



MUNICIPAL ELECTION

**Township of Strong
2018 Municipal and School Board Election
Post-Election Accessibility Report**

Approved by Council December 11, 2018

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1.0 Introduction

The focus of the Post-Election Accessibility Report is to evaluate the accessibility of the electoral services offered to all electors and candidates in the 2018 Municipal and School Board Election. This report outlines the actions taken regarding the identification, removal, and prevention of barriers that affected electors and candidates with disabilities and how these actions impacted their voting experience.

The Township of Strong Clerk Administrator will continue to learn, develop, and adjust approaches in order to meet the needs of persons with disabilities. The review of accessibility issues and initiatives and addressing barrier prevention and removal is an ongoing practice.

2.0 Governing Legislative and Policy Framework

Under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996, (The Act)* the Clerk is legislatively responsible for conducting Municipal and School Board Elections and establishing policies and procedures to ensure that all electors have the opportunity to participate fully in the election. The *Act* requires the Clerk to have regard for the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities and to ensure that all voting places are accessible to electors with disabilities. The Clerk is also required, within 90 days after a regular election, to prepare a report on the identification, removal, and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and make the report available to the public.

In addition to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, the Clerk must also comply with the requirements of the following legislation:

- 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 persons with disabilities be provided with accommodation short of undue hardship.
- The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)* was enacted in 2005 and sets out clear goals and timeframes for making Ontario accessible by 2025. Under the *AODA*, private and public sector organizations across Ontario are required to comply with Regulations established by the Province. These Regulations include the Customer Service Standard and the Integrated Accessibility Standards.
 - The Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulations (IASR) brings together accessible standards for Information and Communications, Employment, Transportation, and Design of Public Spaces under one regulation and harmonizes the requirements common to each standard. Each of the standards articulates specific requirements and compliance deadlines, which will be phased in across Ontario between 2011 and 2025.

Additionally, the *Township of Strong's Accessibility Plan* highlights the Township's planned strategies for identifying, removing, and preventing barriers within the community. This Plan also outlined strategies to be used to enhance the overall accessibility of the 2018 Municipal and School Board Election.

3.0 Election Preparation

In preparation for the 2018 Municipal and School Board Election, staff reviewed the relevant legislation and implemented a number of initiatives to ensure compliance. Significantly, as required under the *Act*, the Clerk prepared a plan regarding the identification, removal, and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and made the plan available to the public before Election Day by posting it on the Township's website.

To elaborate, the Township's 2018 Municipal and School Board Election Pre- Election Accessibility Plan highlighted the planned strategies and actions for the identification, removal, and prevention of barriers in the 2018 Municipal and School Board Election. After the plan's development, the Clerk continued to monitor the applicable legislation, standards, and deadlines and look to relevant court decisions to ensure that any new requirements were incorporated in the Pre-Election Accessibility Plan and considered in the implementation of the 2018 Municipal and School Board Election.

4.0 Strategies and Actions for the Identification, Removal, and Prevention of Barriers

4.1 Method of Vote – Traditional Ballot

On January 23, 2018, Township Council approved continuing with the traditional method of voting by ballot for municipal and school board voting. The ballots were printed on coloured paper with large font and high contrast black print. Magnifying sheets were provided at each voting station.

There were three oaths of assistance sworn to the election staff on Voting Day, which allowed a Voter to bring a friend/spouse/election official to the voting area to assist.

Voter turnout was only 28% with traditional ballot (advanced poll and voting day), which demonstrates that this method is not terribly accessible for a majority of the eligible voters. The Clerk received many comments about offering other methods of voting for people who are unable to physically attend the voting place due to disability, being a seasonal resident or for convenience. The previous election saw a voter turnout of 34%.

4.2 Staff Training

Election Officials were mandated to attend a training session hosted by Clerk. This session highlighted best practices on how to assist voters in voting locations, including voters with disabilities, and the accommodations and special services available to assist voters.

A majority of the Election Staff hired were community members so the Clerk provided formal accessibility training which outlined the customer service standard and how to serve persons with disabilities. It is also important to note that information pertaining to the customer service standard and serving persons with disabilities was included in the Election Worker Manual, and training session presentation. The Election Worker Manual specifically contained accessibility guidelines and tips for interacting with persons with a variety of disabilities.

4.3 Voting Locations

The 2018 Municipal and School Board Election was held at the Township of Strong Administration Office because of the ease of access to the Voting Place (Council Chambers), which is on the main floor and has flat access right from the parking lot. The Clerk used an accessibility checklist to examine the voting location prior to confirming the use in the election. This was critical to ensuring that there was no change or repair that was needed to ensure a barrier-free path of travel from the parking lot and sidewalk, barrier-free path of travel inside the voting location, barrier-free parking, door operators or accessible doors, adequate lighting, and adequate slope and surface.

The Advanced Poll was held in Council Chambers on Saturday October 6 from 12PM to 5PM. Voting Day was also held in Council Chambers on Monday October 22 from 10AM to 8PM

Before the opening of all voting locations, Election Officials performed final accessibility checks to ensure that the locations were set-up in an accessible manner. They prioritized the identification of voting location access routes and entrances by providing appropriate internal and external signage, ensuring that voters with accessibility needs were directed to the accessible voting entrance through prominent signage, and making the accessible entrance the same as the main entrance where possible. The Clerk also ensured that all Election Officials responsible for setting-up voting locations were aware of legislative accessibility requirements in the event that last-minute changes needed to be made to voting locations.

During the entire voting period, personal assistive devices were permitted in all voting locations, such as wheelchairs and walkers. Support persons and service animals were welcomed and assistance was offered to voters at every stage of the voting process, including being greeted at the door, making any necessary amendments to their information on the Voters' List, and casting their electronic ballot. Election Officials treated all voters with dignity and respect, being sensitive to the individual needs of voters and recognizing that some required unique attention. While forms and oaths were printed in large font, magnifying sheets were also present to assist voters with low vision and Election Officials read and signed oaths upon voters' requests.

4.4 Information and Communication

The Township of Strong considered accessibility in all information and communication strategies for the 2018 Municipal and School Board Election. Upon requests from persons with disabilities, Clerk would provided copies of election documents, or the information contained in the document, in a format that took into account the person's disability.

The Township's election website page was designed to be both informative and accessible. All information for voters, candidates, and third parties was placed in distinct sections on the website and they were directed to access all documents and forms through the website in an effort to promote accessibility and transparency. The information available online used clear and simple language and was continuously updated to reflect the most recent election developments and information.

Additionally, the website was compliant with WCAG 2.0 Level A guidelines. Notably, the election website contained an election accessibility plan that outlined the voting locations and accessible features of the voting system.

Election information was communicated through various channels and alternate formats including regular candidate emails, social media, and radio, and newspaper. Information about the Voter's List, Candidates and Voting Location were mailed out with each tax bill mail out for the year.

Conclusion

It was the goal of the Township of Strong Clerk to ensure that electors within the municipality who required accessibility services were provided with the best opportunity to vote as independently as possible in the 2018 Municipal and School Board Election. The Clerk also strived to make the nomination and registration process as accessible as possible for candidates and third parties.

The 2018 Municipal and School Board Election total voter turnout was 28.00%, which is lower than the provincial average of 37.60%. Both resident and staff feedback regarding the accessibility of the election will be considered by Clerk in preparation for the next Township of Strong Municipal and School Board Election.



Strong Township

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414 post reach this week



Strong Township

August 21 · 🌐

Please contact your Municipal Office if you have any Accessibility Requirements for the fall 2018 Municipal Election!

PUBLIC NOTICE

ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 2018 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

In accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and in an effort to provide an accessible election. Municipalities in the Almaguin Region therefore request you to contact your Municipal Office by August 31, 2018, if you or someone you know requires assistance when placing your vote in the 2018 Municipal Election.

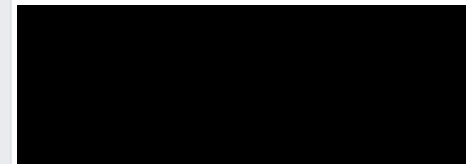
The following voting method(s) are being used by the various municipalities:

Township of Armour	Vote by Mail
Village of Burk's Falls	Traditional Ballot
Township of Joly	Vote by Mail
Township of Kearney	Vote by Mail
Township of Machar	Vote by Mail
Municipality of Magnetawan	Vote by Mail
Township of McMurrich/Monteith	Vote by Mail
Township of Perry	Vote by Mail
Township of Ryerson	Vote by Mail
Village of South River	Traditional Ballot
Township of Strong	Traditional Ballot
Village of Sundridge	Traditional Ballot
Municipality of Whitestone	Vote by Mail, Internet, & Telephone voting

All eligible voters are encouraged to exercise their right to vote!

Community

See All

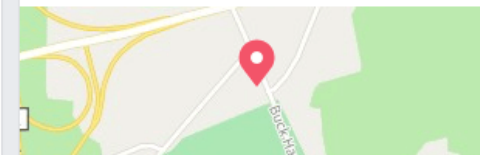


366 people like this

384 people follow this

About

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Promote your business locally to lead people directly to 28 Municipal Lane.

Promote Local Business

28 Municipal Lane (16.14 mi)
Sundridge, Ontario P0A 1Z0
Get Directions

(705) 384-5819

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http://www.strongtow...

Promote Website

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Liked Following Share ...

All eligible voters are encouraged to exercise their right to vote!

646 People Reached

60 Engagements

Boost Post



2 Comments 3 Shares

Like

Comment

Share

Oldest



I would really have liked to see us have voting by mail as well. What are the advance polling days?

Like · Reply · Message · 13w



Hi [redacted] Thanks for the input. We just posted our advanced poll and election day information. The advanced poll is Saturday October 6 at the Township Office from 12PM to 5PM

Like · Reply · 13w



Is the elevator at the Village of Sundridge always unlocked now or will it be for the voting?

Like · Reply · Message · 13w

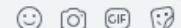


Hi [redacted] We would recommend that you contact the Village of Sundridge Office directly for Accessibility inquiries.

Like · Reply · 13w



Write a comment...



+ Add a Button

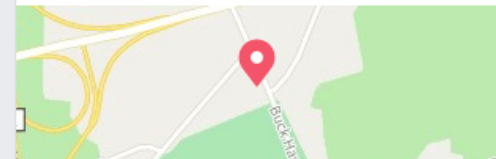
Invite Friends

366 people like this

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About

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Promote your business locally to lead people directly to 28 Municipal Lane.

Promote Local Business

28 Municipal Lane (16.14 mi)
Sundridge, Ontario P0A 1Z0
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[UESC School Board Election Resources 2018](#)

Ontario's Municipal and School Board Elections are on October 22! Find out what school trustees do, how to become a trustee, how and where to vote, who is running in your ward or region and everything you need to know about school boards at elections.ontarioschooltrustees.org

Certified Candidates

[English Public](#) - Acclaimed

[English Separate](#) - Acclaimed

[French Public](#) - Acclaimed

[French Separate](#) - 1 to be elected

Accessibility

If you or someone you know requires assistance when placing a vote please contact your Municipal Office by August 31, 2018: [Public Notice](#)

2018 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan

Information for Candidates

[Township of Strong Candidates Information Guide](#)

[Nomination Form](#) - Form 1

[Candidate - Financial Statement - Auditor's Report](#) - Form 4

[Third Party Registration Form](#) - Form 7

[Third Party - Financial Statement - Auditor's Report](#) - Form 8

Almaguin Clerks Group

[Candidate Information Session](#)

AMO Training

[So You Want to Run for Council?](#)

CONTRACT



CHUR-FM
Rogers Media Inc.
 273 Main Street East
 North Bay, ON P1B 1B2
 Canada
 (705) 474-2000

<u>Contract / Revision</u> 590491 /		<u>Alt Order #</u>
<u>Product</u> ACCESSIBILITY CAMPAIGN		
<u>Contract Dates</u> 08/06/18 - 08/26/18		<u>Estimate #</u>
<u>Advertiser</u> TOWNSHIP OF STRONG		<u>Original Date / Revision</u> 07/23/18 / 07/23/18
<u>Billing Cycle</u> EOM/EOC	<u>Billing Calendar</u> Broadcast	<u>Cash/Trade</u> Cash
<u>Property</u> CHUR-FM	<u>Account Executive</u> CARRIE SMITH	<u>Sales Office</u> LOCAL
<u>Special Handling</u>		
<u>Demographic</u> Adults 25-54		
<u>Agy Code</u>	<u>Advertiser Code</u>	<u>Product 1/2</u>
<u>Agency Ref</u> 316104	<u>Advertiser Ref</u> 316104	

And:

TOWNSHIP OF STRONG
PO BOX 1120
SUNRIDGE, ON P0A 1Z0

*Line	Ch	Start Date	End Date	Description	Start/End Time	Days	Length	Spots/Week	Rate	Rtn	Type	Spots	Amount
N 1	CHUR	08/06/18	08/19/18	M-Su 5am-10am	5am-10am	MTWTFSS	:30	7	\$29.00	0.00	NM	14	\$406.00
N 2	CHUR	08/06/18	08/19/18	M-Su 10am-3pm	10am-3pm	MTWTFSS	:30	7	\$29.00	0.00	NM	14	\$406.00
N 3	CHUR	08/06/18	08/19/18	M-Su 3pm-8pm	3pm-8pm	MTWTFSS	:30	7	\$29.00	0.00	NM	14	\$406.00
N 4	CHUR	08/06/18	08/19/18	M-Su 8pm-12am	8pm-12am	MTWTFSS	:30	7	\$29.00	0.00	NM	14	\$406.00
N 5	CHUR	08/06/18	08/19/18	M-Su 5am-12am	M-Su 5am-12am	MTWTFSS	:30	2	\$29.00	0.00	NM	4	\$116.00
REACH PLAN ADDITION													
N 6	CHUR	08/20/18	08/26/18	M-Su 5am-12am	M-Su 5am-12am	MTWTFSS	:30	30	\$0.00	0.00	NM	30	\$0.00
NO CHARGE GUARANTEE													
Totals								0.00				90	\$1,740.00

*Tax 1 Note: ONHST# 89552 5954 13%.

Time Period	# of Spots	Gross Amount	Net Amount	*Tax 1	Total
07/30/18 -08/26/18	90	\$1,740.00	\$1,740.00	\$226.20	\$1,966.20
Totals	90	\$1,740.00	\$1,740.00	\$226.20	\$1,966.20

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

(* Line Transactions: N = New, E = Edited, D = Deleted)

CONTRACT



Vista Radio Ltd.
 60 James Street Suite 301
 Parry Sound, ON P2A 1T5
 Canada
 (705)746-2163

<u>Contract / Revision</u> 288763 /		<u>Alt Order #</u>
<u>Product</u> August Accessibility 2 wks		
<u>Contract Dates</u> 07/30/18 - 08/26/18		<u>Estimate #</u>
<u>Advertiser</u> Central Almaguin Townships c/o Township of		<u>Original Date / Revision</u> 07/26/18 / 07/27/18
<u>Billing Cycle</u> EOM/EOC	<u>Billing Calendar</u> Broadcast	<u>Cash/Trade</u> Cash
<u>Station</u> CKLP-FM	<u>Account Executive</u> Travis Van Sluytman	<u>Sales Office</u> Huntsville
<u>Special Handling</u>		
<u>Demographic</u> Households		
<u>IDB#</u>	<u>Advertiser Code</u>	<u>Product Code</u>
<u>Agency Ref</u>	<u>Advertiser Ref</u>	

And:

Central Almaguin Townships c/o Township of Strong
 1713 Hwy 11
 P. O. Box 1120
 SUNDRIDGE, ON P0A 1Z0

*Line	Ch	Start Date	End Date	Description	Start/End Time	Days	Length	Spots/Week	Rate	Type	Spots	Amount
N 1	CKLP	07/30/18	08/26/18	Monday-Sunda	6a-12a		:30			NM	26	\$728.00
		<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>	<u>Weekdays</u>				<u>Spots/Week</u>	<u>Rate</u>			
	Week:	07/30/18	08/05/18	-TWTfSS				13	\$28.00			
	Week:	08/06/18	08/12/18	-----				0	\$0.00			
	Week:	08/13/18	08/19/18	-----				0	\$0.00			
	Week:	08/20/18	08/26/18	MTWTfSS				13	\$28.00			
Totals											26	\$728.00

*Tax 1 Note: HST(13%)100984947 13%.

Time Period	# of Spots	Gross Amount	Net Amount	*Tax 1	Total
07/30/18 - 08/26/18	26	\$728.00	\$728.00	\$94.64	\$822.64
Totals	26	\$728.00	\$728.00	\$94.64	\$822.64

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(* Line Transactions: N = New, E = Edited, D = Deleted)

Notwithstanding to whom bills are rendered, advertiser, agency and service, jointly and severally, shall remain obligated to pay to station the amount of any bills rendered by station within the time specified and until payment in full is received by station. Payment by advertiser to agency or to service or payment by agency to service, shall not constitute payment to station. Station will not be bound by conditions, printed or otherwise contracts, insertion orders, copy instructions or any correspondence when such conflict with the above terms and conditions. Two week advance cancellation notice is required unless otherwise

CONTRACT



Vista Radio Ltd.
 7 John Street
 Huntsville, ON P1H 1G1
 Canada
 (705)789-4461

<u>Contract / Revision</u> 288760 /		<u>Alt Order #</u>
<u>Product</u> August Accessibility 2 wks		
<u>Contract Dates</u> 07/30/18 - 08/26/18		<u>Estimate #</u>
<u>Advertiser</u> Central Almaguin Townships c/o Township of		<u>Original Date / Revision</u> 07/26/18 / 07/26/18
<u>Billing Cycle</u> EOM/EOC	<u>Billing Calendar</u> Broadcast	<u>Cash/Trade</u> Cash
<u>Station</u> CFBK-FM	<u>Account Executive</u> Travis Van Sluytman	<u>Sales Office</u> Huntsville
<u>Special Handling</u>		
<u>Demographic</u> Households		
<u>IDB#</u>	<u>Advertiser Code</u>	<u>Product Code</u>
<u>Agency Ref</u>	<u>Advertiser Ref</u>	

And:
 Central Almaguin Townships c/o Township of Strong
 1713 Hwy 11
 P. O. Box 1120
 SUNDRIDGE, ON P0A 1Z0

*Line	Ch	Start Date	End Date	Description	Start/End Time	Days	Length	Spots/Week	Rate	Type	Spots	Amount
N 1	CFBK	07/30/18	08/26/18	Monday-Sunda	6a-12a		:30			NM	26	\$806.00
		<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>	<u>Weekdays</u>				<u>Spots/Week</u>	<u>Rate</u>			
	Week:	07/30/18	08/05/18	MTWTFSS				13	\$31.00			
	Week:	08/06/18	08/12/18	-----				0	\$0.00			
	Week:	08/13/18	08/19/18	-----				0	\$0.00			
	Week:	08/20/18	08/26/18	MTWTFSS				13	\$31.00			
Totals											26	\$806.00

*Tax 1 Note: HST(13%)100984947 13%.

Time Period	# of Spots	Gross Amount	Net Amount	*Tax 1	Total
07/30/18 - 08/26/18	26	\$806.00	\$806.00	\$104.78	\$910.78
Totals	26	\$806.00	\$806.00	\$104.78	\$910.78

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(* Line Transactions: N = New, E = Edited, D = Deleted)

Notwithstanding to whom bills are rendered, advertiser, agency and service, jointly and severally, shall remain obligated to pay to station the amount of any bills rendered by station within the time specified and until payment in full is received by station. Payment by advertiser to agency or to service or payment by agency to service, shall not constitute payment to station. Station will not be bound by conditions, printed or otherwise contracts, insertion orders, copy instructions or any correspondence when such conflict with the above terms and conditions. Two week advance cancellation notice is required unless otherwise