



THE TOWNSHIP OF
WOOLWICH

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August 27, 2025

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

Honorable Premier:

RE: Resolution Passed by Woolwich Township Council – Strong Mayor Legislation

This letter is to inform you that the Council of the Township of Woolwich passed the following resolution at their meeting held on August 26, 2025:

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario introduced Strong Mayor Powers on November 22, 2022, in the Cities of Toronto and Ottawa to support the provincial priority of building 1.5 million homes with subsequent expansions in 2023; and:

WHEREAS on May 1, 2025, the Province of Ontario expanded the Strong Mayors legislation to include 169 additional municipalities with six or more members of Council, including the Township of Woolwich; and

WHEREAS over 100 municipalities have passed resolutions opposing these powers and requesting their removal, expressing concerns about the effect on democratic governance and transparency; and

WHEREAS a 2024 survey by the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) found that only 33% of mayors retained the power to change the organizational structure and 26% of mayors retained the power of employment matters; and

WHEREAS on May 1, 2025, Mayor Sandy Shantz delegated all possible political powers and duties back to Council and administrative duties back to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), however not all powers and duties can be delegated; and

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Woolwich respectfully request that the Province of Ontario continue to study the impacts of the strong mayors legislation including:

1. **To what extent the legislation is supporting the stated intent of supporting housing development, for example if strong mayors are using their powers to support or veto more housing in their communities;**
2. **If there are any unintended consequences of the legislation, for example on democracy, transparency, workplace culture, or the politicization of administrative staff appointed by a strong mayor (the CAO or department heads);**
3. **The impact of extending the legislation to smaller, rural municipalities like Woolwich, such as the impact of additional powers and duties on part-time mayors or the implications six-member councils where a simple majority and 2/3 majority vote is the same;**
4. **Consider the concerns expressed by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the AMCTO, including the powers affecting public administration and eliminating the need for a majority council support for certain decisions related to provincial priorities;**
5. **Directs staff to forward this resolution to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, AMO, AMCTO and all Municipalities in Ontario.**

Should you have any questions, please contact Alex Kirchin, by email at akirchin@woolwich.ca or by phone at 519-669-6005.

Yours truly,



Jeff Smith
Municipal Clerk
Corporate Services
Township of Woolwich

cc. Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
AMO
AMCTO
All Municipalities in Ontario