



NEWS RELEASE

Lord Mayor Delegates Staff Oversight Using Strong Mayor Powers

For Immediate Release

July 7, 2025

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is pleased to welcome Nick Ruller as its new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), effective today. To support a smooth and successful transition, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa has made his first use of the Strong Mayor Powers, granted to the Town by the Province on May 1, 2025, by [formally delegating oversight of municipal Staff operations to the CAO](#).

This decision ensures that CAO Ruller is fully empowered to lead the Town's administration and uphold the high standards of service that residents expect and deserve.

Through this delegation, the CAO is authorized to:

- Determine the organizational structure of the municipality; and
- Approve employment and staffing matters.

This marks the first time the Lord Mayor has used the Strong Mayor Powers, introduced through the [Strong Mayor, Building Homes Act, 2022 \(Bill 3\)](#). With this action, Lord Mayor Zalepa has chosen to reinforce a collaborative and accountable leadership model by entrusting these specific authorities to the CAO.

"I have full confidence in Nick's ability to guide the organization with strategic vision, professionalism, and a strong sense of municipal responsibility," stated Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa. "While this new legislation provides mayors with enhanced decision-making authority, I remain committed to working in partnership with Staff and Council to serve our community effectively."

To learn more about Strong Mayor Powers and what they mean for the Town, please visit <https://www.notl.com/council-government/mayor-council/strong-mayor-powers>.

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