

# PUBLIC NOTICE

At the Regular Council Meeting of December 6, 2021, delegates Ms. Bligh and Mr. Ohokak asked the Council to rescind the decision of appointing Deputy Mayor Angulalik Pedersen as Mayor. The Council appointed Mayor Pedersen following an election amongst Council at a Special Meeting (SCM#21-03) held November 4th, 2021, pursuant to section 224.10(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Elections Act*.

In Mr. Ohokak's presentation to Council, he stated the appointment of Mayor Pederson was "not transparent and democratic" and that there should be a Byelection. He presented a list of signatures to the Council with the following request:

*"We respectfully demand that Mr. Pedersen resign immediately as the appointed Mayor of Cambridge Bay to ensure a transparent & democratic process is adhered to by this Hamlet Council."*

On December 10, 2021, the Council held a Special Meeting to discuss the presentations made by Ms. Bligh and Mr. Ohokak at the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Council considered the following questions in their review of the request to rescind the motion:

1. *Does the Council have the authority to appoint the Deputy Mayor as the Mayor for the remainder of the term?*

Yes. When the office of Mayor becomes vacant for any reason, the Council has an obligation to fill that vacancy as soon as reasonably practicable. The Council may fill the vacancy by appointing a Councillor as Mayor, pursuant to section 224.10(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Elections Act*.

2. *Is Mr. Pederson qualified to step into the role of Mayor?*

Yes, Mr. Pederson meets the criteria for candidacy. He was selected by his fellow Councillors as the Deputy Mayor in 2019 at the beginning of the four year term. Mr. Pederson acted on behalf of the previous Mayor on several occasions when she was out of town. He has working knowledge of the Municipality, the Committees of Council and in the areas of Emergency response. Mr. Pederson was elected by his fellow Councillors as Mayor in 2021.

3. *Are there any reasons to not accept the list of signatures presented by Mr. Ohokak as a legitimate representation of the opinion of the community?*

Yes. Public petitions must meet certain statutory requirements before they are considered valid. The list of signatures submitted by Mr. Ohokak does not meet these criteria.

4. *Were the people of Cambridge Bay made aware prior to its passing in April 2017 that the Nunavut Elections Act allows the Council to appoint a Mayor?*

Yes, all communities are consulted prior to Nunavut legislation being passed.

5. *Would Council do anything differently should this situation occur again?*

Yes. The Council will review the Council Procedures By-Law and will define within that By-Law the process for the selection of the Councillor to be appointed as Mayor under section 224.10(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Elections Act*. The Council will also review the communication policy and strengthen processes relating to information dissemination to the residents. In addition, the Council will educate the public on Council procedures.

6. *Does the Council rescind the Council Resolution as requested by Ms. Bligh and Mr. Ohokak?*

No. The Council was elected in a democratic process to represent the people of Cambridge Bay and make decisions within the authority of the legislation of Nunavut. The Council has followed due process by first making the decision to appoint the Mayor internally. The Council then exercised a democratic process by having an election when two Council members put their names forward for Mayor. The candidate with the highest number of ballots was appointed as Mayor for the remainder of the term.

In consideration of this internal review, the Council made the following resolution:

***Whereas*** the Council has made the decision of filling the vacant seat of Mayor by appointment, as legislatively permitted in Section 224.10 of the Nunavut Elections Act;

***And Whereas*** the Council respectfully acknowledges the presentations given by Patti Bligh and Peter Ohokak requesting the resignation of the Mayor to allow for a Byelection;

***And Whereas***, public petitions must meet certain statutory requirements before they are considered valid in which the list of signatures submitted by Mr. Ohokak does not meet these criteria.

***And Whereas*** the Council in this Special Meeting of December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 has carefully and diligently examined the methodology used in their decision-making process of appointing an elected official as Mayor and have created a list of questions to examine new information brought forward and find no reasons to rescind the resolution of the Municipal Council;

***And Whereas*** the Council will review the Council Procedures ByLaw and define within that ByLaw the process for the selection of Mayor and for Councillors as per the Nunavut Elections Act, and will review the communication policy and strengthen processes relating to information dissemination to the residents and educate the public on Council procedures and communicating with the Municipality as per the Hamlets Act and internal policy and Bylaws;

***Now therefore*** be it resolved that the Council requests the residents of Cambridge Bay to accept this decision and allow Council to move forward with their work as an elected body.