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Post-Election Accessibility Report

2022 Municipal Election

Background

In accordance with section 12.1(3) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, the Clerk shall provide a report, within 90 days after voting day in a regular election, about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with accessibility needs.

This report outlines the various initiatives undertaken during the 2022 Municipal Election regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities.

Accessibility Reporting Requirements

This report will be available to the public and posted on the Township's website.

Staff prepared an Election Accessibility Plan which was provided to the County of Haliburton's Accessibility Advisory Committee for review and comment. In accordance with section 12.1(2) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, this plan was available prior to and during the election.

Accessible Election Initiatives

Voting Technology:

- Electronic Voting was implemented as the voting method which allowed for electors to vote, from October 14 starting at 9:00 AM to Monday, October 24 at 8:00 PM, using the Internet or telephone from the comfort of their own resolving barriers for those with disabilities. ScytI Canada Inc. was the Township's voting provider.
- ScytI's voting platform (the Internet and telephone voting service provider) provided for voters to easily access the voting application without the need to install any software to use the system. The voting interfaces were highly user-friendly and intuitive solution that could utilized on any modern Internet-connected device (PC, laptop, smartphone, and tablet) with a web browser.
- All ScytI's voting interfaces were developed taking into consideration accessibility standards and usability guidelines to facilitate the voting process for everyone.
- ScytI's web interface was WCAG 2.0 AA compliant to assist visually impaired users and supports the use of screen-magnifiers, screen-readers, and other assistive devices.

Voter Help and Revision Centre

- The Help/Revision Center was open Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Township's Administration Office.
- The Help/Revisions Centre was accessible with an accessible ramp and entrance way.
- An accessible washroom was available near the front entrance.
- The Help/Revision Centre was equipped with a voting kiosk for those who wished to vote at the office, required internet access and/or required assistance to vote.
- The Help/Revision Centre was equipped with a tablet which was to provide a voting method for an elector that wished to remain in their vehicle to vote. Trained staff would take the tablet to the voter if requested.
- Staff were trained to assist electors if they required assistance to vote at the voting location and trained in accessible customer service.
- Help/Revision Centers were open on Saturdays in the Council Chambers on October 15, and 22, 2022 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM and from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM on Voting Day.
- There was a designated accessible parking space available at the Municipal Office/Help/Revision Centre.
- Doors to the Municipal Office, are hardware accessible and were clearly marked.
- There was staff at the front desk and the Clerk was available to assist electors with mobility issues or required assistance.
- All entrance ways and voting area at the Help and Revision Centre, were able to accommodate mobility aids.
- Voting instructions were placed inside the voting privacy screens.
- The Help and Revision Centre was well lit.
- Floor mats were present at all locations to prevent slipping.
- Seating was available at the Help and Revision Centre for electors to sit during waiting times. Chairs with and without arms were also available.

Communications and Outreach

- Election information was communicated through various channels including a tax bill insert, emails, Township website, social media (Facebook, twitter, Instagram, and Bang the Table), and the local newspapers.
- Instructional videos with subtitles were placed on the Township's website to assist voters.

- For election related inquiries or feedback, all residents were able to contact the Clerk's Department via telephone, in person or through email.
- All information could be made available to candidates and voters in alternate formats upon request.

Voters' List Revisions:

- Electors were able to call, email or attend the Municipal Office to confirm their information was correct on the Voter's List.
- The Township offered electronic submission of forms for Voter's List revisions.
- The Township advertised voterlookup.ca which was produced and managed by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) which allowed electors to search if they were on the voters' list and to make corrections/revisions by contacting MPAC.

Conclusion

The Township of Algonquin Highlands was committed to making the 2022 Municipal Election accessible to electors by identifying, removing, and preventing barriers that affect electors with disabilities.

The Township is committed to making Municipal Elections accessible and will continue to review existing policies and practices to identify, remove and prevent barriers that affect electors and candidates with accessibility needs.

Election Feedback

Should a member of the public wish to provide feedback regarding Election accessibility they can do so by contacting the Clerk by the following methods:

- In person to Clerk/Returning Officer, or designate, at the Municipal Office Building 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands; or
- By telephone: 705-489-2379; or
- By Fax: 705-489-3491; or
- By mail at 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1; or
- By E-mail: info@algonquinhighlands.ca

Dawn Newhook,
Clerk/Returning Officer 2022 Municipal Election
Dated this 8th day of December 2022