



Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN –

2022 ELECTIONS

Rationale

Article 12.1 (2) of the *Municipal Elections Act*, S.O, 1996, provides that the Clerk must prepare a plan regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities. This plan must be available to the public before voting day.

Pursuant to the intent and guiding principles of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, the objectives of this plan are:

- to ensure that voting places are accessible.
- to allow persons with disabilities to cast their vote in an independent manner, as far as possible;
- to facilitate access to all pertinent information pertaining to the elections;
- to encourage the active participation of persons with disabilities in the electoral process.

1. Voting places

Voting places include the parkings, the walkways and the actual voting locations.

Voting places were inspected beforehand to confirm their accessibility. To this end, a checklist was completed, a copy of which can be found in the appendix.

- In Mattice, the vote will take place at the following location : in Council Chambers, at the municipal office, 500 Highway 11 east
- In Val Côté, the vote will take place at the following location : at the Fire Hall, 105, Maxime Brisson Road

Parking

A designated parking space will be provided to persons with disabilities in close proximity to the municipal office entrance (Mattice) and to the Fire Hall entrance (Val Côté).

Entrance and exit to and from the voting place

All entrances and exits will be easily accessible and free of any barriers. The voting location will be clearly identified with simple and adequate signage.

Voting location

All doors leading to the voting location will be wide enough to permit the circulation of a wheel chair, a walker or any other mobility assistance device.

Doormats will be removed to eliminate tripping hazards.

The area will be well lit. Seating will be available for those who have to rest or need to wait.

2. Support available to persons with disabilities

Electors with disabilities may be accompanied by a support person to vote. An Election Official may also be of assistance to them in this regard.

The support can be offered in different areas and take on different forms :

1) in the voting booth :

- by reading the ballot
- by marking the ballot
- by reading back the marked ballot

2) outside, in the parking or at the person's vehicle :

- by bringing the ballot to the elector that is unable to step inside the building (an Election Official is required to do this)

3) by nominating a proxy to vote on one's behalf.

3. Tools and devices available to persons with disabilities

Persons with disabilities can use all the personal assistive devices they usually require, including a wheel chair, a cane, a magnifier, an oxygen tank, etc.

To assist those with a visual impairment:

- magnifying sheets will be placed inside each voting booth.
- the wording on the ballots will be printed in large font. Larger font will be used for the names of candidates.

To assist those with a hearing impairment:

- note pads and pens will be available to facilitate communications.

4. Communications

This accessibility plan is available through one of the following means:

- on the Municipality's website
- a hard copy, at the municipal office
- verbal communications with staff members

5. Service disruptions

Should a service disruption occur or should unforeseen circumstances arise that would compromise the accessibility of the voting places, a notice of disruption will be posted on the municipal website, on the municipal face book page and at the site of the disruption.

6. Feedback

In order to improve its services, the Municipality invites people to contact the Clerk and to provide her with comments and suggestions with respect to accessibility matters.

- By email : gcoulombe@matticevalcote.ca
- By phone : 705-364-6511
- In person : 500, Highway 11 east, Mattice
- By regular mail : P.O. Bag 129, Mattice, ON, POL 1T0

Appendix A

CHECKLIST – VOTING PLACE ACCESSIBILITY

Facility : _____

Address : _____

Audit date : _____

Audit performed by : _____

Criteria under review	Yes/No	Comments
Facility name or address clearly visible?		
Parking available?		
Accessible washrooms?		
First Aid kit available nearby?		
Telephone line?		
Accessible entrance? Easy to identify? Ramp in good order?		
Width of the doors? Easy to open?		
Appropriate lighting?		
Level floors?		
No ground barriers?		
Chairs available?		