



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 8 starting at 8:00 AM to Monday, October 24 at 8:00 PM, using the Internet or telephone from anywhere, resolving barriers for those with disabilities.
- ScytI Canada Inc. was the Townships voting provider and their platform provided voters easy access to the voting application without the need to install any additional software to use the system.
- The voting interfaces were highly user-friendly and intuitive, compatible with any modern Internet-connection device (PC, laptop, smartphone and tablet) with a web browser.
- All 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, screenreaders, and other assistive devices.

Voter Help and Revision Centre(s):

- There were three Help/Revision Center(s)
 - Administration Office: open Monday to Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
 - Administration Council Chambers: open on Saturdays in the Council Chambers from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM September 10, 24 and October 1, 2022.

- S.G. Nesbitt Community Centre, 55 Parkside Street, Minden: open Advance Voting Day, October 8th (Thanksgiving weekend) 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM; and Voting Day October 24, 2022, 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM.
- The Help/Revisions Centre(s) were all accessible with accessible ramp and entrance way.
- The Help/Revision Centre(s) were equipped with a voting kiosk for those who wished to vote in person electronically, with the required internet access and/or required assistance to vote.
- Staff and Volunteers were trained to assist electors if they required assistance to vote at the voting location(s) and trained in accessible customer service.
- There was designated accessible parking spaces available at all three Office/Help/Revision Centre(s) locations.
- Doors to all three locations are hardware accessible and clearly marked.
- There was staff, Clerk, two Deputy Clerks and Volunteers available to assist electors with mobility issues or required assistance.
- All entrance ways and voting areas at the Help and Revision Centre(s), were able to accommodate mobility aids.
- Accessible washrooms were available
- Voting instructions were placed inside the voting privacy screens.
- The Help and Revision Centre were well lit.
- Floor mats were present at all locations to prevent slipping.
- Seating was available at the Help and Revision Centre(s) 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, Community Services Communication Guide, emails, Township website, social media and the local newspapers and handout material distributed and placed at public municipal front counters. (Building/By-law Planning; Community Services; Tax Department)
- 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, Council Chambers (on designated dates), Community Centre (on designated dates) 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.
- The Township also set up a station at the Administration office, Tax Department front counter for electors to access voterlookup.ca
- Staff were available to assist electors with voterlookup.ca if required.

Conclusion:

The Township of Minden Hills, Election Team and Volunteers were committed to making the 2022 Municipal Election accessible to electors by identifying, removing, and preventing barriers that affect electors with disabilities.

The Township will continue to review existing policies and practices to identify, remove and prevent barriers that affect electors and candidates with accessibility needs.

Election Feedback:

Members of the public that wish to provide feedback regarding Election Accessibility may do so by contacting the Clerk by the following methods:

- In person to Clerk/Returning Officer, or designate at the Administrative Municipal Office Building located on 7-Milne Street, Minden;
- Telephone: 705-286-1260;
- Fax: 705-286-4917;
- Email: admin@mindenhill.ca, or elections@mindenhill.ca; or
- Mail: Township of Minden Hills, 7-Milne Street, Box 359, Minden, ON K0M 2K0

Trisha McKibbin,
Clerk/Returning Officer 2022 Municipal Election
Dated this 12th day of January 2022