



Township of Madoc

2018 Municipal Election Accessibility Report

Introduction:

The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996. S.O. 1996, SCHED 32*, provides that within 90 days after voting day in a regular election, the clerk shall prepare a report about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and shall make this report available to the public. 2016, c.15, s.11

Objectives:

This report is intended to highlight measures that the Township of Madoc took to ensure equal opportunity for all electors and candidates. These measures included:

- That all voting locations were accessible;
- That persons with disabilities were able to independently cast their vote and verify their selection;
- That persons with disabilities had full and equal access to all information on where and when to vote and on eligible candidates;
- That persons with disabilities could fully participate in the Municipal Election as an elector, candidate or election official;
- That efforts were made to ensure that electors with disabilities were aware of the accessibility measures via channels such as the Township 's website.

Voting Location:

The Voting Location included the exterior parking, walkways and property associated with the Madoc Township Municipal Office located at 15651 Highway 62, Madoc, ON. This was the only Voting Location for the Township of Madoc Municipal Elections.

Parking:

Designated parking for electors with disabilities was provided in close proximity to the entrance of the voting place. Accessible parking spaces were clearly marked and were on firm and level ground. Routine checks were made to ensure all entrances remained barrier free through the course of the day.

Entrance/Exit to the Voting Place:

The entrance to the Voting Place was easy to access and was barrier free. Every effort was made to ensure that the door into the interior voting area was wide enough (860mm or 34 inches) for a wheel chair, scooter, other assistive device or service animal to pass through safely and easily. Routine checks of the entrance and exit routes was made throughout the day.

Interior Voting Area:

Access to the interior voting area was level and easily traversed. All doormats and carpeting were level with the floor to prevent potential tripping hazards. All voting areas were well lit and seating was made available.

Support Persons:

Electors with disabilities were accompanied by a support person within the voting area. Persons requiring additional support were invited to contact the municipal office in advance of Election Day in order to customize a plan for each individual.

Assistive Personal Equipment:

Electors with disabilities were able to use assistive personal devices including wheelchairs, walkers, white canes, walking canes, note taking devices, portable magnifiers, assistive listening devices, personal oxygen tanks and devices for grasping.

Service Animals:

Service Animals were permitted in voting places. Candidates and scrutineers were also permitted to be accompanied by a service animal at the voting place.

Vision Loss: Each voting booth was equipped with magnifying sheets to assist an individual with low vision.

Hearing Impaired, Deafness and Hearing Loss:

Each voting place was equipped with a note pad and pen to communicate with the hearing impaired if required.

Proxy Voting:

An elector with a disability that was homebound or otherwise unable to go to the voting location could appoint another person to act as a voting proxy to cast a ballot on his or her behalf.

Campaign Expenses:

Expenses that were incurred by a candidate with a disability that were directly related to the disability and would not have been incurred but for the election to which the expenses relate, were excluded from the permitted spending limit for the candidate.

Expenses that were incurred by a candidate with a disability or a registered third party who is an individual with a disability, and were directly related to the disability, and would not have been incurred but for the election to which the expenses relate were excluded from the permitted spending limit for the candidate or registered third party.

Communications:

The Township of Madoc is committed to making the information contained in this document available to the public and intends to do so by the following methods:

1. On the Township of Madoc Website
2. By verbal communications regarding certain aspects of this documents and questions which may arise from it.

Feedback:

The Township welcomes feedback to help identify areas where changes need to be considered and ways in which the Township can improve the delivery of an accessible election. Such feedback can be submitted to the municipal office.

The feedback process provides election staff with an opportunity to take corrective measures to prevent similar recurrences, address training needs, enhance service delivery and provide alternative methods of providing election information and services.

Amanda Cox
Acting Clerk/Planning Coordinator