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**THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH MIDDLESEX  
RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL**

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Member Present	YES	NO	DATE: APRIL 23, 2025
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Councillor A. Cornelissen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOVED BY: [REDACTED]
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Councillor C. Daigle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Councillor B. Irwin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Councillor S. Nirta	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Deputy Mayor P. Hodgins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Mayor B. Ropp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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SECONDED BY: [REDACTED]

**RESULT: Carried**

**WHEREAS** the Province has announced the expansion of strong mayor powers to another 169 municipalities as of May 1, 2025 in addition to the 47 municipalities which currently have received strong mayor powers; and

**WHEREAS** the Province claims that strong mayor powers will get homes and infrastructure built faster, reduce red tape, and accelerate the delivery of key priorities; and Whereas research from the Association of Municipal Clerks & Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) has identified that: a) there is no evidence to suggest this legislation has any impact on the number of housing starts in municipalities that have been granted the powers; and b) strong mayor powers have blurred the political-administrative authority between the roles of head of council and chief administrative officers (CAOs), threatening the neutrality of the public service and politicizing local government leadership; and

**WHEREAS** strong mayor powers is an erosion to the democratic process of an historically non-partisan municipal governance structure;

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the North Middlesex hereby resolves to reject the strong mayor powers granted to it, and requests that the Province repeal the legislation, or offer the option to municipalities to opt out of strong mayor powers; and

**THAT** this Resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing Rob Flack, Premier Doug Ford, MPP Steve Pinsonneault, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities.



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*Office of the Mayor*

April 22, 2025

Honourable Rob Flack  
Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing  
College Park, 17<sup>th</sup> floor,  
777 Bay St.  
Toronto ON M7A 2J3

Via email: [minister.mah@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mah@ontario.ca)

Dear Minister Flack,

On behalf of Council of the Town of Parry Sound, please accept my congratulations on your recent appointment as Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing. It's an important Ministry and we look forward to working with you and Ministry staff.

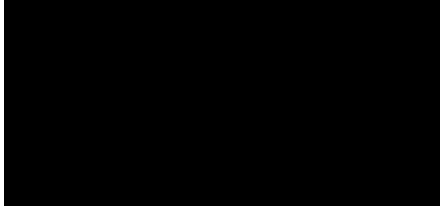
The Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing provided notice on April 9<sup>th</sup> that the Ministry was seeking comments regarding its intent to extend strong mayor powers to an additional 169 municipalities, including the Town of Parry Sound. The comment period was open until April 16<sup>th</sup>. These additional powers are not powers that I as Mayor believe are necessary and do not wish to exercise them. At our April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, Council unanimously voted to reject strong mayor powers, request the province to repeal the legislation, or alternatively permit municipalities to opt out.

We were disappointed that there was no previous communication before the April 9<sup>th</sup> letter, with a comment period of only one week. Contrary to provincial claims that strong mayor powers will get homes and infrastructure built faster, reduce red tape and accelerate the delivery of key priorities, research by the Association of Municipal Clerks & Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) has found no evidence to suggest this legislation has any impact on the number of housing starts in municipalities that have been granted the powers; and moreover the strong mayor powers have blurred the political-administrative authority between the roles of head of council and Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) and senior staff, threatening the neutrality of the public service and politicizing local government leadership. We have seen very questionable use by mayors with strong mayor powers.

Our public expects a democratic process. Given the overwhelming use of executive orders by the current US President and multiple respected analysts' concerns about the US slipping into authoritarianism, our country and its democratic institutions should be safeguarding these democratic principles that provide accountability to the public and not undermining them.

We encourage the provincial government to repeal this legislation.

Sincerely,





Jamie McGarvey  
Mayor, Town of Parry Sound

c.c. Premier Doug Ford  
MPP Graydon Smith  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
All Ontario Municipalities  
Members of Town of Parry Sound Council  
CAO Clayton Harris  
Clerk Rebecca Johnson



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PARRY SOUND  
RESOLUTION IN COUNCIL

NO. 2025 – 047

DIVISION LIST	YES	NO	DATE: April 15, 2025
Councillor G. ASHFORD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOVED BY: 
Councillor J. BELESKEY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Councillor P. BORNEMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SECONDED BY: 
Councillor B. KEITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Councillor D. McCANN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Councillor C. McDONALD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mayor J. McGARVEY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CARRIED: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEFEATED: <input type="checkbox"/> Postponed to: _____			

Whereas the Province has announced the expansion of strong mayor powers to another 169 municipalities as of May 1, 2025 in addition to the 47 municipalities which currently have received strong mayor powers; and

Whereas the Province claims that strong mayor powers will get homes and infrastructure built faster, reduce red tape, and accelerate the delivery of key priorities; and

Whereas research from the Association of Municipal Clerks & Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) has identified that: a) there is no evidence to suggest this legislation has any impact on the number of housing starts in municipalities that have been granted the powers; and b) strong mayor powers have blurred the political-administrative authority between the roles of head of council and chief administrative officers (CAOs), threatening the neutrality of the public service and politicizing local government leadership; and

Whereas strong mayor powers is an erosion to the democratic process of an historically non-partisan municipal governance structure;

Now Therefore the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Parry Sound hereby resolves to reject the strong mayor powers granted to it, and requests that the Province repeal the legislation, or offer the option to municipalities to opt out of strong mayor powers; and

That this Resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing Rob Flack, Premier Doug Ford, MPP Graydon Smith, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities.

  
Mayor Jamie McGarvey