

MOVED BY: Lynda Carleton

SECONDED BY: Bernadette Kerr

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01

**Aerodrome**

WHEREAS some proponents of water aerodromes claim federal jurisdiction to bypass provincial and municipal authorities and build massive docks and boathouses under the guise of the Aeronautics Act;

AND WHEREAS Transport Canada does not require proponents of water aerodromes to follow the same registration and certification procedures as land aerodromes;

AND WHEREAS Transport Canada's current regulations for water aerodromes fail to state that mixed-use docks and structures are not permitted;

AND WHEREAS Transport Canada does not require a proponent to be transparent with local authorities about their intentions or submit a building permit and final construction plans;

AND WHEREAS Transport Canada does not require a proponent to provide the municipality with a copy of the water aerodrome registration or certification documents;

AND WHEREAS Registration and certification of water aerodromes are done without environmental impact assessments from provincial and municipal authorities;

AND WHEREAS Registration and certification of water aerodromes are done without safety assessments from local authorities;

AND WHEREAS Transport Canada's loopholes in the regulations lead to lengthy court battles paid by provincial and municipal jurisdictions.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities supports efforts to raise awareness about the loopholes in current regulations regarding water aerodromes that allow proponents to build massive docks and boathouses without municipal consultation, approval, or adherence to bylaws and regulations.

AND FURTHERMORE, The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities endorses calls on Transport Canada to:

- Amend current legislation regarding water aerodromes to require mandatory consultation and transparency with provincial and municipal authorities prior to construction.

AND FURTHERMORE, the Council of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities urges all mentioned in this resolution to support petition e4364 to the Minister of Transport, Pablo Rodriguez [Petition e-4364 - Petitions](https://ourcommons.ca/petitions/e-4364) (ourcommons.ca)

AND FURTHERMORE, be it resolved that this resolution be forwarded to Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO).

MOVED BY: Michelle Lahaye

SECONDED BY: Tom Lundy

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-02

**Physician Recruitment**

WHEREAS that the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) recognized the urgent need for physicians in Northern Ontario as it is experiencing a shortage of trained physicians and specialist physicians;

AND WHEREAS life expectancy of Northern residents is more than two years lower than the Ontario average, and that mental health and addictions are at a 4X higher rate;

AND WHEREAS one in eight Northern residents does not have access to a family doctor and many must travel long distances to access health-care services representing the failure of health care in Northern Ontario;

AND WHEREAS communities in Northern Ontario require access to equitable health care, especially underserved rural, Indigenous, and Francophone communities;

AND WHEREAS Northern School of Medicine (NOSM) University's current base funding rates have not been increased sufficiently to accommodate growth and expansion;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT with the announcement of unprecedented medical expansion for NOSM University's medical programs, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities strongly requests that the Provincial government grant NOSM University's request for a permanent increase in annual base funding of \$4.0 million before the end of this fiscal year so it can continue to deliver on the mandate that was originally established by the Conservative Government in response to the needs of Northern municipalities.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this motion be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier Sylvia Jones, Minister of Colleges and Universities Jill Dunlop, MPPs Greg Rickford, Vic Fedeli, George Pirie, Ross Romano, Kevin Holland, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Northern Ontario School of Medicine University, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, Northern Ontario Academic Medicine Association and the leaders of the opposition parties of Ontario".

MOVED BY: Sally Hagan

SECONDED BY: Roger Sigouin

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-03

**Nurse Recruitment**

WHEREAS, in 2020, Ontario had the lowest nurse-per-capita ratio in Canada, with 665 registered nurses (RNs) for every 100,000 people;

AND WHEREAS, Ontario would require 22,003 more working RNs just to reach the national average;

AND WHEREAS, the nursing shortage in Ontario is well documented and had reached crisis proportions even before the COVID-19 pandemic;

AND WHEREAS, the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table's recent report Burnout in Hospital Based Healthcare Workers during COVID-19 says that more than 60 per cent of health-care workers surveyed in multiple Canadian studies have experienced severe emotional exhaustion;

AND WHEREAS, Ontario nurses are leaving the workforce in droves because of retirement, burnout, change of occupations, and more attractive opportunities in the United States and elsewhere;

AND WHEREAS, The South Bruce Grey Health Centre has stated they do not have enough staff to continue to operate at their current level of service and announced the closure of the emergency department at the Walkerton Hospital from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. effective December 27, 2021;

AND WHEREAS, This closure will have sweeping effects on workloads for local first responders, including police, firefighters and paramedics;

AND WHEREAS, This closure will add significant workload pressures to neighbouring health care services and facilities, and particularly Hanover and District Hospital;

AND WHEREAS, The council of the Municipality of Brockton has formally requested the County of Bruce to consider retaining a health services expert to examine nursing staff shortages in southern Bruce County and that the County of Bruce consider financial contributions up to \$10,000 for impacted municipalities to assist in addressing this shortage;

AND WHEREAS, South Bruce Grey Health Centre has determined that alternatives related to staffing shortages need to be considered to address the health care crisis;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities formally requests the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care work with the Northern Nursing Teaching facilities to find an immediate solution to its staffing shortages;

FURTHER THAT, The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care continue to work on strategies not only designed to recruit nurses to northern and rural Ontario, but also focus on retaining experienced nurses who are essential to critical and emergency care units

MOVED BY: Mark Signoretti

SECONDED BY: Eric Benoit

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-04

**Joint and Several - Definition of Employer**

WHEREAS many municipalities in Ontario have seen an increase to their insurance rates due to Joint and Several Liability;

WHEREAS in 2015 the City of Greater Sudbury (the "City") entered into a contract with a contractor experienced in road construction projects to complete a project on Elgin Street in the City's downtown core;

AND WHEREAS the contract provided that the contractor would be the constructor for the project as that term is defined in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (the "Act");

AND WHEREAS an employee of the constructor operating a grader on the project struck and killed a pedestrian;

AND WHEREAS the City was charged with offences under the Act as the constructor and the employer;

AND WHEREAS after being acquitted at trial and on appeal, the Ontario Court of Appeal, in a decision issued on April 23, 2021, found the City to be liable for contraventions of the Construction Regulations as an employer as it employed quality control inspectors to monitor the quality of work on the project from time-to-time;

AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada, in a decision issued on November 10, 2023, was evenly divided 4-4 on the issue resulting in dismissal of the City's appeal;

AND WHEREAS the consequence of this decision is that municipalities in Ontario, as well as all other owners of property in the province, who wish to undertake construction, are subject to being charged and convicted as an employer for offences in relation to project sites for which they have no control and have, in accordance with the Act, contracted with an entity to assume plenary oversight and authority over the work on such site as the constructor;

AND WHEREAS the potential of an owner being charged as an employer as that term is defined in the Act in circumstances where it has engaged a constructor, disregards and renders meaningless the owner-constructor provisions contained in the Act and presents an unacceptable level of increased risk and confusion for owners and contractors throughout the province;

AND WHEREAS the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities believes that the safety of workers is paramount however the safety of workers on construction projects in Ontario is not increased by placing liability on parties that do not have control of and are not responsible for the conduct of the work on such sites;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities requests that the province amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of "employer" to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this motion be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, MPP for Algoma-Manitoulin, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, the Council of Ontario Construction Associations and the Clerk of the City of Greater Sudbury.

MOVED BY: René Lapierre

SECONDED BY: Sandra Hollingsworth

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-05

**Connecting Link**

Whereas in April of 2015 the Ontario government for announced they would provide funding to the Connecting Links program once, committed \$15 million annually to 77 communities across the province with funding available beginning in spring 2016.

AND WHEREAS the Connecting Links program assisted municipalities with road maintenance and repairs for provincial highways that run through their communities. Connecting links are municipal roads designated under the Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act. With the province covering 90 percent of the costs, while the municipality was responsible for the remaining 10 percent.

AND WHEREAS through a competitive process, the Province of Ontario invested \$30 million in 2022 - 2023 for the construction and repair of roads and bridges on connecting links.

AND WHEREAS the infrastructure deficit of the Connecting Links Municipal Roads is far greater than the amount of the annual fund.

AND WHEREAS the Municipal share to repair the infrastructure deficit of the Connecting Links is a financial liability the Municipalities cannot afford.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities requests the Province of Ontario to fund all Connecting links and municipal roads designated under the Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act repairs themselves.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this motion be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, and the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Northern Members of Provincial Parliament and the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association.