



City of Stratford, Corporate Services Department

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May 1, 2025

Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford,

Premier of Ontario

Legislative Building

Queens Park

Toronto, ON, M7A 1A4

Dear Premier Ford,

Re: Resolution R2025-174 - Opposition to Strong Mayor Designation for the City of Stratford

At the April 28, 2025, Regular meeting, Stratford City Council adopted the following resolution in response to the Province's proposal to designate Stratford as a "Strong Mayor" municipality, effective May 1, 2025.

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has proposed to designate the City of Stratford 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 City of Stratford 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 City of Stratford 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 Stratford City Council formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the City of Stratford 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, the Member of Provincial Parliament, all Ontario municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their awareness and support.

Sincerely,

T. Dafoe

Tatiana Dafoe, Clerk
City of Stratford

Cc: The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Matthew Rae, Member of Provincial Parliament, Perth - Wellington
All Ontario Municipalities
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario