

FONOM

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities

August 28, 2014

Hon. Mario Sergio
Ministry Responsible for Seniors
12th Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1N3

Dear Minister Sergio,

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) is a unified voice, representing 110 municipalities across northeastern Ontario. Our mission is to improve the economic and social quality of life for all northerners and to ensure the future of our youth.

FONOM has expressed its concern with the proposed changes to fishing licenses outlined in the *Sustainability Strategy for the Special Purpose Account (SPA), 2014-2019*, which was developed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). If approved, the change would require Ontario seniors to pay for conservation and sport fishing licenses at a discounted rate that would come into effect in 2016.

We appreciate the challenges that MNRF is facing in terms of declining revenues and increased costs of maintaining programs; however, punishing seniors by making them shoulder the burden is unfair. Ensuring that seniors have access to fish and wildlife activities is significant to the social and economic wellbeing of northerners. Any new revenue tools that the Province proposes should not pass costs onto seniors.

FONOM is willing to work with your Ministry to ensure that Ontario seniors have continued access to outdoor activities such as fishing.

Sincerely,



Alan Spacek
President

cc: Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Hon. Bill Mauro
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Hon. Ted McMeekin
Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH)