

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 the following support resolution at its regular session meeting of April 22, 2025:

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.

CARRIED.

Please do not hesitate to contact 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



**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