



Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional

Election Accessibility Plan

2022 Municipal Election

This Plan is for use in the 2022 Municipal Election in conjunction with the municipality's current Accessibility Plan.

Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. Staff Training
3. Provision of Election Information
4. Notice of Temporary Service Disruption
5. Staff Assistance
6. Voting - Paper Ballot
7. Accessible Voting
8. Communication
9. Reporting

1. Introduction

The Municipal Elections Act, (MEA) Section 12.1 (1) places responsibility on the Clerk, who is responsible for the appropriate legislative and administrative conduct of the municipal elections in the Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional, to have regard for the needs of the electors and candidates with disabilities. Accessible Customer Service Standards must be followed when conducting municipal elections.

The Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional municipal elections will be conducted in a manner that shall ensure that electors and candidates with disabilities have full and equal access to all election information and services, and that persons are able to vote independently and privately with access to voting assistance if required.

Section 12.1 (2) of the MEA requires that within ninety (90) days after voting day the Clerk shall submit a report to Council regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect elector and candidates with disabilities.

2. Staff Training

All staff carrying out election duties will complete the Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional Accessible Customer Services Training and specific Election Training to comply with the municipal Accessibility Plan and to ensure that persons with disabilities are served in a way that accommodates their individual needs. The training will include how to interact/communicate with persons with various types of disability, who may require the assistance of a support person or a service animal, or staff if requested, etc.

3. Provision of Election Information

Election information will be provided to electors and candidates with disabilities in an alternative format, agreed upon between the requester and the Clerk.

4. Notice of Temporary Service Disruption

The Clerk shall provide public notice on the municipal website and in the local media if there is a temporary disruption in the delivery of election information or services. The notice shall include the reason for the disruption, the expected

duration and an explanation of alternative methods of delivering the information or service. Every effort shall be made to provide alternative methods of providing the information or service to persons with disabilities.

5. Staff Assistance

The Clerk's department staff are available throughout the election to assist with any issues that may arise with respect to providing a barrier-free election. Contact information for assistance is as follows:

Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional

208 Church Street, P. O. Box 10

Echo Bay, Ontario P0S 1CO

Telephone: 705-248-2441, Fax: 705-248-3091

Cell: 705-257-0549

Email: twpmacd@onlink.net

6. Voting - Paper Ballot

The system uses paper ballots on which the names of all candidates are printed. This method allows the use of various means, (magnifying glass, large print, etc.) to read the text, allowing improved accessibility for voters.

7. Accessible Voting

Section 45(2) of the MEA requires that the clerk shall ensure that each voting place is accessible to electors with disabilities.

Accessible voting will take place at the Echo Bay Community Hall, 257 Church Street, Echo Bay, Ontario. The parking lot has designated parking for individuals with disabilities that are clearly marked and located close to the voting place entrance.

8. Communication

The 2022 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan will be made available at the Municipal office located at 208 Church St. Echo Bay, ON and will be posted on the municipal website, www.echobay.ca.

The feedback received will be provided by the Clerk and appropriate action will be taken to remove barriers or provide accommodation if necessary.

9. Reporting

Pursuant to Section 12.1 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, within 90 days after voting day, the Clerk shall submit a report to Council about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities.