



ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS 2013-2014
AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Friday, May 9, 2014

Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

FONOM ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

A G E N D A

Friday, May 9, 2014, 8:00 am

Main Ballroom, Comfort Suites and Conference Centre
229 Great Northern Road
Sault Ste. Marie, ON

1. Approval of / Additions to Agenda
2. Introduction of Executive
3. President's Report
4. Financial Report (resolution required)
5. Approval of Minutes of Meeting Friday, May 10, 2013 (resolution required)
6. Resolutions
7. Adjourn

FONOM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Mayor Alan Spacek
 Town of Kapuskasing
 88 Riverside Drive
 Kapuskasing, ON P5N 1B3
 Email: alspacek@gmail.com

TELEPHONE (705)

Mun Tel 337-4250
 Mun Fax 337-1741

REPRESENTING

District of Cochrane
 (NEOMA)

PAST PRESIDENT

Councillor S. Mac Bain
 City of North Bay
 P.O. Box 360
 200 McIntyre St. E.
 North Bay, ON P1B 8H8
 Email: mac.bain@cityofnorthbay.ca

Mun Tel 474-0400
 Mun Fax 495-4353

City of North Bay

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Mayor Tom Laughren
 City of Timmins
 220 Algonquin Blvd. East
 Timmins, ON P4N 1B3
 Email: tom.laughren@timmins.ca

Mun Tel 360-2612
 Mun Fax 360-2690

City of Timmins

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Councillor Danny Whalen
 City of Temiskaming Shores
 325 Farr Drive, Box 2050
 Haileybury, ON P0J 1K0
 Email: dwhalen@temiskamingshores.ca

Mun Tel 672-3363
 Mun Fax 672-3200

District of
 Temiskaming/
 Timiskaming

DIRECTORS (in alphabetical order by surname)

Councillor Nancy Barner
 Municipality of Powassan
 466 Main St, Box 250
 Powassan, ON P0H 1Z0
 Email: nbarner@powassan.net

Mun Tel 724-2813
 Mun Fax 724-5533

District of Parry
 Sound

Reeve Austin Hunt
 Billings Township
 Box 34
 Kagawong, ON P0P 1J0
 Email: billingsadmin@billingstwp.ca

Mun Tel 282-2611
 Mun Fax 282-3199

District of
 Manitoulin

DIRECTOR

Mayor Marianne Matichuk
City of Greater Sudbury
Box 5000 Stn A 200 Brady St
Sudbury, ON P3A 5P3
Email: mayor@greatersudbury.ca

TELEPHONE (705)

Mun Tel 674-4455
Ext 2514
Mun Fax 673-3096

REPRESENTING

City of Greater
Sudbury

Mayor Paul Schoppmann
Municipality of St. Charles
Box 70, 2 King St E
St. Charles, ON P0M 2W0
Email: mayor@stcharlesontario.ca

Mun Tel 867-2032
Ext 210
Mun Fax 867-5789

District of Sudbury

Mayor Lynn Watson
Township of Macdonald,
Meredith & Aberdeen Add'l
Box 10, 208 Church St
Echo Bay, ON P0S 1C0
Email: twpmacd@onlink.net

Mun Tel 248-2441
Mun Fax 248-3091

District of Algoma
(Algoma Municipal
Association)

Councillor Lou Turco
City of Sault Ste Marie
P.O. Box 580
99 Foster Drive
Sault Ste Marie, ON P6A 5N1
Email: l.turco@cityssm.on.ca

Mun Tel 759-2500
Mun Fax 759-2310

City of Sault Ste.
Marie

CORPORATE RESOURCE

Barbara Major
88 Riverside Drive
Kapusksing, ON P5N 1B3
Email: Barbara.major@kapuskasing.ca

Bus Tel 337-4254
Bus Fax 337-1741

**INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
NOHFC INTERN**

Alison Stanley
88 Riverside Drive
Kapusksing, ON P5N 1B3
Email: fonom.info@gmail.com

Bus Tel 337-4454
Bus Fax 337-1741

FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES

FINANCIAL REPORT 2013-2014 (Unaudited)

	Budget 2013-14	Actual 2013-14	Proposed 2014-15
<u>REVENUES</u>			
Membership	\$ 30,500	\$ 35,365	\$ 33,000
MNDM	50,000	50,000	50,000
Conference Revenue	89,775	77,424	45,000
Conference Sponsors	35,000	4,226	5,000
Local Initiative (LIC)	16,250	31,250	-
NOHFC (Intern)	25,500	12,693	27,500
Other Revenue	12,444	105,871	20,000
Total Revenues	\$ 259,469	\$ 316,829	\$ 180,500
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>			
Board & AMO Meetings	53,000	80,269	75,000
General & Administration Expense	10,950	5,662	10,000
Consulting Fees	13,000	3,161	10,000
NOHFC Intern wages & benefits	29,000	16,991	39,660
NOHFC Intern Travel	-	-	2,500
Directors' Honorarium	3,000	3,706	3,000
Conference Expenses	114,050	15,850	1,000
ONTC & Parks Project	23,763	16,588	-
Forestry Project	12,444	80,774	10,000
Strategic Plan	-	-	15,000
Total Expenditures	\$ 259,207	\$ 223,000	\$ 166,160
Year End Surplus/Deficit	262	93,829	14,340
Prior Year Surplus	19,701	19,963	113,792
End of Year	\$ 19,963	\$ 113,792	128,132

****Forwarded to KPMG for audit purposes and will be distributed to FONOM members upon completion.**

**FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
MINUTES
53rd Annual Conference and Business Meeting
May 8, 9 & 10, 2013
Parry Sound, Ontario**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2013

- 1:00 pm Official Opening
Jamie McGarvey, Mayor, Town of Parry Sound
Al Spacek, President, FONOM
Lynn Buckham, Regional Director, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- 1:30 pm **Chris Turner**
"How to Survive and Thrive in the Sustainable Economy"
- 2:30 pm Refreshment Break
- 3:00 pm **Municipal – Aboriginal Partnerships: Identifying Common Objectives**
John Beaucage, Principal, Counsel Public Affairs Public Relations
- 3:45 pm **Update on the Northern Policy Institute**
Martin Bayer, Chair, Northern Policy Institute
- 4:30 pm **Update from De Beers Canada**
Tom Ormsby, Director, External and Corporate Affairs, De Beers Canada
- 4:45 pm Welcome Reception – Sponsored by De Beers & The Miller Group
- 7:00 pm Tradeshow Adjourns

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2013

- 7:30 am Breakfast and Registration continues
- 8:30 am **Municipal Connectivity: Global Reach, Local Gain**
Paul West, Rhyzome Networks
Lis McWalter, Regional Economic Development Advisory Committee (REDAC)
- 9:30 am **Working Towards Financial Sustainability**
Jim Bruzzese, BMA Management consulting
- 10:30 am Refreshment Break
- 11:00 am **Reducing Costs Through Shared Municipal Services**
Oscar Poloni, Partner, KPMG LLP
- 12:00 pm Lunch – Sponsored by Hydro One Networks Inc.
- 1:00 pm **Design of Public Spaces: Accessibility Standards for the Built Environment**
Chetan Mistry, Senior Policy Advisor
Graham Gerrell, Senior Policy Advisor
Accessibility Directorate of Ontario, Ministry of Community and Social Services
- 2:00 pm Concurrent Sessions

Building a Film Industry in Northern Ontario

Mark Palumbo, Co-Founder, former Board Chair, Music and Film in Motion

Housing and Homelessness Strategies in Northern Ontario

Cindy Couillard, Team Lead, Regional Housing Services, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, North Region

Janice Bray, Manager, Housing and Community Services, Parry Sound DSSAB

Talking Roads with a Municipal Solicitor

WD Rusty Russell, Q.C., Russell Christie, LLP

3:00 pm Refreshment Break

3:30 pm Concurrent Sessions

Municipal Legislative Tools: Opportunities and Cautions

Jody Johnson, LL.B, Aird and Berlis, Barristers and Solicitors

Low Water Levels in Lake Huron & Georgian Bay: A Collaborative Approach to Shoreline Management

Gordon McKay, Mayor, Town of Midland

How Can Land Use Planning Support Sustainable Rural Municipalities?

Jim Dymont, Planner, MHBC Planning, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture

Matt Alexander, Planner, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, North Region

4:30 pm Sessions Adjourn

6:00 pm Pre-Banquet Reception – Sponsored by the City of Sault Ste. Marie, 2014 Conference Host

6:30 pm Banquet and Executive Award presentation
Award presented to Austin Hunt, Township of Billings

9:00 pm Entertainment

10:00 pm Adjourn

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2013

7:30 am Full Breakfast

8:30 am Alan Spacek, President, FONOM
FONOM Annual Business Meeting

Introduction of FONOM Board of Directors

President's Report

Resolution: That the agenda be accepted as presented.

Hunt/Curley

CARRIED.

Resolution: That the FONOM Financial Report for the year ending March 31, 2013 be accepted as presented.
Foisy/Forester CARRIED.

Resolution: That the minutes of the Annual Meeting in North Bay on May 11, 2012 be accepted as presented.
Turco/Chudley CARRIED.

Resolutions # 2013-01 to 2013-16

Resolution No/Year	Resolution Name	Therefore Be It Resolved That ...	Outcome
2013-01	Payments in Lieu and MPAC Land Valuations	<p>“... the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) that the Ministry of Natural Resources perform "impact studies" on municipalities to determine the possible short and long-term effects of MNR designations of properties as tax exempt; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that the appropriate Cabinet Ministers consult with FONOM representatives to resolve this grave and sensitive matter.”</p>	Carried.
2013-02	Erosion of Taxation Bases and Infrastructure Support	<p>“... the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) that Northern and rural municipalities and other stakeholders recommend that changes be made to the funding model used by the Provincial Government to allocate resources to Northern and rural areas of the province; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that FONOM, supported by the Northern Mayors and the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, again request an increase of \$75 per household to the Northern Community Grant to help municipalities to provide the infrastructure and services required by local residents and local industry.”</p>	Carried
2013-03	Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and the Assessment Review Board	<p>“... the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) recommends that the Province of Ontario should be exercising even greater diligence and take a more aggressive position in defending MPAC’s assessments on industrial properties in order to maintain revenues to the Province and Municipalities for important infrastructure maintenance; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing take a leadership role in consultation with the municipal sector to resolve this crisis for municipalities; and</p>	Carried.

		<p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assessment Review Board's (ARB's) use of economic obsolescence and functional obsolescence should be scrutinized for fairness and uniformity in their application on appeals brought before them; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that until this is done, Appeals granted by the ARB should be stayed, to allow municipalities and the Province time to decide what can be done about this disturbing situation."</p>	
2013-04	Fairness in the Application of Land Tax Reform for Territories without Municipal Organization	"... the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Ontario Government review the Provincial Land Tax rates in order to ensure cost of services are equal for all Ontario property owners."	Carried.
2013-05	Social Housing – Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative	"... the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing maintain CHPI funding at 2013 levels in 2014 and beyond to meet pressing community housing needs."	Carried.
2013-06	Social Housing – Deep Core Need Definition	"... the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Minister of Municipal Affairs revisit the funding formula used to arrive at the Investment in Affordable Housing Program and Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative for Northern Ontario."	Carried.
2013-07	Ontario Northland Transportation Commission (ONTC): Divesture	"... the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Province put a moratorium on the decision to 'break up' the ONTC and actively consult through the newly formed Ministerial Advisory Committee on the best ways to proceed."	Carried.
2013-08	Northern Growth Plan and Northern Policy Institute	<p>"... the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Northern Growth Plan must address the growth potential of all municipalities in Northern Ontario; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the newly appointed Board of the Northern Policy Institute, all Northern municipalities, the Northern Mayors Caucus, NOMA and FONOM need to work together on a position that works for all municipalities; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that planning for economic development must be its focus."</p>	Carried.
2013-09	Connecting Link and Infrastructure Renewal	"... the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the province assume portions of the Connecting Link system so that it is completely responsible for	Carried.

		them; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province, in consultation with FONOM and other key stakeholders establish an Infrastructure Renewal Program that works in the North.”	
2013-10	Simplification of Infrastructure Applications	“... the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) recommends that simplified application processes for Northern and rural communities would be welcomed and provides an excellent focal point for discussions with the Province.”	Carried.
2013-11	Ministry of Natural Resources – Parks Closure	“... the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Ministry of Natural Resources continue to work with FONOM and NOMA to find ways to save Provincial Parks in Northern Ontario.”	Carried.
2013-12	Ministry of Natural Resources – Cut Backs	“... the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that municipalities have direct input into any decisions regarding the future of frontline and field services of the MNR in and across Northern Ontario.”	Carried.
2013-13	Transmission Capacity and Competitive Pricing	“... the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Provincial Government upgrade the North- South Energy Transmission Capacity as a priority as part of the Province’s Integrated Power System, in the context of the Provincial Long-Term Energy Plan; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province, Northern municipalities and other key stakeholders implement a northern electricity pricing regime to make northern industries more competitive.”	Carried.
2013-14	Non-Emergent Patient Transfers	“... the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Province of Ontario immediately correct this EMS funding and service level inequity between Northern and Rural Ontario and Southern and Urban Ontario by funding 100% of the cost of non-emergent and non-urgent inter- facility transfers provided by Emergency Medical Services (EMS)/Land Ambulance providers or by providing this service through private sector medical transfer service companies in Northern and Rural Ontario.”	Carried.
2013-15	Extreme Water Levels and the International Joint Commission’s (IJC) Great Lakes Regional Adaptive Management Plan	“... the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the IJC develop plans for longer term losses from climate change; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the IJC prepare a plan for immediate action to mitigate man-made drains and to provide prudent, planned control to reduce wide variations in water levels: namely the installation of flexible	Carried.

		<p>compensation structures in the St Clair River to restore lost water on Lakes Michigan and Huron due to dredging and sand and gravel mining over many years; and</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED THAT the concept of Public Trust be considered when formulating future plans related to the flow of waters from the Great Lakes to provide an existing legal framework and to promote equity to govern conflicts over protected public trust uses, such as fishing, navigation, swimming, boating, ecological values, within the entire Great Lakes basin.”</p>	
2013-16	Abitibi River Boreal Forest Initiative	<p>“... the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) supports the proposed three zone approach be implemented in the Abitibi River Forest to protect jobs and caribou habitat in Northeastern Ontario.”</p>	Carried.

Update from NOMA

David Canfield, President

10:30 am

Update from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Russ Powers, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

11:00 am

Refreshment Break/Lunch – Sponsored by Northern Waterworks Inc.

11:45 am

Hon. Tony Clement

Minister for the Federal Economic Initiative for Northern Ontario (FedNor)

12:15 pm

Ministers’ Forum

Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier

Hon. Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Hon. Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines

Hon. Jim Bradley, Minister of the Environment

Hon. David Oraziotti, Minister of Natural Resources

Hon. David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

1:15 pm

Adjourn

Safe Travels Home

FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
2013-2014 Resolutions
54th Annual Conference and Business Meeting
May 7, 8 & 9, 2014
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

This year, there are 17 policy resolutions for discussion and voting on at the Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.

Membership Fee Increase	2014-01
Correspondence Delivery	2014-02
Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund	2014-03
Provincial Parks	2014-04
Municipal Property Assessment Corporation	2014-05
Proposed OPP Billing Model	2014-06
Non-Urgent Patient Transfers	2014-07
Spring Bear Hunt	2014-08
Connecting Link	2014-09
Energy Costs	2014-10
Gas Prices	2014-11
Re-Classification of Highways	2014-12
Joint and Several Liability	2014-13
Bill 83 – Protection from Public Participation Act, 2014	2014-14
Repaving Provincial Highway Shoulders	2014-15
Long-Term Social and Affordable Housing	2014-16
Energy East Pipeline	2014-17

THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
RESOLUTION

MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASE

“WHEREAS the costs of advocating our members’ needs to the Province are continuously increasing; and

WHEREAS an increase of five per cent with every new term of council would provide additional revenue to engage in more activities and greater outreach; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) recommends a membership fee increase of five per cent with every new term of council which would begin in 2015; and

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

THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
RESOLUTION

CORRESPONDENCE DELIVERY

“WHEREAS the cost of delivering mail has increased and the services of Canada Post has decreased; and

WHEREAS communication by electronic form would increase efficiency of communication; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) recommends that correspondence to member municipalities will be done by email; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT should a member municipality be unable to communicate by email, regular mail would be the alternative; and

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

THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
RESOLUTION

SMALL, RURAL AND NORTHERN MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

“WHEREAS the 2013 Ontario Budget announced a 100 million dollar Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund to help municipalities with critical infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS this funding is proposed to become permanent in the 2014 budget; and

WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) called for a predictable formula which would allow municipalities to plan and invest in long-term infrastructure projects; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Government of Ontario implement a per capita formula for the distribution of funding for the Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Rural Affairs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
RESOLUTION

PROVINCIAL PARKS

“WHEREAS provincial parks are part of northerner’s way of life, providing access to the outdoors; and

WHEREAS provincial parks help promote the tourism industry in northern Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Province engaged in a pilot project with three northern parks; and

WHEREAS in the event of an operation deficit by a park, the guarantor was required to assume the costs and in the event of an operational surplus, such surplus was kept by the Province; and

WHEREAS municipalities should not have to shoulder the burden to keep parks open; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests the Ministry of Natural Resources to assume financial liability of Provincial parks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Minister of Natural Resources, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
RESOLUTION

MUNICIPAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT CORPORATION

“WHEREAS northern municipalities have expressed concerns regarding the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and their inability to defend industrial reassessments, particularly in the case of pulp and paper mills; and

WHEREAS municipalities have created long-term infrastructure plans on the basis of their annualized, budgeted property tax revenue; and

WHEREAS should a municipality be forced to pay back a substantial value, their current and future development plans are threatened; and

WHEREAS industrial property reassessments that have resulted in municipalities having to pay back revenues have set a precedent for others to follow suit; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Government of Ontario take a more aggressive position in defending the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation’s (MPAC) assessments on industrial properties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT once an assessment has been made by MPAC it should not be subject to appeal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, the Minister of Finance, Attorney General, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
RESOLUTION

PROPOSED OPP BILLING MODEL

“WHEREAS the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) announced a proposed billing model in the fall of 2013 that generated a high level of concerned feedback from municipalities; and

WHEREAS the current proposed model would have a drastic impact on many municipalities; and

WHEREAS AMO created the OPP Billing Steering Committee to address the widely disparate impact that the proposed billing reform could have on municipalities; and

WHEREAS the mandate of the committee was to review the proposed OPP billing model and to evaluate other alternatives that could deliver outcomes that would be fair and equitable to all municipalities; and

WHEREAS transition to a new billing model must ensure immediate relief for municipalities experiencing decreases; and

WHEREAS a model must be phased in over a minimum of four years and must be accompanied with mitigation funding for municipalities experiencing an increase; and

WHEREAS it is a provincial responsibility to mitigate the impact on taxpayers; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) supports the recommendations and advice made to the Province through AMO’s OPP Billing Steering Committee Report; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT these recommendations be implemented for 2015; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
RESOLUTION

NON-URGENT PATIENT TRANSFERS

“WHEREAS emergency land ambulances are providing non-emergency services in northern Ontario which poses significant risks to residents and undermines quality patient care; and

WHEREAS hospitals in southern Ontario are able to fund non-urgent patient transfers as a result of higher operating budgets than that of northern Ontario hospitals; and

WHEREAS due to the vast geographic distances between hospitals in northern Ontario, patient transfers often have to travel long distances; and

WHEREAS municipalities are seeking a long-term strategy to minimize the risks and burdens that are placed on District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs), municipalities, and northern residents; and

WHEREAS a combination of Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), the private sector and DSSABs engaged in a pilot project; and

WHEREAS this pilot project allowed for a substantial increase of ambulances available for emergencies as well a decrease in costs associated with the transfer of patients; and

WHEREAS northern residents need a long-term solution to ensure that medical transfer services are functional and sustainable; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Province implement the non-urgent patient transfer program across the north based on the success of the pilot projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA), and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
RESOLUTION

SPRING BEAR HUNT

“WHEREAS a limited selection of Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) were chosen for the pilot project in which municipalities had to pass resolutions to opt in; and

WHEREAS the pilot project excluded many rural communities who are often the municipalities affected the greatest with the lowest ability to manage or address nuisance bears; and

WHEREAS the Province made the announcement of the pilot project on the grounds of public safety, yet there are other important reasons to address the issue of nuisance bears such as damage to agricultural lands and an opportunity to provide economic benefits within the northern Ontario tourism industry; and

WHEREAS program expansions would significantly improve the ability of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to address public safety concerns, the protection of agricultural lands and an increase in economic benefits to the region; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests the Province to expand the pilot project across the north and develop an approach that would address other areas of concern beyond public safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Minister of Natural Resources, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
RESOLUTION

CONNECTING LINK

“WHEREAS the cancellation of the Connecting Link program and replacement with the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative (MIII) as a single funding program for most infrastructure projects is of major concern to many northern municipalities; and

WHEREAS there was no consultation with affected municipalities before cancelling the Connecting Link program; and

WHEREAS municipalities must re-prioritize projects and those with the downloaded responsibility for connecting links must now shift their capital focus while other vital municipal infrastructure projects are set aside; and

WHEREAS cancelling the Connecting Link program places an unfair burden on municipalities who have Provincial highways that run through their jurisdiction; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province should communicate and consult with municipalities and stakeholders to establish a program that works in the north; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests the Province to assume portions of the Connecting Link system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
RESOLUTION

ENERGY COSTS

“WHEREAS electricity rates in Ontario are among the highest of all provinces in Canada; and

WHEREAS northern municipalities and businesses cannot afford any further increases in electricity costs; and

WHEREAS further increases in electricity costs would threaten our economy through loss of business activity and investments; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province make a commitment to address the continuous increases to energy costs and implement a competitive energy rate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province investigate alternatives to energy accessibility that would result in lower costs of providing electricity in Ontario; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Minister of Energy, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
RESOLUTION

GAS PRICES

“WHEREAS gas prices in northern Ontario are often substantially higher than gas prices in southern Ontario; and

WHEREAS the difference in price does accurately represent the difference in transportation costs; and

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

WHEREAS other provinces in Canada have regulations in place that reduce volatility in gas prices through monitoring and price setting; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that Ontario Energy Board (OEB) be mandated to monitor the price of gasoline across Ontario to reduce unfair regional price differences and volatility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Minister of Energy, Minister of Finance, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
RESOLUTION

RE-CLASSIFICATION OF HIGHWAYS

“WHEREAS many northern municipalities are bounded and serviced by Provincial highways, which the Ministry of Transportation is responsible for maintenance through private contractors; and

WHEREAS private contractors are penalized when their obligation for clearing provincial highways does not meet winter maintenance standards; and

WHEREAS weather and road conditions in northern Ontario are often more extreme than other parts of the province; and

WHEREAS weather and climate conditions are constantly changing and that minimum standards must be re-evaluated on a regular basis to ensure public safety; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Ministry of Transportation undertake an evaluation of all Provincial highways in an effort to ensure adequate road maintenance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Minister of Transportation and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
RESOLUTION

JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY

“WHEREAS joint and several liability represents the primary contributor to rising insurance premiums for municipalities; and

WHEREAS provisions within the Negligence Act have not been updated for decades; and

WHEREAS municipalities suffer the greatest consequences as they are responsible for significant damage awards even if they are deemed to be just one per cent responsible; and

WHEREAS the current model of joint and several liability is not sustainable as municipalities will be forced to scale back on public services in order to limit liability exposure; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT a comprehensive and long-term solution needs to be implemented to limit the negative impacts on municipalities as insurers of last resort; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) supports a combined model of the Saskatchewan Model and the Multiplier Model as recommended by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) as this places reasonable limits on the damages that may be recovered from a municipality under limited circumstances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Attorney General, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
RESOLUTION

BILL 83 – PROTECTION FROM PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACT, 2014

“WHEREAS the Attorney General of Ontario introduced Bill 83 – Protection from Public Participation Act, 2014 with the intent to protect the public’s right to participate in debates and discussions on issues that affect their lives; and

WHEREAS this legislation, also known as “anti-SLAPP legislation” would create a climate where radical activists can make false claims about a company without impunity and hurt northern economies; and

WHEREAS many northern communities depend upon industries that are often targets of opposition; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Government of Ontario reconsider moving forward with Bill 83 – Protection from Public Participation Act, 2014; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Premier, the Attorney General, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
RESOLUTION

REPAVING PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY SHOULDERS

“WHEREAS municipalities, community groups and health organizations have called on the Government to invest in paved shoulders on Provincial highways; and

WHEREAS increasing the amount of paved shoulders would enhance public safety for both cyclists and vehicles; and

WHEREAS improving public transportation on Provincial highways would benefit the tourism industry as cycling tourism is currently one of the fastest growing tourism sectors in Ontario; and

WHEREAS paved shoulders would benefit the health of Ontarians through an increase in active transportation and recreation and encourage individuals to make green commuting choices; and

WHEREAS the costs associated with paving shoulders on Provincial highways would be mitigated by the reduced cost of maintenance for gravel shoulders as paved shoulders last an average of five years longer and require less maintenance.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the government repave shoulders on provincial highways when there is a significant undertaking to repave or resurface that portion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Minister of Transportation, Minister of Infrastructure, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, and Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
RESOLUTION

LONG-TERM SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

“WHEREAS there has been a decline in federal funding and a lack of long-term commitment to address the housing needs of the country; and

WHEREAS northern Ontario provides its own unique set of challenges where the need for social and affordable housing is high, yet the ability to provide is low; and

WHEREAS across the north, residents have lower than average median household incomes and higher than average unemployment rates; and

WHEREAS without sustained federal funding, facilities deteriorate and the current number of rent-geared-to-income tenancies cannot be continued, despite the growth in demand for social housing; and

WHEREAS the Province needs assistance to ensure that tenants’ homes are protected and that it is able to help Ontarians in need of affordable housing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Federal government work in partnership with the Provinces and Territories towards long-term social and affordable housing for our most vulnerable residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the federal Minister of Employment and Social Development, Minister of Community and Social Services, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
RESOLUTION

ENERGY EAST PIPELINE

“WHEREAS TransCanada Pipelines Limited has put forward an application to develop the Energy East Pipeline which would convert an existing natural gas pipeline into oil and construction of new pipeline; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Energy has mandated the Ontario Energy Board to examine and report on TransCanada Pipelines Limited’s project through a consultation process; and

WHEREAS this pipeline would have significant impacts across northern Ontario; and

WHEREAS research has demonstrated that fewer accidents occur while transporting oil by pipeline as opposed to alternate modes of transportation such as road or rail; and

WHEREAS TransCanada has demonstrated their commitment to pipeline safety for communities, residents and employees through safety and preventative maintenance programs; and

WHEREAS the Energy East project would generate significant economic benefits to northeastern Ontario by providing direct and indirect jobs during the six year development and construction phase and during the forty year operations phase; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) supports the development of the Energy East Pipeline; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Minister of Energy, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”