

Appendix

APPENDIX 4: LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The Canadian Constitution delegates responsibilities for municipalities to the provinces and territories. Municipal governments receive their authority from one of the following GNWT Legislations:

- Cities, Towns and Village Act
- Hamlets Act
- Tłjchq Community Government Act
- Charter Community Act
- Déljne Final Self-Government Agreement Act

In the NWT there are 33 recognized municipal governments. Municipal governments are:

- authorized by the above Acts;
- governed by a council elected by residents;
- accountable to the electorate (voters); and
- accountable to the Minister for requirements in the Acts and policies.

It is the elected official's responsibility to establish policy for their elected authority. It is the responsibility of the administration to implement the policy that the council has established.

A "local authority" is defined in the Local Authorities Elections Act as Municipal Councils, District Education Authorities, and other agencies established in the Northwest Territories that reference the Local Authorities Elections Act as the authority's election rule.

Local authorities must hold elections on the day(s) specified in the Local Authorities Elections Act (see chart on next page), in the Tłjchq Community Government Act or the community charter. Local authorities run and pay for local elections. The local authority can conduct an election on its behalf, or on behalf of another local authority—to help share costs. For example, a community government may agree to share or cover the cost of any election held jointly or on behalf of the District Education Authority. The two authorities should make financial arrangements before the appointment of the Returning Officer.

The term of office for council members in cities, towns, villages, and hamlets may vary from a municipal act if a bylaw is made. The municipalities may also decide to stagger terms of office by bylaw.

A local authority is responsible for notifying the Chief Municipal Electoral Leader whenever they have a by-election or plebiscite. District Education Authorities should notify the Chief Municipal Electoral Leader when they are holding their elections.

Community Governments	Election Date	Term of Office
Cities, Towns, and Villages	3rd Monday in October	Three-year terms*
Hamlets	2nd Monday in December	Two-year terms*
Charter Communities Set out in Establishment Order under Regulations	1st Wednesday after Easter 3rd Monday in July 3rd Monday in June	Déline – every 2nd year Ft. Good Hope – every 2nd year Tsiigehtchic – every year
Tłjchq Community Government	2nd Monday in June	Every four years
District Education Authorities École Scolaire Francophone	Same as a municipal corporation or may set out own date or as set by Ministerial Order.	Same terms as a municipal corporation in the community or as set by Ministerial Order.

* Councils may set a different term of office, by bylaw, from two years to four years.