

# FONOM

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities

March 8, 2015

Hon. Bill Mauro  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Whitney Block, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 6630  
99 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3  
SENT VIA EMAIL:  
Minister.mnrf@ontario.ca

Dear Minister ~~Mauro,~~ *Bill!*

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.

As Northern MPP, we appreciate your vocal support and continued efforts to ensure that the Northern voice is heard within the government.

During the meeting, FONOM highlighted the need for the province to take a more coordinated approach to protecting and defending industries that operate in and sustain Northern Ontario. While we recognize the efforts already undertaken by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry through meetings, op-eds and Minister Statements, we believe the province needs to continue these efforts as well as be more public with their defense of the standards in which the industries operate under.

FONOM also discussed a new strategy calling, *Growing Ontario*, which is in partnership with the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and the Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO) with support from the agriculture and forestry sector. This strategy aims to highlight and celebrate the innovation and contribution provided by the agriculture and forestry sectors while at the same time counteracting the negative and inaccurate information that has led to misconceptions of the industries. We look forward to the province's support of this initiative.

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Other issues that were brought forward during the meeting that remain a priority for FONOM were the development of a long-term strategy to four-lane the TransCanada highway, infrastructure funding, assessment methodologies developed by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), non-urgent patient transfers, public health units, the Ring of Fire, energy and the utilization of crown land for agricultural development.

Minister, you highlighted aquaculture during the meeting as a significant opportunity and asked FONOM to advise your Ministry if we were aware of any communities interested. Would your Ministry be able to provide further details on this initiative and expand on how FONOM could work with your Ministry on this opportunity?

Once again, thank you for meeting with our organization and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Alan Spacek  
President