



## **Inuvialuit Regional Corporation announces new chair & CEO**

For Immediate Release

2026-01-21

Inuvik, NT—Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) is pleased to announce the election of its new chairperson, Erwin Elias following the vote held on January 20, 2026. This important milestone marks the beginning of a new chapter in leadership for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, reaffirming IRC's dedication to effective governance and to advancing the rights, interests and priorities of all Inuvialuit beneficiaries.

The election was determined by the votes of 42 directors representing the communities of Aklavik, Inuvik, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Tuktoyaktuk, and Ulukhaktok, who have entrusted Elias to serve as chair for the next four-year term.

Upon accepting the position, Elias shared, "I am honoured to serve as chair and CEO of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation. Building on the foundation set by my predecessor, I am committed to advancing opportunities for all Inuvialuit by strengthening our economic development, preserving our language and traditions and ensuring our voices are heard at every level of government. Together with the directors, communities and our dedicated staff, we will implement the Inuvialuit Final Agreement with integrity, transparency and a clear vision for our collective future. My goal is to ensure every beneficiary has the opportunity to thrive—socially, culturally and economically—while protecting our land and values for generations to come."

Elias will serve as both chair and CEO of IRC. While these are separate roles, they are held concurrently by the same individual. The chair is elected by IRC's 42 directors, whereas the CEO is appointed by the board (at the same meeting in which the election takes place). This dual structure ensures a balance of democratic governance and executive leadership within the organization.

The election of Elias presents an opportunity to build on past achievements and address the evolving needs of Inuvialuit communities.

### **Introducing our new chair**

Erwin Elias, who is originally from Tuktoyaktuk, has spent much of his career dedicated to public service and community development within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Prior to his election as chair of IRC, Elias held leadership and management roles in



local and regional government, including as the former mayor of Tuktoyaktuk, and Inuvialuit Development Corporation director. He continues to maintain strong ties to his community and the region he represents.

### **Chair's role and vision**

As chair of IRC, Elias will serve as the corporation's primary spokesperson and lead strategic initiatives in economic development, social programs, cultural preservation, land management and advocacy across all levels of government. The chair's leadership will be fundamental to fulfilling IRC's mandate, implementing the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and supporting community wellbeing and opportunity for all beneficiaries.

Our board and staff extend heartfelt congratulations and look forward to working collaboratively under this new leadership.

## **ABOUT INUVIALUIT REGIONAL CORPORATION**

Established in 1984 to manage the settlement outlined in the [Inuvialuit Final Agreement \(IFA\)](#), Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) represents the collective interests of Inuvialuit. IRC's goal is to continually improve the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of the Inuvialuit through implementation of the IFA and by all other available means.

### **Media Contact**

Catherine Pate, director of communications  
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation  
Phone: 867.678.5016  
Email: [media@inuvialuit.com](mailto:media@inuvialuit.com)  
Website: [inuvialuit.com](http://inuvialuit.com)