



June 3, 2025

Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queens Park
Toronto, ON K7A 1A4
Via email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

The Council of the Town of Renfrew is writing to formally express its strong opposition to the Province of Ontario's decision to designate the Town of Renfrew as a "Strong Mayor" community, with enhanced mayoral powers that came into effect on May 1, 2025.

The Strong Mayor framework significantly alters the balance of governance at the municipal level, undermining the role of Council in decision-making, diminishing collaborative governance, and weakening the principle of majority rule that is foundational to local democracy.

The Town of Renfrew has a long history of local governance built upon a foundation of Council debate and shared decision-making. At no time did the Town request, seek, or support designation under the Strong Mayor legislation. This designation, imposed without consultation, has raised serious concerns within the community and among elected officials across Ontario.

The Town of Renfrew is not alone in this position. A growing number of municipalities and municipal leaders throughout the province have voiced their opposition to this governance model and are calling for its reconsideration or repeal.



Accordingly, the Town of Renfrew respectfully requests the following:

1. That the Government of Ontario immediately remove the Town of Renfrew from the list of municipalities designated under the Strong Mayor legislation.
2. That a copy of this letter be shared with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all regional Members of Provincial Parliament, all Ontario municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their awareness and support.

The Council of the Town of Renfrew thanks you for your attention to this matter and urges the Province to respect the democratic will of our Council and community.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Sidney
Mayor

CC: The Honorable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing)
Regional Members of Provincial Parliament
All Ontario Municipalities
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)