

## **Addition to the Ministry of Transportation**

WHEREAS the topography and climate of Ontario, North and West of the Canadian Shield, is uniquely different from that of the balance of the Province

WHEREAS due to that topography, it is more costly to construct or maintain 100 km of Highway in Northern Ontario than the balance of the Province

WHEREAS the highway network in Northern Ontario is vital to connecting our citizens to health care, employment, groceries, and recreation

WHEREAS Highway 11, Highway 17, and Highway 69 are our 400 systems, and the municipal share of Connecting Link has become prohibitive for all communities

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has made and continues to make a significant investment in the Ontario Northland and bring back the Northlander

Every senior politician in Ontario and the balance of Canada noted the Raw Earth Elements deposits in the Ring of Fire. FONOM wants to note that the transportation of the Raw Earth Elements will travel through Northern Ontario

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization has selected the community of Ignace for the location of Canada's deep geological repository for spent nuclear fuel. Therefore, the fuel will be transported through Northern Ontario.

WHEREAS on November 10, 2022, the Province announced, 'Ontario Moving Ahead with First-Ever 2+1 Highway in North America'; on July 14, 2023, the Ministry of Transportation announced, 'Ontario Starting Work on 2+1 Highway', and during the recent campaign, Premier Ford announced his government would 'extend the 2+1 highway another 220 kilometres from Temiskaming Shores to Cochrane'

WHEREAS of May 2025, the Minister has not announced a start date for construction of the initial 2+1 Highway

WHEREAS the annual Ontario Road Safety Annual Report Selected Statistics does not provide a breakdown by region

WHEREAS the 2023 Ontario Road Safety Annual Report Selected Statistics reported that there were 1,504 large truck accidents in Ontario with 107 fatalities



WHEREAS large truck accidents occur daily in Northern Ontario, often resulting in death

WHEREAS accidents in Northern Ontario are the cause of many lengthy closures or detours using municipal infrastructure not designed for highway traffic

WHEREAS many FONOM members have commented that there is a lack of response to their concerns or inquiries from the Ministry and/or regional staff, which is concerning to the Board

THEREFORE, IT WAS RESOLVED that the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities should ask the Premier to either appoint a Deputy Minister of Transportation for Northern Ontario or create an Associate Minister responsible for Northern Ontario Transportation. FONOM believes Northern Ontario will be the economic engine that drives Ontario and Canada for the next 100 years and that the Province needs a dedicated team focused on improving today's network while planning for and acting on future requirements

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED this resolution be sent to Premier Ford, the Minister of Transportation, the Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, the Membership of FONOM, NOMA, ROMA, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

## **Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Review**

WHEREAS current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life

WHEREAS nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year

WHEREAS municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation

WHEREAS unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure

WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises

WHEREAS inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity

WHEREAS property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need

WHEREAS the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities

WHEREAS municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities request the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario

FURTHER, THAT a copy of this motion be sent to Premier Ford, the Honourable Rob Flack the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy the Minister of Finance (minister.fin@ontario.ca), the membership of FONOM, and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

## **Cost of Policing in the North**

WHEREAS Northern Ontario municipalities face insurmountable challenges to fund both upfront investments and ongoing maintenance of their capital assets, including roads, bridges, water/ wastewater and municipally owned buildings, including recreational facilities, libraries and other tangible capital assets

WHEREAS Northern Ontario municipalities' operating needs consume the majority of property tax revenue sources

WHEREAS Northern Ontario municipalities are facing monumental infrastructure deficits that cannot be adequately addressed through property tax revenue alone

WHEREAS in 2015 the provincial government moved to standardized billing for all non-contract O.P.P. (5.1) locations

WHEREAS the annual cost of the Ontario Provincial Police, Municipal Policing Bureau for small rural non-contract (5.1) municipalities is approximately \$428 million

WHEREAS, before a one-time Provincial support transfer, Municipalities across Northern Ontario in 2024 received notices from the OPP with an average annual increase of 17.8%, representing 7.7% of the municipal tax levy

WHEREAS the estimated annual cost of the Ontario Provincial Police, Municipal Policing Bureau for Municipalities in the Northeast is \$43 million

Whereas the police levy in 2025 to the four large cities in Northeastern Ontario is \$174 million after grants

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities calls on the Ontario Government to commit to phasing in a \$100 million Policing Grant over the next three years for the 157 northern communities. After the third year, the fund will increase by the minimum of the annual Consumer Price. Each community should receive a base amount of \$60,000, with the remaining funds allocated based on population. *(Note: If the sum of the base amount and the population-based allocation exceeds the amounts received in 2024 notifications from the OPP, plus the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI), the funding for that community will be capped to avoid surplus situations.)*



AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, the Minister of Solicitor General Michael Kerzner, the Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy, the Membership of FONOM and NOMA and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Below is an example of the impact the funding would have on three of the 157 communities in Northern Ontario. The base year uses the 2025 OPP Billing Invoice or approved Budget. I estimated the CPI to be 3% in years two and three, compounded annually. The Cap amount in the example is a raw estimate, as many of those that did not respond to my OPP survey were smaller communities.

#### **Year one - \$34 million**

$$157 * \$60,000 = \$9,420,000$$

$$\$34,000,000 - \$9,420,000 = \$24,580,000$$

$$\$24,580,000 / 900,000 \text{ people} = \$27.31 \text{ per person}$$

Community of 1513 (cap \$284,949.50)

$$\$60,000 + (1513 * \$27.31) = \$101,320.03$$

Community of 8,057 people (cap \$2,561,265.98)

$$\$60,000 + (8,057 * \$27.31) = \$280,036.67$$

Community of 41,145 people (cap \$21,027,721.92)

$$\$60,000 + (41,145 * \$27.31) = \$1,183,669.95$$

#### **Year two – \$67 Million**

$$157 * \$60,000 = \$9,420,000$$

$$\$67,000,000 - \$9,420,000 + \$2,000,000 \text{ (estimated cap surplus)} = \$59,580,000 +$$

$$\$59,580,000 / 900,000 \text{ people} = \$66.20 \text{ per person}$$

Community of 1513 (cap \$293,497.98)

$$\$60,000 + (1513 * \$66.20) = \$160,160.60$$

Community of 8,057 people (cap \$2,638,103.95)

$$\$60,000 + (8,057 * \$66.20) = \$593,373.40$$

Community of 41,145 people (cap \$21,658,553.57)

$$\$60,000 + (41,145 * \$66.20) = \$2,783,799$$

#### **Year three – \$100 Million**

$$157 * \$60,000 = \$9,420,000$$

$$\$100,000,000 - \$9,420,000 + \$3,000,000 \text{ (estimated cap surplus)} = \$93,580,000$$

$$\$93,580,000 / 900,000 \text{ people} = \$103.97 \text{ per person}$$

Community of 1513 (cap \$302,302.91)

$$\$60,000 + (1513 * \$103.97) = \$217,306.61$$

Community of 8,057 people (cap \$2,717,247.06)

$$\$60,000 + (8,057 * \$103.97) = \$897,686.29$$

Community of 41,145 people (cap \$22,308,310.17)

$$\$60,000 + (41,145 * \$103.97) = \$4,337,845.65$$

**Expand Extended Producer Responsibility to the ICI Sector**

WHEREAS under Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box, producers are fully accountable and financially responsible for their products and packaging once they reach their end of life and are disposed of, for 'eligible' sources only

WHEREAS producers are not responsible for collecting products and packaging sold to the industrial, commercial, and institutional sectors, which include the provincial government and our member municipalities

WHEREAS the products and packaging mentioned in the previous paragraph either end up in landfills or are recycled by the industrial, commercial, and institutional sectors, often at a cost

WHEREAS the landfill capacity in Ontario is nearing a critical point, and the process to site or create a landfill is both lengthy and costly

WHEREAS under the current Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation, a can of soda consumed at home and placed in the Blue Box is considered an "eligible" source, meaning producers are responsible for its recycling. However, if the same soda can is consumed by the same individual at Queen's Park, it is deemed "ineligible." In this case, the government is responsible for managing the collection, transportation, and processing of the recycling, as well as covering all associated costs

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities hereby request that the province amend Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box so that producers are responsible for the end-of-life management of recycling products from all sources, including Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (ICI) properties

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the membership of FONOM and AMO.

***Funding approach for Local Public health agencies***

***Whereas***, the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Ministry of Health are undertaking a review of the funding approach for local public health agencies; and

***Whereas***, many northern Medical Officers of Health and Health Units have supported resolutions asking to be included or consulted during the review; and

***Whereas***, seven of the Northern Medical Officers of Health signed a letter to Minister Sylvia Jones, titled ***Perspectives from Northern Ontario for the Public Health Funding Review***, which shared some perspectives unique to the North regarding the current Public Health Funding review; and

***Whereas***, Municipalities have been long-standing financial partners in public health; and

***Therefore***, be it resolved that the membership of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities ask the Minister of Health that FONOM have an equal role in discussions concerning the funding review of the Public Health Mandated Programs; and

***Further be it resolved***, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Sylvia Jones, the membership of FONOM, AMO, and the seven Northern Medical Officers of Health that signed the letter ***Perspectives from Northern Ontario for the Public Health Funding Review***