

**The Corporation of the Town of Ajax
March 27, 2023**

Motion

Support for Bill 5 - Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act

Moved by: Regional Councillor Crawford
Seconded by: Councillor Henry

WHEREAS currently the most severe penalty that can be imposed on an elected official is suspension and loss of pay for 90 days, even in cases of workplace harassment or abuse;

AND WHEREAS there is currently no process to remove an elected official from office, even in cases of confirmed workplace harassment or abuse;

AND WHEREAS a fundamental, underlying principle of broadening diversity, equity and inclusion in politics rests on the assumption that the workplace is safe;

AND WHEREAS Bill 5, the Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act would require all elected officials to comply with the workplace violence and harassment policies of the municipality they represent, permit a municipality to direct the Integrity Commissioner to apply to the court to vacate a member's seat for failing to comply with the municipality's workplace violence and harassment policies as well as restrict officials whose seat has been vacated from seeking re-election in any resulting by-election;

AND WHEREAS at least 27 municipalities have formally endorsed and communicated public support for Bill 5, including Ottawa, Hamilton, London, Barrie, Orillia, and Richmond Hill;

AND WHEREAS Bill 5 would both hold accountable and protect all municipal officials;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- Ajax Council express its support for Bill 5, Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act; and
- A copy of this motion be circulated to the Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Patrice Barnes, MPP for Ajax, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.