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WRITTEN DIRECTIVE
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER
TO: **CANDIDATES, OFFICIAL AGENTS, ELECTIONS OFFICERS, and ELECTORS IN THE 2022 TU NEDHÉ-WIILIDEH BY-ELECTION**
RE: **ABSENTEE BALLOT CERTIFICATION & EXTENSION OF TIME TO APPLY**

Pursuant to sections 9, 9.1 and 132 of the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* (the "Act"), given the exclusive use of Absentee Ballots due to the unforeseen circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic as noted in Written Directive 22-01, the Chief Electoral Officer directs the following:

1. Minor errors in Part 1 of the Absentee Ballot Certificate Envelope (1081e), as filled out by the elector, where the intent of the elector is clear, are not to be deemed grounds for rejecting the ballot package. Minor errors include:
    a. Using the electoral district name instead of the community name on the appropriate line;
    b. Not including the community;
    c. Listing the month as a number instead of writing the name of the month;
    d. Inscribing the wrong date or not including any date.

2. Major errors in Part 1 of the Absentee Ballot Certificate Envelope (1081e), as filled out by the elector, are grounds for rejecting the ballot package during certification. Major errors include:
    a. Not signing the Absentee Ballot Certificate;
    b. Any alteration to the Voter ID or Name as listed by Elections NWT on the Absentee Ballot Certificate.

3. In the event of a major error in a ballot package received prior to Friday, February 4th, Elections NWT staff are directed to make their best efforts to contact the elector and to provide the opportunity to the elector to address the error. Electors may contact Elections NWT toll-free at (844) 767-9100 to confirm whether their Absentee Ballot Certificate has any major errors.

4. Elections NWT staff may not correct the Absentee Ballot Certificate on behalf of the elector, but may assist the elector upon request.

5. Notwithstanding section 134 of the Act, the time to apply for an Absentee Ballot is hereby set to Friday, February 4, 2022 at 12:00pm. Any application made on or after Monday, January 31, 2022 will, once approved, be couriered to the election officer in that community by the afternoon of Friday, February 4th. The election officer shall contact the elector and arrange for the package to be picked up.

6. Any ballot package sent after Monday January 31st, or returned to an elector for correction, should once corrected, be returned to Elections NWT through an Election Officer or through the Ballot Drop Boxes located in the riding:

a. Office of the Returning Officer on the 1st floor of the Det'on Cho building, 900 Sikyea Tili in Ndılo̧;

b. Elections NWT, on the 3rd floor of YK Centre East, 4915 - 48th Street in Yellowknife;

c. In Łutselk'e to Jeanette Lockhart at (867) 785-0109 or to the drop box located in the Co-op; or

d. In Fort Resolution to Lorraine Villeneuve at (867) 688-1705 or to the drop box located in the Northern Store.

7. All ballot packages submitted to Elections Officials at these locations shall be kept securely until they are transmitted to the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer. Nothing in this directive permits the opening of Absentee Ballot Certificate Envelopes (1081e) or examining of ballots prior to counting of the ballots on February 9.

8. All ballots must be received by 8pm, February 8, 2022.

9. Certification of all Absentee Ballot Certificates will take place prior to the counting of the ballots on February 9, 2022, and candidates or their polling agents will have the opportunity to register an objection to any Absentee Ballot Certificate at that time.

If electors have any questions they can contact the Returning Officer, Amanda Mallon at RO_TuNedheWiilideh@electionsnwt.ca or contact Elections NWT at (867) 767-9100 or (toll-free) 1-844-767-9100.
This written directive is made to ensure that electors are given every possible opportunity to ensure that their vote shall be counted.