

**Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities
2023-2024 Resolutions
62nd Annual General Meeting
May 10, 2023
Parry Sound, Ontario**

1. School Board Elections
2. Bail Reform
3. Virtual Health Care Challenge in Northern Ontario

School Board Elections

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario, municipalities are responsible to conduct the election process on behalf of the school boards;

WHEREAS an extensive number of resources, time and management to advertise, coordinate and complete these trustee elections is placed on the municipality, and

WHEREAS municipalities do not receive any compensation or reimbursement for the use of orchestration of the school board trustee elections.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests the Government of Ontario make school boards responsible for conducting their own trustee election or that the school boards fully compensate municipalities for overseeing such trustee elections;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Steven Lecce, Minister of Education, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs, MPPs, Leaders of the Opposition and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Bail Reform

WHEREAS there are continuing to be more vulnerable persons being affected by the issue of Homelessness, Mental Health, and Addictions in the communities of Northern Ontario

WHEREAS the cost of Policing and Emergency Services in Northern Communities is harming a community's ability to support the Homelessness, Mental Health, and Addictions issue being seen on our street

WHEREAS a small percentage of those affected by the issue of Homelessness, Mental Health, and Addictions in the communities of Northern Ontario are committing crimes

WHEREAS those committing crimes are not housed in the correctional system, therefore, remain in our communities, often those that do require treatment for their Mental Health or Addiction issue receive none.

WHEREAS some committing crimes become violent, but are released back into the community, due to the negative impacts of Federal Bill C75

WHEREAS the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) believes that more must be done by the Federal Government on Bail Reform

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests the Federal Government make these Legislative changes

The creation of a Designation of a Chronic Persistent Offender

The court to allow community impact statements on bail and at bail hearings

The Court to create a reverse onus in bail for all firearms offences

That that all bail-related gun charges go to the Superior Court for bail release

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister, Federal Justice Minister, Premier of Ontario, The Attorney General, the Solicitor General, Minister of Infrastructure, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Northeastern MPs and MPPs, Leaders of the Opposition, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Virtual Health Care Challenge in Northern Ontario

WHEREAS on December 1, 2022, the Ministry of Health implemented an 80% reduction in virtual physician fees;

WHEREAS the reason for this reduction is due to the shortage of family doctors in Ontario, which disproportionately affects the north with many small communities without one at all;

WHEREAS many virtual walk-in clinics had a doctor that provided an assessment virtually under the supervision of a Registered Nurse;

WHEREAS these clinics can order routine screening tests, renew prescriptions, and provide care for such things as sore throats and diabetes maintenance. Those needing more serious care are referred to the Emergency Room at the local hospital.

WHEREAS the Emergency Departments at most northern hospitals are currently overloaded due to staffing shortages, attrition, and/or illness.

WHEREAS, these virtual clinics reduce stress and increase safety for patients with minor complaints or needing prescription renewals and prevent the need to attend the Emergency Room where long waits are likely;

WHEREAS, Northern Ontario communities are geographically widespread and often isolated with an aging population. Long drives to a centre with a doctor are often difficult, and, in many cases, a phone conversation or a virtual consultation with a doctor would work and reduce stress and safety.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) ask the Ministry of Health to renegotiate with the Ontario Medical Association to increase fees paid to doctors for virtual visits with the patient from Northern and Remote underserved areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of the resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Health, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Northeastern MPs and MPPs, Leaders of the Opposition, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.