

**Municipality of Chatham-Kent**

**Corporate Services**

**Municipal Governance**

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**From:** Judy Smith, Director, Municipal Governance/Clerk  
**Date:** January 21, 2021  
**Subject:** Potential Polling Locations for Federal Election

---

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that:

1. The Bothwell, Dresden, Wallaceburg, and Thames Campus Arena floors be made available up to the end of July, 2021 for polling locations should a federal election be called.
2. The Highgate Community Hall, Ridgetown Rotary Youth Centre, and Tilbury Arena Hall be made available up to the end of July, 2021 for polling locations should a federal election be called.

**Background**

Staff of Elections Canada has contacted the Clerk's Office with regard to the possibility of renting municipal facilities for polling locations should a federal election be called. It was indicated, due to the pandemic, school and church locations are not available making it difficult to find larger spaces where social distancing can be in effect.

**Comments**

Currently, all requested locations are not being utilized by the public due to the recent provincial state of emergency declaration.

With regard to the arena facilities, the ice surfaces remain in at the requested sites, with the exception of Thames Campus Arena.

Based on the current final user permit dates, following are the dates ice will be removed at these arena facilities:

- Bothwell Arena– March 28, 2021
- Dresden Arena – March 28, 2021
- Wallaceburg Memorial Arena – March 28, 2021

Staff typically begin making ice at the Thames Campus Arena the last week of July to be ready for the August 2 ice rental permits.

Additionally, other public hall locations are also being requested. These halls include:

- Highgate Community Hall
- Ridgetown Rotary Youth Centre
- Tilbury Arena Hall

They have also requested the Erieau Fire Hall but it is unavailable during this time.

Elections Canada staff are simply preparing in advance should a federal election be called. It was indicated that should an election not be called by the end of July, another review of locations would be done. With respect to arenas, this is helpful for the municipality, as we cannot commit after this date due to ice surfaces being installed for the 2021-2022 season.

### **Areas of Strategic Focus and Critical Success Factors**

The recommendations in this report support the following areas of strategic focus:

- Economic Prosperity:  
Chatham-Kent is an innovative and thriving community with a diversified economy
- A Healthy and Safe Community:  
Chatham-Kent is a healthy and safe community with sustainable population growth
- People and Culture:  
Chatham-Kent is recognized as a culturally vibrant, dynamic, and creative community
- Environmental Sustainability:  
Chatham-Kent is a community that is environmentally sustainable and promotes stewardship of our natural resources

The recommendations in this report support the following critical success factors:

- Financial Sustainability:  
The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is financially sustainable
- Open, Transparent and Effective Governance:  
The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is open, transparent and effectively governed with efficient and bold, visionary leadership

- Has the potential to support all areas of strategic focus & critical success factors
- Neutral issues (does not support negatively or positively)

### **Consultation**

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries was consulted and assisted with the preparation of this report. The Executive Management Team also discussed this item and suggested it go to Council for approval.

### **Financial Implications**

Elections Canada staff indicated they do pay for usage based on the number of polls at each location. At the time of this report, the rate was unknown to Elections Canada staff and could not be shared within this report.

To note, the daily municipal fees for the locations requested are:

- Arena floor space is \$793.71 plus HST and \$476.23 plus HST (not for profit rate)
- Highgate Community Hall \$ 64.50 plus HST
- Ridgetown Rotary Youth Centre \$ 156.59 plus HST
- Tilbury Arena Hall \$ 473.28 plus HST

Prepared by:

Reviewed by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Judy Smith, CMO  
 Director, Municipal Governance/Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Cathy Hoffman, MPA, CHRL  
 General Manager, Corporate Services/  
 Chief Human Resource Officer

Consulted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Jeff Bray, OALA  
 Director, Parks, Recreation, and Cemeteries

p:\rtc\clerk\_municipal governance\2021\Feb 1 Potential Polling Locations for Federal Election.docx