

**FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO
MUNICIPALITIES**

2015-2016 RESOLUTIONS

FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
2015-2016 Resolutions
56th Annual Conference and Business Meeting
May 11, 12 & 13, 2016
Timmins, Ontario

This year, there are 8 policy resolutions for discussion and voting on at the Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.

- 2016-01 Yearly Honorariums
- 2016-02 Northern Travel Grant
- 2016-03 Fuel Price Regulation
- 2016-04 Broader Investment Powers
- 2016-05 Winter Highway Re-Classification
- 2016-06 Public Health Funding and Governance
- 2016-07 Hospital Funding
- 2016-08 Broadband Expansion



MOVED BY: Christine Ellis

SECONDED BY: Morley Forster

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-01

“WHEREAS Part VI of the Constitution of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) amended May 8, 2014 states that the “President and Vice President of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) shall receive a yearly honorarium of \$2,000 and \$1,000 respectively”; and

WHEREAS the honorarium amount paid has not been adjusted for more than ten years; and

WHEREAS the role of President has become a larger and more demanding role, requiring a greater commitment to attend meetings and other duties; and

WHEREAS any increase to the honorarium would be applied to the next term of the Executive; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) recommends increasing the President’s yearly honorarium to \$4,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to member municipalities.”

CARRIED.



MOVED BY: Michel Bigras

SECONDED BY: Ghislain Hachez

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-02

“WHEREAS the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care funds the Northern Health Travel Grant which provides financial assistance to patients requiring specialized health care services outside of their local region; and

WHEREAS many Northern patients travel less than the minimum 100 km one-way distance to receive their specialized health care services, may also pay an additional parking fee per visit and do not qualify to receive any financial assistance under the current grant stipulations; and

WHEREAS it is important that all Northern residents have equal opportunity to access specialized health care services in Ontario without incurring financial hardship and that all residents travelling in excess of 100 km in total distance to receive required health care services should be permitted to apply for the Northern Health Travel Grant; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to consider amending the qualifying criteria so that all roundtrips exceeding 100 km in total travelled distance be eligible for the Northern Health Travel Grant thus ensuring fair and equitable reimbursement for all Northern Ontario residents who must travel outside of their community for specialized health care services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Northeastern MPs and MPPs, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

CARRIED.



MOVED BY: Michael Doody

SECONDED BY: Steve Black

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-03

“WHEREAS five Canadian Provinces utilize some form of price regulation for gasoline; and

WHEREAS residents of Northern Ontario continue to experience volatility in fuel prices; and

WHEREAS high and volatile fuel prices threatens our economy and future stability; and

WHEREAS Northern Ontario drivers often see wide ranges in fuel prices compared to other areas of Ontario; and

WHEREAS the difference in price does not accurately represent the difference in transportation costs; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests the Provincial Government to investigate benefits of such regulation for Ontario to ensure stable and fair fuel prices in Northern Ontario, while encouraging competition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Minister of Energy, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Northeastern MPs and MPPs, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

CARRIED.



MOVED BY: Willy Liebigt

SECONDED BY: Lynn Watson

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-04

“WHEREAS municipalities are required to invest their reserves in accordance with the Municipal Act, 2001 and Ontario Regulation 438/97 (as amended), which specifically outlines allowable investments; and

WHEREAS to ensure the sustainability and sound stewardship of the municipality’s investments, the municipality is of the opinion that changes should be made to the Municipal Act, 2001 and Ontario Regulation 438/97 (as amended), to allow for the prudent investment of reserves, if those investments are professionally managed and part of a broader investment strategy; and

WHEREAS the Prudent Investor Standard is an industry accepted best practice in effectively managing a portfolio of investments, and the Standard applies to investments, not in isolation, but in the context of the portfolio of investments and as part of an overall strategy, that should incorporate acceptable risk and return objectives suitable to the stakeholders; and

WHEREAS the Province in conferring “Prudent Investor” status on the City of Toronto to enable greater diversification in portfolio management; and

WHEREAS in 2005, municipalities were granted the ability to invest in longer-term corporate bonds and Canadian equity investments via only the One Investment Program, and the One Investment Program has demonstrated strong investment returns for municipalities within these ‘new’ investment sectors; and

WHEREAS the institutional portfolio managers utilized by the One Investment Program recommend that the Prudent Investor Standard approach is a more appropriate approach to investing; and

WHEREAS operating municipal investments under the Prudent Investor Standard is precluded by the Municipal Act, Eligible Investments, in its current form; and



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that Ontario Regulation 438/97 (as amended) of the Municipal Act, 2001, be amended to allow municipalities to invest consistent with the Prudent Investor Standard, if such investments are through the One Investment Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Northeastern MPs and MPPs, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

CARRIED.



MOVED BY: Michel Bigras

SECONDED BY: Terry Kelly

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-05

“WHEREAS the Auditor General of Ontario released a review of winter highway maintenance in April 2015 wherein the Minister of Transportation was directed to develop and deliver an action plan to address the Auditor General’s recommendations; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Highways Management Division of the Ministry of Transportation released the Winter Highway Maintenance Action Plan in June 2015 wherein highway maintenance will be tailored to the individual highways based on their classification; and

“WHEREAS many Northern municipalities are bound and serviced by Provincial highways, which the Ministry of Transportation is responsible for; and

WHEREAS weather and road conditions in Northern Ontario are often more extreme than other parts of the province and should be taken into consideration; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests the Ministry of Transportation to expedite its re-classification of all winter highway classes in Northern Ontario to ensure that each one receives the appropriate level of maintenance required during the winter months thus ensuring the safety and security of all Northern travellers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Transportation, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Northeastern MPs and MPPs, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

CARRIED.



MOVED BY: Michel Arsenault

SECONDED BY: Doug Bender

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-06

WHEREAS the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care released Patients First: A Proposal to Strengthen Patient-Centred Health Care in Ontario on December 17, 2015; and

WHEREAS the document seeks to make it easier for patients to find a primary health care provider when they need one, closer to home; to improve communication and connections between primary health care providers, hospitals and home and community care; and ensure the province has the right number of doctors, nurses, and other health care providers, and plan locally to make sure they are available to patients where and when they are needed; and

WHEREAS Patients First proposes to make Local Health Integration Networks (LHINS) responsible and accountable for all health service planning and performance; and

WHEREAS due to their expanded role, LHINS governance structures would need to be revisited and would require expanded Boards and leadership with the necessary skills, expertise and local knowledge; and

WHEREAS there is cause for concern that funding dedicated to public health would become a part of the overall healthcare budget; and

WHEREAS there is also cause for concern that municipal representation will be less reflected on Boards of Health as a result of a shift towards skills based Boards; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care provide assurances that funding for public health will remain for that purpose and that municipal representation on Local Boards of Health will be sustained; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Association of Public Health Agencies (alPHA), Northern Public Health Units, Northeastern MPs and MPPs, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

CARRIED.



MOVED BY: Suzanne Klatt

SECONDED BY: Jamie McGarvey

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-07

WHEREAS hospitals in Northern Ontario are vital to the long-term health of communities and the residents that they serve; and

WHEREAS in order for hospitals to remain functioning and maintain levels of care for residents in the region, hospitals in Northern Ontario require one time transitional funding to address current shortages and inflationary funding for future years; and

WHEREAS the Health System Funding Reform by the Province of Ontario in 2012 tied the funding provided to hospitals to specific benchmarking criteria and service delivery outcomes; and

WHEREAS the criteria does not take into account or reflect the unique challenges faced by Northern and Rural Ontario communities including recruitment and retention of medical professionals, geographically dispersed populations and limited access to surgical and specialty services; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care must recognize the unique challenges of Northern Ontario; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care provide one time transitional funding to all hospitals in Northern Ontario and for the Province of Ontario to commit to inflationary funding adjustments for hospitals to match the inflationary cost increases over which the hospitals have no control; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Northeastern MPs and MPPs, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

CARRIED.



MOVED BY: Hector Lavigne

SECONDED BY: Walter Ross

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-08

WHEREAS community social and economic well-being is dependent on fast, reliable, and affordable broadband connectivity; and

WHEREAS municipal, provincial and federal governments as well as healthcare, education and other sectors will continue to depend on the internet to communicate, provide services and ensure accessibility to information; and

WHEREAS digital literacy skills are essential to collaborate, innovate, and compete both regionally and globally and require appropriate and affordable broadband; and

WHEREAS the availability of broadband that is on par with larger, urban areas in Canada is essential for Northern Ontario to achieve economic sustainability and social well-being; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that internet be designated as an essential service and that efforts are undertaken to ensure all municipalities have access to affordable, fast and reliable broadband; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Federal Minister of Science, Innovation and Economic Development, the Provincial Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure, the Provincial Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), Northeastern MPs and MPPs, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

CARRIED.

