

**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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234-2026-1052

April 2, 2026

Cherryl Ganann  
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Dear Acting Chair Ganann:

Municipalities play a key role in helping deliver shared priorities and building essential infrastructure, especially during times of economic uncertainty. That's why today I introduced legislation and proposed regulatory changes to give municipalities clearer direction and stronger tools to support growth.

The proposed *Better Regional Governance Act, 2026*, if passed, would provide the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing with the authority to appoint Regional Chairs in the regions of Durham, Halton, Muskoka, Niagara, Peel, Waterloo and York, plus the Warden of Simcoe County.

Through proposed regulatory changes, these individuals would also receive strong chair powers, mirroring strong mayor powers, as outlined in Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*. These tools would help regional governments to respond more quickly and effectively to economic and housing challenges by speeding up local decision-making and helping advance shared provincial-municipal priorities such as building more housing.

The proposed legislation introduces changes that would respond to feedback from local officials in Niagara Region that more efficient processes and a smaller council size are needed. If passed, by limiting regional council seats to lower-tier heads of council, the number of regional councillors would be reduced from 32 to 13, including the appointed Chair. To facilitate the transition to the new council structure and help ensure appropriate and effective representation, we will work with Niagara municipalities to develop a weighted voting framework.

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If passed, these changes would come into effect for the 2026-2030 municipal council term, starting on November 15, 2026. The current composition of your council will remain the same until the new council is sworn in following the election.

For more information on these amendments, please see the [News Release](#). To share your comments on the proposed legislation, please see a posting on the [Regulatory Registry](#) that will be open for comments for 30 days.

The government is committed to working with municipalities to identify ways to strengthen local governance. Working together to advance shared provincial-municipal priorities helps advance housing and economic development, preparing both individual municipalities and the province as-a-whole for growth.

Sincerely,



Hon. Robert J. Flack  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

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