

**FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO
MUNICIPALITIES**

2014-2015 RESOLUTIONS



**2014-2015 Resolutions
55th Annual General Meeting
May 8th, 2015
Greater Sudbury, Ontario**

This year, there are 12 policy resolutions for discussion and voting on at the Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.

Double Hatter	2015-01
Four-laning	2015-02
Power Dam Special Payment Program	2015-03
Crown Land	2015-04
Residency Positions	2015-05
Bill 52	2015-06
Protection of Northern Industries	2015-07
Ring of Fire	2015-08
Electricity Rates	2015-09
AMO Policing Modernization Report	2015-10
Town of Hearst Resolution No. 175-15	2015-11
NOSDA Resolutions #2015-2 - #2015-9	2015-12



MOVED BY: Morley Forster

SECONDED BY: Maurice Turgeon

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-01

“WHEREAS the training and certification of professional firefighters is established and mandated by the Province of Ontario under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997; and

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of municipalities to establish fire departments to provide fire protection services to their residents; and

WHEREAS many municipalities depend on volunteer firefighters or a combination of full time and volunteer firefighters in order to provide fire protection; and

WHEREAS the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Constitution prohibits full time firefighters from volunteering as firefighters in another municipality, also known as double hatting; and

WHEREAS the right of individuals to use their free time in service of their community is a fundamental right in a free, open and democratic society; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Province of Ontario amend the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, with respect to salaried firefighters who also work as volunteer firefighters, such that if a person is denied membership in an association of firefighters, is expelled or disciplined by the association or engages in reasonable dissent within the association in connection with this kind of dual role, the association is not permitted to require the employer to refuse to employ the person as a salaried firefighter, terminate his or her employment as a salaried firefighter or refuse to assign the person to fire protection services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Attorney General, the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

CARRIED.



MOVED BY: Lou Turco

SECONDED BY: Will Liebigt

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-02

“WHEREAS the TransCanada highway is a vital transportation link that connects provinces, communities and provincial highways together; and

WHEREAS many portions of this highway are single lane with no paved shoulder; and

WHEREAS this has a significant impact on the safety of travelers and the ability to have a sufficient transportation system that encourages economic growth; and

WHEREAS the province has demonstrated a commitment to work towards expanding major highways to four lanes from border to border to border; and

WHEREAS we recognize that the federal government needs to be a partner to ensure that the TransCanada highway is four-lanes; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Province of Ontario develop a long-term strategy to four-lane across Northern Ontario; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transportation, the Federal Minister of Transport, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

CARRIED.



MOVED BY: Yvan Besner

SECONDED BY: Randi Condie

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-03

“WHEREAS the Province announced in the 2014 Budget that there would be a phase down of \$4.4 million over four years to the Power Dam Special Payments Program; and

WHEREAS this program began in 2001 as a result of the Continued Protection for Property Taxpayers Act, when certain hydro-electric stations and poles and wires became exempted from municipal taxation: and

WHEREAS this Act removed the right and authority of affected municipalities across the Province to levy property tax notices; and

WHEREAS the province replaced the right to tax hydro-electric stations with a compensatory payment, known as the Power Dam Special Payments Program; and

WHEREAS the province agreed not to implement the phase down of the program and committed to including the return of taxation rights back to municipalities as an option; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Province of Ontario return taxation rights of hydro-electric stations to municipalities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Premier of the Province of Ontario, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Minister of Energy, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

CARRIED.



MOVED BY: Brian Bigger

SECONDED BY: Joanne Savage

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-04

“WHEREAS Crown land, which is under the administration and control of the Province, represents approximately 85 percent of Ontario’s land mass; and

WHEREAS Crown lands in Ontario protect natural heritage, supply opportunities for renewable energy and resource based tourism and provide recreational uses for the public; and

WHEREAS the Province must maintain its obligations under policy and legislation which includes considerations of Aboriginal Treaty Rights, environmental concerns and future land uses; and

WHEREAS the utilization of these lands can contribute to the local economy in a number of ways such as agriculture expansion and the development of cottage lots; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) asks the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to work with northerners to ensure that the use of Crown lands is accessible and available for local economic development opportunities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

CARRIED.



MOVED BY: Brian Bigger

SECONDED BY: Glenda Massicotte

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-05

“WHEREAS communities in Northern Ontario continue to face challenges when it comes to providing quality healthcare; and

WHEREAS Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) has contributed significantly to Northern Ontario’s efforts to address physician shortages; and

WHEREAS NOSM has developed a made in the North model of community-engaged medical education while addressing current and future healthcare needs for the North; and

WHEREAS the ratio of NOSM MD graduates to first year residency positions in the North is lower than the provincial average at 1:0.9 compared to 1:1.1; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care ensure that the number of MD graduates of NOSM equals the number of first year residency positions at minimum; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM), the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

CARRIED.

MOVED BY: Roger Sigouin

SECONDED BY: Gilles Audet

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-06

“WHEREAS the Provincial government introduced Bill 52, Protection of Public Participation Act, 2014, also known as anti-SLAPP legislation; and

WHEREAS FONOM supports the intent of the legislation, to protect discussions of public interest important to individuals or community based organizations; and

WHEREAS if the legislation moves forward as it is currently written, it will provide groups the ability to continue to target and threaten industries that our communities depend on; and

WHEREAS it is imperative that a balanced approach to the public’s interest be implemented to protect victims of unfair and untrue attacks that cause economic harm; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) recommends that the Province of Ontario implement the following amendments:

- *Legal action resulting from public participation would need to be reviewed by a judicial officer or other provincially appointed expert, prior to being filed to ensure that no one is forced to defend themselves against a baseless charge that amounts to a SLAPP suit in the first place;*
- *Target the bill specifically to apply to volunteers and small community organizations with annual budgets of less than \$100,000.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, Attorney General, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Minister of Northern Development and Mines and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

CARRIED.



MOVED BY: Roger Sigouin

SECONDED BY: Michel Brière

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-07

“WHEREAS resource industries that operate in Northern Ontario are major sources of economic sustainability and employment; and

WHEREAS these industries, including forestry and mining, are consistently under attack from environmental non-governmental organizations (eNGOs); and

WHEREAS eNGOS, such as Greenpeace, have been known to spread malicious falsehoods to damage the resource economy often while being funded by foreign sources; and

WHEREAS industries in Northern Ontario follow some of the most environmentally sustainable practices in the world; and

WHEREAS other provinces defend and protect industries that are vital economic components to their province; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Province of Ontario adopt a policy that stands behind resource industries and defends their operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Attorney General, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

CARRIED.



MOVED BY: Brian Bigger

SECONDED BY: Brian Koski

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-08

“WHEREAS the Ring of Fire demonstrates a significant opportunity for economic development that would benefit Northern Ontario and the province as a whole; and

WHEREAS uncertainty remains in regards to the current state of the Ring of Fire project; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has committed \$1 billion towards the development of the Ring of Fire; and

WHEREAS a Ring of Fire Infrastructure Development Corporation was developed with limited input from Northerners; and

WHEREAS all parties, including First Nations, municipalities, and the private sector, must be involved throughout the process to ensure that the Ring of Fire is developed responsibly and productively; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Province of Ontario communicate clearly on the current activities that the government is undertaking to move the Ring of Fire forward and include Northerners throughout the process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

CARRIED.



MOVED BY: Dan O'Mara

SECONDED BY: Leslie Fields

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-09

“WHEREAS electricity rates in Ontario continue to increase significantly; and

WHEREAS the province has implemented positive programs such as the Northern Industrial Electricity Rate program to assist the Northern economy; and

WHEREAS further efforts are needed to ensure that Northern Ontarians will be able to afford their electricity bills; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Province of Ontario take immediate action to prevent any further increases to electricity rates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Energy, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

CARRIED.



MOVED BY: Randy McLaren

SECONDED BY: Roger Sigouin

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-10

“WHEREAS the rising costs of policing has become unsustainable in many communities across Northern Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) established a Policing Modernization task force of mayors and police board representatives; and

WHEREAS the task force consulted with experts and reviewed the best academic research available when developing the report; and

WHEREAS recommendations were divided into four themes: partnership, productivity, performance, and personnel; and

WHEREAS there were three priority recommendations:

1. Make changes to the interest arbitration system,
2. Improve the quality of the existing governance and civilian oversight system,
3. Make legislative changes to permit the greater transfer of specific functions to civilians or other security providers where appropriate.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) supports the recommendations outlined in AMO’s Policing Modernization Report and requests that the Province make the appropriate implementations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

CARRIED.

MOVED BY: Roger Sigouin

SECONDED BY: Roland Larabie

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-11

Motion from the Floor – Town of Hearst Resolution No. 175-15

“WHEREAS the forest products sector is the largest industrial sector in Hearst, and

WHEREAS Hearst’s forest products sector supports over 1,000 direct and indirect jobs, and

WHEREAS the forest products sector is Ontario’s second largest industrial sector that has been growing a stronger, greener Ontario for generations; and

WHEREAS Ontario’s renewable natural resource supports 200,000 direct and indirect jobs in over 260 communities; and

WHEREAS all forest product companies operating in Ontario are governed by a world-class forest management regime, the Crown Forest sustainability Act (CFSA) with its obligatory environmental standards and under this stringent regime, all forest products made in Ontario are sustainable; and

WHEREAS the objective of sustainable forest management is to maintain or to improve the long-term health of forest ecosystems, so that the generations of today and tomorrow can enjoy the environmental, economic and social benefits of such ecosystems; and

WHEREAS in Ontario less than 0.5% of the forest in the Boreal region is harvested annually and that, in a sustainable manner, and 44.2% of the forest in the Boreal is unavailable for harvest; and

WHEREAS organized activist campaigns targeted at forest products sourced from Canada’s Boreal forest are negatively impacting local economies and threatening the future livelihoods of hardworking Ontario citizens; and

WHEREAS the Town of Hearst supports Quebec’s Boreal Forest Alliance’s objective to inform Greenpeace and other like organizations of the negative effects of their actions and activist campaigns; and



BE IT RESOLVED THAT Greenpeace and other like organizations be made aware and held accountable for the impacts of their campaigns that cost Ontario forest companies their customers, their reputations and their viability as well as the damaging consequences to forest company workers and their families; and

BE IT FURHTER RESOLVED THAT Greenpeace and other like organizations cease and desist all campaigns targeting consumers of renewable forest products sustainably harvested from Ontario's Boreal Forest region."

CARRIED.



MOVED BY: Morley Forster

SECONDED BY: Hector Lavigne

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-12

“WHEREAS the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) requested that the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) support the resolutions passed at their Annual General Meeting on April 17, 2015 in Thunder Bay; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) supports resolutions #2015-2 through to and including #2015-9 from the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) Annual General Meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association, the Minister of Community and Social Services, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

CARRIED.