

**FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO
MUNICIPALITIES**

2013-2014 RESOLUTIONS



**2013-2014 Resolutions
54th Annual General Meeting
May 9th, 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.

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Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund	2014-03
Provincial Parks	2014-04
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MOVED BY: Lynn Watson

SECONDED BY: Alex Chidley

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-01

“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.”

CARRIED



MOVED BY: Morley Forster

SECONDED BY: Doug Jelly

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-02

“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.”

CARRIED



MOVED BY: Bill Vrebosch

SECONDED BY: Claude Bouffard

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-03

“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.”

CARRIED



MOVED BY: Laurier Bourgeois

SECONDED BY: Bill Vrebosch

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-04

“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.”

CARRIED



MOVED BY: Alex Chidley

SECONDED BY: Mike Lehoux

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-05

“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.”

CARRIED



MOVED BY: Bill Vrebosch

SECONDED BY: Randi Condie

MOTION FROM THE FLOOR

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-06

“WHEREAS municipalities have been legislated to provide police services; and

WHEREAS municipalities have been paying inequitable costs for policing services; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Provincial Police have developed a model for billing their services to municipalities; and

WHEREAS there are a number of small municipalities who disagree with this funding model and do not believe that they will be beneficiaries of any proposed billing model; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario is responsible for levying land tax in the unincorporated portions of northern Ontario; and

WHEREAS the current tax rate is not sufficient to offset costs such as policing, social services other emergency services; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the property owners in the unincorporated areas be required to pay their fair share for the noted services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario take back the responsibility for policing small municipalities with a population of 5,000 or less.

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.”

CARRIED



MOVED BY: Doug Jelly

SECONDED BY: Alex Chidley

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-07

“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.”

CARRIED



MOVED BY: Lynn Watson

SECONDED BY: Archie Bovin

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-08

“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.”

CARRIED



MOVED BY: Mike Lehoux

SECONDED BY: Mike Doody

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-09

“WHEREAS the cancellation of the Connecting Link program and replacement with the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative (MII) 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.”

CARRIED



MOVED BY: Marcel Gauthier

SECONDED BY: Roger Sigouin

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-10

“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.”

CARRIED



MOVED BY: Ken Lamming

SECONDED BY: Doug Jelly

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-11

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

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

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

WHEREAS other provinces in Canada have regulations in place that reduce volatility in fuel 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 fuel 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, the Competition Bureau of Canada, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

CARRIED AS AMENDED



MOVED BY: Roger Sigouin

SECONDED BY: Michel Brière

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-12

“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 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.”

CARRIED



MOVED BY: Dave Kilgour

SECONDED BY: Austin Hunt

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-13

“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.”

CARRIED



MOVED BY: Roger Sigouin

SECONDED BY: André Byham

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-14

“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

WHEREAS if passed, Bill 83 would deter investment into our communities and result in manufacturing facilities closing, hard working families losing their jobs and our economies suffering; and

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

WHEREAS there is already legislation to protect freedom of expression, rendering Bill 83 redundant; 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.”

CARRIED



MOVED BY: Bill Vrebosch

SECONDED BY: Alex Chidley

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-15

“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.”

CARRIED



MOVED BY: Alex Chidley

SECONDED BY: Morley Forster

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-16

“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.”

CARRIED



MOVED BY: Michel Arsenault

SECONDED BY: Alex Chidley

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-17

“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.”

CARRIED