

# ELECTIONS NWT STRATEGIC PLAN

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2025-2029

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## Message from the Chief Electoral Officer

I am pleased to present to you our 2025-2029 Strategic Plan. This document outlines our vision, goals, and strategies to ensure the integrity, accessibility, and efficiency of our electoral processes.

As the Chief Electoral Officer, I am committed to upholding the highest standards of transparency and fairness in all our operations. Our strategic plan is a testament to our dedication to continuous improvement and innovation in the face of evolving challenges and opportunities. It reflects our commitment to fostering a democratic environment where every eligible citizen can exercise their right to vote freely and fairly.

Key priorities in our strategic plan include enhancing voter education and outreach, leveraging technology to improve electoral processes, while strengthening our processes to ensure accountability and continue to build trust in the election process. We are also focused on building a resilient and adaptable organization that can respond effectively to emerging issues and trends.

We are committed to providing a transparent, and efficient electoral system that upholds the democratic values we all cherish.

Sincerely,



Stephen Dunbar  
Chief Electoral Officer, Northwest Territories

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# Introduction

Our strategic plan outlines our vision to achieve a politically engaged Northwest Territorial electorate who can take part in their democracy in a fair and free environment, exercising their democratic rights.

This plan focuses on a future that continues to be accountable, transparent, accessible, and operates with integrity.

Elections NWT is committed to upholding these principles, thereby ensuring we continue to hold a high degree of public confidence in the electoral process.



## Accountability

- Use public money responsibly
- Committed to standards, best practices and legislation
- Take ownership of our work
- Always election ready



## Transparency

- Open and honest about decision-making process
- Clear and consistent communication
- Honesty and clear explanations when things do not go as planned
- Explain our processes in plain language



## Accessibility

- Remove barriers to voting
- Ensure polling places are accessible
- Remove language barriers
- Modernize access to voting



## Integrity

- Always act in the interest of electors
- Deliver on our mandate
- Ensure our processes are easily understood and applied consistently
- Welcome feedback and revise processes when required

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## Vision

A politically engaged electorate who can freely exercise their democratic rights.

## Mandate

- Conduct territorial general elections, by-elections and plebiscites
- Ensure compliance with territorial election law
- Maintain election-related information, including the territorial register of electors
- Keep the public informed about elections

## Values

Professional ✕ Respectful ✕ Apolitical  
Impartial ✕ Elector-focused ✕ Accurate

## Mission

Ensure a high degree of public confidence in the electoral process through the delivery of free and fair elections

## 1 Modernize the Electoral Process

There are an increasing number of new tools available for administrating an election, many of which make the process of voting easier and faster for voters. Implementing these tools will increase efficiency and accuracy in managing the register of electors.

**Elections NWT will:**

- Perform quarterly information updates to the register using data from our partners
- Improve our ability to update the register by expanding the number of datasets we use
- Pilot technology to enable active strike-off on the list of electors at the polls in Yellowknife, Hay River, and Inuvik.
- Rewrite Elections and Plebiscites Act to function in the modern world, and have it tabled by October 2026.

**Outcome:**

Increase the accuracy of the register of electors through regular information updates and maintenance from several sources. Improve the voter experience at polls, and candidate experience in running in an election.

## 2 Support Indigenous Languages

Elections NWT is responsible for removing as many barriers as possible to voters. This includes providing materials in all official languages. Building off our work for the 2023 Territorial General Election, we want to provide even more materials in the official indigenous languages of the territory to better serve all voters.

**Elections NWT will:**

- Expand the Kids Vote program to include indigenous languages
- Introduce “I Voted” stickers in indigenous languages
- Conduct outreach to indigenous governments to develop a guide for election terminology in indigenous languages
- Introduce indigenous language audio aides for voters
- Provide the Oath of Elector form in indigenous languages

**Outcome:**

Continuing to improve access to election materials by increasing the inventory of indigenous language materials available to voters for the 2027 territorial general election.



## 3 Education

Having a well-informed elector base is important for enabling voters to exercise their democratic rights.

**Elections NWT will:**

- Create a digital newsletter for residents interested in the election process by March of 2026
- Develop a new website with more easily available information, and launch it by March of 2027
- Develop a presentation that can be given at high schools to encourage interest in democracy among youth, and deliver presentations in schools
- Promote registrations to the register of future electors
- Develop educational materials aimed at candidates, official agents, and voters

**Outcome:**

Having a better-informed elector base leading into the 2027 territorial general election by increasing our presence in secondary schools and developing easy to understand educational materials for the general electorate to increase voter education and participation.

## 4 Engaging With Local Authorities

Understanding that multiple agencies conduct elections throughout the NWT, Elections NWT is keen to further understand their needs and how we can provide support.

**Elections NWT will:**

- Conduct a survey of NWT indigenous, municipal, and school board authorities to gauge how Elections NWT can support their elections. The survey will cover:
  - Staff sharing
  - Training support and collaboration
  - Legislative interpretation
  - Materials and supplies
  - Sharing the List of Electors
  - Common concerns with elections

**Outcome:**

Cultivate mutually beneficial relationships with local governments and authorities to support their election administration and voter participation.

## 5 Enhance Training

Having well-trained staff is necessary to a successful election. With staff in every community, training needs to be adaptable to a delivery system that works for all staff.

**Elections NWT will:**

- Develop a new online training system
- Update in-person training
- Develop a flexible training plan that can be adapted to effectively train all staff.
- Collaborate with local authorities for training opportunities, if they are interested

**Outcome:**

Cultivating trusted, respectful, confident and well-trained staff who are ready for an election at any time.