



**TOWNSHIP OF
BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN**

42 Burnt Bridge Road, PO Box 40
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June 6, 2025

The Honourable Minister Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

RE: Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers

Dear Minister Flack,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on June 4, 2025, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the resolution from the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards.

Resolution No: 2025-05-04-06
Moved by: Councillor Kauffeldt
Seconded by: Councillor Banks

"Be It resolved that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards resolution regarding Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers.

And further that this resolution be forwarded to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs Cheryl Gallant, MP Billy Denault, MPP AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario) All Ontario Municipalities."

Carried.

Sincerely,

Tammy Thompson
Deputy Clerk
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan



Naturally Spirited

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April 16, 2025

The Honourable Minister Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Re: Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers

Dear Minister Flack,

Council for the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards wishes to formally express our strong opposition to the implementation of “strong mayor” powers as introduced through recent amendments to the *Municipal Act, 2001* and related regulations.

Council has carefully reviewed the intent and implications of these powers, and we believe they are neither appropriate nor beneficial for the structure and scale of local government in our municipality. The Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards—like many rural and small-town communities across Ontario—has a longstanding tradition of cooperative governance, where all elected officials have an equal voice and decisions are made collectively, through open dialogue and democratic process.

The introduction of strong mayor powers, including the ability for mayors to unilaterally hire and dismiss senior staff, veto by-laws, and control budget processes, significantly undermines the fundamental principle of governance by council. This shift in authority creates an imbalance that risks eroding trust among council members, staff, and the public. It may also reduce transparency and accountability, which are cornerstones of effective and responsible municipal leadership.

The authority granted through strong mayor powers is primarily aimed at eliminating obstacles that hinder the construction of new housing. However, our municipal council is already making meaningful progress without relying on these powers. We are actively collaborating with two local non-profit organizations and the County of Renfrew to develop affordable and accessible housing units, demonstrating our commitment to inclusive housing solutions through partnership and community engagement.

Moreover, there is no demonstrated need for such powers in municipalities like ours. The current system—based on majority rule and consensus-building—has served our community well and reflects the values of fairness, representation, and collaboration that our residents expect from their local government. These powers may be intended for use in large urban centres facing unique governance challenges, but applying them more broadly to small and rural municipalities is both unnecessary and potentially disruptive.

We therefore respectfully request that your ministry reconsider the implementation of strong mayor powers across Ontario, particularly in municipalities that have not asked for, and do not require, such authority. We urge you to engage in meaningful consultation with municipalities of all sizes, and to recognize that one-size-fits-all approaches to governance often do more harm than good.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our concerns further and to contribute to a broader conversation about how best to support good governance and municipal autonomy in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Council for Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards

cc: Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs
Cheryl Gallant, MP
Billy Denault, MPP
AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario)
All Ontario Municipalities