




**Town of Saugeen Shores**  
600 Tomlinson Drive, P.O. Box 820  
Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C0

April 14, 2025

Honourable Rob Flack  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
17th Floor, 777 Bay St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3  
[rob.flack@pc.ola.org](mailto:rob.flack@pc.ola.org)

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|  Corporate Services Department<br>Legislative Services Division |  |
| Date & Time Received:  | April 15, 2025<br>1:52 pm                              |
| Original To:   | CIP  |
| Copies To:   |  |
| Take Appropriate Action  | <input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Notes/Comments:  |  |

Dear Minister,

**RE: Opposition to Proposed Amendments to O.Reg. 530/22 to Expand Strong Mayor Powers**

I am writing to express my opposition to the government's proposed expansion of Strong Mayor powers to include the Town of Saugeen Shores. As the Mayor of Saugeen Shores, I am concerned about the implications of this policy change on our local governance. Please consider this letter as the Town of Saugeen Shores submission on O.Reg. 530/22 which is available for comment until April 16<sup>th</sup>.

In my experience, the 'Council Manager' system of governance has always served our municipality well. Specifically, when it comes to advancing our shared priority of building more housing to serve our residents, Saugeen Shores Council has demonstrated flexible and determined leadership. Our Council has enabled housing by reducing red tape resulting in the construction of more than 600 multi-family residential units in the last two years alone. Given the strong and sustained commitment of our Council to these efforts, I do not see how the introduction of Strong Mayor powers will accelerate the construction of housing (or the pursuit of other priority areas) in any way. On the contrary, vesting these new powers in the Mayor threatens to disrupt long-established and effective processes, sidelining elected members of Council with effects that may be contrary to the interests of our residents.

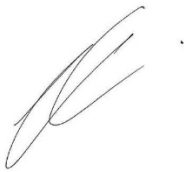
Saugeen Shores has thrived for decades on the principle of shared leadership. We have an effective team of elected representatives working in partnership with a professional staff to achieve goals that are transparently set out in our Strategic Plan and annual Business Plans. This approach to governance is foundational to building trust between the municipality and the residents that it serves. I fear that the unilateral decision-making enabled by Strong Mayor powers would erode this trust and disrupt the collaborative environment that has long been at the heart of the democratic tradition of our Council and community.

I urge you to reconsider the expansion of Strong Mayor powers. If the government has a strong desire to advance these major changes to the governance of our municipality, I

request that you engage in a thorough consultation process with our Council and the residents of our community before moving forward. It is crucial that any changes to local governance structures be made in close partnership with the communities they impact.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and hope that we can work together in the interest of ensuring strong local governance in Saugeen Shores.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Charbonneau', written in a cursive style.

Luke Charbonneau, Mayor  
Town of Saugeen Shores

cc. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Lisa Thompson, MPP, Minister of Rural Affairs  
Council, Town of Saugeen Shores  
All Ontario Municipalities