

January 14, 2026

The Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
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The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance
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RE: Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Concerns with OMERS Governance Changes and Bill 68

Dear Ministers Flack and Bethlenfalvy,

The [Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus](#) (EOWC) represents 103 municipalities who are employers within the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) pension plan. As Chair of the EOWC, I am writing to express our collective concern with the legislative changes contained in [Bill 68, A Plan to Protect Ontario Act, 2025](#).

We share the Ontario Government's commitment to ensuring OMERS remains strong, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of employers and employees alike. However, Bill 68 risks weakening the very principles that have made the OMERS model stable and accountable for more than two decades.

The changes in Bill 68 would dissolve the independent Sponsors Corporation and replace it with a new "Sponsors Council" that lacks corporate status, independent resources, and fiduciary protections. In practice, this would allow pension decisions to be made without meaningful municipal oversight, increasing financial exposure for local governments and, ultimately, local taxpayers.

At a time when rural and small-urban municipalities are already stretched thin by rising costs, downloaded responsibilities, and growing service demands,

these municipalities cannot afford new, unfunded pension liabilities or diminished accountability. Ontarians expect their local governments to protect public dollars; and therefore, municipalities need pension governance structures to do the same.

We believe that the current structure of OMERS, with two corporate Boards is the model that would best deliver on the long-term sustainability of the pension plan. This model works because it balances independence, accountability, and fairness between employers and employees.

We urge your ministries to work with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all OMERS sponsors to chart a path forward on regulations, by-laws, and any further legislative changes. Municipalities in eastern Ontario stand ready to work collaboratively with the province to strengthen governance, enhance transparency, and protect the long-term interests of workers, communities, and taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Chair, Bonnie Clark
Warden, Peterborough County
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CC:

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Resolution: OMERS Governance Changes and Bill 68

Moved by: Warden Jennifer Murphy, Renfrew County

Seconded by: Warden Mario Zanth, United Counties of Prescott and Russell

“WHEREAS the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) Pension Fund serves over 1,000 employers and over half a million employees and retirees from diverse groups including: municipal governments, school boards, libraries, police and fire departments, children's aid societies, and electricity distribution companies; and

WHEREAS the long-standing jointly-sponsored governance model with two corporate boards has provided stability, accountability, and fairness for both plan members and employers for more than two decades; and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has passed legislative changes to OMERS' governance structure through Bill 68; and

WHEREAS these changes would replace the current OMERS Sponsors Corporation with a new Sponsors Council that would lose its corporate status and independent resources; and

WHEREAS the proposed model could allow pension decisions affecting municipal employers and employees to be made without meaningful municipal oversight, increasing financial risk for municipalities and local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS municipalities are already under significant financial strain and cannot absorb additional pension costs without consequences for property taxes or local services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus does not support the legislative changes to the *OMERS Act* contained in Bill 68 and requests that the Government of Ontario reconsider the advisability of proceeding with these changes;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus supports the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in calling on the Government of Ontario to maintain the current OMERS governance model,

with two corporate Boards, as the structure that would best deliver on the long-term interests of municipalities, taxpayers, and employees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to:

- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs;
- The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance;
- EOWC regional MPPs: Billy Denault, Dave Smith, David Piccini, John Jordan, Laurie Scott Nolan Quinn, Ric Bresee, Steve Clark, Stephane Sarrazin, Ted Hsu, Tyler Allsopp; and
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)."

CARRIED

Signed by: **Bonnie Clark, EOWC Chair**
Warden of Peterborough County
Info@eowc.org
January 8, 2026