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Josh Machesney, City Clerk | Director of Corporate Services

May 8, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building
Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Email: premier@ontario.ca

RE: Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers in the Municipality of Quinte West

Dear Premier Ford:

This letter will serve to advise that at a meeting of City of Quinte West Council held on May 7, 2025 Council supported the following resolution:

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;

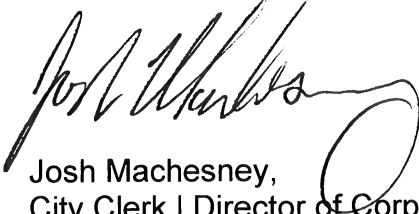
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Quinte West;

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 Premier Ford, Minister Flack, Tyler Allsopp, MPP Bay of Quinte, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and all Ontario Municipalities.

We hope that you give consideration to this request.

Yours Truly,

CITY OF QUINTE WEST



Josh Machesney,
City Clerk | Director of Corporate Services

cc: Hon. Rob Flack, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – rob.flack@pc.ola.org
Tyler Allsopp, MPP Bay of Quinte – tyler.allsopp@pc.ola.org
Association of Municipalities of Ontario – resolutions@amo.on.ca
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) – roma@roma.on.ca