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April 30, 2025

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

Honorable Rob Flack  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
777 Bay Street, 17<sup>th</sup> floor  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 2J3

Re: Proposed Amendments to O. Reg. 530/22 to Expand Strong Mayor Powers and Duties to Additional Municipalities

Dear Minister Flack,

Thank you for your letter dated April 9, 2025, regarding your intention to expand strong mayor powers to the Town of Deep River.

I am writing as requested by Council, to emphasize that the most significant barrier to support the provincial priorities which *"include supporting the construction of new homes, economic development and building infrastructure that supports community growth, including housing-enabling infrastructure like water and wastewater infrastructure, as well as roads, highways, transit and more"* is a lack of financial resources for infrastructure projects.

Over the past several years the Town of Deep River has been investing in infrastructure projects at a rate that is not sustainable to create capacity for new residential development which is currently in the planning stages. During this same period, we have requested grant funding from the Province of Ontario through infrastructure grant applications and delegations to ministers at both AMO and ROMA to support our growth initiatives but have been unsuccessful to date.

Our primary barrier to growth in the Town of Deep River is a lack of financial support for infrastructure projects to generate capacity. This in my opinion would have a much higher impact on new housing growth than strong mayor powers will for the Town of Deep River.



I would be more than happy to answer any questions or discuss how Deep River can help to promote and achieve Ontario's housing targets.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Patterson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sean Patterson  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Town of Deep River  
613-584-2000 ext., 108  
[spatterson@deeperiver.ca](mailto:spatterson@deeperiver.ca)



# THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF DEEP RIVER

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## BY EMAIL

April 30, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1  
Email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

The Honourable Rob Flack  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
17<sup>th</sup> Floor, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3  
Email: [rob.flack@ontario.ca](mailto:rob.flack@ontario.ca)

**Re: Opposition to Strong Mayor Designation for the Town of Deep River in Response to the Province's Recent Proposal to Designate Deep River as a "Strong Mayor" Municipality, Effective May 1, 2025.**

At a Special Meeting of Council held on April 29, 2025, Council of the Town of Deep River passed the following resolution:

## RESOLUTION 2025 128

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Fitton  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Hughes

**WHEREAS** the Province of Ontario has proposed to designate the Town of Deep River 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 Town of Deep River has a long history of collaborative, 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 Town of Deep River 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 Deep River Town Council formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the Town of Deep River 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, all regional Members of Provincial Parliament, all Ontario municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their awareness and support.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and urge you to respect the democratic wishes of our Council and community.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Mellon', written in a cursive style.

Jackie Mellon  
Clerk  
Town of Deep River  
[jmellon@deeperiver.ca](mailto:jmellon@deeperiver.ca)

cc: Regional Members of Provincial Parliament  
All Ontario Municipalities  
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)