



BY EMAIL

April 28, 2025

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

Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Email: rob.flack@ontario.ca

Re: Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers: Proposed Amendments to O. Reg. 530/22

At its Regular Council Meeting held on April 22, 2025, Council discussed their opposition to the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers, as announced on April 9, 2025. Council of the Town of Essex 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 Essex.

Council accordingly passed the following resolution:

R25-04-187

Moved By Mayor Bondy
Seconded By Councillor Hammond

Whereas on April 9, 2025, the Government of Ontario (hereafter, the "**Province**"), led by Premier Doug Ford, announced a proposal to expand "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 Essex, 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 give direction and make certain decisions without the usual 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 there be it resolved that:

- The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Essex ("**Council**") formally **opposes** the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers, as announced on April 9, 2025;
- 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 Essex; and
- Council **directs** the Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Anthony Leardi, MPP, Essex, Lisa Gretzky, MPP Windsor West, Andrew Dowie, MPP Windsor-Tecumseh, Trevor Jone, MPP Chatham-Kent-Leamington, AMCTO, AMO and all Ontario Municipalities.

Carried

We trust you will find this satisfactory. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Malandruccolo".

Joseph Malandruccolo
Director, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk
jmalandruccolo@essex.ca

cc: Anthony Leardi, MPP, Essex
Lisa Gretzky, MPP Windsor West
Andrew Dowie, MPP Windsor-Tecumseh
Trevor Jones, MPP Chatham-Kent-Leamington
Association of Municipal Managers Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities