



Village of Sundridge

2022 Municipal Election Accessibility Report

1. INTRODUCTION

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 prepare a report about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and shall make the report available to the public.

2. OBJECTIVES

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 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 person with disabilities be provided with accommodation short of undue hardship.

This Report is to highlight measures that the Village of Sundridge implemented to ensure equal opportunity for all electors and candidates. These measures included:

- Persons with disabilities are able to independently cast their vote and verify their selection.
- That persons with disabilities had full and equal access to all information on where and when to vote and on eligible candidates.
- That persons with disabilities were able to fully participate in the Municipal Election as an elector, candidate, or election official.

3. VOTING METHODS

The 2022 Municipal Election for the Village of Sundridge was conducted using Vote by Mail. Vote by mail allowed all electors the convenience and independence of voting from a place of residence or if assistance was required, trained election officials were available at the Voter Help Centre.

Vote by Mail permitted voters the ability to vote from the comfort of their own home. Voting from home facilitates the voting process for persons with disabilities who may have mobility restrictions, visual impairment, and/or have a difficult time with transportation. Additionally, persons who have assistive devices in their homes may be able to utilize such devices to assist with casting a ballot privately and independently.

4. Municipal Staff training

The Village of Sundridge provided training to Staff that interact and communicate with the public or other third parties on their behalf. The training that was implemented was Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

This training provided staff the tools and knowledge to assist persons with disabilities throughout the municipal elections. All election officials were Village of Sundridge employees.

5. Municipal Website and Related Materials

The Village of Sundridge website is AODA compliant. The website is WCAG 2.0 Level AA and allow for assistive software to be utilized. In addition, website font can be adjusted within the browser's functionality to aid the user in reading the information.

The Village of Sundridge is required, as per the Accessible Customer Service Standard, to provide a copy of a document to a person with a disability, or the information contained in the document, in a format that takes into account the person's disability. The information available online was provided in a clear and simple format and any election material was made available in an alternate format upon request.

6. Advertising

Ten Central Almaguin municipalities shared in advertising a public notice on the local radio stations. This public notice included information advising that anyone needing assistance with the election process should contact their local municipal office

7. Accessibility Plan

The Village of Sundridge posted their Accessibility plan on their website and had copies available for anyone requesting a copy (or alternate format). This plan outlined all steps taken to create a barrier free election.

8. Summary

The Village of Sundridge office had a few inquiries regarding options available to electors that were not able to access the building, although there was no additional action required by an election official. Staff were able to accommodate a request where the elector was not able to leave their residence. This included the verification of the elector and the issuing of vote by mail kit.

It was the goal of the Village of Sundridge to eliminate as many barriers as possible throughout the election and to ensure that anyone who required accessibility services for the 2022 Municipal Election were provided with the opportunity as independently as possible.