

# NUNAVUT

## AN EQUAL VOICE PROVINCE SNAPSHOT, 2025

Nunavut (Nvt.) has had one woman premier, and its legislature has not yet achieved gender parity by having women make up at least half of its MLAs. The Legislative Assembly of Nunavut seats 22 members, of which 6 are women (27.3%). Nvt's last election took place in October 2021.



**Population**  
41,159



**Female to Male**  
49.3% : 50.7%



**GDP**  
\$3+ billion

### GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Nvt. has a unicameral legislature, with one chamber: the **Legislative Assembly of Nunavut**. As a parliamentary democracy, Nvt. has 22 constituencies which are each represented by an elected **Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)**.

Nunavut uses a **consensus government** system, in which there are no political parties, and all MLAs are elected as independents. After a general election, MLAs select from among themselves a **Premier** and Cabinet Ministers, who form government.

The **Commissioner of Nunavut** is appointed by the Government of Canada and represents the federal government in the territory.

### MILESTONES

**1999**

The former Northwest Territories was divided into two territories - a new Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The people of Nvt. had pushed to have their own government, which would be based in their culture and language.

**1999**

In Nvt.'s first election, Manitok Thompson was the first and only woman to win a seat in the territory's Legislative Assembly. Thompson was also the first woman elected to Cabinet in Nvt.

**1999**

Helen Maksagak was the first woman to serve as Commissioner of Nvt. She was also the first person to hold this office.

**2008**

Eva Aariak was the first woman premier of Nvt., and the fifth woman to become premier of a Canadian province or territory. She was the only woman elected to Nvt.'s legislature that year.

**2017**

After Nvt.'s 2017 general election, 6 out of 22 MLAs were women (27.3%). This was the first time women represented more than a quarter of Nvt.'s legislature and is the highest proportion of women MLAs in Nvt.'s history.



### CURRENT EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION

(as of Mar 2025)

**Premier:** P.J. Akeeagok (M)  
**Assumed office:** 19 Nov. 2021

7 Cabinet Members  
2 women (28.6%) : 5 men (71.4%)

**Notable portfolios currently held by women:**

- Deputy Premier
- Education
- Human Resources
- Poverty Reduction

### CURRENT LEGISLATURE

(as of Mar 2025)

**22 MLAs total**  
**6 women (27.3%) : 16 men (72.7%)**



### COMMISSIONERS

(as of Mar 2025)

**6 Commissioners since 1999**  
5 women : 1 man

**Current Commissioner:**  
Eva Aariak (W)

### PAST PREMIERS

(as of Mar 2025)

**6 Premiers since 1999**  
1 woman : 5 men

**Eva Aariak, 19 Nov. 2008 - 19 Nov. 2013**