



# TOWNSHIP OF LAURENTIAN VALLEY

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## CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

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**TO:** Council in Committee  
**FROM:** Kayla Janke  
**DATE:** January 6, 2015  
**SUBJECT:** Post-Election Accessibility Report

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### RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the Post-Election Accessibility Report for the 2014 Township of Laurentian Valley Municipal Election.

### BACKGROUND

The Municipal Elections Act at subsection 12.1 (2) provides: “Within 90 days after voting day in a regular election, the clerk shall submit a report to council about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities.”

### PEOPLE CONSULTED

Dean Sauriol, CAO/Clerk

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- None

### ATTACHMENTS

- Post-Election Report 2014

Respectfully Submitted  
**Township of Laurentian Valley**

### “Original Signed”

Kayla Janke  
Administrative/Council Clerk



# TOWNSHIP OF LAURENTIAN VALLEY

## 2014 Municipal Election

### Post-Election Accessibility Report

January 6, 2015

Prepared By:  
Kayla Janke  
Administrative/Council Clerk

## **BACKGROUND**

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The Municipal Elections Act was amended to include the following clauses, as they relate to candidates and voters with disabilities:

### **12.1 (1) Electors and Candidates with Disabilities**

A Clerk who is responsible for conducting an election shall have regard to the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities. 2009, c. 33, Sch. 21, s. 8 (8).

### **12.1 (2) Report**

Within 90 days after voting day in a regular election, the clerk shall submit a report to council about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities. 2009, c. 33, Sch. 21, s. 8 (8).

## **IDENTIFICATION OF BARRIERS**

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- Reviewed election voting equipment to determine which equipment would eliminate accessibility barriers.
- Evaluated and assessed all voting equipment to ensure it met the needs of voters with disabilities.
  - The municipality provided three options for voting in the 2014 Municipal Election (internet, phone and traditional ballots). These three options provided alternative options for persons with disabilities to ensure that could participate in the election.
- Reviewed accessibility of potential polling stations to determine best location.

## **REMOVAL AND PREVENTION OF BARRIERS**

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### **Information and Communications**

- Ensured that all information was made available to candidates and voters in alternate formats upon request.
- All relevant information was posted to the Township's website;

- Provided candidates with information regarding campaign expenses and rules related to candidates with disabilities (the AMCTO's Candidate's Guide to Accessible Elections).
- Established an election email address for receiving and addressing feedback.

## **Voting Locations**

- In order to ensure full accessibility, a site inspection was conducted on the Municipal Office to ensure it meets the accessibility standards.
- Accessible parking signage and spots are designated in the municipal parking lot for electors that require them.

## **Voting**

- Provided accessible voting equipment at the Voter Help Centre and on Election Day (Municipal Office), which included iPads, laptops and a telephone.
- Provided training to elections staff on how to operate the above types of voting equipment.
- Provided electors with iPads, laptops and a telephone at the Voter Help Centre for five days preceding the election.

## **Staff Training**

- Election staff was given training on the election process and to identify when an elector needed assistance.
- Staff made electors aware of the different options for voting and of the magnifying sheets available.
- Election staff was encouraged to assist voters who looked like they needed help.
- An Election staff was position to greet electors as they came in the building and assist them if it was required.
- Staff participated in a post-election discussion to review the election process and areas to improve for the next election.