

Items of Information

Council Agenda – May 5, 2025

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Grand River Conservation Authority

Summary of the General Membership Meeting – April 25, 2025

To GRCA/GRCF Boards and Grand River watershed municipalities - Please share as appropriate.

Action Items

The Board approved the resolutions in the following reports as presented in the agenda:

- GM-04-25-40 - Human Resources Policies Update
- GM-04-25-39 - Gift Acceptance Policy
- GM-04-25-48 - Financial Summary
- GM-04-25-43 - Residential Program Wind-down – Demolitions
- GM-04-25-42 - Provincial Offences Act Officer Designations - Section 29 Conservation Areas
- GM-04-25-C07 - General Insurance Policy Renewal 2025-2026 (Closed agenda)

Information Items

The Board received the following reports as information:

- GM-04-25-47 - Chair's Report
- GM-04-25-41 - Cash & Investment Status
- GM-04-25-38 - Quarterly Permit Report
- GM-04-25-44 - March 2025 Flood Event
- GM-04-25-45 - April 2025 Flood Event
- GM-04-25-46 - April 2025 Flood Event Dam Safety Incidents - Wellesley & Baden Dams
- GM-04-25-49 - Current Watershed Conditions

Correspondence

The Board received the following correspondence:

- Susan Watson et al - Reconsider Lands Disposition Plans

Source Protection Authority Correspondence & Action Items

The General Membership of the GRCA also acts as the Source Protection Authority Board.

- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks - Approval of Amendments
- Lake Erie Source Protection Region - Grand River Source Protection Plan Annual Progress Reporting
- SPA-04-25-01 - Submission of the 2024 Grand River Annual Progress Report
- SPA-04-25-02 - Submission of the amended Grand River Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report – County of Brant
- SPA-04-25-03 - Submission of the amended Grand River Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report – City of Brantford
- SPA-04-25-04 - Source Protection Committee Member Appointments

For full agendas and reports, and past minutes, please refer to our [Board meeting calendar](#). The minutes of this meeting will be posted on following approval at the next meeting of the General Membership.

You are receiving this email as a GRCA board member, GRCF board member, or a Grand River watershed member municipality. If you do not wish to receive this monthly summary, please respond to this email with the word 'unsubscribe'.



GEORGINA

Legislative Services Department/Clerk's Division

April 7, 2025

Via email; premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
TORONTO, Ontario M7A 1A1

The Honourable Premier Ford:

Re: Resolution regarding Salt Management

Please be advised that Town Council adopted the following motion concerning Salt Management;

RESOLUTION NO. C-2025-0077

Moved By Councillor Neeson

Seconded By Regional Councillor Davison

WHEREAS road salt is a known toxic substance designated under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act because of tangible threats of serious and irreversible environmental and public health concerns associated with road salt; and

WHEREAS salt levels in Ontario's groundwater aquifers, creeks, rivers, and lakes have increasingly worsened since the 1970s, seriously affecting municipal drinking water sources and aquatic life; and

WHEREAS Lake Simcoe is our closest freshwater lake and is the 4th largest inland lake within Ontario, host to a number of functions including a biodiverse habitat for over 56 species of fish, the source water for municipal drinking water for hundreds of thousands of residents within the watershed, including 41,000 here in the Town of Georgina, and the many other recreational and commercial functions it serves; and

WHEREAS Lake Simcoe's salinity concentrations have increased over 500% since monitoring began over the past 50 years, with the primary contributor being runoff from the use of salt for winter maintenance; and

WHEREAS the Ontario and Canadian governments have taken many actions over the past 25 years including setting water quality guidelines, developing voluntary codes of practice, signing the Canada-Ontario Great Lakes Agreement, and holding workshops, yet still the salt problem continues to grow; and

WHEREAS numerous situation analyses have recommended salt solutions involving liability protection, contractor certification, government-approved Best Management Practices (BMPs) and salt management plans; and

WHEREAS increased numbers of slip and fall claims, and other injury/collision claims related to snow and ice, are resulting in salt applicators overusing salt beyond levels considered best practices; and

WHEREAS unlimited contractor liability is making it difficult or expensive for snow and ice management contractors to obtain insurance coverage, resulting in contractors leaving the business, thereby making it difficult for municipalities and private owners to find contractors; and

WHEREAS the Snow and Ice Management Sector (SMS) of Landscape Ontario is working with the Ontario government to institute a limited liability regime for snow and ice management, including enforceable contractor training/certification and government-approved BMPs for salt application; and

WHEREAS many Ontario municipalities have Salt Management Plans, but these often require updating in light of improved science and better salt management practices now available; and

WHEREAS The Town of Georgina shares fifty-two (52) kilometers of beautiful Lake Simcoe shoreline and all 288 square kilometers of the Town of Georgina are encompassed by sub-watersheds that drain into Lake Simcoe; and

WHEREAS road authorities that use salt, such as the Town of Georgina, must abide by, and benefit from, established provincial regulations around snow clearing and maintenance, whereas private contractors only have voluntary programs for salt use for private and commercial property management; and

WHEREAS the Town of Georgina has demonstrated great initiative in salt mitigation efforts including committing to the use of rock salt alternatives, installation of electronic spreader controllers on all material spreading units, reduced application rates when appropriate, use of pre-wet and brine when appropriate, and an updated salt management plan that outlines salt best management practices specific to the Corporation of the Town of Georgina's winter maintenance operations

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. That the Town of Georgina urges the Province of Ontario to work urgently with key stakeholders to develop limited liability legislation, including enforceable contractor training and a single set of provincially endorsed standard Best Management Practices for snow and ice management; and

2. That the Town of Georgina urges the Province of Ontario to create and fund an expert stakeholder advisory committee to advise the province and municipalities on the best courses of action to protect freshwater ecosystems and drinking water from the impacts of salt pollution; and

3. That the Town of Georgina continues to commit to the reduction of the use of road salt as much as possible while meeting local service levels and maintaining safety on roads and sidewalks; and

4. That a copy of this resolution be sent to all municipalities in York Region, all Lake Simcoe Watershed municipalities; all municipalities in Ontario; The Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation and The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority requesting their endorsement; The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); all Lake Simcoe Watershed MPPs; Conservation Ontario; The Ontario Salt Pollution Coalition; The Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition; Minister Todd McCarthy (MECP); Attorney General Doug Downey, and The Honourable Premier Doug Ford.

Accordingly, we respectfully request your consideration of this resolution.

Sincerely,
FOR THE TOWN OF GEORGINA,



Carolyn Lance
Council Services Coordinator

cc: Minister Todd McCarthy, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks; todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org
The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney-General; doug.downey@pc.ola.org
York Region municipalities
Ontario municipalities
Lake Simcoe Watershed municipalities
Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority; r.baldwin@LSRCA.on.ca
The Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation; sylvia.mccue@georginaisland.com
Association of Municipalities of Ontario; resolutions@amo.on.ca
Lake Simcoe Watershed MPP's
Conservation Ontario; info@conservationontario.ca
Ontario Salt Pollution Coalition; dani@waterwatchers.ca
The Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition; rescuelakesimcoecoalition@gmail.com

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PARRY SOUND
RESOLUTION IN COUNCIL**

NO. 2025 – 046

DIVISION LIST

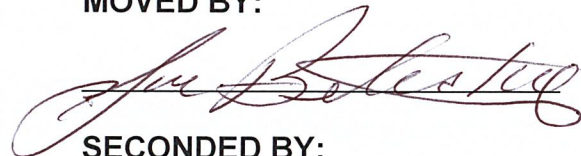
YES NO

DATE: April 15, 2025

Councillor **G. ASHFORD**
 Councillor **J. BELESKEY**
 Councillor **P. BORNEMAN**
 Councillor **B. KEITH**
 Councillor **D. McCANN**
 Councillor **C. McDONALD**
 Mayor **J. McGARVEY**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

MOVED BY:



SECONDED BY:



CARRIED: ☒ **DEFEATED:** _____ **Postponed to:** _____

WHEREAS inclusive, evidence-based scientific research leads to better outcomes for Canadians by ensuring that all voices and experiences are reflected in the development of knowledge, treatments, and innovations;

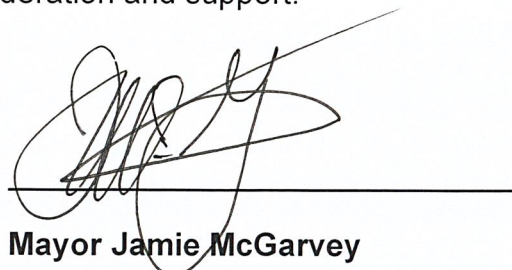
WHEREAS Canadian municipalities benefit directly from research-informed policies on public health, infrastructure, education, environmental protection, and economic development;

WHEREAS diverse and inclusive research teams have been shown to generate more innovative, practical, and impactful solutions, and yet many equity-deserving groups, including women, remain underrepresented in science and research careers;

WHEREAS inclusive research strengthens our economy, healthcare system, and ability to address national and global challenges;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Parry Sound supports the national call for stronger federal support for inclusive research that reflects the diversity of Canadian communities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be shared with other municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and relevant provincial and federal representatives for consideration and support.



Mayor Jamie McGarvey

Township of Champlain

Resolution
Regular Council Meeting

Agenda Number: 11.1.
Resolution Number 2025-120
Title: Councillor Gerry Miner - Surveillance and Monitoring of Heavy Vehicles in Ontario
Date: April 24, 2025

Moved By: Gérard Miner
Seconded By: Paul Burroughs

Whereas the Council of the Township of Champlain is of the opinion that additional surveillance and monitoring of heavy vehicles in Ontario is required to ensure the safety of other motorists, property owners, and pedestrians.

Be it resolved that the Township of Champlain calls upon the Government of Ontario to: increase surveillance and spot checks of all heavy vehicles travelling on Ontario roads; as well as monitoring the testing standards maintained by privately-owned heavy licensing facilities.

Be it further resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the MPP Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, the Ontario Provincial Police, AMO and all municipalities in Ontario.

Carried

Certified True Copy of Resolution

Alison Collard, Clerk Date:



The Corporation of the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan

April 29, 2025

Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Proposal to End Daylight Savings Time in Ontario

Please be advised that the Council of the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan at its meeting on April 28th, 2025 passed the following resolution:

R107-2025

Moved by Councillor Terry Holmes
Seconded by Councillor Mark Allen

Whereas Ontario already has the legislative framework to end the antiquated practice of Daylight Saving Time (DST), as per the Time Amendment Act of 2020: But New York has delayed us for over 4 long years.

And Whereas the Case for Ending DST immediately pertains to clear and present Health and Public Safety concerns: Clock shifts spike heart attacks, accidents, and stress, per the Canadian Society for Chronobiology. Kids lose focus, domestic violence rises, and vulnerable folks—mentally ill, homeless, addicts—face unnecessary strain and relapse risks. Indigenous health gaps deepen as DST clashes with traditions. Standard Time aligns with nature, easing healthcare burdens and healthcare costs.

And Whereas ending DST is a clear and permanent assertion of the economic independence of Ontario: Our new, post tariff economic reality exposes the reliance on New York for our internal policy as outdated. Ontario should look out for Ontarians, and

our sovereignty must be asserted. Quebec already considers the change; so 15 million Ontarians should not continue to wait on NY. Businesses will adapt; citizens will gain stability. Over 100,000 petition voices and 70% of Ontarians agree. Ontario must take the lead, and hopefully NY can eventually follow our lead for the good of their own people.

Therefore be it resolved that we request staff to distribute this communication to all the Municipalities, Chiefs & Councils of Ontario in addition to the Premier of the Govt. of Ontario and urge the Premier to:

1. Amend the Time Amendment Act 2020 to drop New York's contingency, effective immediately.
2. Set permanent Standard Time (EST) from November 2, 2025.

CARRIED.

Yours truly,
Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan



Liz Ross
Deputy Clerk

Sent via Email:
Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, premier@ontario.ca
Municipalities of Ontario



Town of Saugeen Shores
600 Tomlinson Drive, P.O. Box 820
Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C0

April 14, 2025

Honourable Rob Flack
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
rob.flack@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister,

RE: Opposition to Proposed Amendments to O.Reg. 530/22 to Expand Strong Mayor Powers

I am writing to express my opposition to the government's proposed expansion of Strong Mayor powers to include the Town of Saugeen Shores. As the Mayor of Saugeen Shores, I am concerned about the implications of this policy change on our local governance. Please consider this letter as the Town of Saugeen Shores submission on O.Reg. 530/22 which is available for comment until April 16th.

In my experience, the 'Council Manager' system of governance has always served our municipality well. Specifically, when it comes to advancing our shared priority of building more housing to serve our residents, Saugeen Shores Council has demonstrated flexible and determined leadership. Our Council has enabled housing by reducing red tape resulting in the construction of more than 600 multi-family residential units in the last two years alone. Given the strong and sustained commitment of our Council to these efforts, I do not see how the introduction of Strong Mayor powers will accelerate the construction of housing (or the pursuit of other priority areas) in any way. On the contrary, vesting these new powers in the Mayor threatens to disrupt long-established and effective processes, sidelining elected members of Council with effects that may be contrary to the interests of our residents.

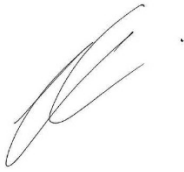
Saugeen Shores has thrived for decades on the principle of shared leadership. We have an effective team of elected representatives working in partnership with a professional staff to achieve goals that are transparently set out in our Strategic Plan and annual Business Plans. This approach to governance is foundational to building trust between the municipality and the residents that it serves. I fear that the unilateral decision-making enabled by Strong Mayor powers would erode this trust and disrupt the collaborative environment that has long been at the heart of the democratic tradition of our Council and community.

I urge you to reconsider the expansion of Strong Mayor powers. If the government has a strong desire to advance these major changes to the governance of our municipality, I

request that you engage in a thorough consultation process with our Council and the residents of our community before moving forward. It is crucial that any changes to local governance structures be made in close partnership with the communities they impact.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and hope that we can work together in the interest of ensuring strong local governance in Saugeen Shores.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Charbonneau', written in a cursive style.

Luke Charbonneau, Mayor
Town of Saugeen Shores

cc. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Lisa Thompson, MPP, Minister of Rural Affairs
Council, Town of Saugeen Shores
All Ontario Municipalities



Town of Amherstburg

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Michael Prue, Mayor

April 15, 2025

SENT VIA EMAIL

Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queens Park
Toronto, ON, M7A 1A4
VIA EMAIL: premier@ontario.ca

Attn: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Re: Resolution# 20250414-011 - Opposition to Strong Mayor Designation for the Town of Amherstburg

At its regular meeting on **April 14, 2025**, Amherstburg Town Council passed **Resolution 20250414-011** in response to the Province's recent proposal to designate Amherstburg as a "**Strong Mayor**" municipality, effective May 1, 2025.

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has proposed to designate the Town of Amherstburg as a "Strong Mayor" community, granting enhanced powers to the Mayor effective May 1, 2025; and,

WHEREAS the Strong Mayor powers significantly alter the balance of governance at the municipal level, undermining the role of Council in decision-making and weakening the fundamental democratic principle of majority rule; and,

WHEREAS the Town of Amherstburg has a long history of collaborative, transparent, and accountable local governance built upon a foundation of Council-debate and shared decision-making; and,

WHEREAS many municipally elected officials across the province and members of the public have expressed significant concern regarding the imposition of these powers; and,

WHEREAS the Town of Amherstburg did not formally request or express a desire to be designated under the Strong Mayor framework; and,

WHEREAS a growing number of municipalities and elected officials across Ontario are questioning the appropriateness of the Strong Mayor system and are calling for its reconsideration or repeal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Amherstburg Town Council formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the Town of Amherstburg from the list of municipalities designated under the Strong Mayor legislation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all regional Members of Provincial



Town of Amherstburg OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Michael Prue, Mayor

Parliament, all Ontario municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their awareness and support.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and urge you to respect the democratic wishes of our Council and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Prue".

Michael Prue, Mayor
Town of Amherstburg

Cc: The Honourable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing)
Regional Members of Provincial Parliament
All Ontario Municipalities
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

April 16, 2025

The Honorable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
premier@ontario.ca

Re: Motion regarding Opposition to Expansion of Strong Mayor Powers

At their Regular Meeting of Council on April 16, 2025, the Council of the Town of Aylmer endorsed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Ontario government has proposed expanding the "strong mayor" powers to 169 additional municipalities under the proposed legislation, which would grant mayors in these municipalities more authority, particularly concerning the control of municipal budgets and planning decisions;

AND WHEREAS this proposal has raised significant concerns regarding the centralization of power, erosion of local democracy, reduced accountability, and the potential for the abuse of power;

AND WHEREAS the proposed expansion of strong mayor powers undermines the collaborative nature of municipal governance, and diminishes the role of elected municipal councillors in representing the diverse interests of the community;

AND WHEREAS concerns have been raised about the negative impacts on public trust, democratic participation, and municipal decision-making processes, if mayors are given the ability to bypass council decisions without adequate consultation or oversight;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Aylmer opposes the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers;

AND THAT the Council formally expresses its opposition to the Ontario government's proposal to expand Strong Mayor Powers to preserve local democracy, transparency, and accountability;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Ontario Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all Ontario municipalities, as well as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for further action.

Thank you,

Owen Jaggard

Director of Legislative Services/Clerk | Town of Aylmer

46 Talbot Street West, Aylmer, ON N5H 1J7

519-773-3164 Ext. 4913 | Fax 519-765-1446

ojaggard@town.aylmer.on.ca | www.aylmer.ca

CC:

Hon. Rob Flack rob.flack@pc.ola.org

Association of Municipalities of Ontario resolutions@amo.on.ca

All municipalities



April 16, 2025

Honourable Premier Doug Ford
Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Via Email: rob.flack@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Flack,

Re: Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers – Proposed Amendments to O. Reg. 530/22

Please be advised that at its Regular Meeting held Monday, April 14, 2025, the Council of the Town of Kingsville passed the following resolution respecting the matter referenced in the above subject line:

78-04142025

Moved By: Councillor Gaffan

Seconded By: Deputy Mayor DeYong

Whereas on April 9, 2025, the Government of Ontario (hereafter, the "Province"), led by Premier Doug Ford, announced a proposal to expand by "Strong Mayor Powers" as provided for by Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, to the heads of council in 169 additional municipalities, including the Town of Kingsville, effective May 1, 2025;

And whereas Strong Mayor Powers erode democratic process and have fundamentally altered the historic model of local governance, which has existed for almost two centuries, by:

- providing the head of council with the authority to unilaterally give direction and make certain decisions without a consensus from a majority of the members of council; and,
- creating a power imbalance by providing the head of council with special powers that other members do not generally have.

And whereas the Province is undermining the local governance model and municipal independence by attempting to advance its priorities through municipalities, and downloading its responsibilities to the same.

Now therefore be it resolved that:

- The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kingsville ("Council") **opposes** the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers, as announced on April 9, 2025;
- That Council **requests** that the proposed amendments to O. Reg. 530/22 to Expand Strong Mayor Powers and Duties to Additional Municipalities not include the Town of Kingsville; and;
- That Council **directs** the Acting Manager of Municipal Governance/Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; All Four Local MPPs; AMCTO, AMO and All Ontario Municipalities

Carried.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Toole". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angela Toole, Acting Manager of Municipal Governance/Clerk

Email: atoole@kingsville.ca

Phone: 519-733-2305 ext. 223

cc. Anthony Leardi, MPP, Essex
Trevor Jones, MPP, Chatham-Kent - Leamington
Andrew Dowie, MPP, Windsor-Tecumseh
Lisa Gretzky, MPP, Windsor West
AMCTO
AMO
All Ontario Municipalities

**TOWNSHIP OF RIDEAU LAKES
Special Council Meeting**

RESOLUTION 104-2025
Title: MSC (PW) Rec #78-2025 re: Strong Mayor Powers (for Council approval)
Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Moved by Councillor Dunfield
Seconded by Deputy Mayor P. Banks

WHEREAS at the Municipal Services Committee meeting held April 14, 2025, Recommendation #78-2025 was passed related to the recent announcement from the Government of Ontario on Strong Mayor Powers to an additional 169 municipalities effective May 1, 2025;

AND WHEREAS said recommendation further requested that the Province remove Rideau Lakes from the Strong Mayor Powers Legislation;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes concurs with MSC Recommendation #78-2025.

YES: 5 NO: 2 ABSTAIN: 0 CONFLICT: 0 ABSENT: 1

Carried

YES: 5 Councillor J. Banks Councillor Carr Councillor Dunfield Councillor Hutchings
Deputy Mayor P. Banks

NO: 2 Councillor Maxwell Councillor Pollard

CONFLICT: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1 Mayor Hoogenboom



**TOWNSHIP OF RIDEAU LAKES
Municipal Services Committee (PW)**

RECOMMENDATION: 78-2025

Title: Ontario Proposing to Expand Strong Mayor Powers to 169
Additional Municipalities

Date: Monday, April 14, 2025

Moved by Councillor Dunfield
Seconded by Deputy Mayor P. Banks

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has announced an expansion of strong mayor powers to an additional 169 municipalities, effective May 1, 2025;

AND WHEREAS these powers allow mayors to unilaterally override council decisions, appoint senior municipal staff, and set budgets without majority council approval, undermining the principles of democratic governance;

AND WHEREAS municipal governance functions best through a collaborative decision-making process where elected councils, representing the collective voice of their communities, work alongside experienced municipal staff;

AND WHEREAS there is no evidence to suggest that strong mayor powers have increased housing starts, contrary to the provincial government's stated justification for their implementation;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) has raised concerns that strong mayor powers blur the lines between political leadership and administrative expertise, threatening the neutrality of municipal public service;

AND WHEREAS the City of Orillia recently experienced a situation where its mayor unilaterally overturned a council decision regarding the hiring of a Chief Administrative Officer, demonstrating the potential for these powers to be misused;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Rideau Lakes has also experienced governance challenges resulting from mayoral overreach, further highlighting the risks posed by concentrating authority in a single elected official;

AND WHEREAS democratic principles require that municipal governance remain a system of "one person, one vote" rather than granting disproportionate power to a single individual;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Rideau Lakes:

1. Strongly opposes the expansion of strong mayor powers to additional municipalities, including Rideau Lakes;
2. Calls on the Government of Ontario to reverse this decision and uphold the traditional balance of municipal governance; and
3. Directs the Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to:
 - The Honourable Rob Flack Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 - MPP Steve Clark
 - The Honourable Premier of Ontario Doug Ford
 - The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
 - The Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO)
 - All Ontario municipalities for their consideration and support.

AND FURTHER that the Province be requested to remove Rideau Lakes from the Strong Mayor Powers Legislation.

YES: 5 NO: 3 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 0

Carried

YES: 5

Councillor J. Banks Councillor Carr Councillor Dunfield
Councillor Hutchings Deputy Mayor P. Banks

NO: 3

Mayor Hoogenboom Councillor Maxwell Councillor Pollard



52 Seguin Street, Parry Sound, Ontario P2A 1B4
Tel: (705) 746-2101 • Fax: (705) 746-7461 • www.parrysound.ca

Office of the Mayor

April 22, 2025

Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing
College Park, 17th floor,
777 Bay St.
Toronto ON M7A 2J3

Via email: minister.mah@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Flack,

On behalf of Council of the Town of Parry Sound, please accept my congratulations on your recent appointment as Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing. It's an important Ministry and we look forward to working with you and Ministry staff.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing provided notice on April 9th that the Ministry was seeking comments regarding its intent to extend strong mayor powers to an additional 169 municipalities, including the Town of Parry Sound. The comment period was open until April 16th. These additional powers are not powers that I as Mayor believe are necessary and do not wish to exercise them. At our April 15th meeting, Council unanimously voted to reject strong mayor powers, request the province to repeal the legislation, or alternatively permit municipalities to opt out.

We were disappointed that there was no previous communication before the April 9th letter, with a comment period of only one week. Contrary to provincial claims that strong mayor powers will get homes and infrastructure built faster, reduce red tape and accelerate the delivery of key priorities, research by the Association of Municipal Clerks & Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) has found no evidence to suggest this legislation has any impact on the number of housing starts in municipalities that have been granted the powers; and moreover the strong mayor powers have blurred the political-administrative authority between the roles of head of council and Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) and senior staff, threatening the neutrality of the public service and politicizing local government leadership. We have seen very questionable use by mayors with strong mayor powers.

Our public expects a democratic process. Given the overwhelming use of executive orders by the current US President and multiple respected analysts' concerns about the US slipping into authoritarianism, our country and its democratic institutions should be safeguarding these democratic principles that provide accountability to the public and not undermining them.

We encourage the provincial government to repeal this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jamie McGarvey', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jamie McGarvey
Mayor, Town of Parry Sound

c.c. Premier Doug Ford
MPP Graydon Smith
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities
Members of Town of Parry Sound Council
CAO Clayton Harris
Clerk Rebecca Johnson



9, 5, 5.

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PARRY SOUND
RESOLUTION IN COUNCIL**

NO. 2025 – 047

DIVISION LIST**YES NO****DATE: April 15, 2025**Councillor **G. ASHFORD**☒ ☐**MOVED BY:**Councillor **J. BELESKEY**☒ ☐Councillor **P. BORNEMAN**☒ ☐Councillor **B. KEITH**☒ ☐Councillor **D. McCANN**☒ ☐Councillor **C. McDONALD**☒ ☐Mayor **J. McGARVEY**☒ ☐**SECONDED BY:**

CARRIED: ☒ **DEFEATED:** ☐ **Postponed to:** _____

Whereas the Province has announced the expansion of strong mayor powers to another 169 municipalities as of May 1, 2025 in addition to the 47 municipalities which currently have received strong mayor powers; and

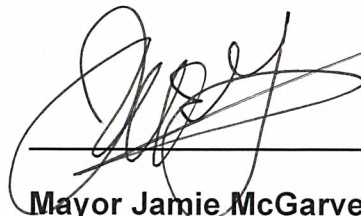
Whereas the Province claims that strong mayor powers will get homes and infrastructure built faster, reduce red tape, and accelerate the delivery of key priorities; and

Whereas research from the Association of Municipal Clerks & Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) has identified that: a) there is no evidence to suggest this legislation has any impact on the number of housing starts in municipalities that have been granted the powers; and b) strong mayor powers have blurred the political-administrative authority between the roles of head of council and chief administrative officers (CAOs), threatening the neutrality of the public service and politicizing local government leadership; and

Whereas strong mayor powers is an erosion to the democratic process of an historically non-partisan municipal governance structure;

Now Therefore the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Parry Sound hereby resolves to reject the strong mayor powers granted to it, and requests that the Province repeal the legislation, or offer the option to municipalities to opt out of strong mayor powers; and

That this Resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing Rob Flack, Premier Doug Ford, MPP Graydon Smith, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities.



Mayor Jamie McGarvey



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

April 25, 2025

By Email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford

By Email: rob.flack@ontario.ca

**Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal
Affairs and Housing**

Re: Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers

The Council of the Town of Tecumseh, at its regular meeting held Tuesday, April 22, 2025, passed the following resolution regarding its April 15, 2025 Letter sent to Ontario's Regulatory Registry on the proposed May 1, 2025, expansion of Strong Mayor Powers, a copy of which is enclosed.

At their meeting, Tecumseh Council passed the following resolution:

Motion: RCM - 114/25

Moved by Councillor Alicia Higgison
Seconded by Councillor Tania Jobin

"That the agenda Communication item regarding the Town of Tecumseh and its opposition to the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers **be circulated** to the Premier of Ontario, the local MPPs, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario, and all municipalities".

Carried

Please consider this letter as confirmation of the Town of Tecumseh's action on the matter.

Yours very truly,

Robert Auger, LLB
Director Legislative Services & Clerk

RA/ja
Attachment

1. Town of Tecumseh Resolution- Strong Mayor Powers dated April 15, 2025
- cc.
- County of Essex
 - Town of Amherstburg
 - Municipality of Lakeshore
 - Municipality of Leamington
 - Town of LaSalle
 - Town of Essex



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

April 15, 2025

Ministry to Municipal Affairs and Housing

Via Email to the Ontario's Regulatory Registry

Re: Letter of Resolution – Proposed May 1, 2025, expansion of Strong Mayor Powers to the Town of Tecumseh

At its April 15, 2025, Special Council meeting called in response to the April 9, 2025, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing news release on the proposal to expand Strong Mayor Powers to 169 additional municipalities, the Council of the Town of Tecumseh provided the following comments with the unanimous passage of the following resolution:

“Motion: SCM – 19/25

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bachetti

Seconded by Councilor Jobin

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario, through O. Reg. 530/22 under the Municipal Act, 2001, has designated the Town of Tecumseh as a “Strong Mayor” municipality, granting the enhanced powers of Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act to its Head of Council effective May 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing news release announcing the proposal to expand Strong Mayor powers to 169 additional municipalities on April 9, 2025, indicated a one-week consultation deadline for municipal comments on the proposal to be submitted to Ontario's Regulatory Registry by April 16, 2025; and

WHEREAS without the benefit of a more thorough consultation process and suitable period of time for feedback on the proposed expansion of Strong Mayor powers, the proposal is a disservice to the very communities they impact; and

WHEREAS Strong Mayor Powers alter the balance of governance at the local level, undermining the role of our duly elected members of Council in decision-making and weakening the fundamental democratic principles of majority vote and majority rule; and

WHEREAS the Town of Tecumseh has had a long and successful history of local governance based on collaborative and effective leadership built upon a foundation of Council debate and reaching consensus on decisions for its community; and

WHEREAS the Town of Tecumseh being a smaller community, has thrived with these collaborative, transparent, and accountable processes without the need for an expansion of

Strong Mayor Powers in order to serve Provincial Priorities and act in the best interests of its residents; and

WHEREAS given the long history of the Town of Tecumseh as a collaborative Council, the extension of Strong Mayor powers to the Town of Tecumseh may serve to instead counteract the stated purposes of the Strong Mayor Power legislation by disrupting what have been successful democratic processes and by undermining the important role that each Council member provides for its citizens.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Tecumseh Town Council formally opposes the proposed expansion of Strong Mayor Powers as announced on April 9, 2025 and further requests that the proposed amendments to O. Reg 530/22 to expand Strong Mayor Powers to Additional Municipalities NOT include the Town of Tecumseh and respectfully requests that the Town of Tecumseh be removed from the list of municipalities so designated under the Strong Mayor legislation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon circulation that the Clerk be authorized to send and upload a copy of this resolution together with a letter of resolution to Ontario's Regulatory Registry by the April 16, 2025, deadline for comments on the proposal.

"Carried."

Yours very truly,



Robert Auger, LL.B.
Director Legislative Services & Clerk



Executive Services
99-A Advance Avenue, Napanee, ON K7R 3Y5 www.greaternapanee.com

April 23, 2025

Township of Rideau Lakes
1439 County Road 8
Delta, ON K0E 1G0
Sent via email: mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca

Re: Strong Mayor Powers

To Whom It May Concern,

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Greater Napanee passed a resolution at its regular session meeting of April 22, 2025 in support of your correspondence regarding Strong Mayor Powers Legislation. A copy of the resolution is enclosed for your reference.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at jwalters@greaternapanee.com if you require any further information with respect to this resolution.

Sincerely,

Jessica Walters
Clerk

cc: Honourable Premier Doug Ford
Honourable Ric Bresee, MPP Hastings-Lennox and Addington
Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
AMO
AMCTO
All Ontario municipalities

RESOLUTION #194/25 Pinnell Jr., Norrie

That the Town of Greater Napanee sends a letter of support to the Township of Rideau Lakes in regard to their opposition of Ontario Expanding Strong Mayor Powers to 169 Additional Municipalities, and that the Town of Greater Napanee also request to be excluded from the Strong Mayor Powers;

And that a copy of the letter of support be sent to the Honorable Premier Doug Ford, the Honorable MPP Ric Bresee; the Honorable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario, and all other municipalities in Ontario for their consideration and support.

For: 5 Opposed: 2 Abstained:0 Absent: 0

CARRIED.

For:

Councillor Schenk, Councillor Hicks, Councillor Pinnell Jr., Councillor Norrie, Councillor Martin

Opposed:


Mayor Richardson, Deputy Mayor Calver



**THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH MIDDLESEX
RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL**

Member Present	YES	NO	DATE: APRIL 23, 2025
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Councillor A. Cornelissen	✓	_____	MOVED BY: 
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Councillor C. Daigle	✓	_____	SECONDED BY: 
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Councillor B. Irwin	✓	_____	
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Councillor S. Nirta	✓	_____	
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Deputy Mayor P. Hodgins	✓	_____	
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Mayor B. Ropp	✓	_____	
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RESULT: Carried

WHEREAS the Province has announced the expansion of strong mayor powers to another 169 municipalities as of May 1, 2025 in addition to the 47 municipalities which currently have received strong mayor powers; and

WHEREAS the Province claims that strong mayor powers will get homes and infrastructure built faster, reduce red tape, and accelerate the delivery of key priorities; and Whereas research from the Association of Municipal Clerks & Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) has identified that: a) there is no evidence to suggest this legislation has any impact on the number of housing starts in municipalities that have been granted the powers; and b) strong mayor powers have blurred the political-administrative authority between the roles of head of council and chief administrative officers (CAOs), threatening the neutrality of the public service and politicizing local government leadership; and

WHEREAS strong mayor powers is an erosion to the democratic process of an historically non-partisan municipal governance structure;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the North Middlesex hereby resolves to reject the strong mayor powers granted to it, and requests that the Province repeal the legislation, or offer the option to municipalities to opt out of strong mayor powers; and

THAT this Resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing Rob Flack, Premier Doug Ford, MPP Steve Pinsonneault, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities.



April 24, 2025

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Via email: Premier@ontario.ca

At the April 16, 2025 regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Zorra, the following resolution was passed:

WHEREAS the Ontario government has proposed expanding the "strong mayor" powers to 169 additional municipalities under the proposed legislation, which would grant mayors in these municipalities more authority, particularly concerning the control of municipal budgets and planning decisions;

AND WHEREAS this proposal has raised significant concerns regarding the centralization of power, erosion of local democracy, reduced accountability, and the potential for the abuse of power;

AND WHEREAS the proposed expansion of strong mayor powers undermines the collaborative nature of municipal governance, and diminishes the role of elected municipal councillors in representing the diverse interests of the community;

AND WHEREAS concerns have been raised about the negative impacts on public trust, democratic participation, and municipal decision-making processes, if mayors are given the ability to bypass council decisions without adequate consultation or oversight;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Zorra opposes the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers;

AND THAT the Council formally expresses its opposition to the Ontario government's proposal to expand Strong Mayor Powers to preserve local democracy, transparency, and accountability;

AND THAT the Council encourages advocacy for democratic principles and for municipal governance systems that prioritize collaboration, inclusivity, and democratic engagement;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Ontario Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all Ontario municipalities, as well as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for further action.

Disposition: Carried

Yours truly,

Karen Martin
Clerk
Township of Zorra

25-009

CC: Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing minister.mah@ontario.ca
All Ontario Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) resolutions@amo.on.ca



April 28, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
Legislative Building
Queens Park
TORONTO ON M7A 1A4
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford:

At the Municipality of Bluewater's regular Council meeting held on April 22, 2025, Council passed the following resolution:

MOVED: Councillor Whetstone **SECONDED:** Councillor Hessel
WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has proposed to expand Strong Mayor Powers to an additional 169 municipalities across Ontario, including the Municipality of Bluewater, effective May 1, 2025;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Corporation of the Municipality of Bluewater is in opposition to the addition of Strong Mayor Powers in the Municipality of Bluewater, and across the Province;

AND FURTHER that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all Ontario Municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their awareness and support. **CARRIED**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexander". The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'A' and a cursive 'lexander'.

Chandra Alexander
Manager of Corporate Services/Clerk

cc: The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities



BY EMAIL

April 28, 2025

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Email: premier@ontario.ca

Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Email: rob.flack@ontario.ca

Re: Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers: Proposed Amendments to O. Reg. 530/22

At its Regular Council Meeting held on April 22, 2025, Council discussed their opposition to the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers, as announced on April 9, 2025. Council of the Town of Essex requests that the proposed amendments to O. Reg. 530/22 to expand Strong Mayor Powers and duties to additional municipalities not include the Town of Essex.

Council accordingly passed the following resolution:

R25-04-187

Moved By Mayor Bondy
Seconded By Councillor Hammond

Whereas on April 9, 2025, the Government of Ontario (hereafter, the "**Province**"), led by Premier Doug Ford, announced a proposal to expand "Strong Mayor Powers" as provided for by Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act, 2001, to the heads of council in 169 additional municipalities including the Town of Essex, effective May 1, 2025;

And whereas Strong Mayor Powers erode democratic process and have fundamentally altered the historic model of local governance which has existed for almost two centuries, by:

- Providing the head of council with the authority to give direction and make certain decisions without the usual consensus from a majority of the members of council; and,
- Creating a power imbalance by providing the head of council with special powers that other members do not generally have.



And whereas the Province is undermining the local governance model and municipal independence by attempting to advance its priorities through municipalities, and downloading its responsibilities to the same.

Now there be it resolved that:

- The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Essex ("**Council**") formally **opposes** the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers, as announced on April 9, 2025;
- Council requests that the proposed amendments to O. Reg. 530/22 to Expand Strong Mayor Powers and Duties to Additional Municipalities not include the Town of Essex; and
- Council **directs** the Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Anthony Leardi, MPP, Essex, Lisa Gretzky, MPP Windsor West, Andrew Dowie, MPP Windsor-Tecumseh, Trevor Jone, MPP Chatham-Kent-Leamington, AMCTO, AMO and all Ontario Municipalities.

Carried

We trust you will find this satisfactory. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Malandrucolo".

Joseph Malandrucolo
Director, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk
jmalandrucolo@essex.ca

cc: Anthony Leardi, MPP, Essex
Lisa Gretzky, MPP Windsor West
Andrew Dowie, MPP Windsor-Tecumseh
Trevor Jones, MPP Chatham-Kent-Leamington
Association of Municipal Managers Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities



TOWN OF PETAWAWA

1111 Victoria Street, Petawawa, Ontario K8H 2E6

☎ (613) 687-5536

✉ gserviss@petawawa.ca

🌐 petawawa.ca

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

Honorable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2J3

April 29, 2025

RE: Proposed Amendments to O. Reg. 530/22 to Expand Strong Mayor Powers and Duties to Additional Municipalities

Dear Minister Flack,

Thank you for your letter dated April 9, 2025, regarding the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers and Duties to the Town of Petawawa. Our Council discussed this issue in an open forum at our council meeting on April 23rd and are firmly of the belief that this effort undermines the value of collaboration between the Mayor, Councillors, and Staff. Increasing the powers of the Mayor to push forward Provincial Priorities would eliminate shared decision making, create divisiveness at the council table, and blur the lines between administrative and political roles. Our council believes that this would result in an erosion of the democratic process at the Municipal level, especially in a small city like Petawawa.

Although we don't always agree unanimously on all matters, our council works as a cohesive unit, firmly focused on the goals of advancing and encouraging growth and making our community a wonderful place in which to live and invest. Each of member of council brings their own set of skills, knowledge, values and perspectives to achieve these goals, and has worked extremely well together.

Since it was sworn in, our Council has been collectively focused on advancing provincial priorities by delivering much needed housing, building infrastructure that supports community growth and the construction of new homes, including housing-enabling infrastructure such as water and wastewater. The largest community in Renfrew County, Petawawa has grown significantly over the last decade (roughly 25%) and added a large amount of new housing to meet market demands. In 2024, Petawawa increased the size of its planning department to

reduce permit processing times, 120 new dwellings (Single Family Detached/Row Housing/Multi-family) were constructed, and there are many more dwellings underway:

Structure type	In Pre-Consultation or going through Planning Approvals	Planning Approvals Complete (under construction)
Single Family Detached	533	61
Row Housing	24	96
Apartment	348	60
Additional Residential Unit	0	44
Total Units	905	261

Further to this, Garrison Petawawa and Canadian Nuclear laboratories are reporting that they will need to house 1100 individuals and their families as they expand operations. Based on this need and other factors, our municipality is working with private sector and nonprofit developers to meet the demand for both market and affordable housing. To be forthright, where the municipality needs help the most to support housing development and foster densification is access to additional funding to extend utilities, such as water and wastewater services, to developable lands to meet future growth needs. Petawawa has faced a significant reduction in Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) over the past two fiscal years (\$2.3 million over 2024 and 2025) due to the Business Education Tax discount as well as an annual reduction in Ontario Municipal Partnership Funding over the past decade which has hampered our ability to extend necessary water and wastewater infrastructure vital to delivering new homes. The community's Ontario Community Infrastructure Funding was reduced in 2025 as well.

In closing, our Council requests that the Ontario Government excludes the Town of Petawawa from its proposed amendments to O. Reg. 530/22 to Expand Strong Mayor Powers and Duties to Additional Municipalities, and work with the municipality to identify funding to support expansion of its storm, water and wastewater treatment systems to support future residential and commercial growth. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me through our offices if you wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Gary Serviss
Mayor of Petawawa

Copied: Doug Ford, Premier
Billy Denault, MPP, Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke

Enc. Resolution – Opposition to Strong Mayor Designation for the Town of Petawawa



TOWN OF PETAWAWA

1111 Victoria Street, Petawawa, Ontario K8H 2E6

☎ (613) 687-5536

✉ gserviss@petawawa.ca

🌐 petawawa.ca

April 28, 2025

Delivered Electronically

Attn: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Re: Resolution - Opposition to Strong Mayor Designation for the Town of Petawawa

At its Council-In-Committee meeting on **April 28, 2025**, Petawawa Town Council passed a **Resolution** in response to the Province's recent proposal to designate Petawawa as a "**Strong Mayor**" municipality, effective May 1, 2025.

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has proposed to designate the Town of Petawawa as a "Strong Mayor" community, granting enhanced powers to the Mayor effective May 1, 2025; and,

WHEREAS the Strong Mayor powers significantly alter the balance of governance at the municipal level, undermining the role of Council in decision-making and weakening the fundamental democratic principle of majority rule; and,

WHEREAS the Town of Petawawa has a long history of collaborative, transparent, and accountable local governance built upon a foundation of Council-debate and shared decision-making; and,

WHEREAS many municipally elected officials across the province and members of the public have expressed significant concern regarding the imposition of these powers; and,

WHEREAS the Town of Petawawa did not formally request or express a desire to be designated under the Strong Mayor framework; and,

WHEREAS a growing number of municipalities and elected officials across Ontario are questioning the appropriateness of the Strong Mayor system and are calling for its reconsideration or repeal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Petawawa Town Council formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the Town of Petawawa from the list of municipalities designated under the Strong Mayor legislation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all regional Members of Provincial

Parliament, all Ontario municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their awareness and support.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and urge you to respect the democratic wishes of our Council and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Serviss', with a small 'ss' written below the main signature.

Gary Serviss
Mayor, Town of Petawawa
(613) 687-5536
gserviss@petawawa.ca
petawawa.ca

CC:
The Honourable Rob Flack (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing)
Regional Members of Provincial Parliament
All Ontario Municipalities
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)



Phone: 613-584-2000
Fax: 613-584-3237
Email: townmail@deepriver.ca
deepriver.ca | [f](#) [@](#)

April 30, 2025

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

Honorable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

Re: Proposed Amendments to O. Reg. 530/22 to Expand Strong Mayor Powers and Duties to Additional Municipalities

Dear Minister Flack,

Thank you for your letter dated April 9, 2025, regarding your intention to expand strong mayor powers to the Town of Deep River.

I am writing as requested by Council, to emphasize that the most significant barrier to support the provincial priorities which *"include supporting the construction of new homes, economic development and building infrastructure that supports community growth, including housing-enabling infrastructure like water and wastewater infrastructure, as well as roads, highways, transit and more"* is a lack of financial resources for infrastructure projects.

Over the past several years the Town of Deep River has been investing in infrastructure projects at a rate that is not sustainable to create capacity for new residential development which is currently in the planning stages. During this same period, we have requested grant funding from the Province of Ontario through infrastructure grant applications and delegations to ministers at both AMO and ROMA to support our growth initiatives but have been unsuccessful to date.

Our primary barrier to growth in the Town of Deep River is a lack of financial support for infrastructure projects to generate capacity. This in my opinion would have a much higher impact on new housing growth than strong mayor powers will for the Town of Deep River.



I would be more than happy to answer any questions or discuss how Deep River can help to promote and achieve Ontario's housing targets.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Patterson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Sean Patterson
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Deep River
613-584-2000 ext., 108
spatterson@deepriver.ca



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF DEEP RIVER

P.O. BOX 400 • 100 DEEP RIVER ROAD • DEEP RIVER, ONTARIO K0J 1P0
Tel: (613) 584-2000 • www.deepriver.ca • Fax: (613) 584-3237



BY EMAIL

April 30, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Email: rob.flack@ontario.ca

Re: Opposition to Strong Mayor Designation for the Town of Deep River in Response to the Province's Recent Proposal to Designate Deep River as a "Strong Mayor" Municipality, Effective May 1, 2025.

At a Special Meeting of Council held on April 29, 2025, Council of the Town of Deep River passed the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2025 128

MOVED BY: Councillor Fitton
SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has proposed to designate the Town of Deep River as a "Strong Mayor" community, granting enhanced powers to the Mayor effective May 1, 2025; and,

WHEREAS the Strong Mayor powers significantly alter the balance of governance at the municipal level, undermining the role of Council in decision-making and weakening the fundamental democratic principle of majority rule; and,

WHEREAS the Town of Deep River has a long history of collaborative, accountable local governance built upon a foundation of Council-debate and shared decision-making; and,

WHEREAS many municipally elected officials across the province and members of the public have expressed significant concern regarding the imposition of these powers; and,

WHEREAS the Town of Deep River did not formally request or express a desire to be designated under the Strong Mayor framework; and,

WHEREAS a growing number of municipalities and elected officials across Ontario are questioning the appropriateness of the Strong Mayor system and are calling for its reconsideration or repeal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Deep River Town Council formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the Town of Deep River from the list of municipalities designated under the Strong Mayor legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all regional Members of Provincial Parliament, all Ontario municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their awareness and support.

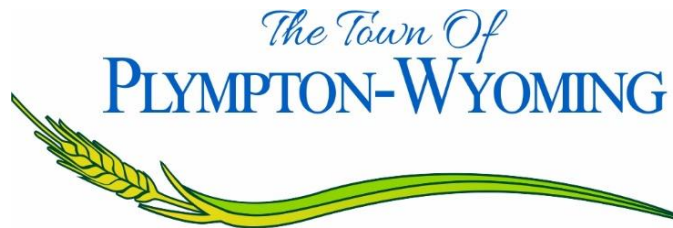
We thank you for your attention to this matter and urge you to respect the democratic wishes of our Council and community.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Mellon', written in a cursive style.

Jackie Mellon
Clerk
Town of Deep River
jmellon@deeperiver.ca

cc: Regional Members of Provincial Parliament
All Ontario Municipalities
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)



April 30, 2025

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

Hon. Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
rob.flack@pc.ola.org

Mr. Bob Bailey, MPP Sarnia-Lambton
bob.bailey@pc.ola.org

Re: Strong Mayor Powers

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming at its Regular Council meeting on April 30th, 2025, passed the following motion:

Motion #14

Moved by Kristen Rodrigues
Seconded by Alex Boughen

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario announced on April 9th, 2025, that it will extend “**Strong Mayor Powers**” to an additional 169 Municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the Province only accepted comments on the government’s intentions until April 16, 2025 with the new powers set to begin on May 1, 2025;

AND WHEREAS the timeline for feedback from municipal councils was unreasonably short, especially when considering many of the impacted councils generally only meet one to two times monthly, with the added staff time required to prepare reports and provide more detailed information on the impact of the provincial legislation;

AND WHEREAS the intent of the legislation is to build more homes faster, The Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), which has been tracking the use of strong mayor powers since they were first introduced in Toronto and Ottawa in 2022, said there is no evidence

to suggest this legislation has any impact on the number of housings starts in municipalities that have been granted the powers;

AND WHEREAS the new powers include the ability to set budgets, veto bylaws, pass bylaws with just one-third of their council's support, appoint senior civil servants, and solely delegate and oversee the CAO position, which further erodes the lines of an elected official's position and impairs the ability of council to work as a whole on behalf of the community;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the council for the Town of Plympton-Wyoming fully supports the existing electoral process under which the residents duly elected all council members and value a collaborative and council-driven approach to decision making without impairment on any members of council;

AND FURTHER That Council respects the province's intent, but the imposition of Strong Mayor Powers results in an erosion of the democratic process and further deteriorates the promotion of diversity in municipal representation;

AND FURTHER The Council of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming is formally opposed to the use of Strong Mayor Powers and requests that the province repeal the Strong Mayor Powers Legislation all together as a matter of upholding the democratic rights of all elected officials;

AND FURTHER, that in the absence of a repeal, the Town of Plympton-Wyoming Council requests that the province allows municipalities the option to formally decline as a matter of record with the province.

Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.



Sincerely,
Dianne Gould-Brown
dgould-brown@plympton-wyoming.ca
Executive Assistant – Deputy Clerk
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

cc: All Ontario Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario



CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON

322 Main Street South P.O. Box 759

Exeter Ontario

N0M 1S6

Phone: 519-235-0310 Fax: 519-235-3304

Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747

www.southhuron.ca

April 30, 2025

Via email: rob.flack@pc.ola.org

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Hon. Rob Flack,

Re: Proposed Amendments to O.Reg. 530/22 to Expand Strong Mayor Powers

Please be advised that South Huron Council passed the following resolution at their April 22, 2025 Regular Council Meeting:

176-2025

Moved By: Jim Dietrich

Seconded by: Wendy McLeod-Haggitt

That South Huron Council supports the April 14, 2025 correspondence of Town of Saugeen Shores regarding opposition to Proposed Amendments to O.Reg. 530/22 to Expand Strong Mayor Powers; and

That this supporting resolution and the originating correspondence be circulated to Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Rob Flack, Lisa Thompson, MPP, Minister of Rural Affairs, AMO, Town of Saugeen Shores, and all municipalities in Ontario.

Result: Carried

Please find attached the originating correspondence for your reference.

Respectfully,

Kendra Webster, Legislative & Licensing Coordinator
Municipality of South Huron
kwebster@southhuron.ca
519-235-0310 x. 232

Encl.

cc: Minister of Rural Affairs, MPP Lisa Thompson, lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org;
AMO, resolutions@amo.on.ca ; Town of Saugeen Shores,
clerk@saugeenshores.ca; and all municipalities in Ontario.



THE CORPORATION OF THE **TOWN OF COBALT**

May 1, 2025

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Email: premier@ontario.ca

Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Email: rob.flack@ontario.ca

Re: Opposition to Strong Mayor Designation for the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt

At its Regular Council Meeting held on April 29, 2025, Council discussed their opposition to the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers, as announced on April 9, 2025. Council of the Town of Cobalt requests that the proposed amendments to O. Reg. 530/22 to expand Strong Mayor Powers and duties to additional municipalities not include the Town of Cobalt.

Council accordingly passed the following resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 2025-057

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur
SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has proposed to designate the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt as a "Strong Mayor" community, granting enhanced powers to the Mayor effective May 1, 2025; and,

WHEREAS the Strong Mayor powers significantly alter the balance of governance at the municipal level, undermining the role of Council in decision-making and weakening the fundamental democratic principle of majority rule; and,

WHEREAS the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt has a long history of collaborative, transparent, and accountable local governance built upon a foundation of Council-debate and shared decision-making; and,

WHEREAS many municipally elected officials across the province and members of the public have expressed significant concern regarding the imposition of these powers; and,

WHEREAS the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt did not formally request or express a desire to be designated under the Strong Mayor framework; and,

WHEREAS a growing number of municipalities and elected officials across Ontario are questioning the appropriateness of the Strong Mayor system and are calling for its reconsideration or repeal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt Council formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt from the list of municipalities designated under the Strong Mayor legislation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all regional Members of Provincial Parliament, all Ontario municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their awareness and support.

CARRIED

We trust you will find this satisfactory if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the undersigned.

Kind Regards,



Steven Dalley
Town Manager, Clerk/Treasurer
Tel: (705) 679-8877
Email: sdalley@cobalt.ca

cc:

John Vanthof, MPP Timiskaming-Cochrane
All Ontario Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)



City of Stratford, Corporate Services Department

Clerk's Office

City Hall, P. O. Box 818, Stratford, Ontario N5A 6W1

Tel: 519-271-0250, extension 5237

Email: clerks@stratford.ca

Website: www.stratford.ca

May 1, 2025

Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford,

Premier of Ontario

Legislative Building

Queens Park

Toronto, ON, M7A 1A4

Dear Premier Ford,

Re: Resolution R2025-174 - Opposition to Strong Mayor Designation for the City of Stratford

At the April 28, 2025, Regular meeting, Stratford City Council adopted the following resolution in response to the Province's proposal to designate Stratford as a "Strong Mayor" municipality, effective May 1, 2025.

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has proposed to designate the City of Stratford as a "Strong Mayor" community, granting enhanced powers to the Mayor effective May 1, 2025; and,

WHEREAS the Strong Mayor powers significantly alter the balance of governance at the municipal level, undermining the role of Council in decision-making and weakening the fundamental democratic principle of majority rule; and,

WHEREAS the City of Stratford has a long history of collaborative, transparent, and accountable local governance built upon a foundation of Council-debate and shared decision making; and,

WHEREAS many municipally elected officials across the province and members of the public have expressed significant concern regarding the imposition of these powers; and,

WHEREAS the City of Stratford did not formally request or express a desire to be designated under the Strong Mayor framework; and,

WHEREAS a growing number of municipalities and elected officials across Ontario are questioning the appropriateness of the Strong Mayor system and are calling for its reconsideration or repeal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Stratford City Council formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the City of Stratford from the list of municipalities designated under the Strong Mayor legislation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Member of Provincial Parliament, all Ontario municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their awareness and support.

Sincerely,

T. Dafoe

Tatiana Dafoe, Clerk
City of Stratford

Cc: The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Matthew Rae, Member of Provincial Parliament, Perth - Wellington
All Ontario Municipalities
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario