



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Thursday, April 17, 2025

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Welland City Council

FROM: Amanda Degazio – Manager of Business and Community Services

DATE: April 17, 2025

SUBJECT: Farmers' Market Café

This memo is intended to provide an update that staff are currently in the process of obtaining a new tenant for the Farmers' Market Café. Our previous tenant, Vesna, has acquired a brick-and-mortar restaurant in the Region and have decided to focus their full attention on this venture. While we are sorry to see them step away from the Welland Farmers' Market, we are grateful for the strong partnership we've built over the years. We wish them continued success and are pleased that they will still be involved in our events. We look forward to maintaining this valued connection.

The Farmers' Market remains a vibrant hub, open every Saturday from 7 a.m. to noon, and we are entering our busiest season. With over 50 annual vendors and more than 40 daily vendors, we continue to grow in size and diversity. This year, we are pleased to welcome several new additions to our vendor lineup, including fresh local farmers, new prepared food vendors, and a vegan, nut-free baker, ensuring a broader inclusive selection for our visitors. For more information about the Farmers' Market, please visit the City's [website](#).

Looking ahead, our next event, the Earth Day Extravaganza, takes place on April 19, marking the official start of the spring season. We hope to see you there!

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Tara Stephens, Director of Legislative Services/City Clerk

DATE: April 17, 2025

SUBJECT: Commencement of Ward Boundary Review

This memorandum provides an overview of the Ward Boundary Review as requested by Welland City Council. The purpose of the review is to ensure that ward boundaries reflect population growth, community interests, and legislative principles of effective and equitable representation.

The City of Welland has experienced significant growth, with a projected population increase of nearly 100% by 2051. Growth has occurred unevenly across the city, raising concerns about voter parity and representation. A ward boundary review will help ensure that each resident has a fair and effective voice on Council, and that wards reflect the evolving nature of our community.

Council directed staff to initiate this review to align ward boundaries with current and future population trends and ensure they continue to meet the standards expected by the public and outlined by the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) and Municipal Act, 2001 (Section 222).

Following a competitive process, the City has retained StrategyCorp Inc. to conduct the review. StrategyCorp has an established track record in delivering ward boundary reviews across Ontario, including:

- Municipality of Chatham-Kent
- Town of Grimsby
- Township of Ramara
- Town of Tecumseh
- Township of Rideau Lakes

The project will be led by Sabine Matheson, Principal and General Counsel at StrategyCorp, a recognized expert in municipal governance whose work has consistently been upheld by the OLT.

Review Objectives

The Ward Boundary Review will:

- Analyze population distribution and projected growth through the 2026, 2030, and 2034 elections;
- Evaluate existing ward boundaries in relation to effective representation criteria, including:
 - Voter parity
 - Geographic and natural boundaries
 - Communities of interest
 - Future growth areas
- Propose new ward boundary options that are fair, defensible, and reflective of Welland's community structure;
- Facilitate public engagement to gather input on existing boundaries and proposed changes;
- Provide recommendations for Council consideration in advance of the legislative deadline.

Project Timeline

The review will occur between April and September 2025. Key dates include:

- Public engagement launch: Spring 2025
- Draft ward boundary options: Summer 2025
- Final recommendations to Council: No later than September 2025

To comply with Section 222 of the Municipal Act, a by-law must be passed by November 17, 2025, to ensure changes can take effect for the 2026 municipal election.

Public Engagement

Two rounds of public consultation will be held. StrategyCorp will work closely with City staff to ensure accessible, inclusive, and transparent engagement through:

- A dedicated Engage Welland microsite

- Online surveys and digital feedback tools
- In-person and virtual public meetings
- Targeted outreach to key stakeholders

This “made-for-Welland” approach will help residents understand the process, provide meaningful feedback, and help shape the city’s future ward structure.

Next Steps

City staff will support StrategyCorp in initiating background research, preparing engagement materials, and launching the public engagement platform. Members of Council and City staff will be interviewed as part of the first consultation phase.

Additional details about consultation opportunities will be shared in the coming weeks. Staff look forward to working with Council, staff, and the community to ensure the City’s ward boundaries reflect Welland’s growth and provide fair, effective representation for all residents.



Town of Amherstburg

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Michael Prue, Mayor

April 15, 2025

SENT VIA EMAIL

Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queens Park
Toronto, ON, M7A 1A4
VIA EMAIL: premier@ontario.ca

Attn: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Re: Resolution# 20250414-011 - Opposition to Strong Mayor Designation for the Town of Amherstburg

At its regular meeting on **April 14, 2025**, Amherstburg Town Council passed **Resolution 20250414-011** in response to the Province's recent proposal to designate Amherstburg as a "**Strong Mayor**" municipality, effective May 1, 2025.

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has proposed to designate the Town of Amherstburg as a "Strong Mayor" community, granting enhanced powers to the Mayor effective May 1, 2025; and,

WHEREAS the Strong Mayor powers significantly alter the balance of governance at the municipal level, undermining the role of Council in decision-making and weakening the fundamental democratic principle of majority rule; and,

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

WHEREAS many municipally elected officials across the province and members of the public have expressed significant concern regarding the imposition of these powers; and,

WHEREAS the Town of Amherstburg did not formally request or express a desire to be designated under the Strong Mayor framework; and,

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Amherstburg Town Council formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the Town of Amherstburg from the list of municipalities designated under the Strong Mayor legislation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all regional Members of Provincial



Town of Amherstburg OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Michael Prue, Mayor

Parliament, all Ontario municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their awareness and support.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and urge you to respect the democratic wishes of our Council and community.

Sincerely,

Michael Prue, Mayor
Town of Amherstburg

Cc: The Honourable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing)
Regional Members of Provincial Parliament
All Ontario Municipalities
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)



April 10, 2025

Re: Ontario Works Financial Assistance Rates

Please be advised that the Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Social Services Committee, at its meeting held on April 10, 2025, approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS poverty is taking a devastating toll on communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario, with people in receipt of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program being disproportionately impacted;

AND WHEREAS the cost of food, housing, medicine, and other essential items have outpaced the highest inflation rates seen in a generation;

AND WHEREAS people in need of social assistance have been legislated into poverty, housing insecurity, hunger, poorer health, their motives questioned, and their dignity undermined;

AND WHEREAS Ontario Works (OW) Financial Assistance rates have been frozen since 2018 (\$733 per month);

AND WHEREAS Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefit rates have been increased by 6.5 percent as of July 2023 and another 4.5% as of July 2024 to keep up with inflation, however even with the increase, ODSP rates still fall significantly below the disability-adjusted poverty line (\$3,091 per month);

AND WHEREAS OW and ODSP rates do not provide sufficient income for a basic standard of living and, as a result, hundreds of thousands of people across Ontario who rely on these programs live in poverty;

AND WHEREAS designated Service Managers are doing their part, but do not have the resources, capacity, or tools to provide the necessary income and health related supports to people experiencing poverty; and

AND WHEREAS leadership and urgent action is needed from the Provincial Government to immediately develop, resource, and implement a comprehensive plan to address the rising levels of poverty in Ontario, in particular for those on Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs;



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Prince Edward-Lennox & Addington Committee requests the Provincial Government to urgently:

1. Increase Ontario Works rates to match the ODSP rate increases that have already been made and be indexed to inflation;
2. Commit to ongoing cost of living increases above and beyond the rate of inflation to make up for the years they were frozen;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, and all Ontario Municipalities.

Regards,

Sam Branderhorst

Signed with ConsignO Cloud (2025/04/11)
Verify with verifio.com or Adobe Reader.



Sam Branderhorst, Chair
Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Social Services Committee

Cc: Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services
Minister of Health
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association
All Ontario Municipalities

Trauma and Violence Informed Decision Making for Elected Officials

AMO Education is pleased to be offering this new workshop to support members in facing challenging and complex issues impacting communities.

Addressing issues such as domestic violence, homelessness, mental health, addiction, accidents, and more requires insight and understanding of the core principles of trauma and violence informed (TVI) decision-making.

Why would this insight matter to municipal elected officials? Decision making with understanding leads to policy making that prioritizes the emotional, physical and cultural safety of those affected by traumatic events and circumstances including constituents, municipal staff, and you.

This two-part workshop will cover the basics of TVI, and challenge attendees to think about key issues relating to municipal decision-making contexts. Attendees will work on specific cases where TVI thinking and strategies can be applied in examples such as civic space planning, assessing municipal housing bylaws and policies, and safe community initiatives.

[Register today.](#)

Workshop Dates: May 28 & June 5 | 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

- **\$415 +HST** (Individual registration only. For group rates, contact events@amo.on.ca)
- **Cancellation Fee: \$75 +HST**

Contact: events@amo.on.ca

2025 Membership Special Offering

AMO has grown its education offerings, recognizing this, for 2025 we are offering half price registration fees for all workshops above the first two registrations. If you are eligible contact Lora Tigno at ltigno@amo.on.ca



758070 2nd Line E
Mulmur, Ontario
L9V 0G8

Local **(705) 466-3341**
Toll Free from 519 only **(866) 472-0417**
Fax **(705) 466-2922**

April 11, 2025

Procurement & Advocacy for Trade Agreement Exemptions

At the meeting held on April 2, 2025, Council of the Township of Mulmur passed the following resolution:

Moved by Lyon and Seconded by Cunningham

Whereas the Township of Mulmur recognizes that tariffs may increase the costs of goods and services sought by the Township;

And whereas the Township of Mulmur recognizes the importance of supporting Canadian businesses and workers through responsible procurement practices;

And whereas municipalities have significant purchasing power but are bound by international trade agreements;

And whereas trade agreements such as the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) impose restrictions on municipalities, and prevent municipalities from giving preference to Canadian suppliers in procurement decisions above certain thresholds;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Township of Mulmur commits to considering Canadian suppliers for goods and services when it is feasible and fiscally responsible to do so for procurements under trade agreement thresholds:

And that the Township of Mulmur commits to continue to utilize cooperative purchasing groups to explore cost-saving measures and Canadian suppliers when it is feasible and fiscally responsible to do so.

And that the Township of Mulmur calls upon the Canadian federal and provincial governments to enact legislative changes to exempt municipalities from trade agreement restrictions while tariffs are imposed, allowing them to give preference to Canadian suppliers for goods, services, and infrastructure projects.

And further that a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- The Prime Minister of Canada
- The Premier of Ontario
- The Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
- All Ontario municipalities for their consideration and support.

Carried.

Sincerely,

Roseann Knechtel

Roseann Knechtel, Clerk



Town of Saugeen Shores
600 Tomlinson Drive, P.O. Box 820
Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C0

April 14, 2025

Honourable Rob Flack
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
rob.flack@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister,

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

I am writing to express my opposition to the government's proposed expansion of Strong Mayor powers to include the Town of Saugeen Shores. As the Mayor of Saugeen Shores, I am concerned about the implications of this policy change on our local governance. Please consider this letter as the Town of Saugeen Shores submission on O.Reg. 530/22 which is available for comment until April 16th.

In my experience, the 'Council Manager' system of governance has always served our municipality well. Specifically, when it comes to advancing our shared priority of building more housing to serve our residents, Saugeen Shores Council has demonstrated flexible and determined leadership. Our Council has enabled housing by reducing red tape resulting in the construction of more than 600 multi-family residential units in the last two years alone. Given the strong and sustained commitment of our Council to these efforts, I do not see how the introduction of Strong Mayor powers will accelerate the construction of housing (or the pursuit of other priority areas) in any way. On the contrary, vesting these new powers in the Mayor threatens to disrupt long-established and effective processes, sidelining elected members of Council with effects that may be contrary to the interests of our residents.

Saugeen Shores has thrived for decades on the principle of shared leadership. We have an effective team of elected representatives working in partnership with a professional staff to achieve goals that are transparently set out in our Strategic Plan and annual Business Plans. This approach to governance is foundational to building trust between the municipality and the residents that it serves. I fear that the unilateral decision-making enabled by Strong Mayor powers would erode this trust and disrupt the collaborative environment that has long been at the heart of the democratic tradition of our Council and community.

I urge you to reconsider the expansion of Strong Mayor powers. If the government has a strong desire to advance these major changes to the governance of our municipality, I

request that you engage in a thorough consultation process with our Council and the residents of our community before moving forward. It is crucial that any changes to local governance structures be made in close partnership with the communities they impact.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and hope that we can work together in the interest of ensuring strong local governance in Saugeen Shores.

Sincerely,

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

Luke Charbonneau, Mayor
Town of Saugeen Shores

cc. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Lisa Thompson, MPP, Minister of Rural Affairs
Council, Town of Saugeen Shores
All Ontario Municipalities

Hello,

At the April 14, 2025, meeting of Tillsonburg Town Council, the following resolution was passed:

Resolution # 2025-125

Moved By: Councillor Spencer

Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Beres

THAT Council receive item 12.8 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Letter Re: Strong Mayor Powers, as information;

WHEREAS the Ontario government has proposed expanding the "strong mayor" powers to 169 additional municipalities under the proposed legislation on May 1, 2025, which would grant mayors in these municipalities more authority, particularly concerning the control of municipal budgets, planning and operational decisions;

AND WHEREAS this proposal has raised significant concerns regarding the centralization of power, erosion of local democracy, reduced accountability, and the potential for the abuse of power;

AND WHEREAS the proposed expansion of strong mayor powers undermines the collaborative nature of municipal governance, and diminish the role of elected municipal councillors in representing the diverse interests of the community;

AND WHEREAS concerns have been raised about the negative impacts on public trust, democratic participation, and municipal decision-making processes, if mayors are given the ability to bypass council decisions without adequate consultation or oversight;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Tillsonburg;

1. Does not support the proposed strong mayor powers as currently outlined;
2. Supports specific powers to mayors as it pertains to identifiable decisions regarding housing, development, infrastructure and transit to provide tools that reduce obstacles that can stand in the way of new housing and infrastructure developments;
3. Strongly suggests that free reign of decision-making regarding hiring, firing, committees and so forth be removed from the proposed authority;
4. Strongly suggests that members of current Council were duly elected officials by citizens with the awareness of one vote per council member and majority votes are the democratic process;
5. Requests that the Provincial Strong Mayor Powers proposed to take effect on May 1, 2025, be deferred to allow for greater clarity and that the Province seek collaborative input from the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO);
6. Directs staff to forward this resolution immediately to Minister Flack, Premier Ford, MPP Hardeman, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and all Ontario Municipalities before April 16, 2025.

Regards,

Amelia Jaggard

Deputy Clerk

Town of Tillsonburg

10 Lisgar Ave

Tillsonburg, ON N4G 5A5

Phone: 519-688-3009 Ext. 4041

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April 11, 2025

The Honourable Kinga Surma
Minister of Infrastructure
Room 5E200, 5th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Email: kinga.surma@pc.ola.org

The Honourable Lisa M. Thompson
Minister of Rural Affairs, Huron-Bruce MPP
408 Queen Street
P.O. Box 426
Blyth, ON N0M 1H0
Email: lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org

The Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Email: rob.flack@pc.ola.org

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

Sent Via Email

Dear Hon. Premier and Ministers:

Re. Installation of New Utility Poles in Howick Township through the Accelerated High Speed Internet Project (AHSIP)

It is with great concern that we provide a connectivity update from the perspective of the Township of Howick. The Township applauds the provincial government for its \$4 billion investment to provide high-speed internet access in every region of Ontario and is appreciative of the Ministry of Infrastructure's leadership with the Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP).

Improved connectivity to Ontario's unserved and underserved areas creates immense economic development opportunities and begins to address some of the challenges experienced by rural and remote communities. These communities continue to experience profound inequities in the areas of education, business and interpersonal relationships due to the lack of adequate communications infrastructure. The buildout of new broadband infrastructure starts the work towards resolving this inequity.

The Township of Howick is a small, rural municipality with a rich and proud history in agriculture. Through AHSIP, Xplore Inc. has obtained \$1.6 billion of private investment and government funding for fibre network expansion in several underserved, rural Ontario communities, including Howick Township.

While Howick Township is supportive of all rural residents receiving access to reliable high-speed internet, there are ongoing concerns from Council and residents over the installation of dozens of new utility poles within the municipal right-of-way across Howick's countryside instead of utilizing Hydro One's existing utility poles or underground direct bury or drilling methods.

In response to our inquiries, representatives from Xplore Inc. have explained to township council and staff that these new utility poles have been installed by their subcontractor because of "significant delays in Hydro One's permitting process to add broadband infrastructure to their existing utility poles and because it is the most cost-effective installation method."

The Ministry of Infrastructure outlines very thorough processes, procedures and timelines for Attaching to LDC-Owned Poles in the *Building Broadband Faster in Ontario* guidelines released November 30, 2021. Section 2.2 of the guideline outlines the Broadband One Window (BOW) authorization process for LDC owned pole attachments, including the engineering design requirements as well as the applicable standards to which stakeholders are expected to adhere to. This process includes field inspection/survey of the poles, pole loading structural analysis and determination of what telecom and power make-ready work, if any, needs to be completed for safe attachment. Nowhere in the guidelines does the Ministry of Infrastructure outline a process for installing new utility poles instead of attaching to existing LDC owned poles.

This leave us in Howick Township with several questions:

What guidelines are being followed if this ISP is completely bypassing the LDC in favor of erecting new utility poles? Is the Ministry of Infrastructure responsible for making sure these guidelines and processes are being followed? If Xplore Inc. has admitted to avoiding the permitting process of using the LDC's (Hydro One) existing utility poles, who owns these new utility poles that have been installed? Who is responsible for their maintenance and eventual replacement? Who is going to maintain the brush and shrubbery that surround many of these new poles in the municipal right-of-way?

It is Howick Township's opinion that the AHSIP program lacks oversight and compliance measures over the work being completed by the Internet Service Providers and their sub-contractors. Along with this, the *Building Broadband Faster Act, 2021, S.O. 2021, c.2*,

Sched. 1 has stripped Howick Township's right to question the installation of dozens of new utility poles without incurring financial penalties for causing delays to the project.

We have included photos (see [Appendix A](#)) of the substandard installation of new utility poles across Howick Township under AHSIP that occurred throughout this past winter. As you can see, many poles were installed incorrectly, quickly and during all weather conditions. This required the sub-contractors to return several times to fix deficiencies. This doesn't seem like the most cost-effective installation method. Other photos show examples of the number of new poles installed in areas of Howick Township. With our primarily agriculture-based background and economy, many Howick Township landowners are quite upset with the amount of new utility poles that have been installed. Farm equipment continues to get larger in size as farming techniques modernize, and these new 30ft utility poles limit access to fields with overhead infrastructure installed along the municipal right-of-way.

Through our research into this matter, we have not found examples of so many new utility poles being installed elsewhere across the province to facilitate the installation of fibre optic high-speed internet infrastructure. New pole installations are only referenced in the program guidelines regarding LDC-owned poles requiring replacement prior to installing the broadband infrastructure.

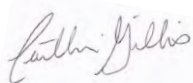
Can you explain why so many new utility poles are being installed in Howick Township directly by the ISP instead of utilizing existing utility poles owned by Hydro One as outlined in your program guidelines? Municipalities were not informed that dozens of new utility poles would be installed through AHSIP. Howick Township is requesting to have these new utility poles removed in favour of utilizing existing LDC owned poles or direct bury or plowing methods of installation.

We encourage any other Ontario municipalities who are experiencing similar new utility pole installations through the Accelerated High Speed Internet Program to reach out to Howick Township directly, and to join Howick Township by reaching out to the above listed ministries with your concerns.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Caitlin Gillis
Chief Administrative Officer
Township of Howick
clerk@howick.ca



Doug Harding
Reeve
Township of Howick
dharding@howick.ca

















Grant Bivol
Town Clerk
Town of Niagara on the Lake
VIA EMAIL: clerks@notl.com

Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
www.puslinch.ca

April 16, 2025

RE: Support Resolution – Town of Niagara on the Lake Council Resolution regarding
Amendment of Subsection 29(1.2) of the Ontario Heritage Act

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on March 26, 2025
considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2025-100:

Moved by Councillor Sepulis and
Seconded by Councillor Hurst

**That the Consent Agenda item 6.11 listed for MARCH 26, 2025 Council meeting be
received for information; and**

**Whereas Township of Puslinch Council supports the Town of Niagara on the Lake
Council Resolution regarding Amendment of Subsection 29(1.2) of the Ontario
Heritage Act, that Council direct staff to prepare a support resolution accordingly.**

CARRIED

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information
and consideration.

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston
Municipal Clerk

CC: Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism Hon. Michael Ford, Minister of Municipal Affairs
and Housing Hon. Paul Calandra, The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, MPP Thompson,
all Ontario Municipalities

February 26, 2025

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

EMAIL: Doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

Dear Premier Ford,

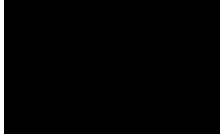
**RE: Requests the Province of Ontario Reconsider the Amendment of
Subsection 29(1.2) of the Ontario Heritage Act**

Please be advised that at its meeting of February 25, 2025, Council of the Town of Niagara on-the-Lake adopted the following resolution:

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Niagara-on-the-Lake Town Council endorses the resolution from the Municipality of South Huron requesting the Province reconsider the amendment to Subsection 29(1.2) of the Ontario Heritage Act.
2. Be It Resolved That copies of this resolution be forwarded to Minister Premier Doug Ford, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, local Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs); and MPP Thompson.
3. Be It Further Resolved That copies of this resolution be forwarded to all 444 Municipalities in Ontario, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact our office at 905-468-3266.

Sincerely,



Grant Bivol
Town Clerk

c.c. Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism Hon. Michael Ford - Michael.Ford@ontario.ca
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Hon. Paul Calandra - minister.mah@ontario.ca
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario - resolutions@amo.on.ca
All local Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs)
MPP Thompson - lisa.thompsonco@pc.ola.org
All 444 Municipalities of Ontario



Town of Saugeen Shores
600 Tomlinson Drive, P.O. Box 820
Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C0

April 14, 2025

Honourable Rob Flack
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
rob.flack@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister,

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

I am writing to express my opposition to the government's proposed expansion of Strong Mayor powers to include the Town of Saugeen Shores. As the Mayor of Saugeen Shores, I am concerned about the implications of this policy change on our local governance. Please consider this letter as the Town of Saugeen Shores submission on O.Reg. 530/22 which is available for comment until April 16th.

In my experience, the 'Council Manager' system of governance has always served our municipality well. Specifically, when it comes to advancing our shared priority of building more housing to serve our residents, Saugeen Shores Council has demonstrated flexible and determined leadership. Our Council has enabled housing by reducing red tape resulting in the construction of more than 600 multi-family residential units in the last two years alone. Given the strong and sustained commitment of our Council to these efforts, I do not see how the introduction of Strong Mayor powers will accelerate the construction of housing (or the pursuit of other priority areas) in any way. On the contrary, vesting these new powers in the Mayor threatens to disrupt long-established and effective processes, sidelining elected members of Council with effects that may be contrary to the interests of our residents.

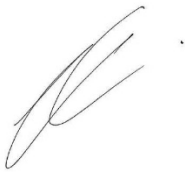
Saugeen Shores has thrived for decades on the principle of shared leadership. We have an effective team of elected representatives working in partnership with a professional staff to achieve goals that are transparently set out in our Strategic Plan and annual Business Plans. This approach to governance is foundational to building trust between the municipality and the residents that it serves. I fear that the unilateral decision-making enabled by Strong Mayor powers would erode this trust and disrupt the collaborative environment that has long been at the heart of the democratic tradition of our Council and community.

I urge you to reconsider the expansion of Strong Mayor powers. If the government has a strong desire to advance these major changes to the governance of our municipality, I

request that you engage in a thorough consultation process with our Council and the residents of our community before moving forward. It is crucial that any changes to local governance structures be made in close partnership with the communities they impact.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and hope that we can work together in the interest of ensuring strong local governance in Saugeen Shores.

Sincerely,

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

Luke Charbonneau, Mayor
Town of Saugeen Shores

cc. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Lisa Thompson, MPP, Minister of Rural Affairs
Council, Town of Saugeen Shores
All Ontario Municipalities



2021 Division Road North
Kingsville, Ontario N9Y 2Y9
Phone: (519) 733-2305
www.kingsville.ca

April 16, 2025

Honourable Premier Doug Ford
Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Via Email: rob.flack@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Flack,

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

Please be advised that at its Regular Meeting held Monday, April 14, 2025, the Council of the Town of Kingsville passed the following resolution respecting the matter referenced in the above subject line:

78-04142025

Moved By: Councillor Gaffan

Seconded By: Deputy Mayor DeYong

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

- The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kingsville ("Council") **opposes** the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers, as announced on April 9, 2025;
- That 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 Kingsville; and;
- That Council **directs** the Acting Manager of Municipal Governance/Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; All Four Local MPPs; AMCTO, AMO and All Ontario Municipalities

Carried.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Toole". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angela Toole, Acting Manager of Municipal Governance/Clerk

Email: atoole@kingsville.ca

Phone: 519-733-2305 ext. 223

cc. Anthony Leardi, MPP, Essex
Trevor Jones, MPP, Chatham-Kent - Leamington
Andrew Dowie, MPP, Windsor-Tecumseh
Lisa Gretzky, MPP, Windsor West
AMCTO
AMO
All Ontario Municipalities

Economic Development Brief

April 15, 2025

Statistics and Trends

Labour market conditions

Labour market conditions in Niagara (seasonally adjusted) improved across all indicators in March, except for the unemployment rate. However, the increase in the unemployment rate was due to the labour force growing at a faster rate than employment, rather than a loss in jobs. Niagara outperformed Ontario and Canada in terms of labour force and employment growth, and it continued to maintain a lower unemployment rate.

Month-over-month data from February to March 2025 reveals the following:

- Population: Niagara grew by 0.1% (600 people), while Ontario also grew by 0.1%.
- Labour force: Niagara grew by 2.2% (5,700 people), while Ontario grew by 0.1%.
- Employment: Niagara grew by 1.7% (4,100 people), while Ontario grew by 0.1%.
- Unemployment rate: Niagara's rate increased by 0.5%, reaching 6.5%, while Ontario's rate remained the same at 7.5%.
- Participation rate: Niagara's rate increased by 1.3%, reaching 61.8%, while Ontario's rate remained unchanged at 65%.

Labour market indicators in Niagara continued to perform well in March. However, the impacts of disruptions, such as a slowing economy and the potential threat of tariffs, have not yet been fully reflected in the labour market data.

Inflation rises to 2.6% as tax holiday ends

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 2.6% year over year in February, following a 1.9% rise in January, with broader price growth across various sectors. The end of the HST break in mid-February contributed to upward price pressures, particularly on eligible products like restaurant food, while gasoline price growth slowed to 5.1%. In the absence of federal consumer carbon pricing, inflation is expected to be 0.7 per cent lower in April than it would have been otherwise. That's expected to bring the annual inflation rate down to 2.1 per cent for the month.

The economic development updates in this brief were compiled with input from economic development staff from Niagara's local area municipalities and public information sources.

Potential tariff impacts on the Canadian economy

The Conference Board of Canada warns that US tariff pressure could significantly impact jobs and the economy in the second quarter of 2025, potentially shrinking the economy by 5.4% and causing the loss of 160,000 jobs, with half of those losses in manufacturing. The tariffs are expected to reduce automotive exports by over 50% and overall exports by a third, while inflation could rise to 2.9%. However, the Board forecasts that tariffs will be lifted by the third quarter, leading to a 3.9% economic expansion and a recovery in hiring, though its 2025 growth outlook has been downgraded to 0.9%.

Economic Development Updates**Four-phase Grimsby Innovation Centre project begins with major demolition**

Work has started on a four-building demolition at 115-169 South Service Rd. in Grimsby to make way for the \$120 million Grimsby Innovation Centre, which will span seven hectares and be built in four phases over the next two years. The first phase will be occupied by ATCO, which purchased NRB Modular Solutions in 2024, and will include 122,000 SF of space for manufacturing modular structures. The center, once completed in 2027, will have over 350,000 SF of industrial space and is expected to generate 400 jobs. The project is privately funded, with ownership by Fiore Vacca and his partners, and aims to boost the local economy and attract further investments.

Niagara unites, encourages all to Shop, Support and Share Local

Niagara Region, in partnership with all 12 local municipalities, is promoting the "Shop, Support and Share Local" initiative to boost local economies and encourage pride in supporting local businesses. The campaign highlights the importance of supporting local shops, services, restaurants, and suppliers, while offering ways to help without spending money, such as recommending businesses or sharing posts. Residents can look for the "I Am Niagara Local" signs, explore the business directory, and business owners are encouraged to contact local Economic Development Offices for additional resources.

Town of Lincoln establishes a Tariff Response Team to assist local businesses impacted by US Tariffs

The Town of Lincoln has formed the Lincoln Tariff Response Team (LTRT) in collaboration with the Downtown Beamsville BIA and the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce to help local businesses navigate challenges posed by changing trade policies and tariffs. The team will advocate for fair trade policies, provide resources and education on tariff regulations, and offer direct support to businesses, with a focus on economic resilience and community collaboration. Additionally, the LTRT will launch outreach efforts and work with regional partners to ensure a coordinated approach to tariff-related issues in Niagara.

The economic development updates in this brief were compiled with input from economic development staff from Niagara's local area municipalities and public information sources.

St. Catharines takes action to protect local economy amid US tariffs

In response to US tariffs on Canadian goods, the City of St. Catharines has approved a temporary "Canada-First" procurement policy to prioritize Canadian-made goods and services in municipal purchasing. This policy is part of a broader strategy to mitigate the economic impact of tariffs, strengthen local supply chains, and reduce reliance on imported materials. The City is also implementing additional initiatives to support businesses, including connecting local suppliers with buyers and advocating for policy solutions at provincial and federal levels.

NOTL motion to buy Canadian passed, but on hold until staff report is complete

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has approved a Canadian purchasing policy in response to US tariffs on Canadian goods, but no action will be taken until a detailed staff report is presented. The policy aims to prioritize Canadian-made goods and services, with preference given to local, regional, and provincial businesses, while also urging higher levels of government to eliminate barriers and support affected businesses. This motion symbolizes the town's commitment to strengthening the local economy and reducing reliance on external markets amid tariff challenges, though implementation will depend on further staff updates.

Government of Canada investing \$19.25 million for growth in Port Colborne

The Canadian government is investing \$19.25 million in a growth and development project for Port Colborne, focusing on improvements to water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure. The funding, provided through the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund, will also support housing and infrastructure projects along Sugarloaf Street, Marina Drive, Highway 140, Highway 3, and Lockview Park. This investment aims to foster sustainable growth, create new housing opportunities, and upgrade essential infrastructure, benefiting the community without burdening residents financially.

St. Catharines secures second round from the Housing Accelerator Fund

St. Catharines has received its second Housing Accelerator Fund installment of approximately \$6.42 million from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to help build more homes. This funding follows the City's year-one report on how the initial funds were used and will support continued efforts to increase the housing supply in the area. The City had previously announced receiving \$25.7 million over four years to address housing challenges, with 409 dwelling unit permits issued in 2024.

Government of Canada announces \$6.5 billion in aid for tariff relief

The federal government has launched a \$6.5 billion aid package to support Canadian businesses impacted by the US trade war, which includes a \$5 billion Trade Impact Program and \$500 million in business loans. Additionally, \$1 billion in loans will be available specifically for the agricultural sector, and changes to employment insurance will allow businesses to reduce workers' hours while compensating for lost wages.

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Niagara Regional Chair Jim Bradley delivers 2025 State of the Region address

In his seventh State of the Region address on March 26, Regional Chair Jim Bradley urged Niagara to embrace its resiliency and strength in response to US tariffs and global economic uncertainty. Speaking to over 400 community leaders, Bradley emphasized the importance of maintaining strong US relations, civility, and mutual respect while capitalizing on Niagara's position as a border community with many economic opportunities. He highlighted Niagara's economic growth, including the \$1.6 billion Asahi Kasei plant in Port Colborne, and the region's progress in addressing housing and homelessness issues. Bradley concluded by encouraging the community to face the future with optimism, reminding them of Niagara's capacity to thrive despite the challenges ahead.

Government of Ontario invests \$35 million in Shaw's Royal George Theatre

The Ontario government is investing \$35 million over three years to support the rebuild of the Royal George Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake as part of its commitment to boosting tourism in the region. The project is expected to create 550 jobs, contribute \$80 million in GDP, and generate \$29 million in government revenues, with the new theatre featuring increased seating capacity and modern, accessible spaces. The Shaw Festival's transformation includes expanding educational programs and visitor experiences, and the project is set to be completed by Spring 2029, attracting more visitors to the region.

Government of Ontario announces \$11 billion economic support package

The Ontario government is providing approximately \$11 billion in relief to support workers and businesses impacted by economic uncertainty and U.S. tariffs. The measures include deferring select taxes for six months, offering a \$2 billion rebate through the WSIB for safe employers, and breaking down internal trade barriers to strengthen Ontario's economy. Premier Doug Ford emphasized that these efforts aim to protect Ontario's workers, diversify trade, and build a more resilient and competitive economy for the future.

Town and country: St. Catharines-Lincoln destination marketed in Canada and US

St. Catharines and Lincoln have teamed up to promote tourism through a "town and country" partnership, combining St. Catharines' urban appeal with Lincoln's rural charm. Since 2020, they've launched a range of marketing campaigns — including billboards in Toronto, radio ads in New York, and features in major travel publications — to attract both Canadian and American visitors. With a formal board and strategic plans now in place, the partnership is moving full steam ahead, focusing on increasing visibility and visitor engagement across the Niagara region. To view the website [CLICK HERE](#).

The economic development updates in this brief were compiled with input from economic development staff from Niagara's local area municipalities and public information sources.

Welland exceeds physician recruitment goals, expands healthcare access

To date, Welland's physician recruitment initiative, in conjunction with the Niagara Region's physician recruitment specialist, has attracted 13 physicians through the program which launched in 2023. The city allots \$100,000 to physicians who move to the Rose City to either start or take over a practice. For 2025, Welland City Council has committed an additional \$1 million, ensuring the city can meet the growing healthcare needs of its community. There were 15,000 patients enrolled in Niagara the past 12 months of which 8,086 were enrolled in Welland.

George Spezza, Ec.D., CEcD
Director, Economic Development

The economic development updates in this brief were compiled with input from economic development staff from Niagara's local area municipalities and public information sources.