



THE CORPORATION OF THE **TOWN OF COBALT**

January 6, 2023

Corporation of the Town of Cobalt - 2022 Municipal Election Post-Election Accessibility Report

Introduction

The Town of Cobalt is a community that respects the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities and strives to promote a barrier-free and inclusive community. The Post-Election Report is to evaluate the accessibility of the electoral services provided during the 2022 Municipal Election.

Governing Legislative and Policy Framework

In addition to the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, the Clerk must also comply with the following:

- The Ontario Human Rights Code, 1990
- The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)
- The Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulations (IASR)

The Town of Cobalt adopted By-Law 2022-10 a By-Law to adopt an Elections Policy. Schedule A of this policy included an Accessibility Plan.

Staff Training

Election Officials were required to attend a mandatory training session including a discussion of best practices on how to assist voters in voting locations, including those with disabilities, as well as accommodations and special support services for those with special needs. All Officials were required to complete a certificate in Accessibility for Ontarians Disability Act, 2005. This formal accessibility training outlined customer service standard and how to serve persons with disabilities.

Voting Locations

A variety of voting locations were considered. The Golden Age Club was selected as it is a fully accessible, barrier-free facility. Final accessibility checks were conducted prior to the opening of the voting stations to ensure that they were set up in a manner that was accessible. Election Staff was available to attend a vehicle with a ballot should an elector not be able to leave their vehicle for any reason. Personal assistive devices were permitted in all voting stations, such as wheelchairs, walkers and service dogs. Voters with support persons or service animals were welcomed and assisted at each stage of the voting process. Magnifying sheets were also present to assist voters with low vision and Election Officials read and signed oaths upon voter's requests. An Accessibility Customer Service Feedback Form was available on the website and at the voting location. No forms were submitted on Election Day or following Election Day.



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Information and Communication

All information for voters, candidates and third parties was placed in distinct sections on the website in an effort to promote accessibility and transparency. Election information was communicated through various formats including regular candidate's emails, social media and newspaper. Voter Information was posted to the website and included in the newsletters.

Conclusion

It was the goal of the Municipality to ensure that electors within the Municipality who required accessible services were provided with the best opportunity to vote as independently as possible in the 2022 Municipal Election.

The Municipal total voter turnout was 41.23%.

Steven Dalley,
Returning Officer
Corporation of the Town of Cobalt