



October 20, 2023

Premier R. Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

and

The Honourable Paull Calandra  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Send electronically via email  
[minister.mah@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mah@ontario.ca)

**Re: Strong Mayor Powers**

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Calandra

Please be advised at the regular meeting of the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus held on October 13, 2023, the following resolution was passed:

**Moved by M. Ryan, seconded by B. Milne:**

THAT item of correspondence 7-1(b) be received; and

WHEREAS the Western Ontario Wardens Caucus Inc. (WOWC) is a not-for-profit organization representing 15 upper and single tier municipalities in Southwestern Ontario with more than three million residents;

AND WHEREAS the purpose of WOWC is to enhance the prosperity and overall wellbeing of rural and small urban communities across the region;

AND WHEREAS the Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, 2022, S.O. 2022, c. 18,, for select municipalities, transfers legislative responsibility from the deliberative body of the Council to the Head of Council;

AND WHEREAS the Better Municipal Governance Act, 2022, S.O. 2022, c. 24 provides for provincially-appointed facilitators to assess the regional governments to determine the mix of roles and responsibilities between the upper and lower-tier municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the Building Faster Fund arbitrarily ties housing supportive funding to municipalities that establish a housing target based solely on population size;

AND WHEREAS "responsible and accountable governments with respect to matters within their jurisdiction

AND WHEREAS overcoming the housing and affordability crisis in Ontario requires sustained, strategic and focused efforts from all levels of government, informed from the expertise of all levels of government;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT WOWC calls on the provincial government to work with municipalities in Ontario, as a responsible and accountable level of government, to focus all efforts on tackling the housing and affordability crisis in Ontario by:

Revoking existing 'strong mayor powers' and not implementing legislation that transfers legislative responsibility from the body of Council to the Head of Council.

Respecting spheres of jurisdiction, recognizing that municipalities are best positioned to determine the mix of roles and responsibilities between upper and lower-tier municipalities and only conduct structural and service delivery reviews of municipalities or regions where a majority of municipalities included within the region, request the same.

Recognizing rural and small urban municipalities are critical to overcoming the housing and affordability crisis in Ontario and not allocating the majority of scarce provincial housing supportive funding to a limited subset of large urban municipalities in Ontario.

AND THAT WOWC calls upon the provincial government to provide all municipalities with the financial resources to tackle the housing and affordability crisis in Ontario that is pricing too many people, especially young families and newcomers, out of home ownership, while amplifying socio-economic disparities and reliance on municipally provided human services.

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for support so that the future governance of our communities is in the hands of its constituents;

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to: the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Premier of Ontario; WOWC Members; the EOWC, and all WOWC area MPs and MPPs. - **CARRIED**

Please contact Kate Burns Gallagher, Executive Director, Western Ontario Warden' Caucus, [kate@wowc.ca](mailto:kate@wowc.ca) should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Glen McNeil  
Chair, Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus

cc.  
WOWC Members and area MPs and MPPs  
Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus