

Territorial Government Leaders

Nellie Cournoyea

Government Leader for the Northwest Territories

Born in Aklavik, Northwest Territories, in 1940, Nellie Cournoyea was educated through the Federal Aklavik Day School by Alberta correspondence courses.

Ms. Cournoyea worked at CBC Inuvik for nine years as an announcer and station manager. She has been a land claim field worker for the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and was a founding member, administrator and land rights worker of the Committee for Original Peoples' Entitlement.

Ms. Cournoyea was the first managing director of the Inuvialuit Development Corporation and, for several years, was the implementation co-ordinator for the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. She has also been a director of the Inuvialuit Petroleum Corporation, the Inuvialuit Development Corporation, and the Enrolment Authority and Arbitration Board.

Nellie Cournoyea has represented the Western Arctic riding of Nunakput since 1979. She became government leader of the Northwest Territories on Nov. 15, 1991.

In 1982, Ms. Cournoyea received the Woman of the Year Award (Politics) presented by the N.W.T. Native Women's Association. In 1986, she was the first recipient of the Wallace Goose Award given by the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation in recognition of contributions to the culture and lifestyles of the Inuvialuit. In 1994, Government Leader Cournoyea received a national aboriginal achievement award.