



## The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

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### Staff Report

**Report Title: Proposed Comments to the Minister regarding Mayoral Powers under the Municipal Act**

**Date: May. 5, 2025**

**Report Number: CLK-2025-18**

**Department: Legislative Services**

**File Number: C11 CLK 25**

**Prepared By: Jennifer White, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk**

**Attachments: Proposed Comments to the Minister**

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#### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby approved Report CLK-2025-18 prepared by Jennifer White, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk;

AND FURTHER direct Staff to send correspondence to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing as drafted and included with report CLK-2025-18.

#### **Background:**

Effective May 1, 2025, the Province of Ontario expanded strong mayor powers to the heads of Council to 170 new municipalities. Council received report CLK-2025-13 outlining the scope of these new powers and their potential implications for small and rural communities. The report identified risks and identified potential areas for advocacy to the province.

Staff were directed to provide comments for Council consideration to submit to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

#### **Discussion/Analysis/Overview:**

At Council's direction, Staff have prepared comments outlining potential implications for small and rural communities, and concerns over the potential for reduced local collaboration, and the need for stronger safeguards to protect municipal staff when providing advice to Council. The comments include advocacy for potential opt-out provisions, enhanced transparency measures and clearer procedural guidelines.

At the Mayor's request, Staff have included that consideration be given to encourage small and rural municipalities to move towards an at-large and away from a ward system for electing members of Council to assist in creating a more collaborative atmosphere on these Councils.

Staff seek Council direction to send the drafted correspondence to the Minister.

#### **Financial Impacts:**

Staff time only.

**Performance Measurement:**

N/A

**Strategic Area:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embrace a thriving rural lifestyle | <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance Municipal Service Delivery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare for Inclusive Growth                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure Financial Stability         |

**Strategic Goal: Encourage strong communication and community engagement**

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Jennifer White, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk

**Report Approved By:**

Jodi MacArthur, Chief Administrative Officer