

**From:** [Clerks](#)  
**To:** [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca); [rob.flack@pc.ola.org](mailto:rob.flack@pc.ola.org); [Ernie.Hardemanco@pc.ola.org](mailto:Ernie.Hardemanco@pc.ola.org); [resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca); [roma@roma.on.ca](mailto:roma@roma.on.ca)  
**Subject:** Tillsonburg Town Council Decision Letter - April 14, 2025 - Strong Mayor Powers  
**Date:** April 15, 2025 8:41:27 AM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-cid\\_image0.png](#)

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Hello,

At the April 14, 2025, meeting of Tillsonburg Town Council, the following resolution was passed:

**Resolution # 2025-125**

**Moved By:** Councillor Spencer

**Seconded By:** Deputy Mayor Beres

THAT Council receive item 12.8 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Letter Re: Strong Mayor Powers, as information;

WHEREAS the Ontario government has proposed expanding the "strong mayor" powers to 169 additional municipalities under the proposed legislation on May 1, 2025, which would grant mayors in these municipalities more authority, particularly concerning the control of municipal budgets, planning and operational 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 diminish 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 Tillsonburg;

1. Does not support the proposed strong mayor powers as currently outlined;
2. Supports specific powers to mayors as it pertains to identifiable decisions regarding housing, development, infrastructure and transit to provide tools that reduce obstacles that can stand in the way of new housing and infrastructure developments;
3. Strongly suggests that free reign of decision-making regarding hiring, firing, committees and so forth be removed from the proposed authority;
4. Strongly suggests that members of current Council were duly elected officials by citizens with the awareness of one vote per council member and majority votes are the democratic process;
5. Requests that the Provincial Strong Mayor Powers proposed to take effect on May 1, 2025, be deferred to allow for greater clarity and that the Province seek collaborative

input from the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO);

6. Directs staff to forward this resolution immediately to Minister Flack, Premier Ford, MPP Hardeman, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and all Ontario Municipalities before April 16, 2025.

Regards,

**Amelia Jaggard**

Deputy Clerk

Town of Tillsonburg

10 Lisgar Ave

Tillsonburg, ON N4G 5A5

Phone: 519-688-3009 Ext. 4041

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**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](mailto: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 16<sup>th</sup>.

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 read 'Luke 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

**From:** [Paula Banks](#)  
**To:** [Jennifer White](#)  
**Subject:** Please share with all council and staff - Stop, Strong Mayor Powers  
**Date:** April 10, 2025 11:10:41 AM

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Do not click links or open attachments unless it is an email you expected to receive.

Stop, Strong Mayor Powers in Ontario - they are a threat to democracy.

Hey,

I just started the petition “Stop, Strong Mayor Powers in Ontario - they are a threat to democracy.” and wanted to see if you could help by adding your name.

I need more support. You can read more and sign the petition here:

<https://chng.it/RMZVcGzssX>

While the government continues to justify the expansion of strong mayor powers as a tool to build housing, 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.

[Ontario Proposing to Expand Strong Mayor Powers to 169 Additional Municipalities | Ontario Newsroom](#)

[Advocacy Update: Expansion of Strong Mayor Powers | AMCTO](#)

[Advocacy Update: Expansion of Strong Mayor Powers | AMCTO](#)

Today the Ontario Government announced that it will be expanding strong mayor powers to the heads of council of an additional 169 municipalities effective May 1, 2025. This represents single and lower tier municipalities with municipal councils of six members or more.

[www.amcto.com](http://www.amcto.com)

Thanks!  
Paula

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Kingsville, Ontario N9Y 2Y9  
Phone: (519) 733-2305  
www.kingsville.ca

April 16, 2025

Honourable Premier Doug Ford  
Via Email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Via Email: [rob.flack@ontario.ca](mailto:rob.flack@ontario.ca)

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Flack,

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

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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,



Angela Toole, Acting Manager of Municipal Governance/Clerk

Email: [atoole@kingsville.ca](mailto: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

Update on the latest Ontario Government announcement regarding strong mayor powers

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## Advocacy Update

Learn more about our work as we advocate on behalf of AMCTO members

April 16, 2025

### Expansion of Strong Mayor Powers

Today the Ontario Government **announced that it will be expanding strong mayor powers** to the heads of council of an **additional 169 municipalities** effective May 1, 2025. This represents single and lower tier municipalities with municipal councils of six members or more.

This change will be made through a regulatory amendment to O. Reg. 530/22 which is **available for comment** until April 16. Unlike previous expansions of the regulation, it does not appear that municipalities will be required to commit to a housing pledge in order to be granted the powers.

While the government continues to justify the expansion of strong mayor powers as a tool to build housing, 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.

Alternatively, **our research** indicates that 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. As an Association, we **continue to voice our opposition** to strong mayor legislation, calling specifically for the removal of the authority of heads of council to directly hire or terminate any municipal staff, including the CAO.

We know that this announcement represents additional administrative and operational burden for our members. Our policy and advocacy team will be continuing to monitor the expansion of this legislation and its impacts on affected municipalities and staff across the province. As an

Association, we are committed to providing support to you, our members, and those municipal staff who may be affected. Please stay tuned for further information to come.

For more information or questions, please [contact our advocacy team](#).

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**AMCTO | The Municipal Experts**

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