

Mayoral Decision MD-2025-05-a

Date: August 18, 2025

Re: Veto of Confirmation By-law Pertaining to Motion PW Rec 154-2025

As Mayor of the Township of Rideau Lakes, I am exercising my authority under Ontario Regulation 580/22: Provincial Priorities, enacted under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, to veto the portion of the Confirmation By-law that seeks to ratify Motion PW Rec 154-2025, titled “Office Infrastructure, Public Consultation and Staff Support.”

In my opinion, the motion interferes with the prescribed provincial priorities set out in O. Reg. 580/22, which require municipalities to:

1. Facilitate the construction of 1.5 million new homes by December 31, 2031
2. Construct and maintain infrastructure that supports housing, including transit, roads, utilities, and servicing

Potential Interference with Provincial Priorities:

- Housing Supply Acceleration

In my view, the motion does not demonstrate how a proposed infrastructure option will directly support or enable new residential development. There is no evidence that this facility in Chantry will contribute to housing approvals, intensification targets, or growth management objectives. By allocating significant resources to administrative infrastructure without a clear link to housing outcomes, the motion may divert attention from initiatives that directly support the provincial housing mandate.

- Infrastructure That Supports Housing

The motion lacks analysis of how the proposed office location aligns with infrastructure that supports housing, such as:

- Road access and connectivity
- Transit corridors
- Proximity to growth areas or development nodes

Without this alignment, the motion may result in infrastructure investment that does not contribute to the servicing or livability of future residential communities, which is contrary to the second prescribed priority under O. Reg. 580/22.

- Resource Allocation and Strategic Focus

The motion directs staff to pursue two divergent infrastructure paths simultaneously, advancing both to the 90% design stage and issuing tenders. In my opinion, this represents a premature and inefficient use of municipal resources. It risks duplicating costs and staff effort without confirming a preferred direction, which may interfere with the Township’s ability to focus on infrastructure projects that directly support housing and servicing needs.

Conclusion

In my opinion, Motion PW Rec 154-2025 interferes with the prescribed provincial priorities under Ontario Regulation 580/22, and therefore I am vetoing the Confirmation By-law but only as it pertains to this motion. I urge Council to revisit this matter with a renewed focus on housing-supportive infrastructure, strategic resource allocation, and alignment with Ontario's growth and development objectives.

**Of note, this is the third by-law veto on the same issue.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arie Hoogenboom', written in a cursive style.

Arie Hoogenboom
Mayor