



Correspondence Items Presented for Information April 28, 2025

- 1) Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Re:
 - a) Policy update – Expanding strong mayor powers, improving ambulance procurement.
 - b) Policy update - AMO responds to the Speech from the Throne, launches health sector survey.
- 2) Correspondence from the following municipalities Re: Strong mayor powers.
 - a) Town of Tillsonburg
 - b) Town of Amherstburg
 - c) Township of Rideau Lakes
 - d) Town of Saugeen Shores
 - e) Town of Aylmer
- 3) Correspondence from the City Clerk, City of Peterborough Re: Use of X.
- 4) Correspondence from the CAO/Clerk, Town of Central Frontenac Re: Tariff response.
- 5) Correspondence from the Clerk, Township of Mulmur Re: Procurement and advocacy for trade agreement exemptions.
- 6) Correspondence from the Chair, Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Social Services Committee Re: Ontario Works financial assistance rates.
- 7) Correspondence from the Director of Legislative Services & Regional Clerk, Regional Municipality of Durham Re: Motion to amend previous motion respecting banning the nazi swastika in Canada.
- 8) Correspondence from the Mayor, Town of Parry Sound RE: Call for inclusive research to reflect diversity of Canadian communities.

Expanding Strong Mayor Powers, Improving Ambulance Procurement

Policy Update • April 10, 2025

Province Expanding Strong Mayor Powers

Yesterday, the province announced the expansion of strong mayor powers to another 169 municipalities as of May 1, 2025. The extension of the additional authority is intended to assist with delivering on provincial priorities, including building more homes, transit and infrastructure across Ontario.

Strong mayor powers were originally introduced in 2022 and then expanded in 2023. At the time, the AMO Board did not take a position on strong mayor powers but expressed openness to the idea. It did express concerns with some aspects of the legislation – particularly those affecting public administration – and recommended public consultation before continued expansion of the new powers to additional municipal councils. AMO also expressed concern with the provision eliminating the need for majority council support for certain decisions related to provincial priorities.

As the most trusted order of government, AMO knows municipalities can be counted on to exercise new powers accountably and in the best interests of the public and the communities they serve.

Improving Ambulance Procurement in Ontario

AMO has been a vocal advocate that the cost and timelines to get ambulances on the road are putting Ontarians at a disadvantage. The province is taking action to address these concerns and has certified a Canadian manufacturer to produce ambulances for the Ontario market. Ontario's municipalities are proud to deliver paramedic services across the province. More competition in the market will help ensure communities can deliver high-quality emergency care on time and cost effectively for years to come.

Contact:

Policy

policy@amo.on.ca

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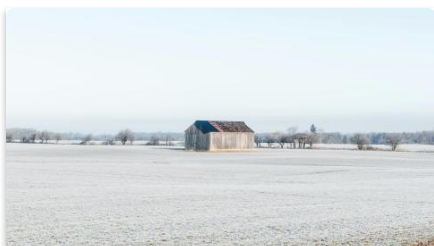
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MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE

AMO responds to the Speech from the Throne, launches health sector survey

Policy Update • April 16, 2025

AMO Responds to the Speech from the Throne

Yesterday, the Lieutenant Governor delivered the Speech from the Throne, opening the first session of the 44th Parliament of Ontario.

Key commitments relevant to the municipal sector include:

- Removing interprovincial trade barriers to recognize inter-provincial labour force credentials and improve free trade within Canada.
- Advancing mega-projects like pipelines, railways, highways, airports, seaports while at the same time committing to “historic” investments in housing-enabling municipal infrastructure
- Investing in other transportation infrastructure including a tunnel under Highway 401, expanding subway and GO train service, and resuming the Northlander passenger train.
- Introducing new legislation to expedite approvals processes for the Ring of Fire and other areas likely to have multiple critical deposits while building new processing capacity in Northern Ontario.
- Further streamlining environmental assessments and evolving Conservation Authorities’ role.
- Investing in energy production, transmission and storage, including new nuclear capacity.
- Working with municipalities to lower Development Charge fees. Also standardizing and increasing transparency in Development Charge fees, study requirements, and Building Code permit approvals.

- Re-introducing encampment legislation and using whatever legal tools might be needed to end encampments.
- Connecting all Ontarians to primary care within the next four years and invest billions in hospital and long-term care expansion.

AMO will continue to closely review all proposed legislation and new government announcements for municipal impacts. In particular, AMO will continue work with the provincial government on key municipal interests, including:

- New investments in municipal infrastructure and social housing as the best ways to stimulate the economy and save Ontario jobs.
- Predictable and sustainable long-term funding sources for municipal infrastructure, including development charges.
- Determining how requirements to use Ontario and Canadian construction materials will impact municipal infrastructure projects.

AMO Launches Municipal Health Survey

Building on the successful release of our homelessness report earlier this year, AMO is continuing to expand our focus on evidence-based advocacy with the launch of a survey to understand the challenges municipalities face around access to health.

We know many municipalities are filling gaps in the health care system with significant investments from the property tax base. To better understand this evolving challenge, AMO is conducting a survey of Ontario municipalities about the specific contributions you are making to health services in your communities.

Heads of Council and municipal treasurers have received an email with more information shortly. The success of the project is dependent upon the gaining insights from all municipalities in Ontario. For more information about the project, please contact Daniela Spagnuolo, Policy Advisor at dspagnuolo@amo.on.ca.

Intake Launch for \$175M Health and Safety Water Program

The province is launching Health and Safety Water Stream applications on April 17. This infrastructure program aims to address aging water infrastructure and protect communities from extreme weather events. AMO and MOI will be hosting webinar for the municipal sector to support strong applications in the coming weeks. This is one of the few provincial infrastructure programs that focuses on asset renewal.

Hello,

At the April 14, 2025, meeting of Tillsonburg Town Council, the following resolution was passed:

Resolution # 2025-125

Moved By: Councillor Spencer

Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Beres

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 Town of Tillsonburg;

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 Minister Flack, Premier Ford, MPP Hardeman, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and all Ontario Municipalities before April 16, 2025.

Regards,

Amelia Jaggard

Deputy Clerk

Town of Tillsonburg



Town of Amherstburg
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Michael Prue, Mayor

April 15, 2025

SENT VIA EMAIL

Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queens Park
Toronto, ON, M7A 1A4
VIA EMAIL: premier@ontario.ca

Attn: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Re: Resolution# 20250414-011 - Opposition to Strong Mayor Designation for the Town of Amherstburg

At its regular meeting on **April 14, 2025**, Amherstburg Town Council passed **Resolution 20250414-011** in response to the Province's recent proposal to designate Amherstburg as a "**Strong Mayor**" municipality, effective May 1, 2025.

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has proposed to designate the Town of Amherstburg as a "Strong Mayor" community, granting enhanced powers to the Mayor effective May 1, 2025; and,

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

WHEREAS many municipally elected officials across the province and members of the public have expressed significant concern regarding the imposition of these powers; and,

WHEREAS the Town of Amherstburg did not formally request or express a desire to be designated under the Strong Mayor framework; 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 repeal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Amherstburg Town Council formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the Town of Amherstburg from the list of municipalities designated under 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, all regional Members of Provincial



Town of Amherstburg

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Michael Prue, Mayor

Parliament, all Ontario municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their awareness and support.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and urge you to respect the democratic wishes of our Council and community.

Sincerely,

Michael Prue, Mayor
Town of Amherstburg

Cc: The Honourable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing)
Regional Members of Provincial Parliament
All Ontario Municipalities
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

**TOWNSHIP OF RIDEAU LAKES
Special Council Meeting**

RESOLUTION 104-2025
Title: MSC (PW) Rec #78-2025 re: Strong Mayor Powers (for Council approval)
Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Moved by Councillor Dunfield
Seconded by Deputy Mayor P. Banks

WHEREAS at the Municipal Services Committee meeting held April 14, 2025, Recommendation #78-2025 was passed related to the recent announcement from the Government of Ontario on Strong Mayor Powers to an additional 169 municipalities effective May 1, 2025;

AND WHEREAS said recommendation further requested that the Province remove Rideau Lakes from the Strong Mayor Powers Legislation;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes concurs with MSC Recommendation #78-2025.

YES: 5 NO: 2 ABSTAIN: 0 CONFLICT: 0 ABSENT: 1

Carried

YES: 5 Councillor J. Banks Councillor Carr Councillor Dunfield Councillor Hutchings
Deputy Mayor P. Banks

NO: 2 Councillor Maxwell Councillor Pollard

CONFLICT: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1 Mayor Hoogenboom



**TOWNSHIP OF RIDEAU LAKES
Municipal Services Committee (PW)**

RECOMMENDATION: 78-2025

Title: Ontario Proposing to Expand Strong Mayor Powers to 169
Additional Municipalities

Date: Monday, April 14, 2025

Moved by Councillor Dunfield
Seconded by Deputy Mayor P. Banks

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

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 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 administrative expertise, threatening the neutrality of municipal public service;

AND WHEREAS the City of Orillia recently experienced a situation where its mayor unilaterally overturned a council decision regarding the hiring of a Chief Administrative Officer, demonstrating the potential for these powers to be misused;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Rideau Lakes has also experienced governance challenges resulting from mayoral overreach, further highlighting the risks posed by concentrating authority in a single elected official;

AND WHEREAS democratic principles require that municipal governance remain a system of "one person, one vote" rather than granting disproportionate power to a single individual;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Rideau Lakes:

1. Strongly opposes the expansion of strong mayor powers to additional municipalities, including Rideau Lakes;
2. Calls on the Government of Ontario to reverse this decision and uphold the traditional balance of municipal governance; and
3. Directs the Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to:
 - The Honourable Rob Flack Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 - MPP Steve Clark
 - The Honourable Premier of Ontario Doug Ford
 - The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
 - The Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO)
 - All Ontario municipalities for their consideration and support.

AND FURTHER that the Province be requested to remove Rideau Lakes from the Strong Mayor Powers Legislation.

YES: 5 NO: 3 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 0

Carried

YES: 5

Councillor J. Banks Councillor Carr Councillor Dunfield
Councillor Hutchings Deputy Mayor P. Banks

NO: 3

Mayor Hoogenboom Councillor Maxwell Councillor Pollard



Town of Saugeen Shores
600 Tomlinson Drive, P.O. Box 820
Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C0

April 14, 2025

Honourable Rob Flack
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
rob.flack@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister,

RE: Opposition to Proposed Amendments to O.Reg. 530/22 to Expand Strong Mayor Powers

I am writing to express my opposition to the government's proposed expansion of Strong Mayor powers to include the Town of Saugeen Shores. As the Mayor of Saugeen Shores, I am concerned about the implications of this policy change on our local governance. Please consider this letter as the Town of Saugeen Shores submission on O.Reg. 530/22 which is available for comment until April 16th.

In my experience, the 'Council Manager' system of governance has always served our municipality well. Specifically, when it comes to advancing our shared priority of building more housing to serve our residents, Saugeen Shores Council has demonstrated flexible and determined leadership. Our Council has enabled housing by reducing red tape resulting in the construction of more than 600 multi-family residential units in the last two years alone. Given the strong and sustained commitment of our Council to these efforts, I do not see how the introduction of Strong Mayor powers will accelerate the construction of housing (or the pursuit of other priority areas) in any way. On the contrary, vesting these new powers in the Mayor threatens to disrupt long-established and effective processes, sidelining elected members of Council with effects that may be contrary to the interests of our residents.

Saugeen Shores has thrived for decades on the principle of shared leadership. We have an effective team of elected representatives working in partnership with a professional staff to achieve goals that are transparently set out in our Strategic Plan and annual Business Plans. This approach to governance is foundational to building trust between the municipality and the residents that it serves. I fear that the unilateral decision-making enabled by Strong Mayor powers would erode this trust and disrupt the collaborative environment that has long been at the heart of the democratic tradition of our Council and community.

I urge you to reconsider the expansion of Strong Mayor powers. If the government has a strong desire to advance these major changes to the governance of our municipality, I

request that you engage in a thorough consultation process with our Council and the residents of our community before moving forward. It is crucial that any changes to local governance structures be made in close partnership with the communities they impact.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and hope that we can work together in the interest of ensuring strong local governance in Saugeen Shores.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Luke Charbonneau', written in a cursive style.

Luke Charbonneau, Mayor
Town of Saugeen Shores

cc. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Lisa Thompson, MPP, Minister of Rural Affairs
Council, Town of Saugeen Shores
All Ontario Municipalities



The Corporation of the Town of Aylmer
46 Talbot Street West, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 1J7
Office: 519-773-3164 Fax: 519-765-1446
www.aylmer.ca

April 16, 2025

The Honorable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
premier@ontario.ca

Re: Motion regarding Opposition to Expansion of Strong Mayor Powers

At their Regular Meeting of Council on April 16, 2025, the Council of the Town of Aylmer endorsed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Ontario government has proposed expanding the "strong mayor" powers to 169 additional municipalities under the proposed legislation, which would grant mayors in these municipalities more authority, particularly concerning the control of municipal budgets and planning 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 diminishes 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 Town of Aylmer opposes the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers;

AND THAT the Council formally expresses its opposition to the Ontario government's proposal to expand Strong Mayor Powers to preserve local democracy, transparency, and accountability;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Ontario Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all Ontario municipalities, as well as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for further action.



The Corporation of the Town of Aylmer
46 Talbot Street West, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 1J7
Office: 519-773-3164 Fax: 519-765-1446
www.aylmer.ca

Thank you,

Owen Jaggard

Director of Legislative Services/Clerk | Town of Aylmer

46 Talbot Street West, Aylmer, ON N5H 1J7

519-773-3164 Ext. 4913 | Fax 519-765-1446

ojaggard@town.aylmer.on.ca | www.aylmer.ca

CC:

Hon. Rob Flack rob.flack@pc.ola.org

Association of Municipalities of Ontario resolutions@amo.on.ca

All municipalities

**Resolution of Council
City Council Meeting**

Title: Use of X by the City of Peterborough
Date: March 17, 2025

Whereas X has become a media platform that is not adequately responding to hate speech and misinformation;

Whereas continued use of X could be perceived as tacit approval of or association with ideologies that are inconsistent with the City of Peterborough's commitment to freedom, inclusivity, and nondiscrimination.

Whereas the City of Peterborough maintains other social media accounts to reach residents about municipal services and news that provide comparable functionality like Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

Whereas Peterborough Transit relies on X as one of its main methods to communicate with customers about Transit service changes;

Whereas Peterborough Transit has implemented customer service enhancements such as real time tracking of buses through the My Transit Rid-GPS Tracker map for transit customers to see when the next bus will arrive;

Whereas emergency services require the ability to use all available channels to reach residents for emergency messaging;

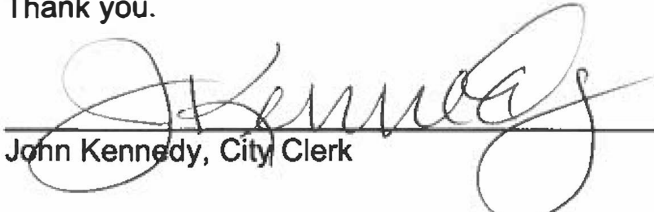
Therefore, be it resolved that Council approve the following:

a) that to support enhanced communication with residents and customers and to reduce reliance on social media that City staff report back to Council during the 2026 Budget deliberations with recommendations and associated budget implications for implementing a Snow Plow Tracker service for residents and a smartphone app for Peterborough Transit, which includes the ability to send notifications to subscribers, with the goal of improving customer service and eliminating the use of X; and

b) that the City of Peterborough discontinue the use of X, formerly known as Twitter, except for Peterborough Transit, Fire Services, and emergency information as necessary.

c) That, a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Ontario municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

The above resolution, adopted by City Council is forwarded for your information and action, as required.
Thank you.



John Kennedy, City Clerk



Township of Central Frontenac

1084 Elizabeth Street, P.O. Box 89, Sharbot Lake, ON K0H 2P0

Tel: 613-279-2935 or 1-800-300-6851, Fax: 613-279-2422

www.centralfrontenac.com



Office of the Clerk

At its regular meeting of Council held April 8, 2025, the Corporation of the Township of Central Frontenac passed the following motion.

Whereas United States President Donald Trump, continues to threaten executive orders to impose tariffs on imports from Canada;

And whereas these tariffs will have a significant detrimental impact on the economic stability in both countries;

And whereas our Prime Minister and Premier are encouraging Canadians to choose Canada and to choose products made in Canada;

And whereas municipalities have significant purchasing power through capital and infrastructure programs;

And whereas we must stand united and strong to meet this moment and protect our communities.

And whereas municipalities can assist in the effort to combat tariffs and support businesses in the procurement for capital and infrastructure programs;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Township of Central Frontenac only purchase products made in Canada whenever practicable, and when not in violation of trade agreements and legislation, in all of its purchasing decisions, including increasing current invitational and open market thresholds in the Procurement By-law to enable targeted purchases from Canadian Suppliers;

And further that this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister Mark Carney, Premier Doug Ford, MPP John Jordan, MP Scott Reid, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and all Ontario municipalities.

Dated at Sharbot Lake, Ontario

This 17th day of December 2024.

Cathy MacMunn, CAO/Clerk



758070 2nd Line E
Mulmur, Ontario
L9V 0G8

Local **(705) 466-3341**
Toll Free from 519 only **(866) 472-0417**
Fax **(705) 466-2922**

April 11, 2025

Procurement & Advocacy for Trade Agreement Exemptions

At the meeting held on April 2, 2025, Council of the Township of Mulmur passed the following resolution:

Moved by Lyon and Seconded by Cunningham

Whereas the Township of Mulmur recognizes that tariffs may increase the costs of goods and services sought by the Township;

And whereas the Township of Mulmur recognizes the importance of supporting Canadian businesses and workers through responsible procurement practices;

And whereas municipalities have significant purchasing power but are bound by international trade agreements;

And whereas trade agreements such as the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) impose restrictions on municipalities, and prevent municipalities from giving preference to Canadian suppliers in procurement decisions above certain thresholds;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Township of Mulmur commits to considering Canadian suppliers for goods and services when it is feasible and fiscally responsible to do so for procurements under trade agreement thresholds:

And that the Township of Mulmur commits to continue to utilize cooperative purchasing groups to explore cost-saving measures and Canadian suppliers when it is feasible and fiscally responsible to do so.

And that the Township of Mulmur calls upon the Canadian federal and provincial governments to enact legislative changes to exempt municipalities from trade agreement restrictions while tariffs are imposed, allowing them to give preference to Canadian suppliers for goods, services, and infrastructure projects.

And further that a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- The Prime Minister of Canada
- The Premier of Ontario
- The Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
- All Ontario municipalities for their consideration and support.

Carried.

Sincerely,

Roseann Knechtel

Roseann Knechtel, Clerk



April 10, 2025

Re: Ontario Works Financial Assistance Rates

Please be advised that the Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Social Services Committee, at its meeting held on April 10, 2025, approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS poverty is taking a devastating toll on communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario, with people in receipt of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program being disproportionately impacted;

AND WHEREAS the cost of food, housing, medicine, and other essential items have outpaced the highest inflation rates seen in a generation;

AND WHEREAS people in need of social assistance have been legislated into poverty, housing insecurity, hunger, poorer health, their motives questioned, and their dignity undermined;

AND WHEREAS Ontario Works (OW) Financial Assistance rates have been frozen since 2018 (\$733 per month);

AND WHEREAS Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefit rates have been increased by 6.5 percent as of July 2023 and another 4.5% as of July 2024 to keep up with inflation, however even with the increase, ODSP rates still fall significantly below the disability-adjusted poverty line (\$3,091 per month);

AND WHEREAS OW and ODSP rates do not provide sufficient income for a basic standard of living and, as a result, hundreds of thousands of people across Ontario who rely on these programs live in poverty;

AND WHEREAS designated Service Managers are doing their part, but do not have the resources, capacity, or tools to provide the necessary income and health related supports to people experiencing poverty; and

AND WHEREAS leadership and urgent action is needed from the Provincial Government to immediately develop, resource, and implement a comprehensive plan to address the rising levels of poverty in Ontario, in particular for those on Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs;



Prince Edward-Lennox & Addington Social Services

95 Advance Avenue
Napanee, ON K7R 3Y5
Tel 613-354-0957 | Fax 613-354-1224
Toll Free 1-866-354-0957

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Prince Edward-Lennox & Addington Committee requests the Provincial Government to urgently:

1. Increase Ontario Works rates to match the ODSP rate increases that have already been made and be indexed to inflation;
2. Commit to ongoing cost of living increases above and beyond the rate of inflation to make up for the years they were frozen;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, and all Ontario Municipalities.

Regards,

Sam Branderhorst

Signed with ConsignO Cloud (2025/04/11)
Verify with verifio.com or Adobe Reader.



Sam Branderhorst, Chair
Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Social Services Committee

Cc: Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services
Minister of Health
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association
All Ontario Municipalities

Sent Via Email



March 27, 2025

The Honourable Arif Virani
Minister of Justice
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Virani:

RE: Motion to amend prior motion presented to Regional Council on February 26, 2025, re: Banning the Nazi Swastika in Canada, to remove references to "Swastika" from the motion and replace them with "Nazi symbols of hate", Our File: C00

**The Regional
Municipality of
Durham**

Corporate Services
Department –
Legislative Services
Division

605 Rossland Rd. E.
Level 1
PO Box 623
Whitby, ON L1N 6A3
Canada

905-668-7711
1-800-372-1102

durham.ca

**Alexander Harras
M.P.A.
Director of
Legislative Services
& Regional Clerk**

As a follow-up to our previous correspondence sent on February 28, 2025, please be advised that the Council of the Region of Durham, at its meeting held on March 26, 2025, adopted the following recommendations of the Finance & Administration Committee:

- A) That subject to a 2/3rds majority vote, the resolution with respect to Banning the Nazi Swastika in Canada, adopted at the February 26, 2025 Regional Council meeting, be reconsidered; and
- B) That subject to Part A) being approved, that the resolution be amended to replace all references to Nazi swastika(s) with the words "Nazi symbols of hate", and make any necessary associated grammatical revisions.

For your reference, the resolution now reads as follows:

"Whereas in recent years, Nazi iconography has surfaced with alarming frequency in the public sphere, used by an increasing number of groups and individuals to promote hate and instill fear within Canadian society; and

Whereas since the atrocities of WWII, the Nazi hakenkreuze, has become universally synonymous with systematic violence, terror and hate. Its growing presence in our country poses a threat to every single Canadian citizen, undermining the core values of equality, diversity, and inclusion that define our nation, and

Whereas eighteen countries have already taken action to ban these symbols, it is imperative that Canada follow suit;

Therefore be it resolved, that Durham Region Council supports B'Nai Brith's call to the Government of Canada to pass legislation banning, with exceptions for certain educational and artistic purposes, the public display of Nazi symbols of hate and iconography, including the Nazi hakenkreuze. Specifically, demanding that the Government of Canada immediately:

1. Ban the Nazi hakenkreuze
2. Ban all Nazi symbols of hate and iconography

Durham Region Council agrees that the people of Canada are counting on the federal government to ensure a future free from hate, where every Canadian is protected, valued, and respected; and

That a copy of this motion is sent to all Canadian Municipalities."

Alexander Harras

Alexander Harras, M.P.A.
Director of Legislative Services & Regional Clerk
AH/tf

c: B'nai Brith Canada
All Canadian Municipalities



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PARRY SOUND
RESOLUTION IN COUNCIL

NO. 2025 – 046

DIVISION LIST

YES NO

DATE: April 15, 2025

Councillor **G. ASHFORD**
Councillor **J. BELESKEY**
Councillor **P. BORNEMAN**
Councillor **B. KEITH**
Councillor **D. McCANN**
Councillor **C. McDONALD**
Mayor **J. McGARVEY**

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

CARRIED: ☒ DEFEATED: ☐ Postponed to: _____

WHEREAS inclusive, evidence-based scientific research leads to better outcomes for Canadians by ensuring that all voices and experiences are reflected in the development of knowledge, treatments, and innovations;

WHEREAS Canadian municipalities benefit directly from research-informed policies on public health, infrastructure, education, environmental protection, and economic development;

WHEREAS diverse and inclusive research teams have been shown to generate more innovative, practical, and impactful solutions, and yet many equity-deserving groups, including women, remain underrepresented in science and research careers;

WHEREAS inclusive research strengthens our economy, healthcare system, and ability to address national and global challenges;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Parry Sound supports the national call for stronger federal support for inclusive research that reflects the diversity of Canadian communities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be shared with other municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and relevant provincial and federal representatives for consideration and support.

Mayor Jamie McGarvey

Ontario Introduces Procurement Restriction Policy

The province has released a [Procurement Restriction Policy](#) which applies to provincial ministries, agencies, Ontario Power Generation, the IESO, and broader public sector organizations subject to the BPS Procurement Directive. This policy requires affected organizations to exclude US businesses from procurements unless the procurement cannot be delayed, and a US business is the only viable source for the good/service. Notably, subsidiaries of US businesses are captured by this policy if they have fewer than 250 full-time employees in Canada.

While this policy does not apply to municipalities, it is responsive to AMO's call for the province to provide clarity on the intent and scope of the province's approach to banning US suppliers from government procurement.

Ontario Introduces *Bill 2 – Protect Ontario Through Free Trade Within Canada Act*

On April 16, Premier Ford was joined by Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston and New Brunswick Premier Susan Holt [to announce the introduction of a bill](#) intended to reduce inter-provincial trade barriers, and make it easier for skilled workers from other provinces to work in Ontario. The proposed legislation would:

- Remove Ontario's exceptions under the Canada Free Trade Agreement (CFTA)
- Enable mutual recognition of goods and services regulated by other provinces and territories as acceptable for sale and use within Ontario
- Remove labour mobility barriers to allow skilled workers – including health care workers – certified in other provinces and territories to begin work in Ontario “as of right” while completing a streamlined registration process

The province will also begin consultations to allow American health professionals such as doctors and nurses to work in Ontario under the same “as of right” rules. As part of the announcement, Minister Fedeli announced a new \$50 million [Ontario Together Trade Fund](#) to help Ontario's businesses re-shore critical supply chains, and develop new markets.

AMO will continue to work closely with the province to ensure that Ontario's residents, communities, and industry leave this time of uncertainty even stronger and more economically resilient.