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STAFF REPORT:



REPORT TO:	Committee of the Whole
MEETING DATE:	January 12, 2015
REPORT NO.:	A.15.01
SUBJECT:	Election 2014 – Identification, Removal and Prevention of Barriers that Affect Electors and Candidates with Disabilities
PREPARED BY:	Corrina Giles, Town Clerk

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report A.15.01 “Election 2014 – Identification, Removal and Prevention of Barriers that Affect Electors and Candidates with Disabilities” for information.

B. Background

Section 12.1 (1) of the Municipal Election Act requires that a Clerk who is responsible for conducting an election shall have regard to the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities.

Section 12.1 (2) of the Municipal Election Act requires that 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.

It was the goal of the Clerk to ensure that electors and candidates in the Town of The Blue Mountains with disabilities are provided with the best opportunity to participate as independently as possible in the 2014 Municipal Election.

In keeping with legislation, the Clerk ensured the following items were addressed and completed with respect to the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors with disabilities:

1. The Town of The Blue Mountains used the Vote by Mail method (for the third time), essentially eliminating the need for polling locations with the exception of the revisions to the voters list.
2. On request, the Clerk was available to attend electors homes to assist electors in preparing the EL15 Form to be added to the Voter’s List.

3. The Clerk attended the Errinrurg Nursing Home, and worked in coordination with the Nursing Home Activation Coordinator, to assist residents in both the Retirement Home and the Nursing Home to prepare the EL15 Form to be added to the Voter's List and provided each elector with a voting kit. The Activation Coordinator swore an oath that she would assist the residents, when asked, and that she would maintain the secrecy of the voting and would not interfere with an elector when he/she was marking his/her ballot, obtain or communicate any information as to how an elector is about to vote or has voted, or directly or indirectly induce an elector to show his/her marked ballot to any person.
4. The Clerk attended both Maple Villa and Lemon Court Residences to assist residents to prepare the EL15 Form to be added to the Voter's List.
5. The Clerk ensured the Voter's List was prepared with a large font for ease of reading and Staff were always available to assist Voter's in locating their name and address on the Voter's List.
6. The Clerk attended the All Candidates Meeting at the Beaver Valley Community Centre to allow Voter's to check the Voter's List to confirm they were on the Voters List. Voters not on the Voters List were provided with an EL15 form to complete to be added to the Voter's List.
7. The Voter's List was available on the Town's website to allow voters to confirm their name was on the Voter's List. The Clerk opened the Town Office two Friday evenings and one Saturday, and one additional Saturday at the Library prior to the Municipal Election to allow Voters to confirm their name was on the Voter's List, and to receive a Voter kit.
8. The Clerk was prepared to assist electors and candidates with disabilities in the 2014 election, on request. There were no unresolved requests.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Goal: Providing a strong, well managed municipal government.

D. Environmental Impacts

None

E. Financial Impact

None

F. In Consultation With

None

G. Attached

No attachments.

Respectfully submitted,

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