

TOWNSHIP OF CARLOW/MAYO

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN REGARDING IDENTIFICATION, REMOVAL AND PREVENTION OF BARRIERS THAT AFFECT ELECTORS AND CANDIDATES WITH DISABILITIES

Accessibility of Electronic Voting Services

Ensuring Access

The use of technology has provided people the advantage of accessing information on demand and performing activities in a convenient and effective method. Everyday technologies including computers, telephones, smartphones, touchscreens, and other tools present opportunities for persons with disabilities to accomplish more while being consistent with standard principles of independence, dignity, integration and equality of opportunity. Intelivote's electronic voting technology strives to provide universal accessibility while promoting independence and empowerment in election participation.

Internet Voting

Persons with disabilities access Intelivote's electronic voting services over the Internet.

Ensuring each eligible elector is able to cast a ballot is integral to any vote or election. The Intelivote system has been created ensuring it meets the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) requirements guaranteeing that persons with disabilities and older people with changing abilities due to aging can perceive, understand, navigate, and interact with the system. Web Accessibility encompasses all disabilities that affect access to the web; therefore it is essential that the Web be accessible in order to provide equal access and equal opportunity to persons with disabilities. An accessible Web can help persons with disabilities to more actively participate in society, including the ability to cast a vote for a municipal election.

The Intelivote system has been successfully used by disabled individuals in events across Canada. Intelivote's Voter Module is coded with XHTML transitional document type and conforms to all W3C web standards, as the system is fully accessible by the internet, voters with visual disabilities can vote using screen readers as a result of WCAG-2 compatibility.

Intelivote has been proactive in accommodating persons with disabilities facilitating their comfort and participation when using electronic voting services. Intelivote performs regular internal auditing against WCAG-2 and Section 508 standards to ensure our application is addressing the needs of disabled participants.

Election Officials

Election officials who are responsible for conducting an election must have regard for the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities. Municipal elections must provide the public with equal access and an equal opportunity in casting a ballot. By providing electors the choice of voting electronically through the Intelivote Systems application, election officials are providing accessibility to the disabled persons in their community.

The Intelivote system comprises of Internet and Telephone voting capabilities. Persons who are hearing impaired may make use of the Internet to cast their ballot for the election with little to no assistance. Persons who have a vision loss disability including total blindness and legal blindness have the ability to use the telephone to cast their ballot for the election. The Intelivote system addresses other types of disabilities (learning, mental health) as described in the website accessibility requirements and telephone operating functions.

Using the Intelivote system, disabled persons are given the capability to vote from the comfort of their own home. Voting from home facilitates the voting process for disabled persons who have mobility restrictions and/or have a difficult time with transportation due to physical disabilities. Allowing disabled persons to vote from any location and using more than one method, translates through to an increase in the capability of disabled persons to vote without any assistance. This gives them the same independence and privacy in participating in an election as other voters. If disabled persons do still require assistance the municipal office hosts a Voter Help Centre where election staff may assist in the voting process.

The Intelivote system was also intended to accommodate the older population in the community.

The Intelivote application significantly improves the accessibility of elections without adding additional costs to the election. At the same time, the solution when coupled with election staff support provides an easy to use and dignified opportunity for electors to cast their ballot.

Accessibility of Revision Centre/Voter Help Centre

The Clerk shall ensure the Revision Centre/Voter Help Centre is accessible to candidates and electors with disabilities. The entire building, including the outside of 3987 Boulter Road, Boulter, Ontario is designated as a Revision Centre and Voter Help Centre which is fully accessible for persons with disabilities.

Voting Assistance

Election officials will be available for assistance at the Revision Centre/Voter Help Centre during the Voting Period and on Voting Day. Persons with disabilities may be accompanied by a support person within the Revision Centre/Voter Help Centre.

Parking

Designated parking for people with disabilities and is provided close to the entrance of the Revision Centre/Voter Help Centre. Accessible parking space are clearly posted and will be monitored to ensure they are not improperly occupied.

Service Animals

Electors requiring service animals are permitted to be accompanied by a service animal at the Revision Centre/Voter Help Centre.

Feedback Process

Feedback about the manner in which election services are provided to persons with disabilities may be submitted to the Clerk through a variety of methods including:

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| 1. | Telephone | (613) 332-1760 |
| 2. | In Person | 3987 Boulter Road, Boulter, Ontario |
| 3. | Email | clerk@carlowmayo.ca |
| 4. | Mail | 3987 Boulter Road, Boulter, Ontario, K0L 1G0 |

Additional Information

Township of Carlow/Mayo – Municipal Office

Located at 3987 Boulter Road, Boulter, Ontario. The Clerk and other election staff can answer any questions you may have about the election in general or specific provisions for those persons with disabilities.

Township of Carlow/Mayo –Website – Election Page

The Township of Carlow/Mayo website is updated regularly to reflect any new developments and information with respect to the election. Visit the site for an up-to-date list of candidates and other important messages or events throughout the election year at www.carlowmayo.ca

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing - Election Website

This website contains information about municipal elections, the Province of Ontario 2016-18 Municipal Elections Candidates Guide and the Ministry's commitment to promote greater accessibility for voters and candidates with disabilities www.mah.gov.on.ca

Ministry of Community and Social Services

The Ministry of Community and Social Services has developed several quick reference guides with respect to the overall management of an accessible election campaign. For more information candidates can visit: <http://www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/en/mcscs/programs/accessibility>

Service Ontario – e-Laws

This website contains all current statutes including the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* and the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, www.e-laws.gov.on.ca