



Township of Cramahe Council Information Package

Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

Location: For Information Only

Pages

Council Information Package

1. Correspondence

1.a Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

2

AMO 2025 Pre-Budget Update: New Economic Reality Demands
Partnership and Strategic Investment

2. Resolutions from Other Municipalities

2.a Expansion of Strong Mayor Powers

4

Resolutions of Objection

- Municipality of North Middlesex
- Town of Parry Sound
- Zorra Township
- Town of Greater Napanee
- Township of Rideau Lakes
- Town of Aylmer
- Town of Kingsville

2.b Amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act

18

Support Resolution No. 2025-100 regarding Amendment to
Subsection 29(1.2) Ontario Heritage Act.

From: [AMO Policy Clerk](#)
To: [AMO Policy Clerk](#)
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Spring Policy Priorities
Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 6:40:29 PM

CAUTION: External E-Mail



AMO Policy Update – Spring Policy Priorities

**AMO 2025 Pre-Budget Update: New Economic Reality Demands
Partnership and Strategic Investment**

The global landscape and our economic conditions have fundamentally changed since AMO launched its [2025 Pre-Budget Submission](#) in January. We now face an unprecedented threat to our economy and sovereignty, and overcoming it requires a strong and united front. Today, AMO is pleased to announce its [2025 Pre-Budget Update](#) which calls for a stimulus investment in municipal infrastructure of \$3.45 billion annually over the next five years to:

- keep in-flight municipal capital projects on track,
- accelerate planned municipal infrastructure projects, and
- develop and repair up to 20,000 new social housing units in communities across Ontario.

This work is supported by a [new macroeconomic analysis report](#) that AMO commissioned from Oxford Economics. The report provides insights into the impacts of tariffs on Ontario, its industries, and its municipalities' finances, helping municipalities navigate uncertain times. The report also models the positive impacts of stimulus, providing a basis for AMO's updated pre-budget submission.

Ontario's municipalities are strongest when they speak with one voice. AMO has provided [key messages and social media cards](#) to help interested members amplify its stimulus request in the face of economic downturn.

This Policy Update is also available on the [AMO Website](#).



*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

**THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH MIDDLESEX
RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL**

Member Present	YES	NO	DATE: APRIL 23, 2025
Councillor A. Cornelissen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOVED BY: 
Councillor C. Daigle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Councillor B. Irwin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SECONDED BY: 
Councillor S. Nirta	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Deputy Mayor P. Hodgins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mayor B. Ropp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

RESULT: Carried

WHEREAS the Province has announced the expansion of strong mayor powers to another 169 municipalities as of May 1, 2025 in addition to the 47 municipalities which currently have received strong mayor powers; and

WHEREAS the Province claims that strong mayor powers will get homes and infrastructure built faster, reduce red tape, and accelerate the delivery of key priorities; and Whereas research from the Association of Municipal Clerks & Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) has identified that: a) there is no evidence to suggest this legislation has any impact on the number of housing starts in municipalities that have been granted the powers; and b) strong mayor powers have blurred the political-administrative authority between the roles of head of council and chief administrative officers (CAOs), threatening the neutrality of the public service and politicizing local government leadership; and

WHEREAS strong mayor powers is an erosion to the democratic process of an historically non-partisan municipal governance structure;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the North Middlesex hereby resolves to reject the strong mayor powers granted to it, and requests that the Province repeal the legislation, or offer the option to municipalities to opt out of strong mayor powers; and

THAT this Resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing Rob Flack, Premier Doug Ford, MPP Steve Pinsonneault, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities.



52 Seguin Street, Parry Sound, Ontario P2A 1B4
Tel: (705) 746-2101 • Fax: (705) 746-7461 • www.parrysound.ca

Office of the Mayor

April 22, 2025

Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing
College Park, 17th floor,
777 Bay St.
Toronto ON M7A 2J3

Via email: minister.mah@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Flack,

On behalf of Council of the Town of Parry Sound, please accept my congratulations on your recent appointment as Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing. It's an important Ministry and we look forward to working with you and Ministry staff.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing provided notice on April 9th that the Ministry was seeking comments regarding its intent to extend strong mayor powers to an additional 169 municipalities, including the Town of Parry Sound. The comment period was open until April 16th. These additional powers are not powers that I as Mayor believe are necessary and do not wish to exercise them. At our April 15th meeting, Council unanimously voted to reject strong mayor powers, request the province to repeal the legislation, or alternatively permit municipalities to opt out.


We were disappointed that there was no previous communication before the April 9th letter, with a comment period of only one week. Contrary to provincial claims that strong mayor powers will get homes and infrastructure built faster, reduce red tape and accelerate the delivery of key priorities, research by the Association of Municipal Clerks & Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) has found no evidence to suggest this legislation has any impact on the number of housing starts in municipalities that have been granted the powers; and moreover the strong mayor powers have blurred the political-administrative authority between the roles of head of council and Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) and senior staff, threatening the neutrality of the public service and politicizing local government leadership. We have seen very questionable use by mayors with strong mayor powers.

...2

Our public expects a democratic process. Given the overwhelming use of executive orders by the current US President and multiple respected analysts' concerns about the US slipping into authoritarianism, our country and its democratic institutions should be safeguarding these democratic principles that provide accountability to the public and not undermining them.

We encourage the provincial government to repeal this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jamie McGarvey', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.


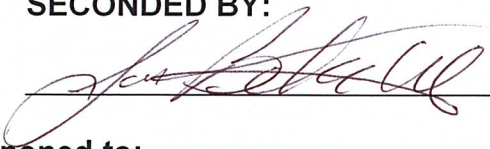
Jamie McGarvey
Mayor, Town of Parry Sound

c.c. Premier Doug Ford
MPP Graydon Smith
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities
Members of Town of Parry Sound Council
CAO Clayton Harris
Clerk Rebecca Johnson



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PARRY SOUND
RESOLUTION IN COUNCIL

NO. 2025 – 047

DIVISION LIST	YES	NO	DATE: April 15, 2025
Councillor G. ASHFORD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOVED BY: 
Councillor J. BELESKEY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Councillor P. BORNEMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SECONDED BY: 
Councillor B. KEITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Councillor D. McCANN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Councillor C. McDONALD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mayor J. McGARVEY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CARRIED: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEFEATED: <input type="checkbox"/> Postponed to: _____			

Whereas the Province has announced the expansion of strong mayor powers to another 169 municipalities as of May 1, 2025 in addition to the 47 municipalities which currently have received strong mayor powers; and

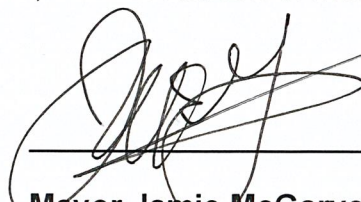
Whereas the Province claims that strong mayor powers will get homes and infrastructure built faster, reduce red tape, and accelerate the delivery of key priorities; and

Whereas research from the Association of Municipal Clerks & Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) has identified that: a) there is no evidence to suggest this legislation has any impact on the number of housing starts in municipalities that have been granted the powers; and b) strong mayor powers have blurred the political-administrative authority between the roles of head of council and chief administrative officers (CAOs), threatening the neutrality of the public service and politicizing local government leadership; and

Whereas strong mayor powers is an erosion to the democratic process of an historically non-partisan municipal governance structure;

Now Therefore the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Parry Sound hereby resolves to reject the strong mayor powers granted to it, and requests that the Province repeal the legislation, or offer the option to municipalities to opt out of strong mayor powers; and

That this Resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing Rob Flack, Premier Doug Ford, MPP Graydon Smith, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities.



Mayor Jamie McGarvey



April 24, 2025

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

Via email: Premier@ontario.ca

At the April 16, 2025 regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Zorra, the following resolution was passed:

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

AND WHEREAS this proposal has raised significant concerns regarding the centralization of power, erosion of local democracy, reduced accountability, and the potential for the abuse of power;

AND WHEREAS the proposed expansion of strong mayor powers undermines the collaborative nature of municipal governance, and diminishes the role of elected municipal councillors in representing the diverse interests of the community;

AND WHEREAS concerns have been raised about the negative impacts on public trust, democratic participation, and municipal decision-making processes, if mayors are given the ability to bypass council decisions without adequate consultation or oversight;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Zorra opposes the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers;

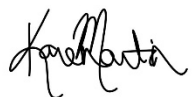
AND THAT the Council formally expresses its opposition to the Ontario government's proposal to expand Strong Mayor Powers to preserve local democracy, transparency, and accountability;

AND THAT the Council encourages advocacy for democratic principles and for municipal governance systems that prioritize collaboration, inclusivity, and democratic engagement;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Ontario Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all Ontario municipalities, as well as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for further action.

Disposition: Carried

Yours truly,



Karen Martin
Clerk
Township of Zorra

25-009

CC: Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing minister.mah@ontario.ca
All Ontario Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) resolutions@amo.on.ca

Executive Services
99-A Advance Avenue, Napanee, ON K7R 3Y5 www.greaternapanee.com

April 23, 2025

Township of Rideau Lakes
1439 County Road 8
Delta, ON K0E 1G0
Sent via email: mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca

Re: Strong Mayor Powers

To Whom It May Concern,

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Greater Napanee passed a resolution at its regular session meeting of April 22, 2025 in support of your correspondence regarding Strong Mayor Powers Legislation. A copy of the resolution is enclosed for your reference.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at jwalters@greaternapanee.com if you require any further information with respect to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Jessica Walters
Clerk

cc: Honourable Premier Doug Ford
Honourable Ric Bresee, MPP Hastings-Lennox and Addington
Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
AMO
AMCTO
All Ontario municipalities

RESOLUTION #194/25 Pinnell Jr., Norrie

That the Town of Greater Napanee sends a letter of support to the Township of Rideau Lakes in regard to their opposition of Ontario Expanding Strong Mayor Powers to 169 Additional Municipalities, and that the Town of Greater Napanee also request to be excluded from the Strong Mayor Powers;

And that a copy of the letter of support be sent to the Honorable Premier Doug Ford, the Honorable MPP Ric Bresee; the Honorable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario, and all other municipalities in Ontario for their consideration and support.

For: 5 Opposed: 2 Abstained:0 Absent: 0

CARRIED.

For:

Councillor Schenk, Councillor Hicks, Councillor Pinnell Jr., Councillor Norrie, Councillor Martin

Opposed:

Mayor Richardson, Deputy Mayor Calver



**TOWNSHIP OF RIDEAU LAKES
Special Council Meeting**

RESOLUTION 104-2025
Title: MSC (PW) Rec #78-2025 re: Strong Mayor Powers (for Council approval)
Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Moved by Councillor Dunfield
Seconded by Deputy Mayor P. Banks

WHEREAS at the Municipal Services Committee meeting held April 14, 2025, Recommendation #78-2025 was passed related to the recent announcement from the Government of Ontario on Strong Mayor Powers to an additional 169 municipalities effective May 1, 2025;

AND WHEREAS said recommendation further requested that the Province remove Rideau Lakes from the Strong Mayor Powers Legislation;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes concurs with MSC Recommendation #78-2025.

YES: 5 NO: 2 ABSTAIN: 0 CONFLICT: 0 ABSENT: 1

Carried

YES: 5 Councillor J. Banks Councillor Carr Councillor Dunfield Councillor Hutchings
Deputy Mayor P. Banks

NO: 2 Councillor Maxwell Councillor Pollard

CONFLICT: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1 Mayor Hoogenboom



**TOWNSHIP OF RIDEAU LAKES
Municipal Services Committee (PW)**

RECOMMENDATION: 78-2025

Title: Ontario Proposing to Expand Strong Mayor Powers to 169
Additional Municipalities

Date: Monday, April 14, 2025

Moved by Councillor Dunfield
Seconded by Deputy Mayor P. Banks

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has announced an expansion of strong mayor powers to an additional 169 municipalities, effective May 1, 2025;

AND WHEREAS these powers allow mayors to unilaterally override council decisions, appoint senior municipal staff, and set budgets without majority council approval, undermining the principles of democratic governance;

AND WHEREAS municipal governance functions best through a collaborative decision-making process where elected councils, representing the collective voice of their communities, work alongside experienced municipal staff;

AND WHEREAS there is no evidence to suggest that strong mayor powers have increased housing starts, contrary to the provincial government's stated justification for their implementation;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) has raised concerns that strong mayor powers blur the lines between political leadership and administrative expertise, threatening the neutrality of municipal public service;

AND WHEREAS the City of Orillia recently experienced a situation where its mayor unilaterally overturned a council decision regarding the hiring of a Chief Administrative Officer, demonstrating the potential for these powers to be misused;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Rideau Lakes has also experienced governance challenges resulting from mayoral overreach, further highlighting the risks posed by concentrating authority in a single elected official;

AND WHEREAS democratic principles require that municipal governance remain a system of "one person, one vote" rather than granting disproportionate power to a single individual;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Rideau Lakes:

1. Strongly opposes the expansion of strong mayor powers to additional municipalities, including Rideau Lakes;
2. Calls on the Government of Ontario to reverse this decision and uphold the traditional balance of municipal governance; and
3. Directs the Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to:
 - The Honourable Rob Flack Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 - MPP Steve Clark
 - The Honourable Premier of Ontario Doug Ford
 - The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
 - The Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO)
 - All Ontario municipalities for their consideration and support.

AND FURTHER that the Province be requested to remove Rideau Lakes from the Strong Mayor Powers Legislation.

YES: 5 NO: 3 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 0

Carried

YES: 5

Councillor J. Banks Councillor Carr Councillor Dunfield
Councillor Hutchings Deputy Mayor P. Banks

NO: 3

Mayor Hoogenboom Councillor Maxwell Councillor Pollard

April 16, 2025

The Honorable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
premier@ontario.ca

Re: Motion regarding Opposition to Expansion of Strong Mayor Powers

At their Regular Meeting of Council on April 16, 2025, the Council of the Town of Aylmer endorsed the following resolution:

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

AND WHEREAS this proposal has raised significant concerns regarding the centralization of power, erosion of local democracy, reduced accountability, and the potential for the abuse of power;

AND WHEREAS the proposed expansion of strong mayor powers undermines the collaborative nature of municipal governance, and diminishes the role of elected municipal councillors in representing the diverse interests of the community;

AND WHEREAS concerns have been raised about the negative impacts on public trust, democratic participation, and municipal decision-making processes, if mayors are given the ability to bypass council decisions without adequate consultation or oversight;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Aylmer opposes the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers;

AND THAT the Council formally expresses its opposition to the Ontario government's proposal to expand Strong Mayor Powers to preserve local democracy, transparency, and accountability;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Ontario Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all Ontario municipalities, as well as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for further action.

Thank you,

Owen Jaggard

Director of Legislative Services/Clerk | Town of Aylmer

46 Talbot Street West, Aylmer, ON N5H 1J7

519-773-3164 Ext. 4913 | Fax 519-765-1446

ojaggard@town.aylmer.on.ca | www.aylmer.ca

CC:

Hon. Rob Flack rob.flack@pc.ola.org

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

All municipalities



2021 Division Road North
Kingsville, Ontario N9Y 2Y9
Phone: (519) 733-2305
www.kingsville.ca

April 16, 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 Monday, April 14, 2025, the Council of the Town of Kingsville passed the following resolution respecting the matter referenced in the above subject line:

78-04142025

Moved By: Councillor Gaffan

Seconded By: Deputy Mayor DeYong

Whereas on April 9, 2025, the Government of Ontario (hereafter, the "Province"), led by Premier Doug Ford, announced a proposal to expand by "Strong Mayor Powers" as provided for by Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, to the heads of council in 169 additional municipalities, including the Town of Kingsville, effective May 1, 2025;

And whereas Strong Mayor Powers erode democratic process and have fundamentally altered the historic model of local governance, which has existed for almost two centuries, by:

- providing the head of council with the authority to unilaterally give direction and make certain decisions without a consensus from a majority of the members of council; and,
- creating a power imbalance by providing the head of council with special powers that other members do not generally have.

And whereas the Province is undermining the local governance model and municipal independence by attempting to advance its priorities through municipalities, and downloading its responsibilities to the same.

Now therefore be it resolved that:

- The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kingsville ("Council") **opposes** the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers, as announced on April 9, 2025;
- That Council **requests** that the proposed amendments to O. Reg. 530/22 to Expand Strong Mayor Powers and Duties to Additional Municipalities not include the Town of Kingsville; and;
- That Council **directs** the Acting Manager of Municipal Governance/Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; All Four Local MPPs; AMCTO, AMO and All Ontario Municipalities

Carried.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Toole". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angela Toole, Acting Manager of Municipal Governance/Clerk

Email: atoole@kingsville.ca

Phone: 519-733-2305 ext. 223

cc. Anthony Leardi, MPP, Essex
Trevor Jones, MPP, Chatham-Kent - Leamington
Andrew Dowie, MPP, Windsor-Tecumseh
Lisa Gretzky, MPP, Windsor West
AMCTO
AMO
All Ontario Municipalities



Grant Bivol
Town Clerk
Town of Niagara on the Lake
VIA EMAIL: clerks@notl.com

Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
www.puslinch.ca

April 16, 2025

RE: Support Resolution – Town of Niagara on the Lake Council Resolution regarding
Amendment of Subsection 29(1.2) of the Ontario Heritage Act

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on March 26, 2025
considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2025-100:

Moved by Councillor Sepulis and
Seconded by Councillor Hurst

**That the Consent Agenda item 6.11 listed for MARCH 26, 2025 Council meeting be
received for information; and**

**Whereas Township of Puslinch Council supports the Town of Niagara on the Lake
Council Resolution regarding Amendment of Subsection 29(1.2) of the Ontario
Heritage Act, that Council direct staff to prepare a support resolution accordingly.**

CARRIED

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information
and consideration.

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston
Municipal Clerk

CC: Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism Hon. Michael Ford, Minister of Municipal Affairs
and Housing Hon. Paul Calandra, The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, MPP Thompson,
all Ontario Municipalities

February 26, 2025

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

EMAIL: Doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

Dear Premier Ford,

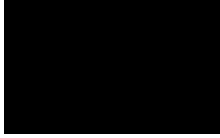
**RE: Requests the Province of Ontario Reconsider the Amendment of
Subsection 29(1.2) of the Ontario Heritage Act**

Please be advised that at its meeting of February 25, 2025, Council of the Town of Niagara on-the-Lake adopted the following resolution:

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Niagara-on-the-Lake Town Council endorses the resolution from the Municipality of South Huron requesting the Province reconsider the amendment to Subsection 29(1.2) of the Ontario Heritage Act.
2. Be It Resolved That copies of this resolution be forwarded to Minister Premier Doug Ford, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, local Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs); and MPP Thompson.
3. Be It Further Resolved That copies of this resolution be forwarded to all 444 Municipalities in Ontario, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact our office at 905-468-3266.

Sincerely,



Grant Bivol
Town Clerk

c.c. Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism Hon. Michael Ford - Michael.Ford@ontario.ca
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Hon. Paul Calandra - minister.mah@ontario.ca
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario - resolutions@amo.on.ca
All local Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs)
MPP Thompson - lisa.thompsonco@pc.ola.org
All 444 Municipalities of Ontario