



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, June 6, 2025

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Economic Development Brief

May 15, 2025

Statistics and Trends

Labour market conditions

Labour market conditions in Niagara (seasonally adjusted) improved across all indicators in April, except for the population growth and unemployment rate. However, the increase in the unemployment rate was due to the labour force growing at a faster rate than employment, rather than a loss in jobs. Niagara outperformed Ontario and Canada in terms of labour force and employment growth, and it continued to maintain a lower unemployment rate.

Month-over-month data from March to April 2025 reveals the following:

- Population: Niagara grew by 0.1% (500 people), while Ontario also grew by 0.1%.
- Labour force: Niagara grew by 2.3% (6,000 people), while Ontario decreased by 0.1%.
- Employment: Niagara grew by 1.9% (4,700 people), while Ontario decreased by 0.2%.
- Unemployment rate: Niagara's rate increased by 0.3%, reaching 6.8%, while Ontario's rate remained the same at 7.5%.
- Participation rate: Niagara's rate increased by 1.3%, reaching 63.1%, while Ontario's rate decreased by 0.2% to 65.1%.

Labour market indicators in Niagara continued to perform well in April. However, the impacts of disruptions, such as a slowing economy and the ongoing threat of tariffs have not yet impacted the labour market data.

Inflation in Canada cooled slightly to 2.3% in March as gas prices fell

Canada's annual inflation rate fell to 2.3% in March from 2.6% in February, driven by lower gas prices, a significant drop in airfare, and reduced travel to the US, partly due to trade tensions and new Canadian counter tariffs. Despite some inflationary pressure from rising food and restaurant prices and the end of a federal tax break, overall price growth slowed. With inflation easing and economic risks growing, economists expect the Bank of Canada may cut interest rates again in its upcoming decision.

The economic development updates in this brief were compiled with input from economic development staff from Niagara's local area municipalities and public information sources.

Economic Development Updates

Thorold launches new tourism website

The City of Thorold has launched a new tourism website to showcase its cultural heritage, local attractions, and visitor experiences, aiming to boost economic activity and support local businesses. The site features four main sections: Active, Events, Explore, and Heritage, guiding visitors through outdoor activities, community events, downtown dining and shopping, and historical tours. Highlighting Thorold's unique blend of history, natural beauty, and small town charm, the initiative aligns with the city's Strategic Plan to create a vibrant, welcoming community for both residents and tourists. View the website [HERE](#).

Destiny Copper announces partnership with BMI Group to expand operations

Destiny Copper, a Niagara-based cleantech company specializing in copper recovery from industrial and mining waste, has partnered with BMI Group, which acquired a minority stake to support the expansion of Destiny's proprietary copper recovery to copper powder (CR-to-CP) technology. Operating out of BMI's Bioveld Niagara campus, this collaboration aims to accelerate sustainable metal production, create jobs, and strengthen Canada's cleantech and mining sectors. Destiny Copper is also exploring innovative applications for its copper powder, including use as a rocket fuel additive in partnership with the Canadian Space Agency and NGen.

Local guides to welcome cruise ships and passengers back to Port Colborne

Port Colborne is set to welcome over 70 cruise ship visits between April and October, as part of a record cruise season on the Great Lakes with over 700 total stops and a \$230 million regional economic impact. Cruise passengers on select lines will have the opportunity to disembark and enjoy guided walking tours of the city, which highlight local history, geography, and community charm. The tour program, launched in 2024, has expanded this year with trained local guides and strong support from cruise lines, enhancing Port Colborne's reputation as a distinctive and welcoming Niagara destination.

Hyatt hotel, retail and office complex to open in Garrison Village May 2026

Clayfield Commons, a new mixed-use development in Niagara-on-the-Lake's Garrison Village, is set to open in May 2026, featuring a 14,300 SF Foodland grocery store, a 102 room Hyatt hotel, retail spaces, and pedestrian-friendly green areas. The development will include a luxury hotel with vacation apartments, a restaurant, and a rooftop terrace, along with retail space for small cafés and offices, aiming to enhance the local community while maintaining a traditional, walkable design. The project, which emphasizes local businesses and a sustainable, engaging environment, is on schedule, with the grocery store opening in December 2025 and the full development slated for 2026.

The economic development updates in this brief were compiled with input from economic development staff from Niagara's local area municipalities and public information sources.

Niagara wine boom: VQA products experience unprecedented sales amid US trade war

Sales of Ontario VQA wines have surged by 62% since the US initiated a tariff war with Canada and Ontario removed American brands from LCBO shelves. VQA red wines saw the largest increase at 71%, with VQA whites and sparkling wines also experiencing significant growth. This surge in demand is attributed to a patriotic "Buy Canadian" movement, the Ontario government's expanded alcohol sales in grocery stores, and increased visibility of Ontario wines, which wineries hope will lead to lasting customer loyalty beyond the trade conflict.

De Havilland Aircraft of Canada acquires Fleet Canada Inc.

De Havilland Aircraft of Canada (DHC) has acquired Fleet Canada Inc., a supplier of parts and aerostructures, to enhance its manufacturing capabilities. This acquisition allows DHC to in-source capabilities such as metal-to-metal bonding and advanced composites, supporting its growth and expansion. Fleet's 500,000 SF facility will increase production capacity, ensuring DHC can meet growing demand for its aircraft programs, including the De Havilland Canadair 515 Firefighter and Dash 8.

CHAR Tech and the BMI Group Forge Strategic Partnership

CHAR Technologies Ltd. has announced a strategic partnership with The BMI Group, including a non-brokered private placement raising \$2 million to accelerate commercial biocarbon production at its Thorold Renewable Energy Facility, targeting completion by Q4 2025. As part of the partnership, BMI Group will also invest in the facility and co-develop a new renewable energy project at Bioveld North in Northern Ontario. The partnership leverages BMI Group's industrial expertise and infrastructure, aiming to generate significant long-term returns while advancing renewable energy solutions in Canada.

Niagara restaurant wins coveted top spot on country's top 100 list

Restaurant Pearl Morissette, opened in 2017, has earned the #1 spot on Canada's 100 Best Restaurants list for 2025, achieving what was once a distant ambition. The restaurant, which focuses on showcasing local ingredients from Niagara and Ontario, has evolved into a Michelin-starred fine dining experience, marked by resilience during the pandemic and a commitment to regenerative farming and holistic practices.

Jobs and employment webpage for St. Catharines launched

The City of St. Catharines has launched a new Jobs and Employment Resources webpage, designed to better connect local employers and job seekers with the tools, programs, and opportunities available across the region. This centralized resource highlights employment services and hiring supports available through regional partners including Niagara College Community Employment Services, Job Gym Employment Services, YMCA of Niagara Employment Services, Canada Job Bank. It also features direct links to current job opportunities with major St. Catharines employers such as Accenture, General Motors, THK Rhythm Automotive, and Algoma Central Corporation. View the website [HERE](#).

The economic development updates in this brief were compiled with input from economic development staff from Niagara's local area municipalities and public information sources.

St. Catharines–Lincoln tourism partnership moves forward

The St. Catharines–Lincoln Destination Partnership, launched in 2020, has gained momentum with the creation of a joint Destination Marketing Organization in 2024 and the appointment of its founding board members. Backed by municipal accommodation tax funding, the partnership has implemented high visibility marketing campaigns, such as billboards on the Gardiner Expressway, radio ads in Buffalo and Rochester, and print and digital features in LCBO Food & Drink, Globe and Mail, Horizon Travel Magazine, and more, to promote the region's blend of urban and rural attractions. Looking ahead, the partnership will contribute to an Environics Research study led by Tourism Partnership of Niagara to inform future targeting strategies.

Ontario's first flying theatre experience to debut in Niagara Falls

Opening August 29, 2025, Niagara Takes Flight is a new \$25 million immersive flying theatre experience at Table Rock Centre, offering visitors breathtaking aerial views of Niagara's iconic landscapes using a 17 metre domed screen and motion simulated gondola seating enhanced by wind, mist, and scent effects. Developed by Brogent Technologies and led creatively by former Disney Imagineer Rick Rothschild, the ride showcases a 56km journey through the Niagara region, with filming captured via drone and supported by a Canadian design team. This world class attraction marks the completion of Niagara Parks' multi-phase transformation of its flagship site and is expected to become a major cultural and economic draw for the region.

Niagara-to-Toronto hovercraft service clears major hurdle

Hoverlink Ontario Inc. has secured a 30 year agreement with the Toronto Port Authority (PortsToronto) to operate a high speed, cross lake hovercraft ferry service between Niagara and Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, aiming to launch within three years. The planned biodiesel powered hovercrafts, still under construction, would carry 180 passengers and complete the trip in 30 minutes, with the potential to significantly reduce traffic and emissions by removing thousands of cars from the QEW daily. While the project promises environmental and tourism benefits, it faces skepticism due to past failed lake crossing ventures and potential community concerns over increased waterfront activity.

City of Port Colborne issues record monthly building permits

The City of Port Colborne issued building permits worth over \$216.3 million in April of 2025, a record month for the City. Most of the building permit values were attributable to major industrial projects currently planned for Port Colborne.

George Spezza, Ec.D., CEcD
Director, Economic Development

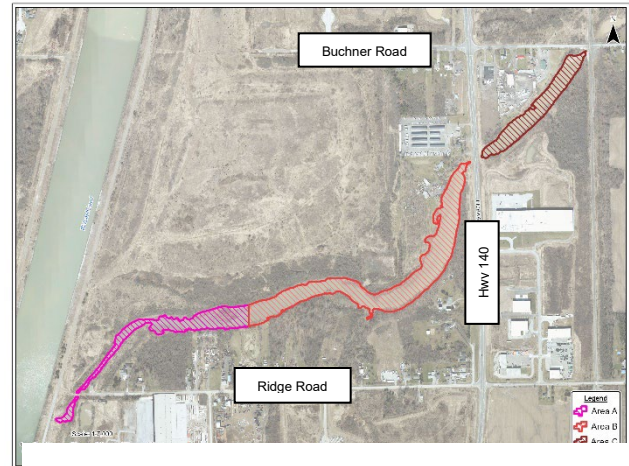
The economic development updates in this brief were compiled with input from economic development staff from Niagara's local area municipalities and public information sources.

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) in collaboration with Canada Water Agency (formerly Environment and Climate Change Canada) and the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, completed a study to identify potential options to manage PCB-contaminated sediments in a portion of Lyons Creek East (LCE) in Welland, Ontario.

The project area is located east of the Welland Canal to Buchner Road (Fig. 1) is contaminated with historic sources of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). It is the last of 14 sites identified for cleanup as part of the [Niagara River Remedial Action Plan](#).

Members of the Niagara Peninsula watershed community, especially those in the Welland area are invited to participate in a Public Information Centre. Involvement opportunities and more information about the project can be found on the NPCA's online Get Involved engagement platform at:

<https://getinvolved.npca.ca/lyons-creek-east>



management areas.

About the Project

Collaborative monitoring has been ongoing for more than 15 years as part of a natural recovery approach in 2008, selected through scientific evidence and public consultation. Monitoring included many lines of evidence such as: sediment, water, fish, aquatic bugs, turtle eggs. Recent results suggest a more active remediation approach is needed. The purpose of the project is to determine future cleanup options for the site and engaging with the community to support decision-making.

Public Information Centre

A Public Information Centre (PIC) is being held to inform the community and other interested parties about potential sediment management options, discuss next steps, and answer questions on the overall progress on the Lyons Creek East sediment management planning project.

The PIC will be in-person only, held at the following date and location:

Date: June 18, 2025

Time: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Location: Welland International Flatwater Centre
16 Townline Tunnel Road, Welland, ON

Advanced registration is strongly encouraged for planning purposes. Register by [clicking here](#).

Contact

For more information about the Lyons Creek East sediment management planning project, please contact:

Natalie Green
Director, Watershed Strategies & Climate Change
905-788-3135 ext. 243 | ngreen@npca.ca

You're Invited

Public Information Centre

Join representatives from the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan program to learn about past and current sediment cleanup efforts for a portion of Lyons Creek East.



Public Information Centre

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Welland International Flatwater Centre

Townline Tunnel Rd, Welland

Pre-registration is required to attend.



*Learn more &
stay informed*

Scan the QR code

or visit

www.getinvolved.npca.ca

to register



Project experts will share a progress update on potential sediment management options, discuss next steps, and answer questions.





District of Parry Sound Municipal Association

c/o Township of McKellar, 701 Hwy 124 McKellar, ON P0G 1C0

President: Lynda Carleton **Secretary-Treasurer:** Karlee Britton

RE: Supporting Municipal Ethics Through Access and Education

The District of Parry Sound Municipal Association (DPSMA), representing the twenty-three Municipalities within the District of Parry Sound, held its Spring 2025 meeting on May 23, 2025, in the Municipality of Callander. At this meeting, the following resolution was carried:

Moved by: Kathy Hamer (Municipality of McDougall)

Seconded by: Daniel O'Halloran (Township of McMurrich Monteith)

Whereas democracy is an open process – one that requires ongoing engagement between citizens and their elected officials; and

Whereas ethics and integrity are at the core of public confidence in government and in the political process; and

Whereas proper policies and procedures protect the democratic process; and

Whereas sections 223.2 and 223.3, Municipal Act, 2001 state all municipalities are required to adopt a Code of Conduct for members of Council and to appoint an Integrity Commissioner; and

Whereas it is the role of the Integrity Commissioner to educate member of Council on the Councillor Code of Conduct policy as well as to investigate alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct, at the municipality's expense; and

Whereas there are many new elected officials each term of Council who need access to information and proper training in order to do the work effectively and responsibly; and

Whereas Municipal Affairs and the Ombudsman's Office are hesitant to give information, so there is nowhere to ask questions and learn; and

Whereas the only source of information is to pay for fee-for-service on a case-by-case basis from the Integrity Commissioner which is very cost-prohibitive for small municipalities; and

Whereas Council is expected to oversee the management of taxpayers money and taxpayers deserve to know where their tax dollars are being spent;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association calls upon the Ontario government to provide free access to information so that Councils can be effective in their role in our democratic system; and

Further That the DPSMA hereby requests that Municipal Affairs and/or the Ombudsman's Office and/or the Integrity Commissioner provide, if requested by a municipality, sufficient particulars of each investigation to permit the municipality to fully understand and address the subject matter of each investigation.

Further That this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka and to all Ontario Municipalities for support.

Forwarded on behalf of the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association; For questions and/or inquires, please contact:



Karlee Britton | Secretary-Treasurer
District of Parry Sound Municipal Association
clerk@mckellar.ca
(705) 389-2842 x4

cc:

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka
Municipalities within the District of Parry Sound
All Ontario Municipalities

COUNCIL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER
TO OUR FILE NO. _____

May 29, 2025

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office
Room 281, Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

Windsor City Council, at its meeting held April 28, 2025 adopted the following resolution:

Decision Number: CR182/2025

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario, through O. Reg. 530/22 under the *Municipal Act*, 2001, designated the City of Windsor as a "Strong Mayor" community, granting enhanced powers to the Mayor effective July 1, 2023; 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 Windsor has a long history of collaborative, transparent, and accountable local governance built upon a foundation of Council-debate and shared decision-making; and,

WHEREAS several members of Windsor City Council, as well as 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 Windsor 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; and therefore,

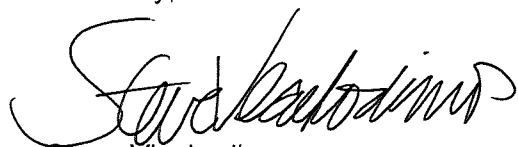
BE IT RESOLVED that Windsor City Council **FORMALLY REQUEST** that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately **REMOVE** the City of Windsor from the list of municipalities designated under the Strong Mayor legislation; and,

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.

Your consideration to Windsor City Council's resolution would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Vlachodimos", written in a cursive style.

Steve Vlachodimos
City Clerk/Licence Commissioner
SV/wf

cc: Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Mr. Andrew Dowie, Member of Provincial Parliament, Windsor-Tecumseh
Ms. Lisa Gretzky, Member of Provincial Parliament, Windsor West
Mr. Anthony Leardi, Member of Provincial Parliament, Essex
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities

May 30, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Delivered by email
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Mr. Premier:

**Re: Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Council Resolution of May 7, 2025, Re:
Correspondence from York Region, re: Provincial Funding Shortfall of
Human and Health Programs and Services**

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its meeting held on May 7, 2025, and Council passed the following resolution:

That Council receive and endorse the correspondence from York Region, re: Provincial Funding Shortfall of Human and Health Programs and Services as attached.

Davneet Sandhu

Davneet Sandhu
Council/Committee Coordinator

Copy: Hon. Paul Calanda, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Natalia Kusendova-Bashta, Minister of Long-Term Care
Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health
All York Region MPP's
All Ontario municipalities

From: [Regional Clerk](#)
Subject: Regional Council Decision - Provincial Funding Shortfall of Human and Health Programs and Services
Date: Friday, April 25, 2025 12:39:46 PM

On April 24, 2025 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. The Regional Chairman and all nine mayors, send a joint letter to the Premier of Ontario and the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Long-Term Care, and Health, and York Region MPPs requesting a meeting to:
 - a. Discuss the \$77 million shortfall in health and human services funding arrangements for mandated health and human services, taking into account population growth, socio-economic shifts and increased costs, and establish permanent sustainable provincial funding solutions to ensure York Region receives the funding needed to deliver these important programs.
 - b. Request the Province to improve the funding arrangements for mandated human and health services to reduce the burden on property taxpayers.
2. York Region staff work with community partners, Association of Municipalities of Ontario and other public sector organizations to advocate to provincial counterparts for sustainable funding to ensure services delivered by municipalities can meet growing and changing community needs.
3. The Regional Clerk circulate the report, to local municipalities, local hospitals, Human Services Planning Board, Newcomer Inclusion Table, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, United Way Greater Toronto, AdvantAge Ontario, Ontario Long-Term Care Association, Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs, Association of Public Health Business Administrators, Ontario Alliance to End Homelessness, Ontario Health Teams in York Region and local Members of Provincial Parliament requesting they join in the Region's advocacy efforts.

The original staff report is available for your information at the following link:

[Provincial Funding Shortfall of Human and Health Programs and Services - Committee of the Whole - Week 1 - April 10, 2025](#)

Please contact Monica Bryce, (A) Director, Integrated Business Services at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 72096 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Regards,

Christopher Raynor (he/him) | Regional Clerk, Regional Clerk's Office, Corporate Services Department

The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
O: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71300 | christopher.raynor@york.ca | york.ca

Our Mission: **Working together to serve our thriving communities – today and tomorrow**

May 28, 2025

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of May 27, 2025 the following resolution regarding Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025 was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 205-317

DATE: May 27, 2025

MOVED BY: Councillor MacNaughton

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hirsch

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to many Acts within one bill which undermine environmental protections in order to "unleash the economy"; and

WHEREAS multiple inclusions will impact habitat, biodiversity protections and environmental integrity without proper process including but not limited to:

- **the repeal and replacement of the Endangered Species Act with a weaker act;**
- **the creation of a Special Economic Zones Act which will permit exemptions from legislated environmental protections;**
- **changes to provisions to the Mining Act which provide sweeping powers to the Minister of Energy and Mines that are poorly defined, subject to caprice, or possibly designed to enable exemption from environment protection; and**

WHEREAS proposed changes will override local planning authority, provincial legislation, and bylaw enforcement for the benefit of specific preferred proponents over the rights of Ontarians; and

WHEREAS First Nations citizens have an enshrined right to access their own archeology and Canadians have an enshrined responsibility to seek free, prior and informed consent from First Nation neighbours regarding land use; and

WHEREAS several proposed changes could imperil the health of lands and water for which First Nations have traditional and treaty rights; and

WHEREAS the provisions of the Special Economic Zones Act are not clear enough to ensure that there are adequate legal and environmental protections to offset risks to Ontarians and First Nations members, to provide adequate safeguards against bad faith environmental practice; and protect against unsafe labour practice as identified by labour sector organizations; and

WHEREAS fairness is enshrined in both Canada's and Ontario's laws yet proposed changes seem to permit prejudicial regulatory practice (e.g. codifying permissions for "trusted proponents" over others); and

WHEREAS the wording of the changes to the Electricity Act seem to support Canadian ownership of energy suppliers but appear to potentially restrict development of specific types of energy and could impact local renewable energy development; and

WHEREAS there is no evidence that undermining of environmental protections, local legal frameworks, and the rights of First Nations communities in Ontario are a necessary step to "unleash the economy"; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the County of Prince Edward supports any regulation that could encourage energy providers to Buy Canadian but urges the province to clarify the proposed provisions of the Energy Act and ensure they foster local green energy development; and

THAT the province remove the elements in Bill 5 that would reduce current environmental protections, reduce protections for species at risk, and reduce legal protection from bad faith actors in special economic zones; and

THAT the Council of the County of Prince Edward urges the Province to further define Special Economic Zones and their purpose with more clarity and ensure that activities within such zones are equally subject to the local and provincial laws that support all of Ontario and First Nations people and foster our social, cultural and environmental prosperity;

AND FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the County of Prince Edward expresses solidarity with the concerns of our neighbouring community, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and members of the Haudenosaunee Nation and support Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and their letter to the province of May 16th 2025, attached; and **THAT** this resolution be shared with the Honourable Doug Ford, Premiere of Ontario; Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines; Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and

Housing; Todd McCarthy Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health; Tyler Allsopp, Member of Provincial Parliament for Bay of Quinte; Chief Don Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte; AMO; ROMA; and the Municipalities of Ontario.

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Victoria Leskie, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor MacNaughton

**Resolution of Council
City Council Meeting**

Title: Bill 6, Safer Municipalities Act, 2025
Date: May 20, 2025

WHEREAS:

1. A municipality's parks and open spaces are critical infrastructure that support a strong community, and the public's shared and safe use of the municipality's parks and open spaces is integral to ensuring that support.
 2. Ontario's municipalities are struggling to maintain their parks and open spaces for their shared and safe use by the public as a result of the increasing proliferation of encampments and illicit activities related thereto.
 3. Municipalities that enforce their standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in their parks and open spaces must have regard to the availability of shelter space for those who need shelter.
 4. On January 27, 2023, Justice Valente of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice rendered his judgment in *Waterloo (Regional Municipality) v. Persons Unknown and to be Ascertained (2023)*, [2023] O.J. No. 417 (Waterloo Decision) which declared that the municipality's by-law violated section 7 of the Charter and was therefore inoperative insofar as it applied to prevent encampment residents from erecting temporary shelters on a site when the number of homeless individuals in the region exceeded the number of accessible shelter beds.
 5. The Waterloo Decision's analysis of the adequacy of shelter beds suggests an unworkable and unclear standard that goes beyond the number of shelter spaces and that includes the requirement to provide shelter spaces that must accommodate illicit drug use and other activities that could put shelter residents, workers and volunteers at risk. The result is that municipalities are impaired in their enforcement of their standards and have lost or are losing control of their parks and open spaces.
 6. On December 12, 2024, the provincial government introduced Bill 242, Safer Municipalities Act, 2024. Among its various initiatives, Bill 242 proposed to amend section 2 of the Trespass to Property Act by adding aggravating factors that must be considered in the court's determination of a penalty under that section. However, the key challenge was that a municipality's exercise of its rights at common law and under section 9 of the Trespass to Property Act to remove encampments from the municipality's parks and open spaces remained potentially subject to the unworkable and unclear standard for the adequacy of shelter space suggested by the Waterloo Decision.
 7. On January 13, 2025, Council of the City of Peterborough resolved to request the provincial government to amend Bill 242 to clearly define a workable standard for shelter space for the purposes of a municipality's jurisdiction to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces.
 8. Bill 242 died on the order paper as a result of the recent provincial election.
 9. On April 30, 2025, the provincial Government re-introduced the legislation in the form of Bill 6, Safer Municipalities Act, 2025. Bill 6 is substantively the same as Bill 242.
 10. In these circumstances, municipalities continue to need provincial legislation that clearly defines a workable standard for shelter space for the purposes of a municipality's jurisdiction to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces.
- NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved:**

1. That the provincial government be respectfully requested to amend Bill 6 to clearly define a workable standard for shelter space for the purposes of a municipality's jurisdiction to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces.
2. That, without limitation, Bill 6 provide that a municipality will have met the standard for shelter space for the purposes of the municipality's jurisdiction to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces:
 - a) despite the establishment and enforcement of shelter rules including rules that prohibit drug use and other activities that could put shelter residents, workers and volunteers at risk; and
 - b) if an official designated by the municipality is satisfied that the number of available shelter spaces is at least equal to the aggregate of the number of individuals actually seeking shelter and the number of individuals against whom the municipality is planning to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces.
3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to:
 - a) Peterborough - Kawartha MPP Dave Smith;
 - b) Honourable Doug Ford, Premier;
 - c) Honourable Robert Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
 - d) Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General;
 - e) Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and to
 - f) Councils of each of Ontario's municipalities.

The above resolution, adopted by City Council is forwarded for your information and action, as required. Thank you.



John Kennedy, City Clerk

May 29, 2025

Town of Mattawa
Township of Springwater
Town of Goderich

Via email

RE: Town of Petrolia Council *support* of opposition to strong mayor powers

During the May 26, 2025 regular meeting of council, council in response to correspondence received from Goderich| Mattawa & Springwater the following resolution passed:

C-10 WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Petrolia has received correspondence from Goderich, Town of Mattawa and the Township of Springwater in opposition to Strong Mayors Powers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Petrolia acknowledge receipt of the letters circulated by Goderich, Mattawa, and Springwater in opposition of Strong Mayors Powers and further that we support them and that a copy of this motion with a recorded vote be sent to them.

Moved By Liz Welsh, Seconded By Joel Field

Bill Clark For

Chad Hyatt For

Ross O'Hara Absent

Debb Pitel For

Liz Welsh (Moved By) For

Joel Field (Seconded By) For

Brad Loosley For

CARRIED.

recorded vote requested by Councillor Welsh

Kind regards,

Original Signed

Mandi Pearson
Director of Legislative Services | Clerk

cc:

Premier Doug Ford premier@ontario.ca

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

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

Ontario Municipalities

Phone: (519)882-2350 • Fax: (519)882-3373 • Theatre: (800)717-7694

411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0

www.town.petrolia.on.ca

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May 29, 2025

Municipality of Bluewater
Town of Petawawa
Town of Essex
North-Middlesex
Parry Sound
Zorra Township

Via email

RE: Town of Petrolia Council support of opposition to strong mayor powers

During the May 12, 2025 regular meeting of council, council in response to correspondence received from the Municipality of Bluewater | Town of Petawawa | Town of Essex | North-Middlesex | Parry Sound & Zorra Township the following resolution passed:

MOVED: Liz Welsh

SECONDED: Joel Field

THAT the Town of Petrolia acknowledge receipt of the letters circulated by municipalities in relation to opposition of strong mayor powers and acknowledge that we support them.

Carried

Bill Clark	For
Chad Hyatt	For
Ross O'Hara	For
Debb Pitel	For
Liz Welsh (Moved By)	For
Joel Field (Seconded By)	For
Brad Loosley	Against

CARRIED.
recorded vote was requested by Mayor Loosley.

Kind regards,

Original Signed

Mandi Pearson
Director of Legislative Services | Clerk

cc:

Premier Doug Ford premier@ontario.ca
Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing rob.flack@pc.ola.org
MPP Bob Bailey, Sarnia-Lambton bob.bailey@pc.ola.org
Ontario Municipalities

Phone: (519)882-2350 • Fax: (519)882-3373 • Theatre: (800)717-7694

411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0

www.town.petrolia.on.ca

Page 21 of 41



May 28, 2025

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of May 27, 2025 the following resolution regarding "Strong Mayor" powers was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 205-316

DATE: May 27, 2025

MOVED BY: Councillor Engelsdorfer

SECONDED BY: Councillor MacNaughton

WHEREAS on May 1st, 2025, the Province of Ontario designated Prince Edward County as a "Strong Mayor" community along with 168 other Ontario communities, granting enhanced powers to the Mayor; and

WHEREAS 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 "Strong Mayor" legislation violates the principles and meaning of democracy, and local governance has, for generations, been built upon a foundation of shared, democratic decision-making; and

WHEREAS elected representatives and citizens from many municipalities throughout Ontario including several close neighbours such as Quinte West have expressed significant concern regarding the imposition and appropriateness of these powers; many councils have called for their repeal; and many mayors throughout the province have publicly recommitted to democracy by refusing to adopt "Strong Mayor" powers; and

WHEREAS Prince Edward County did not formally request or express a desire to be designated under the Strong Mayor framework; and

WHEREAS the government justified the expansion as a tool to build more housing, AMTCO has indicated there is no evidence that the legislation has impacted housing starts in municipalities that have previously been granted strong mayor powers; and

WHEREAS strong mayor powers create significant risks for municipal integrity increased division in local discourse, the blurring of roles threatening the neutrality of the unelected public service, and greater risk of improper influence (or the appearance thereof) particularly regarding local planning and development matters;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the County of Prince Edward formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing recommit to the meaning and spirit of democracy and rescind 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, Bay of Quinte MPP Tyler Allsopp, AMO, ROMA, and all other Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Victoria Leskie, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Engelsdorfer

June 4, 2025

Please be advised that, at their regular meeting on June 3, 2025, Council of the Municipality of North Grenville adopted the following resolution:

Title: Bill 5: Protecting Ontario By Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025

Date: June 3, 2025

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has introduced *Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025*, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning policies, including replacing the Endangered Species Act with a new framework that reduces protections for at-risk species, and enabling the creation of Special Economic Zones that may override local planning authority and environmental oversight;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of North Grenville supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be done in a way that upholds environmental responsibility and maintains the integrity of local planning processes;

AND WHEREAS Bill 5, as proposed, weakens safeguards for natural heritage systems, threatening biodiversity, and diminishing the authority of municipalities to manage growth in accordance with local needs and official plans;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of North Grenville urges the Government of Ontario to recommit to upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples as affirmed in Canadian law through the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and engage in transparent inclusive consultations with Indigenous Nations and civil society before tabling new development legislation;

AND WHEREAS Special Economic Zones would allow the Province to unilaterally override municipal decision-making by exempting Special Economic Zones from Municipal By-laws;

AND WHEREAS the use of Special Economic Zones to bypass local deliberation on proposed projects may not deliver on the promise of supporting economic growth;

MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH GRENVILLE

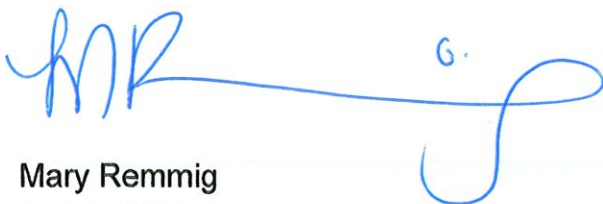
285 COUNTY ROAD 44, PO BOX 130, KEMPTVILLE, ON K0G 1J0 T(613)258-9569 EXT 219 F(613)258-9620
clerk@northgrenville.on.ca

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Municipality of North Grenville:

1. Opposes all provisions in Bill 5 that reduce environmental protections and Ontario's proud legacy of protections of endangered species, that override the rule of law and that nullify Municipal planning authority;
2. Urges the Province of Ontario to support housing and infrastructure development in ways that align with sound environmental planning and wildlife protection and empower municipalities with appropriate planning tools;
3. Urges the Province of Ontario to conduct robust consultation on Bill 5: Protecting Ontario By Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025;
4. Urges the Province of Ontario not to use Special Economic Zones to exempt projects from By-laws that impacts revenue including development charge By-laws, property tax By-laws, or fees and charges By-law;
5. Requests the Province of Ontario consider the feedback submitted for Bill 5 by the Associations for Municipalities in Ontario (AMO) which highlights protecting Municipal autonomy and fiscal sustainability and Ontario's Environment and Indigenous Cultural Heritage; and,
6. Directs that a copy of this resolution be sent to:
 - o The Minister of Energy and Mines;
 - o The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
 - o The Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;
 - o The Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism;
 - o The Premier of Ontario;
 - o The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); and,
 - o All Ontario Municipalities.

The above resolution, adopted by the Municipal Council, is forward for your information and action as required.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'MR' followed by a long horizontal stroke and a loop at the end.

Mary Remmig
Acting Clerk

MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH GRENVILLE

285 COUNTY ROAD 44, PO BOX 130, KEMPTVILLE, ON K0G 1J0 T(613)258-9569 EXT 219 F(613)258-9620
clerk@northgrenville.on.ca

Sent by Email

June 4, 2025

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
MPP Pickering-Uxbridge
1550 Kingston Rd., Suite 213
Pickering, ON L1V 1C3
peter.bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org

Subject: Raising Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

The Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering considered the above matter at a Meeting held on May 26, 2025 and adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS individuals and families receiving income support through Ontario Works (OW) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) are facing increasing challenges in meeting basic needs due to rising costs of living;

And Whereas Statistics Canada notes that people with disabilities have a higher poverty rate and a lower rate of employment than the overall population;

And Whereas the annual income support for Ontario Works is currently \$8,796.00 and \$16,416.00 for Ontario Disability Support Program. These supports have not increased sufficiently to keep up with inflation and the cost of living. Such costs are anticipated to continue increasing;

And Whereas the low income measure for a single person in Greater Toronto Area is estimated to be approximately \$27,343 annually, and the deep income poverty threshold is determined to be \$20,508;

And Whereas Food Banks, including our local Food Banks, provide a necessary service with increasing demands in our communities;

And Whereas the Pickering Food Bank served 1,722 adults, and 1,054 children in February 2025;

And Whereas food banks are already reducing their distribution capacity; and it is anticipated that due to developing economic circumstances, such as the current tariff war, there will be increased unemployment, increased food prices, and a heightened demand for food distribution, while donations continue to decline;

And Whereas these economic trends will continue to erode the purchasing power of OW and ODSP recipients, increasing reliance on food banks and placing additional pressure on municipalities and community organizations;

Now therefore it be resolved that the Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering directs through the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer:

1. That staff send a letter to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Finance, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, and the Minister for Seniors and Accessibility, to strongly urge that the Ontario Provincial Government significantly raise the payments of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program and the increases be reflected in the upcoming Provincial Budget and that the increased amount aligns with inflationary costs and thereby decrease the pressure on food banks and the reliance on municipalities and taxpayers to supplement the gap in financial need; and,
2. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), the Regional Municipality of Durham, all Municipalities in the Province of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 905.420.4660, extension 2019.

Yours truly



Susan Cassel
City Clerk

SC:am

Copy: Robert Cerjanec, MPP Ajax
Lorne Coe, MPP Whitby
Jennifer French, MPP Oshawa
Todd McCarthy, MPP Durham
Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes—Brock
Alexander Harras, Regional Clerk, Region of Durham
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

All Ontario Municipalities

Chief Administrative Officer



Annette Groves
Mayor

Her Worship, Mayor Annette Groves
Office of the Mayor
6311 Old Church Road
Caledon, ON L7C 1J6

June 4, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford,
Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Room 281
Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5
Premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford,

Illegal land use, including unauthorized development, unapproved land alterations, and other non-compliant activities, poses significant threats to the Town's agricultural viability, water quality, and ecosystem health, in addition to decreasing adjacent land values and undermining public trust in land-use governance enforcement.

There have been approximately 1,300 properties investigated in Caledon for illegal land use since 2015, with the majority of instances being for the operation of illegal transportation depots.

Illegal transportation depots and parking lots undermine the success of Caledon's largest industry and employment sector. The prevalence of illegal transportation depots and parking lots, and their disregard for architectural and landscape standards, reduce the appeal for investment in prestige employment lands.

Penalties prescribed by the Planning Act are insufficient to deter violations, as they do not adequately reflect the economic gains derived from illegal land use activities and even maximum fines are difficult to obtain. The existing provisions in the Municipal Act specifically disallow municipalities from licensing transportation depots and truck parking.

In June 2023, the Town of Caledon wrote to your office requesting increased authority for municipalities to manage illegal land use including the ability to physically bar entry to properties and increase maximum penalty amounts for individuals and corporations. The Town has also made similar requests to the Honourable Deputy Premier Sylvia Jones, the Ministry of the

Attorney General, the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

At the June 3, 2025 General Committee Meeting, Council expressed support for a motion to strengthen municipal authority to effectively manage illegal land use by:

1. Amending the Planning Act to allow for a municipality to:

- a. require a person to pay an administrative penalty if the municipality is satisfied that the person has contravened section 41, section 46, subsection 49 (4) or section 52 or who contravenes a by-law passed under section 34 or 38 or an order made under section 47; whereas municipalities cannot currently administer administrative penalty systems under the Act, unlike the Municipal Act and Building Code Act,
- b. issue orders to discontinue a contravening activity or perform work to correct a contravention under a by-law passed under section 34 of the Act, whereas the Act does not currently allow it.
- c. enable a matter or thing to be done at a person's expense in default of it being done in accordance with an order made under a by-law passed under section 34 of the Act; further, that the costs of such action taken by a municipality may be recovered by adding the costs to the tax roll and collecting them in the same manner as property taxes, whereas municipalities cannot currently perform remedial work under the Act, unlike the Municipal Act,
- d. register charges, fines, orders, notices, prohibitions, injunctions and court imposed fines in the proper land registry office, so any person acquiring any interest in the land subsequent to the registration of the order is deemed to have been served with the same order; whereas the Act does not currently allow it,
- e. increase the maximum penalty amounts to \$50,000 for an individual and \$100,000 for a corporation on a first conviction and \$25,000 for each day the contravention continues after a conviction for an individual and \$50,000 for a corporation, additionally, amending the Act to allow municipalities to establish minimum fines under Zoning and Site Plan Control by-laws and continuing offence penalties on a first conviction.

2. Amending the Municipal Act to allow for a municipality to:

- a. provide a system of licenses under a business licensing by-law for the local parking and storage operations of transportation businesses, including transportation depots and parking lots, whereas municipalities cannot currently regulate the minimum standards appropriate for the community through Ontario Regulation 583/06 (Licensing Powers),
- b. close a business operating without a license or engaged in egregious illegal land uses that significantly harm nearby residents, the environment, and public safety; whereas municipalities cannot currently close or prevent illegal land use or operations from continuing,
- c. physically bar entry to properties where illegal land uses that have significant detrimental impacts on adjacent residential properties, the environment or create unsafe situations,

d. register charges, fines, orders, notices, prohibitions, injunctions and court imposed fines in the proper land registry office, so any person acquiring any interest in the land subsequent to the registration of the order is deemed to have been served with the same order; whereas the Act does not currently allow it

A copy of the notice of motion has been enclosed for your reference. For more information regarding this matter, please contact my Chief of Staff, Catherine Monast, directly by email at catherine.monast@caledon.ca or by phone at 905.584.2272 ext. 4539. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mayor Annette Groves

Town of Caledon

The Honourable Ruby Sahota, Minister of Democratic Institutions and MP for Brampton North-Caledon, ruby.sahota@parl.gc.ca

Kyle Seeback, MP for Dufferin—Caledon, Kyle.Seeback@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Transport and Internal Trade
chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health and MPP Dufferin-Caledon,
sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org

The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, minister.mah@ontario.ca

The Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation minister.mto@ontario.ca

The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
minister.mecp@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario, doug.downey@pc.ola.org

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

Rural Ontario Municipal Association, roma@roma.on.ca

City of Toronto, clerk@toronto.ca

York Region, regional.clerk@york.ca

City of Vaughan, clerks@vaughan.ca

Town of Richmond Hill, clerks@richmondhill.ca

Town of Markham, customerservice@markham.ca

Town of Aurora, info@aurora.ca

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, clerks@townofws.ca

King Township, clerks@king.ca

Town of Newmarket, clerks@newmarket.ca

Township of East Gwillimbury, clerks@eastgwillimbury.ca

Town of Georgina, info@georgina.ca

Region of Durham, clerks@durham.ca

Town of Ajax, clerks@ajax.ca

Township of Brock, Clerks@brock.ca

Municipality of Clarington, clerks@clarington.net
City of Oshawa, clerks@oshawa.ca
City of Pickering, clerks@pickering.ca
Township of Scugog, mail@scugog.ca
Township of Uxbridge, info@uxbridge.ca
Town of Whitby, clerks@whitby.ca
Brant County, info@brant.ca
City of Brantford, clerks@brantford.ca
Region of Peel, regional.clerk@peelregion.ca
City of Brampton, cityclerksoffice@brampton.ca
City of Mississauga, city.clerk@mississauga.ca
Dufferin County, info@dufferincounty.ca
Township of Amaranth, info@amaranth.ca
Township of East Garafraxa, clerks@eastgarafraxa.ca
Town of Grand Valley, mail@townofgrandvalley.ca
Township of Melancthon, info@melancthontownship.ca
Town of Mono, ClerksOffice@townofmono.com
Township of Mulmur, info@mulmur.ca
Town of Orangeville, clerksdept@orangeville.ca
Town of Shelburne, clerk@shelburne.ca
Haldimand County, info@haldimandcounty.on.ca
Halton Region, accesshalton@halton.ca
City of Burlington, cityclerks@burlington.ca
City of Hamilton, clerk@hamilton.ca
Town of Halton Hills, clerks@haltonhills.ca
Town of Milton, townclerk@milton.ca
Northumberland County, matherm@northumberland.ca
Township of Alnwick/Haldimand, info@ahtwp.ca
Municipality of Brighton, general@brighton.ca
Town of Cobourg, clerk@cobourg.ca
Township of Cramahe, clerk@cramahe.ca
Township of Hamilton, clerks@hamiltontownship.ca
Municipality of Port Hope, admin@porthope.ca
Municipality of Trent Hills, info@trenthills.ca
Peterborough County, info@ptbocounty.ca
Township of Asphodel-Norwood, info@antownship.ca
Township of Cavan Monaghan, services@cavanmonaghan.net
Township of Douro-Dummer, info@dourodummer.on.ca
Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen, havbelmet@hbmtp.ca
Township of North Kawartha, reception@northkawartha.on.ca
Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan, info@osmtownship.ca
Township of Selwyn, clerkadmin@stjosephstownship.com
Municipality of Trent Lakes, info@trentlakes.ca
City of Peterborough, clerk@peterborough.ca
Wellington County, kimc@wellington.ca
Town of Erin, clerks@erin.ca
Town of Minto, info@town.minto.on.ca
Township of Centre Wellington, clerks@centrewellington.ca
City of Guelph, clerks@guelph.ca
Township of Mapleton, clerk@mapleton.ca
Township of Puslinch, admin@puslinch.ca

Township of Wellington North, township@wellington-north.com
Simcoe County, info@simcoe.ca
City of Barrie, cityinfo@barrie.ca
Town of Innisfil, inquiry@innisfil.ca
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, clerk@townofbwg.com
Town of New Tecumseth, info@newtecumseth.ca
City of Orillia, clerks@orillia.ca
Town of Collingwood, townhall@collingwood.ca
Township of Essa, llehr@essatownship.on.ca
Township of Oro-Medonte, info@oro-medonte.ca
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Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, clerk@adjtos.ca
Township of Tay, deputyclerk@tayvalleytwp.ca
Township of Ramara, ramara@ramara.ca
Town of Penetanguishene, scooper@penetanguishene.ca
City of Kawartha Lakes, clerks@kawarthalakes.ca
Regional Niagara, clerk@niagararegion.ca
Town of Fort Erie, clerk@forterie.on.ca
Town of Grimsby, Administration-Office-General@grimsby.ca
Town of Lincoln, clerks@lincoln.ca
City of Niagara Falls, clerk@niagarafalls.ca
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, clerks@notl.com
Town of Pelham, clerks@pelham.ca
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City of St. Catharines, clerks@stcatharines.ca
City of Thorold, clerk@thorold.com
Township of Wainfleet, mkirkham@wainfleet.ca
City of Welland, clerk@welland.ca
Township of West Lincoln, clerk2@westlincoln.ca
Regional Waterloo, regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca
City of Kitchener, clerks@kitchener.ca
City of Waterloo, olga.smith@waterloo.ca
City of Cambridge, servicecambridge@cambridge.ca
Township of Wilmot, info@wilmot.ca
Township of Wellesley, gkosch@wellesley.ca
Township of Woolwich, mail.woolwich@woolwich.ca
Township of North Dumfries, mail@northdumfries.ca



Norfolk County
Clerk's and Bylaw Department
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
50 Colborne Street, S., Simcoe Ontario N3Y 4H3
Telephone: 519-426-5870
E-mail: clerks@norfolkcounty.ca
Website: norfolkcounty.ca

Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Delivered Electronically to: minister.mah@ontario.ca

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Delivered Electronically to: premier@ontario.ca

June 4, 2025

Dear Hon. Doug Ford and Hon. Rob Flack:

Re: Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers

Please be advised of the following motion that was passed at the May 27, 2025, Norfolk County Council meeting:

Resolution No. C-114

Moved By: Councillor Huffman

Seconded By: Councillor Veri

That Council direct staff to prepare and send correspondence to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Premier Doug Ford indicating that Norfolk County does not require Strong Mayor Powers to help achieve the provinces' goals; and

That Norfolk County request an exemption from the associated provincial directive; and

Further That a copy of this motion be forwarded to all Ontario municipalities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Tigert". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

W. Tigert
Clerk

cc. All Ontario Municipalities



Cybersecurity for Municipal Councillors

Prevent, Prepare, and Respond

With the number and frequency of municipal cyber-attacks, municipal leaders must understand their role in ensuring the cyber resilience of their organization, and in leading through a cyber incident.

AMO has partnered with the **Toronto Metropolitan University's (TMU) Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst** to help councillors understand cybersecurity and to make critical decisions related to preventing, preparing for, and responding to cyber security incidents.

This half-day session is comprised of short lectures, guided discussions, and activities focused on understanding the cyber threats and risks posted to municipalities, identify preventative actions and best practices, and define the role of the elected official in cyber security and during incidents.

Date: October 21, 2025

Timing: 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Location: Virtual Event

Fee: \$300 +HST (Individual registration)

Cancellation fee: \$75.00 (up to 1 week prior to event)

[Register Today](#)

2025 Membership Special Offering

AMO has grown its education offerings, recognizing this, for 2025 we are offering half price registration fees for all workshops above the first two registration. If you are eligible contact Lora Tigno at ltigno@amo.on.ca

Inquires: events@amo.on.ca

*Disclaimer: The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is unable to provide any warranty regarding the accuracy or completeness of third-party submissions. Distribution of these items does not imply an endorsement of the views, information or services mentioned.

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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155 University Ave Suite 800 | Toronto, ON M5H 3B7 CA

Council Members

Mayor Neil Nicholson
D-Mayor Cathy Regier
Councillors:
Mark Bell
Connie Tabbert
Chris Olmstead
Micheal Moore
Joey Trimm

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

June 4, 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 Township of Whitewater Region. Our Council discussed this issue in an open forum at our council meeting on May 22 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 eliminates shared decision making, create divisiveness at the council table, and blurs 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 small municipalities like Whitewater Region.

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 Township of

(613) 646-2282



P.O. Box 40,
44 Main Street
Cobden, ON
K0J 1K0



www.whitewaterregion.ca



WHITEWATER

REGION

Council Members

Mayor Neil Nicholson

D-Mayor Cathy Regier

Councillors:

Mark Bell

Connie Tabbert

Chris Olmstead

Micheal Moore

Joey Trimm

Whitewater Region has grown significantly over the last decade (the fourth fastest growing municipality in the County of Renfrew) and, as a rural municipality, we have added a large amount of new housing to meet market demands.

Whitewater Region has invested in our planning department with delegated planning authorities from the County of Renfrew. With a qualified planner, we can very quickly process most planning matters with the exception of plans of subdivisions. With our expanded building inspector staff, we have been able to reduce permit processing times. We do all of this while keeping permits and planning application fees suppressed, augmenting our planning and building department with general taxation revenues to support growth in our community and contribute to meeting Provincial priorities.

Whitewater Region averages approximately 30 new single family detached homes per year over the past 10 years. Although we only have one of our rural communities with both water and wastewater services, it is positioned well for additional development; with one subdivision partly built out and a second subdivision in its planning stages. This sizeable development is constrained by water and wastewater services, stormwater management and road access to the provincial highway.

Our challenge is not with the balance of power around our Council table or our relationship with staff, it is that we simply do not have the funds (or technical staff) needed to update or expand our infrastructure services to support development. Whitewater has implemented Development Charges as a means of raising additional funds, and have purposefully suppressed them to \$5,000/home in order to promote affordable development. Whitewater staff have applied to grants made available by the Province of Ontario, but with no success. Our Council has plans to use your governments' increases to our OCIF and OMPF but these only barely satisfy 20% of our existing Asset Management Program shortfall. This shortfall was further exasperated when OPP billing has increased at the same rate as our OMFP increases. Whitewater Region simply cannot afford to support additional development, let alone invest in our current infrastructure.

(613) 646-2282



P.O. Box 40,
44 Main Street
Cobden, ON
K0J 1K0



www.whitewaterregion.ca



WHITEWATER

REGION

Council Members

Mayor Neil Nicholson
D-Mayor Cathy Regier
Councillors:
Mark Bell
Connie Tabbert
Chris Olmstead
Micheal Moore
Joey Trimm

In closing, our Council requests that the Ontario Government excludes the Township of Whitewater Region from its proposed amendments to O. Reg. 530/22 to Expand Strong Mayor Powers and Duties to Additional Municipalities, and work with us to identify funding to support expansion of its infrastructure systems to support existing and 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.

Yours sincerely,



Mayor Neil Nicholson

(613) 646-2282



P.O. Box 40,
44 Main Street
Cobden, ON
K0J 1K0



www.whitewaterregion.ca



Council Members

Mayor Neil Nicholson

Deputy Mayor Cathy

Regier

Councillors:

Mark Bell

Michael Moore

Chris Olmstead

Connie Tabbert

Joey Trimm

Certified True Copy

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Re: Resolution - Strong Mayor Powers Update

At its meeting of May 21, 2025, the Council of the Township of Whitewater Region adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has proposed to designate the Township of Whitewater Region 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 Township of Whitewater Region 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 Township of Whitewater Region 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 Council of the Township of Whitewater Region formally request that the Premier of

(613) 646-2282

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whitewaterregion.ca

Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the Township of Whitewater Region 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 - Resolution #2025-5335

Sincerely,



Carmen Miller
Clerk/CEMC