



The Corporation of the Township of
NORTH KAWARTHA
P.O. Box 550, 280 Burleigh Street
Apsley, ON K0L 1A0
www.northkawartha.ca

Post – Election Accessibility Report Municipal Election 2022

Introduction

It was the goal of the Township of North Kawartha to ensure that all electors in the Township of North Kawartha who have a disability or an issue with accessibility were provided with the best opportunity to vote as independently as possible in the 2022 Municipal Election.

The Post-Election Accessibility Report will evaluate the accessibility of the services offered to all electors and candidates in the 2022 Municipal Election.

Section 12.1 (3) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended, requires the clerk to prepare a report about the identification, removal, and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and make the report available to the public within 90 days after a regular election.

Post - Election Reporting

Accessibility and the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Township of North Kawartha followed Peterborough Public Health recommendations when considering the impact of COVID-19 on election accessibility. Internet and phone voting allowed electors to vote without attending a public place. Masks and sanitizer was made available at the Voting Help Centre and kiosk locations. Election staff sanitized after each voter. Portable plexi-glass barriers and transparent face shields were available if lip reading was needed. Social distancing was utilized and an outdoor location was used to provide an opportunity for voters to check the voters list and to promote accessible elections.

Accessibility Plan and Elector and Candidate Information

Section 12.1 (2) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended, requires the clerk to prepare a plan regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and make the plan available to the public before voting day in a regular election.

The 2022 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan supports accessible elections and the

Township's commitment to the needs of persons with disabilities." The Plan permitted electors and candidates to be accompanied by a service animal or support person. A copy of the 2022 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan was posted on the website and available in a paper copy or accessible format upon request.

The Election Page on the Township website included a section for Accessibility and a statement that: The Township of North Kawartha recognizes that persons with disabilities should be provided with an equal opportunity to access goods, services and information in a manner consistent with the principles of independence, dignity, integration and equality.

The Township website, launched on September 24, 2018, is WCAG 2.0 Level AA compliant. The website was updated regularly with election information and any temporary service disruptions. Election Information was provided through the website, social media, posters around the Community and newspapers.

A copy of The Ministry of Community and Social Services document titled [Count Us In: Removing Barriers to Political Participation Quick Reference Guide to Accessible Campaign Information and Communication](#) was posted on the website for candidates. The Nomination Package for candidates included a copy of the Association of Municipal Managers Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) [Candidate's Guide to Accessible Elections](#). A form to request accessible formats was provided to candidates. All accessibility information was available on the website as well as in paper format or accessible format upon request.

The Township did not receive any requests for accessible formats or accommodation.

Voting Location

The Voting Place was located in the Township Office and was assessed in order to identify any barriers to accessibility. No barriers were identified. An accessible parking space was clearly marked and available close to the main entrance to the Voting Place / Municipal Office. Chairs were available for those who needed a rest spot while waiting to vote. The voting kiosk and telephone were placed on a desk that could accommodate a mobility device.

Staff Training

Staff carrying out election duties received accessibility training to ensure that persons with disabilities were served in a way that accommodated their needs. Election Staff were all trained in accessibility and experienced in serving the needs of the public. Attention was given to the voting process to determine any barriers that may arise and how these would be dealt with. Election staff were available to the public by phone, in-person and by email.

Assistance to Candidates

The Accessibility Plan permitted candidates and scrutineers to be accompanied by a service animal at the Voter Help Centre / Municipal Office. The Plan included a statement that expenses related to a disability are excluded from the spending limit. Accessibility Information to assist candidates with their campaign was made available on the Township website and in their nomination package, including a form to request accessible formats.

The Township did not receive any requests from Candidates for accessible formats or accommodations.

Assistance to Electors

Internet and Telephone Voting

The Township of North Kawartha used Vote by Internet and Telephone in the 2022 Municipal Election. Internet voting and telephone voting provided easy access for voters to vote independently from the privacy of their home and accommodated a variety of disabilities. Magnifying sheets and an Audio-Enhancer were available if needed. The Voter Information Letter was in an accessible font and informed electors how to request assistance to vote.

Voters had the option to use assistive devices on their home computers or telephone to cast their vote. Voters also had the option to attend the voting place where election staff were prepared to assist them to vote using either a tablet within a voting kiosk or the telephone. The tablet was easily mobile and therefore could accommodate a person with mobility issues by taking the tablet to a vehicle in the parking lot or a home, if needed.

A voting kiosk and telephone were available in a private room at the voting place where the voter could vote by touching their finger to the screen or by using a stylus pen. Some individuals found the stylus pen easier. The pen could also be held in the mouth, if needed. If this was found to be difficult for a voter, they could easily switch to vote using the telephone.

Instructional videos were made available on the Township website and on the voting kiosk at the Voting Place. The videos included closed captioning.

Election staff attended an outdoor book sale at the North Kawartha Library to provide an opportunity for voters to access Voter Lookup on a kiosk and to promote the accessible election. Staff ensured the kiosk was accessible.

Election staff were friendly, approachable and available to provide individual assistance to the Voter. Assistance was offered and was provided upon request at the voting place. Internet and Telephone voting was well received and many commented that they found the experience quite easy.

Voter Lookup, as provided by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), was available on the voting kiosk so electors could check the voters' list in the municipal office and staff were available to provide assistance if needed. The Voter Lookup website was promoted on the website and social media to provide voters' with an opportunity to check the voters' list remotely, without having to attend the Township Office.

Voter training videos were made available in advance of Voting Day on the Township website and were promoted via social media so voters could become familiar with the process prior to casting their vote. These demonstrations provided an opportunity to identify any accessibility issues that may need accommodation on Voting Day.

Notice to Electors

Notice was given to electors as follows:

It is the goal of the Township of North Kawartha to ensure that all Electors in the Township of North Kawartha who have a disability or an issue with accessibility are provided with the best opportunity to vote as independently as possible in the 2022 Municipal Election.

Please contact the Clerk / Returning Officer directly for assistance to vote:

Connie Parent, Clerk

1-800-755-6931 or (705) 656-4445 ext. 234, E-mail: c.parent@northkawartha.ca

Persons who need accommodations / assistance to vote are encouraged to contact the Clerk by October 1, 2022.

Feedback

Public feedback about the manner in which election services were provided to persons with accessible needs may be submitted to the Clerk through:

Telephone: 705-656-5187

Fax: 705-656-4446

Email: c.parent@northkawartha.ca

Mail or in person: P.O. Box 550, 280 Burleigh Street, Apsley, Ontario K0L 1A0

Connie Parent, *Dipl. M.M.*

Clerk / Election Returning Officer