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THE Mr. Files

By John Mutton
CENTRAL EXCLUSIVE

Karmageddon

By Mr. 'X' ~ John Mutton
CENTRAL EXCLUSIVE

STRONG MAYOR POWER CARRIES TO REGION

Strong Mayor Powers Ontario have just made their way to the Regional Municipality of Durham — and with them comes something far more consequential than most people realize.

This isn't just governance reform. This is the beginning of the end of regional government as we know it.

The Shift No One Is Talking About

The Province is moving to:

- Appoint the Regional Chair
- Grant strong chair powers
- Centralize authority at the top

On paper, it looks like efficiency.

In reality?

It's an admission that the current system doesn't work.

Mr. X's Position (On Record)

I made a recommendation to the Province of Ontario:

- Eliminate regional councillors
- Convert the Chair into a Speaker of the House
- Let Mayors vote with weighted authority

This isn't theory — it's already been accepted in principle at the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

And it works.

The Core Problem: Duplication & Dysfunction

Regional government today is:

- Redundant
- Politically bloated
- Structurally inefficient

You have:

- Local councils doing local work
- Regional councils duplicating governance layers
- Staff reporting through parallel systems

The result?

Delay, cost, and zero accountability.

What Strong Chair Powers Really Mean

The Province isn't "empowering leadership."

They're trying to:

- Force decisions
- Override gridlock
- Streamline approvals

But here's the truth:

If you need strong mayor powers at the regional level...

The structure itself is broken.

The 4-Year Warning

Regional government has 4 years to prove it can justify its existence.

If it doesn't:

- It will be dismantled
- Or fundamentally restructured

The Only Path Forward

Regions must become a Services Board — Nothing More

That means:

- Eliminate duplication
- Focus ONLY on:
 - Water / wastewater
 - Major roads
 - Transit
- Mandated services under the Municipal Act, 2001 (Ontario)

Everything else?

Gone.

The Real Future Model

- Mayors run the show
- Weighted voting replaces regional councillors
- Chair becomes procedural, not political

This is not radical.

It's inevitable.

Final Word

The Province didn't just change legislation.

They sent a message:

"Fix it — or we will."

Regional governments can either:

- Reinvent themselves as lean, service-focused bodies

OR

- Go down as one of the most inefficient governance experiments in Ontario history

Mr. X Verdict:

This is not reform.

This is a countdown.

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