



**THE REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER  
OF THE YUKON  
ON A BY-ELECTION  
IN VUNTUT GWICH'IN  
APRIL 1, 1997**



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**Published by the Chief Electoral Officer of the Yukon**





April 15, 1997

Hon. Robert Bruce  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Whitehorse, Yukon

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am pleased to submit the report of the chief electoral officer of the Yukon on the by-election held in the Electoral District of Vuntut Gwich'in on April 1, 1997. This by-election was required as the result of a petition to overturn the election of Robert Bruce in that electoral district on September 30, 1996. A Supreme Court judgement declared the election void and set aside.

This report is published pursuant to section 333 of the Elections Act.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick L. Michael". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a distinct 'L'.

Patrick L. Michael  
Chief Electoral Officer



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# ELECTION SUMMARY

The by-election in the Electoral District of Vuntut Gwich'in was ordered following a decision in the Supreme Court of the Yukon on February 25, 1997.

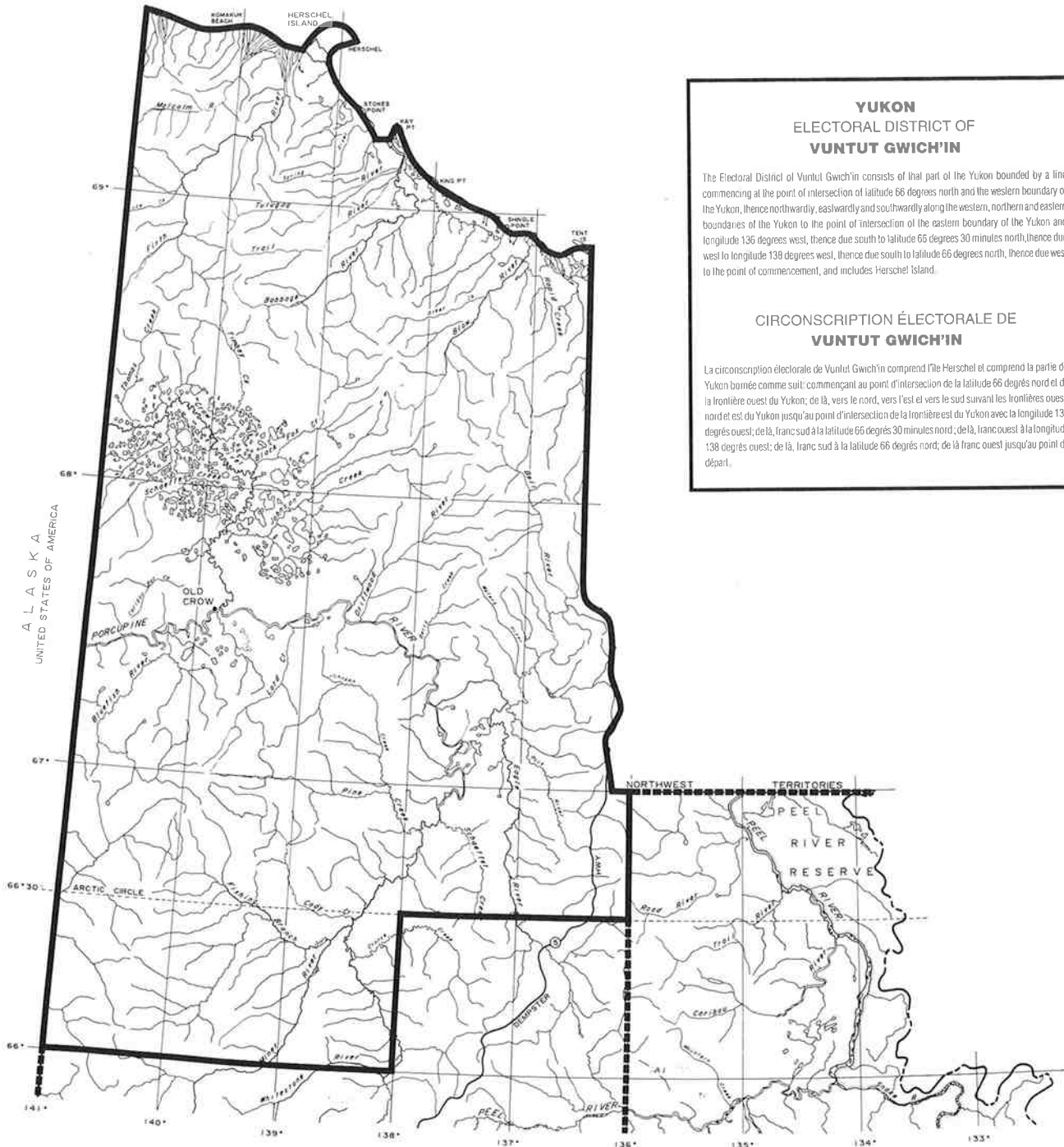
The election in this electoral district at the general election held on September 30, 1996 resulted in a tie vote between Robert Bruce (ND) and Esau Schafer (YP). After the judicial recount on October 5, 1996, a draw, as required by the *Elections Act*, was conducted by the judge of the Supreme Court. Robert Bruce was subsequently declared elected.

Esau Schafer successfully petitioned the court to overturn the election. At the trial, it was found that one elector, who had been enumerated but whose name did not appear on the list, voted contrary to the requirement to be on the official list of electors. Another voter had not resided in the Yukon for the necessary 12 months on polling day.

The writ for the election was issued on February 28, 1997. The list of electors prepared for the general election was revised and certified for the by-election. Because there was no enumeration, an information brochure was delivered to every residence in the community of Old Crow.

Two candidates filed nomination papers on March 10. Polling day was Tuesday, April 1, 1997 and 146 people voted, in addition to the 16 electors who voted at the advance poll on March 23 and 24, 1997. A recount was not required. Robert Bruce (ND) was declared elected on April 14, 1997.

# MAP OF VUNTUT GWICH'IN



## YUKON ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF VUNTUT GWICH'IN

The Electoral District of Vuntut Gwich'in consists of that part of the Yukon bounded by a line commencing at the point of intersection of latitude 66 degrees north and the western boundary of the Yukon, thence northwardly, eastwardly and southwardly along the western, northern and eastern boundaries of the Yukon to the point of intersection of the eastern boundary of the Yukon and longitude 136 degrees west, thence due south to latitude 65 degrees 30 minutes north, thence due west to longitude 139 degrees west, thence due south to latitude 66 degrees north, thence due west to the point of commencement, and includes Herschel Island.

## CIRCONSCRIPTION ÉLECTORALE DE VUNTUT GWICH'IN

La circonscription électorale de Vuntut Gwich'in comprend l'île Herschel et comprend la partie du Yukon bornée comme suit: commençant au point d'intersection de la latitude 66 degrés nord et de la frontière ouest du Yukon; de là, vers le nord, vers l'est et vers le sud suivant les frontières ouest, nord et est du Yukon jusqu'au point d'intersection de la frontière est du Yukon avec la longitude 136 degrés ouest; de là, franc sud à la latitude 65 degrés 30 minutes nord; de là, franc ouest à la longitude 139 degrés ouest; de là, franc sud à la latitude 66 degrés nord; de là franc ouest jusqu'au point de départ.

## RESULTS BY POLITICAL AFFILIATION

Political affiliation	Candidates nominated	Elected	Votes received	Percentage of votes
Independent	0	0	-	-
Independent Alliance	0	0	-	-
Yukon Liberal Party	0	0	-	-
Yukon New Democratic Party <sup>1</sup>	1	1	88	55.00
Yukon Party <sup>2</sup>	1	0	72	45.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<sup>1</sup>Yukon New Democratic Party=ND

<sup>2</sup>Yukon Party=YP

# RECAPITULATION AND COMPARISON

**April 1, 1997 By-election and September 30, 1996 General Election**

	1997	1996
Number of polling divisions	2	2
Number of candidates	2	3
Number of electors on preliminary list of electors	177	152
Number of electors added at revision	8	19
Number of electors removed at revision	1	0
Number of electors added at special revision	3	6
Number of electors on official list	187	177
Proportion of electors added at revision	4.28%	10.73%
Proportion of electors added at special revision	1.60%	3.39%
Number of electors who voted	162	164
Proportion of electors who voted	86.63%	92.66%
Number of electors who voted at the advance poll	16	8
Proportion of electors who voted at the advance poll	9.88%	4.88%
Number of electors who voted by proxy	1	0
Proportion of electors who voted by proxy	0.62%	-
Number of electors who voted by special ballot	4	7
Proportion of electors who voted by special ballot	2.47%	4.27%
Number of rejected ballots	2	1

# RESULTS BY POLL

**Candidates:** Robert Bruce (ND)  
Esau Schafer (YP)

**Returning Officer:** Renee Frost  
**Date of Writ:** February 28, 1997  
**Nomination Day:** March 10, 1997  
**Polling Day:** April 1, 1997  
**Date of Return:** April 14, 1997

Polling Stations		Robert Bruce (ND)	Esau Schafer (YP)	Rejected Ballots	Total Vote	Electors on List	
Locations	No.						
Old Crow	1	81	63	2	146	187	
-	2	No electors		-	-	-	
Old Crow	AP1	7	9	0	16	-	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>187</b>

Majority for Robert Bruce (ND) over Esau Schafer (YP), 16

Proportion of electors who voted: 86.63%

Number of electors who voted by proxy: 1

Number of electors who voted by special ballot: 4

