

# FONOM

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities

March 8, 2015

Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins  
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hepburn Block  
80 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C4  
SENT VIA EMAIL:  
[ehoskins.mpp@liberal.ola.org](mailto:ehoskins.mpp@liberal.ola.org)

Dear Minister Hoskins,

On behalf of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), we would like to express our sincere gratitude for meeting with our organization during the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) / Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) on February 22, 2016.

FONOM raised concerns with a potential shift in public health resources to the larger, more heavily populated urban centres, causing reductions in public health resources for rural and northern areas of the province where there is a demonstrated need. We were pleased to hear that there would be mechanisms in place to ensure that all funding intended for public health will remain for that purpose as well as there will be no decreases in funding to public health units.

FONOM also raised the concern of losing municipal representation on local Boards of health as a result of transitioning towards skill-based Boards as outlined in Patients First: A Proposal to Strengthen Patient-Centred Health Care in Ontario. Minister, you expressed the importance of having a variety of skills and resources on the Boards and that local knowledge is an important component which we hope will be reflected.

Finally, FONOM discussed a recent proposal from the North East Local Health Integration Network (NELHIN) on non-urgent patient transfers in the northeast. FONOM requested that the Province amend the Ambulance Act to allow funding for non-ambulatory services in northern Ontario. We were pleased by your recognition that there is a need for immediate action to address non-urgent patient transfers in the north.

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We will continue to communicate with your Ministry to ensure that all funding intended for public health will remain for that purpose and local Boards of health will continue to have municipal representation. Finally, FONOM continues to request that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care amend the Ambulance Act to allow funding for non-ambulatory services in northern Ontario as part of reducing the burden on municipalities due to non-urgent patient transfers.

Once again, thank you for meeting with our organization and we look forward to working with your Ministry to ensure that public health units remain strong and vital front line health services within communities and to work towards implementing a strategy to address non-urgent patient transfers across Northeastern Ontario.

Sincerely,



Alan Spacek  
President

cc: Associate Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Honourable Dipika Damerla