

Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay

P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P78 6T8

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

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