2018 Municipal Election
Accessibility Plan

If you require this document in an alternate format, please contact the Legislative Services Division at 905-584-2272 ext. 2366 or accessibility@caledon.ca
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INTRODUCTION

This plan will address the specific accessibility requirements in relation to the 2018 Municipal Election in the Town of Caledon.

The Town of Caledon has made great efforts in promoting a barrier free community. Commitment has been made in the provision of accessible customer service to persons with disabilities. In an effort to ensure that the 2018 Municipal Election is consistent with core principals of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, this planning document was developed in advance of the election in order to identify measures to be taken and reported following the election.

In addition to the Town’s Accessibility Standards for Customer Service Policy, the following excerpts from the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, S.O. 1996, SCHED 32, define the requirements for conducting an election with regard for persons with disabilities:

Number and location of voting places
45 (1) The clerk shall establish the number and location of voting places for an election as he or she considers most convenient for the electors. 1996, c. 32, Sched., s. 45 (1).

Accessibility
(2) In establishing the locations of voting places, the clerk shall ensure that each voting place is accessible to electors with disabilities. 2009, c. 33, Sched. 21, s. 8 (23).

Plan re: barriers
(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. 2016, c. 15, s. 11.

Report
(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. 2016, c. 15, s. 11.

Variations for electors with visual impairments
43 (3) The clerk shall make such changes to some or all of the ballots as he or she considers necessary or desirable to allow electors with visual impairments to vote without the assistance referred to in paragraph 4 of subsection 52 (1). 1996, c. 32, Sched., s. 41 (3); 2001, c. 32, s. 30 (1).
OBJECTIVES

This plan is intended to highlight measures that the Town will be implementing to ensure equal opportunity for all electors and candidates. These objectives include:

- That all voting locations are accessible;
- That persons with disabilities are able to independently cast their vote and verify their selection;
- That persons with disabilities have full and equal access to all information on where and when to vote and on eligible candidates;
- That persons with disabilities can fully participate in the Municipal Election as an elector, candidate or election official;
- That efforts are made to ensure that electors with disabilities are aware of the accessibility measures available via channels such as the newspaper, media launches, the Town’s website and social media (Facebook, Twitter).

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN

This Plan is an active document which will be improved and updated as best practices are identified and new opportunities for improvement arise.

During the development process of the 2018 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan, the following steps were implemented:

1. The proposed Election Accessibility Plan was reviewed by the Accessibility Advisory Committee to confirm needs are being met;

2. Staff training standards and practices directly related to the Election were established to ensure that people with disabilities are able to vote in a positive customer service environment, and ensure that all Election Officials recognize that in every way possible a voters needs are to be accommodated whenever possible; and

3. Following the Election, a report will be prepared on the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities.
**VOTING LOCATION**

For the purpose of this plan, Voting Location includes the exterior parking and walkways associated with the location.

In order to ensure that each Voting Location is accessible to electors with disabilities, a Voting Location Accessibility Audit Checklist will be completed prior to confirming the site as a voting location.

A comprehensive accessibility audit of each voting location has been conducted to ensure that each voting location is accessible to electors with disabilities. The site location accessibility audit checklist is included as Appendix “B” to this document.

Prior to the election, a site map of all advance voting and voting day locations will be made available on the Town’s election [webpage](http://example.com).

**Accessible Route**

An easily navigable route will be marked for entry into the voting location and into the voting area within the location. The voting area will be identified with clear and understandable signage.

**Parking**

Designated parking for electors with disabilities is to be provided in close proximity to the entrance of the Voting Location where possible. Accessible parking spaces will be clearly marked and will be on firm and level ground. Routine checks will be made to ensure all entrances remain barrier free through the course of the day.

**Entrance/Exit to the Voting Location**

All entrances to the Voting Location will be easy to access and barrier free. Every effort will be made to ensure that the door into the interior Voting Area is wide enough for a wheelchair, scooter, other assistive device or service animal to pass through safely and easily. Should doors into the interior Voting Area not be accessible the doors shall remain propped open for the duration of the voting location hours. Routine checks of the entrance and exit routes will be made throughout the day.

**Interior Voting Area**

Access to the interior Voting Area will be level and easily traversed. Any doormats or carpeting will be level with the floor to prevent potential tripping hazards. All voting areas are to be well lit and seating will be made available.
Universal Touch Screen Voting Equipment

Universal touch screen voting equipment will be available at each voting location and can serve every eligible voter. The universal touch screen voting equipment allows both standing and seated voters to mark their ballot cards independently. The touch screen voting equipment also provides a voter to use an accessible keypad equipped with braille, a rocker paddle or Sip-n-Puff device.

Support Persons

Electors with disabilities may be accompanied by a support person within the Voting Place. In addition, an Election Official in each Voting Place can assist the voter in casting their vote. Prior to entering the voting booth, the Election Official shall, in conjunction with the elector with the disability, determine the extent to which he/she needs assistance and the best way in which this assistance can be provided. This may actually be marking the ballot as directed by the person with the disability.

Assistive Personal Equipment

Electors with disabilities may use assistive personal devices including wheelchairs, walkers, white canes, walking canes, note taking devices, portable magnifiers, recording machines, assistive listening devices, personal oxygen tanks and devices for grasping.

Service Animals

An animal is a Service Animal if it is readily apparent that the animal is used by a person with a disability for reasons relating to his or her disability, for example, a guide dog wearing a harness. Service Animals will be permitted in voting places.

Vision Loss

Each Voting Place will be equipped with magnifying sheets to assist an individual with low vision.

Hearing Impaired, Deafness and Hearing Loss

Each Voting Place will be equipped with a pad of paper and pen to communicate with the hearing impaired if required.
Voting Location Institutions

The Municipal Elections Act requires that on voting day, a voting location shall be provided on the premises of the following:

Voting places in institutions, retirement homes
45 (7) On voting day, a voting place shall be provided on the premises of the following:

- An institution for the reception, treatment or vocational training of members or former members of the Canadian Forces;

- An institution in which, on September 1, 20 or more beds are occupied by persons who are disabled, chronically ill or infirm;

- A retirement home in which, on September 1, 50 or more beds are occupied. 1996, c. 32, Sched., s. 45 (7); 2016, c. 15, s. 34 (2, 3)

Attendance on resident

(8) The deputy returning officer for a voting place described in subsection (7) may attend on an elector who is a resident of the institution or retirement home, to allow him or her to vote. 1996, c. 32, Sched., s. 45 (8)

Attendance on electors with disabilities

(9) To allow an elector with a disability to vote, a deputy returning officer shall attend on the elector anywhere within the area designated as the voting place. 2001, c. 32, s. 30 (3).

For the 2018 Municipal Election, the following institution locations have been identified:

Oliver House
The Davis Centre
King Nursing Home

Proxy Voting

An elector with a disability that is homebound or otherwise unable to go to a Voting Location may appoint another person to act as a voting proxy to cast a ballot on his or her behalf. The appointment must be made on the prescribed form available at Legislative Services and/or on the Town's Election webpage. The person being appointed as a proxy will be required to take a statutory declaration before a Commissioner of Oaths. Legislative Services staff can administer the oath (Town Hall, 6311 Old Church Road, Caledon, ON L7C 1J6). Once completed, the voting proxy may be exercised at any advance voting location or on the final voting day. On the final voting day, the proxy must be exercised at a Voting location on behalf of the person who is unable to attend. The appointment of a proxy may only be made after 2:00 p.m. on Nomination Day, July 27, 2018 and is null and void after the final voting day.
**Assistance to Candidates**

**Service Animals**

Candidates and scrutineers are permitted to be accompanied by a service animal at all Voting Places and other designated election locations.

**Campaign Expenses**

Expenses that are incurred by a candidate with a disability that are directly related to the disability, and would not have been incurred but for the election to which the expenses relate, are excluded from the permitted spending limit for the candidate.

Expenses that are incurred by a candidate with a disability or a registered third party who is an individual with a disability, are directly related to the disability, and would not have been incurred but for the election to which the expenses relate.

**VOTING METHODS**

Voting locations will be equipped with a universal touch screen voting system that allows all voters, regardless of abilities, to make their selections privately. As a marker, the touch screen handles the entire marking process. Voters utilize the touch screen to mark their vote selections, receiving a verifiable paper vote record once completed. An accessible keypad equipped with braille and the ability to use a Rocker Paddle, Sip-and-Puff and Audio headphone devices also ensure a truly universal voting method.

When a voter wishes to use the universal touch screen voting system, the Election Official will insert a blank sheet of ballot paper into the input slot of the touch screen voting equipment. The candidate selections will appear on the face of the touch screen and the voter may then begin voting.

The voter may use the buttons at the bottom of the screen to access display options and navigate the card ([Previous, Zoom, Exit, Contrast and Next.](#))

The voter will select a candidate by touching the oval or anywhere on the line. The selection will be highlighted in yellow, and a check mark will appear next to the selection. If the voter wishes to change their selection, they will simply touch on a new choice. The previous selection will be de-selected and the new selection will be highlighted with a check mark beside it.

A voter will be notified if they have not made a candidate selection for each race. The voter may then either return to the contest and make a selection, or continue to the next contest without making a selection.

The completed ballot will then be taken to a tabulator for processing the marked ballot.
Sip-n-Puff

Sip-n-Puff refers to an interface device that allows a voter to navigate the ballot card and make selections. The voter uses his/her mouth on a straw to negotiate all screens, and uses a puff of air to choose the screen or a suck in air (sip) to bypass the screen.

If the voter chooses the screen, the voter will either choose the candidate selection (puff) or continue to the next candidate selection (sip).

The voter then sips to move to the bottom of the list and highlights the Next button. If the voter sips again, the highlight will move left along the navigation buttons at the bottom of the screen. With the selection of the Next button, the voter will puff when the button is highlighted to select Next and move forward in the ballot.

The voter will continue in this manner to complete their card choices, then puff (select) the Print Card button when highlighted to complete the marking of the card.

Keypad Voting

Voters who are visually impaired may vote using the headphone and keypad (with Braille labels, and buttons with different shapes and colours) to manoeuvre through the ballot and make choices.

The Election Official will insert a blank ballot paper into the touch screen voting equipment. The ballot will be identified and the voting Instructions will be read. The use of the keypad keys will be explained.

The Right Arrow key is used to proceed to the first contest. The contest, the quantity available to vote for and the number of choices available for each selection will be identified.

- the round Repeat key will repeat the last spoken phrase;
- the Tempo key adjusts the speed of the voice text reader;
- the Volume key adjusts the volume comfort level of the voice text reader;
- the diamond shaped Screen key is used to toggle the monitor screen on and off.

The screen is typically turned off for privacy, while voting the audio ballot.

The Down Arrow key scrolls through the choices within a contest. The Select key is used to select a choice once it has been read. If a voter wishes to change the selection, the voter simply scrolls to the new choice and presses the Select key. The new selection will override the previous selection.

Rocker Paddle Voting

The Rocker Paddle interface device allows a voter to cast their vote using their hands or feet to make selections instead of pressing the touch screen. The voter uses the paddle to indicate Yes or No.

The voter can negotiate all screens using only Yes or No. If they choose Yes the first selection on that screen will be highlighted. They then choose Yes to make that selection or No to move to the next.
Regardless of the chosen voting method, the paper ballot printed by the universal touch screen ballot marker will emerge from the unit hidden under a covering and will be placed in a secrecy folder. The elector, or Election Official if requested by the elector, will then proceed with the marked ballot to the tabulator for tabulation.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Town 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.

**Alternate Formats**

Alternate formats are other ways of publishing information besides regular print. Some of these formats can be used by everyone while others are designed to address the specific needs of a user. The Town and the person with a disability may agree upon the format to be used for the document or information.

In the event the information is not generated by the Town or is supplied by a third party, the Town will make every effort to obtain the information from the third party in an alternate format and/or will attempt to assist the elector by providing assistive equipment.

**General Election Material**

Large Print – printed material generated by the Town will be provided in a sans serif font, minimum 11 point, and can be made available in a font (print) size that is 16 to 20 points or larger.

Website – information generated by the Town on the website regarding the election will be compliant with WCAG 2.0 Level A, 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.

**Service Disruptions**

From time to time and/or for unforeseen circumstances beyond the Town’s control, temporary service disruptions may be experienced. In the event of a temporary accessible service disruption, Election Officials will commit to making reasonable efforts to ensure that services are reinstated as quickly as possible and that alternative services are provided where feasible.

In these instances of service disruptions, the Town will provide reasonable notice in the event of a planned or unexpected disruption in the facilities or services usually used by persons with disabilities.

Accessible services in relation to this plan include voting places, election materials and/or voting provisions for electors with disabilities at the Voting Location.
In the event of disruptions to service or unforeseen circumstances that affect the accessibility of Voting Locations during the advance vote or on the final voting day, Notices of Disruption will be posted in real-time:

- on the Town’s website and election website;
- on Facebook;
- on Twitter;
- posted at the site of disruption; and
- where applicable, a media advisory will be issued.

**FEEDBACK**

The Town welcomes customer feedback on the [Accessible Customer Service Feedback Form](#) to identify areas where changes need to be considered and ways in which the Town can improve the delivery of an accessible election.

In addition, staff working in Town facilities can complete the feedback form for submission on behalf of a person with a disability. The form may be submitted on line or to Legislative Services by any other one of the following methods:

Telephone: 905.584.2272

In Person or Mail: Town Hall, Legislative Services
7311 Old Church Road, Caledon, ON L7C 1J6

Fax: 905.584.4325

E-mail: accessibility@caledon.ca

Once completed, this form will be forwarded to Legislative Services for action. Legislative Services staff will respond to the candidate or elector directly within 3 business days providing an anticipated action and timeframe for a full response, where appropriate.

The feedback process provides election staff with an opportunity to take corrective measures to prevent similar recurrences, address training needs, enhance service delivery and provide alternative methods of providing election information and services.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Legislative Services

Legislative Services staff can answer any questions you may have about running for office, the election in general or specific provisions for those persons with disabilities.

Town Election website

The Town of Caledon’s Election website is continuously updated to reflect the most recent developments and information. Visit the site for an up-to-date list of candidates and other important messages or events throughout the election year.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Election website

This website contains information about municipal elections, the Province of Ontario 2018 Municipal Elections Candidates and Voters Guide as well as the Ministry’s commitment to promote greater accessibility for electors and candidates with disabilities.

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.
2018 MUNICIPAL ELECTION – VOTING LOCATION REVIEW
ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT CHECKLIST

Facility Name:

Facility Address:

Audit date:

Audit conducted by:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Y/N</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ENTRANCE</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the main public entrance a barrier free accessible one? (ext. &amp; int.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>If not, is there an alternative entrance that is accessible?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the entrance well lit?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the entrance easy to see from the parking area?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PARKING LOT</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Is there accessible parking available?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are the accessible parking spots clearly marked with signs and parked on the pavement?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RAMPS</strong> - Location:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are ramps provided as an alternative to stairs?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the slope of the ramp 1:20?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are handrails provided on both sides of the ramp?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DOORS</strong> – Main Entrance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do the doors have a minimum clear width of 860mm (34in) as measured between the door stop and the edge of the door in the 90 degree open position?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are automatic doors provided?</td>
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<tr>
<td>If there is NO automatic door: Are lever handles or D-Shaped pulls provided?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are the handles at an appropriate height (mounted between 900mm (35in.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is there a manoeuvring space of 600mm (24in.) on both sides of the door?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FLOOR SPACE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Are the widths of corridors, hallways and paths wide enough (min 1.2m/4 ft.)?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT CHECKLIST</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2018 MUNICIPAL ELECTION – VOTING LOCATION REVIEW</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Is the path of travel free of furniture or equipment?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Is adequate headroom height of minimum 2.03m (6 ft. 8in.) provided? (protruding objects)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Is there space for wheelchair seating in the auditorium/ seating area(s)? (such as arena spectator, pool viewing area)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STAIRS - Location:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Are the stair risers closed in?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is there colour or texture contrasted tread nosing?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Handrails are provided on both sides of the stairs?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ELEVATORS - Location:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Do the doors open wide enough to accommodate a person in a wheelchair; at least 915mm (36in)?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do the doors stay open for at least 7 seconds?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are the internal dimensions <strong>minimum</strong> 1.725m x 1.5 m (5ft 8in x 5ft.)?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are the buttons at an appropriate height (highest button no higher than 1.2m/4ft., lowest button at least 920mm/36in from the floor)?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are the controls or floor buttons raised and done in Braille?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WASHROOMS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Are accessible stall(s) located within the current washroom facilities?</td>
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<tr>
<td>If not, is there an accessible washroom(s) available to both males and females?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Please indicate the style of entrance into the washrooms with the <strong>accessible stalls</strong>: Airport style, Automatic, Push door.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is there a clear turning space of 1.83m (6ft.) in diameter outside the <strong>accessible stall</strong>?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the <strong>accessible stall</strong> or facility 1.83m x 1.83m (6ft. x 6ft.)?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are grab bars mounted on the wall behind the urinal and on the side wall?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the toilet flush control automatic or located on the side where the individual would transfer from?</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Are faucets, fixtures, dispensers and light switches at an appropriate height?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:**