



# Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

Report No.

File No.

<b>Subject:</b>	Clerk's Final Report on the 2010 Municipal Election
<b>Agenda Date:</b>	February 10, 2011
<b>Attachments:</b>	Attachment 1: Administrative report number 2010-16 on Election Accessibility Attachment 2: By-law 10-948 to appoint a Joint Compliance Audit Committee Attachment 3: Administrative report number 2010-28 on Election 2010 Vote by Mail

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Report 2011-013 be received; AND FURTHER THAT: a copy of the report be sent to all municipal election candidates in the 2010 election.

## **BACKGROUND**

Resolution 10-582 was passed at the November 25, 2010 regular council meeting to direct the Clerk to prepare a final report on the election and that the report be sent to all the municipal election candidates.

## **ANALYSIS**

### Legislation and Compliance

Municipal elections are now held every four years in Ontario. The process and procedures are governed by the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 as amended. The Municipal Clerk is responsible for conducting the election in accordance with the legislation. Changes for the 2010 Municipal Election included an earlier Nomination Day and Voting Day; a new requirement for ensuring accessibility to electors with disabilities and for the Clerk to submit a report to Council concerning this; the appointment of a Compliance Audit Committee (re: candidates' election campaign finances); various updated forms and tighter rules on providing identification at polling stations. Temagami's Municipal Election 2010 was conducted in accordance with the current legislation. The required report of accessibility was submitted to Council as administrative report number 2010-16 on November 4, 2010 (see attachment 1) and Joint Compliance Audit Committee was appointed by Council by By-law 10-948 on September 23, 2010 (see attachment 2).

### Voters List

The Preliminary List of Electors (PLE) is provided to all Municipalities by the Municipal Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and the Clerk or designate is authorized to make amendments to the PLE to create the Voters List. With proper identification / authorization, qualified voters can be added to the Voters List up to the close of the polls on Voting Day. For the 2010 election the Municipality made a total of 186 revisions to the PLE to arrive at the final Voter's list at the close of Voting Day. These revisions included the addition of people who were not on the PLE, deletion of the names of persons who were deceased or confirmed as moved out of the Municipality, and changes of names or addresses. The final total number of qualified voters on the list at the close of the polls on Voting Day was 1968. Candidates were provided with updates to the Voters List and lists of the people who had voted by mail periodically prior to Voting Day. A number of candidates have requested since Voting Day to be provided with a final list of electors who voted in this election. Due to privacy concerns, the

legislation provides for the Municipal Clerk to provide elector information (including who has voted in advance of Voting Day) to candidates for the purpose of campaigning ONLY. Once the election is over (i.e. at the end of Voting Day) the Clerk is no longer authorized to provide this information. I verified my interpretation of this legislation with our contact at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), Bryan Searle, after a candidate requested this information. Mr. Searle confirmed that my interpretation was correct, and this information is not available to candidates following the election.

Voter Turnout

Temagami used the Vote by Mail option for the 2010 Municipal Election, in addition to having a physical Voting Place open on Voting Day. Details on this alternate method are included in report 2010-28 received by Council at the November 25, 2010 regular council meeting (see attachment 3). Adding the vote by mail option allowed participation in the election process by a greater number of seasonal residents, as well as making it more convenient for full-time residents. Voter turnout for the Municipality of Temagami was 1200 out of 1968, which translates to approximately 61% voter turnout. In comparison, the official word from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) was that the province-wide average voter turnout was 44.35% per cent, so our voter turnout was well above average. It is hoped that implementing the recommended improvements for 2014 as outlined in report 2010-28 attached, would increase the voter turnout even more.

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

This item was been approved in the 2010 budget:    Yes             No             N/A

This item is within the approved budgeted amount:    Yes             No             N/A

The 2010 budget included \$7,500 for election expenses. The final total of expenses charged to the 2010 election was \$6,311.33, so it came in well under budget. This amount includes the vote-by-mail contract with Canada Post, additional mailing costs, election supplies, and fees paid to election officials hired for the polling station and count.

As of February 2, 2011, when this report was submitted for review, only six of the fifteen candidates have filed their financial statements with the Clerk's office. If I have not received these by February 22, 2011, I am mandated as Clerk to notify, by registered mail, all candidates who have not filed, concerning the requirement to file. This will add an additional expense, even though it will be incurred in this calendar year.

**Prepared and submitted by:**

**Reviewed by:**

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**Elaine Gunnell**  
**Municipal Clerk**

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**Patrick Cormier**  
**CAO**