

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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November 16, 2022

Dear Municipal Chief Administrative Officer and Clerk,

Earlier today, I introduced Bill 39, the proposed *Better Municipal Governance Act, 2022* into the Legislature. Bill 39 furthers the Premier's commitment to expand strong mayor powers to growing municipalities that are ready to roll up their sleeves and work with the province to ensure that we are building the housing we need.

If passed, Bill 39 will provide that the heads of council for the Regional Municipality of Niagara, the Regional Municipality of Peel and the Regional Municipality of York will be appointed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for the current 2022-2026 term of council.

The government is taking this step as a part of a broader initiative to assess the role and structure of regional governments and local municipalities in the context of the expansion of strong mayor powers into growing municipalities. To provide for continuity, if the legislation is passed, I will make the following appointments through a Minister's order:

- Jim Bradley – Regional Chair, Regional Municipality of Niagara
- Nando Iannicca – Regional Chair, Regional Municipality of Peel
- Wayne Emerson – Regional Chair, Regional Municipality of York

These individuals are well-respected with a track record of dedicated service to their communities as regional chairs. Their leadership will continue to be important as we work to advance our shared housing priorities.

The proposed legislation, if passed, will also provide that if the head of council has already been appointed by the members of regional council, that appointment would no longer be in effect once a Minister's order appointing the head of council takes effect. As a result, I would caution the regions against appointing a chair who is not my identified candidate since my appointee would, if the bill passes, replace that person.

There are no changes proposed to the role of the head of council. The head of council appointed by the Minister would be considered a member of council and the head of regional council for the purposes of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

With the province set to grow by nearly two million people over the next decade, Ontarians are counting on governments at all levels to work together to build more homes. We need to empower our local municipalities, and ensure that layers of government aren't impeding our shared objectives to make sure residents new and old can find a home that fits their needs and budget.

Our government will have more to share on a process to initiate regional assessments by provincially-appointed facilitators in the coming months. My expectation is that regional chairs, as well as local and regional councils, will work collaboratively with provincially-appointed facilitators as they assess appropriate roles and responsibilities and governance structures to advance shared provincial-municipal priorities, including building 1.5 million new homes over the next 10 years.

Ontario is committed to working with regional and local partners to ensure municipalities can continue to support the growth we need, provide quality services and keep taxes low as Ontarians weather the current economic challenges.

Thank you for your service to the people of your region and Ontario. Please feel free to contact Ryan Amato, Chief of Staff (ryan.amato@ontario.ca) or Kate Manson-Smith, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (kate.manson-smith@ontario.ca) should you have any questions.

Thank you and please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark
Minister

C.
Kate Manson-Smith, Deputy Minister
Ryan Amato, Chief of Staff