



2022 ELECTION ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

This plan is for use in the 2022 Municipal Election in conjunction with the Township of Beckwith Accessibility Policy.

OBJECTIVES

This plan is intended to highlight measures that the Municipality will be implementing to ensure equal opportunity for all electors and candidates. These objectives include:

- That the Municipal Office which acts as the Voter Help Centre is accessible
- That persons with disabilities are able to independently vote
- That persons with disabilities have full and equal access to all election information
- That persons with disabilities can fully participate in the Municipal Election as an elector and/or candidate
- That electors with disabilities are aware of the accessibility measures available

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, S.O. 1996, Chapter 32, as amended states:

Electors and candidates with disabilities

12.1 (1) A clerk who is responsible for conducting an election shall have regard to the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities.

Plan re barriers

(2) The clerk shall prepare a plan regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and shall make the plan available to the public before voting day in a regular election.

Report

(3) 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 the report available to the public.

Accessibility

45(2) In establishing the locations of voting places, the clerk shall ensure that each voting place is accessible to electors with disabilities.

Attendance on electors with disabilities

(9) To allow an elector with a disability to vote, a deputy returning officer shall attend on the elector anywhere within the area designated as the voting place.

VOTING

The Township shall provide an accessible voting location that enables persons with disabilities to cast their vote in a manner that respects and promotes their dignity, independence, integration and equality of opportunity and allows for the opportunity to appoint a Proxy to vote on their behalf if required.

VOTING ASSISTANCE

An Election Official may permit an elector who needs assistance in voting to have such assistance as the Election Official considers necessary, and in accordance with the Accessibility Policy.

Election Official

A voter who requires such assistance to vote may ask the Election Official for assistance and assist and/or vote as directed by the voter.

Friend of Elector

In lieu of the Election Official assisting a voter, the voter may request that a friend accompany them to vote.

Interpreter

Where the Election Official does not understand the language of a voter, an interpreter, provided by the voter, shall translate for the voter.

ELECTION MATERIALS

The Municipality shall upon request, provide or arrange for the provision of Accessible Formats and Communication Supports for persons with disabilities, in accordance with the Municipality's Accessibility Policy.

TRAINING

The Municipality shall ensure that training is provided on the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, the accessibility standards referred to within the Integrated Accessibility Standards (Ontario Regulation 191/11), the Human Rights Code as it pertains to persons with disabilities and on Municipal policies and procedures related to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and its Regulation to all Election Officials.

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY SERVICE DISRUPTION

If there is a temporary disruption in the delivery of election information or services, the Municipality shall provide public notice on the Municipal website and Facebook page, at the physical site of the disruption and when possible, in the local media. The notice shall include the reason for the disruption, anticipated duration and a description of alternative methods of delivering the information or service.

REPORTING

Pursuant to Section 12.1 (3) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, 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 and shall make the report available to the public.

The report will be made available to the public via the Municipal website and at the Municipal Office.

FEEDBACK

Feedback is welcome in order to identify areas where changes need to be considered and ways in which the Municipality can improve the delivery of an accessible Municipal Election.

Feedback on this Plan can be submitted to the following:

Clerk
Township of Beckwith
1702 9th Line Beckwith
Carleton Place, ON K7C 3P2
613-257-1539
cmcgregor@twp.beckwith.on.ca

RESOURCES

2022 Municipal Election Procedures
Accessibility Policy
Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended