

Accessibility Plan

MAKE YOUR MARK

Brampton Votes 2018

2/1/2018

Plan



Prepared by City of Brampton Election Office for the
2018 Municipal Election

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Introduction

This Accessibility Plan for the 2018 City of Brampton Municipal Election is a requirement under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* (MEA), as amended.

The MEA states the following:

Section 12.1 (1) 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) The clerk shall prepare a plan regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and shall make the plan available to the public before voting day in a regular election.

Section 12.1 (3) 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.

Section 45 (2) In establishing the locations of voting places, the clerk shall ensure that each voting place is accessible to electors with disabilities.

The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, defines a disability as follows:

Section 2 (a) any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement that is caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes diabetes mellitus, epilepsy, a brain injury, any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical co-ordination, blindness or visual impediment, deafness or hearing impediment, muteness or speech impediment, or physical reliance on a guide dog or other animal or on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device,

- (b) a condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability,
- (c) a learning disability, or a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language,
- (d) a mental disorder, or
- (e) an injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*; (“handicap”)

The City of Brampton Municipal Accessibility Plan (2013-2017) includes a statement of commitment towards accessibility:

The City’s mission is to be a vibrant, safe and attractive city of opportunity where efficient services make it possible for families, individuals and the business community to grow, prosper and enjoy a high quality of life.

The City values diversity and inclusiveness and the unique contribution that each resident makes to the local community.

The City recognizes that preventing new barriers, reducing and removing existing barriers and enhancing access to our goods, services and facilities is essential to providing increased opportunities that foster independence, inclusion and dignity for people of all ages and abilities.

This Accessibility Plan outlines the steps to be taken by the City of Brampton Election Office to address accessibility requirements in an attempt to ensure that the election is accessible to all electors and candidates. This plan is intended to meet the above legislative requirements and the City’s statement of commitment towards accessibility.

This plan was developed in consultation with the City’s Accessibility Coordinator and was presented to the Accessibility Advisory Committee on February 13, 2018.

Voting Locations

The MEA states that each voting place must be accessible to electors with disabilities. The City of Brampton has over 120 voting locations. Site inspections are conducted for each identified voting location to ensure it meets defined accessibility requirements.

For those locations that have been identified as having accessibility concerns, plans will be in place to address any issues prior to Voting Day.

Specific actions to be taken include:

- Completing site inspection accessibility checklist for each identified voting location
 - Review width of doorways, accessible route of travel to voting location entrance, etc.
 - Consider building temporary ramps, in consultation with building owner, to ensure level access between parking area and entrance
 - Ensure there is designated parking for people with disabilities, as close as possible to the entrance
- For any voting locations that do not have an accessible entrance, hiring an election worker to assist with opening the door for electors and directing them to the voting place
- Placing adequate signage on the exterior and interior of the voting location to direct electors to the voting place
- Providing voting place layout maps to ensure consistent set-up of voting places, and to ensure each voting place contains an accessible voting area
- Addressing the specific needs of election workers with disabilities

Voting Methods

The City of Brampton will incorporate various voting methods to assist electors with accessibility requirements in voting independently.

Specific actions to be taken include:

- Providing accessible voting equipment at each Advance Voting location and at one designated location in each ward on Voting Day
 - Accessibility tools include headphones (audio ballot), high contrast viewing, Braille keypad, Sip-N-Puff, Rocker Paddles)
- Providing magnifying sheets for use by electors with a visual impairment
- Providing a pad of paper to assist in communicating with electors with hearing impairments
- Providing curbside voting for any electors unable to enter the voting location

Access to Information

The City of Brampton recognizes that electors and candidates may require information in alternate formats.

Specific actions to be taken include:

- Providing, upon request, voter and candidate information in alternate formats
- Encouraging candidates to inform Election Office of any specific accommodations regarding access to information
- Providing translation services to electors and candidates as required
- Providing “how to vote” information for electors in multiple languages

Training

City of Brampton election workers will be equipped to assist all electors at the voting location.

Specific actions to be taken include:

- Providing inclusive customer service training materials to all election workers
- Encouraging election workers to assist electors and candidates as required
- Requiring election workers to periodically check access doors and parking area to ensure electors are able to enter the voting location with ease

Updates

This Accessibility Plan may be updated, at the discretion of the City Clerk, as new opportunities for improvement in customer service become available. This plan, along with any updates will be made available on www.brampton.ca/bramptonvotes.