

Agenda Item #14.1

Proposed Motion: Councillor P. Banks: Request for meeting at AMO Conference re: Strong Mayor Powers

Moved By: Councillor P. Banks

Seconded By: _____

WHEREAS the Township of Rideau Lakes is one of among more than 100 plus municipalities that have formally opposed Strong Mayor Powers and their potential impacts on democratic governance, council collaboration, and local accountability;

AND WHEREAS there has been a lack of broad municipal discussion on this topic at recent conferences and forums;

AND WHEREAS there is a need for council members across Ontario to have an opportunity to discuss these concerns collaboratively and explore the potential formation of a coalition to advocate for the restoration of traditional council authority;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Township of Rideau Lakes Council submit the following letter to AMO:

Dear President Jones and the AMO Executive,

On behalf of the Township of Rideau Lakes Council, I am writing to respectfully request your support in facilitating an important discussion at the upcoming AMO 2025 Annual Conference.

While we appreciate your leadership in addressing the significant challenges facing Ontario municipalities, especially the growing burden on property taxpayers and the strain of provincial downloads, we were concerned that recent comments did not address the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers. These powers have raised widespread concerns among many municipal councillors and mayors, particularly regarding their impact on democratic governance, council collaboration, and local accountability.

We believe it is critical that all council members have an opportunity to come together to discuss these concerns and Rideau Lakes would like to facilitate the exploration of the formation of a coalition to advocate for the restoration of traditional council authority, all we are asking of AMO, is an empty meeting room.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that AMO provide one of the many available empty meeting rooms during the AMO Annual Conference, taking place August 17–20, 2025, to enable interested council members to gather for an open and constructive dialogue on this important issue. We will take care of the other logistics, if AMO can provide the space and communicating the time and subject matter.

We would be grateful for your assistance in facilitating this conversation and for your continued support of Ontario's municipalities in maintaining strong, democratic local governance.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. We look forward to your response and hope to work together on this important matter.

Sincerely,
Paula Banks