



Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

Memo No.
Memo 2024-M-193

Memorandum to Council

Subject:	Municipally Owned Buildings as Election Polling Places
Agenda Date:	November 14, 2024
Attachments:	

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS the Municipality of Temagami recognizes the importance of facilitating voter participation in federal and provincial elections;

AND WHEREAS municipally owned buildings have been identified as suitable venues for polling places;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT Council accepts Memo 2024-M-193 as presented;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Municipality of Temagami Council hereby approves the establishment of any municipally owned building as a polling place for any election, federal or provincial;

AND FURTHER THAT this approval will remain in effect until the council decides otherwise;

AND FURTHER THAT council authorizes staff to execute lease agreements and finalize required arrangements with Elections Canada or Elections Ontario.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report recommends that the Municipality of Temagami approve the use of municipally owned buildings as polling places for federal and provincial elections. This initiative aims to enhance voter participation by offering accessible and convenient locations that comply with Elections Canada and Elections Ontario standards, ensuring inclusivity, safety, and adherence to legal requirements.

Approval of this recommendation will enable staff to finalize lease agreements, secure insurance coverage, and prepare facilities for election use. By doing so, the Municipality will promote civic engagement and accessibility, with the approval remaining in effect until further council decisions.

INTRODUCTION

This report recommends the approval of municipally owned buildings as polling places for any federal or provincial election. The aim is to enhance voter participation by providing accessible and convenient locations while ensuring compliance with the requirements of Elections Canada and Elections Ontario.

RATIONALE

Using municipally owned buildings as polling places ensures:

- **Convenient Locations:** Easily accessible for residents.
- **Compliance with Accessibility Standards:** Meets inclusivity requirements.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Utilizes existing municipal infrastructure.

The venues will meet all requirements for voting facilities, including accessibility for individuals with disabilities, in line with standards set by Elections Canada or Elections Ontario.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Elections Canada/Elections Ontario Compliance:** All polling places must comply with the Canada Elections Act or the Ontario Elections Act, ensuring a safe, neutral, and accessible voting environment.
- **Documentation:** Necessary documentation such as lease agreements and insurance certificates must meet the regulatory standards of Elections Canada or Elections Ontario, covering responsibilities for maintenance, operations, and liability protection during the election process.

PROPOSED TERMS

- **Facilities:** Municipally owned buildings will provide essential facilities, including tables, chairs, accessible voting machines, and parking, as required by Elections Canada or Elections Ontario.
- **Payment Structure:** The proposed payment structure will adhere to rates established by Elections Canada or Elections Ontario for polling venues.

REQUIREMENTS

To proceed with this proposal, the following steps are required:

- **Lease Agreement:** Acceptance and execution of the lease agreement with Elections Canada or Elections Ontario.
- **Insurance Confirmation:** Verification of insurance coverage for liabilities related to polling activities.
- **Facility Preparation:** Ensuring readiness of the venue to meet all accessibility and security requirements.

CONCLUSION

Approving municipally owned buildings as polling places will enhance voter participation and demonstrate the Municipality of Temagami's commitment to civic engagement and accessibility. This approval will remain effective until further decision by the council.

Respectfully Submitted

Laala Jahanshahloo