



# 2022 ELECTION ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

This plan is for use in the 2022 Municipal Election in conjunction with the Township of Plummer Additional 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 Voter Revision Centre and Help Centre is accessible
- That persons with disabilities can 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 accommodated by Election Staff to the best of their abilities

## 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.

## **REVISION CENTER AND HELP CENTRE**

The Revision Centre and Help Centre will be accessible to electors with disabilities. It shall have accessible parking, automatic doors, and accessible washrooms.

## **COVID-19 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

To ensure safety of all voters and staff, the Township will place voting stations 6-feet from each other to ensure physical distancing. Seating arrangements and any lines where people wait to be served will also be placed 6 feet apart. Hand sanitizer and masks will be offered on site to all individuals who enter the building during Election Day.

Masks will not be mandatory to enter the election site (or vote), unless regulations change as per local public health guidelines. The Township will follow all local public health regulations as required (if applicable on the date of the voting day or advanced voting day).

## **VOTING**

Voting will occur in-person at 109 Station Road, Bruce Mines. Traditional paper ballots will be used. The Township will provide magnifiers at ballot stations to increase font size for individuals who are visually impaired.

## **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 will be offering paper ballots to electors. There will be magnifying sheets to help individuals with visual impairments.

Staff can provide election support and will accommodate electors to the best of their abilities. It is recommended that electors submit their request for accommodations by **Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30**. This will provide staff ample time to ensure that the

proper accommodations are available at the advance poll and on the day of the election. Requests can be made by email (to the contact information noted in the 'Feedback' section), phone, or in person.

## **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 Township shall provide public notice on the Municipal website, 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 to identify areas where changes need to be considered and ways in which the Municipality can improve the delivery of an accessible municipal election.

The Township will provide feedback forms that can be submitted on the Election Day. The Customer Feedback Form is attached as Appendix "A"

Feedback on this plan & requests for accommodation can be submitted to the following:

Clerk  
38 Railway Crescent  
Bruce Mines, ON P0R 1C0  
Phone: 705-785-3479  
E-mail: [info@plummertownship.ca](mailto:info@plummertownship.ca)

## **RESOURCES**

Accessibility Policy and Procedure Manual  
*Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended

APPENDIX 'A'

**Feedback Form – Election Day  
Election 2022**

Thank you for visiting the Township of Plummer Additional. We value all of customers and strive to meet everyone's needs.

Please tell us the date and time of your visit:

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Did you have any issues relating to accessibility during your voting process? \_\_\_YES \_\_\_NO

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Is there any feedback you could provide to improve the voting process in the future?

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Would you like to see any other voting methods (Telephone voting, mail-in voting) offered in future elections?

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Contact information (Optional)\*:

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*\* Information collected is subject to the Municipal Freedom of Information & Privacy Act.*