



TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH-WEST OXFORD  
R. R. # 1, Mount Elgin, ON N0J 1N0  
312915 Dereham Line  
Phone: (519) 877-2702; (519) 485-0477  
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September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Office of the Premier  
Legislative Building  
Queens Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

**Re: Expanding Strong Mayor Powers**

At the September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Council meeting of the Township of South-West Oxford, Council raised grave concerns about the recent decisions by your government to expand "Strong Mayor" powers. South-West Oxford Council is unanimously opposed to this direction because it fundamentally undermines the role of elected Councils. While the "Mayor" is elected as the head of council, with the responsibilities that entails, that individual should not have the power to disregard or reject the direction of the majority of Council on any issue when acting as the mayor.

The public elect councils for the collective wisdom of the group to make decisions that affects their daily lives, which is always better informed than the wisdom of an individual. Giving any mayor extraordinary powers that reduce the ability of the majority of council to make decisions that impact the citizens is in our opinion wrong and dangerous. Any mayor that needs extra power to move forward their agenda for the community should be seen as a weak and ineffective leader. This is not the person one should ever enable with more power. If a mayor is unable to facilitate the actions and policies that are required in the community, then that mayor should consider another line of service.

At this time, when the public perception of politicians and public trust in the democratic institutions are already at an all-time low (thanks mainly due to politicians themselves) we should not be doing anything that further undermines public trust in, and accountability of, all elected persons at all levels of governance.



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The Township of South West Oxford strongly encourages you to rescind your legislation (Bill 3, Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, 2022), as it relates to Strong Mayor powers, that allows this dangerous degradation of our municipal governance model.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Mayberry', is written over a faint, light blue outline of a signature.

Mayor David Mayberry  
Township of South-West Oxford

cc. Oxford MPP Hon. Ernie Hardeman  
Oxford MP Hon. Arpan Khanna  
Hon. Paul Calandra, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing