

**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 2J3  
Tel.: 416 585-7000

**Ministère des  
Affaires municipales  
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M7A 2J3  
Tél. : 416 585-7000



234-2025-1992

May 1, 2025

Your Worship  
Mayor Shelley Ann Bentley  
Haldimand County  
[sbentley@haldimandcounty.on.ca](mailto:sbentley@haldimandcounty.on.ca)

Dear Mayor Bentley:

I would like to thank you for committing to your 2031 housing target on behalf of your municipality. I am pleased to inform you that as of May 1, 2025, we have expanded strong mayor powers to heads of council of an additional 170 municipalities. This includes Haldimand County.

Heads of council in strong mayor municipalities, are able to:

- Choose to appoint the municipality's chief administrative officer.
- Hire certain municipal division heads, and establish and re-organize divisions.
- Create committees of council, assign their functions and appoint the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of committees of council.
- Veto certain by-laws if they are of the opinion that all or part of the by-law could potentially interfere with a prescribed provincial priority, such as housing, transit and infrastructure.
- Bring forward matters for council consideration if they are of the opinion that considering the matter could potentially advance a prescribed provincial priority.
- Propose certain municipal by-laws if they are of the opinion that the proposed by-law could potentially advance a prescribed provincial priority. Council can pass these by-laws if more than one-third of all council members vote in favour.
- Propose the municipal budget, which would be subject to council amendments and a separate mayoral veto and council override process.

Some strong mayor powers are related to prescribed provincial priorities that are identified in [O. Reg 580/22](#).

Heads of council in strong mayor municipalities are subject to existing accountability and transparency rules, as well as certain additional rules. For example, when the head of council exercises many of the strong mayor powers and performs many of the strong mayor duties, they are required to provide written documentation to the municipal clerk and members of council by the next business day. They must also make this written documentation available to the public.

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For more information on strong mayor powers and duties please see:

- The Strong Mayor chapter of the [Ontario Municipal Councillor's Guide](#)
- Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act, 2001 – [Special Powers and Duties of the Head of Council](#)
- Regulations made under the Municipal Act, 2001 that relate to strong mayor powers and duties: [O. Reg 580/22](#); [O. Reg. 530/22](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to my Director of Stakeholder and Caucus Relations, Tanner Zelenko, at 437-996-2487 or [tanner.zelenko@ontario.ca](mailto:tanner.zelenko@ontario.ca).

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,



Hon. Rob Flack  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

- c: Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff  
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister  
Caspar Hall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division  
Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal & Housing Operations Division  
Chad Curtis, Clerk  
Cathy Case, Chief Administrative Officer