

**Supplemental Report: 2003 and 2010 Municipal Polling Stations Hours in Rideau-Vanier Ward**  
**12, Vanier Proper- June 19 2014**

Ottawa ACORN members believe equal access to polling stations in municipal elections is important, especially in the lowest income areas and where there is low voter turnout such as Rideau-Vanier. We believe voting should be encouraged by the city and barriers should be addressed. The problem is limited accessibility and availability in Vanier proper using available data (2003 – 2010) to polling stations in municipal elections. (See map on page 16 of ACORN CSL Research Project: An Analysis on the Location of Polling Stations in Municipal Elections in Ottawa, showing accessibility).

ACORN members believe that voting availability should be consistent in all polls. Hence we feel reduced hours in some polls represents a barrier to voting for our membership and the citizens of Ottawa in general. This report is supplemental to the CSL Research paper. This is also a further analysis of the need for the city to focus on creating more access to voting not less.

See below for reduced polling stations hours of operation in 2003 and 2010 (2006 is similar to 2003) in Vanier Proper.

**2003 Reduced Municipal Polling Station Hours in Vanier Proper**

280 Monfort (Closest to the “Bermuda Triangle”, senior heavy building) - Opened 10am-2pm on Election Day (not present in 2006 Municipal Election)

275 Perrier (north near 300 Des Peres Blanc, long term care facility) - Opened 10am-2pm on Election Day

40 Landry -Advanced Polls Opened 4pm-8pm

300 Des Peres Blanc - Opened 10am-8pm for Advanced Polls and Election Day

290 Dupuis- Opened 10am-8pm on Election Day

400 Monfort- Advanced Polls Opened 10am-8pm

**2010 Reduced Municipal Polling Station Hours in Vanier Proper**

In June 2010 the elections office asked to reduce hours in advanced polls and voting day in senior’s residences and long term care facilities (City of Ottawa Website):

<http://ottawa.ca/calendar/ottawa/citycouncil/csedc/2010/07-06/agendaindex58.htm>

The city approved reduced hours in the following polls:

280 Monfort- Opened 10am-2pm on Election Day

275 Perrier - Opened 10am-2pm on Election Day

290 Dupuis (closed 2010)

400 Monfort (closed 2010)

Polls that did not change:

300 Des Peres Blanc (very north Vanier proper) – Opened in Advanced Polls 10am-8pm; Open on Election Day 10am-8pm

40 Landry (far West near North River Road) –Opened 4PM-8PM on Advanced Polls

Results: The only polling station open from 10am-8pm was 300 Des Peres Blanc for all of Vanier proper with a population of 16,258 (2011 Census). If the electorate did poll at either 280 Monfort or 275 Perrier, they were limited access from 10am-2pm. Voter turnout was the lowest in the city at 39%.

## **Conclusion**

There is a problem of distance accessibility and availability of voting in Vanier proper for seniors and the disabled but also working people, people who need later hours because of health or childcare issues or people who need more time to make their decision on their vote. The city's decision to reduce polling station hours in 2010 across Ottawa shows a sizable list of residences in various wards are also limited to availability. The city should be encouraging voting accessibility and availability in the lowest income areas and areas lowest voter turnout areas like Vanier proper and the ward of Rideau-Vanier.