



## Report

**Subject:** Expansion of Strong Mayor Powers to the Town of Orangeville

**Department:** Corporate Services

**Division:** Clerks

**Report #:** CPS-2025-029

**Meeting Date:** 2025-04-14

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### Recommendations

That report CPS-2025-029, Expansion of Strong Mayor Powers to the Town of Orangeville, be received; and

That staff be directed to prepare a comprehensive review of the expanded mayoral powers and present this information to Council at a future meeting.

### Overview

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the recent announcement from the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. On April 9, 2025, the Minister announced the proposal to expand strong mayor powers to 169 municipalities, including the Town of Orangeville, which is set to take effect on May 1, 2025. This change is being proposed through a regulatory amendment to O. Reg 530/22 which is available for comment until April 16. A comprehensive breakdown of the expanded mayoral powers will be provided during a future Council meeting.

### Background

In 2022, the province introduced strong mayor powers to the 'heads of council' in Toronto and Ottawa. Through a gradual roll out in 2023 and 2024, further expansion of these enhanced powers was given to 47 municipalities.

The recent proposal to expand strong mayor powers to [169 municipalities](#) represents single and lower-tier municipalities with a council composition of six members or more. The expansion is aimed to help deliver on provincial priorities such as building more homes, transit and other infrastructure.

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## **Analysis/Current Situation**

Since 2022, through changes to the Municipal Act and O. Reg 530/22, the province gave certain heads of Council powers to:

- Appoint municipal CAOs and other non-statutory department heads and restructure departments;
- Create new committees and appoint chairs and vice-chairs;
- Propose the municipal budget and veto changes proposed by council;
- Veto council's passing of a bylaw if all or part of the bylaw could interfere with a provincial priority;
- Direct items to council that could potentially advance a provincial priority; and
- Propose certain municipal by-laws if the by-law could advance a provincial priority.

Unlike previous expansions of the regulation, it does not appear that municipalities will be required to commit to a housing pledge in order to be granted the strong mayor powers.

The transition to a strong mayor system will require staff to review and identify various by-laws, policies and procedures that may need to be updated to ensure that these documents reflect changes in legislation. During this transition, the Municipal Act mandates that all current staff positions and committee chair appointments continue to be in effect until the mayor acts on the use of these enhanced powers.

Mayoral decisions made under the Act, must be done so in writing with copies circulated to members of council. These written decisions are to be considered public documents, except in cases where exemptions under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) apply.

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## **Corporate Implications**

Although this report will not generate direct implications. If future actions related to this report will have a corporate impact, a report will be presented to Council for approval, if required.

## **Conclusion**

This report serves as an advisory notice about the proposed expansion of Strong Mayor powers to the Town of Orangeville. A detailed briefing and presentation outlining the full scope of the powers will be scheduled for an upcoming Council meeting.

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## **Strategic Alignment**

### **Strategic Plan**

Strategic Goal: Future-Readiness

Objective: Due Diligence – Confirm applicable governance and policy regimes

### **Notice Provisions**

Not applicable.

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Respectfully submitted,

Antonietta Minichillo  
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**Attachment(s):** 1. Letter from the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to Heads of Council