



ELECTIONS NWT

2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT

Stephen Dunbar
Chief Electoral Officer

Elections NWT Annual Report 2021-22

Introduction

2021-22 was an eventful year for Elections NWT. There were two unscheduled by-elections, only the third and fourth by-elections since 1999. COVID-19 presented additional challenges in the planning and delivery of these by-elections. A new Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) was appointed in November 2021, and the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (OCEO) began staffing the positions required to administer the 2023 general territorial election.

Staffing Changes

OCEO staff

Nicole Latour's appointment as CEO ended on 30 September 2021, after seven years. Ranald Mathison was appointed Acting CEO to wrap up the administrative matters from the Monfwi by-election and to oversee the OCEO operations until a new CEO was appointed. Stephen Dunbar was appointed Chief Electoral Officer by the Legislative Assembly effective 25 November 2021.

Charlotte Digness was appointed Deputy Chief Electoral Officer effective 13 December 2021. Ms. Digness brings a strong background in strategic communications and event delivery from her time supporting the Executive Councils of the 15th to the 19th Legislative Assemblies.

Meggin Creed started as the Office Manager of Elections NWT on 4 January 2022. Ms. Creed joined Elections NWT on a transfer assignment from the Department of Justice Integrated Case Management unit, where she provided frontline support to individuals navigating government programs and services.

Appointments of Returning Officers

While the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* now allows for lifetime appointments of Returning Officers, there were several ROs who had been appointed prior to that amendment, and as a result, their appointments had expired. The CEO reached out to these ROs on whether they would be interested in being reappointed, all of whom agreed to continue their service. A retirement by the Returning Officer of Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh resulted in a temporary appointment for the by-election, and the permanent appointment of Ms. Lorraine Villeneuve at the end of March 2021.

A Returning Officer is responsible for the administration of the election in their electoral district and fulfill an essential role in our democratic process. Efficient, timely and accurate elections would not be possible without the dedication and service of the Returning Officers and their teams.

Electoral District	Returning Officer
Deh Cho	Loretta Landry
Frame Lake	Mona Durkee
Great Slave	Carol Nychka
Hay River North	Marny Twigge
Hay River South	Heather Coakwell
Inuvik Boot Lake	Chris Garven
Inuvik Twin Lakes	Mitchell MacQuarrie
Kam Lake	Yvette Schreder
Mackenzie Delta	Grace Martin
Monfwi	Harriet Koyina
Nahendeh	Vanessa Waugh
Nunakput	Donna Wolki
Range Lake	Lynda Comerford
Sahtu	Michel Erb
Thebacha	Lynda B. Martin
Tu Nedhé - Wiilideh	Lorraine Villeneuve
Yellowknife Centre	Tamlin Gilbert
Yellowknife North	Amanda Mallon
Yellowknife South	Melanie Gentles

2021 Monfwi By-Election

On 4 June 2021, Monfwi MLA Jackson Lafferty resigned his seat. The Commissioner signed a Writ of Election Order on 9 June 2021, ordering the Chief Electoral Officer to issue a Writ of Election for the Electoral District of Monfwi. The Writ was issued on 28 June 2021, with Polling Day set for Tuesday, 27 July 2021. By the close of nominations, 4 candidates had submitted papers.



This was the first contested election in Monfwi since 2011, as MLA Lafferty had been acclaimed in the 2015 and 2019 general elections. Returning Officer Harriet Koyina and her team delivered exemplary service in the delivery of the by-election.

Electors

There were 14 Monfwi electors added to the Register of Territorial Electors during the by-election. 131 names were removed from the Monfwi official list of electors, including 48 electors who had passed away since the last electoral event. Due to this being the first electoral event in almost ten years, there were several names on the list that no longer resided in the electoral district, which resulted in 83 names being removed from the list. There were 1771 registered electors on polling day.

Voting

Overall, 935 electors cast ballots, with 84 or 9% choosing a special voting opportunity to do so, and 851 voting on Polling Day. Throughout the by-election, there were no incidences of COVID-19 infection in the electoral district, which allowed for in-person polling. Personal protective equipment was provided to election workers as a precaution.

Results

Ms. Jane Weyallon Armstrong was elected with 503 votes, or 53.8%. No judicial recount was required. The Official Results Report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 30 November 2021.

Budget

The total cost of the by-election was \$46,807.14. This included \$33,038.14 in salaries and \$13,769.00 in purchases. A printing delay resulted in the costs of the voter identity cards being absorbed by the printer.

Candidate Financial Reports

Section 256(1) of the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* requires a candidate's official agent to submit a complete and accurate financial report within 60 days of polling day. For the Monfwi by-election, this fell on Saturday, 25 September 2021. Two candidates did not file their report by the deadline, nor did they seek an extension under section 257(1). The Acting Chief Electoral Officer sent a demand letter to both candidates, who in addition to forfeiting their \$200 deposit, were required to pay an additional fine of \$500, and \$50 a day for each day that they were late, to a maximum of \$1,000. Mr. Gon filed his statement 19 days after the deadline, resulting in total penalties of \$1,450. Mr. Wah-Shee has not complied with the Act, and may be subject to further penalties under section 333.



Monfwi By-Election – Expenses Breakdown

Election Purchases				OVERALL EXPENSES	
Type of Expense	Office of the CEO	Monfwi	Grand Total	\$46,807.14	
Transportation	\$ 165.69	\$ 376.38	\$ 542.07		
Conference & Meeting Services	\$ 38.40	\$ -	\$ 38.40		
Delivery & Courier Charges	\$ -	\$ 66.66	\$ 66.66		
Office Accommodation Leases	\$ 280.00	\$ 4,320.00	\$ 4,600.00		
Office Supplies	\$ 1,735.69	\$ -	\$ 1,735.69		
Postal Services	\$ -	\$ 1,391.45	\$ 1,391.45		
Publications & Printing	\$ 3,287.00	\$ -	\$ 3,287.00		
Telecommunications	\$ -	\$ 107.73	\$ 107.73		
Voters List Support	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00		
Grand Total	\$ 7,506.78	\$ 6,262.22	\$ 13,769.00		
Election Officer Pay				PERCENT OF OVERALL EXPENSES	
Election Officer Position	Office of the CEO	Monfwi	Grand Total	By Category	
	\$ 761.70	\$ 32,276.44	\$ 33,038.14	Election Purchases	29.42%
Grand Total	\$ 761.70	\$ 32,276.44	\$ 33,038.14	Election Officer Payment	70.58%
Total By-Election Costs				By District	
	Office of the CEO	Monfwi	Grand Total	OCEO	16.04%
Election Purchases	\$ 7,506.78	\$ 6,262.22	\$ 13,769.00	Monfwi	82.34%
Election Officer Pay	\$ 761.70	\$ 32,276.44	\$ 33,038.14	PERCENT OF ELECTION PURCHASES	
Grand Total	\$ 8,268.48	\$ 38,538.66	\$ 46,807.14	By Type of Expense	
				Transportation	3.94%
				Conference & Meeting Services	0.28%
				Delivery & Courier Charges	0.48%
				Office Accommodation Leases	33.41%
				Office Supplies	12.61%
				Postal Services	10.11%
				Publications & Printing	23.87%
				Telecommunications	0.78%
				Voters List Support	14.53%
2021 Monfwi By-Election				PERCENT OF ELECTION OFFICERS	
	Kelvin Kotchilea	John Gon	James Wah-Shee*	By Position	
Self-Funded	\$ 609.54	\$ 980.99		Office of the Chief Electoral Office	2.31%
Corporations	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,663.92		Monfwi	97.69%
Individuals	\$ 500.00				
Anonymous					
Non-Monetary	\$ 1,720.00				
Total Contributions	\$ 4,329.54	\$ 4,644.91	* Has not filed the Candidate Financial Report	\$ 1,751.48	
Advertising Expense	\$ 464.61	\$ 1,076.25		\$ 10,696.94	
Travel Expense	\$ 2,297.90	\$ 1,428.81		\$ 1,008.00	
Other Expense	\$ 1,567.03	\$ 2,001.91		\$ 4,563.96	
Total Expenses	\$ 4,329.54	\$ 4,506.97		\$ 5,124.98	
Surplus	\$ -	\$ 137.94		\$ 10,696.94	

Monfwi Candidate Financial Report Summaries

	2021 Monfwi By-Election			
Self-Funded	Kelvin Kotchilea	John Gon	James Wah-Shee*	Jane Weyallon Armstrong
Corporations	\$ 609.54	\$ 980.99		\$ 3,095.46
Individuals	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,663.92		\$ 2,750.00
Anonymous	\$ 500.00			\$ 3,100.00
Non-Monetary	\$ 1,720.00			
Total Contributions	\$ 4,329.54	\$ 4,644.91	* Has not filed the Candidate Financial Report	\$ 1,751.48
Advertising Expense	\$ 464.61	\$ 1,076.25		\$ 10,696.94
Travel Expense	\$ 2,297.90	\$ 1,428.81		\$ 1,008.00
Other Expense	\$ 1,567.03	\$ 2,001.91		\$ 4,563.96
Total Expenses	\$ 4,329.54	\$ 4,506.97		\$ 5,124.98
Surplus	\$ -	\$ 137.94		\$ 10,696.94

2022 Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh By-Election

On 23 November 2021, the Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh seat in the Legislative Assembly was declared vacant. The Commissioner signed a Writ of Election Order on 7 December 2021, ordering the Chief Electoral Officer to issue a Writ of Election for the Electoral District of Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh. The Writ was issued on 10 January 2022, with Polling Day set for Tuesday, 8 February 2022. By the close of nominations, 6 candidates had submitted papers.



Staffing

The Returning Officer for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh resigned on 3 December 2021 for personal reasons. The Assistant Returning Officer from the 2019 general election was unavailable to assume the position. The CEO approached a couple Returning Officers from other districts to see if they would be willing to temporarily serve as the Tu-Nedhé-Wiilideh Returning Officer for the duration of the by-election. Amanda Mallon, the Returning Officer for Yellowknife North, agreed, and hired the Returning Officer for Great Slave, Carol Nychka, as her Assistant Returning Officer. The Returning Office was then located in the Det'on Cho Building in Ndilq.

Additional Assistant Returning Officers are hired in communities where there is no resident Returning Officer. Jeanette Lockhart in Łutselk'e and Lorraine Villeneuve in Fort Resolution, both of whom were experienced election officials. The Returning Officer duly authorized them to receive nomination packages in those communities, to post the proclamation of poll, and to answer any questions from the public.

High school students and seniors from the Yellowknife Dene First Nation were hired to assist in the count.

COVID-19

The effects of the COVID-19 outbreak in August 2021 played a substantial role in Elections NWT planning for the by-election. Elections NWT had received complaints during the 2021 federal election from electors who had been unable to cast their ballots due to isolation requirements. Attempts to secure polling locations were complicated by requirements from communities for a letter of non-objection from the Chief Public Health Officer. Requests to discuss the by-election with the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer were not returned. Election workers expressed concern about the potential of an outbreak and uncertainty over whether they would be willing to work in the event of an outbreak.

Working with the Returning Officer, Elections NWT developed a COVID-19 contingency plan, including identifying what sections of the Act would need to be modified in the event of an outbreak. The goal was to have any changes to normal practice be clearly explained well in advance. With the detection of the more easily transmissible Omicron variant, on 21 December 2021, the Chief Electoral Officer announced that the by-election would be conducted solely through absentee (mail-in) ballots.

Elections NWT wanted to ensure that there would not be a major shift mid-election, as happened in the Newfoundland and Labrador provincial election; and that all electors would have the opportunity to be able to cast their ballot, even if they were subject to a containment or isolation order from the CPHO. Ballot drop boxes were placed in the Łutselk'e Co-op store and the Fort Resolution Northern store, as

well as in the lobby of the Det'on Cho building and the Elections NWT main office. Elections staff collected ballot packages from the drop boxes as well as from individual houses to ensure that everyone who wanted to cast a ballot could do so. This included backing a truck up to a house where the residents were in isolation so that they could deliver their ballot packages in a physically distanced and safe manner, while not violating the public health orders keeping them inside their house.

Directives

The Chief Electoral Officer issued two directives for the by-election. Directive 22-01 laid out the procedures to be used for the mail-in ballots; namely that all registered electors on the voters list will be mailed a ballot package, and the deadlines to return the ballot package to election officials or Elections NWT. Directive 22-02 was issued to allow for minor errors on the Absentee Ballot Certificate to be accepted, and that if the event a certificate had not been signed, election officers were directed to make every effort to have the elector sign it. The directive also extended the amount of time available to apply for an absentee ballot, and those late applications would be couriered to the election officer for delivery instead of relying upon the postal services.

Electors

There were 26 Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh electors added to the Register of Territorial Electors during the by-election. 51 names were removed from the Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh official list of electors, including 10 electors who had passed away since the last electoral event. There were 41 packages that were undeliverable by Canada Post and were returned to Elections NWT during the electoral period, which resulted in those names being removed from the list. There were 884 registered electors on polling day.

Complaint

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer received one written complaint regarding the actions of an election officer. Upon review of the evidence provided, the complaint was dismissed as speculative, as the actions of the officer were consistent with the duties expected of an election officer. The complainant was advised in writing that the complaint was dismissed.

Results

No ballot packages were accepted after 8pm on 8 February 2022. The AAROs flew to Yellowknife on the morning of 9 February, bringing with them the ballot packages received before 8pm the previous day. To ensure transparency, all ballot packages were certified by election officials, and candidates were encouraged to attend or have polling agents attend on their behalf. For those who could not attend, the event was live-streamed. The ballot boxes were sealed in full view of attendees, after confirming that there were no ballots inside. Each ballot package was reviewed to ensure that the name of the elector appeared on the voters list, and that no voter had submitted more than one package. The elector had to sign the certification envelope, and the lack of a signature, or a signature of a person other than the elector, were grounds to reject the ballot. In the event of a rejection, the ballot package was set aside and not opened. Ten certificates were not signed, resulting in those ballots not being counted. A further six certificates were rejected for other reasons, including the name on the certificate being struck out and replaced with a different name, or there was no ballot inside the ballot certificate envelope. If the certificate was validated, it was opened and the ballot, inside a secrecy envelope, was then deposited in

the ballot box. Only once all certificate envelopes for that poll had been verified was the ballot box opened, and the count began.

Mr. Richard Edjericon was elected with 186 votes, or 40.8%. No judicial recount was required. The Official Results Report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 2 March 2022.

Three ballot packages were received by mail after 8 February 2022 and were not counted.

Budget

The total cost of the by-election was \$54,330.32. This included \$26,578.60 in salaries and \$27,451.72 in purchases. Two factors drove purchased services higher. The first was the retention of legal counsel to ensure that any adaptations of the Act were based in law. Legal counsel also advised on the response to the written complaint. The second cost driver was a new fee structure with DataFix, the company that hosts the Register of Territorial Electors (Voters List). The contract with DataFix expired on 31 December 2021, and the new contract moved from a set cost paid up front for most support services, to an annual fee for each of the various services provided. Staffing costs for Additional Assistant Returning Officers was also up, to reflect the additional work done by the AAROs in Łutselk'e and Fort Resolution throughout the election period.

Candidate Financial Reports

Section 256(1) of the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* requires a candidate's official agent to submit a complete and accurate financial report within 60 days of polling day. For the Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh by-election, this fell on Saturday, 9 April 2022. Elections NWT staff issued reminders to all candidates and official agents proactively, encouraging them to contact the office should there be any questions in filling out the reports. Three candidate financial reports were received and accepted before the deadline. Three candidates sought and received extensions, and filed their financial reports within the extended period. All candidates complied with the Act, and no penalties were assessed.



Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh By-Election – Expenses Breakdown

Election Purchases				OVERALL EXPENSES	
Type of Expense	Office of the CEO	Tu Nedhe Wiilideh	Grand Total	\$54,330.32	
Accommodation	\$ -	\$ 1,036.00	\$ 1,036.00		
Airfare	\$ -	\$ 565.70	\$ 565.70		
Conference & Meeting Services	\$ -	\$ 556.60	\$ 556.60		
Delivery & Courier Charges	\$ -	\$ 767.31	\$ 767.31		
Legal Services	\$ 6,200.90	\$ -	\$ 6,200.90		
Office Accommodation Leases	\$ -	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,350.00		
Office Supplies	\$ 1,127.11	\$ -	\$ 1,127.11		
Postal Services	\$ -	\$ 2,803.00	\$ 2,803.00		
Professional/Medical Supplies	\$ 38.43	\$ 337.57	\$ 376.00		
Publications & Printing	\$ 7,380.48	\$ -	\$ 7,380.48		
Telecommunications	\$ -	\$ 388.62	\$ 388.62		
Voters List Support	\$ 4,900.00	\$ -	\$ 4,900.00		
Grand Total	\$ 19,646.92	\$ 7,804.80	\$ 27,451.72		
Election Officer Pay				PERCENT OF ELECTION PURCHASES	
Election Officer Position	Office of the CEO	Tu Nedhe Wiilideh	Grand Total	By Type of Expense	
Absentee Ballot Officer	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00	Accommodation	3.77%
Additional Assistant Returning Officer	\$ -	\$ 13,668.60	\$ 13,668.60	Airfare	2.06%
Assistant Returning Officer	\$ -	\$ 4,480.00	\$ 4,480.00	Delivery & Courier Charges	2.80%
Deputy Returning Officer	\$ -	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	Office Accommodation Leases	4.92%
Poll Clerk & Mobile Poll Clerk	\$ -	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 1,150.00	Office Supplies	4.11%
Returning Officer	\$ -	\$ 6,580.00	\$ 6,580.00	Postal Services	10.21%
Grand Total	\$ 300.00	\$ 26,578.60	\$ 26,878.60	Professional/Medical Supplies	1.37%
				Publications & Printing	26.89%
				Telecommunications	1.42%
Total By-Election Costs				PERCENT OF ELECTION OFFICERS	
	Office of the CEO	Tu Nedhe Wiilideh	Grand Total	By Position	
Election Purchases	\$ 19,646.92	\$ 7,804.80	\$ 27,451.72	Absentee Ballot Officer	1.12%
Election Officer Pay	\$ 300.00	\$ 26,578.60	\$ 26,878.60	Additional Assistant Returning Officer	50.85%
Grand Total	\$ 19,946.92	\$ 34,383.40	\$ 54,330.32	Assistant Returning Officer	16.67%
				Deputy Returning Officer	2.60%
				Poll Clerk & Mobile Poll Clerk	4.28%
				Returning Officer	24.48%

Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh Candidate Financial Report Summaries

	2022 Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh By-Election					
	Ernest Betsina	Nadine Delorme	Richard Edjericon	Steve Norn	Mary Rose Sundberg	Clinton Unka
Self-Funded	\$ 58.32	\$ 341.53	\$ 831.80		\$ 4,079.42	\$ 350.00
Corporations	\$ 1,950.00		\$ 1,000.00			
Individuals	\$ 2,350.00		\$ 1,700.00		\$ 300.00	
Anonymous						
Non-Monetary						
Total Contributions	\$ 4,358.32	\$ 341.53	\$ 3,531.80	Nil	\$ 4,379.42	\$ 350.00
Advertising Expense	\$ 3,617.62	\$ 186.53	\$ 3,531.80		\$ 2,257.49	\$ 350.00
Other Expense	\$ 740.70	\$ 155.00			\$ 2,106.75	
Total Expenses	\$ 4,358.32	\$ 341.53	\$ 3,531.80	Nil	\$ 4,364.24	\$ 350.00
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 15.18	\$ -

2023 Territorial General Election Preparations

Once the Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh by-election was concluded, Elections NWT began planning for the 2023 territorial general election. There are four key areas where work was started in 2021-22.

Official languages and plain language materials

One of the key lessons learned during the by-election was that Elections NWT needed to do more to ensure that materials are available in Indigenous languages. The Chief Electoral Officer has met several times with the Languages Commissioner, seeking her advice on how best to proceed. In March 2022, an inventory of all election materials was done, and is under review for translation. It is a key goal of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer to have all information posters translated into Indigenous languages, as well as the guide for voters.



Elections NWT is also reviewing all materials to ensure that they are in plain language. To this end, a contract was signed with the NWT Literacy Council to review materials and provide advice and plain language editing on forms, instructions and information aimed at the public.

Accessibility

On 11 August 2020, the Northwest Territories Human Rights Adjudication Panel found in favour of a complainant who had difficulty accessing their polling station during the 2015 territorial election. The Adjudicator found that Elections NWT had discriminated against the complainant, as polling places are considered facilities that “are customarily available to the public”. The Adjudicator wrote: “there is a legal duty of the state to ensure that all barriers, whenever possible, are removed so citizens may vote. This includes physical barriers that impede access to a polling station.” The accommodations offered by Elections NWT to the complainant were not to the point of undue hardship. The Adjudicator ordered that Elections NWT must use polling stations that are accessible for persons with physical disabilities or that can be adapted to become accessible.

Elections NWT has a checklist that is used when looking at possible polling stations. There are seven criteria that must be met:

- Adequate parking spaces reserved for disabled persons near the main entrance;
- A ramp to the entrance;
- Ramps and walkways are in good condition and clear of snow or other obstacles
- Enough room around doorways for someone in a wheelchair or using a cane/crutches/other assistance;
- Doors that open easily or have power buttons for automatic opening;
- A space for posting of clear signage;
- Wheelchair accessible washrooms and drinking fountains with appropriate fixtures.

In the event that not all criteria can be met, Elections NWT works with the Returning Officer for the electoral district to identify solutions to ensure accessibility.

In 2022-23, the Chief Electoral Officer will be reaching out to organizations to discuss how best Elections NWT can reduce or eliminate barriers so that all citizens can exercise their right to vote.

Renewal of Datafix contract

The Register of Territorial Electors (ROTE) is the permanent record of territorial electors that is maintained by Elections NWT. The official voters list for an electoral event is drawn from ROTE. In 2016, Elections NWT signed a 5-year contract with DataFix, an Ontario company that specializes in election management systems. Their proprietary internet-based system has specific capabilities that includes providing election officers with an online view of electoral information, including the ability to make additions, revisions and corrections to the ROTE; a candidate access portal, where forms and voting information can be found; absentee ballot support, including label printing; and technical support.

Given the specialized nature of the services, most election management bodies in Canada now use DataFix as an election partner. In March 2022, the Chief Electoral Officer began the process to renew the contract with DataFix for an 8-year term as the longer term allowed for a better overall price. This contract was still in legal review at the end of the fiscal year.

Review of staffing roles

Upon the appointment of the new Chief Electoral Officer, the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer had no employees. The two permanent positions had been vacant since March 2020. While the two positions have been filled through the use of transfer assignments with the Government of the Northwest Territories, the transfers used the pre-existing job descriptions.

As part of the preparations for the 2023 general election, the Chief Electoral Officer began a thorough review of the job descriptions and organizational chart of Elections NWT. Each job description is being reviewed and potentially re-written to better reflect the operational needs of Elections NWT. This work will continue through 2022-23.

Other Work

Since December 2021, there are three other areas on which the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer has been focusing.

Move to active management of the voters list

It had been the practice of Elections NWT to do periodic revisions of the Register of Territorial Electors, typically in the months leading up to an election event. Outside of that timeframe, an elector was not able to go on the Elections NWT website to confirm if they were on the Register, to update their information, or to register as a new elector. In the event of an unscheduled election event, this meant the Register could be quite out of date, particularly with deceased electors and new electors.

Since the conclusion of the Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh by-election in February 2022, the Voter Registration page on the Elections NWT website has remained open, with a link from the homepage. The Register is now

updated monthly with information from Vital Statistics, and Elections NWT will be looking at additional information sources in 2022-23 to ensure the Register is as up to date as possible.

Auxiliary Report

In March 2021, the Legislative Assembly directed the Chief Electoral Officer to provide research and recommendations on electoral matters identified by the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures, arising from the Committee's review on the Chief Electoral Officer's Report on the Administration of the 2019 Territorial General Election. The House further directed that the Chief Electoral Officer respond within six months.

No report had been submitted to the Legislative Assembly by the September 2021 deadline. The Chief Electoral Officer undertook the research upon taking office, and submitted the Auxiliary Report to the Speaker on 25 March 2022. The Auxiliary Report included additional research in the areas requested by the Legislative Assembly:

- investigate how other provinces or territories allow residents to cast votes from any polling station;
 - The Chief Electoral Officer proposed running a trial during the 2023 general election to allow for a vote anywhere model during advance voting in the office of the Returning Officers.
- undertake a review of best practices on election reporting and return to the Legislative Assembly with the findings of that review and any potential amendments to the *Elections and Plebiscites Act*;
 - The Chief Electoral Officer recommended against adding too many reporting requirements into legislation, but did commit Elections NWT to the principles of open data and that future election results reports will contain as much information without compromising the secrecy of the vote.

and

- undertake a review of the requirements to publicly disclose a Candidate's residential address and return to the Legislative Assembly with the findings of that review and any potential amendments to the *Elections and Plebiscites Act*.
 - The Chief Electoral Officer recommended that the requirement to publish a candidate's or official agent's residential address be removed from legislation. Elections NWT will no longer publish residential addresses as part of the summaries of Candidate Financial Reports.

The Chief Electoral Officer included one additional recommendation in the Auxiliary Report. The Register of Territorial Electors does not have many young electors registered. To help address this, Elections NWT would like to create a Register of Future Electors, to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to register with Elections NWT, and upon their 18th birthday, those electors will be automatically transferred to the Register of Territorial Electors.

Appearance in front of PROC

In March 2022, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs invited the Chief Electoral Officer to appear as a witness regarding the Committee's study regarding the inclusion of Indigenous languages on federal election ballots.

The CEO spoke about the format of ballots used in the Northwest Territories, notably that a candidate's photo is included, along with the name by which the candidate is commonly known in their community. This would include printing a name using Indigenous diacritics if the candidate identified them on their nomination paper. No other text is included on the ballot.



The CEO also spoke about past plebiscites conducted by Elections NWT that included printing the ballot question in the Indigenous language(s) most spoken in that electoral district. The CEO answered questions from Members of Parliament on the use of Indigenous languages in territorial elections.



Budget

	Budget	Actuals	Variance
Permanent Salaries	487,000	282,211	204,789
Casual Wages	0	0	0
Employee Related Costs	0	52,401	-52,401
Total C&B	487,000	334,612	152,388
Travel & Transport	15,000	2,663	12,337
Materials and Supplies	1,000	16,747	-15,747
Purchased Services	1,000	7,647	-6,647
Utilities	0	0	0
Contract Services	9,000	64,740	-55,740
Fees & Payments	5,000	4,198	802
Other - TSC Chargeback	0	0	0
Controllable Assets	0	-1,413	1,413
Computer Hard/Software	0	5,535	-5,535
Total Other Expenses	31,000	100,117	-69,117
TOTAL OFFICE OF THE CEO	518,000	434,729	83,271