

NUNAVUT

AN EQUAL VOICE PROVINCE SNAPSHOT, 2026

Nunavut (Nvt.) has had one woman serve as 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 5 are women (22.7%). Nvt's last election took place in November 2025.



Population
41,946



Female to Male
48.7% : 51.3%



GDP
\$4.1+ 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 Nov 2025)

Premier: John Main
Assumed office: 20 Nov. 2025

9 Cabinet Members
4 women (44.4%) : 5 men (55.5%)

Notable portfolios currently held by women:

- Health
- Suicide Prevention
- Family Services
- Status of Women
- Homelessness
- Poverty Reduction

CURRENT LEGISLATURE

(as of Nov 2025)

22 MLAs total
5 women (22.7%) : 17 men (77.3%)



PAST PREMIERS

(as of Nov 2025)

7 Premiers since 1999
1 woman : 6 men

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



COMMISSIONERS

(as of Mar 2025)

6 Commissioners since 1999
5 women : 1 man

Current Commissioner:
Eva Aariak (W)