

## The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

Date	November 30, 2018	Report No:	CL-33-18			
Directed To:	Mayor and Members of Council	Attachments:				
Department:	Council Services	Policy References:				
Prepared By:	Linda Jean, Deputy Clerk					
Subject:	Accessibility Report on the 2018 Municipal Election					

## RECOMMENDATION:

That the report of the Deputy Clerk dated November 30, 2018 (CL-33-18) regarding action taken to ensure the accessibility of the 2018 municipal election BE RECEIVED.

## **REPORT:**

The *Municipal Elections Act* s12.1(3) requires the Municipal Clerk to submit a report to Council within 90 days after voting day in a regular election regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities.

Regarding the 2018 Municipal Election, the following actions were taken:

- Evaluated the accessibility of the 2018 Internet/Telephone Voting process and identified barriers. This was ultimately recommended to Council and approved on April 11, 2017 through resolution 134/17.
- 2. Internet/Telephone Voting eliminated inconvenience to voters attempting to physically access traditional voting places.
- 3. Prepared the 2018 Municipal Election Plan which was reviewed and approved by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.
- 4. Communications and information was available to electors and candidates in alternate formats if requested.

- 5. Scheduled site visits to the two retirement homes located within LaSalle, Seasons Royal Oak and Chartwell Royal Oak Village were established to explain the Internet/Telephone Voting System and offer assistance to residents. Two touch screen laptop computers were enabled with a large font, brought to the location and provided for residents to use to cast their vote. Residents appreciated our attendance and took advantage by having either a new or replacement Voter instruction Letter printed, have the voting process explained to them and receive assistance with online voting. While internet and telephone voting is already an accessible one for residents of retirement homes, our presence offered value to the residents.
- 6. Magnifiers were provided at both retirement homes for use by residents.
- 7. Staff members were enlisted to personally drop off a Voter Information Letter to electors who did not receive one via Canada Post or needed to make a change and could not physically come to Town Hall themselves.
- 8. All information was posted on the Town's website which is enabled through Browsealoud, a free service that reads web pages aloud for people who find it difficult to read online.
- All staff working on the election were trained in accessible customer service, were trained to recognize a service animal if required and followed the Town's Accessible Customer Service Policy.
- 10. Designated parking for persons with disabilities was available for those visiting the LaSalle Civic Centre.
- 11. The Election Voting Centre was equipped with 5 touch screen laptops which were enabled with large font, magnifiers, and wide corridors.

There were no complaints received regarding an accessible election.

Linda Jean/Deputy Clerk

Reviewed by:							
CAD	Finance	Council Services	Public Works	DSI	Culture & Rec	Fire	