

May 28, 2025

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of May 27, 2025 the following resolution regarding "Strong Mayor" powers was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 205-316

DATE: May 27, 2025

MOVED BY: Councillor Engelsdorfer

SECONDED BY: Councillor MacNaughton

WHEREAS on May 1st, 2025, the Province of Ontario designated Prince Edward County as a "Strong Mayor" community along with 168 other Ontario communities, granting enhanced powers to the Mayor; and

WHEREAS 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 "Strong Mayor" legislation violates the principles and meaning of democracy, and local governance has, for generations, been built upon a foundation of shared, democratic decision-making; and

WHEREAS elected representatives and citizens from many municipalities throughout Ontario including several close neighbours such as Quinte West have expressed significant concern regarding the imposition and appropriateness of these powers; many councils have called for their repeal; and many mayors throughout the province have publicly recommitted to democracy by refusing to adopt "Strong Mayor" powers; and

WHEREAS Prince Edward County did not formally request or express a desire to be designated under the Strong Mayor framework; and

WHEREAS the government justified the expansion as a tool to build more housing, AMTCO has indicated there is no evidence that the legislation has impacted housing starts in municipalities that have previously been granted strong mayor powers; and

WHEREAS strong mayor powers create significant risks for municipal integrity increased division in local discourse, the blurring of roles threatening the neutrality of the unelected public service, and greater risk of improper influence (or the appearance thereof) particularly regarding local planning and development matters;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the County of Prince Edward formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing recommit to the meaning and spirit of democracy and rescind 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, Bay of Quinte MPP Tyler Allsopp, AMO, ROMA, and all other Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Victoria Leskie, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Engelsdorfer

