



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
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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 initial 'W'.

President