



## Correspondence Items Presented for Information July 7, 2025

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- 1) Correspondence from Pat Kelly Re: Future Owen Sound — Vision 2050: thoughts on next steps.
- 2) Correspondence from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Re: Proposed amendments to the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016* and planning for small IC&I collection.
- 3) Correspondence from the Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Re: Building Code Act Amendment.
- 4) Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Re: Response on Bill 17, Province releases integrated energy plan.
- 5) Correspondence from the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) Re: Second long-term procurement (LT2) request for proposals.
- 6) Correspondence from the Council and Committee Coordinator, Township of Georgian Bluffs Re: Responsible growth and opposition to Bill 5 and Bill 17.
- 7) Correspondence from the following municipalities Re: Opposition to Bill 5.
  - a) Municipality of Port Hope
  - b) Township of McNab/Braeside
  - c) Township of Puslinch
- 8) Correspondence from the Clerk, Bradford West Gwillimbury Re: Advocacy for increased income support threshold for Canadian veterans.
- 9) Correspondence from the following municipalities Re: Strong mayor powers.
  - a) Municipality of Kincardine
  - b) Town of Prescott

Pat Kelly



June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

To:

Mayor Ian Boddy and Members of Council  
City of Owen Sound  
818 2nd Avenue East  
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2H4

Dear Mayor Boddy and Members of Council,

Subject: Future Owen Sound—Vision 2050: Thoughts on next steps.

While attending this week's meeting of the Owen Sound Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee to hear the staff presentation and the Committee's response to the Vision 2050 Project and the Initial Implementation Plan, it became clear that something significant was missing from the discussion.

Validating the voices and ideas of residents.

Perhaps too few of the Committee members had attended the public consultations to appreciate the significance of a process that had given citizens a voice and engaged residents like never before.

The cursory acknowledgement of the successful public engagement aspect of the report didn't reflect its value. The Committee discussion highlighted a lack of understanding that effective engagement is not just a regulatory requirement – done well, it ensures planning decisions are informed by the needs and perspectives of the community, leading to more legitimate, implementable, and sustainable outcomes. By authentically involving residents in the planning process, municipalities rebuild trust, foster a sense of ownership, and ultimately create better communities.

When I participated in the project activities over the past year, I saw many new faces and heard new ideas from people who were both angry at city officials and hungry for hope and change. Most importantly, they were ready to act.

I also saw and heard an alarming underbelly of resistance to change driven by a lack of knowledge and gossip - the fuel of small-town thinking.

Small-town thinking is defined as "an inflated sense of self stemming from growing up and/or having a large reputation in a predominantly white, close-minded small town unwelcoming to new ideas and beliefs". It is the biggest challenge for any place trying to make change.

Small-town thinking has been hard at work attempting to stop the fragile leap of faith the project inspired - lost in a sea of misguided and loud expectations for a business plan and metrics that were never in the plan agreement.

Further suggestions that the Owen Sound Future Vision 2050 Project needed business metrics to become more like Port Elgin or Thornbury revealed a deep misalignment of values and expectations between some Committee members and what I had heard from residents during public consultations.

Residents said they want to feel safe and proud in our downtown, to advance well-being for all citizens, a solid future for kids, affordable homes, and access to healthcare. No one ever mentioned wanting to become another Collingwood or anyplace else.

I appreciated hearing the Mayor and staff clarify the purpose of the project and the role of the consultant for those members confused about the framework and deliverables.

But the real danger is this. Before defining metrics and tactics, any plan must first build on the progress gained in rebuilding trust and engagement and demonstrate leadership to overcome the entropy of small-town thinking.

Anyone who wants to try to change things should be prepared to get brutally slammed by small-town thinking.

For engagement to endure, it must be learned, valued, resourced, staffed, and supported politically.

Now that the Committee's work is done, and the report moves to Council to make Owen Sound Future Vision 2050 come alive, I look forward to Council endorsing the 2050 Vision document and approving the initial implementation plan.

I also offer this.

We need more than a plan.

As the discussion at the Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee demonstrated, the plan needs leadership that recognizes and believes residents deserve a real voice.

The Owen Sound Vision 2050 project journey started with a recognition that the city's past engagement efforts weren't working, especially for marginalized communities.

It was while walking Owen Sound's neighborhoods, canvassing for a candidate in the 2022 municipal election, that I heard so many residents say they were angry, mistrustful and disconnected from city decision-making.

Residents shared stories of feeling invisible in decisions about community safety, downtown infrastructure, access to primary healthcare and affordable housing that shaped their daily lives, and budgets that determined the community's future.

Communication wasn't great, resources were lacking, and there were institutional, social and cultural barriers that made it hard for citizens to voice concerns and participate in problem-solving.

During that campaign, many of you as candidates promised to make resident engagement a core function of city government.

When funding for the Owen Sound Vision 2050 project was approved by Council in 2024, it became a pilot for Council and staff to make good on campaign promises and scale up municipal capacity for public participation and community engagement.

The visible investment and hiring of experts experienced in public engagement and place-making signaled that engagement wasn't an after-thought or a side project. As the project unfolded, it became the foundation for building trust and guiding the future governance with the community.

Most importantly, individual residents and communities that have felt powerless have begun to see themselves as co-creators of our city's future.

In addition to endorsing and implementing the plan, here are some ideas for how the city can build a durable system to transform our city in the profound ways citizens voiced so clearly to you.

#### LEADERSHIP ACTIONS

- From day one of publishing the report, show visible leadership commitment to legitimizing and sustaining the extraordinary level of citizen engagement demonstrated in the year-long process.
- When the Mayor, Council members and the city manager and staff visibly champion this historic level of public engagement, you will do more than authorize a process – you will catalyze cultural transformation in our city.
- When government leaders treat resident voices as essential rather than optional, the city taps into essential partnerships and resources necessary to revitalize our community. Staff who previously might have viewed engagement as a compliance exercise now recognize it as their most powerful problem-solving tool.
- Make a public commitment to change. Acknowledge where engagement has fallen short and share a vision for what's about to change. Publish a next-step action plan, inclusive of much-needed youth, cultural, social, healthcare, charitable and economic/corporate sector engagement for how the city will build on lessons learned.
- Redirect resources — Back this commitment with a structural signal like providing a flexible fund for engagement pilots that will advance community-led implementation efforts, identify priorities and metrics to measure and communicate progress.
- Identify and invest in smaller engagement initiatives related to the implementation of the Vision 2050 project that can demonstrate value before scaling. Simple but highly visible projects like small grants for resident-led neighbourhood improvement initiatives, or quick surveys, can show immediate value and buy-in.

- Consider launching a dedicated engagement office – even if it's small to start. By providing dedicated personnel, training, technical support, and funding for mini-grants, residents could again channel energy into local neighbourhoods.
- Show up personally. Without a ward system, it is challenging to represent the whole municipality, but that's what we have to work with. Find a way to share the work. Fund and attend listening sessions in neighbourhoods across Owen Sound, demonstrating that residents' voices matter.
- Hold yourself accountable— Establish metrics for how community input shapes the city Council decisions and report regularly on progress.

#### STAFF-LEVEL ACTIONS

- Build bridges — Partner with trusted community organizations who can help reach residents who've stopped believing that local government listens.
- Understand the disconnect — Assess who keeps showing up and actively participates and who remains unheard – especially the voices of youth and young adults. They are the ones who will be here in 2050.
- Diversify the conversations — Meet people where they are through multiple channels – digital surveys, schools, in-person workshops, neighborhood and youth ambassadors ...
- Connect the dots — Help department leaders across the city (and county) understand how engagement enhances their work rather than complicating it.
- Document and communicate the journey — Capture stories and data that demonstrate both challenges and breakthroughs. Help residents see the difference they are making in building the future.

Use the Owen Sound Future 2050 Project to expand and grow a culture of engagement in the fabric of governance.

At the advanced age of 73, and with a slim to none chance of seeing the fruits of our labors on this project in 2050, I offer my deep thanks and appreciation for this investment.

First, to Michelle, Tim and the staff of the City of Owen Sound for demonstrating leadership in shepherding this long and challenging process, and for graciously enduring the onslaught of advice from concerned citizens. Your humility and curiosity model the way for others to take risks and learn more about the dangerous practice of public engagement.

To Mayor Boddy and members of the Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee, the community members who volunteered and led loud and sometimes contentious consultations, your leadership mattered.

Thank you to leaders and knowledge keepers from the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, specifically Chippewas of Nawash, for sharing their time and expertise.

To the hundreds of everyday people who showed up to meetings and shared ideas, to the 1000+ folks who completed the survey and believed they were making a difference.

Well done you.

To Jay Pitter and her team for going far beyond the call of duty in guiding, supporting and safeguarding our local capacity for place-making, your impact is foundational. It has been so very rewarding to work and learn with you.

Finally, to Mayor and Council:

Longevity has put me in a position to attest to this: life - like your term(s) on Council - goes by at breakneck speed. Don't miss this chance to make yours count.

I thank you all for being here. You are fixing our corner of the world.

It is a vast undertaking and will give hope to the thousands of Owen Sounders who aspire to create a better city. It is infinitely worth the effort. I wish you well. I wish you very well.

Sincerely,

Pat Kelly

**From:** RRPB, Mail (MECP) <[RRPB.Mail@ontario.ca](mailto:RRPB.Mail@ontario.ca)>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 26, 2025 3:57 PM

**Subject:** Proposed amendments to the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016 and planning for small IC&I collection

Dear City of Owen Sound,

In response to your previous letter to the ministry on blue box services for small industrial, commercial and institutional (IC&I) locations, I wanted to inform you of the proposed amendments to the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016*, which would strengthen Ontario's blue box program by improving transparency, cost disclosure, and collection of materials.

Maintaining blue box services for IC&I locations that previously received municipal services is an important part of this proposal.

We understand that some municipalities are taking steps this summer to plan for continued collection.

That is why on June 4, 2025, the Minister wrote to Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) requesting that they not wait until the proposed amendments are finalized, and that they begin to plan immediately for how they will continue to offer small IC&I service to municipalities in 2026 and beyond.

The Minister has directed PROs to prioritize providing offers for municipalities and small IC&I establishments that received services during the transition period. The Minister's expectation is that this should be in place as soon as possible to ensure there is no disruption in service for these locations upon full implementation in 2026.

The intent is that PROs and municipalities are able to discuss arrangements before legislative amendments are finalized so that local communities and businesses have more certainty as soon as possible.

PROs will be working on their response to the Minister's request this summer. We encourage municipalities to reach out to PROs if they are interested in having PROs continue small IC&I collection in their communities beyond 2026.

We appreciate your municipality's commitment to an effective and orderly transition to producer responsibility and welcome your feedback on the proposed changes. As a reminder, the [comment period](#) for proposed changes closes on July 21, 2025.

If you have any questions about the proposal, please contact Marc Peverini, Manager, Resource Recovery Policy Branch at [marc.peverini@ontario.ca](mailto:marc.peverini@ontario.ca) or (416) 908-1528.

Sincerely,

Charles O'Hara

Director, Resource Recovery Policy Branch

Environmental Policy Division

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks



**Ministry of Municipal  
Affairs and Housing**

Office of the Deputy Minister

777 Bay Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 2J3  
Tel.: 416 585-7100**Ministère des Affaires  
Municipales et du Logement**

Bureau du sous-ministre

777, rue Bay, 17<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2J3  
Tél. : 416 585-7100

242-2025-4

June 19, 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to provide clarity regarding the authority of municipalities in setting building standards, particularly in light of the recently passed legislative changes under the *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025* (Bill 17).

As part of the government's commitment to accelerating housing development and ensuring consistency across Ontario, the amendment to the *Building Code Act, 1992*, in Schedule 1 of Bill 17 now provides greater clarification that municipalities do not have, and have never had, the authority to pass by-laws that establish construction or demolition standards. Municipalities cannot use provisions in the *Municipal Act*, *City of Toronto Act*, and *Planning Act*, including site plan control, to create and require construction or demolition standards for buildings. This includes, but is not limited to, local green building standards or green development standards as they pertain to the construction of a building, including any energy efficiency requirements for buildings.

The intent of this clarification is to:

- Ensure predictability and consistency for builders and developers across the province.
- Avoid duplication and any differences between municipal by-laws and provincial regulations.
- Support the timely delivery of housing and other buildings.
- Avoid the need for developers and designers to redesign their products for use in different municipal jurisdictions.

Municipalities play an important role in community planning and development, however, it is essential that all jurisdictions operate within the framework established by provincial legislation to ensure a streamlined and effective approach to building across Ontario.

As this clarification is reflected in municipal processes, the ministry has been directed to monitor outcomes to ensure actions are not taken to bypass this, which would erode efforts to ensure standardization of mandatory requirements across the province. If necessary, and considering economic conditions, the government is prepared to take additional legislative action to ensure municipalities are adhering to the provincial framework and reducing red tape in this space.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please contact David McLean, Assistant Deputy Minister, Housing Policy and Planning Division, MMAH.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martha', followed by a horizontal line with a small loop at the end.

Martha Greenberg  
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Cc: David McLean, Assistant Deputy Minister, Housing Policy and Planning Division,  
MMAH

# Response on Bill 17, Province Releases Integrated Energy Plan

Policy Update • June 19, 2025

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## **AMO's Response on Bill 17 – *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act***

AMO has submitted comments to the province on legislative changes made under Bill 17, which was fast-tracked through the legislature and has received Royal Assent.

The legislation incorporates several joint recommendations from AMO and the Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) regarding development charge (DC) modernization. Bill 17 contrasts significantly with the broad, across-the-board reductions introduced by Bill 23, offering instead a framework for changes with details to be developed through further consultation. AMO supports this collaborative approach, as it provides municipalities a valuable opportunity to apply their expertise and shape effective on-the-ground implementation. AMO will structure further collaboration with the municipal sector and OHBA to advise government on successful implementation. Advice will focus on these elements of the DC regime included in the bill for later regulatory implementation, which modernize calculations and their transparency:

- Merging DC service categories for credit purposes
- Defining a local service
- Deferring payment of DCs for residential developments
- Limiting recoverable capital costs
- Prescribing methodologies for calculating the benefit of new infrastructure to existing development, and
- Various measures to increase transparency

The ongoing housing crisis and challenging development market create an imperative for the province to act quickly. AMO will need to be nimble, working quickly and efficiently with our sector and home builders to influence regulations. We will jointly develop initial advice to support broader subsequent municipal engagement.

In our Bill 17 comments and in its broader advocacy, AMO continues to call on the province for predictable, sustainable, and adequate funding for municipal infrastructure to support unprecedented growth, address aging assets, and increase climate resilience.

AMOs' comments on Bill 17 also included implementation advice on other elements including:

- Planning regime changes, e.g. expanding as-of-right permissions, how to determine what constitutes a complete planning application, considerations for relying on stamps by certified professionals, etc.
- A recommendation that the new Minister of Infrastructure's Minister's Zoning Order authority for transit-oriented communities is only used in collaboration with municipalities, including securing a formal council resolution
- Balancing the standardization and streamlining of building approvals with a strong green building and energy efficiency standards, and
- Recommending ongoing engagement with the municipal sector in support of provincial consultations announced with the bill on new water and wastewater services governance and technology as well as road construction standardization.

### **Province Releases Integrated Energy Plan for Ontario**

The Minister of Energy and Mines has released Ontario's first Integrated Energy Plan which outlines the province's vision to meet energy demand while prioritizing affordability, reliability, energy security, and clean energy. This plan gives municipalities a framework to inform local decisions about energy projects, and reinforces the role of municipalities in the energy system. The plan reflects AMO's advocacy to the province on energy including committing to:

- Continuing to ensure project proponents in competitive electricity procurements are required to obtain a supportive municipal council resolution for new projects, and encouraging projects to provide meaningful local benefit agreements
- Maintaining a mix of energy sources including renewable electricity, nuclear, hydroelectric, natural gas, and low-carbon fuels to balance the goal of a clean energy supply with flexibility for residents and businesses to use the energy type that fits their needs
- Ensuring reliability and affordability, particularly in rural and northern communities, including through expanded electricity transmission infrastructure

- Working with local distribution corporations (LDCs) to modernize the electricity distribution grid including identifying new infrastructure funding approaches, and technology to ensure residents can connect and access electricity when and where they need it

Contact:

**Policy**

[policy@amo.on.ca](mailto:policy@amo.on.ca)

T 416.971.9856

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ENERGY

**AMO's Recent Advocacy  
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JAN 29, 2025 • RESOURCE

June 27, 2025



Independent Electricity System Operator

1600-120 Adelaide Street West

Toronto, ON M5H 1T1

t 416.967.7474

[www.ieso.ca](http://www.ieso.ca)

Dear Members of Council,

## **Re: Update from IESO on LT2 Procurement Process**

Please accept this letter to be shared with relevant staff and members of your Council to help municipalities prepare as the [Independent Electricity System Operator](http://www.ieso.ca) (IESO) launches the Long-Term 2 (LT2) procurement. The IESO recognizes the importance of collaborative efforts between stakeholders and communities to advance Ontario's energy infrastructure while meeting municipal planning goals and is committed to keeping municipalities informed as work progresses. This letter aims to provide a fact-based view of the province's growing need for electricity, the important role that securing new electricity infrastructure plays in ensuring Ontario continues to have a reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity system today and into the future and offers a suite of online resources to support municipalities through the procurement process.

The IESO works at the heart of Ontario's electricity system. We maintain reliability by overseeing the operation of the grid in real time – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We also conduct ongoing planning and procurement processes to ensure Ontario's electricity system has the infrastructure and tools in place to meet our needs 20-years into the future.

The growth of Ontario's electricity system must accelerate at an unprecedented pace. The IESO forecasts annual electricity demand to grow 75 per cent by 2050 due to economic growth, electrification, and evolving technologies. To ensure reliable and affordable electricity is available where and when it is needed, the IESO is moving forward with ambitious plans to build a significant amount of new supply and transmission infrastructure, as well as to expand energy efficiency programs.

To address Ontario's growing electricity needs, the IESO has initiated several electricity supply acquisition mechanisms, including the LT2 procurement process. The LT2 Request for Proposal (RFP) seeks to procure new supply resources and will include multiple proposal submission windows, that will be run on approximately an annual basis. The LT2 RFP will take an "all of the above" approach to eligibility and may see wind, solar, bioenergy, energy storage, combined heat and power, hydroelectric and natural gas projects come forward under the first submission window. Successful projects will be awarded a 20-year contract term.

Municipalities play a critical role in Ontario's energy transition and local decisions are shaping the future of Ontario's electricity system. Municipal governments determine whether their community will be a willing host of electricity projects by issuing a Municipal Support Confirmation (MSC) and oversee local development approvals. The MSC does not guarantee that the project will be awarded an IESO contract and does not supersede any applicable permits or approvals under applicable Laws and Regulations. If you would like more information, you can review our [LT2 RFP webpage](#).

While the IESO always encourage developers to conduct early engagement with communities, for the LT2 RFP, the IESO is empowering municipalities to determine the appropriate levels of engagement required in their communities. Each community in Ontario is unique and should be engaged in a manner that works best for their community members. This means that municipalities will be able to determine minimum engagement standards that developers must meet, as part of their issuance of an MSC.

To help inform discussions, the IESO is sharing the following resources:

- The [Annual Planning Outlook Engagement webpage](#) which provides IESO's forecast of Ontario's electricity system needs out to 2050.
- A dedicated [community engagement webpage](#) which provides key information to aid municipal decision-making.

While the IESO is responsible for planning the system and executing the procurement process, other Ministries and government authorities are responsible for overseeing environmental assessment processes and setting standards for the safe maintenance and operation of electrical equipment. As part of the IESO's contracts, proponents are required to obtain and comply with all relevant permits and processes. Additional resources include:

- Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) [Location/Site Considerations Checklist for Renewable Energy Projects](#).
- MECP's [Technical Guide to Renewable Energy Approvals](#) which provides information on land use planning, siting considerations and decommissioning.
- To support the completion and review of the Agricultural Impact Assessment requirements the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness has published guidelines documents here: [OMAFRA Guidelines for the LT2 AIA Component One Requirement](#).
- The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs, the Canadian Renewable Energy Association and Energy Storage Canada released the [Solar Electricity and Battery Storage Systems Safety Handbook for Firefighters](#).
- A [toolkit](#) created by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) to guide municipalities on the development of electricity projects.
- The Ontario government requires all renewable energy proposals to acquire [Renewable Energy Approvals](#) before moving forward with development. More information on the approval process can be found via the link above.
- More information about wind turbine noise can be found on [Health Canada's page](#).

The current electricity system will not meet electricity demand projected for 2050. Ontario requires more electricity, and we must work together to secure it. Municipalities like yours are

key partners in Ontario's energy transition and local decisions play a critical role in shaping the province's electricity system. Municipalities determine whether they are willing hosts for new supply resources and are therefore essential to securing the energy resources needed to meet Ontario's growing electricity needs. For this reason, it is essential that municipalities remain engaged and informed in the procurement process. To stay up to date please subscribe [here](#).

The IESO is committed to continuing our engagement with municipalities as work progresses, and we welcome your feedback and involvement in these important matters.

If you would like more information, please email our Regional and Community Engagement team at [communityengagement@ieso.ca](mailto:communityengagement@ieso.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C. Nell', is positioned above the printed name.

Carla Y. Nell

Executive Vice-President, Corporate Relations, Engagement and Strategy, IESO



# LT2 Procurement Steps and Requirements for Municipalities

June 2025

## Purpose

This document aims to provide further details on the steps a municipality can expect during the IESO's Long-Term 2 (LT2) procurement process and the specific requirements that developers and municipalities must complete if the proposed project is to be supported by the municipality and be eligible to compete for an IESO contract. It also includes details on the approximate timelines for both developers and municipalities as contemplated in the LT2 procurement process.

## Step 1: Engagement with Developer

- Municipalities can expect to be approached by developers to discuss potential projects. As all developers are required under the LT2 RFP to provide the Local Municipality with a **Pre-Engagement Confirmation Notice** at least 60 days prior to Proposal Submission Deadline, this may be the first form of formal engagement. A sample of the Pre-Engagement Confirmation Notice will be provided as part of the [Prescribed Form\(PF\): Evidence of Municipal Support](#).
- The Pre-Engagement Confirmation Notice serves the purpose of sharing preliminary project details, including a request that the Local Municipality confirms the land use designation of the proposed project site, and begins the collaborative work between the Local Municipality and the developer to establish an agreed upon community engagement plan.
- Municipalities are encouraged to set expectations and minimum community engagement standards with developers directly. This allows municipalities to determine what is sufficient community engagement based on their local needs and preferences and allows the IESO to rely on a Municipal Support Confirmation as a measure that engagement has been completed in a manner that is satisfactory to the host community.

## Step 2: Protections for Agricultural Lands – applicable to Project Sites located on Prime Agricultural Land as defined by the PPS, 2024 and designated in the Local Municipality's Official Plan

- Municipalities can expect to be asked by the developer to confirm the land-use designation of the proposed project site. There are additional requirements if the project is proposed to locate in a Prime Agricultural Area.
- Per the Ministerial Directive all new electricity projects are prohibited in Specialty Crop Areas, and all new ground mounted solar projects are prohibited in Prime Agricultural Areas. All eligible projects that are proposed in Prime Agricultural Areas require the completion of an Agricultural Impact Assessment (AIA). There are three components of an AIA (avoid, minimize, and mitigate), which may be completed in two different stages for projects proposed under the LT2 RFP:
  - Stage 1: AIA Component One Requirement considers ways to avoid potential impacts (e.g., prevent impacts, where possible, through a project location process that considers options outside prime agricultural areas and lower priority soils, if necessary).
  - Stage 2: AIA Components Two and Three Requirement considers strategies to minimize potential impacts (e.g., keep impacts to a minimum by incorporating specifics in the design of a project or operational plan) and approaches to mitigate potential impacts (e.g., adopt measures to reduce the severity of impacts such as noise, dust and traffic).
- **The AIA Component One Requirement** must be met as of the Proposal submission deadline and the **AIA Components Two and Three Requirement** must be met within 18-months of the IESO awarding a Contract. These requirements are completed by the developer and then reviewed to the satisfaction of the Local Municipality. To support the completion and review of the AIA requirements the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness has published guidelines documents here: [OMAFA Guidelines for the LT2 AIA Component One Requirement](#). The OMAFA Guidelines for the LT2 AIA Component Two and Three Requirement have not been published yet.
- Confirmation that the AIA Component One Requirement has been completed to the satisfaction of the Local Municipality is evidenced via the Municipal Support Confirmation.
- Confirmation that the AIA Components Two and Three Requirement has been completed to the satisfaction of the Local Municipality is evidenced via Exhibit T: Form of AIA Confirmation Certificate of the [LT2 Contract](#).

### Step 3: Municipal Support Confirmation

- Once a developer has completed, (or has committed to completing) the agreed upon community engagement plan, the developer will ask the Local Municipality to issue a **Municipal Support Confirmation (MSC)**. A MSC is required as a part of the Proposal submission and serves as confirmation that community engagement has been completed by the developer in a manner that is satisfactory to the municipality and that the municipality is supportive of the developer submitting their proposed project to the IESO.
- The MSC does not guarantee that the proposed project will be awarded an IESO Contract and does not supersede any applicable permits under applicable Laws and Regulations.

- The MSC can be in the form of a **Municipal Resolution in Support of Proposal Submission** or a **Blanket Municipal Support Resolution** provided together with a Blanket Municipal Support Confirmation Letter.
- Municipalities are welcome to develop their own resolution, however, to make the process easier, a writable form that includes all necessary information will be posted as part of the **Prescribed Form: Evidence of Municipal Support** once the LT2 RFP documents are finalized. Municipalities can work with the proponent on filling in the relevant details. Municipalities developing their own resolution should follow the instructions included in the [Prescribed Form: Evidence of Municipal Support](#).

## Step 4: Contract Awarded

- After a project is awarded an IESO LT2 contract, municipalities continue to work with developers to ensure that projects align with their community interests and requirements. Municipalities and developers have the ability to negotiate community engagement requirements and community benefit agreements. Additionally, before construction, successful projects must obtain a number of permits and approvals, including:
  - a site plan approval;
  - zoning permits or amendments (if required);
  - environmental approvals (including engagement and consultation requirements with Indigenous communities);
  - Regulatory approvals;
  - grid connection approvals; and
  - permits for new roads and other infrastructure.
- Other government organizations will also play an oversight role to ensure projects are safe and appropriately sited. Some examples include:
  - **Environmental Assessments (EA):** The Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks may conduct a Renewable Energy Approval (REA) assessment for some wind, solar and bioenergy projects. There are several other EA's that can be undertaken. More information on types of EAs can be found [here](#).
  - **Land Use and Municipal Requirements:** The Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing provides guidance on legal and regulatory requirements related to land use, such as zoning and buffer zones for specific types of generation.
  - **Agricultural Land:** The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness provides guidance on zoning requirements and other regulatory restrictions.
  - **Crown Land:** The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources provides guidance on the use of crown lands, including approvals, rules for access, and the role of municipalities.
  - **Fire and Safety:** Third parties, such as the Electrical Safety Authority and Technical Standards and Safety Authority, ensure that project proposals and development comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

- Over the course of the project's development, municipalities engage directly with project developers to ensure compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and local requirements.
- Additionally, projects that are **unsuccessful and are not awarded a contract** could participate in subsequent procurement windows, if the Municipality and developer are interested. This would require further engagement between the two parties to ensure compliance with the LT2 RFP and the potential to be awarded a contract in one of the multiple procurement windows.



# Georgian Bluffs

June 12, 2025

**The Honourable Stephen Lecce, MPP**  
**Minister of Energy and Mines**  
**10th Floor, 77 Grenville St.**  
**Toronto, ON M7A 2C1**  
[stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org](mailto:stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org)

**Re: Responsible Growth and Opposition to Bill 5 and Bill 17**

Dear Minister Lecce,

Please be advised that at its June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting, the Township of Georgian Bluffs passed the following resolution which was subsequently adopted by Council at their meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025:

**COW2025-029**

**Moved By: Mayor Sue Carleton**

**Seconded By: Councillor Tobin Day**

Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5, Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning policies, including replacing the Endangered Species Act with a new framework that reduces protections for at-risk species, and enabling the creation of Special Economic Zones that may override local planning authority and environmental oversight;

And whereas the Township of Georgian Bluffs supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be done in a way that upholds environmental responsibility and maintains the integrity of local planning processes;

And whereas Bill 5, as proposed, weakens safeguards for natural heritage systems, threatening biodiversity, and diminishing the authority of municipalities to manage growth in accordance with local needs and official plans;



# Georgian Bluffs

And whereas the Canadian Environmental Law Association submits that all of the Bill 5 schedules, with minor exceptions, should be withdrawn and not further considered by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario until they are substantially modified to ensure robust protection for the environment, human health, and vulnerable members of the Ontario public, including Indigenous peoples, who may otherwise be harmed by the amendments contained in the various schedules.

And whereas the Canadian Civil Liberties finds that Schedule 9, in allowing the Minister of Economic Development to exempt “trusted proponents” from compliance with municipal and provincial law within the special economic zones, promotes abandonment of the rule of law subjecting Ontario’s lands and peoples to the possibility of arbitrary and non-transparent decision-making and effectively nullifying decades of legacy law-making in those zones;

And whereas Amnesty International Canada urges the Government of Ontario to:

1. Immediately halt or withdraw Bill 5;
2. Recommit to upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples as affirmed in Canadian law through the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act; and
3. Engage in transparent inclusive consultations with Indigenous Nations and civil society before tabling new development legislation;

And whereas Bill 17 proposes amendments that would prohibit municipalities from enacting building requirements beyond the Ontario Building Code, thereby restricting local green building initiatives currently underway across the province;

And whereas it aims to override municipal policies designed to promote sustainable building practices;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Georgian Bluffs:

1. Opposes all provisions in Bill 5 and Bill 17 that reduce environmental protections and Ontario’s proud legacy of protections of Endangered Species, that override the rule of law and that nullify municipal planning authority;
2. Urges the Province of Ontario to support housing and infrastructure development in ways that align with sound environmental planning and wildlife protection and empower municipalities with appropriate planning tools;



# Georgian Bluffs

3. Directs that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honorable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines; the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Honourable Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Honorable Graham McGregor, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, MPP Paul Vickers, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities.

**Approved**

Sincerely,

*Jodi Ward*

Council and Committee Coordinator

[jw@georgianbluffs.ca](mailto:jw@georgianbluffs.ca) | 519-376-2729 ext. 601

CC: Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Hon. Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Hon. Graham McGregor, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism  
Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Paul Vickers, MPP — Bruce–Grey–Owen Sound  
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
All Ontario Municipalities

MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE  
RESOLUTION

Date: 17 June 2025

132 2025

MOVED BY: *Councillor Holloway Wadhvani*

SECONDED BY: *Deputy Mayor Hink*

Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced *Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025*, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning policies, including replacing the Endangered Species Act with a new framework that reduces protections for at-risk species, and enabling the creation of Special Economic Zones that may override local planning authority and environmental oversight; and

Whereas the Municipality of Port Hope supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be done in a way that upholds environmental responsibility and maintains the integrity of local planning processes; and

Whereas Bill 5, as proposed, weakens safeguards for natural heritage systems, threatening biodiversity, and diminishing the authority of municipalities to manage growth in accordance with local needs and official plans; and

Whereas the Canadian Environmental Law Association submits that all of the Bill 5 schedules, with minor exceptions, should be withdrawn and not further considered by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario *until they are substantially modified to ensure robust protection for the environment, human health, and vulnerable members of the Ontario public, including Indigenous peoples, who may otherwise be harmed by the amendments contained in the various schedules*; and

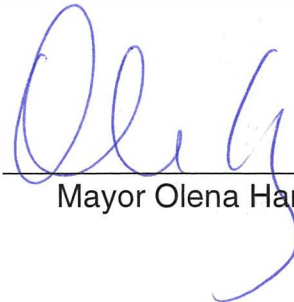
Whereas the Canadian Civil Liberties finds that Schedule 9, in allowing the Minister of Economic Development to exempt “trusted proponents” from compliance with municipal and provincial law within the special economic zones, promotes abandonment of the rule of law subjecting Ontario’s lands and peoples to the possibility of arbitrary and non-transparent decision-making and effectively nullifying decades of legacy law-making in those zones; and



Whereas Amnesty International Canada urges the Government of Ontario to 1) immediately halt or withdraw Bill 5; 2) Recommit to upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples as affirmed in Canadian law through the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act; and 3) Engage in transparent inclusive consultations with Indigenous Nations and civil society before tabling new development legislation;

Now therefore be it resolved that Council for the Municipality of Port Hope:

1. Opposes all provisions in Bill 5 that reduce environmental protections and Ontario's proud legacy of protections of Endangered Species, that override the rule of law and that nullify municipal planning authority;
2. Urges the Province of Ontario to support housing and infrastructure development in ways that align with sound environmental planning and wildlife protection and empower municipalities with appropriate planning tools;
3. Directs that a copy of this resolution be sent to: The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines; The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; The Honourable Graham McGregor, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism; The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and All Ontario municipalities.



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Mayor Olena Hankivsky



## Regular Council Meeting Resolution Form

Date: May 20, 2025 No: RESOLUTION - 269-2025

Moved by Deputy Mayor Scott Brum Disposition: CARRIED

Seconded by Councillor Kevin Rosien Item No: 13.2

Description: Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025

**RESOLUTION:**

Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning legislation, including the repeal of the Endangered Species Act and the creation of "Special Economic Zones" that may override local planning authority;

And Whereas the Township of McNab/Braeside supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be achieved without undermining environmental protections or compromising the integrity of municipal planning processes;

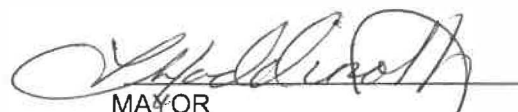
And Whereas Bill 5, as proposed, risks weakening safeguards for Ontario's natural heritage and reducing the role of municipalities in managing growth in a responsible and locally informed manner;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That Council for the Township of McNab/Braeside:

- Opposes the provisions in Bill 5 that would reduce environmental protections or override municipal planning authority;
- Urges the Province of Ontario to advance housing and infrastructure growth through policies that respect sound environmental planning principles and uphold the planning tools available to local governments;
- Urges the Province to support municipalities through ensuring responsible growth through infrastructure projects designed to ensure protection of sensitive wildlife and natural resources;

And Directs that this resolution be forwarded to:

- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario,
- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing,
- The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks,
- Billy Denault, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke,
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO),
- All Ontario municipalities for their awareness and consideration,
- All Conservation Authorities in Ontario,
- Conservation Ontario



MAYOR

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Recorded Vote Requested by:

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:

	Yea	Nay	
Mayor Lori Hoddinott	_____	_____	Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated
Deputy Mayor Scott Brum	_____	_____	he/her/their seat(s),
Councillor Kevin Rosien	_____	_____	abstained from discussion and did not vote
Councillor Robert Campbell	_____	_____	
Councillor Jill Campbell	_____	_____	



Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
VIA EMAIL:  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Hon. Rob Flack  
Minister of Municipal Affairs  
and Housing  
VIA EMAIL:  
[rob.flack@pc.ola.org](mailto:rob.flack@pc.ola.org)

Township of Puslinch  
7404 Wellington Road 34  
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0  
[www.puslinch.ca](http://www.puslinch.ca)

June 18, 2025

Hon. Todd McCarthy  
Minister of the  
Environment, Conservation  
and Parks  
VIA EMAIL:  
[todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org](mailto:todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org)

MPP Joseph Racinsky  
Wellington-Halton Hills  
VIA EMAIL:  
[joseph.racinsky@pc.ola.org](mailto:joseph.racinsky@pc.ola.org)

RE: Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act 2025

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on May 28, 2025 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

**Resolution No. 2025-167:**

Moved by Councillor Sepulis and  
Seconded by Councillor Hurst

**That the Consent Agenda item 6.9 and 6.10 be received for information; and**

**Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning legislation, including the repeal of the Endangered Species Act and the creation of “Special Economic Zones” that may override local planning authority; and**

**Whereas the Township of Puslinch supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be achieved without undermining environmental protections or compromising the integrity of municipal planning processes; and**



**Whereas Bill 5, as proposed, risks weakening safeguards for Ontario's natural heritage and reducing the role of municipalities in managing growth in a responsible and locally informed manner;**

**Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Puslinch:**

- **Opposes the provisions in Bill 5 that would reduce environmental protections or override municipal planning authority;**
- **Urges the Province of Ontario to advance housing and infrastructure growth through policies that respect sound environmental planning principles and uphold the planning tools available to local governments;**
- **Opposes the use of Bill 5 that may reduce a municipality's ability to enforce its local by-laws (planning and other affected by-laws);**
- **Opposes the potential use of Bill 5 to supersede Ministry jurisdiction to require proper approvals such as ARA licences or ECAs; and**
- **Opposes the potential use of Bill 5 to apply a SEZ to lands that are already licenced through provincial approvals such as an ARA licence or ECA to supersede requirements under those licenses or approvals.**
- **Directs that this resolution be forwarded to:**
  - 1. The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario**
  - 2. The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing**
  - 3. The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks**
  - 4. MPP Joseph Racinsky**
  - 5. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**
  - 6. All Ontario municipalities for their awareness and consideration.**
  - 7. All Conservation Authorities in Ontario**
  - 8. Conservation Ontario**

**CARRIED**

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston  
Municipal Clerk

## Monika Farncombe

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**From:** Jennifer E. Willoughby <jwilloughby@shelburne.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 14, 2025 9:50 AM  
**To:** rob.flack@pc.ola.org; sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org; premier@ontario.ca; todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org  
**Cc:** policy@amo.on.ca; Minister (MMAH); romachair@roma.on.ca; Alice Byl  
**Subject:** Town of Shelburne - Responsible Growth and Opposition to Elements of Bill 5

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

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Good Morning

At the May 12, 2025, meeting of Shelburne Town Council, the following resolution was passed unanimously

Moved By: Councillor Len Guchardi  
Seconded By: Councillor Lindsay Wegener

Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning legislation, including the repeal of the Endangered Species Act and the creation of “Special Economic Zones” that may override local planning authority;

And Whereas the Town of Shelburne supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be achieved without undermining environmental protections or compromising the integrity of municipal planning processes;

And Whereas Bill 5, as proposed, risks weakening safeguards for Ontario’s natural heritage and reducing the role of municipalities in managing growth in a responsible and locally informed manner;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That Council for the Town of Shelburne:

- Opposes the provisions in Bill 5 that would reduce environmental protections or override municipal planning authority;
- Urges the Province of Ontario to advance housing and infrastructure growth through policies that respect sound environmental planning principles and uphold the planning tools available to local governments;
- Urges the Province to support municipalities through ensuring responsible growth through infrastructure projects designed to ensure protection of sensitive wildlife and natural resources;

And Directs that this resolution be forwarded to:

- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario,

- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing,
- The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks,
- Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin–Caledon,
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO),
- All Ontario municipalities for their awareness and consideration,
- All Conservation Authorities in Ontario,
- Conservation Ontario

CARRIED; Mayor Wade Mills

Thank You

Jennifer Willoughby, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

Phone: 519-925-2600 ext 223 | Fax: 519-925-6134 | [jwilloughby@shelburne.ca](mailto:jwilloughby@shelburne.ca)

Town of Shelburne | 203 Main Street East, Shelburne ON L9V 3K7

[www.shelburne.ca](http://www.shelburne.ca)



## Resolution

**Meeting Date:** May 12, 2025

**Resolution No.** 2025-093

**Moved:** Councillor Prendergast

**Seconded:** Councillor Andrews

### **Responsible Growth and Opposition to Elements of Bill 5**

Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning legislation, including the repeal of the Endangered Species Act and the creation of “Special Economic Zones” that may override local planning authority; and

Whereas the Town of Orangeville supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be achieved without undermining environmental protections or compromising the integrity of municipal planning processes; and

Whereas Bill 5, as proposed, risks weakening safeguards for Ontario’s natural heritage and reducing the role of municipalities in managing growth in a responsible and locally informed manner;

Now therefore be it resolved that Council for the Town of Orangeville:

- Opposes the provisions in Bill 5 that would reduce environmental protections or override municipal planning authority;
- Urges the Province of Ontario to advance housing and infrastructure growth through policies that respect sound environmental planning principles and uphold the planning tools available to local governments;
- Directs that this resolution be forwarded to:
  - The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
  - The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
  - The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
  - The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health and MPP for Dufferin–Caledon
  - The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
  - All Ontario municipalities for their awareness and consideration.

**Result:** Carried Unanimously



June 17, 2025

VIA EMAIL

**Re: Advocacy for Increased Income Support Thresholds for Canadian Veterans**

At its Regular Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council ratified the following motion:

Resolution 2025-185

**Moved by:** Councillor Harper

**Seconded by:** Councillor Scott

WHEREAS the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury recognizes the selfless service and enduring sacrifices made by Canadian Armed Forces veterans in the defence of our country and values;

WHEREAS the 2021 Census, conducted by Statistics Canada, identified more than 460,000 veterans residing across Canada, a significant population segment deserving of comprehensive, accessible, and modernized federal support;

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) currently administers income support programs to assist veterans in need, including the Income Replacement Benefit (IRB) program;

WHEREAS the eligibility threshold for the Income Replacement Benefit (IRB) program which was created in 2019—set at \$20,000 annually for a single-person household—fails to reflect today's economic reality, particularly in light of inflation, soaring housing costs, and the general increase in cost of living;

WHEREAS such low eligibility thresholds may disincentivize employment and community participation by penalizing veterans for earning beyond an outdated benchmark, thereby discouraging reintegration and contribution to civic life;

WHEREAS it is the duty of all levels of government to stand in unified support of our veterans and to advocate for policy changes that enable them to live with dignity and financial stability;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Council of the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury formally calls on the Government of Canada and all federal parties to increase the eligibility threshold for the Income Replacement Benefit (IRB) program from \$20,000 to no less than \$40,000 annually for a single-person household; and

THAT Council urges Veterans Affairs Canada to review all income support programs with the intent to modernize eligibility criteria in line with the current cost of living across Canada;

THAT this motion be formally endorsed and sent to:

- The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada;
- The Honourable Jill McKnight, Minister of Veterans Affairs;
- The Honourable Andrew Scheer, Acting Leader of the Official Opposition
- Scot Davidson, Member of Parliament for New Tecumseth-Gwillimbury;
- All 444 municipalities across the Province of Ontario;
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for broader distribution and endorsement; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be published on the Town's official website and communicated through the Town's official channels to raise awareness and gather public support.

Regards,



Tara Reynolds  
Clerk, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury  
(905) 775-5366 Ext 1104  
[treynolds@townofbwg.com](mailto:treynolds@townofbwg.com)

CC: Hon. Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada  
Hon. Jill McKnight, Minister of Veterans Affairs  
Hon. Andrew Scheer, Acting Leader of the Official Opposition  
Scot Davidson, MP New Tecumseth-Gwillimbury  
All Ontario Municipalities  
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)



## Council Meeting

**Motion #** 05/14/2025 - 10  
**Title:** Motion to Address the Expansion of Strong Mayor Powers  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 14, 2025

**Moved by:** Rory Cavanagh  
**Seconded by:** Stellina Williams

Whereas the Ontario government has granted 'strong mayor powers' to 170 additional municipalities under this legislation with an intent to accelerate provincial priorities, streamline processes, and increase accountability and

Whereas the Municipality of Kincardine recognizes the opportunity to address these outcomes without exercising 'strong mayor powers'; and

Whereas 'strong mayor powers' include anti-democratic principles that will result in the centralization of power, erosion of local democracy and democratic participation, reduced accountability, and the potential for the abuse of power as expressed by many other municipalities as well as political and administrative municipal associations in Ontario; and

Whereas the expansion of 'strong mayor powers' undermines the collaborative nature of municipal governance and the decision-making processes, and diminishes the role of elected municipal councillors in representing the diverse interests of the ratepayers and broader community, 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 Municipality of Kincardine hereby opposes 'strong mayor powers'; and

That the Council formally expresses its opposition to the Ontario government's decision to expand 'strong mayor powers' in favour of preserving local democracy, transparency, and accountability; and

That the Council encourages advocacy for democratic principles and for municipal governance systems that prioritize collaboration, inclusivity, and democratic engagement; and

That the Council formally requests that the Ontario government rescind these Strong Mayor Powers from the Municipality of Kincardine; and

That Council adopt the principles of accelerating provincial priorities, streamline processes, and increase accountability – recognizing 'strong mayor powers' are not needed in order to address these goals; and further be resolved

That a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Province, the other 170 municipalities granted Strong Mayor Powers, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

**Carried.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Lawrie  
Clerk

**PRESCOTT**  
EST 1784  
**THE FORT TOWN**

**Regular Council**  
**June 2, 2025**  
111 -2025

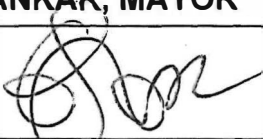
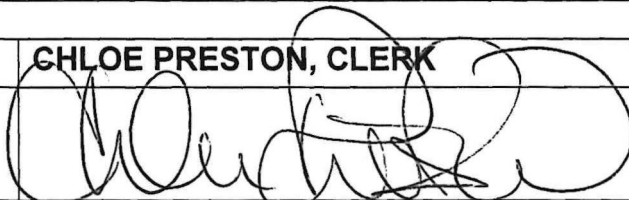
Moved by: Lee McConnell

Seconded by: Justin Kirkby

THAT Council endorse the attached draft letter to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing expressing the Town of Prescott's position on the Strong Mayor Powers; AND

THAT Council direct staff to send the letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and copy the Premier of Ontario, the Ministry of Red Tape Reduction, Member of Provincial Parliament for Leeds, Grenville and Rideau Lakes Steve Clark, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), and all municipalities across the province.

REQUESTED BY:			
RECORDED VOTE		YES	NO
Councillor Leanne Burton			
Councillor Mary Campbell			
Councillor Justin Kirkby			
Councillor Ray Young			
CARRIED:	✓		
TABLED:			
DEFEATED:			
RECORDED VOTE:			
Councillor Tracey Young			

GAURI SHANKAR, MAYOR	CHLOE PRESTON, CLERK
	

June 3, 2025

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
17<sup>th</sup> Floor, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 2J3  
Att: Minister Rob Flack

RE: Strong Mayor Powers – Town of Prescott Position

On behalf of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Prescott, we are writing regarding the Province's recent decision to expand Strong Mayor Powers to an additional 169 municipalities, including our own.

While we recognize the Province's stated intent to accelerate housing development across Ontario, Council remains unclear on how these powers—especially in the context of smaller municipalities—provide a practical or effective mechanism to build more homes, faster. We have identified some alternatives to the centralization of authority in the office of the Mayor to the complex housing challenges we face that would have a direct result in getting housing and infrastructure completed.

We would like to see the province and municipalities be fully aligned and develop a strong working relationship that addresses the barriers to housing development. These barriers are often beyond a municipalities control but are well within the provincial authority to reduce red tape and delays. Whether it be in planning approvals, environmental assessments, or infrastructure coordination, municipalities often face significant holdups not of their own making, but as a result of slow or opaque bureaucratic processes.

We would like to see the same concept of Strong Mayors be used at the provincial level to veto or override provincial-level bottlenecks that stall housing progress. By having conduit, through which municipalities can identify the issues they are facing on specific projects to the province, we would be able to get shovels in the ground quicker and projects completed within months and not years.

This Council remains firmly committed to addressing the housing crisis and to doing our part to enable more homes and more opportunity in Prescott and beyond our borders in neighbouring communities. We believe the path forward must be grounded in bi-lateral efforts, shared accountability, and a commitment to strengthening local governments to make decisions for their communities.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and would welcome further dialogue with the Province to develop housing solutions that are truly effective and locally appropriate by removing unnecessary and non-valued added steps to the process.

Kindly,

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

Mayor Gauri Shankar on behalf of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Prescott