

April 28, 2026

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

VIA EMAIL: premier@ontario.ca

Dear Sir:

Re: Authority of Simcoe County Council to Appoint its Warden

Please be advised that the Town of New Tecumseth Council passed the following resolution at their meeting of April 27, 2026:

Whereas Simcoe County is comprised of sixteen distinct lower-tier municipalities, each with unique urban, rural, and economic priorities that require balanced and informed representation at the upper-tier level;

And Whereas Bill 100, The Better Regional Governance Act, 2026, proposes the appointment of a full-time County Warden by the Provincial Government, removing the long-standing ability of Simcoe County Council to select its own Chair;

And Whereas the appointment of a Warden by the Province risks weakening local democratic principles by distancing County leadership from the communities it is intended to represent, particularly where such an appointee may lack lived experience, residence, or direct knowledge of Simcoe County;

And Whereas Simcoe County Council have expressed concerns that a provincially appointed Warden, particularly one vested with enhanced “strong chair” powers, could dilute local priorities, constrain open debate, and diminish the ability of Council members to effectively advocate for their residents;

And Whereas the role of Warden requires a nuanced understanding of the diverse needs of Simcoe County’s municipalities, including growth pressures, infrastructure challenges, rural service delivery, and community-specific

planning considerations, which are best understood through local experience and accountability;

And Whereas local governments are the order of government closest to the people, and preserving Council's authority to select its own leadership is fundamental to maintaining public trust, transparency, and responsive governance;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the Town of New Tecumseth formally request that the Government of Ontario amend or implement Bill 100 in a manner that allows Simcoe County Council to retain the authority to appoint its own Warden/Chair;

And Further That this request emphasize the importance of local representation, municipal autonomy, and democratic accountability, particularly given Simcoe County's unique composition of sixteen municipalities with diverse and sometimes competing interests;

And Further That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the local Members of Provincial Parliament, Simcoe County Council, and all lower-tier municipalities within Simcoe County, urging meaningful consideration of these concerns as Bill 100 proceeds;

And Further That New Tecumseth Council affirm its support for governance structures that strengthen collaboration, respect local decision-making, and ensure that County leadership reflects the communities it serves.

Yours truly,



Pamela Slowleigh
Manager, Legislative Services / Deputy Clerk

Cc: The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, rob.flack@pc.ola.org
MPP Brian Saunderson (Simcoe–Grey), brian.saunderson@pc.ola.org
MPP Jill Dunlop (Simcoe North), Jill.Dunlop@pc.ola.org
MPP Doug Downey (Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte), Doug.Downey@pc.ola.org
MPP Andrea Khanjin (Barrie-Innisfil), Andrea.Khanjin@pc.ola.org
Simcoe County Council Members:
Councillor, sanderson@adjtos.ca
Councillor, kbell@ramara.ca
Councillor, mburkett@severn.ca
Councillor, george.cabral@springwater.ca
Councillor, jcox@severn.ca

Councillor, ldollin@innisfil.ca
Councillor, mayorevans@tiny.ca
Councillor, kfowler@innisfil.ca
Councillor, tfryer@collingwood.ca
Councillor, bgordon@midland.ca
Councillor, randy.greenlaw@oro-medonte.ca
Councillor, yhamlin@collingwood.ca
Councillor, jlachs@adjtos.ca
Councillor, dlarose@penetanguishene.ca
Councillor, peter.lavoie@oro-medonte.ca
Councillor, jleduc@townofbwg.com
Councillor, smacdonald@essatownship.on.ca
Councillor, smaclellan@newtecumseth.ca
Councillor, dmeasures@clearview.ca
Councillor, deputymayormiskimins@tiny.ca
Councillor, rnorcross@newtecumseth.ca
Councillor, bnorris@tay.ca
Councillor, drawson@penetanguishene.ca
Councillor, rsandhu@townofbwg.com
Councillor, b.smith@wasagabeach.com
Councillor, msmith@essatownship.on.ca
Councillor, t.snell@wasagabeach.com
Councillor, pvanstaveren@clearview.ca
Councillor, twalker@tay.ca
Councillor, bprost@midland.ca
Deputy Warden, jennifer.coughlin@springwater.ca
Simcoe County Clerk, clerks@simcoe.ca
Warden, basil.clarke@simcoe.ca

All municipalities within Simcoe County:

Clearview Township - clerks@clearview.ca
Essa Township - scorbett@essatownship.on.ca
Tay Township - clerk@tay.ca
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury - clerk@townofbwg.com
Town of Collingwood - clerk@collingwood.ca
Town of Innisfil - clerksoffice@innisfil.ca
Town of Midland - clerks@midland.ca
Town of Penetanguishene - kcole@penetanguishene.ca
Town of Wasaga Beach - clerk@wasagabeach.com
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio - clerk@adjtos.ca
Township of Oro-Medonte - yaubichon@oro-medonte.ca
Township of Ramara - ramara@ramara.ca
Township of Severn - clerk@severn.ca
Township of Springwater - clerks@springwater.ca
Township of Tiny - clerks@tiny.ca