



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, June 13, 2025

	Pages
1. Memorandum from the City of Welland re: Bugar Park Gatehouse Building Demolition.	2 - 3
2. Letter from the Region of Niagara re: Economic Development Brief June 2025.	4 - 7
3. Letter from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent re: Bill 5.	8 - 9
4. Letter from the City of Woodstock re: Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025.	10 - 11
5. Letter from the Township of Georgian Bay re: Floating Accommodations.	12 - 25
6. Letter from the Municipality of Bluewater re: Northern Health Travel Grant Program.	26 - 28
7. Letter from the Municipality of Markstay Warren re: Opposition to Strong Mayor Designation.	29 - 31
8. Letter from the Township of Black River - Matheson re: Request for Exemption to O. Reg. 343/22 – Firefighter Certification Requirements.	32 - 35
9. Letter from the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan re: Opposition of Strong Mayor Powers.	36 - 38
10. Letter from the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan re: Ontario Works Financial Assistance Rates.	39 - 41
11. Letter from the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan re: Call for inclusive research to reflect diversity of Canadian communities.	42 - 43

MEMORANDUM

TO: Welland City Council

FROM: Frank Pearson, B. Tech – Arch. Sci.
Manager of Facilities, Operations and Development

DATE: June 13, 2025

SUBJECT: Burgar Park Gatehouse Building Demolition

The purpose of this memo is to inform Welland City Council of the planned demolition of the gatehouse building at Burgar Park, located at 126 Burgar Avenue.

Based on the 2022 Building Condition Assessment (BCA), the building has a very poor Facility Condition Index (FCI) of 32.9%. Based on discussions with staff, the structure has not been used for ticket sales or admissions for over 25 years. The building measures less than 100 square feet in area and is too small for effective storage.

The decision to decommission and demolish the gatehouse building is based on the following:

1. **Lack of Use:** The building has remained vacant and serves no purpose for the City or the community, as confirmed with the primary user groups.
2. **Structural Concerns:** Although not an immediate hazard, the BCA indicates that the building's condition may deteriorate over time, leading to ongoing maintenance costs and potential safety risks.
3. **Safety Improvements:** Removing the structure will allow for better sightlines into the park and eliminate opportunities for graffiti, vandalism, and break-ins.

User groups of the Burgar Park facility have been consulted and advised of this change and have been provided with details on the process for building demolition. This demolition will positively impact the asset management plan as we are removing a facility asset that is in very poor condition and not being used. Next steps will be to disconnect the electrical service to the gatehouse, remove the structure, and restore the area where the building was located, including extending the fencing to secure the park.

This work will be performed as part of capital project 10-454-24487 – Ancillary Buildings Repairs & Renewals. The cost to complete the demolition and site restoration is estimated at \$13,000 and will be funded by the amount remaining in this account.

Work to be performed	Estimated Cost
Removal and site restoration of the Burgar Park Gatehouse	\$ 13,000

Funding for the project will be provided through the capital project fund, as detailed below:

Funding Source	Available Funding
Ancillary Buildings Repairs & Renewals: 10-454-24487	\$ 81,183

Should Council have any questions or concerns regarding this project, please contact the Director of Community Services, Jessica Ruddell.

Economic Development Brief

June 11, 2025

Statistics and Trends

Labour market conditions

Labour market conditions in Niagara (seasonally adjusted) worsened across all indicators in May, except for population growth. Although Niagara had been outperforming Ontario and Canada for many months, it underperformed both during this period on most indicators. However, Niagara continues to maintain a lower unemployment rate than Ontario as a whole.

Month-over-month data from April to May 2025 show the following:

- Population: Niagara grew by 0.1% (500 people), while Ontario grew by the same rate.
- Labour force: Niagara decreased by 0.07% (200 people), while Ontario decreased by 0.02%.
- Employment: Niagara decreased by 0.4% (1,100 people), while Ontario decreased by 0.2%.
- Unemployment rate: Niagara increased by 0.3% to 7.1%, while Ontario increased by 0.2% to 7.7%.
- Participation rate: Niagara decreased by 0.1% to 63%, while Ontario remained the same at 65.3%.

A slowing economy and the ongoing trade tensions with the United States are now being reflected in the labour market data. The five most affected sectors in descending order were transportation and warehousing; health care and social assistance; construction; agriculture; and manufacturing. In contrast, service-oriented sectors experienced modest employment gains.

Canada's economy grows faster than expected in first quarter while challenges persist

Canada's economy grew at an annualized rate of 2.2% in the first quarter of 2025, surpassing expectations due to strong exports and a temporary surge in business investment ahead of US tariff threats. Despite this headline growth, underlying indicators show weakness, including flat domestic demand, declining residential investment, and soft monthly GDP in March, suggesting slower momentum heading into Q2.

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.

Inflation rate drops to 1.7% in April driven by lower energy prices

Canada's inflation rate fell to 1.7% in April, primarily due to lower gasoline and natural gas prices following the removal of the federal carbon tax, as well as declining shelter costs. However, core inflation which excludes volatile items rose above 3%, driven by rising grocery and auto prices, indicating underlying inflationary pressures remain strong.

Economic Development Updates**Economic development professionals win Niagara 40 Under Forty awards**

Niagara economic development and tourism professionals were well represented at the 22nd Niagara 40 Under Forty Business Achievement Awards on May 29. Award winners included the following:

- **Britnie Bazylewski, Tourism Development Officer, Town of Lincoln:** Britnie joined the municipality in 2020 and has been instrumental in growing Lincoln's tourism sector through destination marketing, business attraction and retention, and targeted investment calls resulting in economic growth and job creation.
- **Gregory Higginbotham, Tourism and Strategic Projects Coordinator, City of Port Colborne:** Gregory has worked with the City of Port Colborne in since 2021 and has been instrumental in developing and driving the City's tourism strategy.
- **Daniel Salvatore Antonio Turner, Manager of Strategic Growth Services, Niagara Region:** Dan joined Niagara Region Economic Development in 2022 and currently leads Emerging Sector development and administers the Employment Incentive programs, driving regional prosperity.

Ontario Business Improvement Area Association chooses Lincoln

The Town of Lincoln is honoured to welcome the Ontario Business Improvement Area Association (OBIAA) to their new home in Lincoln. With the appointment of Rachel Braithwaite as Executive Director, OBIAA begins a new chapter rooted in a municipality deeply committed to strong BIA relationships and main street revitalization. The relocation of this provincial organization underscores Lincoln's leadership in fostering thriving, connected communities.

Cappa College opens Fort Erie campus with focus on domestic trades training

Cappa College marked a major milestone with the opening of its new Fort Erie campus, transitioning from its roots in hairstyling and esthetics to offering industrial trades programs like welding and CNC toolmaking. The expansion aims to address regional demand for skilled labour while supporting students with services like transportation and daycare. Local leaders praised the move as a boost for Fort Erie's economy and workforce development, positioning the college as a key training hub in the Niagara Region.

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.

Airbus opens new helicopter distribution centre in Niagara Falls

Airbus Helicopters has opened a new 21,000 SF distribution centre in Niagara Falls to enhance supply chain efficiency and support its operations across Canada. The facility, located near its Fort Erie manufacturing plant, is expected to strengthen customer service, optimize logistics, and sustain over 300 regional jobs. This investment underscores Airbus's long-term commitment to growth in Canada and its partnership with the Niagara community.

Niagara Falls to welcome first Hologram Zoo in Ontario

Niagara Falls is set to debut a cutting-edge tourist attraction this summer with the launch of Canada's first Ontario-based Hologram Zoo, developed by Australian company Axiom Holographics. The 4,000 SF zoo offers lifelike holographic animal encounters and rotating themed experiences like dinosaurs, African wildlife, and seasonal content. Expected to boost the local economy and diversify the region's tourism appeal, the attraction is part of Axiom's broader Canadian expansion and will be operated by local owner-operators.

Shaw Festival unveils \$150 million expansion to foster human connection

The Shaw Festival has announced a \$150 million expansion project that includes transforming a former long-term care facility into the Shaw Artists' Village and creating a new Burton Centre for Lifelong Creativity, aimed at fostering community connection through the arts. The initiative, called All.Together.Now., will also include rebuilding the historic Royal George Theatre as North America's first carbon neutral theatre, with a focus on accessibility and sustainability. Backed by donors and government support, the project aims to reduce senior isolation through theatre and the arts to foster community and connection.

Historic gift from Norris Walker estate transforms Niagara College and honours legacy

Niagara College has received a record breaking \$4 million bequest from the estate of Norris Woodruff Walker, marking the largest estate gift in the college's history. The donation will fund scholarships, expand skilled trades programs, support students in financial need, and contribute to campus redevelopment projects, while also honoring the Walker family's enduring legacy through naming tributes like the Norris Walker Family Community Courtyard. This gift builds on decades of philanthropy from Norris and Marilyn Walker and supports the College's \$50 million Together Campaign to improve education access and address workforce challenges.

Niagara Irrigation Initiative Project announced with up to \$1.8 million in total funding

The Niagara Irrigation Initiative Project has secured up to \$1.8 million in funding from multiple partners, including federal and provincial governments, to improve and expand irrigation infrastructure critical to Niagara's specialty crop sector. The project will support a feasibility study for a new piped system in Lincoln and west St. Catharines and update existing irrigation plans in Niagara-on-the-Lake. This investment aims to protect local agriculture from climate change impacts, boost productivity, and ensure long-term sustainability and food security in the region.

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.

T.S.M. Custom Millwork celebrates grand opening in St. Catharines

T.S.M. Custom Millwork, a local business recognized for its impressive scale, craftsmanship, and international reach, recently celebrated its grand opening. Specializing in custom fixtures for the travel retail market, T.S.M. serves major global brands in the wine, spirits, cosmetics, and fragrance sectors, offering comprehensive services from design to installation and maintenance. With projects completed in duty-free stores across the Americas and Europe, T.S.M. exemplifies how advanced manufacturing and design excellence continue to thrive in St. Catharines.

Welland Economic Development, Job Gym and Downtown BIA unite on pilot project

A new partnership between Job Gym, the Welland Downtown BIA, and the City of Welland has launched a 16 week beautification program to enhance cleanliness in the downtown core through litter collection, weeding, and property upkeep. Funded by Fedcap Canada and supported by two seasonal workers using city purchased tricycles equipped for street cleanup, the initiative will be managed by Job Gym and the BIA. The pilot program will operate within the BIA's catchment area, running seven days a week from June through fall, without impacting existing city services.

Welland showcases growth and opportunity with refreshed website

The City of Welland has revitalized its Made in Welland economic development website to highlight the community's strategic advantages, investment opportunities, and business success stories. Designed to support business attraction and retention, the site features dedicated sections on key sectors, available properties, workforce data, and supports for entrepreneurs. The initiative supports the City's ongoing efforts to foster sustainable growth, create jobs, and position Welland as a hub of investment in the heart of Niagara. View the website [HERE](#).

New affordable housing development moves forward at 320 Geneva Street

A building permit has been issued for the first phase of the 320 Geneva Street affordable housing project in St. Catharines, which includes a four storey, 49-unit apartment building and a construction investment of \$12 million. Led by Niagara Regional Housing, this phase will provide bridge housing and set the stage for future development to expand access to affordable and supportive housing. The project also supports the local construction industry and reflects the City's commitment to inclusive and sustainable growth.

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.



52 Frank Street,
Strathroy ON N7G 2R4
Phone: 519-245-1070;
Fax: 519-245-6353

www.strathroy-caradoc.ca

June 02, 2025

To all Ontario Municipalities, AMO, ROMA and FCM:

Re: In Support of: Bill 5- Risks to your communities and support requested

Moved: Councillor Derbyshire

Seconded: Mayor Grantham

THAT: Council support the Chatham-Kent Resolution for opposition of this section of Bill 5.

Result: Carried

As Mayor of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, I am sharing this motion to bring to your attention the potential risks to your communities and ask for your support to oppose this approach. The following motion was approved yesterday, May 12, 2025:

“Whereas 29831 Irish School Road in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is a property approximately 800 metres from the Town of Dresden;

And Whereas the property contain small fill areas used for historic local landfill purposes, and the property has never been properly studied or zoned for any significant landfilling use;

And Whereas the current property owners are attempting to create a new recycling and landfill facility for millions of tonnes of waste, which would result in hundreds of trucks travelling through towns and communities in the area;

And Whereas this approach has been strongly opposed by Council, the Community, neighbouring Indigenous Nations and many other voices, due to impacts to the environment, our homes, the safety of our families and children, and the fabric of our communities;

And Whereas the Provincial government has proposed Bill 5, which includes a section removing the obligation for a full Environmental Assessment for this new landfill and recycling facility;

And Whereas if this limited, historic local landfill use on the edge of Dresden can be expanded into a massive landfill and recycling facility, then this can happen anywhere;

And Whereas there are likely hundreds of properties across the Province that may have had limited, historic waste uses, which could also face this threat;

And Whereas Bill 197 established a veto for Municipalities within 3.5 kms of a new landfill, which reflected the need for local government and community approval of landfill sites;

And Whereas the approach being taken for this property disregards the importance of our rural communities, and local voices, in determining appropriate landfill sites within their communities:

Now Therefore to ensure that other Municipal Councils and communities know about what is happening in Dresden, and the potential risk to their community if this approach is taken by the Province, Council requests that the Mayor's Office write a letter to all other Ontario Municipalities, AMO, ROMA and FCM:

- 1. Advising them of this issue and the risks to their community if a similar approach is taken for other historic landfill properties; the possibility of the Ontario government setting a precedence and*
- 2. Requesting their support in opposing this approach and ensuring that full Environmental Assessments are required for all landfills and that municipalities have a strong voice in determining appropriate locations for landfills in their communities."*

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C. Grantham'.

Colin Grantham, Mayor
Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc



52 Frank Street,
Strathroy ON N7G 2R4
Phone: 519-245-1070;
Fax: 519-245-6353

www.strathroy-caradoc.ca

June 02, 2025

To all Ontario Municipalities, AMO, ROMA and FCM:

Re: In Support of: Bill 5- Risks to your communities and support requested

Moved: Councillor Derbyshire

Seconded: Mayor Grantham

THAT: Council support the Chatham-Kent Resolution for opposition of this section of Bill 5.

Result: Carried

As Mayor of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, I am sharing this motion to bring to your attention the potential risks to your communities and ask for your support to oppose this approach. The following motion was approved yesterday, May 12, 2025:

“Whereas 29831 Irish School Road in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is a property approximately 800 metres from the Town of Dresden;

And Whereas the property contain small fill areas used for historic local landfill purposes, and the property has never been properly studied or zoned for any significant landfilling use;

And Whereas the current property owners are attempting to create a new recycling and landfill facility for millions of tonnes of waste, which would result in hundreds of trucks travelling through towns and communities in the area;

And Whereas this approach has been strongly opposed by Council, the Community, neighbouring Indigenous Nations and many other voices, due to impacts to the environment, our homes, the safety of our families and children, and the fabric of our communities;

And Whereas the Provincial government has proposed Bill 5, which includes a section removing the obligation for a full Environmental Assessment for this new landfill and recycling facility;

And Whereas if this limited, historic local landfill use on the edge of Dresden can be expanded into a massive landfill and recycling facility, then this can happen anywhere;

And Whereas there are likely hundreds of properties across the Province that may have had limited, historic waste uses, which could also face this threat;

And Whereas Bill 197 established a veto for Municipalities within 3.5 kms of a new landfill, which reflected the need for local government and community approval of landfill sites;

And Whereas the approach being taken for this property disregards the importance of our rural communities, and local voices, in determining appropriate landfill sites within their communities:

Now Therefore to ensure that other Municipal Councils and communities know about what is happening in Dresden, and the potential risk to their community if this approach is taken by the Province, Council requests that the Mayor's Office write a letter to all other Ontario Municipalities, AMO, ROMA and FCM:

- 1. Advising them of this issue and the risks to their community if a similar approach is taken for other historic landfill properties; the possibility of the Ontario government setting a precedence and*
- 2. Requesting their support in opposing this approach and ensuring that full Environmental Assessments are required for all landfills and that municipalities have a strong voice in determining appropriate locations for landfills in their communities."*

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C. Grantham'.

Colin Grantham, Mayor
Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc



The Township of Georgian Bay

Resolutions

Council - 02 Jun 2025

Item 11.(b)

Date: June 2, 2025

C-2025-155

Moved by Councillor Kristian Graziano

Seconded by Councillor Allan Hazelton

WHEREAS the Floating Accommodations – Position Paper (April 2025) provides detailed guidance to Ontario municipalities on the regulation of Floating Accommodations, highlighting critical legal and environmental challenges; and

WHEREAS the document identifies significant gaps in current provincial and federal frameworks that municipalities are best positioned to address through zoning and land-use bylaws; and

WHEREAS the paper recommends proactive municipal action based on successful case studies and legal precedents such as the Glaspell v. Ontario decision; and

WHEREAS Georgian Bay Township has already taken steps to address Floating Accommodations and has an interest in promoting inter-municipal collaboration on this issue;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the Floating Accommodations – Position Paper (May 2025) for informational purposes; and

THAT the Clerk be further directed to forward the document and this resolution to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and member municipalities for consideration and potential provincial advocacy.

☒ Carried ☐ Defeated ☐ Recorded Vote ☐ Referred ☐ Deferred

Recorded Vote:

	For	Against	Absent
Councillor Brian Bocek			
Councillor Peter Cooper			
Councillor Kristian Graziano			
Councillor Allan Hazelton			
Councillor Stephen Jarvis			
Councillor Steven Predko			
Mayor Peter Koetsier			

Peter Koetsier, Mayor



Floating
Accommodations not
Vessels Coalition



Floating Accommodations Position Paper

EXECUTIVE Summary

This position paper provides guidance for Ontario municipalities seeking to regulate or restrict Floating Accommodations within their jurisdictions.

Floating Accommodations are a detrimental presence on Ontario's lakes and rivers. They present multiple environmental, navigational, taxation, and zoning issues. Over the past four years, they have eluded control as the issue of Floating Accommodations fell into a very large gray area when this all began.

The authors of this position paper, the **Floating Accommodations not Vessels Coalition**, strongly urge you as municipal leaders to pursue **one or a hybrid** of the following two regulatory strategies:

1. Ban floating accommodations in your jurisdiction. *They cannot exist within your*



municipality without putting your natural environment and governance regulations in turmoil. The Township of Severn has led the way with a bylaw banning Floating Accommodations [[Township of Severn Zoning By-law Amendment to regulate Floating Accommodations](#)]. The Township of Georgian Bay recently adopted a similar by-law [[Township of Georgian Bay Zoning By-law](#)

[Amendment to regulate Floating Accommodations](#)]. The intent is to provide clarity in their zoning bylaws in that floating accommodations are not a permitted use. Several municipalities are following their lead and investigating this strategy.



2. Restrict floating accommodations to fixed / permanent moorings. *These locations would be*

subject to municipal zoning by-laws stipulating appropriate sanitary, hydro, power connectivity, and placed on environmentally safe floatation systems. Floating accommodations are permanently located in a properly zoned facility similar to a trailer park but

for floating accommodations on water. This model has several working examples such as Bluffers Park on Lake Ontario or False Creek in downtown Vancouver. For most municipalities, this would be considered a new form of development and require significant policy changes.

“Your new neighbours”

They can suddenly appear on your waterfront at any moment...

Floating Accommodations (FAs) can be a building or structure such as modified shipping containers or wood framed structures placed on floatation devices. They are not primarily intended for navigation and will moor over crown lakebeds or private property lakebeds. FAs can move frequently and are usually equipped with an anchoring system such as steel ‘spuds’ embedded into the lakebed to stabilize the unit at each mooring location. They potentially shed toxic materials and other contaminants into surrounding waters and lakebeds.



Municipalities Play a Crucial Role in Fully Regulating Floating Accommodations

Municipalities have a crucial role in addressing regulatory gaps and exceptions that fall outside the recent implementation of federal, provincial, and private property trespassing regulations to manage Floating Accommodations. Verifying and strengthening the regulatory framework was a collaboration between Parks Canada (PC - federal), the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR - provincial), and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP - provincial).

The following scenarios are not hypothetical. They have all occurred and would fall outside the jurisdiction of new and existing federal, provincial and OPP controls.

- 1) *What happens to an owner of an FA who chooses to float their FA over their personally owned private lakebed property?*
- 2) *What happens to commercial marinas who wish to establish mooring for FAs on their premises in a permanent or semi-permanent manner?*
- 3) *What happens when FA owners floating within a township, move daily to relocate in that same township to avoid confrontation with governing agencies?*

Municipal Bylaws What Issues Are You Being Asked to Tackle?

The recently launched PC, MNR, and OPP frameworks can clearly deal with trespassing for stationary (moored) FAs in federal / provincial waters and over private lakebeds.

However, there are 3 scenarios that fall outside of the newly published PC, MNR, and OPP frameworks. They are:

- 1) **FAs floating over private lakebeds:** *What is missing is how to deal with an FA owner who chooses to park adjacent to their shoreline where he/she has property 'ownership' rights to the lakebed. This issue is very real and exists in many of Ontario's lakes and rivers. The scenario would allow an FA owner to bypass existing building codes and local taxation to class their structure (be it a boathouse, or residence) as a vessel. This scenario is a "trojan horse" into illegal residential boathouses and homes on water with the very real possibility of being short term rentals.*
- 2) **FAs floating in a commercial marina:** *The scenario of a marina establishing an unauthorized temporary (or permanent) mooring location for a FA within a municipality that is not zoned for FAs causes a significant degree of difficulty. Most current municipal zoning does not acknowledge FAs and in a jurisdiction without FA definitions and approved zoning the FA owner can fall back on their vessel designation and potentially use the Transport Canada vessel designation as a shield to avoid any charges. This scenario has already occurred throughout Ontario, including in the Rideau Canal and the Kawartha Lakes region.*
- 3) **FAs floating freely and/or mooring in a different location each night:** *The challenge with this scenario is some FA owners have been very creative in where they moor and for how long. They have become very familiar with enforcement processes and time limitations and simply move before charges can be laid. Each situation would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and time limitations may or may not apply.*

All three of these scenarios require a municipal regulatory framework. There are emerging strategies to guide Ontario's municipalities in preventing FAs from further potential abuse and destruction of our natural resources for current and future generations.

Call to Action To All Ontario Municipalities With Waterfront Assets

Based on our collective learning, experience and history with the FA problem, we believe there are two responses municipalities can utilize to attempt to control FAs participating in one or more of the three scenarios outlined above:

- 1) **FAs cannot exist within the boundaries of a municipality:** *This scenario has recently been enacted in the Townships of Severn and Georgian Bay; although they have not yet been tested in court. These zoning by-law amendments provide clarity in that floating accommodations are not a permitted use. FAs cannot exist on waters within these Townships, under any circumstances, over public or private lakebeds or in commercial marina establishments. Their outright ban of FAs is actively being considered by several other municipalities, [[Township of Severn Zoning By-law Amendment to regulate Floating Accommodations](#)], [[Township of Georgian Bay Zoning By-law Amendment to regulate Floating Accommodations](#)]*
- 2) **FAs can only exist as FHs (floating homes):** *When floating accommodations are permanently fixed to an approved dock/mooring with permanent hydro, sanitary, and water connections they are classified by Transport Canada as a Floating Home (FH). Floating Homes are not vessels. This scenario of approved mooring for Floating Homes is well understood, documented and in place throughout British Columbia and Bluffers Park on Lake Ontario and would require significant municipal policy changes for most. One further twist on this scenario is that a FH owner who chooses to untether and go float “free range” for a time and then come back may be banned from the FH mooring location depending upon their Home Owners Agreement. This solution has existed for some 20+ years in both locations and is very well understood.*

It is suggested that municipalities consult with their own legal representatives to determine what regulatory approach is best suited for your jurisdiction.

Need To Find Out More?

If you need more information or further clarification on any aspect of this position paper, please feel free to reach out to any member of the Floating Accommodations not Vessels Coalition or to our email address fanv2025@gmail.com.

APPENDIX

Floating Homes versus Floating Accommodations: Definitions and Management to date

Historical context and definitions:

Historically, floating residential structures have existed in zoned-for-purpose marinas and permanent mooring locations. These types of structures look and feel like houses. They are typically wood framed units with windows, doors, roofs, and decking and floatation devices. Inside they have bathrooms, kitchens, living rooms and bedrooms... essentially a house on water. They are “permanently” moored / fixed to a docking arrangement and are also permanently connected to sanitary sewers, water supply, power supply, and gas (for heating and cooking) supply.

There are multiple instances of these floating residences, but the most popular and recognized communities are the 24 floating homes in Bluffers Park on the shores of Lake Ontario in Scarborough (Toronto), and 60+ homes in False Creek in downtown Vancouver.



Both of these examples and all other occurrences where a floating residence is fixed permanently to a mooring location are classified by Transport Canada as “Floating Homes”. It is important to understand that Floating Homes are not recognized by Transport Canada as vessels. They are distinct and separate from Floating Accommodations.



How do Floating Accommodations differ from Floating Homes?

The recently emerging challenge is Floating Accommodations, which can be ‘repurposed’ shipping containers modified by DIY individuals or purpose-built wood construction. The units have windows, doors and some form of bathroom, kitchen, sleeping, and living quarters. Floating Accommodations are not restricted to the configuration seen below, as there are numerous examples of residences fabricated with wood frame construction built on floatation devices that appear more like a traditional boathouse.



All of these floating accommodations are not permanently fixed to a mooring location. They are “free range floating residences”; moving, floating and mooring whenever and wherever they wish.

Transport Canada classifies floating residences that are not connected to a permanent mooring location as vessels.

Floating Accommodations until 2023 were largely unregulated within Ontario. The topic had not historically been an issue; therefore, government agencies needed to react to the changing issue and the “vessel” designation being utilized by Transport Canada as well as by the individuals and/or companies exploiting this loophole.

The authors can now report that Parks Canada, MNR, and OPP have separately and collectively identified enforcement avenues where appropriate to attempt to govern Floating Accommodations. To complete the governance framework, appropriate amendments to existing municipal by-laws are required.

What Are the Challenges Associated with Floating Accommodations?

This table illustrates the complexity of multiple government agencies whose mandates are individually impacted yet require collective collaboration to implement solutions. The following table lists the various issues and respective agencies likely to manage them.

Issue / Concern with Floating Accommodations	Expected Responsible Agency
Potential absence of sanitary capability and dumping of toxic and other harmful substances from FA	Environment & Climate Change Canada (ECCC) (Federal) and Ministry of Environment (Prov.)
Pollution from floatation devices and garbage	Transport Canada & ECCC (Federal); Ministry of Environment (Provincial)
Impact of endangered wildlife when moored in environmentally sensitive areas	Parks Canada or ECCC if outside of Parks Canada sites; Fisheries & Oceans if fish/mussel related; <i>Endangered Species Act</i> administered by Ministry of the Environment (Provincial)
Navigational impediment as a moving vessel	Transport Canada
Navigational impediment as a moored vessel	Transport Canada & Local Municipalities (via VORR's)
No building or construction standards specifically related to FAs exist	Transport Canada
FAs pay no taxation to support consumption of local emergency services or waste management services	Municipality
Mooring in any location	Municipal zoning (not yet tested in court)
Mooring on private lakebeds (must make contact with private property beneath the water)	OPP – Trespass to Property Act

Issue / Concern with Floating Accommodations	Expected Responsible Agency
Spawning ground / fish habitat damage caused by the steel spuds into lakebeds	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) (Federal water control); DFO supported by Parks Canada in National Parks, National Historic Sites and National Marine Conservation Areas; MNR (inland lakes); responsible for the management of fisheries
Floating Accommodations becoming vacation rentals (VRBO or Airbnb)	Municipal by-laws (e.g. Short-Term Rental by-laws and zoning by-laws)
Floating Accommodations becoming an unregulated expansion of a cottage	Federal waters – Parks Canada in National Parks, National Historic Sites and National Marine Conservation Areas Provincial waters- <i>Public Lands Act</i> administered by MNR prohibits FAs from occupying provincial public land through regulation Privately owned waters – Municipality

During our early discussions, each of the agencies that we expected to play a partial and/or full role to control Floating Accommodations felt they were not legislated to manage and regulate Floating Accommodations. Many felt that other agencies were better equipped to regulate the problem or that, given Transport Canada's designation of FAs as vessels, that Transport Canada was the ultimate controlling ministry. Agencies outside of Transport Canada were of the opinion that any attempt to act would result in legal proceedings that given the vessel designation, would likely be unsuccessful with respect to the agency responsible for legal expenses.

What Changes Have Been Made to Support a Regulatory Framework?

The shift to create enforceable solutions came via 2 separate but foundational insights:

1. ***Glaspell vs Ontario 2015*** – Clarifying lakebed ownership which has become the cornerstone strategy “anchoring” all of the in-force regulatory frameworks.
2. ***Freedom of Information request to Transport Canada*** – Clarified 3 important aspects:
 - a) *Floating Homes vs Floating Accommodations: Floating Homes are not vessels; Floating Accommodations are vessels.*

- b) Transport Canada's primary (and some would say only) objective is vessel safety. They do not believe their mandate / charter per the Canadian Transport Act (2001) mandates them or requires them to control Floating Accommodations.*
- c) Transport Canada has expressed strong public support of the newly launched MNR Floating Accommodation regulatory framework (161/17). Transport Canada's guidance to other agencies interested in governing FAs was very clear – use the MNR framework to guide your actions.*

It is critical to the municipal strategy that readers of this position paper are comfortable with the solid underpinnings of the current provincial, federal and criminal regulatory framework.

The Glaspell v Ontario ruling [[Glaspell v Ontario 2015 ONSC 3965](#)] has clarified 3 elements that have been 'baked' into case law informing FA regulations formed by Parks Canada and MNR.

- a) Glaspell ruling established that all lakebeds and riverbeds are the ownership of either federal crown, provincial crown or private ownership, and separately, municipalities have the option to issue zoning controls over those lakebeds.*
- b) The ownership of lakebed can act as a basis to authorize or not permit a floating object overhead to cast a shadow over the lakebed and by definition occupying that lakebed.*
- c) Resulting from the case law establishing enforceable lakebed ownership, the principle of authorized vs unauthorized occupation of crown land (lakebed) has been crystallized into FA regulatory frameworks.*

The importance of Glaspell was vital to the success of the regulatory frameworks that have emerged. The critical learning here is that historically all enforcement by Parks Canada, MNR, and OPP was through "land-based" policies. Had any of these agencies sought to remedy through water-based policies, they likely would have lost any court challenge due to the vessel designation that Transport Canada would likely uphold. Seeking to control Floating Accommodations through land-based laws was a masterful stroke of genius and we applaud the leadership of MNR, Parks Canada and OPP.

Municipalities would be advised to consider and build on the positive implications of the Glaspell ruling in their formation of FA zoning and governance by-laws.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR Ontario) was first out of the gate to create their regulatory framework based on the Glaspell ruling. Specifically, 161/17 which is exactly the right regulatory framework to govern Floating Accommodations.

The full definition of Ontario Regulation 161/17 is found in this link [[MNR Regulation 161/17 governing Floating Accommodations](#)] The fundamentals of 161/17 include:

- a) Defining what is and what is not a floating accommodation.*
- b) Defining occupation of provincial crown land by the shadow of a floating object overhead on crown lakebed.*
- c) Conveying that a floating accommodation is not permitted to occupy provincial lakebed and shoreline.*
- d) The ability to charge the owner of the floating accommodation in the event they are occupying provincial lakebed without permission.*

The principles underlying the MNR 161/17 framework (released in summer of 2023) has since been adopted in principle by both Parks Canada and OPP and both agencies have identified enforcement avenues where appropriate.

Parks Canada's solution was issued in 2024 and mirrors MNR's strategy. The full definition of Parks Canada's regulation can be found in the following link [[Parks Canada Mooring Regulations covering Floating Accommodations](#)]. The fundamentals of Parks Canada's framework include:

- a) Defining what is a floating accommodation in a manner similar to MNR.*
- b) Requiring all floating accommodations secure a permit to lawfully moor over federal lakebeds overnight.*
- c) Failure to obtain a permit constitutes "unauthorized occupation" of federal lands and the occupying person(s) will be charged accordingly.*

Lastly, the OPP have embraced a similar lakebed ownership strategy for privately owned lakebed. They have case law where they have successfully prosecuted a floating accommodation that was making actual contact with a private lakebed in an unauthorized manner and consequently the FA owners were charged and successfully prosecuted with trespassing.

The Townships of Severn and Georgian Bay Experience

As we described in the first few pages, the existing regulatory framework created by MNR, Parks Canada and OPP has a few gaps. Severn Township recognized that early on and amended their by-law in 2024 [[Township of Severn Zoning By-law Amendment to regulate Floating Accommodations](#)]. A similar by-law amendment was enacted in the Township of Georgian Bay in 2025 [[Township of Georgian Bay Zoning By-law Amendment to regulate Floating Accommodations](#)].

The essential element of these amended by-laws, described in this position paper as Response #1 on page 5, is very simple... FAs cannot exist on waters within the boundaries of these two townships.... period. While they have not been tested in court, one by-law has already been successfully used as a deterrent to an FA presence. Several other townships are actively studying and considering implementing similar by-laws for their respective jurisdictions.

There Are Numerous Lessons Gained Along This Journey

Our grass roots organization **Floating Accommodations not Vessels Coalition** experienced many peaks and valleys in the journey to facilitate the appropriate agencies to successfully manage and control the new “issue” of Floating Accommodations.

It would be an accurate reflection to say that only if we knew then what we know now...

There are six key learnings:

- 1) *It takes a team of motivated, passionate, patient people to stick with it... we discussed after year one and two – was this worth it? Yes! While it took our coalition four years to get here, we believe our efforts have been instrumental in facilitating the right framework that can be applied province-wide.*
- 2) *When working with federal and provincial agencies who say no, don't take that for an answer, keep up the pressure, continue to make your issue their issue. At some point in time the right set of agencies will step forward and get to the solution. In our case that was a combination of Parks Canada, MNR, OPP and our local municipalities – the Townships of Severn and Georgian Bay.*
- 3) *Broad based support by multiple grass roots organizations was key to our combined success. In our case that consisted of numerous local Cottage Associations large and small who all successfully raised their voices. We would do it again in the same way.*
- 4) *While appeals by local politicians and provincial MPP's and federal MP's to both provincial and federal ministers didn't directly solve the issue, it greatly helped to communicate the seriousness of the issue.*
- 5) *Sometimes, it takes a change in basic assumptions and in this case it was the insights gained from the Glaspell ruling to get to the right answer. Together with MNR, Parks Canada and OPP we were fortunate enough to understand the pathway and leverage Glaspell.*
- 6) *Media! We were fortunate to tap into print, tv, radio, social media – it all helped. We brought on partners like Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (FOCA) and Cottage Life to spread the message. Had we had more financial resources we would have stepped up our investment in social media... maybe next time!*

Acknowledgements and Thank You.

We would like to thank in no particular order...

- *Working group members from our partners at Parks Canada, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ontario Provincial Police.*
- *Working group members from our municipal partners - Mayors, Councillors and Staff from Severn Township, Township of Georgian Bay, Tay Township and Township of the Archipelago.*
- *Gloucester Pool Cottagers' Association & Georgian Bay Association*
- *The Decibel Coalition*
- *Safe Quiet Lakes Coalition*
- *Cottage Life*
- *Many cottage associations, and the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (FOCA)*
- *And lastly, the Floating Accommodations Not Vessels Coalition members who authored this position paper*

While we did strive to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this information, the authors assume no responsibility for any omissions to or errors that may be contained within this position paper.

We the members of the Floating Accommodations not Vessels Coalition wish to express our deep gratitude and thanks to all the members mentioned above that have been instrumental in this journey.... Thank you!

Municipality of *Bluewater*

June 6, 2025

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

Dear Premier Ford:

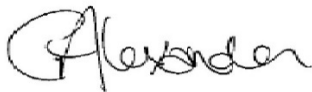
At the Municipality of Bluewater's regular Council meeting held on June 2, 2025, Council received a resolution distributed by the Town of LaSalle regarding the Northern Health Travel Grant Program. Please be advised that the Council of the Municipality of Bluewater passed the following resolution:

MOVED: Councillor Bailey **SECONDED:** Councillor Walden
THAT the Council of the Municipality of Bluewater supports the resolution passed by the Town of LaSalle regarding the Northern Health Travel Grant Program; and

THAT this resolution of support be circulated to all Ontario municipalities, Premier Doug Ford, Lisa Thompson, MPP for Huron Bruce, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier Ms. Sylvia Jones.
CARRIED.

Attached is the resolution passed by the Town of LaSalle.

Sincerely,



Chandra Alexander
Manager of Corporate Services/Clerk

cc:

Lisa Thompson, Huron-Bruce MPP
Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier
Jennifer Astrologo, Director of Council Services/Clerk
Ontario Municipalities



February 4, 2025

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

Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

Re: Northern Health Travel Grant Program

Council of the Town of LaSalle, at its Regular Meeting held Tuesday, January 28, 2025, passed the following resolution:

14/25

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Akpata
Seconded by: Councillor Renaud

Whereas the Northern Health Travel Grant program (the "Program") offers financial assistance to Northern Ontario residents who need to travel long distances for specialized medical services or procedures at a ministry funded health care facility;

And Whereas, the grants for this Program are based on the distance residents must travel to reach the nearest medical specialist or ministry funded healthcare facility;

And Whereas, residents must travel at least 100 kilometers one-way to access the nearest medical specialist or ministry-funded healthcare facility for services that are not available locally to qualify for the grant;

And Whereas, there are many occasions in which residents of Windsor-Essex County must travel at least 100 kilometers one way to access health care facilities or services that are not available locally; And Whereas, there are four primary children's hospitals across the province, located in London, Hamilton, Toronto and Ottawa, and none of these facilities are within 100 kilometers of Windsor-Essex County;

And Whereas, it has been reported that more than 5,000 times each year pediatric patients across Windsor-Essex County must drive to London Health Sciences Centre for treatment at its Children's Hospital, which places a financial strain on families and care-givers;

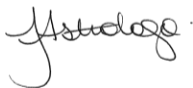
Now Therefore, the Town of LaSalle calls upon the Provincial Government and Ministry of Health to establish a grant system similar to the Northern Health Travel Grant program in Windsor-Essex County to provide support to the residents of Windsor-Essex County when they need to travel long distances for specialized medical services or procedures at ministry funded health care facilities;

And that, this motion be circulated to all municipalities for support, Premier Doug Ford, MPP Anthony Leardi, MPP Andrew Dowie, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier Ms. Sylvia Jones and all local municipalities.

Carried.

Please consider this letter as confirmation of the Town of LaSalle's support of the above matter.

Yours Truly,



Jennifer Astrologo
Director of Council Services/Clerk
Town of LaSalle
jastrologo@lasalle.ca

Cc: (via email)
MPP Anothony Leardi Anthony.Leardi@pc.ola.org
MPP Andrew Dowie Andrew.Dowie@pc.ola.org
MPP Minister of Health and Deputy Premier Sylvia Jones sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org
Association of Municipalities of Ontario resolutions@amo.on.ca
All Ontario Municipalities

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MARKSTAY-WARREN
RESOLUTION

Agenda Item # 12.a

NO: 2025-RCM - 62

DATE: May 20, 2025

MOVED BY: Rachelle Poirier

SECONDED BY: Laura Schell

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, effective May 1, 2025;

And whereas Strong Mayor Powers erode the 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 Municipality of Markstay-Warren ("Council") **opposes** the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers, as announced on April 9, 2025;
- That Council **directs** the CAO/Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; All Local MPPs; AMCTO, AMO and All Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED



MAYOR

DIVISION VOTE

	YEA	NAY		Disclosure on interest
Steven Olsen				
Rachelle Poirier				
Laura Schell				
Ross Evans				
Francine Bérubé				



May 21, 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 Tuesday, May 20, 2025, the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Markstay-Warren passed the following resolution respecting the matter referenced in the above subject line:

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, effective May 1, 2025;

And whereas Strong Mayor Powers erode the 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 Municipality of Markstay-Warren ("Council") **opposes** the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers, as announced on April 9, 2025;



-
- That Council **directs** the CAO/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

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

Sincerely,

Kim Morris, CAO
The Corporation of the Municipality of
Markstay-Warren

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)



CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BLACK RIVER – MATHESON
367 FOURTH AVE, P.O. BOX 601, MATHESON, ON P0K 1N0
TELEPHONE (705) 273-2313 EMAIL : brm@twpbrm.ca WEBSITE: www.twpbrm.ca

Jon Pegg
Fire Marshal of Ontario
Office of the Fire Marshal
25 Morton Shulman Avenue
Toronto, ON M3M 0B1

June 10, 2025

Via Email: Jon.Pegg@ontario.ca

Dear Fire Marshal Pegg:

Subject: Request for Exemption to Proposed Mandatory Firefighter Certification Requirements (O. Reg. 343/22)

On behalf of the Council of the Township of Black River-Matheson, I am writing to express our concerns regarding the mandatory firefighter certification requirements under Ontario Regulation 343/22.

At its meeting held on June 10th, Council passed the attached resolution formally opposing the implementation of these requirements. While we recognize and support the importance of firefighter training and safety, the regulation as it stands does not adequately reflect the operational realities of small, rural, and northern municipalities.

Communities such as ours rely heavily on volunteer and composite fire departments that already face critical challenges in recruitment, training accessibility, and financial capacity.

Specifically, we are burdened by:

- Geographic barriers and long travel distances to accredited training centres,
- Inconsistent access to instructors and scheduling options,
- Limited budgets and competing capital demands,
- Difficulty in retaining and replacing volunteers due to increased regulatory pressures.

Without additional support, flexibility, or exemption mechanisms, the implementation of O. Reg. 343/22 will severely compromise our ability to provide consistent, timely, and effective fire protection to our residents.

Accordingly, the Council of the Township of Black River-Matheson respectfully requests that the Office of the Fire Marshal and the Ministry of the Solicitor General:

1. Defer full implementation of the certification regulation for rural and northern municipalities,
2. Provide exemptions or alternative compliance pathways tailored to the needs and limitations of small, remote fire services,
3. Increase funding and training supports for municipalities outside major urban centres.

We believe that a one-size-fits-all regulatory model will disproportionately and unfairly affect communities like ours. A more flexible, consultative approach is urgently needed. Thank you for your consideration of this request. We would welcome further discussion and are open to participating in any future consultations or working groups aimed at resolving these challenges collaboratively.

Sincerely,

Dave Dymont, Mayor

/hjl

On behalf of the Council of Black River-Matheson

Encl.: Resolution No.2025-214 – Council Opposition to O. Reg. 343/22

CC:

The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General – michael.kerzner@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario – premier@ontario.ca

John Vanthof, MPP, Timiskaming—Cochrane – jvanthof-co@ndp.on.ca

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – amo@amo.on.ca

Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) – admin@fonom.org

All Ontario Municipalities



Corporation of the Township of Black River - Matheson
367 Fourth Avenue
P.O. Box 601
Matheson, Ontario
P0K 1N0

ITEM # 2025-10.b)
RESOLUTION

DATE: June 10, 2025

2025-214

Moved by Councillor Steve Campsall
Seconded by Councillor Alain Bouchard

WHEREAS the Ontario government has enacted O. Reg. 343/22, establishing mandatory certification requirements for firefighters under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997;

AND WHEREAS Council for the Township of Black River-Matheson acknowledges the importance of standardized firefighter training and safety;

AND WHEREAS these mandatory certification requirements pose significant challenges for small, rural, and northern municipalities due to limited financial and training resources, geographic barriers, and reliance on volunteer fire departments;

AND WHEREAS the implementation of these requirements without additional flexibility or support may negatively impact the Township's ability to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters and provide adequate fire protection to its residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Township of Black River-Matheson formally opposes the mandatory firefighter certification requirements as currently outlined in O. Reg. 343/22;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Solicitor General, Premier of Ontario, MPP John Vanthof, the Fire Marshal, AMO, FONOM, and all Ontario municipalities

☒ CARRIED ☐ DEFEATED

CHAIR SIGNATURE

☐ Original ☐ Amendment ☐ Refer ☐ Defer ☐ Reconsider ☐ Withdrawn

Recorded Vote-TO BE COMPLETED BY CLERK ONLY

	YEAS	NAYS
Mayor Dave Dymont		
Councillor Allen		
Councillor Charbonneau		
Councillor Campsall		

Hongji Lei

Hong Ji Lei
Town Manager/Clerk



TOWNSHIP OF BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN

42 Burnt Bridge Road, PO Box 40
Palmer Rapids, Ontario K0J 2E0
TEL: (613) 758-2061 · FAX: (613) 758-2235

June 6, 2025

The Honourable Minister Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

RE: Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers

Dear Minister Flack,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on June 4, 2025, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the resolution from the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards.

Resolution No: 2025-05-04-06
Moved by: Councillor Kauffeldt
Seconded by: Councillor Banks

"Be It resolved that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards resolution regarding Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers.

And further that this resolution be forwarded to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs Cheryl Gallant, MP Billy Denault, MPP AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario) All Ontario Municipalities."

Carried.

Sincerely,

Tammy Thompson
Deputy Clerk
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan



Naturally Spirited

1 John Street, P.O. Box 39

Killaloe, ON K0J 2A0

Telephone: (613)757-2300 – Fax: (613)757-3634

email: info@khrtownship.ca

Web Site: www.killaloe-hagarty-richards.ca

April 16, 2025

The Honourable Minister Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Re: Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers

Dear Minister Flack,

Council for the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards wishes to formally express our strong opposition to the implementation of “strong mayor” powers as introduced through recent amendments to the *Municipal Act, 2001* and related regulations.

Council has carefully reviewed the intent and implications of these powers, and we believe they are neither appropriate nor beneficial for the structure and scale of local government in our municipality. The Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards—like many rural and small-town communities across Ontario—has a longstanding tradition of cooperative governance, where all elected officials have an equal voice and decisions are made collectively, through open dialogue and democratic process.

The introduction of strong mayor powers, including the ability for mayors to unilaterally hire and dismiss senior staff, veto by-laws, and control budget processes, significantly undermines the fundamental principle of governance by council. This shift in authority creates an imbalance that risks eroding trust among council members, staff, and the public. It may also reduce transparency and accountability, which are cornerstones of effective and responsible municipal leadership.

The authority granted through strong mayor powers is primarily aimed at eliminating obstacles that hinder the construction of new housing. However, our municipal council is already making meaningful progress without relying on these powers. We are actively collaborating with two local non-profit organizations and the County of Renfrew to develop affordable and accessible housing units, demonstrating our commitment to inclusive housing solutions through partnership and community engagement.

Moreover, there is no demonstrated need for such powers in municipalities like ours. The current system—based on majority rule and consensus-building—has served our community well and reflects the values of fairness, representation, and collaboration that our residents expect from their local government. These powers may be intended for use in large urban centres facing unique governance challenges, but applying them more broadly to small and rural municipalities is both unnecessary and potentially disruptive.

We therefore respectfully request that your ministry reconsider the implementation of strong mayor powers across Ontario, particularly in municipalities that have not asked for, and do not require, such authority. We urge you to engage in meaningful consultation with municipalities of all sizes, and to recognize that one-size-fits-all approaches to governance often do more harm than good.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our concerns further and to contribute to a broader conversation about how best to support good governance and municipal autonomy in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Council for Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards

cc: Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs
Cheryl Gallant, MP
Billy Denault, MPP
AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario)
All Ontario Municipalities



TOWNSHIP OF BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN

42 Burnt Bridge Road, PO Box 40
Palmer Rapids, Ontario K0J 2E0
TEL: (613) 758-2061 · FAX: (613) 758-2235

June 6, 2025

Minister of Children Community and Social Services
438 University Avenue, 7th floor,
Toronto, ON
M7A 1N3

RE: Ontario Works Financial Assistance Rates

Dear Hon. Michael Parsa,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on June 4, 2025, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the resolution from the Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Social Services Committee.

Resolution No: 2025-05-04-07
Moved by: Councillor Keller
Seconded by: Councillor Banks

"Be It resolved that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support the Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Social Services Committee resolution regarding Ontario Works Financial Assistance Rates.

And further that this resolution be forwarded to Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, and all Ontario Municipalities."

Carried.

Sincerely,

Tammy Thompson
Deputy Clerk

Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan



April 10, 2025

Re: Ontario Works Financial Assistance Rates

Please be advised that the Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Social Services Committee, at its meeting held on April 10, 2025, approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS poverty is taking a devastating toll on communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario, with people in receipt of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program being disproportionately impacted;

AND WHEREAS the cost of food, housing, medicine, and other essential items have outpaced the highest inflation rates seen in a generation;

AND WHEREAS people in need of social assistance have been legislated into poverty, housing insecurity, hunger, poorer health, their motives questioned, and their dignity undermined;

AND WHEREAS Ontario Works (OW) Financial Assistance rates have been frozen since 2018 (\$733 per month);

AND WHEREAS Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefit rates have been increased by 6.5 percent as of July 2023 and another 4.5% as of July 2024 to keep up with inflation, however even with the increase, ODSP rates still fall significantly below the disability-adjusted poverty line (\$3,091 per month);

AND WHEREAS OW and ODSP rates do not provide sufficient income for a basic standard of living and, as a result, hundreds of thousands of people across Ontario who rely on these programs live in poverty;

AND WHEREAS designated Service Managers are doing their part, but do not have the resources, capacity, or tools to provide the necessary income and health related supports to people experiencing poverty; and

AND WHEREAS leadership and urgent action is needed from the Provincial Government to immediately develop, resource, and implement a comprehensive plan to address the rising levels of poverty in Ontario, in particular for those on Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs;



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Prince Edward-Lennox & Addington Committee requests the Provincial Government to urgently:

- 1. Increase Ontario Works rates to match the ODSP rate increases that have already been made and be indexed to inflation;**
- 2. Commit to ongoing cost of living increases above and beyond the rate of inflation to make up for the years they were frozen;**

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, and all Ontario Municipalities.

Regards,

Sam Branderhorst

Signed with ConsignO Cloud (2025/04/11)
Verify with veriflo.com or Adobe Reader.



Sam Branderhorst, Chair

Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Social Services Committee

**Cc: Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services
Minister of Health
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association
All Ontario Municipalities**



TOWNSHIP OF BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN

42 Burnt Bridge Road, PO Box 40
Palmer Rapids, Ontario K0J 2E0
TEL: (613) 758-2061 · FAX: (613) 758-2235

June 6, 2025

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

RE: Call for inclusive research to reflect diversity of Canadian communities

Dear Mr. Ford,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on June 4, 2025, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the resolution from the Town of Parry Sound.

Resolution No: 2025-05-04-08
Moved by: Councillor Kauffeldt
Seconded by: Councillor Keller

"Be it resolved that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support the Town of Parry Sounds resolution regarding the Call for inclusive research to reflect diversity of Canadian communities.

And further that this resolution be forwarded to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs Cheryl Gallant, MP Billy Denault, MPP AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario) All Ontario Municipalities."

Carried.

Sincerely,

Tammy Thompson
Deputy Clerk
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan



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