



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
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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