longer period of time, at least for the inexperienced appointees. These points have been noted for future reference.

As a result of the replacement of certain returning officers, additional training sessions were given by my staff in Igloolik, Tuktoyaktuk, Rae and Ottawa.

#### Revision of polling division boundaries

A complete revision of the descriptions and of the arrangement of the polling divisions used at the 1975 election was undertaken in each of the twenty-two electoral districts during the months of June and July, 1979. This exercise was necessitated by the readjustment of electoral district boundaries in October 1978. While faced with an extremely short time frame between receiving their instructions in mid-June and the issue of writs of election on July 30, 1979, returning officers were nevertheless able to take advantage of the electoral lists prepared only a few months earlier at the federal general election in completing their duties in this respect. For future reference it should be noted that more than six weeks is required to complete this exercise even if settlement maps and other source data are provided to returning officers; the period required for the transmittal of the final report from the returning officer to my office through the mail, alone, is three weeks.

## II- THE NINTH GENERAL ELECTION, 1979

### Introduction

An agreement dated December 27, 1978 made between Commissioner Hodgson and myself pursuant to subsection 112(1) of the Canada Elections Act and section 104 of the Ordinance was the basis for my involvement in the ninth territorial general election. By Commissioner's Order 346-79 dated June 12, 1979, July 30th was fixed as the date for the issue of the writs of election, August 27th as the day upon which nominations were to close, October 1st as ordinary polling day and October 31st as the date on which the election writs were to be made returnable.

On July 20, 1979, I published in the Canada Gazette, pursuant to subsections 112(4) of the Canada Elections Act and 103(1) of the Elections Ordinance, a notice to the effect that the necessary preparations had been made for bringing into operation the Elections Ordinance and the new electoral district boundaries in less than the statutory six-month period.

It will be noted that all notices related to the appointment of returning officers and to the election itself were published in the Canada Gazette pursuant to section 105 of the Elections Ordinance. Although the Northwest Territories Gazette began publishing shortly before election day, it was agreed that all remaining notices should be published

in the Canada Gazette for the sake of consistency. Thus notices respecting the return of elected members were also published in the Canada Gazette, the first being announced on September 26, 1979 and the last on November 15, 1979.

#### Enumeration and Revision of the Lists

This was the first Territorial election at which no difference was made between the enumeration procedure applied in Yellowknife and Inuvik and that used in the rest of the Northwest Territories. In the drafting of the Ordinance the federal 'rural' type of enumeration had been adopted for use throughout the Territories. This meant that only one enumerator was appointed to enumerate electors in each polling division and that the enumerator was also responsible for revising the list of electors. Furthermore, lists were not 'closed' after the revision period, rather, qualified electors who were ordinarily resident in a particular polling division on enumeration date but whose names were not included in the list for any reason, could vote, as long as they were 'vouched for' by another elector whose name was on the list for the same polling division. The length of the enumeration period had also been extended to six days from the four days permitted under the federal by-election timetable previously used for Territorial elections.

In retrospect, no real problems were encountered with the application of a uniform enumeration procedure across the Territories. The appointment of only one enumerator per polling division did not, for example, create any real problems in Yellowknife, where, under the federal procedure in operation only a few months previously, two enumerators had been appointed

to enumerate in each polling division. Complaints were generally of an administrative nature and centred on the location chosen for posting the list of electors, the lack of 'call-back' notices for the use of enumerators and the lack of a provision for the preparation of electoral lists in Inuktitut. Some oral complaints were received about the quality of the enumeration conducted in Inuvik and Frobisher Bay. It is felt that the omission of names from lists may, in part, be explained by the timing of the enumeration week in the last week of August, by poor weather conditions and, in some cases, a lack of easily understood polling division boundary descriptions.

Revision of the list of electors was not heavy, as shown in Appendix A to this Report. In the smaller communities deletions were often as common as additions to the list or there were no changes at all. In Yellowknife, where electors are used to contacting the returning officer in order to make changes, information was frequently relayed through the returning officer to the enumerator(s) concerned. A review of the system of revising the list of electors might be in order before the next election to determine whether it might be undertaken by someone other than the enumerator, the length of the revision period extended, etc.

Pursuant to paragraph 57(1)(b) of the Elections Ordinance it should be noted that I had to invoke subsection 4(3) of the Ordinance in order

to extend the period of enumeration and revision in polling division no. 4, 6, 10 and 17 (DEW-line sites) in the electoral district of Central Arctic and in polling division no. 8 (Allen Island) in the electoral district of Frobisher Bay, in order that lists of electors could be prepared for the election.

Nomination of candidates

The procedure outlined in the Elections Ordinance respecting the nomination of candidates contained a significant number of innovations designed to make it easier for potential candidates to present themselves before the electorate for election. Chief among them were the following:

- (a) a provision for the returning officer or election clerk to travel to receive the nomination papers of candidates;
- (b) a provision for the returning officer to delegate his power to receive nomination papers to his election clerk during the course of visits to candidates or, in the case of emergency, to any election clerk appointed solely for the purpose of receiving a particular nomination paper; and
- (c) the provision of nomination papers in two versions of Inuktitut.

Provision (a) above was well used. However, it is felt that the returning officer should not be expected to travel to a potential candidate to receive his paper right up to the last minute but, rather, a cut-off date be established beyond which

it would remain the candidate's responsibility to appear before the returning officer. The Western Eskimo version of the nomination paper was not used by any candidate while the dialect of the Eastern Eskimo version had to be adjusted by some returning officers to make it more understandable. More comments relating to the use of native languages will be found in Section III of this Report.

By the close of nominations on August 27, 1979, 67 candidates had been nominated in the 22 electoral districts. In the electoral district of Great Slave East the only candidate nominated was elected by acclamation. Of the 67 candidates, 8 were women and, of those, 2 were subsequently elected. In 1975, 47 candidates were nominated of which 7 were women who all ran unsuccessfully. Prior to 1979, only one female candidate had ever been elected (in 1970).

One candidate has expressed the view that returning officers should be required to verify a candidate's eligibility. I should like to record here my strong disagreement with this suggestion on the basis that the returning officer's role is not one of enforcement.

#### Photographic Placards

Another innovation in the Elections Ordinance was the introduction of Photographic posters, known as placards, for use in all polling stations as an aid to electors in identifying the candidates on the ballot paper.

The Ordinance lays down specifications respecting the photographic negative to be submitted when the nomination paper is filed. Since this was the first application of the Ordinance, a considerable amount of laxity was permitted respecting the quality of photographs and the date on which photographs were accepted for reproduction. It is generally felt that specifications regarding the photographs should be loosened and the deadline for accepting photographs be adhered to at future elections.

Photographic placards were produced for more than half of the 21 electoral districts where polls were held. They were designed to look like an enlarged ballot paper with additional information provided as to the candidate's occupation and place of residence with the photograph. The posters were designed and printed in Yellowknife and were generally well received. Placards were not produced for those electoral districts where none of the candidates had provided a photograph.

Some returning officers reported after the election that numbering the candidates on the ballot paper and photographic placard gave an unfair advantage to some candidates. This appears to be a valid observation.

#### Advance Polls

The new provision in subsection 87(2) of the Elections Ordinance made it mandatory to establish an advance polling station in every municipality or settlement having a population of 500 or more.

As a result, the number of advance polls established for the 1979 general election was fifty percent greater than at the 1975 election. The number of valid votes cast at advance polls increased from 1.45% in 1975 to 3.37% in 1979, although in 16 of the 27 advance polls only 10 or less votes were cast. At one advance poll, no votes were cast (Resolute Bay) and at 3 others only one vote was cast (Arctic Bay, Sanikiluaq and Aklavik).

It would seem that the larger turnout at the advance polls was not so much a result of the greater number of advance polling stations as of other factors, perhaps greater mobility of the population or greater voter interest or awareness. As an illustration, voter turnout at the advance polls in Yellowknife more than tripled and greatly increased for no obvious reason in centres such as Fort Simpson, Fort Smith and Rankin Inlet. The new advance poll at Fort McPherson was particularly well used amongst the new locations.

Advance polling took place on three days during a period of eight hours (12 noon to 8 p.m.) on each of those days. At the meetings held with returning officers after the election, there was unanimous agreement that the total period for advance polling was far too long for the number of votes that were actually cast. Suggestions were made that the number of days should be reduced to one or two and the number of hours to perhaps three hours in the early evening. Other suggestions were made to the effect that advance polls should be replaced by an extended (and simplified) system of proxy voting.



It is recommended that a review of the advance polling procedure be undertaken and that the above-mentioned suggestions be taken into consideration.

### Proxy Voting

The new Elections Ordinance added several categories of electors who could vote by proxy, namely, hunters, persons employed in the operation of any conveyance transporting goods or passengers and persons being held in custody pending trial.

Although no survey has been undertaken to determine the extent of proxy voting at the 1979 general election, it is generally felt from discussions with returning officers that the system is far too complicated and restrictive and, consequently, was not used to any significant degree.

Feedback from returning officers indicates that at least the following categories of electors might be made eligible to vote by proxy, namely, anyone travelling away from home on business and women awaiting the termination of their pregnancy in communities other than their home community. It is also felt that the requirement to issue proxy certificates might be dropped in favour of the application of subsection 45(9) throughout the electoral district, whereby a properly sworn appointment of proxy voter form may be accepted at the polling station in lieu of a proxy certificate. Under the present provision, in almost every electoral district, proxy certificates can only be issued in the returning

officer's home community; given the lack of roads between settlements and the expense of air travel, this provision is restrictive.

During the election, I authorized local adult education officers to certify the form used by students to appoint proxy voters in place of the registrar of the educational institute. This was found necessary in view of the length of time required to transmit the necessary documents through the mail and could, I believe, be quite easily regularized by an amendment to the Ordinance.

In view of the results obtained from the advance polls and the general lack of use of the proxy procedure, it might be advisable to examine the system in use in Yukon Territory whereby advance polling has been abolished and replaced by an extended system of proxy voting. It is understood that while some problems were encountered, this system was generally well accepted by the electors.

#### Information Program

The information program was undertaken by the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly in cooperation with the Department of Information of the Northwest Territories. It consisted primarily of a trilingual booklet entitled "What you should know about the Legislative Assembly Election", a poster (in English/Western Eskimo and English/Eastern Eskimo) containing the message "Your vote counts - Vote in the N.W.T. Legislative Assembly Election, October 1, 1979", a series of radio messages in English about different aspects of the election and a series of brief T.V. information spots in English and Inuktitut.

I am not aware of any specific public reaction to the program, although several comments were received from returning officers at our post-election meetings. The most obvious problem was that the radio tapes were not provided in Inuktitut with the result that returning officers either had to make their own translation or go on the air "live" several times. Returning officers liked the brochure but felt it did not receive a sufficiently wide distribution. A unanimous suggestion was that more information should be provided on television and that a widespread education program was required throughout the Territories, not just at election time, to teach electors why it is important to vote and what the functions and role of the Legislative Assembly are, as well as the mechanics of the electoral process.

#### Election expenses of candidates

Section 63 of the Canada Elections Act was superseded by sections 59 and 60 of the Northwest Territories Election Ordinance, outlining the requirements for reporting contributions received and election expenses incurred by candidates at the election.

To implement these provisions, candidates and official agents were provided with a booklet entitled "A Digest of the Northwest Territories Election Ordinance" setting out in concise form provisions of the ordinance concerning qualification and official nomination of candidates, the appointment and responsibilities of official agents and the various aspects of the election expenses provisions.

This booklet also included a step-by-step diary for the guidance of candidates and official agents.

Official agents were provided with a bookkeeping record and a set of forms for reporting contributions, the identity of contributors where required and election expenses incurred. As of the date of this report, 55 of 67 returns have been submitted and without exception, the returns were completed in accordance with the requirements of the Ordinance and instructions provided. This indicates a good understanding of the requirements of the Ordinance by a majority of the candidates and official agents.

#### Elections Commissioner

Under the general supervision of the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, the Commissioner of Canada Elections (referred to in the Ordinance as the Elections Commissioner) is responsible for ensuring that the provisions of the Elections Ordinance are complied with and enforced (subsection 67(3)). At previous Territorial elections there were no specific provisions made in this respect either in the Territorial or Federal legislation.

In view of the apparent lack of awareness of the intended role of the Elections Commissioner, it might be beneficial to review the role at this time. It may be summarized as follows:

Considerable emphasis is placed on the compliance aspect. This involves reminding

the candidates, at strategic times, of the obligations the legislation imposes upon them, such as election expenses returns; giving interpretation of the legislation where requested; drawing candidates' and other persons' attention to what appear to be minor transgressions of the Ordinance and asking that they desist.

Enforcement is invoked as a last resort and where it is evident violations are deliberate and committed with intent. The Elections Commissioner inquires into alleged violations to establish the circumstances; the outcome of his inquiries will allow him to decide what further action, if any, is required. If he and his legal advisors are satisfied an in-depth investigation is needed, he can turn the case over to the R.C.M. Police or he can set up an inquiry under the Public Inquiries Ordinance. The results will be the basis of his decision of what further action to take, such as prosecution.

The Elections Commissioner retains the services of resource persons at strategic locations during elections so that the coverage and the ability to respond are identical regardless of the area. He also arranges for the services of counsels in various locations. They review the results of investigations and make recommendations to him on the basis of the evidence. If he authorizes prosecution, and under the Northwest Territories Election Ordinance no prosecution can be entered without his consent in writing, counsel conducts the prosecution in Court.

The Elections Commissioner does not undertake investigations into complaints alleging illegal acts by election officers unless requested by the Chief Electoral Officer.

At the 1979 general election, the Elections Commissioner did not receive any complaints and was not therefore required to institute any investigations. To date, I have not found it necessary to ask him to undertake any investigations pursuant to subsections 67(7) and (8) of the Ordinance.

#### Judicial Recounts

Applications were made to a judge for a recount in two electoral districts, namely, Pine Point and Slave River. In both cases, the application was made by the returning officer, pursuant to subsection 51(7) of the Elections Ordinance, since the number of votes separating the two candidates who had received the highest number of votes was less than two percent.

In both cases, the judicial recount confirmed the election of the candidate who, following the official addition of the votes, had been declared as having received the highest number of votes.

### III- USE OF NATIVE LANGUAGES

As prescribed in subsection 99(2) of the Elections Ordinance, Commissioner Hodgson furnished me in April 1979 with a list of those electoral districts where materials were to be provided in a native language. The districts so designated and the relevant language were as follows:

#### Easter Eskimo syllabics

Baffin Central  
Baffin South  
Foxy Basin  
Frobisher Bay  
High Arctic  
Hudson Bay  
Keewatin North  
Keewatin South

#### Western Eskimo Roman orthography

Central Arctic  
Inuvik  
Mackenzie Delta  
Western Arctic

Pursuant to subsection 99(3) of the Ordinance, arrangements had already been made for the printing of the following election documents in English and the two specified versions of Inuktitut:

- The Proclamation;
- the Notice of Enumeration;
- the Notice of Grant of Poll;
- the Notice of Advance Poll;

- the ballot papers;
- the nomination paper;
- directions to electors;
- the Notice of Itinerary.

In view of the heavy workload under which the Territorial translators were working at that time, the Eastern Eskimo syllabic translation work was undertaken by translators at the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs in Ottawa. The Western Eskimo translations were obtained for us by the Legislative Assembly Office.

One problem encountered before the issue of the writs concerned the requirement to translate the polling division boundaries (for publication later on as part of the Notice of Grant of a Poll) into Western Eskimo. It was apparent that finding someone to do the translation in Mackenzie Delta electoral district was a real problem; this in itself raised a question as to the need for documents to be produced in Western Eskimo. Following the close of nominations it was also noted that not one of the 12 candidates in the 4 designated electoral districts had filed a Western Eskimo version of the nomination paper nor did they request that their names appear in Western Eskimo on the ballot. Comments received from returning officers at the post-election meetings as to the value of making certain documents available in Western Eskimo lead me to conclude that the usefulness of including Western Eskimo as an official language for the purpose of section 99 of the Ordinance might be questionable.



As regards the use of Eastern Eskimo syllabics, there is no doubt of its value. The Inuktitut version of the nomination paper was made use of and, in all 8 electoral districts, most or all of the candidates used syllabics on the ballot paper.

The only serious problems encountered concerned: (a) the different dialects in use throughout the Eastern Arctic and (b) the transmission of syllabic names over the telephone on nomination day (required immediately for printing the ballots in Yellowknife). Most returning officers found it necessary to adjust the syllabics used in the nomination paper and the public notices in order to make the text understandable in their electoral districts.

I would suggest that a word conference attended by translators from the Territorial and Federal administrations and by some of the returning officers involved might be convened in an attempt to produce an election terminology in syllabics which might be acceptable throughout the 8 designated electoral districts. In any event, I would recommend that the syllabic versions of the election forms in question be thoroughly reviewed by at least one Eastern Arctic translator well before the next election.

I would strongly recommend that information tapes be provided to the electronic media in Inuktitut as well as English for the next election.

I would also recommend that consideration be given to including those forms used in preparing the preliminary and revised List of electors in the list of materials which, pursuant to subsection 99(3) of the Ordinance, must be provided in Inuktitut.

#### IV- AMENDMENTS TO ELECTIONS ORDINANCE

Pursuant to paragraph 57(1)(d) of the Elections Ordinance, I would draw to your attention a number of policy and administrative areas of the Ordinance which, if dealt with by the Legislative Assembly, might result in a higher level of voter participation in future Territorial elections. All of the major areas for concern have already been touched on in this Report and do not need to be repeated here except to say that they are generally:

the procedure for receiving the nomination papers of candidates;

the use of Western Eskimo and the need for standardization of terminology in Eastern syllabics;

the use of advance polls vs. an extension of proxy voting (study Yukon system);

election expenses provisions;

the use of numbers on the ballot paper.

Other more technical points are included together with the above-mentioned items for consideration in Appendix C. I should be pleased to participate in future discussions on any of these questions if you believe my presence would be of value.

V- STATUTORY REPORTS

In addition to the present report, I am required to publish, pursuant to subsection 56(9) of the Elections Ordinance, a report of the poll-by-poll results of the general election.

That report was published and forwarded to the Legislative Assembly Office in January 1980.

## VI- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is not easy to administer an election in the Northwest Territories from Ottawa. Although my staff spent several weeks in total in Yellowknife and, briefly, at other spots in the Territories both before, during and after the election, we would not have been able to proceed so smoothly without the invaluable assistance and constant cooperation and support of the Territorial administration.

In particular, I should like to express my sincere thanks to the staff of the Legislative Assembly Office; they were always willing to help us out of the most difficult predicaments - or to put us in touch with people who could help. I should also like to thank the staff of the Department of Information, in particular members of the Interpreter Corps, the photographic unit and the Printing Bureau, all of whom helped us at various stages in the election process, as well as other staff members who advised us on media relations and design aspects. An additional vote of thanks is due to the Regional Director's staff in Frobisher Bay who helped us over a variety of difficulties.

Above all, I wish to express my appreciation to the more than 500 election officers, enumerators, deputy returning officers, poll clerks, returning officers and election clerks, for their constant efforts, at times under very trying circumstances.

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NUMBER OF ELECTORS ON LIST

APPENDIX "A"

Electoral district	No. of electors on preliminary list	No. of electors on official list
Baffin Central	761	768
Baffin South	408	408
Central Arctic	1345	1352
Foxe Basin	673	673
Frobisher Bay	752	800
Great Slave East	NO ENUMERATION	
Hay River	1698	1689
High Arctic	517	520
Hudson Bay	163	158
Inuvik	1089	1112
Keewatin North	780	780
Keewatin South	852	872
Mackenzie Delta	744	754
Mackenzie Great Bear	934	938
Mackenzie Liard	1406	1415
Pine Point	728	729
Rae-Lac la Martre	803	807
Slave River	1181	1181
Western Arctic	655	669
Yellowknife Centre	1321	1386
Yellowknife North	983	995
Yellowknife South	2105	2248
TOTALS	19,898	20,264

\*Note: The basic qualifications to vote are 19 years of age, Canadian citizenship and 12 months residence in the N.W.T. immediately prior to polling day.

SUMMARY OF VOTES CAST AT 1979 GENERAL ELECTION

Electoral district	Valid votes cast on Oct. 1 1979	Valid votes cast at A.P.s	No. of A.P.'s	Total valid votes cast	Rejected ballot papers
Baffin Central	536(a)	(a)	1	536	2
Baffin South	311	10	1	321	2
Central Arctic	796	8	2	804	9
Foxe Basin	447	7	2	454	1
Frobisher Bay	584	8	1	592	4
Great Slave East	ACCLAMATION - NO POLL HELD				
Hay River	946	28	1	974	9
High Arctic	197	1	2	198	4
Hudson Bay	139	1	1	140	...
Inuvik	640	20	1	660	5
Keewatin North	434	3	1	437	5
Keewatin South	460	24	2	484	2
Mackenzie Delta	315	32	2	347	5
Mackenzie Great Bear	506	10	1	516	6
Mackenzie Liard	664	59	2	723	15
Pine Point	415	6	1	421	...
Rae-Lac la Martre	500	2	1	502	9
Slave River	827	33	1	860	14
Western Arctic	460	8	1	468	2
Yellowknife Centre	839	46	1	885	7
Yellowknife North	652	50	1	702	5
Yellowknife South	1387	65	1	1452	4
TOTALS	12,055	421	27(b)(c)	12,476	110

- (a) Advance poll votes counted with poll no. 1.
- (b) New legislation required that an advance poll be held in every community having a population of 500 rather than 1,000 as in 1975.
- (c) By comparison, at the 1975 general election there were 18 advance polls and a total of 155 votes were cast.

SECTIONS OF ELECTIONS ORDINANCE SUGGESTED FOR REVIEW

The following remarks are based on comments received from candidates, returning officers and officers of the Legislative Assembly Office and of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Subsection 10(2): add offset reproduction sheets  
- stereotyped blocks have been phased out.

Subsection 11(3)(c): delete "in the Territories" - terms over 2 years are served outside.

Subsection 16(5) & 16 (Rule 11): Returning officer cannot be obliged to reproduce lists before enumerator is obliged to provide copies to returning officer.

Subsection 16(6): change marginal note to "certificate of returning officer".

Section 16 (Rules 3, 13 & 16): length of period between commencement of enumeration and end of revision might be extended.

Section 16 (Rule 11): Enumerators should be required to post lists of electors in a public place such as post office, the Bay, co-op, hamlet office.

Para. 21(2)(i): change specifications to allow filing of black and white photograph - preferably a positive print - of a specified minimum size; all other specifications to be complied with.



Section 22: Examine feasibility of delegating to additional election clerks appointed for the purpose, the power to receive nominations of all candidates not resident at returning officer's headquarters; unnecessary travel is being incurred under present system; alternative would be to require candidates in outlying settlements to give two weeks notice of intention to file. In any case, present provisions might be broadened and not tied only to conditions outside candidate's control.

Section 45 & 87-92: Proxy voting categories do not provide for persons travelling on business who have no control over itinerary, etc., employees engaged in activities such as HIRE NORTH, Panarctic, Nanisivik, who do not qualify as "temporary workers"; persons on holidays arranged in advance of the setting of polling day. Might consider the elimination of advance polls and opening of proxy voting to all persons unable to vote on ordinary polling day.

Subsection 45(1): If proxy is not opened up to any degree, add to categories (a) women out of their own community awaiting termination of pregnancy and (b) persons travelling or away on business.

Para. 45(2)(c): Add "Territorial adult education officer" as signatory re registration of student.

Section 49: Wording is antiquated. Review in light of use of posters on cars and lapel badges.

Subsection 59(7): It might be appropriate to add the last 4 lines of subsection 62(7) of the Canada Elections Act (ref. corrupt or illegal practice) which were not included in the Ordinance.

Section 59 & 60: Review to possibly simplify (eg. requirement for judge's order unreasonable for most parts of N.W.T.).

Para. 88(2)(a)(iv): 9 o'clock should read 8 o'clock.

Para. 88(2)(b)(iii): delete - nugatory - nominations have already closed.

Para. 88(2)(c): delete - not applicable to Ordinance in view of wording of 88(3).

Subsection 99(3): add electoral list forms to list of documents for translation.

Subsection 99(10): provisions re services of translator may have to be broadened.

Section 101: consideration should be given to adapting or dropping this section, as it restricts the broadcasting of results in, for example, Frobisher Bay as long as the polls are open in Yellowknife. At the most, broadcasting should be restricted in a particular electoral district until all the polls are closed. As it is presently written there is no equivalent provision in any provincial legislation.

Form 1: "Yellowknife" should replace "Ottawa" as the place of signing.

Form 3 (front): consider removing the numbers.

Form 3 (back): add the second line of perforations.