

COMMUNICATION 134011

Received From: Stacey Blair, Clerk
Addressed To: Committee of the Whole
Date: February 7, 2023
Topic: Amendment to Election Sign By-law 56-2018

BACKGROUND

In 2018, the Town implemented an Election Sign By-law as well as a Use of Corporate Resources Policy, parts of which prohibit the distribution of campaign related materials in municipally owned buildings. However, the All-Candidates Meeting(s) is held in a municipally owned facility and generally the Neelin Street Community Centre, as there aren't any other appropriate venues in Carleton Place to hold this type of event. Staff received multiple requests to make an exemption from the by-law to permit candidates to distribute campaign materials at this event(s).

DISCUSSION

Staff is of the opinion that this is a reasonable request and have prepared a draft by-law that would permit the distribution of campaign materials during this event(s) in future election cycles. Additionally, it is noted that all candidate events are often frequented by people that are less likely to access online election materials and thus this event(s) serves as an opportunity for increased access to electoral information. Lastly, as the title of the event states, all candidates are invited to these events which creates an equitable environment for all participants. Therefore, no biases are created by allowing the distribution of campaign materials during the event.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT Election Sign By-law 56-2018 and Use of Resources Policy be amended to permit the distribution of campaign materials within a Town owned facility that is hosting an all-candidates meeting for the duration of the event.