

Request for Decision United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria Council

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, August 22, 2014				Report Date	Tuesday, August-19-14			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	X	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
#22/08/14/1001 – Set Dates for Advance Vote									

Subject:

Council is to pass a by-law setting dates for advance vote prior to the Municipal elections in 2014.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT an advance vote shall be held on Saturday, October 18, 2014 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., at the Township Hall, 15 Township Hall Road, Stonecliffe;
2. THAT an advance vote shall be held on Saturday, October 18, 2014 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., in Deux Rivieres at a location to be confirmed;

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

One or more advance vote dates shall be set at least 30 days prior to Voting Day which is October 27, 2014. Distance, population and secrecy of vote pose some challenges for effectively and efficiently holding elections as well as meeting the elector’s rights to access specifically for Deux Rivieres residents.

Poll 4 has listed 89 voters. Of those approximately 30 are residents a good proportion of which come out to vote. Polls open on voting day are legislated to be open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

To maintain the integrity of the vote, at least three individuals are required for each voting place. The question posed in HCM is, is it financially viable to have a voting place open for one poll for 10 hours plus travel and counting time (12+ hours) for a turnout of approximately 30 people. Financially this does not make sense.

Wanting to provide access to voter’s in Deux Rivieres in their own area; it is proposed that instead of having the poll open in Deux Rivieres on Voting Day, it is open in Stonecliffe and that instead, an advance poll be held in Deux Rivieres.

The rationale is that an advance poll may be open for a shorter time period reducing costs. This will then allow those voters who live in Deux Rivieres and who do not want to travel an opportunity to vote and will still provide two dates – an advance in Deux Rivieres and the regular in Stonecliffe.

During the by-election, it was opposite. The advance poll was opened in Stonecliffe and the regular poll open in Deux Rivieres. A number of residents/voters from Deux Rivieres travelled to Stonecliffe to vote in the advance vote.

This just seems to make sense; providing a location may be found. Accessibility standards eliminate many venues. Private residences are no longer an option. This leaves us with the

Provincial Park office on Brent Road. If I can reserve that location there will be a poll open in Deux Rivieres. If I cannot, both polls will be held in Stonecliffe.

Options/Discussion:

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact:

Reduced hours will mean reduced costs for election workers. With the small size of the poll in Deux Rivieres workers will be required for the advance poll but at half the time/cost.

The remaining voters will travel to Stonecliffe, if required on voting day and will vote at the same polling station as residents from polls 1 and 2. Three people may then staff the entire election on voter's day.

Policy Impact:

As per policy

Others Consulted:

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk