



Report to Council

December 5, 2022

REQUEST: That Council review the 2022 Post-Election Accessibility Report from the Elections Clerk.

RECOMMENDATION: BE IT RESOLVED that Council of the Township of Chapleau acknowledge receipt of the 2022 Post Election Accessibility Report as submitted by the Elections Clerk.

The Township of Chapleau is a community that respects the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities has made efforts to ensure it is a barrier free community. The legislative requirements for accessible elections are set out in the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA)* and the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*.

This Post-Election Report is a requirement under Section 12.1(3) of the (MEA) and the focus is to evaluate accessibility of the 2022 Municipal and School Board elections. Under the Act, the Elections Clerk must have regard to the needs of electors with disabilities and it is a requirement that within 90 after a regular election, the Elections Clerk must prepare a report and make the report available to the public. The report will be made available to the public by posting on the municipal website at www.chapleau.ca .

In accordance with the MEA the Elections Clerk is responsible for conducting municipal elections and establishing policies and procedures to ensure that all the electors have the opportunity to fully participate in the elections process. The MEA further states that the Elections Clerk shall prepare a plan regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and shall make the report available to the public before Voting Day in a regular election. In accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act*, an Election Accessibility Plan was developed and upon completion, the proposed plan was presented to and approved by the Township of Chapleau Council in May, 2022. It is available on the website.

The Township of Chapleau did not undertake 2022 Municipal and School Board elections because all positions were acclaimed. The following nevertheless outlines the actions that were

taken to identify, remove and prevent barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities.

| Actions | | Considerations for 2026 Election |
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| 1. | <p>Council approved implementation of Alternative Voting in the form of online and telephone voting which would have allowed electors to cast their ballots using telephone, tablet or telephone anytime from October 13, 2022 to 8 p.m. on October 24, 2022. A YouTube video showing how to vote was available on the Municipal Website (elections).</p> <p>The online/telephone voting would have permitted electors to cast their ballot from home, thereby providing a greater level of privacy to electors with disabilities who may have difficulty voting a traditional paper-based voting location due to the fact that they had no need for assistance from others to vote.</p> | Same. |
| 2. | <p>Pre-voting testing/audit would have been undertaken to ensure that the voting system was accessible, secure and accessibility features functional.</p> | Same |
| 3. | <p>Voter Help Centre with voting kiosk (2) was proposed at the Municipal Library, Township of Chapleau Civic Building. The Voter Help Centre would have been open on seven (7) days, including election day, until 8 p.m.</p> | Same |
| 4. | <p>Steps were taken to amend the accessible parking by-law to permit accessible parking at the front entrance of the Civic Centre building which is barrier free with a ramp and accessible door to gain access to the Library/Civic Centre.</p> | Same |
| 5. | <p>Personal assistive devices would have been permitted at the Voter Help Centre, eg: walkers, wheelchairs, etc... Magnifying sheets would have been available to assist voters with low vision.</p> | Same |

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| 6. | Election staff would have monitored elector's concerns and ensured that their needs were met. Eg: if an additional chair for someone helping was required, it would be provided. Staff would have offered assistance to electors and would not assume an individual needed assistance. | Same |
| 7. | Election-related assistance would have been provided at the Voter Help Centre and also remotely by calling the designated election assistance phone line or by sending an email to the designated email address | Same |
| 8. | Communication initiatives and information for both candidates and electors was available in paper format and on the website and in enlarged format if requested. | Same |
| 9. | Bulletins for citizens were mailed on a regular basis, promoting the Voter Look-Up and sharing key dates. Also posted was a "how to vote" video. These were also posted at the Municipal Office. | Same |
| 10. | All pre-election information was made available on the municipal website. | Same. |
| 11. | Voter Look Up was promoted to both candidates and electors to encourage checking and amending their information on the Voters' List provided by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). | Same |

Respectfully submitted



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