



The Corporation of the Township of Armour

**ACCESSIBILITY REPORT
2018 ELECTION**

as required under section 12.1(3) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended

1. **Purpose of Report**

Section 12.1(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, provides that 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. This report is presented to fulfill the requirements of Section 12.1 (3) of the *Act* in respect of the regular election held on October 22, 2018.

2. **Analysis**

The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)* became law in 2005. The goal is to make Ontario accessible by 2025. The Accessibility Standards for Customer Service was the first standard to become law as a regulation.

The *Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR)* builds on the first standard and came into effect on July 1, 2011, these standards will be phased in over time. The four standards where compliance needs to be met are:

- Employment Standard
- Information and Communication Standard
- Transportation Standard
- Design of Public Spaces

The *Ontario Human Rights Code, 1990* provides that all persons have the right to equal treatment without discrimination, including on the basis of disability, and that persons with disabilities be provided with accommodation short of undue hardship.

3. **Municipal Staff Training**

The Corporation of the Township of Armour has provided training to staff that interact and communicate with the public or other third parties on their behalf who has various types of disabilities. In addition, staff were trained on how to interact with people with disabilities who use assistive devices, how to assist people with disabilities accessing goods and services, and making the municipal website accessibility compliant.

This training provided staff the tools and knowledge to use with persons with disabilities throughout the municipal election. All Election Officials were Township of Armour employees.

4. **Election Website, Notices and Related Materials**

Armour Website

All election information produced was made available in alternative formats upon request. Any information that was created from the municipal office and posted to Armour's website was in an accessible format. The information available online

used clear and simple language and was continuously updated to reflect the most recent election developments and information. The Armour website also has screen reader capabilities that allows persons with disabilities to listen to our website.

Joint Radio Advertising

Ten Central Almaguin Highland municipalities shared in two local radio stations broadcasting a message requesting that individuals who may require assistance with placing their vote to contact their respective municipal office.

No specific number of requests for assistance can be attributed to this activity, however sharing the cost between the ten municipalities allowed for significant cost savings with maximum coverage.

Related Materials

Election information was communicated through various channels and alternate formats including regular candidate emails, social media, and newspaper. For election-related inquiries, all residents were able to call the municipal office.

5. Summary

The Township of Armour office did not have any specific accessible requests during the 2018 election. Every effort was made to make the office, staff and website accessible and knowledgeable.

The municipal office is wheel chair accessible and voters who wanted to mark their ballots at the municipal office where provided an accessible area in a private setting. Posting of rules and election information was provided in an accessible format in compliance with the IASR Information and Communication Standard.

The Township of Armour provided multiple communications channels, including the website, radio and print ads, social media, phone, email, fax and in-person.

The collaborative effort of the Almaguin Area Clerks Group created a financially beneficial approach. The group initiatives also provided a resource for best practices during the 2018 election and provided a base for improvement in future elections.

It was the goal of the Township of Armour to ensure that electors within the municipality who required accessibility services were provided with the best opportunity to vote as independently as possible in the 2018 Municipal and School Board Election. Municipal staff also strived to make the nomination and registration process as accessible as possible for candidates and third parties.

The 2018 Municipal and School Board Election total voter response was 33.52%.