

FONOM

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities

August 31, 2016

Hon. 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,

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) shares the concerns of rural municipalities across the province regarding the changes to the Rural Economic Development Program which will have a negative impact on rural Ontario.

As announced in the 2016 Budget, the Rural Economic Development Program has been suspended and integrated into the Jobs and Prosperity Fund. While we appreciate the government looking at ways to improve service delivery and create efficiencies, we believe the suspension of this program will hurt rural communities and outweigh any possible benefits.

While the Rural Economic Development Program supported capacity building projects such as business retention and expansion as well as downtown revitalization projects, the Jobs and Prosperity Fund is restricted to private sector organizations and large projects that meet either a minimum of \$5 million or \$10 million in eligible project costs.

Therefore, we kindly request your government to reconsider the suspension and integration of the Rural Economic Development Program into the Jobs and Prosperity Fund. Without designated funding for rural areas, there are valid concerns that funding from this fund could favour more urban areas of the province.

Sincerely,



Alan Spacek
President

cc: Honourable Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Honourable Brad Duguid, Minister of Economic Development and Growth

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