



Elections *NWT*



2004

Report of the Chief Electoral
Officer on the 2004 Inuvik
Twin Lakes By-Election



January 26, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Delorey:

Report on the Inuvik Twin Lakes By-election and Official Results

As acting Chief Electoral Officer of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to present to you the Report and Official Results on the Inuvik Twin Lakes By-election held Monday November 29, 2004.

The report is submitted to you pursuant to subsection 162 (b) of the *Elections Act*.

Sincerely,



Glen W. McLean
A/Chief Electoral Officer



Introduction

The by-election in Inuvik Twin Lakes was held on Monday November 29, 2004. The Commissioner signed the Writ of Election requiring the Chief Electoral Officer to issue the Writ on Monday November 1, 2004 and requiring it to be returned on Thursday December 9, 2004.

The by-election was held as a result of the resignation of the former Member, Mr. Roger Allen, on October 12, 2004.

Electors

To be able to vote in the Inuvik Twin Lakes by-election, eligible electors must have been Canadian citizens, 18 years of age or older on polling day, a resident of the Northwest Territories since November 29, 2003 and resident in the electoral district of Inuvik Twin Lakes on the day they voted.

The Register of Territorial Electors, or R.O.T.E, produced the preliminary list of electors for the Inuvik Twin Lakes by-election based on last year's general election. R.O.T.E is the permanent record of territorial voters maintained by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer.

The revision of the preliminary list of electors took place between Monday November 1, 2004 and Friday November 5, 2004. The preliminary list contained 571 voters and following the revision the names of 555 eligible electors remained on the official list of electors to be used at the by-election.

Candidates and Nomination

Prospective candidates had between Monday November 1, 2004 and Friday November 5, 2004 to file nomination papers with the returning officer. A total of 7 candidates filed their nomination papers prior to the 2:00 p.m. deadline. There were no withdrawals prior to the 5:00 p.m. deadline. All candidates provided a picture of themselves for the ballot paper.

Voting

Voters in the electoral district of Inuvik Twin Lakes were given a number of options to choose from in which to cast their ballot. Voting by special ballot was available from Monday November 1, 2004 until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday November 27, 2004; voting by special mobile poll was offered from November 22-25, 2004 to those eligible electors who were unable to attend any other poll due to mobility problems; and voting in the office of the returning officer was available from Wednesday November 17, 2004 until Saturday November 27, 2004.

Overall a total of 682 eligible electors cast their ballot with 194, or 28%, choosing to vote using special opportunities and 488, or 72%, voting on polling day.

Of the 682 voters who cast their ballots 328 or 48% were sworn-in and the remaining 354 were previously registered and appeared on the official list of electors. The number of voters who were previously registered represents a 64% accuracy rate for R.O.T.E. The accuracy rate, while not exceptionally high, is encouraging considering the elector data was almost one year old and Elections NWT did not carry out a confirmation of the elector data prior to the by-election. Elections NWT will need to determine if the confirmation process should be automatic in the case of by-elections, occurring a year or more after a general election. Conducting a confirmation of elector data will most likely add a minimum of three weeks to the by-election process. A review of the completed oaths of electors will be undertaken to determine the main factors that contributed to the number of voters sworn-in.

Judicial Recount

Subsection 137 (1) of the *Elections Act* provides that where the number of votes separating the candidate receiving the highest number of votes and any other candidate is nil or less than 2% of the total number of votes cast, a judicial recount shall take place. Mr. Robert C. McLeod received 169 votes and Ms. Pauline Gordon received 158 votes resulting in margin of 11 votes separating the candidates or 1.6%.

A judicial recount was conducted by The Honourable J.E. Richard of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories, on Wednesday December 8, 2004 in Inuvik. The judicial recount resulted in one candidate receiving an additional vote and the voting results for Mr. McLeod and Ms. Gordon remaining unchanged.

Complaints

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer received only one written complaint with respect to the conduct of the Inuvik Twin Lakes by-election. The complaint was in reference to the number of voters who were sworn-in and the possibility that some electors were not resident in the electoral district or were persons who were not eligible to vote. The complaint letter did not provide any specific details on the non-eligibility; therefore the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer was unable to investigate further.

Acknowledgement

I wish to acknowledge and congratulate Ms. Juanita Bourque, returning officer, and her election staff for the professionalism shown in conducting the Inuvik Twin Lakes by-election.



Polling Division

Candidate	1	2	3	Special Voting Opportunities	Total	Percentage of Valid Votes
BINDER, Richard M.	11	7	5	3	26	3.83%
GORDON, Pauline	16	65	52	25	158	23.27%
HANSEN, Arlene	15	39	45	44	143	21.06%
MCLEOD, Robert C.	7	36	53	73	169	24.89%
SIMPSON, Bob	8	16	12	5	41	6.04%
WILLIAMS, Tom	5	23	39	32	99	14.58%
WOOD, Clarence G.	9	14	10	10	43	6.33%
Rejected Ballots	0	1	0	2	3	
Declined Ballots	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	71	201	216	194	682	
Voters on Official List	109	207	239	-	555	
Voter Turnout	65.14%	97.10%	90.38%		122.88%	

Special voting opportunities include voting in the office of the Returning Officer, special ballots and special mobile polls.

Elected candidate: Robert C. McLeod
 Majority: 11 votes (1.58%)



