

June 20, 2025

Paula Banks
Township of Rideau Lakes
councillorpbanks@rideaulakes.ca

Dear Paula Banks:

The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, has forwarded your email regarding concerns about the integrity commissioner process, involvement of staff, governance issues, and the head of council's use of strong mayor powers in the Township of Rideau Lakes. Thank you for taking the time to write.

The concerns that you have raised are best directed to the Ontario Ombudsman. The ministry does not have a role in investigating the conduct of integrity commissioners or the content of their reports, or in reviewing decisions taken by a head of council under the strong mayor power framework. You may also wish to bring these concerns to the township's legal representation.

Regarding your concerns about broader provincial accountability mechanisms, and the proposed *Municipal Accountability Act, 2025*, you may wish to refer to the following:

- Meetings of the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy to consider Bill 9, the proposed *Municipal Accountability Act, 2025*, have been scheduled to take place in London on Thursday, July 3, 2025, in Niagara Falls on Friday, July 4, 2025, in Barrie on Thursday, July 10, 2025, in Ottawa on Thursday, July 17, 2025, in Whitby on Thursday, July 24, 2025, and in Thunder Bay on Thursday, July 31, 2025.
- Those interested in presenting to the Standing Committee are encouraged to apply to be considered at ola.org/en/apply-committees.
- More information about the committee process for Bill 9 can be found on the [Ontario Legislative Assembly website](https://ola.org/en).

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the attention of the government. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Mike Elms". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Mike Elms, M.U.R.P.
Regional Director (Acting)