



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** **Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee**

**From:** **Ryan McVeigh, Election Coordinator**

**Meeting Date:** **June 4, 2014**

**Subject:** **Report AAC14-017**  
**Accessibility at the 2014 Municipal Election**

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## **Purpose**

A report to provide an update on accessibility initiatives for the 2014 Municipal Election, through a presentation by the City's Election Coordinator.

## **Recommendation**

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee approves the recommendation outlined in Report AAC14-017 dated June 4, 2014, of the Election Coordinator as follows:

That the presentation by the Election Coordinator be received for information.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

There are no budget or financial implications in receiving this report. The implementation of accessibility provisions for the 2014 election has been considered in the budget.

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## **Background**

### **Walk-In Voting Locations**

Section 45(2) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, states: "In establishing locations of voting places, the clerk shall ensure that each voting place is accessible to electors with disabilities." All voting locations in Peterborough will be wheelchair accessible, and offer many other accessible features.

Site audits were conducted early in the year by the Election Team and the Accessibility Coordinator. In those audits we rated locations on: signage, parking, lighting, proximity to public transit, paths of entry (exterior and interior), and washrooms.

### **City Hall Accessible Voting**

City Hall Accessible Voting is meant to be a low volume voting option for electors with disabilities, but will also allow anyone attending City Hall for ordinary business the opportunity to cast a ballot. City Hall Accessible Voting will run weekdays from Tuesday, October 14, 2014 to Friday, October 24, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### **Accessible Voting Technology at City Hall**

The City Hall Accessible voting location will feature accessible voting equipment, allowing electors with disabilities the opportunity to cast a ballot independently. The accessible voting technology to be employed in the 2014 election is the same technology that was used in 2010. With this technology, the voter uses headphones to hear the ballot choices for each contest and a handheld controller device allows them to control the voting session and choose their preferred candidate. The controller can also be operated by other assistive devices such as sip and puff and paddles, for voters who are unable to use their hands to press the selection buttons. Once selections are made, a marked paper ballot is printed from a blank sheet of paper, and is completely indistinguishable from a paper ballot marked by hand.

## **Summary**

The City of Peterborough is committed to ensuring the 2014 Municipal Election is accessible. The election team encourages and welcomes ongoing input from the Accessibility Advisory Committee to ensure that everyone in the City of Peterborough has an equal opportunity to vote independently.

Submitted by,

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Election Coordinator

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