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Town of Rainy River

November 7, 2018

October 22, 2018 Municipal Election Accessibility Report

Prepared by: Veldron Vogan, Chief Administrative Officer/Returning Officer

In order to meet accessibility requirements the Town of Rainy River has always reviewed the various options and locations within the community to ascertain the locations which will best meet the needs of our community.

Being a community with a large percentage of seniors this groups potential needs were given the greatest emphasis. The Town of Rainy River chose to have both an advance poll and the regular poll in the Rainy River Activity Depot or Senior Drop-In Centre. Not only does this location provide few barriers to access but also gives a sense of familiarity to surround and election staff access to the adjourning Municipal Office.

The Town of Rainy River also provides for a polling location within the Long Term Care facility for residents. The Returning Officer secured arrangements with the facility manager/Nurse Manager so that the voting was taking place during activity time and the designated Returning Officer and polling clerk could attend each individual patient within their personal rooms.

For future years, consideration will be given to providing a polling station at Riverview Manor which has been recently converted to an assisted living apartment building. Polling will be completed similar to the long term care facility, in that the Deputy Returning Officer and Polling Clerk will attend each apartment for those wishing to vote, but unable to attend the main polling station.

The Rainy River Activity Depot/Drop In Centre was designed and upgraded to meet the needs of this particular age group. A large parking lot and designated park spot near the main door facilitates the barrier free access to the building. Entrance to the lot can be achieved through one of two vehicle entrances/lifts or via the crossing walk and sidewalk stairs and handrails and a ramp are present to allow for easy access for pedestrians, wheelchairs and scooters. Door handles on exterior doors are lever operated and are situated with a direct view of the Designated Returning Officer/polling clerks should assistance entering or exiting the building be necessary. A series of four voting booths



in the heart of Ontario's Sunset Country

are present, all of which have a table and one chair. A magnifier sheet and large print voting instructions are also on site at the polling station.

The voting location is all on one level and at close to ground level.

Washrooms provide for accessible well lit usage.

Verbal comments from the public included appreciation for having the polling station in the Rainy River Activity Depot/Drop In Centre as it provided better wheelchair accessibility than offered at the Recreation Centre.