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Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing

Office of the Minister

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234-2025-1568

April 9, 2025

Dear Head of Council:

To further support municipalities in delivering much-needed housing and other provincial priorities, I am pleased to inform you that our government intends to expand strong mayor powers to your municipality.

Following previous expansions, we have seen strong mayors put these transformative powers into action to support growth, from proposing budgets to setting up organizational structures to proposing by-laws to help advance provincial priorities such as building more homes and constructing and maintaining infrastructure to support housing.

Our government's expectation is that you will make use of these powers in a similar way, supporting provincial priorities that will help our province and our communities grow. These priorities include supporting the construction of new homes, economic development and building infrastructure that supports community growth, including housing-enabling infrastructure like water and wastewater infrastructure, as well as roads, highways, transit and more.

Heads of council in strong mayor municipalities can:

- Choose to appoint the municipality's chief administrative officer.
- Hire certain municipal department heads, and establish and re-organize departments.
- Create committees of council, assign their functions and appoint the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of committees of council.
- Propose the municipal budget, which would be subject to council amendments and a separate mayoral veto and council override process.
- Veto certain by-laws if they are of the opinion that all or part of the by-law could potentially interfere with a provincial priority, such as housing, transit and infrastructure.
- Bring forward matters for council consideration if they are of the opinion that considering the matter could potentially advance a provincial priority.
- Propose certain municipal by-laws if they are of the opinion that the proposed by-law could potentially advance a provincial priority. Council can pass these by-laws if more than one-third of council members vote in favour.

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If you have any questions, please reach out to my Director of Stakeholder and Caucus Relations, Tanner Zelenko, at 437-996-2487 or tanner.zelenko@ontario.ca.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,



Hon. Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c: Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister
Caspar Hall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division
Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal and Housing Operations
Division
Municipal Clerk and Chief Administrative Officer