

MAIL IN BALLOTS FOR 2022 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Mover: Matthew Shoemaker

Seconder: Donna Hilsinger

WHEREAS COVID-19 has caused formerly routine activities to require fundamental changes; and

WHEREAS voting has historically been done by congregating in enclosed spaces locations, which is known to present a significant risk of spreading COVID-19; and

WHEREAS elections that have taken place during the pandemic have seen a high percentage of voter turnout, including in the British Columbia provincial election in 2020, in the United States presidential election in 2020; and

WHEREAS other elections held during the pandemic have been fraught by delays due to rising COVID case numbers, such as the 2021 Newfoundland and Labrador provincial election; and

WHEREAS, though vaccines are set to be administered to all Canadians who want them in 2021, it is unknown if the coronavirus will re-occur seasonally or if it will be eradicated by vaccines; and

WHEREAS it is prudent for the City of Sault Ste. Marie to properly plan for foreseeable challenges to its electoral process;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Clerk's department be requested to investigate and report to Council on options for the City of Sault Ste. Marie to mail ballots to all registered voters in the City for the 2022 municipal election, and determine the safest method to have those ballots returned to the city, both with regard to the health and safety of the community, and the security of the ballot.