

Friday, May 9, 2025

Hon. Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

SENT VIA EMAIL: rob.flack@pc.ola.org

Re: Town of Goderich Opposition to Amendments to O. Reg. 530 22 to Strong Mayor Powers

Dear Hon. Rob Flack,

Please be advised of the following motion that was passed at the April 28, 2025, Goderich Town Council meeting:

Moved By: Councillor Kelly
Seconded By: Councillor Petrie

WHEREAS on April 9, 2025, the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced the expansion of Strong Mayor powers to 169 additional municipalities, including the Town of Goderich, as a Strong Mayor community granting enhanced powers to the Mayor, effective May 1, 2025;

AND WHEREAS the 169 municipalities affected by the April 9 Strong Mayor powers letter supplied insufficient time for any meaningful feedback and coordinated response on O.Reg. 530/22 from Councils given the six (6) business day turnaround deadline for comments of April 16 - procedural notice provisions to call a special Council meeting and short notice scheduling conflicts of Council members;

AND WHEREAS the Strong Mayors powers has raised significant concerns regarding the centralization of power, reduced accountability, alters the balance of governance at the municipal level by ultimately undermining the role of Council and decision-making by weakening the fundamental democratic principle of majority rule, diminishes the role of elected municipal councillors in representing the diverse interests of the community, and the potential for the abuse of power;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Goderich has a long history of collaborative, transparent, and accountable local governance built upon a foundation of Council debate and shared decision-making;

AND WHEREAS Strong Mayor Powers would have the effect of fundamentally altering the historic model of local governance, which has existed for almost two centuries;

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;

AND WHEREAS municipal elected officials across the province and members of the public have expressed significant concerns regarding the negative impacts on public trust, democratic participation, and municipal decision-making processes if Mayors are granted the ability to by-pass Council decisions without adequate consultation or oversight;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Goderich did not formally request or express a desire to be designated under the Strong Mayors framework;

AND WHEREAS a growing number of municipalities and elected officials across the province of Ontario are questioning the appropriateness of a Strong Mayor system, and are calling for its reconsideration or repeal;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Council of the Town of Goderich formally expresses its opposition to the Ontario government's proposal to expand Strong Mayor powers, in order to preserve local democracy, transparency, and accountability;

AND THAT the Council of the Town of Goderich request the Premier of Ontario, and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the Town of Goderich from the list of municipalities designated under Strong Mayors legislation;

AND THAT the Town of Goderich 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 Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and MPP for Elgin-Middlesex-London, The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs, and MPP for Huron-Bruce, all Ontario municipalities, as well as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) for their awareness and support.

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Andrea Fisher
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
Town of Goderich

The Town of Goderich
57 West Street
Goderich, Ontario
N7A 2K5
519-524-8344
townhall@goderich.ca
www.goderich.ca



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cc. Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, premier@ontario.ca

Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs, and MPP for Huron-Bruce,

lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org

Ontario Municipalities

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

Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO),

amcto@amcto.com