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# **POST-ELECTION ACCESSIBILITY REPORT**

## **2018 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 course of the 2018 Municipal Election regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities.

## **Post-election Reporting**

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.

The following are the various initiatives undertaken by the Clerk's Department during the 2018 Municipal Election:

- Electronic Voting was implemented as one voting option which allowed for electors to vote using the internet or telephone from the comfort of their own resolving barriers for those with disabilities. Traditional paper ballot voting was also an option available to electors.
- Help/Revision Centers were open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Township's Administration Office.
- The Help/Revisions Centre was accessible with an elevator lift for electors that required assistance accessing the centre. The centre was equipped with a computer to assist those who wish to utilize the vote by internet option.
- Staff were trained to assist electors if they required assistance to vote at the voting location.
- Help/Revision Centers were open on Saturdays in the Council Chambers on September 8, 15, 22, 29, October 13 and 20, 2018.

The Council Chambers was equipped with a computer to assist those who wished to utilize the vote by internet option.

- Help/Revision Centers were available on Saturday, October 6 and Monday October 22, 2018 at the Community Centre.
- There were two internet voting stations available to electors at the Community Centre for those who wished to vote using the internet. These station were not used.
- There were designated accessible parking spaces available at the Municipal Office and Community Centre.
- Doors to the Municipal Office, Council Chambers and Community Centre are hardware accessible and were clearly marked. There was a greeter at the main entrance and the Clerk was available to assist electors with mobility issues or required assistance. No assistance was requested.
- All hallways at the Municipal Office, Council Chambers and Community Centre were able to accommodate mobility aids.
- Voting booths were raised to an accessible height.
- Voting booths contained magnifying sheets for anyone with low vision.
- Voting instructions were placed inside the voting privacy screens.
- Municipal Office, Council Chambers and Community Centre all have acceptable lighting.
- Floor mats were present at all locations to prevent slipping.
- Numerous Chairs were available throughout the voting location for electors to sit during waiting times. Chairs with arms were also available.
- Election information was made available to candidates and voters in alternate formats upon request. No such requests were received.
- Extended office hours were provided on Voting Day to assist those residents who were not able to visit the Municipal Office during regular office hours or were unable to attend the Voting location.
- Election information was communicated through various channels including emails, social media, and the local newspapers.
- For election related inquiries or feedback, all residents were able to contact the Clerk's Department via telephone or through email. No feedback or comments were received regarding accessibility.
- All information could be made available to candidates and voters in alternate formats upon request. No such requests were received.

- 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.

The Township of Minden Hills was committed to making the 2018 Municipal Election accessible to electors by identifying, removing and preventing barriers that affect electors with disabilities.

There were no request or issues related to accessibility during the 2018 Municipal Election.

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 7 Milne Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor; or

By telephone: 705-286-1260; or

By Fax: 705-286-4917; or

By mail at 7 Milne Street, P.O. Box 359, Minden, ON K0M 2K0; or

By E-mail: [admin@mindenhill.ca](mailto:admin@mindenhill.ca)

Dawn Newhook,  
Clerk/Returning Officer 2018 Municipal Election  
Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018