



Corporation of the Town of Mattawa

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May 15, 2025

Honourable Doug Ford

Premier of Ontario

Delivered Electronically to: premier@ontario.ca

Honourable Rob Flack

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Delivered Electronically to: minister.mah@ontario.ca

Dear Hon. Doug Ford and Hon. Rob Flack:

Council of the Town of Mattawa, at their Regular Meeting of May 12, 2025 approved a resolution on the Strong Mayor Powers, which stated:

Resolution Number 25-95

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque

Seconded by Councillor Laura Ross

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario announced an expansion of strong mayor powers to an additional 169 municipalities that took effect May 1, 2025;

AND WHEREAS the Corporation of the Town of Mattawa was included in the additional 169 municipalities that gained such powers;

AND WHEREAS these powers allow mayors to unilaterally override council decisions, appoint senior municipal staff, and set budgets without majority council approval, undermining the principles of democratic governance;

AND WHEREAS municipal governance functions best through a collaborative decision-making process where elected councils, representing the collective voice of their communities, work alongside experienced municipal staff and the proposed powers 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 there is no evidence to suggest that strong mayor powers have increased housing starts, contrary to the provincial government's stated justification for their implementation;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) has raised concerns that strong mayor powers blur the lines

between political leadership and administration expertise, threatening the neutrality of municipal public service;

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

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 appeal.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Mattawa opposes the expansion of strong mayor powers and formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the Town of Mattawa from the list of municipalities that was granted strong mayor powers under the designated legislation.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario municipalities.

CARRIED – Recorded vote and the vote was unanimous

Council for the Town of Mattawa are formally requesting that the Strong Mayor Powers be removed from our municipality that was granted through the designated legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Leclerc". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" and last name "Leclerc" clearly distinguishable.

Amy Leclerc
Municipal Clerk
Revenue Services Clerk

c.c. Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities