

# **Report Card**

*2014 Provincial Election - Present*

Presented to the Government of Ontario  
August 2017

★★★★★ Solution implemented

★★★★ Significant action /near completion

★★★ On the right track/ more work to do

★★ Limited action

★ No apparent action

MINISTRY/ISSUE	PRESENTATIONS/ CORRESPONDENCE	COMMENTS	RATING
<b>Ministry of Environment &amp; Climate Change</b>			
<b><u>Climate Change Action Plan/Cap and Trade</u></b> FONOM has sought confirmation that the Climate Change Action Plan will not cause undue financial burdens on municipalities and industry. Revenues generated by a cap and trade system should be made accessible to municipalities to help fund infrastructure projects.	AMO Conference 2016 Letters dated Jun. 21, 2016 & Oct. 21, 2016	Climate Change Action Plan is causing financial hardship through increases in natural gas prices and fuel prices. While there have been investments to help households and businesses such as home energy retrofits, electric vehicle incentives and public transit, there is no evidence of revenues going directly to municipalities to help fund infrastructure projects.	★

**Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry**

**Forestry Industry**

Requesting the Provincial Government to commit to protecting and defending the forest industry, increase access to wood fibre, and implement innovative funding programs that will assist in the development of modernization projects.

Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM) - Requested an extensions of the current Section 55 Rules in Regulation for another five years, the removal of ESA language within the revisions to the FMPM and to immediately establish a stakeholder working group.

AMO Conference 2014  
 AMO Conference 2015  
 AMO Conference 2016  
 OGRA/ROMA Conference 2016  
 ROMA Conference 2017  
 Letters dated May 4, 2016,  
 May 13, 2016, Jan. 25, 2017 &  
 Apr. 19, 2017  
 Meetings May 13, 2016 & Nov.  
 23, 2016

Province has made public statements defending the standards that forestry companies operate under in Ontario, however, further action must be taken.

The Province's efforts to consult with municipalities has been disingenuous and does not appear to be interested in ensuring a strong and vibrant forest sector.

★★

★

**Spring Bear Hunt/Bear Management**

A holistic approach to addressing nuisance bears would include efforts to address residents across the north equally. Extend and expansion of pilot project permanently.

AMO Conference 2014  
 OGRA/ROMA Conference 2016  
 ROMA Conference 2017  
 Letters dated Nov. 2, 2015 &  
 Aug. 7, 2015

Province extended and expanded pilot project to 2020 and included all Wildlife Management Units that currently have a fall hunt and included non-resident hunters. While we are pleased with this decision, better communication and consultation with stakeholders is needed to ensure proper bear management going forward.

★★★

<p><b><u>Opportunities for Crown Land/Northern Agriculture</u></b>  FONOM has asked the Province to take necessary steps to allow for the sale of parcels of Crown land to be utilized for local economic development initiatives. Implement pilot projects in the Northeast and Northwest that would allow Crown land to be developed for agricultural purposes.</p>	<p>AMO Conference 2014  OGRA/ROMA Conference 2015  OGRA/ROMA Conference 2016  Letter dated Nov. 4, 2014</p>	<p>OMAFRA developing beef farming pilot projects in Northern Ontario.</p>	<p>★★</p>
<b>Ministry of Energy</b>			
<p><b><u>Transmission Capacity</u></b>  Investments into energy transmission capacity to allow for many economic and power generation opportunities in Northern Ontario that have not been able to progress as a result of a lack of transmission capacity.</p>	<p>AMO Conference 2014  OGRA/ROMA Conference 2015</p>	<p>Two transmission projects underway in Northwestern Ontario (East-West Tie Expansion &amp; Northwest Bulk Transmission Line). More work needs to be done, particularly in the Northwest to ensure mines that are coming online have the transmission capacity required.</p>	<p>★★</p>
<p><b><u>Electricity Costs</u></b>  Address the continuous increases to energy costs. Lower distribution costs for users and expand programs such as NIER and ICI for industries operating in Northern Ontario.</p>	<p>AMO Conference 2014  AMO Conference 2015  AMO Conference 2016  OGRA/ROMA Conference 2015  ROMA Conference 2017</p>	<p>Costs continue to be unaffordable. Province announced reducing electricity costs for residential, small businesses and farms, with additional supports for rural</p>	<p>★★</p>

		ratepayers and an expansion of the Industrial Conservation Initiative. While NIER was made permanent, costs for municipalities has not decreased.	
<p><b><u>Fuel Price Regulation</u></b>  OEB to be directed to implement some form of price regulation to address volatile and unfair regional price differences.</p>	<p>AMO Conference 2014  AMO Conference 2016  OGRA/ROMA Conference 2015</p>	<p>Province will not implement any form of price regulation on fuel. Prices have increased as a result of Cap and Trade system.</p>	★
<p><b><u>Natural Gas Expansion</u></b>  Investment and greater flexibility for gas utilities needs to be implemented so that all residents have the same opportunity to access alternative heating options.</p>	<p>AMO Conference 2014  OGRA/ROMA Conference 2015  Letter dated May 27, 2016</p>	<p>While the Province announced a \$100 million grant program to support natural gas expansion, this amount will only be a drop in the bucket and leave communities competing against each other on expansion projects.</p>	★★
<p><b><u>Energy Sector Coordination</u></b>  Efforts need be undertaken to improve the coordination and communication among provincial energy stakeholders.</p>	<p>AMO Conference 2015  (numerous letters related to FIT5, LRPII, NUG Framework Assessment, Waterpower Project Eligibility, Cochrane Power)</p>	<p>No apparent progress.</p>	★

<b>Ministry of Health &amp; Long Term Care</b>			
<p><b><u>Non-Urgent Patient Transfers</u></b>  FONOM has advocated for the expansion of non-urgent patient transfer pilot projects across the North and to be made permanent. Province to take over the responsibility of funding non-urgent patient transfers in the short-term and long-term. Make an exemption to the Ambulance Act that would allow funding for non-ambulatory services in Northern Ontario.</p>	<p>AMO Conference 2014  AMO Conference 2016  OGRA/ROMA Conference 2016</p>	<p>Implementation of a non-urgent patient transfer system is being phased in. This has been brought to the attention of the Ministry for nearly a decade. While proposed changes to the Ambulance Act have been announced, it does not include the exemption requested.</p>	<p>★★</p>
<p><b><u>Northern Ontario School of Medicine</u></b>  Increase the number of residency positions within the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.</p> <p>Increase base funding for NOSM to ensure its long term sustainability and to make the necessary changes that would allow NOSM to be eligible for the Northern Ontario Grant.</p>	<p>AMO Conference 2015  AMO Conference 2016  OGRA/ROMA Conference 2015  Letter dated Jul. 24, 2015</p>	<p>Number of residency positions was increased.</p> <p>Discussions between MOHLTC and NOSM regarding base funding are ongoing but looking positive.</p>	<p>★★★★★</p> <p>★★</p>

<b>Ministry of Infrastructure</b>			
<p><b><u>Infrastructure Funding (Ontario Communities Infrastructure Fund/Moving Ontario Forward – Outside the GTHA)</u></b> Implementation of a per capita formula for sustainable funding that has been communicated by the majority of municipalities. Expand existing programs for municipal infrastructure.</p>	<p>AMO Conference 2014 AMO Conference 2015 AMO Conference 2016 Submission dated Sept. 2015</p>	<p>Implementation of combination of per capita funding and application based. Expansion of Ontario Communities Infrastructure Fund from \$100 million to \$300 million, however greater flexibility is needed as well as the inclusion of an allowance for communities in Northern Ontario. Increase in Connecting Links funding.</p>	<p>★★★</p>
<b>Ministry of Transportation</b>			
<p><b><u>Four-Laning TransCanada Highway</u></b> Province develop a long-term transportation strategy to four lane the TransCanada highway.</p>	<p>OGRA/ROMA Conference 2015 OGRA/ROMA Conference 2016</p>	<p>While there is a Northern Ontario Multi-modal Transportation Strategy being undertaken and some sections of Highway 11 and 17 been expanded, there is still no long-term plan to four lane the TransCanada Highways.</p>	<p>★</p>
<p><b><u>Winter Highway Evaluation</u></b> Undertake an evaluation of all Provincial highways in an effort to ensure adequate road maintenance.</p>	<p>AMO Conference 2014 OGRA/ROMA Conference 2015</p>	<p>Province released the Winter Highway Maintenance Action Plan for the 2015-2016 winter and beyond. Province has provided funding for more equipment. However, more work needs to be done as there are examples after</p>	<p>★★</p>

		examples of snow covered highways that have not been cleared in a timely fashion.	
<p><b><u>Paved Shoulders</u></b> Invest in paved shoulders and passing lanes to enhance motorist and cyclist safety.</p>	AMO Conference 2014	Province announced \$25 million over 3 years towards cycling infrastructure which includes paved shoulders. Paved shoulders should be implemented whenever the Province does highway work. Most of the paved shoulder work appears to be in southern Ontario.	★★
<p><b><u>Connecting Links</u></b> Province to assume liability of Connecting Links.</p>	AMO Conference 2014	Province doubled Connecting Links funding from \$15 million a year to \$30 million a year by 2018-2019. While this is a welcomed increase to the funding, it is not nearly enough funding to address 352 kilometres of connecting links, with 70 bridges within 77 communities. Municipalities continue to be burdened by the costs associated with maintaining Connecting Links.	★★★



<p><b><u>Inter-Community Bus Modernization</u></b>  Ministry of Transportation to ensure that any regulatory changes will not negatively impact public bus transportation in Northeastern Ontario.</p>	<p>AMO Conference 2016</p>	<p>While the Province underwent consultations on proposed changes, municipalities are awaiting further communication from the province on next steps.</p>	<p>★★</p>
<p><b>Ministry of Finance</b></p>			
<p><b><u>Provincial Land Tax/Unorganized Territories</u></b>  Address tax fairness between organized and unorganized territories in Northern Ontario.</p>	<p>AMO Conference 2014  OGRA/ROMA Conference 2015  ROMA Conference 2017  Letter dated Feb. 5, 2015</p>	<p>Province undertook a review and increased the Provincial Land Tax. There is still room to increase it to ensure equity between organized and unorganized.</p>	<p>★★</p>
<p><b><u>Railway Rights-of-Way Property Taxation</u></b>  FONOM along with the broader municipal sector has been requesting the Province to review the current approach of municipal taxation for railway rights-of-way and implement a system that is based on assessed value and tonnage.</p>	<p>ROMA Conference 2017</p>	<p>While the Province did announce changes in Budget 2017, they did not take the approach being requested nor will the changes have any significant impact on Northern Ontario. There was no exemption for short line rail as was requested.</p>	<p>★★</p>

<p><b><u>Power Dam Special Payment Program</u></b> Province immediately halt the decision to cut the funding and consult with municipalities.</p>	<p>AMO Conference 2014 Letters dated Oct. 23, 2014 &amp; Jun. 4, 2015</p>	<p>Province halted the decision to move forward.</p>	<p>★★★★★</p>
<p><b><u>Municipal Property Assessment Corporation</u></b> FONOM believes that once an assessment is made, it should not be subject to appeal. A more aggressive position should be taken by the Government of Ontario to defend MPAC assessments on industrial properties.</p>	<p>AMO Conference 2014 OGRA/ROMA 2016</p>	<p>MPAC undertook consultation with communities and industry. However, lack of confidence in their ability to defend their own assessments remains.</p>	<p>★★</p>
<p><b>Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services</b></p>			
<p><b><u>Policing Costs and Modernization</u></b> Address the unsustainable increases in policing costs and implement the priority recommendations outlined in AMO's Policing Modernization Report during the review of the Police Services Act.</p>	<p>AMO Conference 2014 AMO Conference 2016</p>	<p>Review ongoing. Legislation expected in the fall.</p>	<p>★</p>
<p><b>Ministry of Northern Development and Mines</b></p>			
<p><b><u>Ring of Fire</u></b> Government provide greater communication of details on timelines</p>	<p>AMO Conference 2014 OGRA/ROMA Conference 2015 OGRA/ROMA Conference 2016</p>	<p>Seeking continued updates on Ring of Fire developments. Province funded a transportation study in</p>	<p>★★</p>

<p>and actions. Updates on progress of development.</p>	<p>Letter dated Sept. 3, 2014</p>	<p>partnership with federal government and led by local First Nations. Study produced inconclusive results. Work is ongoing.</p>	
<p><b><u>Ontario Northland Transportation Commission</u></b>  FONOM requests that the province work towards ensuring that Ontario Northland has the resources needed to provide reliable and sustainable transportation options for Northern Ontario.</p>	<p>AMO Conference 2014  ROMA Conference 2017</p>	<p>While we are pleased that the ONTC remains in public hands, there is still work to be done to ensure its long-term sustainability. Metrolinx in southern Ontario is heavily subsidized yet Ontario Northland must be self-sustaining.</p>	<p>★★</p>
<p><b>Ministry of Community and Social Services</b></p>			
<p><b><u>DSSAB Review</u></b>  The District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) Act was created in 1998 and provides the governance framework and delivery of social services in Northern Ontario. However, there have been growing concerns from DSSABs around governance issues such as levy apportionment. Until now, the Province has left DSSABs to solve the issues on their own but given that the Province created the framework in which DSSABs must operate within, they must play a role in conflict resolution.</p>	<p>Teleconference with MCSS on Mar. 6, 2017 &amp; Jul. 21, 2017  Meeting with Premier Wynne during FONOM Conference</p>	<p>While the Ministry of Community and Social Services has thoroughly planned their engagement and consultation process with municipalities and DSSABs there is a great deal of work to do to address the situation.</p>	<p>★★</p>

