

# ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS 2014-2015 AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Friday, May 8, 2015

Greater Sudbury, Ontario

### FONOM ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

### AGENDA

Friday, May 8, 2015, 8:00 am

Main Ballroom, Holiday Inn Hotel 1696 Regent Street Greater Sudbury, ON

- 1. Approval of / Additions to Agenda
- 2. Introduction of Executive
- 3. President's Report
- 4. Financial Report (resolution required)
- 5. Approval of Minutes of Meeting Friday, May 9, 2014 (resolution required)
- 6. Resolutions
- 7. Adjourn

### **FONOM BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT  Mayor Alan Spacek  Town of Kapuskasing  88 Riverside Drive  Kapuskasing, ON P5N 1B3  Email: alan.spacek@kapuskasing.ca	TELEPHONE Mun Tel Mun Fax	337-4250 335-5103	REPRESENTING District of Cochrane
PAST PRESIDENT Councillor S. Mac Bain City of North Bay PO Box 360 200 McIntyre St. E. North Bay, ON P1B 8H8 Email: mac.bain@cityofnorthbay.ca	Mun Tel Mun Fax	474-0400 495-4353	City of North Bay
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT Councillor Danny Whalen City of Temiskaming Shores 325 Farr Drive, Box 2050 Haileybury, ON P0J 1C0 Email: <a href="mailto:dwhalen@temiskamingshores.ca">dwhalen@temiskamingshores.ca</a>	Mun Tel Mun Fax	672-3363 672-3200	District of Timiskaming
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  Mayor Brian Bigger City of Greater Sudbury PO Box 5000, Stn A 200 Brady Street Sudbury, ON P3A 5P3 Email: mayor@greatersudbury.ca	Mun Tel Mun Fax	674-4455 Ext. 2514 673-3096	City of Greater Sudbury
DIRECTORS (in alphabetical order by surname) Mayor Steven Black City of Timmins 220 Algonquin Blvd. East Timmins, ON P1B 8H8 Email: mayor@timmins.ca	Mun Tel Mun Fax	360-2611 360-2690	City of Timmins
Reeve Austin Hunt Billings Township Box 34 Kagawong, ON P0P 1J0 Email: billingsadmin@billingstwp.ca	Mun Tel Mun Fax	282-2611 282-3199	District of Manitoulin

DIRECTORS (in alphabetical order by surname) Councillor Terry Kelly Municipality of East Ferris 390 Highway 94 Corbeil, ON P0H 1K0 Email: municipality@eastferris.ca	Mun Tel Mun Fax	752-2740 752-2452	District of Nipissing
Mayor Hector Lavigne Municipality of Callander PO Box 100 280 Main Street North Callander, ON P0H 1H0 Email: mayor@callander.ca	Mun Tel Mun Fax	752-1410 752-3116	District of Parry Sound
Mayor Christian Provenzano City of Sault Ste. Marie PO Box 580 99 Foster Drive Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 5N1 Email: mayor.provenzano@cityssm.on.ca	Mun Tel Mun Fax	759-5344 541-7171	City of Sault Ste. Marie
Mayor Paul Schoppmann Municipality of StCharles Box 70, 2 King St. E. StCharles, ON P0M 2W0 Email: mayor@stcharlesontario.ca	Mun Tel Mun Fax	867-2032 Ext 210 867-5789	District of Sudbury
Mayor Lynn Watson Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Add'l Box 10, 208 Church St Echo Bay, ON P0S 1C0 Email: <a href="mailto:twpmacd@onlink.net">twpmacd@onlink.net</a>	Mun Tel Mun Fax	248-2441 248-3091	District of Algoma
CORPORATE RESOURCE Barbara Major 88 Riverside Drive Kapuskasing, ON P5N 1B3 Email: Barbara.Major@kapuskasing.ca	Bus Tel Bus Fax	337-4254 337-1741	
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER Alison Stanley 88 Riverside Drive Kapuskasing, ON P5N 1B3 Email: fonom.info@gmail.com	Bus Tel Bus Fax	337-4454 337-1741	

### FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES

### FINANCIAL REPORT 2014-2015 (Unaudited)

		Actual	Budget		Actual		Proposed
		2013-14	2014-15		2014-15		2015-16
REVENUES							
Membership	\$	35,365	\$ 33,000	\$	33,887	\$	33,000
MNDM		50,000	50,000		50,000		50,000
Conference Revenue		77,424	45,000		70,449		70,000
Conference Sponsors		4,226	5,000		6,621		5,000
Local Initiative (LIC)		31,250	-		-		-
NOHFC (Intern)		12,693	27,500		32,010		14,300
Other Revenue		110,414	20,000		72,371		30,000
Total Revenues	\$	321,372	\$ 180,500	\$	265,338	\$	202,300
		-					
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>							
Board & AMO Meetings		79,620	75,000		44,574		65,000
General &							
Administration Expense		7,131	10,000		12,205		10,000
Consulting Fees		3,161	10,000		-		10,000
NOHFC Intern wages &		16.001	00.550		0.5 = 0.5		
benefits		16,991	39,660		36,500		39,250
NOHFC Intern Travel		-	2,500		-		10,000
Directors' Honorarium		3,706	3,000		3,000		3,000
Conference Expenses		15,850	1,000		17,094		17,000
ONTC & Parks Project		17,258	-		241		-
Forestry Project		80,774	10,000		40,972		30,000
Strategic Plan		-	15,000		-		-
Total Expenditures	\$	224,491	\$ 166,160	\$	154,587	\$	184,250
Year End Surplus/Deficit		96,882	14,340		110,751		18,050
Prior Year Surplus		19,701	116,583		116,583		227,334
End of Year	\$	116,583	\$ 130,923	\$	227,334	\$	245,384
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<sup>\*\*</sup>Forwarded to Collins Barrow for audit purposes and will be distributed to FONOM members upon completion.

# FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES MINUTES

### 54th Annual Conference and Business Meeting May 7, 8 & 9, 2014 Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2014

1:00 pm	Official Opening Al Spacek, President, FONOM Lynn Buckham, Regional Director, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Debbie Amaroso, Mayor, City of Sault Ste. Marie
1:30 pm	<b>Team Jacobs</b> , 2014 Olympic Curling Gold Medalists Sponsored by Tulloch Engineering
2:30 pm	Refreshment Break – Sponsored by TransCanada
3:00 pm	Overview of Sault Ste. Marie's Smart Energy Strategy Tom Vair, Executive Director, Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre
4:00 pm	Buried Municipal Infrastructure: An Update on Current Legislation Ron Nelson, Northern Ontario Member Recruitment Specialist, Ontario One Call
5:00 pm	Welcome Reception – Sponsored by Northern Waterworks
7:00 pm	Tradeshow Adjourns
	THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2014
7:30 am	Breakfast and Registration continues – Sponsored by Ontario Clean Water Agency
8:30 am	Update from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Russ Powers, <i>President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario</i>
9:00 am	Strategies to Address Homelessness in Northern Ontario Tanya Gulliver-Garcia, <i>Project coordinator, Canadian Homelessness Research Network</i> Carol Kauppi, Director, <i>Northern Research Initiative on Poverty, Laurentian University</i>
10:00 am	Strenthening Regional Partnerships: Highlights from the Northeast Community Network Stephanie Boucher, Regional Coordinator, Northeast Community Network
10:45 am	Refreshment Break – Sponsored by Algoma District Municipal Association
11:15 am	Planning for the Future: Putting your Asset Management Plan into Action Craig Binning, Partner, Hemson Consulting Ltd.
12:00 pm	Lunch – Sponsored by WoodWORKS!

1:00 pm	Age Friendly Community Planning Mary McGeown, Knowledge Translation Lead, Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Health, Lakehead University Stephanie Pagnucco, Community Engagement Coordinator, City of Sault Ste. Marie
2:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions
	Succession Planning for Municipalities Jim Pine, Chair, Leaders' Roundtable, Leadership Excellence Advancement Pilot Project
	Making the Most of Alternative Revnue Tools: How Municipalities Can Benefit Kathy Horgan, Senior Municipal Finance Advisor, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Northern Office
	New Provincial Policy Statement: Considerations for Northern Ontario Charlsey White, Planner, Ministry Municipal Affairs and Housing, Northern Region
3:00 pm	Refreshment Break – Sponsored by Tourism Northern Ontario
3:30 pm	Concurrent Sessions
	A Practical Overview of Legal Considerations for Municipal Government Ben Pascuzzi, LL.B, <i>Pascuzzi &amp; Berlingieri LLP</i>
	Northern Ontario's Forest Products and Wood Manufacturing Sectors: A Look to the Future
	Marianne Berube, Executive Director, WoodWORKS! Ontario Paul Mingay, Wood Promotion Specialist, Ministry of Natural Resources
	Workplace Safety and Accident Prevention: A Municipal Perspective Sandra Miller, Vice President of Government Relations, Workplace Safety and Prevention Services
4:30 pm	Sessions Adjourn
6:00 pm	Pre-Banquet Reception – Sponsored by the City of Greater Sudbury, 2015 Conference Host
6:30 pm	Banquet and Program – Sponsored by TransCanada Executive Award presented to Stephen Butland, City of Sault Ste. Marie
9:00 pm	Entertainment
10:00 pm	Adjourn
	FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2014
7:30 am	Full Breakfast – Sponsored by The Miller Group
8:00 am	Alan Spacek, President, FONOM FONOM Annual Business Meeting

### Introduction of FONOM Board of Directors

President's Report

Resolution: That the agenda be accepted as presented. L. Turco/A. Chidley CARRIED.

Resolution: That the FONOM Financial Report for the year ending March 31,

2014 be accepted as presented.

A. Hunt/M. Doody CARRIED.

Resolution: That the minutes of the Annual Meeting in Sault Ste. Marie on May

10, 2013 be accepted as presented.

L. Watson/A. Byham CARRIED.

### Resolutions # 2017-01 to 2014-17

Resolution No/Year	Resolution Name	Therefore Be It Resolved That	Outcome
2014-01	Membership Fee Increase	"the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) recommends a membership fee increase of five per cent with every new term of council which would begin in 2015; and  BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all member municipalities."	Carried.
2014-02	Correspondence Delivery	"the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) recommends that correspondence to member municipalities will be done by email; and  BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT should a member municipality be unable to communicate by email, regular mail would be the alternative; and  BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to all member municipalities."	Carried
2014-03	Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund	"the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Government of Ontario implement a per capita formula for the distribution of funding for the Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund; and  BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Rural Affairs, the Association of	Carried.

		Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties."	
2014-04	Provincial Parks	"the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests the Ministry of Natural Resources to assume financial liability of Provincial parks; and	Carried.
		BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Minister of Natural Resources, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties."	
2014-05	Municipal Property Assessment Corporation	"the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Government of Ontario take a more aggressive position in defending the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation's (MPAC) assessments on industrial properties; and	Carried.
		BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT once an assessment has been made by MPAC it should not be subject to appeal; and	
		BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, the Minister of Finance, Attorney General, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties."	
2014-06	Proposed OPP Billing Model	"the property owners in the unincorporated areas be required to pay their fair share for the noted services; and	Carried.
		BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario take back the responsibility for policing small municipalities with a population of 5,000 or less; and	
		BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties."	
2014-07	Non-Urgent Patient Transfers	"the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Province implement the non-urgent patient transfer program across the north based on the success of the pilot projects; and	Carried.
		BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA), and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties."	

2014-08	Spring Bear Hunt	"the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests the Province to expand the pilot project across the north and develop an approach that would address other areas of concern beyond public safety; and	Carried.
		BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Minister of Natural Resources, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties."	
2014-09	Connecting Link	"the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests the Province to assume portions of the Connecting Link system; and  BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, and the	Carried.
2014-10	Energy Costs	"the Province make a commitment to address the continuous increases to energy costs and implement a competitive energy rate; and  BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province investigate alternatives to energy accessibility that would result in lower costs of providing electricity in Ontario; and  BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this	Carried.
2014-11	Gas Prices	resolution be sent to the Minister of Energy, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties."  "the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that Ontario Energy Board (OEB) be mandated to monitor the price of fuel across Ontario to reduce unfair regional price differences and volatility; and	Carried
		BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Minister of Energy, Minister of Finance, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Competition Bureau of Canada, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties."	
2014-12	Re-Classification of Highways	"the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Ministry of Transportation undertake an evaluation of all Provincial highways in an effort to ensure adequate road maintenance; and  BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this	Carried.

		resolution be sent to the Minister of	
		Transportation and the Leaders of the	
		Opposition Parties."	
2014-13	Joint and Several Liability	"the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) supports a combined model of the Saskatchewan Model and the Multiplier Model as recommended by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) as this places reasonable limits on the damages that may be recovered from a municipality under limited circumstances; and	Carried.
		BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Attorney General, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties."	
2014-14	Bill 83 – Protection from Public Participation Act, 2014	"the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Government of Ontario reconsider moving forward with Bill 83 – Protection from Public Participation Act, 2014; and	Carried.
		BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Premier, the Attorney General, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties."	
2014-15	Repaving Provincial Highway Shoulders	"the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the government repave shoulders on provincial highways when there is a significant undertaking to repave or resurface that portion; and	Carried.
		BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Minister of Transportation, Minister of Infrastructure, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, and Leaders of the Opposition Parties."	
2015-16	Long-Term Social and Affordable Housing	"the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Federal government work in partnership with the Provinces and Territories towards long- term social and affordable housing for our most vulnerable residents; and	Carried.
		BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the federal Minister of Employment and Social Development, Minister of Community and Social Services, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Leaders of the Opposition Parties."	
2015-17	Energy East Pipeline	"the Federation of Northern Ontario	Carried.

Municipalities (FONOM) supports the development of the Energy East Pipeline; and	
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Minister of Energy, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties."	

# Update from NOMA Ron Nelson, Past President, NOMA 10:00 am Update from the Northern Policy Institute Charles Cirtwill, President and CEO, Northern Policy Institute Building Capacity for Northern Ontario Agriculture Errol Caldwell, Research Director, Algoma Rural Agri-Innovation Network 11:00 am Presentation of Long Standing Service Awards Lunch – Sponsored by Canadian Energy Pipeline Association

Adjourn

## FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES

### 2014-2015 Resolutions 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Business Meeting May 6, 7 & 8, 2015 Greater Sudbury, 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.

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

### **DOUBLE HATTER**

"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** is 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."

### **FOUR-LANING STRATEGY**

"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; 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."

### POWER DAM SPECIAL PAYMENT PROGRAM

"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."

### **CROWN LAND**

"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."

### **RESIDENCY POSITIONS**

"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."

### **BILL 52, PROTECTION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACT, 2014**

"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."

### PROTECTION OF NORTHERN INDUSTRIES

"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."

### RING OF FIRE

"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."

### **ELECTRICITY RATES**

"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."