

# FONOM

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities

May 27, 2016

Honourable Kathleen Wynne  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1A1  
SENT VIA EMAIL:  
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier,

On behalf of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), I urge you and your government to reconsider any policy or strategy with the forthcoming *Climate Change Action Plan* that would result in natural gas being replaced by other energy sources, such as electricity. Electricity costs in Ontario are increasing at an unaffordable rate with no end in sight. By contrast, natural gas prices are decreasing and lower than they were ten years ago.

FONOM applauded Ontario's commitment in 2015 to create a \$200 million Natural Gas Access Loan and a \$30 million Natural Gas Economic Development Grant to help more communities that previously lacked the necessary infrastructure to switch to natural gas. However, recent reports indicate that the Province plans to implement key measures which are outlined in the *Climate Change Action Plan*, including all new homes built after 2030 must be heated without using fossil fuels, such as natural gas.

This caused immediate concern to our members, families and industry, which are all struggling with the cost of electricity. Natural gas is a critical partner fuel in a low carbon future. Northerners should continue to be able to choose natural gas without negative consequences.

While we appreciated the province's announcement yesterday that natural gas is not being banned, we remain concerned about this potential shift away from natural gas and the subsequent expansion to communities that currently are not able to access this more affordable energy source.

# FONOM

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities

Premier, we are asking for greater clarity and confirmation that natural gas will be accessible as an energy source for heating buildings, whether residential or commercial for years to come.

Sincerely,



Alan Spacek  
President

cc: Honourable Glenn Murray, Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
Honourable Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Energy