

**FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO
MUNICIPALITIES**

2016-2017 RESOLUTIONS

FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES
2016-2017 Resolutions
57th Annual Conference and Business Meeting
May 10, 11 & 12, 2017
North Bay, Ontario

This year, there are 9 policy resolutions for discussion and voting on at the Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.

- 2017-01 FONOM Board Term Length
- 2017-02 Proposed Building Code Change – Septic Tank Inspections
- 2017-03 Residential Rental Maintenance Standards
- 2017-04 Municipal Facilities Hydro Exemption
- 2017-05 Municipal Election Requirements – 25 Signatures
- 2017-06 Fire Services Infrastructure Funding
- 2017-07 Local and Regional Airports Definition in New Building Canada Fund
- 2017-08 Provincial Offences Act Fine Collection
- 2017-09 Railway Rights-of-Way Property Taxation



MOVED BY: Martin Credger

SECONDED BY: Mike McArthur

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-01

FONOM Board Term Length

“WHEREAS the Constitution of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) currently states that the term of office of the Executive shall commence with the first meeting following general municipal elections; and

WHEREAS at the expiration of the two-year term that started with the first meeting following general municipal elections, a new term of office of the Executive shall commence with the first meeting following the two-year anniversary of the most recent general municipal elections; and

WHEREAS requiring municipalities and the district municipal associations to pass resolutions to appoint a representative to the FONOM Board of Directors every two years is administratively burdensome; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) recommends extending the term of office to a four year term to follow the general municipal election cycle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all member municipalities.”



MOVED BY: Tom Marchant

SECONDED BY: Paul Schoppmann

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-02

Proposed Building Code Change – Septic Tank Inspections

“WHEREAS the Ministry of Municipal Affairs has proposed a change to the Building Code as outlined in the Overview Summary Document – Potential Changes to Ontario’s Building Code: Fall 2016 Consultation; and

WHEREAS the proposed change, B-08-09-03, would require regular pumping out of septic tanks and the keeping of maintenance records; and

WHEREAS this requirement would lead to unnecessary costs that will unfairly target small and rural communities; and

WHEREAS this change would be burdensome for residents as they would be required to pump out their septic tanks every five years and municipal governments as they would be required to administer the change and be responsible for enforcement; and

WHEREAS many municipalities already have by-laws to regulate septic systems, especially near waterways; and

WHEREAS adequate legislation already exists to address malfunctioning systems; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to reconsider the proposed change to the Building Code that would require regular pumping out of septic tanks and the keeping of maintenance records; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all member municipalities, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, northeastern MPs and MPPs and Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”



MOVED BY: Nicole Levesque

SECONDED BY: Lynn Watson

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-03

Residential Rental Maintenance Standards

“WHEREAS the Provincial Government passed Bill 7, Promoting Affordable Housing Act, 2016, which included amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act, 2006; and

WHEREAS Schedule 5 of Bill 7 prescribes that municipalities shall assume enforcement responsibility for residential rental maintenance standards (O. Reg. 517/06) of the Residential Tenancies Act on July 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Housing currently enforces residential rental maintenance standards in municipalities that do not have a property standards by-law or a partial by-law that does not address the interior of rental building on an as needed basis; and

WHEREAS downloading this responsibility and enforcement onto municipalities with no attached funding would put additional financial strain on municipal budgets and resources; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) urges the Ministry of Housing to reconsider changes to the Residential Tenancies Act that would require municipalities who do not have a property standards by-law or by-law that does not address the interior of rental buildings to assume enforcement responsibility for residential rental maintenance standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all member municipalities, the Minister of Housing, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, northeastern MPs and MPPs and Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”



MOVED BY: Merrill Bond

SECONDED BY: Carman Kidd

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-04

Municipal Facilities Hydro Exemption

“WHEREAS the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) continues to raise energy costs to the Province of Ontario as a major concern that is negatively affecting residents, small businesses, the industrial sector as well as municipal governments; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario announced that they plan to reduce electricity bills for residential customers as well as some small businesses and farms; and

WHEREAS municipalities also require assistance in reducing the cost of electricity; and

WHEREAS it is becoming increasingly difficult to manage and fund essential services to residents; and

WHEREAS the cost of electricity has become a significant burden to operate municipal facilities in many communities, particularly those with limited energy alternatives; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that all municipal facilities be exempted from hydro charges including delivery, global adjustment, debt retirement, regulatory charges and the Harmonized Sales Tax.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all member municipalities, the Minister of Energy, northeastern MPs and MPPs and Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

FONOM

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MOVED BY: Sue Perras

SECONDED BY: Ron Prefasi

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-05

Municipal Election Requirements – 25 Signatures

“WHEREAS the Ministry of Municipal Affairs has implemented a new requirement under the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 that anyone wishing to run for municipal office must submit the signatures of 15 voters supporting the nomination; and

WHEREAS this new requirement will create a barrier for those wishing to serve their communities by running for Council; and

WHEREAS it has become increasingly difficult to attract candidates to run for municipal office in many rural communities; and

WHEREAS the requirement is also an accessibility concern for potential candidates that have mobility issues; and

WHEREAS we need to have a system in place that encourages people to run for municipal office; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to reconsider requiring anyone wishing to run for municipal office to submit the signatures of 25 voters to support a nomination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all member municipalities, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, northeastern MPs and MPPs and Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”



MOVED BY: Michel Brière

SECONDED BY: Joanne Landry

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-06

Fire Services Infrastructure Funding

“WHEREAS the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, legislates that fire prevention, public education and fire protection services are a mandatory municipal responsibility; and

WHEREAS there are a total of 449 Fire Departments operating in the province comprised of 32 Full-Time Departments, 191 Composite Departments and 226 Volunteer Departments with 11,376 Full-Time Firefighters, 19,347 Volunteer Firefighters and 343 Part-Time Firefighters staffing these departments; and

WHEREAS fire services represent a significant percentage of northern municipalities’ managed capital assets; and

WHEREAS there are currently no funding opportunities available from the provincial or federal governments for the equipment, training, maintenance, operating or capital requirements of local fire departments; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests the provincial government to recognize municipal fire services as critical infrastructure and be eligible for infrastructure funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all member municipalities, the Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, northeastern MPs and MPPs, and Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”



MOVED BY: Morley Forster

SECONDED BY: Veronica Farrell

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-07

Local and Regional Airports Definition in New Building Canada Fund

“WHEREAS many local and regional airports in Ontario are owned and operated by a local municipality with some being operated by a commission, authority or board; and

WHEREAS the New Building Canada Fund provides funding to new construction, additional capacity, rehabilitation, or safety-related improvements to aeronautical and/or non-aeronautical infrastructure for local and regional airports; and

WHEREAS local and regional airports are defined as those having scheduled passenger traffic; and

WHEREAS many local and regional airports located in northern Ontario do not have scheduled passenger traffic but are critical to providing a number of other services such as emergency and medical services, aerial policing, and aerial resource management; and

WHEREAS based on survey results reported through the Northern Ontario Multimodal Transportation Strategy, the majority of local and regional airports are listed as not self-sustaining; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests the Government of Canada review the definition of local and regional airports as it pertains to the New Building Canada Fund and should local and regional airports become eligible under the New Building Canada Fund, those that are not owned or operated by a municipality must require municipal support by way of resolution when applying for financial support; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all member municipalities, the federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, northeastern MPs and MPPs, and Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”



MOVED BY: Martin Credger

SECONDED BY: Mike McArthur

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-08

Provincial Offences Act Fine Collection

“WHEREAS the Province of Ontario transferred the responsibility of the Provincial Offences Act (POA) administration to municipalities in 1997, which included courts and fine collection; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of the Attorney General regulates how municipal partners may collect outstanding fines; and

WHEREAS municipal governments have come increasingly challenged with collecting outstanding fines; and

WHEREAS while the Province of Ontario has taken efforts to improve the ability of municipalities to collect fines, further reforms are needed to improve the system; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests the provincial government to implement regulations that would ensure 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 property owners, introduce changes to the Municipal Act so that inter-municipal agreements are not required to collect fines from other municipalities, and that POA fines are treated as priority lien similar to waste and waste water fees to ensure enforceability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all member municipalities, the Attorney General of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, northeastern MPs and MPPs, and Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”



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MOVED BY: Morley Forster

SECONDED BY: Willy Liebigt

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-09

Railway Rights-of-Way Property Taxation

“WHEREAS railway companies in the Province of Ontario do not pay a proportionate share of municipal property tax as compared to other properties in their class or compared to other municipal tax classes; and

WHEREAS in other provinces and jurisdictions, railway companies remit a more equitable share of taxes to the local tax base; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has not updated the railway rights-of-way since 1998; and

WHEREAS other jurisdictions utilize alternate approaches to railway rights-of-way taxation that more accurately reflect the true assessment and/or cost of maintaining the right-of-way; and

WHEREAS short line rail be exempted to ensure its protection as it is an important part of a sustainable transportation system; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Ministry of Finance implement a new system of municipal taxation for railway rights-of-way that is based on assessed values and tonnage and that any new tax system implemented be reviewed on a regular basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all member municipalities, the Minister of Finance, northeastern MPs and MPPs, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”