



	<b>REPORT NO.: 2018-35</b>
<b>MEETING DATE: MAY 17, 2018</b>	<b>DATE PREPARED: MAY 7, 2018</b>
<b>SUBJECT: TERRITORY WITHOUT MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION ELECTION METHOD</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT with respect to Report No. 2018-35 (CAO), we, The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (the Board), approve the mail-in voting method for the election of the representative for the Territory Without Municipal Organization (TWOMO);

AND THAT we appoint the Chief Administrative Officer as the Returning Officer for the 2018 TWOMO election;

AND THAT any necessary by-law be presented to the Board for approval.

**REPORT SUMMARY**

To provide a recommendation to the Board regarding the method of electing a member to represent the Territory Without Municipal Organization (TWOMO).

**BACKGROUND**

Under Ontario Regulation 278/98 to the District Social Services Administration Boards Act (DSSAB Act), Area 7 of the District of Thunder Bay is comprised of the various unincorporated areas. The eligible voters of those areas are entitled to vote for one individual to represent Area 7 on the Board. The term of this member coincides with the terms of the 13 Board members who are appointed from the incorporated municipalities

A list of eligible voters is provided to DSSAB's by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). As per the 2018 TWOMO Election Resource Guide, the preliminary voter list will be provided by August 21, 2018.

Since the inception of TBDSSAB in 1999 there have been three elections required, and acclamations on three occasions.

In 2014, the Board implemented the use of a mail-in ballot system, replacing the traditional system of in-person voting with polling stations. The number of ballots cast in 2014 at 919 was more than triple the 297 ballots cast in the 2006 TWOMO election.

**COMMENTS**

An election for 2018, to be held on the same day as Municipal elections, October 22<sup>nd</sup> will be necessary if there is more than one registered candidate. The nomination period closes on July 27, 2018.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services has advised that funding for the TWOMO election will be the lesser of actual eligible costs or \$22,000.

The TWOMO areas and population within the District of Thunder Bay are widely dispersed, making it difficult to coordinate and conduct a traditional election.

Electronic voting is also an available option. A review of the methods employed by municipalities in Ontario indicates that the mail-in ballot method is still more popular than the electronic voting method and has a higher satisfaction rating. In addition, many residents of the unincorporated areas do not have access to reliable high-speed internet. Finally, 2014 was the first time that the Board used the mail-in ballot method and it was very successful compared with the polling station method (about a 17% turnout vs. 5% in 2010). For these reasons Administration recommends the use of the mail-in ballot method for the 2018 TWOMO election. Administration will again analyze the efficacy of using the electronic method versus the mail-in ballot method during the lead up to the 2022 election.

A By-law is required for the Board to use a voting method other than in-person voting and will be presented to the Board for consideration.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**



Based on the 2014 experience, the cost of holding an election for the TWOMO representative are estimated at \$13,000, not including staff time, for a mail-in ballot. The MCSS will cover up to \$22,000 of eligible costs. Therefore, an impact on the 2018 actual net cost is not expected.

**CONCLUSION**

It is concluded that based on the 2014 TWOMO election experience, a mail-in ballot for the 2018 TWOMO election should be used.

**REFERENCE MATERIALS ATTACHED**

None.

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	William (Bill) Bradica, Chief Administrative Officer The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board
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