

FONOM

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities

October 24, 2016

Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Legislative Building, Room 281, 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 would like to address the ongoing municipal concerns regarding the collection of Provincial Offences Act (POA) fines.

As you are aware, the Province transferred the responsibility of the Provincial Offences Act (POA) administration to municipalities in 1997, which included courts, and fine collection. Over the years, municipal governments have become increasingly challenged with collecting outstanding fines. While FONOM appreciates that the government introduced and subsequently passed legislation that sought to improve the ability of municipalities to collect fines, there are further reforms needed to improve the system.

A number of reforms have been proposed that FONOM believes will be beneficial to municipalities and enhance their ability to collect POA fines. They include implementing regulations that would ensure that outstanding fines are paid first and subsequent fines are paid in order, allowing the tax rolling of fines onto property taxes regardless of the number of owners on the property, introduce changes to the Municipal Act so that inter-municipal agreements are not required in order to collect fines from other municipalities, and lastly, POA fines must be treated as priority lien similar to waste and wastewater fees to ensure that collectability is enforceable once added to the tax roll and that interest on outstanding fines may be collected.

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We believe the above mentioned reforms will provide municipalities with greater and enhanced tools to collect POA fines. We kindly request that your government take our concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,



Alan Spacek
President

cc: Honourable Yasir Naqvi, Ministry of the Attorney General
Honourable Bill Mauro, Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Honourable Michael Gravelle, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines