











Hurley also recognized that the lack of mail-in ballots would present a barrier

“But this time, it doesn't outweigh the health emergency that was, and still is, especially when we were organizing. This election, staff really had to take many, many precautions to ensure that we could do this safely,” he said.

DABC executive director Helaine Boyd said what it really comes down to is a matter of resource allocation.

“In terms of any level of government's response to accessibility issues—verbally, they will give lip service to the importance of accessibility and promoting accessibility,” she said.

“But then when it comes down to the budget, and how much it costs to ensure that people with disabilities are included and can participate, ... they won't put money towards actually reducing barriers for people with disabilities. Because they don't consider it an important enough issue to pay for it.”

Hurley recommended that people with disabilities who are concerned about not being able to access curbside voting call the local elections officer with the City of Burnaby to “perhaps” make special arrangements, but as a politician and not a staff member, he couldn't say what those arrangements might be.

The City of Burnaby told the Beacon that any special arrangements would have to be made consistently, so that everyone had equal access, and said the city would be reviewing all feedback on the byelection after the fact and prior to next year's municipal elections.

Elections BC provides assisted telephone voting for people who are unable to vote in provincial elections in person, as long as they have vision loss, another disability or health condition that prevents them from voting independently, or need to self-isolate and are unable to vote by mail. However, the organization is not involved with local or municipal elections.

“It's disappointing that some people’















