

July 25, 2025

Re: Resolution Regarding Strong Mayor Powers Legislation

Please be advised that at its meeting held on June 23, 2025, the Council of the Township of Ramara passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario initially introduced Strong Mayor Powers in 2022 with the stated intent of expediting housing development across municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario arbitrarily expanded the Strong Mayor Powers legislation to include an additional 169 municipalities in April 2025;

AND WHEREAS municipalities across Ontario have demonstrated a commitment to addressing the housing crisis through local planning approvals and community-led solutions;

AND WHEREAS Strong Mayor Powers fundamentally alter local democratic governance by concentrating decision-making authority in a single individual, thereby weakening the role of elected Councils and disrupting the principles of collaboration and shared leadership;

AND WHEREAS these powers can create uncertainty within municipal organizations, impact staff morale, and risk eroding the trust that underpins effective municipal governance;

AND WHEREAS there are currently no provincial checks and balances or independent oversight mechanisms in place to ensure Strong Mayor Powers are being used appropriately and as intended, and the legislation itself has been described by some as “open to interpretation,” creating a fundamental flaw in the responsible application of these potentially dangerous powers;

AND WHEREAS the primary barriers to housing construction are not rooted in municipal decision-making processes, but in broader market conditions, infrastructure constraints, and the lack of effective provincial and federal policy supports to stimulate affordable and attainable housing development;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ramara formally request the Province of Ontario to rescind the Strong Mayor Powers legislation in its entirety;

AND THAT, should the legislation not be repealed, the Province immediately remove the Township of Ramara from the list of municipalities designated under the Strong Mayor Powers framework;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Ontario municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin-Caledon, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, and the Honourable Jill Dunlop, MPP for Simcoe North, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response for their information, support, and consideration.

In accordance with Council's direction, I am forwarding you a copy of the resolution for your reference and consideration. Should you have any questions or require further information, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,
TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA

Jennifer Connor

Jennifer Connor, CMO, AOMC
Director of Legislative & Community Services/Clerk