



# OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Municipality of Mississippi Mills  
3131 Old Perth Rd • Almonte ON • K0A 1A0  
Phone: 613-256-2064  
Fax: 613-256-4887  
E-mail: [clowry@mississippimills.ca](mailto:clowry@mississippimills.ca)

## MEMORANDUM

**To: Members of Council & Staff**

**From: Mayor Christa Lowry**

**June 17, 2025**

Earlier this spring, the province made fundamental changes to the way many municipalities are governed and how Councils make decisions. Since 2022, over 200 of Ontario's 444 municipalities have been granted Strong Mayor Powers - the Municipality of Mississippi Mills was included as of May 1st.

Like many parts of Ontario and Canada, the housing crisis is very real in Mississippi Mills. Families just can't find homes that they can afford. As Mayor, it is my responsibility to use every tool available to address the housing crisis. To understand the responsibilities and legal obligations of the Strong Mayor Powers, I have sought legal advice, ministerial training, and learned about the experience of other mayors who have already been granted these powers. I appreciate that in some situations, these expanded powers have helped the progress of building more homes.

I remain open to tools and new processes that can reduce red-tape or bureaucracy, and help build the homes that families in our community need. At this time, I don't foresee these tools as the means to address the housing challenges we are facing in Mississippi Mills. Any usage by myself of these powers would be triggered by exceptional circumstances.

As Mayor, I take the responsibilities of my role and accountability to my colleagues, the municipal corporation, and to the public very seriously. In alignment with good governance practices, I have delegated my powers regarding organizational structure and employment matters to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). I have delegated my powers regarding employment of the CAO, establishing committees and committee chairs to Council. Finally, I have directed the CAO and Director of Corporate Services to prepare the 2026 Budget, develop a communication and community engagement plan, and schedule meetings as needed for Council discussion and deliberation.

In Mississippi Mills, we have a responsible, well-functioning Council. It is by working together as a team that the best possible decisions are made through collaboration, consensus, and respect. I deeply value the perspectives and experience of my colleagues, and will continue to look to all members of my Council for their contributions to our decision-making.