



Policy Review Committee Action Report for March 13th, 2018 following Council in the Council Chambers

PRESENT: Mayor Antonakos, Councillor Black, Councillor Redmond, Councillor Trimble, Councillor Doucett, Councillor Fritz

Staff: Diane Smithson, CAO, Duncan Rogers, Clerk, Stacey Blair, Deputy Clerk

- 1) **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**
- 2) **PUBLIC MEETING – NONE AT THIS TIME**
- 3) **REGISTRATION OF PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK**
- 4) **PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS**
- 5) **COMMUNICATION 129119 IS A CLOSED MEETING ITEM**
- 6) **IF THERE IS AN ADDENDUM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15.2.4 (OF THE STRIKING REPORT) DOES THE COMMITTEE WISH TO APPROVE THIS ADDENDUM**

The following items are for information only and will not be discussed unless the Committee chooses to do so. The Chair will entertain a motion to proceed as recommended for those items not pulled for discussion.

COMMUNICATION 129117

Received from Stacey Blair, Deputy Clerk
Addressed to Policy Review Committee
Date February 26, 2018
Topic Accessibility Plan for the 2018 Elections

SUMMARY

The attached draft accessibility plan for the 2018 municipal elections has been reviewed and approved by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

COMMENT

For Council's information.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Receive and record.

COMMITTEE DECISION

Receive and record.

COMMUNICATION 128423

Received from Paul Knowles, Chief Administrative Officer
Addressed to Physical Environment Committee
Date October 31, 2017
Topic GHG Challenge Fund

SUMMARY

Previously, the government of Ontario launched the Municipal GHG Challenge Fund, a competitive, application-based program. Ontario is inviting municipalities to submit applications for the fund by November 14, 2017.

The eligibility requirements for the first round of funding will now be opened to allow all municipalities to apply, so long as applicants demonstrate a commitment to completing their community-wide GHG inventory, targets and plan within 18 months, through a council resolution. If approved for funding, the council resolution must occur before the transfer payment agreement is completed.

Applications will be scored using the criteria outlined in the Program Guide. If applicants do not have an inventory, targets, and/or a GHG reduction plan, this will impact their score in the section entitled “Alignment with Municipal GHG Planning”.

COMMENT

Earlier, Council considered this program (Communication 128354) and decided not to pursue an application. However, with the new announcement, staff suggest submitting two applications – one for funding to install energy efficient street lighting and one to support implementing the Active Transportation Commuter Transit Plan that is currently under development. To support these applications to the GHG Challenge Fund, staff have drafted a GHG Emissions Reduction Statement (attached).

UPDATE MARCH 8, 2018

Earlier, the Town submitted an application to the Municipal GHG Challenge Fund for 50% funding of \$900,000.00 (cost of project) to assist with converting the streetlights to LED. However, the Town's application was not selected for funding.

At the time of budget preparation, this grant funding opportunity was not known, and was therefore not included in the 2018 budget. At the time of budget preparation, the anticipated cost of the project was \$780,000.00. The increased cost of \$120,000.00 (\$900,000.00 - \$780,000.00) will be left unfinanced at year end and will be paid for from anticipated energy savings, resulting from the project. The unfinanced portion of the project is expected to be paid off within 2 years due to the energy savings.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Receive and record.

COMMITTEE DECISION

Receive and record.

COMMUNICATION 129120

Received from Paul Knowles, Town Engineer
Addressed to Policy Review Committee
Date March 9, 2018
Topic Highway Access Management Plan for Hwy. 7

SUMMARY

In January of 2017, at the ROMA conference, MTO agreed to partner with the Town and lead the process to prepare a Highway Access Management Plan (HAMP) for Highway 7 between McNeely Ave. and Highway 15. When completed, this HAMP would show how the Hwy 7/Hwy 15 intersection would be upgraded to increase capacity and how the commercial entrances along Hwy 7 would be impacted. It would also describe how re-development of the commercial properties along Hwy 7 could proceed. However, work has not really yet begun on this project.

At the OGRA conference, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Black, Dave Young and Paul Knowles met with Arthur Potts, Parliamentary Assisting and several senior MTO staff and discussed the lack of progress on the Highway Access Management Plan that is being developed for Hwy 7. MTO committed to giving this project a higher priority.

COMMENT

For information.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Receive and record.

COMMITTEE DECISION

Receive and record.

TO BE DISCUSSED

COMMUNICATION 129118

Received from Stacey Blair, Deputy Clerk
Addressed to Policy Review Committee
Date February 26, 2018
Topic Use of Corporate Resources for Elections Policy

SUMMARY

In accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996 section 88.18*, before May 1st in the year of a regular election, municipalities shall establish rules and procedures with respect to the use of municipal resources, during the election campaign period.

129118 Continued

This report recommends the adoption of a Use of Corporate Resources for Elections Policy, which will serve as a guide for members of Council, candidates, staff, local boards of the Town of Carleton Place and the public on the appropriate use of the Town's corporate resources.

While it is recognized that members of Council must be able to perform the duties of their office during an election year, it is also important to establish clear guidelines to ensure that the election campaigns of sitting members do not receive any benefits by virtue of their office and at the same time, clarify the use of corporate resources for other candidates, municipal staff, and the public.

This policy was drafted after reviewing the related policies of a number of other municipalities including the Municipality of Mississippi Mills and the Town of Smiths Falls.

COMMENT

Related Policies:

Although it does not refer to elections specifically, Council's Code of Conduct provides the following with respect to the use of Municipal Property and Resources:

Council, committee appointees and municipal employees must not use the municipality's property, equipment, supplies or services, which are not available to the general public, for purposes not associated with the discharge of their official duties.

The Town of Carleton Place Digital Communications Policy states the following:

The Town of Carleton Place will not consider posting external links on its websites to:

- *Personal websites*
- *Council - No promotion of a member of Council, an individual or organization, shall be permitted for political purposes*
- *Posting material from any member of Council requires the express permission of the remaining members of Council. Direction should be given to the Website Administrator from the Chief Administrative Officer in the event that material of this nature is to be posted.*

In the past, the information package provided to municipal council candidates during the nomination period, also included the following statement:

129118 Continued

The use of corporate resources is not permitted by Candidates for election purposes (ie. staff, electronic devices, supplies, candidate photos taken in/on municipal property, etc.)

Additionally, in November 2017, the Town adopted an Employee Involvement in Municipal Elections Policy which addresses the role of employees but not corporate resources specifically.

In the interest of accountability and transparency, a greater detailed stand-alone policy addressing the use of corporate resources during an election period is now required under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

The Municipal Elections Act, 1996, prohibits a municipality and its local boards from making a contribution to a candidate. As contributions may take the form of money, goods or services, publicly clarifying the goods and services, which would not be available to sitting members of Council and/or candidates, would establish reference criteria for all, including campaign workers and municipal staff.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Use of Corporate Resources for Elections Policy, attached as Schedule A be approved.

COMMITTEE DECISION

THAT the Use of Corporate Resources for Elections Policy for the Town of Carleton Place be approved.

COMMUNICATION 128411

Received from Clerk's Department
Addressed to Policy Review Committee
Date March 8, 2018
Topic Integrity Commissioner Contract

SUMMARY

Last fall, Mr. Swayze informed the Town that he had completed his five-year term with Council as Integrity Commissioner for the Town of Carleton Place.

COMMENT

Neither By-law No. 29-2012 nor the initial motion of Council appointing Mr. Swayze as Integrity Commissioner for the Town of Carleton Place noted a five-year term of office. Staff contacted Mr. Swayze to determine if he would be interested in remaining as the Integrity Commissioner for the Town.

128411 Continued

UPDATE - October 2017

Mr. Swayze informed the Town that he is prepared to accept a renewal of his term as Integrity Commissioner but that his rates and other terms have changed. Effective last fall, Mr. Swayze’s new charges are \$320.00/hr and \$160.00/hr for travel time. His previous rates were \$280.00 per hour and \$140.00/hr for travel time. He also charges an annual retainer of \$2,000.00.

Mr. Swayze has provided a sample draft service agreement that he now uses. A 30-day termination clause was included with the 2017 contract renewal.

UPDATE – March 2018

Lanark County issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the services of an Integrity Commissioner on December 13, 2017 with a closing date of January 15, 2018. Included in the County RFP were the following municipalities: Beckwith, Drummond/North Elmsley, Lanark Highlands, Mississippi Mills, Montague, Perth, Tay Valley and Smiths Falls.

The County received 7 RFP submissions which were reviewed by the Evaluation Committee comprised of the Clerk (or his/her designate) of each local municipality involved. Each submission was evaluated against the criteria set out in section 4.1 of the RFP, as follows:

Evaluation Criteria	Weighted Score
Company Profile	5
Project Experience	20
Approach, Methodology & Project Schedule	25
Integrity Consultant Team	20
Cost Factor	30
Total	100
Interview (Stage 2) *Optional	25

Staff from seven of the eight local municipalities plus the Town of Smiths Falls participated in the process. A review of the proposals was undertaken by the group in accordance with the evaluation criteria. The Stage 2 Interview component was optional, but deemed unnecessary.

After the evaluation process was complete Cunningham, Swan, Carty, Little & Bonham LLP was the proponent with the highest total score. The team will be led by Tony Fleming, who brings a wealth of knowledge both from a legal and municipal perspective.

128411 Continued

The firm is located out of Kingston, with strong familiarity of Lanark County and its local municipalities. The proposal was clear, concise and the group is confident in the team's abilities based on experience and wide breadth of knowledge on various topics. The proposal outlined an initial informal resolution approach which is very desirable versus proceeding with an immediate investigation.

Their proposal also provides for education and training for Council members, staff and the public on the Code of Conduct, various policies and the complaint process while instilling the values of accountability and transparency through the provision of an ethical framework with which to work from.

Financial Implications:

Presently, the Town's agreement with Mr. Swayze provides that it can be terminated by resolution of Council giving 30 days' notice and if Council so decides, Mr. Swayze has agreed to prorate his annual retainer of \$2,000.00.

The recommended firm (Cunningham Swan) does not require an annual retainer fee; however, there will be ongoing budget needs for the costs of investigations, reports and information provided to members which will be charged at \$295 per hour. The Town would be responsible for all costs associated with its investigations. This is a savings of \$25/hour from the Town's present contract.

There could be other potential savings in working together with the Lanark County group and the recommended firm on matters such as reviewing the Council and Employee Code of Conducts, Council/Staff Relations Policies, the Integrity Commissioner Complaint Policy and any other policies/procedures, rules of the municipalities and local boards governing the ethical behaviour of members of council and/or local boards.

Options available regarding the Integrity Commissioner include:

1. Status Quo – remain with Mr. Swayze as the Municipality's Integrity Commissioner until the end of the current 5-year contract
2. Join with other Lanark County Municipalities now and enter into a contract with Cunningham Swan.
3. Change to Cunningham Swan at the end of the current Council term.

128411 Continued

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT Cunningham, Swan, Carty, Little & Bonham LLP (Lead - Tony Fleming) be appointed as the Integrity Commissioner for the Town of Carleton Place; and

THAT the Clerk be directed to prepare the necessary appointment by-law for the March 27th, 2018 meeting of Council; and

THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute an agreement with Cunningham, Swan, Carty, Little & Bonham for the provision of services of an Integrity Commissioner; and

THAT the Clerk provide Mr. Swayze with the necessary 30 days' notice of termination of services.

COMMITTEE DECISION

THAT Cunningham, Swan, Carty, Little & Bonham LLP (Lead - Tony Fleming) be appointed as the Integrity Commissioner for the Town of Carleton Place; and

THAT the Clerk be directed to prepare the necessary appointment by-law for the March 27th, 2018 meeting of Council; and

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THAT the Clerk provide Mr. Swayze with the necessary 30 days' notice of termination of services.

At the request of Mayor Antonakos, staff administered the following recorded vote:

Mayor Antonakos: Yay

Deputy Mayor Flynn: Absent

Councillor Black: Nay

Councillor Doucett: Yay

Councillor Fritz: Yay

Councillor Redmond: Nay

Councillor Trimble: Yay

The committee secretary declared the vote as CARRIED.

COMMUNICATION 129119

Received from Clerk's Department
Addressed to Policy Review Committee
Date March 13, 2018
Topic Closed Meetings

SUMMARY

As authorized by the Municipal Act, Council should review selected items in closed session.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT in accordance with Section 239 of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, that the meeting be closed to the public with the following agenda.

AGENDA

- 2018-03-13-1 Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees – General Nature – Striking Committee (Appointment Application for the Municipal Drug Strategy Committee)
- 2018-03-13-2 A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board – General Nature – Sale of Land

COMMITTEE DECISION

THAT in accordance with Section 239 (2) (b) and (c) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, that the meeting be closed to the public with the following agenda.

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- 2018-03-13-1 Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees – General Nature – Striking Committee (Appointment Application for the Municipal Drug Strategy Committee)
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REPORT TO COUNCIL

- 2018-03-13-1 THAT Council hereby instructs the Clerk to amend the Striking Committee Report to add Brenda MacDonald-Rowe as a member of Municipal Drug Strategy Committee.
- 2018-03-13-2 THAT Council a by-law be prepared to authorize the Mayor and the Clerk to execute an Agreement of Purchase and Sale to Steve and Mandi Murphy for the purchase of Part 2 on RP 27R11033, Rowe Street for the amount of \$104,000.00.



**Policy Review Committee Agenda
for March 13th, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in
the Council Chambers**

- 1) **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY/CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF** – now or anytime during the meeting
- 2) **PUBLIC MEETING – NONE AT THIS TIME**
- 3) **REGISTRATION OF PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK**
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Received from Stacey Blair, Deputy Clerk
Addressed to Policy Review Committee
Date February 26, 2018
Topic Accessibility Plan for the 2018 Elections

SUMMARY

The attached draft accessibility plan for the 2018 municipal elections has been reviewed and approved by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

COMMENT

For Council's information.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Receive and record.

COMMITTEE DECISION

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Addressed to Physical Environment Committee
Date October 31, 2017
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SUMMARY

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SUMMARY

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RECOMMENDATION

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COMMITTEE DECISION

COMMUNICATION 128411

Received from	Clerk's Department
Addressed to	Policy Review Committee
Date	March 8, 2018
Topic	Integrity Commissioner Contract

SUMMARY

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COMMENT

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128411 Continued

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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COMMITTEE DECISION

COMMUNICATION 129119

Received from	Clerk's Department
Addressed to	Policy Review Committee
Date	March 13, 2018
Topic	Closed Meetings

SUMMARY

As authorized by the Municipal Act, Council should review selected items in closed session.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT in accordance with Section 239 of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, that the meeting be closed to the public with the following agenda.

AGENDA

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| 2018-03-13-1 | Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees – General Nature – Striking Committee (Appointment Application for the Municipal Drug Strategy Committee) |
| 2018-03-13-2 | A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board – General Nature – Sale of Land |

COMMITTEE DECISION

ELECTION ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Town of Carleton Place

2018 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

ACCESSIBLE ELECTION OBJECTIVES

This plan is intended to outline the measures that the Town will be implementing to ensure that the 2018 Municipal and School Board Trustee Elections are as accessible, inclusive and barrier-free as possible and to ensure that persons with disabilities can fully participate in the Elections.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ACT REQUIREMENTS

In addition to pre-existing accessibility requirements, the Town's current Accessibility Standards for Customer Service Policy, the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 S.O. 1996, CHAPTER 32, section 12 states:

"12.1 (1) A clerk who is responsible for conducting an election shall have regard to the need of electors and candidates with disabilities. 2009, c. 33, Sched. 21, s. 8 (8).

Report

(2) 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, Sched. 21, s. 8 (8).

41. *(3) The clerk shall make such changes to some or all of the ballots as he or she considers necessary or desirable to allow electors with visual impairments to vote without the assistance referred to in paragraph 4 of subsection 52 (1). 1996, c. 32, Sched., s. 41 (3); 2001, c. 32, s. 30 (1).*

45. *(2) In establishing the locations of voting places, the clerk shall ensure that each voting place is accessible to electors with disabilities. 2009, c. 33, Sched. 21, s. 8(23)."*

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ELECTION ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

This plan will address the specific requirements pertaining to accessibility in relation to the 2018 Municipal and School Board Trustee Elections in the Town of Carleton Place.

This plan is a "living" document which will be improved and updated as best practices are identified and new opportunities of improvement arise.

During the development process of the initial Election Accessibility Plan, the following steps will be implemented:

1. In consultation with Accessibility Advisory Committee, review proposed Accessibility Plan to verify needs are being met.
2. Establish staff training standards and practices directly related to the Election to ensure that people with disabilities are able to vote in a positive environment, and ensure that all Election Officials recognize that in every way possible a voter's needs are to be accommodated whenever possible.
3. Following the Election, submit a report to the Accessibility Advisory Committee and Council about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities.

COMMUNICATIONS

The 2018 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan will be made available at the Town Hall and by way of the Town's website at <http://www.carletonplace.ca>. Alternate formats will be made available upon request.

REGARD FOR THE NEEDS OF ELECTORS WITH DISABILITIES

The procedures within this plan must respect the dignity and independence of the Electors. The election process should ensure that the policies, practices and procedures are consistent with the core principles of independence, dignity, integration and equality of opportunity.

VOTING

INTERNET VOTING (E-VOTING)

E-voting combined with everyday tools like computers, telephones and other aids can present opportunities for persons with disabilities to accomplish more, while being consistent with the principles of independence, dignity, integration and equality of opportunity. There is the potential to eliminate long line-ups at polling stations and better address accessibility issues for persons with disabilities, those suffering from illness, those serving in the military or living abroad, those away on personal travel and other groups of citizens such as single parents who may find it difficult to visit a traditional

polling station.

Internet voting affords electors the opportunity of being able to vote at any time, a feature that further enables electors' ability to cast a ballot. Internet voting could allow greater secrecy and independence for special populations of electors with disabilities (including visually or hearing impaired). By voting electronically and therefore unassisted, these electors are afforded a greater degree of anonymity when casting a ballot. Enabling secrecy for these groups enhances the equality of the vote. E-voting has the greatest potential to positively impact accessibility for voters.

For the 2018 Municipal Election, internet and telephone voting offers an opportunity for persons to cast a ballot from the comfort and convenience of a familiar setting, complete with the tools, equipment and/or software needed to do so. Telephone and Internet voting will be available for Voting from October 15 until October 22, 2018. During this time, individuals will be able to cast their vote from anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day from any kind of phone or computer. In this system, voters can vote from the comfort of their homes and it provides for easy voting for voters with any disability.

PAPER BALLOT

Paper ballots will be made available for traditional voting at as noted below:

Carambek Community Centre

- Saturday, October 13, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 17, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Voting Day, October 22, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The Paper Ballot system employs paper ballots on which the names of all candidates are printed. Voters record their choices by marking the boxes next to the candidate(s) they select, they then fold the ballot to conceal how they voted and return the ballot to the DRO who drops the voted ballot in a sealed ballot box. This method allows the use of various means, (magnifying glass, large print, etc.) to read the text and allows improved accessibility for voters.

VOTING PLACE

For the purposes of this plan, voting place includes the exterior parking and walkways associated with the location.

To ensure each voting place is accessible to electors with disabilities, a Site Evaluation (Appendix A) will be completed prior to the election.

The Evaluation Form will include the assessment of the following areas within the voting place:

- Exteriors
- Parking Areas
- Entrances
- Elevators (if applicable)
- Fire and Life Safety
- General Layout and Services
- Interiors
- Public Washrooms
- Facility Signage and Information Systems

Upon completion of the evaluation, a list of the barriers which have been identified will be reviewed to determine if they can be rectified to accommodate electors with disabilities. This may include the implementation of site specific accommodations for that voting place on Election Day.

VOTING PLACE INSTITUTIONS

The Municipal Elections Act requires that on voting day, a voting place shall be provided on the premises of the following:

“S. 45 (7)

1. *An institution for the reception, treatment or vocational training of members or former members of the Canadian Forces.*
2. *An institution in which, on nomination day, 20 or more beds are occupied by persons who are disabled, chronically ill or infirm.*

3. *A retirement home in which, on nomination day, 50 or more beds are occupied”*

For the 2018 Municipal Election, the following institution locations have been identified:

- Stone Ridge Manor, 256 High Street
- Riverview Seniors Residence, 204 Lake Avenue West
- Waterside Viva Retirement Community, 105 McNeely Avenue
- Carleton Place Terrace, 6 Arthur Street

A Site Evaluation Form will be completed to identify any barriers at the voting place. Accessibility of the voting place in institutions will be addressed to the best of the Town’s ability through the cooperation of the institutions’ owners/operators.

A Deputy Returning Officer will attend to the Elector anywhere within the voting place to allow an Elector with a mobility disability to vote. The time of the voting place within each institution will be arranged with the institution’s administrator.

ELECTION MATERIALS

Alternate Format

Alternate formats are other ways of publishing information besides regular print. Some of these formats can be used by everyone while others are designed to address the specific needs of a user.

The Town and the person with a disability may agree upon the format to be used for the document or information.

In the event the information is not generated by the Town or is supplied by a third party, the Town will make every effort to obtain the information from the third party in an alternate format and/or will attempt to assist the Elector by providing assistive equipment.

GENERAL ELECTION MATERIALS

Large Print – Printed material generated by the Town will be provided in Arial font, 12

point and can be made available in a font (print) size that is 16 to 20 points or larger.

Website – Information generated by the Town on the website in relation to the election will be in a format for which OCR software can be utilized. In addition, website font can be sized in three (3) levels to aid the user in reading the information.

VOTING MATERIALS (BALLOTS)

Assistive Devices – Each voting place will be equipped with magnifiers as well as the assistance of Election Officials.

VOTING PROVISION FOR ELECTORS WITH DISABILITIES AT THE VOTING PLACE

The following voting provisions are in place to accommodate the voting needs of Electors with disabilities:

Support Persons – In relation to a person with a disability, a Support Person accompanies him or her to help with communications, mobility, personal care or medical needs or with access to goods or services.

The Deputy Returning Officer may permit an Elector who needs assistance in voting to have such assistance as the Deputy Returning Officer considers necessary. The Support Person, upon the completion of the prescribed oath, may accompany the Elector behind the voting screen to assist the Elector in the voting process.

Assistive Personal Equipment – Assistive personal devices include, but are not limited to, wheelchairs, walkers, white canes, walking canes, note-taking devices, portable magnifiers, recording machines, assistive listening devices, personal oxygen tanks and devices for grasping.

Each voting place will be equipped with magnifiers. Personal assistance from an Election Official is also available.

Service Animals – An animal is a “Service Animal” if it is readily apparent that the animal

is used by a person with a disability for reasons relating to his or her disability, for example a guide dog wearing a harness. Service Animals will be permitted in all voting places.

Physical Disabilities – Voting places including parking areas, entrances and voting areas will be selected and/or setup in a manner that enables Electors with physical disabilities to vote.

In the event an Elector is unable to access the established voting area due to a physical disability, the Deputy Returning Officer may attend to the Elector anywhere within the voting place.

Vision Loss – Each voting place will be equipped with magnifiers.

Hearing Impaired, Deafness and Hearing Loss – Each voting place will be equipped with a wipe board and/or pad of paper and pen to communicate with the hearing impaired in writing, if required.

Speech Impairments, Cognitive Disabilities & Mental Illness – Personal assistance from an Election Official will be available.

ACCESSIBLE VOTING BOOTHS

Accessible voting booths will be available at each Voting Place. Voting booths will be low in height and have a wide area to allow individuals utilizing mobility aids to vote independently and secretively. A large print Notice of Ballot shall be displayed in close proximity to the voting booth. Magnifying sheets will be available to assist any individual with low vision.

ACCESSIBILITY TRAINING FOR ELECTION OFFICIALS

All Election Officials are required to complete the Town's general Accessible Customer Service training which includes:

- The purpose of the Act
- How to interact with people with various disabilities
- How to interact with people who use the assistance of a service animal or support person

Election Officials will be provided with access to a Guidebook to assist them in delivering and maintaining accessible customer service by:

- Being aware of accessibility features at/for the voting place
- Providing tips on how to maintain these accessibility features
- Being aware of various tools available to assist with customer service such as assistive devices
- Knowing when and how to report a disruption of service
- Knowing how to collect Customer Feedback

In addition to the Town's general Customer Service Training, all Election Officials will be provided with customized training on this plan and the related materials contained within, as well as the following:

- A requirement to monitor Electors with disabilities to ensure that their needs are met, i.e. if an individual with a walker is in a long line, staff are to observe, and if it is felt that the Elector is having difficulties, then offer a chair, ensure that their place is saved in the voting line-up, etc.;
- A requirement to ensure that Electors are aware that assistance (in varying forms) is available, if required;
- Direction for Election Officials to observe Electors during discussions with them, and if it appears that the voter is having difficulty understanding, ensuring that the voter is able to clearly see the speaker;
- Encouraging Election Officials to approach an Elector if it appears that the Elector requires assistance to get around in the voting place and offer assistance;
- Conduct routine checks of the voting place to ensure accessible features are maintained (eg. Check the access doors frequently);
- Watch for Electors unable to easily enter the building and offer assistance;

Upon completion of the training program, each Election Official will be required to complete and return an **Accessibility Compliance Form**.

REPORTING

Pursuant to Section 12.1 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, "S.8(8) 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.”

In addition, said report will be provided to the Accessibility Advisory Committee. It will also be made available to the public via the Town’s website.

CUSTOMER SERVICE FEEDBACK

The Town welcomes customer feedback to identify areas where changes need to be considered and ways in which the Town can improve the delivery of an accessible Election. The Town recognizes that it is the right of our voters to submit feedback regarding the provision of accessible customer service.

To assist the Town in ensuring that the delivery of goods and services to those with disabilities is provided in an effective and timely manner, voters are invited to provide their feedback in writing, in person or by email to:

Town Clerk
175 Bridge Street,
Carleton Place, ON K7C 2V8
Phone: (613) 257-6212
Email: sblair@carletonplace.ca

ACCESSIBLE SERVICE DISRUPTIONS

From time to time and/or for unforeseen circumstances beyond the Town’s control, temporary service disruptions may be experienced. In the event of a temporary accessible service disruption, Election Officials will commit to making reasonable efforts to ensure that the services are reinstated as quickly as possible and that alternative services are provided, where feasible.

In these instances of service disruptions, the Town shall provide reasonable notice in the event of a planned or unexpected disruption in the facilities or services usually used by persons with disabilities.

Notice of temporary disruptions shall be provided in a conspicuous place and manner at the respective locations and information shall also be posted on the Town's website.

The notice shall include information about the reason for the disruption, its anticipated duration, and a description of alternative facilities or services, if available.

Accessible services in relation to this plan include voting places, election materials and/or voting provisions for Electors with disabilities at the voting place.

APPENDIX A – VOTING PLACE SITE EVALUATION FORM

NAME OF VOTING PLACE: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Contract Name: _____

Checklist

EXTERIORS	YES	No
Accessible pedestrian route(s) or paths are wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs, scooters, or other mobility devices		
Curb cuts or ramps are wide enough for wheelchairs and scooters, have a non-slip finish and are kept clear of snow and ice in winter weather		
Routes are not obstructed by poles, plants, bicycle racks, etc.		
Accessible entrances are clearly marked with the International Symbol of Accessibility		
Building and route signage is provided in large, high-contrast lettering		
Accessible passenger loading zone accommodates accessible vehicles		
On exterior steps, forward edges are highly colour-contrasted for easy visibility		
On both sides of ramps or exterior stairs, continuous handrails are a bright contrasting colour and have horizontal or vertical rails to prevent people from slipping through		
PARKING AREAS	YES	No
Accessible parking spaces are clearly marked with the International Symbol of Accessibility		
There is a safe, clearly marked, accessible pedestrian route from the designated parking area to an accessible building entrance or elevator lobby		
Accessible pedestrian route is made of firm, level material		
ENTRANCES	YES	No
Entrances are accessible to people using wheelchairs or scooters		

<p>Accessible door:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opens automatically • has power assisted door operators, or • can easily be opened with one hand 		
Mats are level with the floor and door thresholds are bevelled so they do not create a tripping hazard		
People can easily find information at a reception counter, an accessible call bell or information phone for persons requiring assistance		
ELEVATORS (IF APPLICABLE)	YES	NO
Elevator doorways are wide enough and stay open long enough to allow persons using wheelchairs to pass through easily		
In accessible elevators, Braille signage and controls can be easily reached and a two-way emergency call system or telephone provided		
Audible signals announce floors and up/down direction of elevator cars		
FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY	YES	NO
A fire policy and/or fire safety plan is available to Election Officials and includes provisions for the evacuation of people with disabilities		
Main exit routes and exit doors are easily accessed and used by people using mobility aids		
Exit instructions are printed in large text, and mounted in an accessible, highly visible location		
Fire alarms have both visual and audible signals		
Fire hose cabinets and fire extinguishers are in a highly contrasting colour		
A first aid station/kit is available to Election Officials		
GENERAL LAYOUT AND SERVICES	YES	NO
Queuing areas and serving aisles are wide enough for people using mobility aids including electric wheelchairs and scooters		
Counter/tables are accessible to and useable by patrons using wheelchairs or scooters		
Appropriate lighting is installed to ensure that people with vision disabilities may clearly identify colours, patterns and signage		
INTERIORS	YES	NO
Floor finishes have non-slip surfaces under wet and dry conditions		
Open-concept, accessible routes are marked by bright colours or textural changes at floor level, to provide directional cues for people with vision disabilities		
There are no protruding objects or tripping hazards in accessible routes, and if so, they are clearly marked with a bright colour, a cane-detectible floor finish, or a guard		
Where floors are carpeted, the carpet is of firm, dense construction and easy for a wheelchair user to roll over without difficulty		
Thresholds are bevelled to accommodate different floor materials		

Walls in busy areas, corridors, ramps or staircases are finished in smooth, non-glossy, non-abrasive finishes		
Colour of doors or door frames in hallways contrast with surrounding wall colours		
PUBLIC WASHROOMS	YES	NO
An accessible stall is provided for each sex when integrated into regular washrooms or in an accessible stand-alone unisex washroom which is located nearby		
PUBLIC WASHROOMS CONT'D	YES	NO
The following washroom features are accessible to people with a wide range of disabilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • grab bars • coat hooks • flush controls • wash basins • toilet paper dispenser • mounted automatic hand-dryers or paper towel holders • lever-handled faucets or automatic faucets 		
FACILITY SIGNAGE AND INFORMATION SYSTEM	YES	NO
Show the International Symbol of Accessibility		
Include appropriate pictograms wherever possible (e.g. on washroom doors)		
Include large high-contrast text, clear, light-coloured lettering or symbols on a dark background, or dark characters on a light background		
Are mounted at a convenient height for both wheelchair users and people with vision disabilities		

Person Who Completed Evaluation: _____

Areas of Concern: _____

Site Selected: **Yes:** _____ **No:** _____

Special Accommodations for Site: _____

TOWN OF CARLETON PLACE

USE OF CORPORATE RESOURCES FOR ELECTION PURPOSES

GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT

The purpose of this policy is to clarify that all election candidates are required to follow the provisions of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended (“*Act*”), and that:

- No candidate shall use the facilities, equipment, supplies, services, staff or other resources of The Corporation of the Town of Carleton Place (“Town”) for any election campaign or campaign related activities.
- No candidate shall undertake campaign-related activities on municipal property during regular working hours.
- No candidate shall use the services of persons during hours in which those persons receive any compensation from the Town.

APPLICATION

This policy is applicable to all candidates, including Members of Council, as well as acclaimed Members or Members not seeking re-election.

RATIONALE AND LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

These guidelines establish the appropriate use of municipal resources during an election period to protect the interests of Council, the Town and the public. The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, prohibits a municipality from making a contribution to a candidate. The *Act* also prohibits the candidate, or someone acting on the candidate’s behalf, from accepting a contribution from a person who is not entitled to make a contribution. Since contributions may take the form of money, goods, or services, any use by a Member of Council of the Town’s resources for his/her election campaign would be viewed as a contribution and, therefore, a violation of the *Act*.

SPECIFIC POLICY

In accordance with the provisions of the *Act*:

- (a) Corporate resources, assets and funding may not be used for any election-related purposes;
- (b) Staff may not canvass or actively work in support of a municipal candidate or party during normal working hours unless they are on a leave of absence without pay, lieu time, or vacation leave;

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March 2018

- (c) Members of Council may not use a municipal office or any municipally-provided facilities for any election-related purposes. Neither campaign related signs nor any other election related material will be displayed in any municipally-provided facilities;
- (d) The budgets for Members of Council for the period January 1 to Election Day in a municipal election year shall be restricted to 11/12th of the approved annual budget amount with the provision that subsequent to Election Day:
 - i. new Members of Council be allocated a budget equal to 1/12th of the approved budget amount for the month of December; and
 - ii. re-elected Members of Council have available to them the balance of remaining funds as of Election Day;
- (e) The following shall be discontinued for Members of Council from the day prior to Nomination Day in a municipal election year except as required to perform their regular duties as a Member of Council and as approved by Council:
 - i. all forms of notices, advertisements and communications to ratepayers in municipal publications;
 - ii. all printing, photocopying and distribution, including printing and general distribution of newsletters; and
 - iii. the ordering of stationary (e.g. business cards, letterhead, name tags)
- (f) Members of Council may not:
 - i. print or distribute any material paid by municipal funds that illustrates that a Member of Council or any other individual is registered in any election or where they will be running for office;
 - ii. profile (name or photograph), or make reference to, in any material paid by municipal funds, any individual who is registered as a candidate in any election; or
 - iii. print or distribute any material using municipal funds that makes reference to, or contains the names or photographs, or identifies registered candidates for municipal elections, except material distributed in the normal course of Council business (e.g. Council and Committee minutes);
- (g) Members of Council are responsible to ensure that the content of any communications material, including printed material such as newsletters, advertising, etc. funded by the Town, is not election-related;
- (h) Websites or domain names that are funded by the Town may not include any election-related campaign material;
- (i) Members of Council may not use the Town's website to provide links, directly or indirectly, to external websites for election-related activities. Candidate information will

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be displayed on the Town's election webpage for all candidates under the candidates' section only.

- (j) Members of Council may not use the Town's voice mail system or the computer network (including the email system) to record or distribute election-related correspondence;
- (k) The Town's corporate identity (logo, crest, coat of arms, slogan, etc.) shall not be printed or distributed on any election-related materials or be included on any election campaign related website, except in the case of a link to the Town's website to obtain information about the municipal election.

LIMITATION

Nothing in this policy shall preclude a Member of Council from performing their job as Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Councillor, nor inhibit them from representing the interests of the constituents who elected them.

IMPLEMENTATION

This policy shall become effective immediately upon approval by Town Council.

ENFORCEMENT

The Town Clerk, or designate, shall have the delegated authority to investigate and resolve any issues arising from any written complaint regarding a contravention of this policy. If a breach of the policy is confirmed, the Member or Candidate will be subject to any penalty provisions under the *Act*.