



June 3, 2016

Hon. Michael Coteau
Minister of Tourism, Culture & Sport
Hearst Block, 9th Floor
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2E1
SENT VIA EMAIL:
mcoteau.mpp@liberal.ola.org

RE: Ontario Trillium Foundation

Dear Minister Coteau,

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) is concerned with changes to the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) that would see a reduction in the number of grant catchment areas and funding from the general operating budget for 2016-2017 be redirected to a specific capital grant fund.

As mentioned, FONOM is concerned with the reduction from sixteen grant catchment areas to five. Currently, local grant teams in each catchment area consist of community members that review OTF grant applications. Shifting from local grant teams to a more regional team, will have a significant impact on small and rural based organizations as they will now be competing with larger organizations within a broader geographic region.

We are aware that the \$25 million from the general operating budget for 2016-2017 will be redirected to a one-time grant program for infrastructure and capital projects to support Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017. However, we are troubled with the lack of details, corresponding timelines as well as the future base allocation of the OTF. As a result, there are concerns that the \$90 million general operating allocation for 2016-2017 would become the new base allocation and not be reinstated back to the \$115 million in future budgets.

FONOM

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities

Minister, we are asking that the number of grant catchment areas remain at sixteen and to confirm that the budget will remain at \$115 million beyond the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan Spacek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Alan Spacek
President

cc: Ms. Janet Yale, Chair, Ontario Trillium Foundation