



Guide for Voters

Published by the Chief Electoral Officer – September 2015



If you require this information in another official language, please
contact the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer toll-free at

1-844-767-9100

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Glossary | 4 |
| Introduction | 7 |
| Who is Eligible to Vote? | 7 |
| Voter Registration..... | 8 |
| Voter Identification..... | 10 |
| The Candidates | 13 |
| On Polling Day | 14 |
| Special Voting Opportunities | 20 |
| Calendar of 2015 Electoral Events | 24 |
| List of Returning Officers..... | 26 |

Glossary

2015 Territorial General Election - an event in which residents of the NWT will elect members to serve in the 18th Legislative Assembly.

Acclaimed - if there is only one Candidate in an electoral district when the nomination period closes, that Candidate is automatically elected by “acclamation”.

Ballot - a piece of paper with the names of each Candidate in the electoral district listed next to a circle in which the voter marks their choice.

Ballot Box - a cardboard box with a narrow slot on top, into which ballots are placed until the polls close and the ballots are ready to be counted.

Candidate - a person who is officially seeking to represent an electoral district in the Legislative Assembly.

Chief Electoral Officer - the person appointed by the Commissioner of the NWT to administer territorial elections, by-elections, and plebiscites.

Deputy Returning Officer - the person in charge of the polling station.

Elections and Plebiscites Act - The legislation that establishes the rules and procedures governing the conduct of territorial elections.

Electoral District – the geographic area to be represented; sometimes called a “riding” or “constituency”.

Eligible Elector - a person who is qualified to vote in a territorial election.

Official Agent - the person appointed by a Candidate to run their campaign.

Official Count - the total count by the Returning Officer of all the votes cast in all the polling stations in an electoral district and in Special Voting Opportunities.

Ordinarily Resident - living in the place you consider your permanent residence or the location of your home address.

Personal Acquaintance - proving your identity by personally knowing an election officer who is present in the Office of the Returning Officer.

Poll Clerk - the person who assists the Deputy Returning Officer at a polling station.

Polling Day - the fixed date on which a general election occurs. Polling Day for the 2015 Territorial General Election will be Monday, November 23rd.

Polling Division - an established geographic area within an electoral district.

Polling Place - a building in a community in which polling stations are located.

Polling Station - the place where ballots are cast.

Register of Electors - the official list of electors for each polling division in the NWT - sometimes called the “voters list”.

Returning Officer - the official responsible for conducting an election in an electoral district; he or she works under the direction of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Special Voting Opportunities - the opportunity to vote by Absentee Ballot, or at a Multi-District Poll, a Mobile Poll, an Advance Poll location, or in the Office of the Returning Officer. See pages 15 to 19 for more information.

Temporarily Resident - staying somewhere that is not your permanent residence for an extended period of time. For example: at school, at camp, or in the hospital.

Writ - an official document that authorizes the beginning of an election and later certifies who has been elected.



Introduction

Voting is a basic right which allows Northerners to decide who will represent them in the Legislative Assembly and make decisions on their behalf.

The election process is overseen by the Chief Electoral Officer of the Northwest Territories, who is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly. Independence allows for the election process to be conducted without political interference.

The independence of this position is governed by a lengthy and prescriptive piece of legislation called the *Elections and Plebiscites Act*, which must be precisely followed.

Every vote is secret. No one but you will know what choice you made, and no one may attempt to see which Candidate you voted for.

The purpose of this guide is to inform people about the electoral process for the 2015 Territorial General Election.

The 2015 election period officially begins on October 26th, when the Chief Electoral Officer issues the Writ.

Who is Eligible to Vote?

An individual may vote in an election if, on **November 23 2015**, they:

- are a Canadian citizen
- are 18 years of age or older, and
- have been a resident of the NWT for the past 12 consecutive months

The residency requirement can sometimes be confusing. If, during the past year, you were temporarily outside of the territory for school, employment, needed long-term medical attention, or were incarcerated, you still are considered a resident and can still vote.

Voter Registration

In order to vote, you must be registered. Elections NWT works year round to keep the Register of Electors as complete and accurate as possible, but information can change. If you have recently:

- moved to a different home in your community
- moved to another NWT community
- moved to the NWT (before November 2014)
- changed your name
- celebrated your 18th birthday

...then you should register.

Register On-line

Register on-line at **www.electionsnwt.ca** or call us at **1-844-767-9100**.

On-line registration will close **November 5th, 2015 at 1:00pm**.

Register With Your Returning Officer

There is a territory-wide revision period during which you can add or amend your name and address.

The revision period is from October 26th until November 5th. During office hours, you may contact the Returning Officer for your electoral district to check the name and address listed for you or for family members who live with you.

Register at the Polls

Registering to vote on polling day can take more time for you and for those who are in line behind you waiting to cast a ballot.

If you go to vote and find out that you are not accurately registered, you may still be issued a ballot. An election officer can register you on polling day, but you must have proper identification and take an oath.

If you are not registered by November 5th, some Special Voting Opportunities may not be open to you.

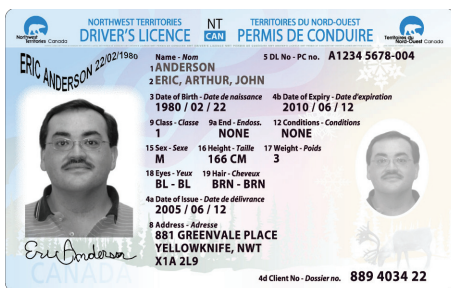


Voter Identification

Voter identification rules are meant to ensure that only eligible electors are casting a ballot. Your identification will be used to prove your identity and your residency.

Option 1:

Show one piece of government issued photo identification that shows your current address.



NWT Driver's Licence



NWT General Identification Card

Did you know it is free to have your address updated on your driver's license or general identification card?

Option 2:

Show two pieces of ID – one for identity and one for residence.

If you do not have a piece of government issued photo identification with your current address, you must show one piece of identification to prove your identity and one piece to prove your residency.

Proof of Identity

- Driver's License (NWT)
- General Identification Card (NWT)
- Status Card
- Birth Certificate
- Health Card
- Canadian Passport
- Fishing, Trapping, Hunting Licence
- Firearms Possession/Acquisition Licence
- Social Insurance Card
- Old Age Security (OAS) Card
- Government Employee ID
- Library Card
- Canadian Forces ID Card
- Veterans Affairs Health Card
- Canadian Blood Services Card
- CNIB ID Card
- Bracelet - Long Term Care Facility
- Student Card from Accredited College or University

Proof of Residence

- First Nation or Self-Government Attestation of Residence
- Utility Bill (telephone, cable, public utilities)
- Bank Statement
- Credit Card Statement
- Vehicle Ownership
- Employment Insurance Statement
- Disability Statement
- Income Support Statement
- Child Tax Benefit Statement
- Pension Statement
- Government Cheque Stub
- Residential Lease
- Mortgage or Lease Agreement
- Income Tax Assessment
- Property Tax Assessment
- Home Insurance Policy
- Affidavit
- Letter or Statement issued by: shelter, elders home, or long-term care facility.

Option 3:

Vouching – you take an oath, and someone whose name appears on the Register of Electors for a polling division in the same electoral district as you and who has sufficient identification also takes an oath to vouch for you.

A registered elector can vouch for up to five eligible voters, provided they are in the same electoral district as the person vouching.

Option 4:

Personal Acquaintance – If you are not on the Register of Electors but you personally know an election officer, you can take an oath and prove your identity by personal acquaintance.

You can only prove your identity by acquaintance when casting a ballot in the Office of the Returning Officer or at an Advance Poll.



The Candidates

The list of Candidates is based on who completes and submits a Nomination Paper. If only one person is nominated to stand for election, then that person is acclaimed as elected.

If more than one person is nominated, then the Returning Officer for the electoral district will issue a Notice of Grant of a Poll. This means that people in the electoral district will vote to decide who is to be their representative.

Nominations occur during the week of October 26th - 30th. The Elections NWT website will maintain a live list of Official Candidates during the nomination period.

There are 19 electoral districts in the territory. Electors in each district will elect one person to be their representative in the Legislative Assembly.

The selection of Candidates from which you may choose depends on the electoral district where you are ordinarily resident. Some people may be temporarily resident at another location (such as school, camp, or hospital), but your ordinary place of residence is the place you consider home.

If you are unsure which electoral district you reside in, refer to the maps on our website or call our office toll-free at **1-844-767-9100**.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate, check out the *Guide for Candidates and Official Agents* which is available from your Returning Officer or online at **www.electionsnwt.ca/candidates**.

On Polling Day

This section explains how to cast a ballot. In addition to Polling Day, there are several opportunities to vote throughout the election period. These are discussed in the chapter on Special Voting Opportunities (pages 20-23).

On Polling Day (November 23rd) voting will take place at a polling place in your community from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm. A polling place will contain one or more polling stations depending on the size of your community. If you live in Yellowknife, there will be more than one polling place.

Polling locations will be advertised in advance of Polling Day, but if you are unsure where to go to vote, contact the Returning Officer for your electoral district.

Obtaining a Ballot

Within a polling place, there are at least two officials at each polling station:

- A Deputy Returning Officer who will check your identification and will issue you a ballot.
- A Poll Clerk who will strike your name and address from the Register of Electors.

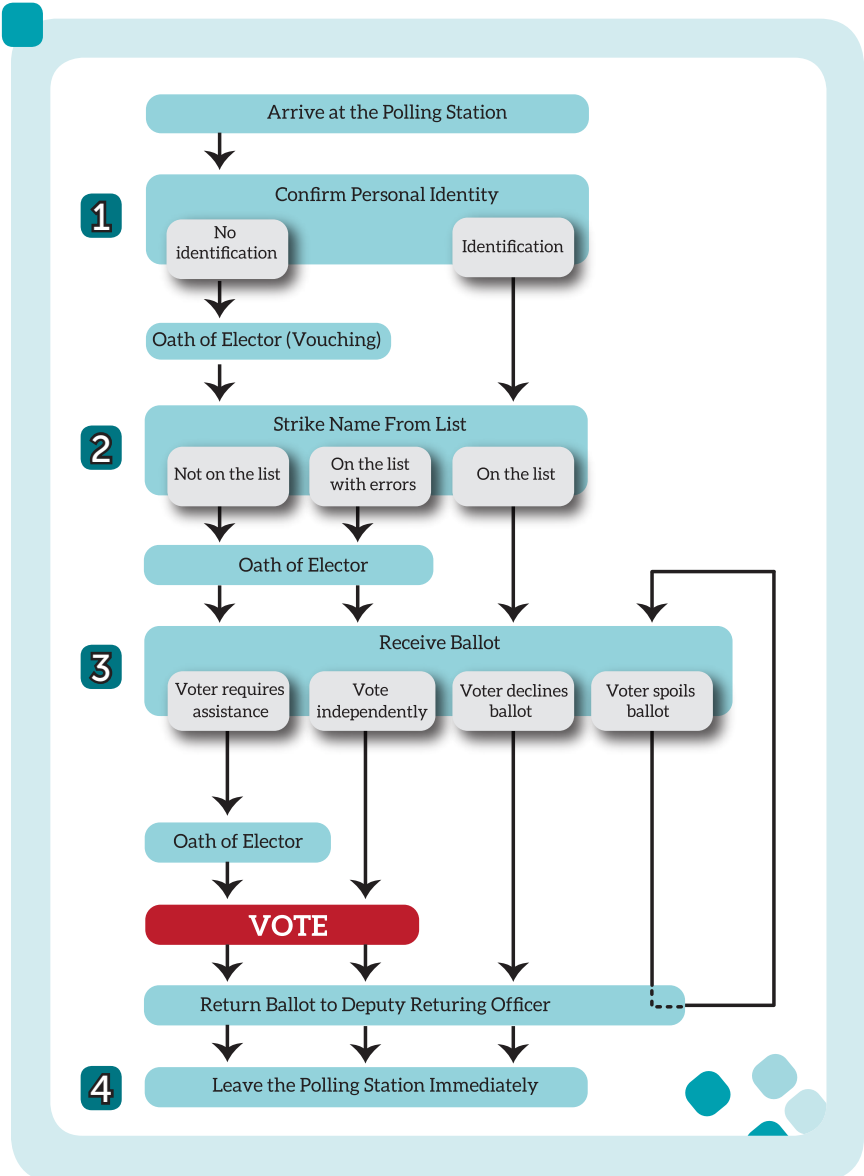
In order to cast a ballot, you must complete all the necessary steps in the polling process (**figure 1**).

1 Confirm Your Identity

Before you can be issued a ballot, you must confirm your identity and that you are a resident of the electoral district in which you are trying to vote. The simplest way to do this is to provide acceptable identification to the Deputy Returning Officer. Pages 10 and 11 of this guide describe the types of identification that are acceptable.

If you do not have sufficient identification, you can take an oath and have someone vouch for your identity. See page 12 for more details about how you can have someone vouch for you.

figure 1: The Polling Process



2 Strike Your Name from the List

Once you have confirmed your personal identity, your name will be struck from the Register of Electors before you are given a ballot. Making sure you are accurately registered before November 5 will make this part of the process much quicker.

If you are already on the Register, and your name and address are correct, the Poll Clerk will draw a line through your name and issue you a ballot.

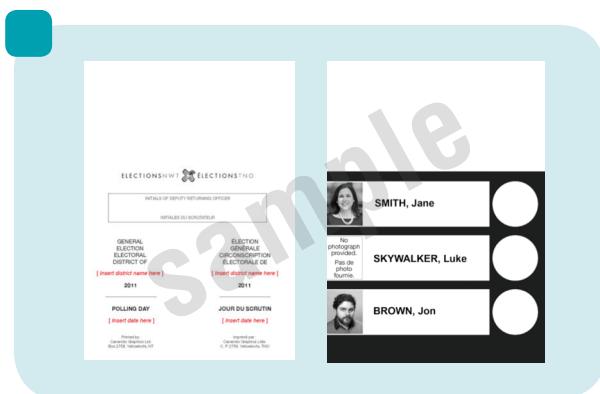
If you are on the Register, but your name and/or address contain errors, you will have to take an oath to have your information corrected. You will then be struck from the Register and issued your ballot.

If you are NOT on the Register, you will have to take an oath. You will then be issued a ballot and your name will be recorded in the poll book once you have cast your ballot.

3 Receive Your Ballot

Once you have confirmed your personal identity, and had your name struck from the Register, the Deputy Returning Officer will issue you a folded ballot bearing the initials of the Officer (**figure 2**).

figure 2:
Regular Ballot



Once you are issued a ballot, you have some options:

VOTE INDEPENDENTLY

You take your folded ballot behind a voting screen. The voting screen is to provide privacy so that only you will know how your ballot is marked.

On the ballot you will find names listed in alphabetical order. You are asked to clearly place an X in the circle next to the name of the candidate of your choice.

Once you have marked your ballot, re-fold and return the ballot to the Deputy Returning Officer who gave you the ballot. Without unfolding the ballot, the Deputy Returning Officer will check to see that their initials are on the back, tear off the counterfoil and, in front of you, deposit the ballot in the ballot box.

VOTE WITH ASSISTANCE

Elections NWT is committed to using offices and polling stations that are accessible. If a person needs help to vote, election officers are there to assist.

If you need help to cast a ballot, you may bring a friend or relative to help mark your ballot. Your helper must take an oath that they will never tell anyone how you voted. A helper may assist no more than two voters per election.

If you do not have a friend or relative with you, the Deputy Returning Officer can help you mark your ballot. Once you have marked and re-folded your ballot, return it to the Deputy Returning Officer who will check to see that their initials are on the back and then deposit the ballot in the ballot box.

Candidates and Official Agents may NOT help an elector to cast their ballot.

If you require a translator, speak to the Deputy Returning Officer.

DECLINING A BALLOT

Electors also have the right to decline casting a ballot. To do this, the elector must immediately indicate their intention to decline voting by telling the Deputy Returning Officer, who then takes the ballot back and writes the word “declined” on the ballot.

The ballot is then placed in a special envelope for declined ballots. When the poll closes, all declined ballots will be counted and the total number recorded.

Once you have declined your ballot, you have forfeited your right to cast a ballot and cannot try to vote again in that election. This will not prevent you from voting in future elections.

SPOILING A BALLOT

Sometimes, an elector will make a mistake when marking their ballot (**figure 3**). If you require a new ballot, re-fold the ballot and give it back to the Deputy Returning Officer who issued it to you.

Tell them that you made an error and that you would like a new ballot. The Deputy Returning Officer will write ‘spoiled’ across the old ballot and issue you a new one.

If you are unsure how to fill out your ballot, refer to the instructions on the voting screen, or ask the Deputy Returning Officer for assistance.

4 Leave the Polling Station

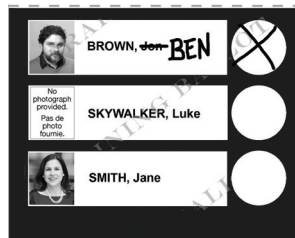
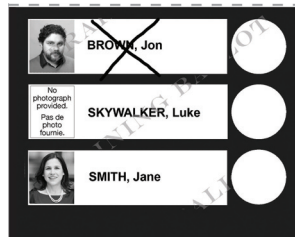
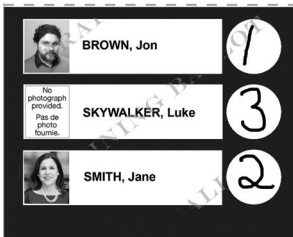
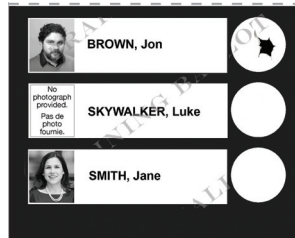
Once you have returned your ballot to the Deputy Returning Officer, you must leave the polling station right away.

figure 3: Marking the Ballot

CORRECT



INCORRECT



Special Voting Opportunities

Most people will vote at a polling station on November 23rd.

However, some people, due to travel schedules, mobility problems, or other reasons, will take advantage of earlier opportunities to vote.

Voting in the Office of the Returning Officer

Voting Period: November 11th to November 21st at 2:00 p.m.

During office hours an eligible elector may vote in the Office of the Returning Officer for the electoral district. This is an excellent opportunity to vote, especially if you might be travelling on polling day or just want to avoid any possible line-ups.

If you have been unable to get proper identification and you are personally known by your Returning Officer, you are encouraged to vote in the Office of the Returning Officer. Your identity can be proven by personal acquaintance.

Voting by Multi-District Poll

Voting Period: November 16th to November 19th

Multi-District Polls allow voters temporarily resident at one place to vote for a candidate running in the electoral district where they ordinarily reside.

Multi-District Poll locations are selected by the Chief Electoral Officer, and typically include places such as college campuses or correctional facilities, and remote mine sites.

After October 26th, you can call your Returning Officer or check our website for information about where Multi-District Polls will be taking place.

Voting by Advance Poll

Advance Polls are administered from November 16th to 19th. An Advance Poll will take place for one day only in each community listed. Hours of operation for each Advance Poll will be advertised in advance.

Advance Polls will be held in the following NWT communities:

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Fort Providence | Whati | Ulukhaktok |
| Hay River Reserve | Fort Liard | Colville Lake |
| Kakisa | Jean Marie River | Déline |
| Fort McPherson | Nahanni Butte | Fort Good Hope |
| Tsiigehtchic | Trout Lake | Tulita |
| Edzo | Wrigley | Dettah |
| Gamètì | Paulatuk | Łutselk'e |
| Wekweètì | Sachs Harbour | N'dilo |

If you plan to vote in an Advance Poll, you can save time at the poll by registering in advance and by bringing sufficient identification.

If you do not have sufficient identification but you are personally known by the election officer administering the poll, your identity can be proven by personal acquaintance.

Voting by Absentee Ballot

Application Period: October 12th to November 13th

Voting Period: October 31st to November 23rd

The Absentee Ballot is helpful for those eligible electors who may find themselves outside of the territory for an extended period of time this fall. Students, people on extended vacation, or those working outside the NWT are some of the people who will vote by Absentee Ballot.

In order to apply for an Absentee Ballot, you must be accurately registered with Elections NWT. You can register online or by calling **1-844-767-9100**. If you plan to vote by Absentee Ballot, you must ensure you are on the Register of Electors by November 5th.

Once you are on registered, you can apply for an Absentee Ballot through your Returning Officer or online at **www.electionsnwt.ca/absentee-ballot**

If your application is accepted, you will receive a package that contains instructions and a ballot (**figure 4**). Your ballot must be returned to the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer by 8:00pm (close of polls) on November 23rd.

figure 4:
Absentee Ballot

FRONT

Chief Electoral Officer/Directeur général des élections
ELECTIONS NWT/ÉLECTIONS T.N.-O.
Absentee Ballot/Bulletin de vote par correspondance

Initials of Returning Officer/initiales du directeur du scrutin
or Assistant Returning Officer/ou du directeur adjoint du scrutin

Authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer/Autorisé par le directeur général des élections

1086

SERIAL NUMBER/
NUMÉRO DE SÉRIE

1001

BACK

Print the name of the candidate on the line below/
Inscrivez le nom du candidat en caractères d'imprimerie sur la ligne ci-dessous.

I vote for/ Je vote pour :

Voting by Mobile Poll

Application Period: November 9th to November 13th

Voting Period: November 16th to November 19th

For a Special Mobile Poll, an election officer brings the ballot box to the voter.

Anyone who wishes to vote by Special Mobile Poll must apply to their Returning Officer during the application period.

You are only eligible to vote by Special Mobile Poll if you are unable to attend the polls by reason of disability. Those who may be eligible for a Special Mobile Poll include people confined to their home, in an elder's centre, or admitted to a health centre or hospital.

Election Results

Election results will be posted to the Elections NWT website on the night of November 23rd.

The results are reported at different times from different electoral districts. This is because some electoral districts have more polls to report or more ballots to count.

Remember that the results reported on the evening of November 23rd are the unofficial results. Only the Official Addition, undertaken during the days that follow Polling Day, will determine which Candidate is certified as the person elected to represent the electoral district.

Calendar of 2015 Electoral Events

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY |
|---------------|--|--|---|
| OCT 11 | OCT 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absentee Ballot application period opens | OCT 13 | OCT 14 |
| OCT 18 | OCT 19 | OCT 20 | OCT 21 |
| OCT 25 | OCT 26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISSUE OF THE WRITS Nomination Period opens | OCT 27 | OCT 28 |
| NOV 1 | NOV 2 | NOV 3 | NOV 4 |
| NOV 8 | NOV 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobile Poll application period opens | NOV 10 | NOV 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voting in the Returning Office |
| NOV 15 | NOV 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voting in the Office of the Returning Officer available Multi-District/Advance/Mobile Polls in select locations | NOV 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voting in the Office of the Returning Officer available Multi-District/Advance/Mobile Polls in select locations | NOV 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voting in the Returning Office Multi-District/Advance/Mobile Polls in select locations |
| NOV 22 | NOV 23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> POLLING DAY 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Absentee Ballots must be received by CEO by 8:00 p.m. | | |

| WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|---|
| | OCT 15 | OCT 16 | OCT 17 |
| | OCT 22 | OCT 23 | OCT 24 |
| | OCT 29 | OCT 30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nomination period closes at 2:00 p.m. • Candidate Withdrawal deadline is 5:00 p.m. | OCT 31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of Absentee Ballot packages begins |
| | NOV 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision period for the Register of Electors closes at 1:00 p.m. | NOV 6 | NOV 7 |
| Office of the Returning Officer available | NOV 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voting in the Office of the Returning Officer available | NOV 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voting in the Office of the Returning Officer available • Absentee Ballot and Mobile Poll application period closes | NOV 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voting in the Office of the Returning Officer available |
| Office of the Returning Officer available Advance/Mobile Poll locations | NOV 19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voting in the Office of the Returning Officer available • Multi-District/Advance/Mobile Polls in select locations | NOV 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voting in the Office of the Returning Officer available | NOV 21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voting in the Office of the Returning Officer ends at 2:00 p.m. |
| | | | |

List of Returning Officers

| ELECTORAL DISTRICT | RETURNING OFFICER | COMMUNITIES WITHIN DISTRICT |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--|
| DEH CHO | Vivian Cadieux | Enterprise, Fort Providence, Hay River Reserve, Kakisa |
| FRAME LAKE | Sheila Nelson | Yellowknife |
| GREAT SLAVE | Brenda Kolson | Yellowknife |
| HAY RIVER NORTH | Marny Twigge | Hay River |
| HAY RIVER SOUTH | Heather Coakwell | Hay River |
| INUVIK BOOT LAKE | Debbie Gordon-Ruben | Inuvik |
| INUVIK TWIN LAKES | Juanita Bourque | Inuvik |
| KAM LAKE | Mary Beauchamp | Yellowknife |
| MACKENZIE DELTA | Daryn Erigaktuak | Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic |
| MONFWI | Harriet Koyina | Behchoko, Edzo, Whati, Gameti, Wekweeti |

| ELECTORAL DISTRICT | RETURNING OFFICER | COMMUNITIES WITHIN DISTRICT |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--|
| NAHENDEH | Tammie Gazon | Fort Liard, Fort Simpson, Trout Lake, Jean Marie River, Wrigley, Nahanni Butte |
| NUNAKPUT | Terri Lee Kuptana | Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Tuktoyaktuk, Ulukhaktok |
| RANGE LAKE | Linda Balsillie | Yellowknife |
| SAHTU | Diana Hodgson | Colville Lake, Deline, Tulita, Norman Wells, Fort Good Hope |
| THEBACHA | Margo Harney | Fort Smith |
| TU NEDHÉ WIILIDEH | Lorraine Villeneuve | Fort Resolution, Lutselk'e, Dettah, N'dilo |
| YELLOWKNIFE NORTH | Pam Dunbar | Yellowknife |
| YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE | John Dalton | Yellowknife |
| YELLOWKNIFE SOUTH | Pat Thagard | Yellowknife |

Phone numbers for Returning Officers will be available on our website starting October 26, 2015 at www.electionsnwt.ca/staff-directory

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer

3rd Floor, YK Centre East
#7, 4915-48th Street
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S4

Call us toll-free

1-844-767-9100

ELECTIONS  ÉLECTIONS

Follow us:  @ElectionsNWT  ElectionsNWT