

June 3, 2025

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
17<sup>th</sup> Floor, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 2J3  
Att: Minister Rob Flack

RE: Strong Mayor Powers – Town of Prescott Position

On behalf of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Prescott, we are writing regarding the Province's recent decision to expand Strong Mayor Powers to an additional 169 municipalities, including our own.

While we recognize the Province's stated intent to accelerate housing development across Ontario, Council remains unclear on how these powers—especially in the context of smaller municipalities—provide a practical or effective mechanism to build more homes, faster. We have identified some alternatives to the centralization of authority in the office of the Mayor to the complex housing challenges we face that would have a direct result in getting housing and infrastructure completed.

We would like to see the province and municipalities be fully aligned and develop a strong working relationship that addresses the barriers to housing development. These barriers are often beyond a municipalities control but are well within the provincial authority to reduce red tape and delays. Whether it be in planning approvals, environmental assessments, or infrastructure coordination, municipalities often face significant holdups not of their own making, but as a result of slow or opaque bureaucratic processes.

We would like to see the same concept of Strong Mayors be used at the provincial level to veto or override provincial-level bottlenecks that stall housing progress. By having conduit, through which municipalities can identify the issues they are facing on specific projects to the province, we would be able to get shovels in the ground quicker and projects completed within months and not years.

This Council remains firmly committed to addressing the housing crisis and to doing our part to enable more homes and more opportunity in Prescott and beyond our borders in neighbouring communities. We believe the path forward must be grounded in bi-lateral efforts, shared accountability, and a commitment to strengthening local governments to make decisions for their communities.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and would welcome further dialogue with the Province to develop housing solutions that are truly effective and locally appropriate by removing unnecessary and non-valued added steps to the process.

Kindly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gauri Shankar', written in a cursive style.

Mayor Gauri Shankar on behalf of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Prescott

**PRESCOTT**  
EST 1784  
**THE FORT TOWN**

**Regular Council**  
**June 2, 2025**  
**111 -2025**

**Moved by:** Lee McConnell

**Seconded by:** Justin Kirkby

THAT Council endorse the attached draft letter to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing expressing the Town of Prescott's position on the Strong Mayor Powers; AND

THAT Council direct staff to send the letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and copy the Premier of Ontario, the Ministry of Red Tape Reduction, Member of Provincial Parliament for Leeds, Grenville and Rideau Lakes Steve Clark, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), and all municipalities across the province.

REQUESTED BY:			
RECORDED VOTE		YES	NO
Councillor Leanne Burton			
Councillor Mary Campbell			
Councillor Justin Kirkby			
Councillor Ray Young			
CARRIED:	✓		
TABLED:			
DEFEATED:			
RECORDED VOTE:			
Councillor Tracey Young			

GAURI SHANKAR, MAYOR	CHLOE PRESTON, CLERK
	