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## **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



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President