



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: February 13, 2024

Resolution 2024-01: That NOMA endorse the appeals of the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, Confederation College, and Lakehead University regarding the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada reforms to the International Student Program and that a similar letter be sent to Minister Miller, the Prime Minister, local MPs, MPPs, and opposition parties, Minister Dunlop, FONOM, and member municipal councils with copies to the Chamber, TBCEDC, Confederation College, and Lakehead University.

Background:

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) recently announced major reforms to the International Student Program that will have significant impacts in our local communities. IRCC has introduced a cap of 360,000 new permits for 2024, a 35% reduction from 2023. While the rationale for this policy change is rooted in understandable concerns around housing and healthcare capacity, the impact of this on communities across Canada should not be underestimated.

Of particular grave immediate concern is IRCC's implementation of a moratorium on student visa processing until March 31, 2024 – the deadline for provinces to introduce a system to manage international student enrolments. This processing moratorium is creating much uncertainty about the outlook for not just September, but even spring enrolment. By halting processing, IRCC is jeopardizing the ability for Confederation College and Lakehead University to attract new students to the region. This is a critical time of year when students across the world decide where they will travel to study and temporarily call their home – a decision that profoundly impacts local businesses and communities. International students are vital contributors to our economy, labour market, and add diversity and vibrancy to communities. International students are vital to the City of Thunder Bay and the whole of northwestern Ontario.

Lakehead University currently has over 1,800 students studying in undergraduate and graduate degree programs at its Thunder Bay campus. This achievement is the result of a deliberate and responsible multi-year internationalization strategy to grow their international student population to 20% of total enrolment, or 2,000 students, by 2025. This strategy is focused on diversifying the student population in Northern Ontario, helping to offset declining regional demographics while attracting highly skilled talent into the region to support ongoing economic diversification in Northern Ontario.

International students contribute \$22B to the Canadian economy and the financial repercussions these caps are going to have will negatively impact NOMA communities. Over the past five years over 2,000 international students have graduated from Lakehead University, with 23% continuing to live and work in Ontario, including 11% in northwestern Ontario. The economic impact of Lakehead University in Northwestern Ontario is \$2.4B. In 2021, international student spending generated \$14.5 million in added income for our regional

economy and active alumni at Confederation College generated an additional \$12.2 million. It is estimated that 55% of international students remain in the region after finishing their time at Confederation College. The change could result in a 50% reduction in international enrollment at Confederation College. Confederation College anticipates the estimated financial impact of the changes to this year's enrolment alone will be \$7.5 Million. The economic impact for our region will also be compounded as Confederation College will be unable to run some programs as student numbers are reduced. A loss of this scale will jeopardize the ability for the college and university to deliver key programs and courses, which will not just impact international students but all students in northwestern Ontario and create a real challenge for our communities.

Recommendation:

WHEREAS that the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) recognizes the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) recent announcement regarding major reforms to the International Student Program will likely have significant impacts to our economy, local communities, our labour market, and regional diversity.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOMA endorse the appeals of the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, Confederation College, and Lakehead University regarding the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada reforms to the International Student Program.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOMA send a letter to the IRCC to reconsider the current approach to the cap on international student permits and participate in open dialogue with NOMA, Lakehead University, Confederation College, the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, and other key stakeholders to explore solutions that recognize the unique challenges faced by institutions in northern regions.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this motion be forwarded to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Minister of Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Marc Miller, MP Patty Hajdu - Thunder Bay - Superior North, MP Marcus Powlowski – Thunder Bay - Rainy River, MP Eric Melillo – Kenora, Minister of Colleges and Universities Jill Dunlop, MPP Greg Rickford Kenora – Rainy River, MPP Kevin Holland – Thunder Bay - Atikokan, MPP Lise Vaugeois - Thunder Bay - Superior North, Lakehead University, Confederation College, Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, the leaders of the opposition parties of Ontario, and all Clerks and CAOs of NOMA.

Moved By: Norm Gale, Thunder Bay City Manager

Seconded By: Jason Young, CAO of Atikokan

CARRIED



President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: March 5, 2024

Resolution 2024-02: Northern Ontario Transportation Task Force Resolution

Background:

WHEREAS the President of the NOMA, Wendy Landry and the President of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, Danny Whalen were tasked by then Minister of Transportation, Mulroney to Co-Chair the Northern Ontario Transportation Task Force; and

WHEREAS this task force consisted of municipal representatives, indigenous representatives, provincial ministry representatives and industry experts; and

WHEREAS the Task Force was charged with reviewing the Draft Transportation Strategy for Northern Ontario and the 67 recommendations within covering transportations sectors including air, marine, roads and highways, winter roads, rail, and the economic and safety impact of each sector; and

WHEREAS the Interim and Final Reports of the Task Force include recommendations with regards to 2 + 1 highways, rest stops, highway construction, passing lanes, highway closures, commercial vehicle licensing and training and highway maintenance and others; and

WHEREAS the Final Report for the Task Force efforts was submitted to the Ministry of Transportation in April 2023; and

WHEREAS to date, the Minister of Transportation and ministry staff have made no comment or accepted any recommendations of the Task Force Interim or Final Report.

Recommendation:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOMA requests the Minister of Transportation and ministry staff to work with the Co-Chairs of the Task Force to consider implementation of the recommendations within the Interim and Final Reports.

Moved By: Fred Mota, Mayor of Red Lake

Seconded By: Mark Figliomeni, CAO of Red Rock

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Landry".

President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: March 5, 2024

Resolution 2024-03: AMO Social and Economic Prosperity Review Support

Background:

WHEREAS current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life; and

WHEREAS nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year.

WHEREAS municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation.

WHEREAS unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure; and

WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises.

WHEREAS inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity; and

WHEREAS property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need; and

WHEREAS the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities; and

WHEREAS municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration.

Recommendation:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOMA encourage the Province of Ontario to commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario.

Moved By: Wendy Landry, Mayor of Shuniah

Seconded By: Gord Griffiths, Mayor of Machin

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Landry".

President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: March 6, 2024

Resolution 2024-04: Conservation Officer Reclassification

Background:

Ontario's Conservation Officers protect our beloved natural resources and wildlife. They uphold public safety by enforcing hunting and firearm laws and they investigate gruesome injuries and even deaths that result from hunting-related accidents. It's a highly skilled and dangerous law enforcement job. This work can be emotional and traumatizing. This work is often solitary, with Officers working alone in remote areas during inclement weather. But Conservation Officers aren't recognized, or compensated properly, for the work they do and risks they face. Morale is low, turnover is high and short staffing is putting public safety at risk.

Conservation Officers are a valuable part of our community. They protect our natural resources. They perform outreach and educate the public and they ensure public safety by conducting hunting safety, snowmobile, ATV, and vessel enforcement. They prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in Ontario. Public safety legislation includes rules related to helmets, lifejackets, and other safety and navigational equipment, liquor consumption while operating a vehicle, and dam construction or alteration. This includes enforcing hunting rules related to hunting safety, forest fires, and oil, gas, and aggregates extraction.

Conservation Officers mission is to safeguard the public interest by leading and delivering outreach and natural resources compliance services. They enforce over 25 acts and regulations and work from 48 locations across the province to lead year-round field compliance checks to protect and regulate natural resources and keep the public safe. Conservation Officers have been engaged in our community in various activities aimed at helping our citizens such as running food drives to help local food banks. They also attend outdoor shows and fishing derbies, local fish, and game clubs, trapping councils and naturalists, school classrooms, youth clubs and family focused outdoor events. In conclusion, they provide investigative and enforcement services related to the safe and sustainable use of natural resources for people to enjoy for generations to come.

Recommendation:

WHEREAS Ontario has 196 field Conservation Officers including 6 canine handlers who provide protection to Municipalities Natural Resources and uphold public safety by enforcing hunting and firearm laws and investigate gruesome injuries and even deaths that result from hunting-related accidents; in addition, Conservation Officers are often First Responders and ensure public safety by facilitating evacuations and enforcing Emergency Area orders during forest fires during record breaking wildfires such as we witnessed this past summer; and

WHEREAS Conservation Officers perform comparable work to Police Officers and other Enforcement Officers within the province and are professional, armed Peace Officers trained to police standards and undergo the same training; and

WHEREAS Ontario Municipalities are required that their constituents are informed, and their interests are safeguarded and ensure they have access to outreach and natural resources compliance services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOMA support the Ontario Conservation Officer's Association in their efforts to have Conservation Officers in the Province of Ontario reclassified as Enforcement Officers and be compensated fairly.

Moved By: Fred Mota, Mayor of Red Lake

Seconded By: Wendy Brunetta, Councillor of Fort Frances

CARRIED



President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: March 6, 2024

Resolution 2024-05: International Bridge between Fort Frances & International Falls

Background:

WHEREAS the international Bridge between Fort Frances and International Falls is a strategic and essential asset to The Town of Fort Frances, the City of International Falls, and the Northwestern Ontario region; and

WHEREAS several hundred thousand vehicles cross this International Bridge each year and it is a critical economic and community link connecting Northwestern Ontario to the United States of America; and

WHEREAS the international bridge was constructed over a hundred years ago and requires regular maintenance including parts of it needing to be replaced soon; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government of Canada and the United States of America did not step in to buy their respective sides of the International Bridge when it was put up for sale to ensure that this strategic and essential community asset remained viable; and

WHEREAS Rainy River First Nations showed leadership in acquiring ownership to ensure the International Bridge remained viable when Resolute put this International Bridge up for sale; and

WHEREAS tolls represent a significant economic and social barrier across this historically integrated region; and

WHEREAS the current owner has indicated that the tolls will triple in the coming months; and

WHEREAS there may now be an opportunity to take this International Bridge into public ownership and to reduce or entirely remove tolls.

Recommendation:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOMA calls of the Government of Canada to:

Enter negotiations to purchase the International Bridge for a fair price from Aazhogan LP, and

- a) Maintain and operate the International Bridge, with minimal or no tolls, and
- b) Construct a new International Bridge between Fort Frances and International Falls, that will operate toll free,

AND FURTHER BE IS RESOLVED THAT NOMA encourages the Government of Ontario to support and make every effort to cooperate and coordinate with the Government of Canada to facilitate the purchase of the existing bridge and the building of a new bridge.

Moved By: Wendy Brunetta, Councillor of Fort Frances

Seconded By: Jason Young, CAO of Atikokan

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Landry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'W'.

President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: July 27, 2023

Resolution 2024-06: Housing Resolution

Background:

WHEREAS the Federal and Provincial Governments need to support their most vulnerable households, the ones who are or are at risk of becoming homeless. Overall, housing and services for low-income, vulnerable, or marginalized people should be a primary consideration moving forward so we help those who need it the most; and

WHEREAS NOMA understands every community across Ontario is impacted by a need for affordable housing and support for people at risk of homelessness. Municipal governments are working in collaboration with all orders of government to invest in permanent solutions to the housing and homelessness crisis in Ontario; and

WHEREAS NOMA understands that the Federal National Housing Strategy allocation formula to provinces and territories for jointly funded housing initiatives, roughly follows their share of the national population. This approach leaves Ontario underfunded because, as per the 2021 Census figures, the number of Ontario households in Community Housing Network as a share of the national total is 44.1 percent, which is well above the provincial share of the national population at 38.5 percent. This is by far the highest share of national Community Housing Network relative to other provinces and territories.

WHEREAS receiving a by-population allocation from the federal government hampers Ontario's ability to reach more of those households in need that require assistance with housing; and

WHEREAS the lack of ongoing federal operating funding for National Housing Strategy initiatives leads to significant underfunding for subsidized housing projects and can undermine the physical and financial viability of the community housing stock; and

WHEREAS a similar situation occurs with federal homelessness funding to Ontario through Reaching Home, where the share allocated to Ontario is also below the provincial share of Community Housing Network nationally; and

WHEREAS there is an inequitable distribution of Reaching Home funding in Ontario as only 25 of 47 Service Managers have designated communities receiving funding under the program, despite the prevalence of need across the entire Province; and

WHEREAS NOMA understands the federal government takes the position that its role is to provide capital funding while Provinces and Territories are to fund operating expenses, but this approach does not create an equitable sharing of the burden of funding long-term operating costs, which continue for the life of a project; and

WHEREAS taken altogether, the underfunding to Ontario for housing and homelessness relative to its share of national Canadian Housing Network amounts to approximately \$480 million over the term of the Federal National Housing Strategy; and

WHEREAS the federal government previously provided leadership in ensuring the long-term financial and physical viability of the social housing stock under the Social Housing Agreement for several decades through federal social housing operating agreements that provided funding for both mortgages and operating costs; and

WHEREAS without some flexibility on the part of the federal government, Ontario and its municipalities will be poorly positioned to take advantage of this funding, and this will turn into a significant missed opportunity, leading to a further deterioration in the long-term physical and financial sustainability of the community housing stock.

Recommendation:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOMA supports the provincial ask for federal operating funding for National Housing Strategy initiatives; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOMA would appreciate the federal effort to repurpose this funding quickly from the main National Housing Co-Investment Fund program line, Service Managers across the province have indicated their challenges with meeting the terms of the federal proposal, particularly as they relate to cost matching and meeting the requirements for greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency and accessibility; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOMA would like need-driven indicators incorporated into the funding allocation formulas for all federal programs; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOMA appreciates the federal government's commitment to end chronic homelessness and wishes this to be inclusive across all areas of our province by expanding Reaching Home funding to all Service Managers; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, NOMA also supports the provincial position in relation to the provinces and territories Repair Fund under the National Housing Co-Investment Fund; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, NOMA supports the Province of Ontario position on the application-based \$4 billion federal Housing Accelerator Fund. We wish to emphasize the importance of providing municipalities with maximum support in preparing applications to the HAF, understanding that some rural and northern municipalities may face capacity challenges in applying to this program on the anticipated tight timelines; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, NOMA wishes to request that Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation consider actions taken by municipalities under the province's Housing Supply Action Plans into account when assessing municipal applications, recognizing that these initiatives have the potential to significantly increase the supply of housing in our communities; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, NOMA believes the lack of ongoing federal operating funding for National Housing Strategy initiatives leads to significant underfunding for subsidized housing

projects and can undermine the physical and financial viability of the community housing stock;
and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, NOMA believes the federal government should heed the precedent of the Social Housing Agreement and recommit itself to funding operating costs that often stretch out over decades for the lifetime of a housing project. As an example, the Rapid Housing Initiative's (RHI) 20-year affordability requirement and lack of federal operating dollars will very likely result in housing providers asking Service Managers and the provincial government to fund operating expenses to ensure the long-term affordability of units given housing providers' limited revenue-raising capacity. Furthermore, the RHI program guidelines defining the North as communities located in the Yukon, Northwest Territories, or Nunavut only, pose an issue for many Northern Ontario municipalities as they do not receive northern designation. This results in those municipalities automatically losing 25% marks on their application, meaning they are only able to secure 75% max with a perfect application. This will significantly affect housing initiatives moving forward through the RHI in our region; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all northern, rural, and remote communities in Northwestern Ontario receive northern designation through the RHI, as they are not currently recognized as such; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED This lack of ongoing federal operating funding for National Housing Strategy initiatives leads to significant underfunding for subsidized housing projects and can undermine the physical and financial viability of the community housing stock; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, NOMA urges the Federal Government provide additional funding for Ontario so that we can deal with our shortages of safe and affordable housing and at the same time build safer and healthier communities for all our residents.

Moved By: Eric Pietsch, Councillor of Greenstone

Seconded By: Rick Dumas, Mayor of Marathon

CARRIED



President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: October 4, 2023

Resolution 2024-07: Support for Sustainable Funding to NOSM University to Address the Urgent Need for Health Human Resources in Northern Ontario.

Background:

On April 1, 2022, Government proclaimed NOSM a standalone university, becoming Canada's only independent medical university. Over 50% of NOSM University graduates choose family medicine as a career. Over 400,000 northerners receive primary and acute care from a NOSM University trained doctor. Many specialists have been created by NOSM University providing care closer to home and reducing the need for patients to travel, which decreases the cost of the Northern Health Travel Grant.

Northern Ontario remains in a health care crisis. More than 350 physicians are currently needed to fill shortages, and that is not accounting for anticipated retirements. Areas of the North that are still in dire need of health-care services are rural, remote, and Indigenous communities.

With expansion to the number of medical seats announced by the Ontario government in March and April 2022; NOSM University will be expanding to a total of 108 MD program seats; and will go from 60 postgraduate positions to 123 by 2028. Thus "distributed community engaged learning" model places learners in 90 communities (135 organizations) across Northern Ontario throughout the academic year.

While the creation of NOSM University gives it autonomy to yield greater success in Northern physician recruitment and retention, the costs associated with becoming a university, undertaking an unprecedented expansion, and continuing to offer world-class community-based education are significant. The University's current base funding rates have not been increased sufficiently and cost reductions are no longer attainable or feasible.

Recommendation:

WHEREAS NOMA recognizes the urgent need for physicians in Northern Ontario as it is experiencing a shortage of trained physicians and specialist physicians; and

AND WHEREAS life expectancy of Northern residents is more than two years lower than the Ontario average, and that mental health and addictions are at a 4X higher rate; and

AND WHEREAS 1 in 8 Northern residents does not have access to a family doctor and many must travel long distances to access health-care services representing the failure of health care in Northern ON;

AND WHEREAS communities in Northern Ontario require access to equitable health care, especially underserved rural, Indigenous, and Francophone communities; and

AND WHEREAS NOSM University's current base funding rates have not been increased sufficiently to accommodate growth and expansion; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT with the announcement of unprecedented medical expansion for NOSM University's medical programs, the NOMA strongly request that the Provincial government grant NOSM University's request for a permanent increase in annual base funding of \$4.0 million before the end of this fiscal year so it can continue to deliver on the mandate that was originally established by the Conservative Government in response to the needs of Northern municipalities.

Moved By: Rick Dumas, Mayor of Marathon

Seconded By: Doug Hartnell, Mayor of Dawson

CARRIED



President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-08: Support for Municipal Airports and Scheduled Passenger Service

Background:

Whereas the Fort Frances Municipal Airport is one of only two airports in the District of Rainy River; and

Whereas the Fort Frances Municipal Airport and Dryden Regional Airport have recently been advised that Bearskin Airlines will be discontinuing scheduled service effective May 11, 2024; and

Whereas the withdrawal of Bearskin Airlines has threatened the ongoing viability of the Fort Frances and Dryden Airports; and

Whereas the withdrawal of Bearskin Airline services and reductions in passenger movements through the COVID-19 pandemic has now made the Fort Frances Municipal Airport and Dryden Regional Airport ineligible for Federal Airport Capital Assistance Funding (ACAP) which was to be used to address specific capital needs including runway rehabilitation; and

Whereas the Fort Frances Municipal Airport provides services to multiple other carriers including Ornge, MNRF, other private aircraft, and is a Canadian Customs Port of Entry; and

Whereas the Dryden Regional Airport provides services to multiple other carriers including Ornge, MNRF, and other private aircraft; and

Whereas the Airports of the Northwest have a huge impact on economic and tourist opportunities within the entire Rainy River and Kenora Districts; and

Whereas the loss of the Fort Frances Municipal and/or Dryden Regional Airport would severely impact the municipality's ability to attract new industrial and commercial enterprises; and

Whereas the Town of Fort Frances and City of Dryden play critical roles in the emerging mining and green energy sectors in the Northwest of Ontario; and

Whereas sustainable scheduled air transportation to these communities is key to the growth of operations in these key sectors for the future of Ontario; and

Whereas the Airports of the Northwest also play a critical role in access to higher levels of emergent healthcare; and

Whereas the availability of scheduled flight services into these communities plays a critical role of bringing in Locum physicians and specialists to provide critically needed medical care supports; and

Whereas the Town of Fort Frances, City of Dryden and the Loomex Group are working collaboratively to source a new scheduled air passenger carrier(s) to replace the service loss due to Bearskin Airlines withdrawal; and

Whereas a new scheduled air carrier(s) will need time to establish themselves as a reliable and affordable carrier(s) for these communities, likely at a financial loss for the carrier(s); and

Whereas the Province of Ontario has played a significant role in supporting other transportation initiatives across the North such as the Ontario Northland Bus service and Northlander passenger train.

Recommendation:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NOMA urges the Provincial Government to provide financial support for a new carrier(s) to provide reliable, affordable, convenient scheduled passenger and freight air services to the Town of Fort Frances and City of Dryden; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOMA urges the Federal Government to continue to provide Federal Airport Capital Assistance Funding (ACAP) to both municipalities regardless of annual scheduled passenger movements and that ACAP funding is provided in this fashion until such a time that new scheduled passenger services can be established, and passenger movements return to pre-pandemic levels.

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O'Connor

CARRIED



President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-09 Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI)

Background:

The Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) are two National Housing Strategy funding streams that are federally and provincially funded and transferred to Ontario Housing Service Managers such as the Kenora District Services Board. COCHI was designed to help Ontario Housing Service Managers and communities protect and renew existing social housing stock, protect affordability for families, seniors and individuals living in social housing, and to expand the supply of community housing over time. The OPHI was designed to support Ontario Housing Service Managers to help communities address local housing priorities, including affordability, repair, and new construction. As part of the Canada and Ontario signing of the Bilateral Agreement through the Nation Housing Strategy, the COCHI funding represents the re-investment of federal funding that has been declining under the Canada-Ontario Social Housing Agreement (COSHA). The COCHI was intended to provide Ontario Housing Service Managers and housing providers an opportunity to address the challenges associated with housing portfolios reaching the end of their operating agreements and mortgage maturities. More importantly, the annual allocation of the COCHI funding for the Ontario Housing Service Managers was mainly determined by the amount required to offset the ongoing annual funding decline from the COSHA. However, in 2023/24, the funding formula was altered, and the KDSB will be receiving approximately \$551,301 less compared to the 2019 base year. The decrease in annual funding is projected to \$1,635,929 by 2028.

Recommendation:

WHEREAS the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) are Federal and Provincial funding programs designed to help Ontario Housing Service Managers and communities protect and renew existing social housing stock, protect affordability for families, seniors and individuals living in social housing, and to expand the supply of community housing over time; and

WHEREAS the COCHI funding represents the re-investment of federal funding that has been declining under the COSHA and was intended to provide Ontario Housing Service Managers such as the Kenora District Services Board and District Housing Providers the opportunity to address the challenges associated with housing portfolios reaching the end of their operating agreements and mortgage maturities; and

WHEREAS the COCHI funding for the Ontario Housing Service Managers was mainly determined by the amount required to offset the ongoing annual funding decline from the COSHA; and

WHEREAS the Kenora District Services Board and District Municipalities will be receiving approximately \$551,301 less compared to the 2019 base funding year and will continue to see a funding decrease of \$1.63 million by 2028; and

WHEREAS it is estimated that by 2030, the District of Kenora's community housing portfolio's capital deficit will reach \$30.28 million; and

WHEREAS the District Municipalities continue to grow and provide the backbone of Ontario's mining and resource extraction ambitions, the COCHI and OPHI programs need to ensure that communities are given the tools to work with Ontario and prepare for this growth; and

NOW THEREFORE MAY IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association requests that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing change the COCHI and OPHI funding allocation formula so that Ontario Housing Service Managers continue to receive, at minimum, an allocation that will offset the ongoing annual funding decline from the COSHA setting 2019 as the base year; and

and further THAT the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing ensure that the COCHI and OPHI programs provided to Municipalities with the funding based on the needs of the communities, not presumptive census data.

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O'Connor

CARRIED



President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-10: Emergency Room Closures

Background:

There have been an unprecedented number of Emergency Room closures in the region due to a lack of Medical Professionals able to operate the departments safely. On March 26, 2022, the Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital closed the Emergency Room for 24 hours after exhausting all possible options for staffing the facility. This was the first closure in 30 years. During that time, people requiring care were redirected to the Dryden Regional Health Centre (200+ km away). The medical system in Northern Ontario is in a crisis. Despite increases in student spaces at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, incentives for locums to work in Northern Ontario, updates to the compensation for rural northern physicians, and programs for nurses including the Grow Your Own Nurse Practitioner Initiative, Community Commitment Program for Nursing and the Bridging the Education Grant in Nursing, the District of Kenora is still struggling to recruit and retain medical professionals.

Recommendation:

WHEREAS the medical system in Northern Ontario is in a crisis due to a lack of qualified Medical Professionals; and

NOW THEREFORE MAY IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association lobby the Government of Ontario to address Emergency Room closures caused by shortages of doctors, nurses, and medical professionals at a regional level.

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O'Connor

CARRIED

President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-11: Long Term Care Beds Advocacy

Background:

WHEREAS NOMA recognizes the importance of serving as a major health care Hub for Northwestern Ontario; and

WHEREAS NOMA continues to advocate and call on the Government of the Province of Ontario to help ease the shortage of long-term care beds throughout Northwestern Ontario; and

WHEREAS NOMA acknowledges that because there are limited long term care beds, this situation is negatively affecting the availability of acute care beds throughout the region, and thus, more and more patients who should be in an appropriate Long Term Care facility, will instead, continue to be housed in acute care beds, thereby further burdening the health care sector throughout the region; and

WHEREAS the Government of the Province of Ontario, in the early 1990s, provided funding specifically for capital investments to construct new Long-Term Care facilities in Northern Ontario, and given that this type of critical infrastructure investment is once again required given the considerable additional need for these types of facilities in the intervening 30+ years.

Recommendation:

NOW THEREFORE MAY IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association requests that the Province of Ontario allocates specific capital funding – outside of the current funding model as it does not provide sufficient funding for construction in Northwestern Ontario – for the construction of new long-term care beds in the Districts of Kenora and Kiiwetinoong; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association support Sioux Lookout's motion calling on the Province of Ontario to allocate capital funding for the building for new long-term care beds in Northwestern Ontario.

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O'Connor

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Landry".

President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-12: Provincial Libraries Operating Grant

Background:

Libraries serve a very important role in enhancing quality of life for small communities in Northwest Ontario.

WHEREAS public libraries are Ontario's farthest-reaching, most cost-effective public resource; and

WHEREAS millions of Ontarians rely on local public libraries in their communities to learn, to connect to community and government services, and to find or train for a job; and

WHEREAS public libraries provide thousands of no-cost and low-cost programs, activities, and supports for young children, families, and seniors in the community; and

WHEREAS public libraries provide equitable, reliable access to broadband internet in underserved areas; and

WHEREAS public libraries offer maker spaces and computer coding labs to help children learn and help adults develop modern job skills; and

WHEREAS public libraries are the most basic of democratic institutions providing free and accurate information to everyone; and

WHEREAS public libraries find themselves on the front lines of many of the most critical challenges facing our communities, including homelessness, addiction and mental health, newcomer integration, re-skilling in a changing economy, and overcoming the digital divide; and

WHEREAS more than 90 percent of public library funding is provided by the local municipal government; and

WHEREAS the combined impact of the pandemic, the pressure of inflation on public library and municipal budgets, and growing social and economic challenges in communities across the province have brought public libraries to a critical point; and

WHEREAS public libraries in Ontario have received no increase in provincial funding (the Provincial Libraries Operating Grant, or PLOG) in more than 25 years, during which time the value of the province's investment in public libraries has decreased by more than 60 percent.

Recommendation:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association supports the request by the Ontario Library Association and the Federation of Ontario Public

Libraries for an increase to the PLOG of an additional \$25 million annually, on top of the existing \$21 million grant, to restore the PLOG to a present-day value, addressing the impact of inflation, rising costs of living, and other pressures accumulated over more than 25 years.

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O'Connor

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wendy Landry".

President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-13: Doctor Recruitment & Retention

Background:

WHEREAS many communities in Northwestern Ontario are struggling to find family physicians and retain the ones they have; and

WHEREAS current and newly recruited family physicians are finding the workload excessive and are challenged to find a sustainable work/life balance; and

WHEREAS many communities are falling short of providing the necessary incentives to recruit and retain physicians; and

WHEREAS the physician shortage, and an increase in unroasted patients, results in hospital emergency rooms often ending up being a primary care clinic even though they are not designed nor staffed for primary care; and

WHEREAS securing locum support is an ongoing pursuit to continue to support local physicians; and

WHEREAS many communities cannot continue to provide the ongoing stipend and honorarium costs for visiting locums to provide ER, anesthesia, and general surgery services; and

WHEREAS existing incentive programs are slowly being reduced, with some consideration being given to eliminate these funding programs totally.

Recommendation:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association calls on the Ministry of Health to:

1. Ensure stable and predictable funding is maintained and enhanced under such programs as Income Stabilization, the Northern Rural Recruitment and Retention Initiative, the Northern Specialist Locum Program, the Emergency Department Locum Program, and the Summer Locum Funding Program; and the reimbursements be equivalent to the physician costs for hotel, travel, car rental, and stipend reflective of a missed day of work; and
2. Funding conditions of physicians be reviewed to ensure these conditions are more representative of an underserved health care system in a small community setting in Northwestern Ontario; and
3. Designate rural family physicians as specialists and have their remuneration be reflective of that as an added incentive for physicians to relocate to rural areas; and

4. Expand essential locum stipends and travel honorariums to recognize the true costs and time commitments for travel to and from communities.

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O'Connor

CARRIED



President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay

P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca

p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-14: Flashing Lights on Highway Construction Zone Stop Signs

Background:

WHEREAS there is ongoing concern regarding the safety of our highways in Northwestern Ontario; and

WHEREAS stop signs used in construction zones are not always clearly visible from a distance; and

WHEREAS using lights will help alert drivers to the situation and prepare them for oncoming construction zones

Recommendation:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association express the importance of utilizing flashing lights on all stop signs in highway construction zones to the Ministry of Transportation.

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O'Connor

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Landry".

President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-15: Short Term Rentals

Background:

Many communities in Northwestern Ontario are struggling to ensure adequate long-term housing stock for residents, particularly affordable housing. Short term housing rentals have compacted this issue as long-term stock is being lost to short term housing organizations such as Airbnb, VRBO, and outside purchasers who purchase houses for the purpose of renting them out.

Recommendation:

WHEREAS NOMA supports the City of Thunder Bay's request to the Government of Ontario to establish a regulatory framework requiring digital platforms such as Airbnb and VRBO to:

- Require owners using the digital platforms to comply with municipal planning and licensing regulations; and
- Prevent advertising of properties that are not registered with the relevant municipality; and
- Provide a contact with the platform to ensure ongoing and effective communications for provincial and municipal officials.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association call upon the Province of Ontario to work with municipalities to address situations in which long term housing stock has been lost to corporate ownership of short-term rental properties.

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O'Connor

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Landry".

President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-16: Support Resolution for Sioux Lookout for the Northern Allowance Reinstatement

Background:

WHEREAS the federal government provides financial assistance to those Canadians living in one of two "Zones," namely, "the Northern Zone" and "the Intermediate Zone" via taxation credits and allowances; and

WHEREAS the Municipality of Sioux Lookout and surrounding areas used to be part of the "Intermediate Zone," but this classification was removed a couple of decades ago, and residents in our community and immediate area no longer qualify for the deductions and allowances; and

WHEREAS the cost-of-living in northern, rural communities continues to rise at a significant rate, which, in the last year, has also been compounded by the high rate of inflation, thereby making the cost of living, and working in our community even more burdensome.

Recommendation:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association petition the federal government to designate the Municipality of Sioux Lookout and surrounding areas as a Prescribed Intermediate Zone.

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O'Connor

CARRIED

President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-17: The Opioid Crisis

Background:

WHEREAS NOMA recognizes that challenges of mental health, addictions, specifically opioids, and homelessness are complex issues that have a significant and detrimental impact on the residents;

WHEREAS addressing and responding to these issues has placed extreme stress on all levels of municipal and non-municipal programs and services, including various not-for-profit organizations and provincially funded health services; and

WHEREAS mental health, opioids and homelessness trends are, in recent years, at an all-time high and such prevalence is impacting the overall wellbeing of the people of Northwestern Ontario;

WHEREAS NOMA acknowledges that approaches to addressing and responding must include diverse and inclusive approaches to these issues, and should not be viewed as a single solution response; and

WHEREAS addressing and responding will require strategies and practices specific and uniquely designed for each community in Northwestern Ontario; and

WHEREAS NOMA accepts that the responsibility to address these challenges rests with community stakeholders, partners, residents, as well as federal and provincial government and agencies; and

WHEREAS challenges of mental health, addictions and homelessness are not unique to a specific community in Northwestern Ontario. However, Fort Frances and surrounding communities hold the greatest prevalence of opioid crisis within Ontario; and

WHEREAS NOMA recognizes that municipal emergencies in Ontario are declared by the head of council as per the process detailed in the Emergency Management and Civil Protections Act; and

WHEREAS NOMA acknowledges that a declaration of emergency does not immediately result in a municipality receiving any additional funds or resources from a senior government level.

Recommendation:

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED THAT the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association send a letter to all municipalities in Ontario, surrounding First Nation communities, MPs and MPPs, requesting letters of support advocating for additional resources to combat the opioid crisis; and

FURTHER BE IT IS RESOLVED THAT the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association recommend and support the Northwestern Health Unit establish a north or northwest regional coalition of public health, relevant community agencies, and others as appropriate, in order to amplify regional concerns and investigate potential strategies and resources."

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O'Connor

CARRIED



President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-18: Support of Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part)

Background:

WHEREAS there are 38,000 people on the waitlist for long-term care and the median wait time for a long-term care bed has risen from 99 days in 2011-2012 to 171 days in 2020- 2021; and

WHEREAS according to Home Care Ontario, the cost of a hospital bed is \$842/day, while the cost of a long-term care bed is \$126/day; and

WHEREAS couples should have the right to live together as they age, and Ontario seniors have worked hard to build this province and deserve dignity in care; and

WHEREAS Bill 21 amends the Residents Bill of Rights in the Fixing Long-Term Care Act to provide the resident with the right upon admission to continue to live with their spouse or partner.

Recommendation:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOMA petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to direct the Minister of Long-Term Care to call Bill 21 to the Standing Committee on Social Policy to find a compassionate solution to provide seniors with the right to live together as they age.

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O'Connor

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Landry".

President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-19: Municipal Highway Infrastructure

Background:

WHEREAS all municipalities in the Province of Ontario are experiencing significant financial and budgetary pressures including those related to infrastructure development, maintenance, and repairs, and are seeking reasonable solutions to address the same while balancing their budgets; and

WHEREAS the uploading of municipal highway infrastructure to the Province of Ontario or, alternatively, appropriately increasing the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund to Ontario municipalities will assist municipalities in addressing such financial challenges.

Recommendation:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOMA urge the Province of Ontario to:

1. Upload from local municipalities the responsibility of and costs associated with the continued construction, operation, and maintenance of major municipally owned highways throughout the Province of Ontario to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation; or
2. Alternatively, if uploading is not the preferred option of the province and/or local municipality, to appropriately increase the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund to municipalities so as to fairly and equitably allocate resources to Ontario municipalities.

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O'Connor

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Landry".

President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-20: School Bus Stop Arm Cameras

Background:

WHEREAS almost 824,000 students travel in about 16,000 school vehicles every school day in Ontario and according to the Ministry of Transportation's statistics the rate of vehicles blowing by stopped school buses is over 30,000 times every day; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario passed the Safer School Zones Act in 2017 which authorized the use of Automated School Bus Stop Arm Camera Systems to detect incidents where vehicles failed to stop when the school bus was stopped, and the stop-arm extended (O. Reg. 424/20); and

WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities (AMO) working on behalf of all Ontario Municipalities made its submission to the Standing Committee on General Government on May 21, 2019, in support of Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs) to be used to collect fine revenue for school bus stop arm infractions and other applications, including Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) technologies deployed in school and community safety zones; and

WHEREAS police resources cannot be spread any thinner to enforce Highway Traffic Act offences throughout municipalities; and

WHEREAS the administrative and financial costs to establish the required municipal Administrative Penalty program under the Highway Traffic Act, and its regulations, are substantial and maybe out of reach for small or rural municipalities that have insufficient amounts of traffic to generate the required funds to offset the annual operational costs of a municipal Administrative Penalty program.

Recommendation:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association urges the Provincial Government to:

- a) Require all school buses to have stop arm cameras installed and paid for by the province for the start of the 2024-2025 school year; and
- b) Underwrite the costs for the implementation and on-going annual costs for Administrative Monetary Penalties in small and rural municipalities.

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O'Connor

CARRIED

Wendy Landry

President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: March 14, 2024

Resolution 2024-21: Expanding the Life and Fire Apparatus

Background:

WHEREAS apparatus and equipment are directly tied to the delivery of fire protection services, and a safe, reliable, and diverse fleet is required to serve operational needs; and

WHEREAS fire Apparatus is governed by industry best practices, the application of law and recognized industry partners, including the Ontario Fire Service Section 21 Guidance Notes, National Fire Protection Association Standards, The Occupational Health and Safety Act, and Fire Underwriters Survey; and

WHEREAS Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) is a provider of data, underwriting, risk management and legal/regulatory services focusing on community fire protection and fire prevention systems in Canada, establishing apparatus replacement schedules based on safety and risk mitigation practices; and

WHEREAS NOMA noted the budgetary pressures of meeting FUS replacement schedules; and

WHEREAS no provincial funding is available for new fire trucks, yet small and rural municipalities must meet the same standards set by FUS as larger municipalities for fire equipment, including additional pressure to move fire trucks out when they reach a specific age, even though they can still meet the safety regulations; and

WHEREAS NOMA supports the resolution from the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge regarding Expanding the Life of Fire Apparatus with respect to the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements and requesting the creation of a new community fire-protection and fire prevention insurance system that does not put all municipalities under the same umbrella, with distinct categories for rural and urban municipalities.

Recommendation:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOMA draft a letter to Minister Smith requesting a meeting to discuss the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOMA draft a letter to FUS requesting the creation of a new community fire-protection and fire prevention insurance system that does not put all municipalities under the same umbrella, with distinct categories for rural and urban municipalities.

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O'Connor

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Wendy Landry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "W".

President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: September 11, 2023

Resolution 2024-22: OHIP Coverage for Chronic Pain Treatments

Background:

WHEREAS the Ontario College of physicians and Surgeons has made a decision that will lead more people who suffer from chronic pain to turn to opioids to alleviate their pain; and

WHEREAS the College is targeting community pain clinics by requiring the use of ultrasound technology in the administration of nerve block injections by licensed physicians. This requirement will increase the time it takes to administer the nerve block and, therefore, reduce the number of patients a physician can see in a day; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) is proposing to reduce coverage for several vital healthcare services, including a drastic reduction in the number and frequency of nerve block injections a patient can receive; and

WHEREAS these changes have been proposed without any consultation with pain management medical professionals or with their patients; and

WHEREAS this cut will force chronic pain clinics to shut down, putting a greater strain on family physicians and emergency rooms; and

WHEREAS with the reduction in the number of nerve blocks being administered, many patients, looking for pain relief, will turn to overcrowded emergency rooms, opioid prescriptions from doctors or opioid street drugs.

Recommendation:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NOMA request that the Government of Ontario maintain OHIP coverage for chronic pain treatments and continue to provide much-needed care for the people of Ontario.

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O'Connor

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Landry".

President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-23: Affordability of Water and Wastewater Systems

Background:

WHEREAS the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) (Section 1.6.6.2) states that municipal sewage services and municipal water services are the preferred form of servicing for settlement areas to support protection of the environment and minimize potential risks to human health and safety and that intensification and redevelopment within these settlement areas should be promoted; and

WHEREAS the PPS (Section 2.2.1 (f)) states that planning authorities shall protect, improve, or restore the quality and quantity of water by implementing the necessary restrictions on development and site alternation to protect all drinking supplies and designated vulnerable areas, and protect, improve, or restore vulnerable surface and ground water, sensitive surface water features and sensitive groundwater features, and their hydrologic functions; and

WHEREAS the PPS (Sections 2.2.1(h) and (i)) states that there is consideration of environmental lake capacity as well as stormwater management practices; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of the Environment, Protection and Conservation Procedural Guideline B-1-5 Policy 2 provision states that water quality which presently does not meet the Provincial Water Quality Objectives shall not be further degraded and all practical measures shall be undertaken to upgrade the water quality to the Objectives; and

WHEREAS rural and small urban municipalities experience very limited growth as federal and provincial policies heavily support growth in urban centers. As there are no other sources of available operational funding, rural and small urban municipalities are expected to fund the construction and operation of these state-of-the art systems from existing property owners and nominal forecasted growth; and

WHEREAS combined water and wastewater rates have risen substantially.

Recommendation:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOMA to advocate to the provincial and federal levels of government to make them aware that rural and small urban water and wastewater systems are financially unsustainable; and advocate to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to examine if the unaffordability of water and wastewater system operations costs is systemic provincially and nationally.

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O'Connor

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Wendy Landry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W' and 'L'.

President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-24: Provincial & National Fire Fighting Strategy

Background:

Rural and remote municipalities are more than ever need to be prepared to respond to forest fires as climate change has increased the frequency of their occurrence. Invasive pests like the emerald ash borer and the spruce bud worm are killing large numbers of trees, leaving copious amounts of dry kindling in our forests just waiting for a careless human or a lightning strike. Our forests are choked with deadfall and forest fires are becoming increasingly difficult to control. Add to this the effects of rising temperatures and drier seasons, or climate change, and we could be facing increasingly disastrous forest fires. We are concerned about the impending crisis that the summer of 2024 and beyond is going to bring to Northwestern Ontario.

Jordan Omstead of the Canadian Press recently wrote: "But as Canada's water bombers age — and wildfire seasons are expected to intensify — some wildland firefighters and emergency preparedness experts say the country needs to prop up its fleet of firefighting aircraft, even though several provinces are playing down concerns about capacity." He quotes Eric Davidson, president of the Ontario Professional Association of Wildland Firefighters, "We're really starting to see the effect of the aging fleet."

The article further states the John Gradek, lecturer at McGill University estimates that almost half of the larger water bombers used to fight Canadian forest fires are nearing the end of their service life.

However, a Canadian company making a large skimmer-style water bomber is backed up with orders from European countries until the end of the decade.

Ontario has its own fleet of aircraft. They have 20 fixed-wing aircraft which includes 9 CL215 and CL415 water bombers that are 24 years old on average. The remaining 11 aircraft are an average of 54 years old. Melissa Candelaria, a spokesperson for Minister Graydon Smith says the MNR can handle Ontario fires with these aircraft, but Jennifer Kamau, communications manager for the Canada Interagency Forest Fire Centre, CIFFC, noted that other provinces contract out firebombers and last year there was a strain in Canada to get the resources to areas in need because there were so many fires across the country at the same time and very few aircraft available.

Peter Zimonjic of the CBC quoted the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs President Ken McMullen, "It's not often that the fire chiefs sound the alarm. We are very concerned about this impending crisis that the summer of 2024 and beyond is going to bring our sector."

In 2023 we all smelled the smoke and saw the sky turn brown. Buildings can be replaced, but lives cannot. And once an area is burned it takes more than a lifetime for it to return to its original state.

Recommendation:

WHEREAS Forest fires are a very real threat to rural municipalities.

AND WHEREAS smoke from forest fires put people's health at risk. This is especially true of children and the elderly. The David Suzuki Foundation reports that wildfires kill many thousands of people per year and most of the deaths are from smoke inhalation.

AND WHEREAS forest fires are a very real danger to the climate and according to The Guardian, in 2023 they emitted three times as much carbon as the entire carbon footprint of Canada.

AND WHEREAS according to the John Crace interview in The Guardian with William Kurz, a retired scientist with Natural Resources Canada, around two billion tonnes of carbon have been released into the atmosphere from forest fires in 2023.

AND WHEREAS carbon emissions from forest fires are not counted against Canada's Paris agreement commitments, according to Kurz, but they far exceeded all of the emissions tied to Canada's economy (670 mega tonnes, or 0.67 billion tonnes, according to Environment and Climate Change Canada).

AND WHEREAS that standing healthy forest serves as a carbon sink, drawing in carbon, but once destroyed by fire, even though second growth takes its place, it is much less effective for many decades.

AND WHEREAS the federal government owns no water bombers and assists the provinces through the CIFFC, Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, a spokesperson with CIFFC says that last year there were too many requests and not enough inventory to meet the needs of the country.

AND WHEREAS as reported by De Havilland Canada who manufacture the Canadian made water bomber, they have contracts with European countries for the next 22 of its new DHC-515 planes, which will take until 2029 or 2030 to complete and there will be very little production available to replace the aging water bombers in Ontario and the rest of Canada.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the council of the Corporation of Calvin Township urges and encourages the Federal Government to commit additional funds for cost sharing of provincial firefighting and to consider the development of a national strategy of firefighting. Furthermore, we urge the federal government to consider the measures necessary for acquiring a national fleet of Canadian made waterbombers, with home bases strategically located to best serve and respond to the needs of rural communities, and a national fire administration to better coordinate and manage efforts across the country. We also encourage the introduction of a program similar to the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) which was ended in 2013.

We encourage Minister Graydon Smith to step up the on-the-ground firefighting capability and water bomber acquisitions in Ontario.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOMA supports the resolution urging the Federal Government to commit additional funds for cost sharing of provincial firefighting and to consider the development of a national strategy of firefighting.

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O'Connor

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Wendy Landry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-25: Climate Action Incentive Rural Supplement

Background:

WHEREAS the Government of Canada provides the Climate Action Incentive Payment to individuals and families to offset the cost of federal pollution pricing; and

WHEREAS the Climate Action Incentive Payment includes a 10% supplement for residents of small and rural communities that are outside a Census Metropolitan Areas; and

WHEREAS some of the municipalities that fall within a Census Metropolitan Area are small and rural communities that do not have the opportunity to reduce their carbon footprints in the same way as urban residents can through public transit or lower carbon heating sources.

WHEREAS the Municipality of Neebing is a rural municipality without a settlement area, without public transit and heavily reliant on oil and propane for home heating, that is within the Thunder Bay Census Metropolitan Area; and

WHEREAS proximity to the City of Thunder Bay does not afford residents in Neebing the option to sign on to additional carbon reducing services.

Recommendation:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOMA requests that the Federal Government amend the eligibility for the Climate Action Incentive Payment supplement for small and rural communities so that it is centered around the population and characteristics of the municipality itself rather than whether it falls within a Census Metropolitan Area.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NOMA requests that the Federal Government amend the eligibility for the Climate Action Incentive Payment supplement for small and rural communities so that it is centered around the population and characteristics of the municipality itself rather than whether it falls within a Census Metropolitan Area.

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O'Connor

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Landry".

President

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-26: Amendment – Occupational Health and Safety Action – Clarify the Definition of “Employer”

Background:

WHEREAS in 2015 the City of Greater Sudbury (the "City") entered into a contract with a contractor experienced in road construction projects to complete a project on Elgin Street in the City's downtown core; and

WHEREAS the contract provided that the contractor would be the constructor for the project as that term is defined in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (the "Act"); and

WHEREAS an employee of the constructor operating a grader on the project struck and killed a pedestrian; and

WHEREAS the City was charged with offences under the Act as the constructor and the employer; and

WHEREAS after being acquitted at trial and on appeal, the Ontario Court of Appeal, in a decision issued on April 23, 2021, found the city to be liable for contraventions of the Construction Regulations as an employer as it employed quality control inspectors to monitor the quality of work on the project from time-to-time; and

WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada, in a decision issued on November 10, 2023, was evenly divided 4-4 on the issue resulting in dismissal of the City's appeal; and

WHEREAS the consequence of this decision is that municipalities in Ontario, as well as all other owners of property in the province, who wish to undertake construction, are subject to being charged and convicted as an employer for offenses in relation to project sites for which they have no control and have, in accordance with the Act, contracted with an entity to assume plenary oversight and authority over the work on such site as the constructor; and

WHEREAS the potential of an owner being charged as an employer as that term is defined in the Act in circumstances where it has engaged a constructor disregard and renders meaningless the owner-constructor provisions contained in the Act and presents an unacceptable level of increased risk and confusion for owners and contractors through the province; and

WHEREAS the City believes that the safety of workers is paramount however the safety of workers on the construction projects in Ontario is not increased by placing liability on parties that do not have control of and are not responsible for the conduct of the work on such sites.

Recommendation:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOMA requests that the province amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of “employer” to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project.

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O’Connor

CARRIED



President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-27: 1/3 Funding Agreement

Background:

WHEREAS Municipalities are facing ever increasing demands for services along with demands for repairs, maintenance, and replacement of existing infrastructure to the detriment of the tax paying public they serve as the cost of living continues to rise throughout the country; and

WHEREAS the Federal and Provincial governments in the past contributed through partnerships to fund projects that have been out of the financial reach of small municipalities; and

WHEREAS these 1/3 funding agreements have been instrumental in allowing municipalities to adequately plan and execute projects to protect the aging infrastructure already in place; and

WHEREAS it is incumbent upon our Federal and Provincial governments to assist municipalities with limited access to funding except through municipal taxes to re-establish this very important funding stream.

Recommendation:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOMA advocates that the Federal and Provincial governments assist municipalities with limited access to funding except through municipal taxes to re-establish the 1/3 funding agreements.

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O'Connor

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Landry".

President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-28: Community Safety and Well-being Plan Funding

Background:

Municipalities are required by the Police Services Act to develop and adopt Community Safety and Well-Being Plans in partnership with a multi-sectoral Advisory Committee comprised of representation from the Police Services Board and other local service providers in health / mental health, education, community / social services, and children/youth services.

Additional requirements are also outlined in legislation pertaining to conducting consultations, contents of the Plan, and monitoring, evaluating, reporting, and publishing the Plan. This approach allows municipalities to take a leadership role in defining and addressing priority risks in the community through proactive, integrated strategies that ensure vulnerable populations receive the help they need from the providers best suited to support them.

Neither the development of the Plan nor its implementation are funded by the Province, leaving municipalities responsible for the costs associated with it. This is effectively a download of community safety responsibilities to municipalities without adequate financing to support it.

Recommendation:

WHEREAS municipalities are required by the Police Services Act to develop and adopt Community Safety and Well-Being Plans; and

WHEREAS the cost for development and implementation are the responsibility of municipalities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOMA urge the Government of Ontario to provide financial support to develop and implement Community Safety and Well-Being Plans.

Moved By: Mark Figliomeni, CAO of Red Rock

Seconded By: Telford Advent, Councillor of Morley

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Landry".

President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay

P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca

p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-29: Resource Revenue Sharing

Background:

WHEREAS the Kenora District Municipal Association supports the provincial government's commitment of sharing mining resource revenues with Indigenous communities to promote economic development opportunities to build healthy and prosperous communities across Ontario's north; and

WHEREAS since January 1996, member municipalities have been advocating for mining resource revenue sharing, as an alternative means for municipalities to generate revenue for community development and sustainability; and

WHEREAS the mining industry is a significant economic driver in Ontario, providing over 1,600 direct jobs in the community of Red Lake alone, and of those direct jobs, nearly \$500 million in income tax dollars has been collected by the Provincial and Federal governments over the last ten (10) years; while earnings for the Red Lake mining industry, for the same period, were over \$3.6 Billion US; and

WHEREAS municipalities whose economies rely on the mining resource industry are struggling to pave their streets and maintain infrastructure, but cannot continue to burden their residential and commercial taxpayers by paying more in property taxation; and

WHEREAS the KDMA is not requesting the mining industry pay more in taxation, but rather the Provincial government share the revenues it receives from the mining industry.

Recommendation:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NOMA hereby requests the Provincial government share the benefits of mining and other natural resource revenues.

Moved By: Mark Figliomeni, CAO of Red Rock

Seconded By: Telford Advent, Councillor of Morley

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Landry".

President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-30: Crown Land Development

Background:

Municipalities in Northwestern Ontario are interested in pursuing crown land development on lands within their municipal boundaries as a means of increasing own-source property tax revenues. This is a tool that would be useful for streamlining development, revenue generation and municipal economic development within the guidelines of the Provincial Policy Statement, Official Plans, and Zoning By-Laws.

Recommendation:

WHEREAS municipalities in the Kenora District think that the development of crown land within their respective municipal boundaries is critical to the economic success in the region; and

WHEREAS existing tools, such as the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's, A Guide to Cottage Lot Development on Crown Land and the Application Review and Land Disposition Process (MNR Policy PL 4.02.01), have acceptable goals in principle, however the implementation by individual MNR district offices have a number of subjective inequalities which negatively affect development projects; and

WHEREAS Ontario's Crown Land Use Policy Atlas (CLUPA) contains policies that disallow development completely within some municipalities, such as CLUPA Policy G2518 which disallows the disposition of crown land for cottage lot development, agricultural development, rural residential development, and urban development (part of Dryden, Sioux Lookout and Red Lake districts); and

WHEREAS complex processes with limited visibility for Provincial land disposition as well as affordability barriers for smaller municipalities due to the Province's market value sale approach are resulting in commercial and housing development opportunities being missed; and

WHEREAS the Crown owns 77.34 % (48,390.94 hectares) of undeveloped land and Patent mining claims account for 19.17% (11,995.27 hectares) of undeveloped land within the Municipality of Red Lake boundary; and

WHEREAS the Municipality of Red Lake within its own Municipal borders only owns 3.42% (2,136.94 hectares) of the undeveloped land; and

WHEREAS the Municipality of Red Lake is inhibited in generating any meaningful organic growth due to the majority of undeveloped land owned by the Crown and Patent mining claims; and

WHEREAS Patent mining claims are difficult to obtain due to the "potential" subsurface values.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOMA lobby the Government of Ontario to make meaningful changes to the land use development processes, policies and the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas to facilitate municipal development on Crown Land located within their municipal boundaries and request to have the Ministry of Infrastructure identify a clear approach for municipalities to inquire about undeveloped, underdeveloped or unused provincially owned properties within municipal boundaries, implement an efficient and transparent land disposition process designed to support municipal housing and commercial development, and recognize that selling land at market value is a development barrier for small northern municipalities and provide allowances in the land disposition process that allows for below market disposal of surplus lands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOMA seek the written support of the Provincial government in Municipalities obtaining Patent mining claims.

Moved By: Mark Figliomeni, CAO of Red Rock

Seconded By: Telford Advent, Councillor of Morley

CARRIED



President



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

Date: April 24, 2024

Resolution 2024-31: Tax Rate for Railway Rights-of-Way – Per Tonne-Mile Concept

Background:

WHEREAS in 2018 the Province of Ontario adjusted the tax rate for acreage for railway rights of way throughout Ontario which specifically impacted Rainy River, Kenora and Thunder Bay Districts in a positive fashion; and

WHEREAS in other provinces and jurisdictions the railway companies remit a more equitable share of taxes to their local tax base using a per tonne-mile concept; and

WHEREAS rail traffic continues to increase, and the train length has more than doubled which results in rail traffic congestion, increased wait times, noise pollution, unknown environmental concerns, and causing small municipalities to keep open and maintain road allowances which only benefit the railroads, as well as crossing maintenance payments and inflationary costs; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario should review fees based on inflation and current conditions on an annual basis to ensure that Ontario does not continue to fall further behind in their approach to railway property taxation; and

WHEREAS fair and equitable taxation revenue on railway property based on the per tonne-mile will reduce the financial pressure especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and its recovery on the Province and provide financial support to municipalities taxation going forward;

Recommendation:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NOMA call upon the Minister of Finance of the Province of Ontario to undertake ongoing consideration of municipal taxation for railroad rights of way properties based on a per tonne-mile concept; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NOMA send this resolution to every Municipal Council within the Province of Ontario seeking their support, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Finance of Ontario, Local MPP's, Local MP's, NOMA, ROMA and AMO.

Moved By: Mark Figliomeni, CAO of Red Rock

Seconded By: Telford Advent, Councillor of Morley

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Landry".

President