
2010 Annual General Meeting Proceedings

Northern Ontario
Service Deliverers
Association

June, 2010

Preface

The Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) is an incorporated body that brings together 11 of Northern Ontario's 12 Municipal Service Managers. NOSDA is composed of nine District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs), that are unique to Northern Ontario; and two municipalities (also known as Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs)) – the City of Greater Sudbury and the District Municipality of Muskoka.

All eleven are responsible for the local planning, coordination and delivery of a range of community health and social services that the Province of Ontario divested to them to locally manage. This is accomplished through:

- the provision of financial and other supports to persons having difficulty entering or re-entering the labour force;
- the creation, maintenance and provision of affordable social housing;
- the provision of quality of early learning and child care services which reassure parents their children are in safe, nurturing environments while they are at work or upgrading their skills;
- the provision of emergency medical services in times of personal crisis.

Northern Ontario's municipal service managers collectively have annual expenditures in excess of **\$650,000,000** and together employ over **1,500** people. These services represent a significant portion of the social infrastructure of all Northern Ontario's municipalities and also account for a good share of the property taxes that Northern Ontario municipalities dedicate to the social support infrastructure of their municipalities.

NOSDA functions through a Standing Committee structure. There is an Executive committee of elected officials that oversee the activities of **NOSDA**, and there are six Working Groups – the **NOSDA** Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) Group, the Ontario Works Management Group, the Northern Service Managers Housing Group (NSMHG), the Northern Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Managers Group, the Northern Child Care Managers Group and the Finance Managers Group.

While their mandates vary according to their specific responsibilities, these Working Groups primary objective is to achieve the effective and efficient delivery of services in Northern Ontario through joint action and information sharing. They meet to provide a venue for the exchange of information and the development of positions on all social service and community health issues which do or could impact on the delivery of Ontario Works, Child Care, Housing Services and Emergency Medical Services in Northern Ontario.

Introduction

Gary Scripnick, Chair

Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA)

The **Northern Ontario Service Deliverer's Association (NOSDA)** has a proud history of representing the social and human services interests of Northern Ontario since the first Annual General meeting was held over 10 years ago. This year, the AGM was hosted by the Parry Sound District Social Services Administration Board at the Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville, Ontario from April 28-30. This is the 3rd Annual General Meeting of the NOSDA since its incorporation as a not for profit organization.

The theme of the 2010 NOSDA Annual General Meeting was "Building Better Networks for Social Services Delivery in Northern Ontario". Conference participants gave a total of 18 presentations over the course of three days, with a focus on the Social Determinants of Health, Territories Without Municipal Organization elections, Integrated Community Service Planning, and the Development of Social Infrastructure in Northern Ontario. Reactor panel and Discussion Panels were also set up to further explore the topical discussions and answer any questions NOSDA members had for guests and presenters. Presenters were selected for their expertise and experience.

In addition to the topics presented at this Annual General Meeting, NOSDA business was conducted. This business included the passing of 12 resolutions voted on by NOSDA members covering important issues facing the delivery of Social Service programs in Northern Ontario (see Appendix A).

A great many people contributed to making the 2010 Annual General Meeting a successful conference. Firstly, thank you to the host, Parry Sound DSSAB. Special thanks to the Parry Sound DSSAB CAO Janet Patterson, Chair, Rick Zanussi and Administrative Assistant to the CAO, Jennifer Harris, as well as to **NOSDA's** staff – Chris Stewart, Executive Coordinator and Samantha Ramage, our Communications and Information Officer - whose hard work and attention to detail helped the conference go off without a hitch.

Secondly, thank you to all of our presenters for their contribution and commitment to finding Northern solutions to the problems facing the delivery of social services in Northern Ontario.

And finally, thank you to all NOSDA members, especially those travelling great distances, for attending. We hope everyone was stimulated by our presentations and enjoyed the 2010 Annual General Meeting, and look forward to a productive year together as we continue to support the effective provision of Social Services in Northern Ontario.

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Presentations

The Northern Growth Plan and Social Services Delivery in Northern Ontario—Chris Stewart, Executive Coordinator, Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association

The Ontario Government launched the Places to Grow Act in 2005. It allows the province to develop Growth Plans in any part of the province. This Act clarifies provincial authority over regional and local governments when it comes to implementing *'an integrated and coordinated approach to making decisions about growth across all levels of government to contribute to maximizing the value of public investments'* and provides a legislative framework for a collaborative, coordinated, holistic approach to growth in Ontario. The NGP could and should be a powerful engine for growth – but like all engines, it needs tuning, fuel and experienced operators

There are several ways NOSDA fits into or can help implement the Northern Growth Plan:

- Through the recognition of social services as infrastructure
- By fostering equity across the North
- Through the elimination of legislative, policy and program anomalies
- By Provincial Government support of early learning and family support
- By investing in housing as infrastructure
- Through good integrated planning utilizing skills of partners
- Through the creation of solution teams.

However in order to achieve these Northern Growth Plan/NOSDA goals, we need full and frank communications with political leaders. This can be achieved with a two-way dialogue with Provincial and municipal partners.

NOSDA members offer engagement and invite ministry members to use our expertise and experience honed over ten years of change management in the smooth driving of delivery of programs and services in Northern Ontario. The people of the North offer a unique perspective. Listen to us. Work with us to help make this initiative work for the people of the North.

Social Infrastructure and the Northern Growth Plan—Brian Smithies, Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry

The Growth Plan for Northern Ontario was developed under the 2005 Places to Grow Act and it sets out a 25-year vision and framework for coordinated decision-making.

There are six components to the proposed Northern Growth plan: building towards a new economy; investing in people and progress; forging a new relationship with Aboriginal peoples; connecting and strengthening Northern communities; promoting environmental stewardship and finally implementation.

The building towards a new economy element focuses on the major industries, as well as up and coming trends in Northern Ontario—mining, forestry, green energy, bioeconomy, agriculture, tourism and cultural industries, attracting investment and business growth.

According to the proposed Northern Growth Plan, the investment in people and progress requires a focus on health, education, research and innovation.

The process of forging a new relationship with Aboriginal Peoples involves a key focus with regards to Aboriginal Economic Development as well as Aboriginal Education and Skills Development.

In order to Connect and strengthen Northern communities the Proposed Northern Growth Plan suggests regional economic planning, regional service delivery, transportation, information and communications technology, quality of place and promoting environmental stewardship.

Finally, the implementation of the Northern Growth Plan involves a capital investment alignment of more than \$3 billion over three years, Policy Alignment (Provincial policies and decision-making will be aligned to Growth Plan), performance measures and monitoring, (set of performance indicators will be developed for final Growth Plan) and an ongoing engagement with the public, Aboriginal communities and stakeholders.

Reactor Panel: Tom Laughren, Mayor of the City of Timmins and Mac Bain, President of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities

These two municipal representatives gave their considered opinions concerning the implications of the Northern Growth Plan. Questions and answers followed.

From Human Services Integration to Human Services Planning—Patti Moore, Regional Municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk & Michael Shapcott, Wellesley Institute¹

Human services include any services that meet the economic, social and health needs of people. Some of the sectors that have an impact on the “social and health needs of people” include: health services; learning opportunities; community safety; economic development; transportation; early childhood services; housing opportunities; culture & recreation; social/community services and employment & income.

The municipal human services planning efforts are currently focused on, income support, employment services, children’s services, housing and homelessness prevention.

The benefits of Human Services Planning are for the people we serve, our communities, our staff as well as other service providers, funders and decision-makers.

Some of the assumptions going into the process included working with people holistically and recognizing that people do not come in silos but also getting our own house in order” first. The movement into Human Services Planning was based on staff ideas and suggestions. It was necessary to work within the existing budget and look for ways to include the people we serve in our activities. The plan for implementation is to start with “baby steps” and build momentum over time.

Some of the key features of Human Services Planning include: leadership; participation of all staff at critical points; staff tied into key community groups and staff continuing to generate new ideas and making connections with broader community.

Integrated Service Planning is getting better results.

¹ For information about Michael Shapcott and the Social Determinants of Health, please refer to the Wellesley Institutes website at www.wellesleyinstitute.com

Social Determinants of Health and Integrated Human Services Planning—Bill White, Nipissing District Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB)

Poverty is bad for your health. A Hamilton Ontario study compared low income and high income neighborhoods to find life expectancy more than 10 years shorter with low income. Considering that Canada has a Universal Health Care system, the question is, how can this be?

Northern Ontario has abundance of low income persons, persons who are on social assistance and/or unemployed, a large aboriginal population and poor health outcomes. Most of the Determinants of Health fall directly within DSSAB mandates and others indirectly, meaning that Social Services providers directly affect the health of the people it serves. The determinants of health include:

1. Peace
2. Shelter
3. Education
4. Food
5. Income
6. A stable eco-system
7. Sustainable resources
8. Social justice and equity

The four broad approaches in Nipissing District to solve health challenges posed by the determinants of health in the Nipissing District are: measuring gaps; integrate DNSSAB Services; integrate community services; and integrated planning.

Measuring gaps is important to confirm the needs of the peoples served, provide factual basis to make a case for resources and action, to mobilize community partners and to create a foundation for planning and prioritizing.

Integrated DNSSAB Services—one department directly interfaces with clients, single point of contact

Integrated Community Services—LIPI Model, Child and Family Centres, No Wrong Door

Integrated Human Services Planning—Internal planning, engaging partners, bringing community together for planning

For more information please refer to the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board's website at: www.dnssab.on.ca

Social Determinants of Health and Integrated Community Service Planning—Kira Heineck, Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA)

OMSSA believes that Human Services planning is important now because of the maturity and capacity of CMSMs and DSSABs as service system managers. There is also an improvement in outcomes for people using human services and for their communities.

The fiscal restructuring of Integrated Community Service Planning includes: a shift of income redistribution from property tax base to income tax base; uploading of Ontario Drug Benefits and ODSP by 2011; uploading of Ontario Works by 2018; uploading of provincial court costs by 2018.

The six key principles for effective human services integration are: People-centered; results focused; based on a systems approach; common vision, values and vocabulary; effective process; effective leadership.

The six core human service planning elements are: Establishment of universal standards; flexibility; results-focused planning; sustainable resourcing; capacity development; alignment between municipal and provincial efforts.

The OMSSA support for CMSMs and DSSABs with regards to Human Services Planning are: training, longer term capacity-building opportunities for CMSMs and DSSABs as well as information sharing and identification/promotion of best practices.

(For more information on OMSSA's work, visit their website at www.omssa.com)

Working together for a Healthy Sustainable Community—Catherine Matheson, City of Greater Sudbury

In the City of Greater Sudbury, there is a need for change surrounding five key areas: the idea that Sudbury is known as a mining town; economic diversification; environmental renewal; strong community will on quality of life; health status.

Community leaders plan to achieve these goals by learning, growing and nurturing by diverting attention. The attention will be diverted to achievements, creating a healthier community, leverage strengths and quality of life, leverage education to create a means of sustainability, a move forward strategy and progression rather than a regression.

The City of Greater Sudbury strategy focus is: the Healthy Community Charter; sustainability; the identified 11 challenges; an action plan; and measuring performance using indicators.

The 11 identified challenges are: health status; health and safety; impaired ecosystem; lake water quality; out-migration; unemployment; arts and culture facilities/promotions; infrastructure deficit; homelessness; family poverty; and educational attainment.

An awareness strategy was also developed for the public. Signs have been designed that identify ways that citizens are part of a healthy community. The reasons include: I enjoy walking; I enjoy fresh water; I love to read; I walk the red road for health and success; I give to those in need; I'm pursuing a higher education; I'm rich with arts and culture; I collect rain water for my garden; I recycle; and I save organic waste.

This transformative change will transfer ownership for health and sustainability to community, corporations and government.

DSSAB Act—TWOMOs and Governance—Elizabeth Roy, Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS)

The Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS), through the Ontario Works Branch (OWB), is responsible for the *DSSAB Act* and Regulations, which provides a governance and accountability framework for DSSABs and establishes these boards as corporations. DSSABs are responsible for organizing and running the TWOMO elections in their area. OWB provides funding to DSSABs for the administration of TWOMO elections. OWB produces the election guide that supports TWOMO elections.

Election Day is **October 25, 2010**, and the close of nominations is **September 10, 2010**. Both of these dates are the same as the dates for municipal elections determined under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*. Voters are required to provide identification at a voting place (see page 8 of the Election Resource Guide). Seasonal residents and their spouses have the right to vote in TWOMO elections. Previously, DSSABs received up to \$15,000 per election. For the 2010 TWOMO elections, DSSABs will receive up to \$20,000 to administer TWOMO elections. DSSABs are required to account for their election related expenses. The concept of flexibility was discussed in the context of election-related expenses, and DSSAB's were referred to their respective Regional Directors of MCSS.

***Child Care, Kindergarten and Consolidated Service Management:
Jim Grieve and Jill Vienneau, Ministry of Education (Min. of Ed.)***

Jim Grieve and Jill Vienneau from the Ministry of Education spoke about recent changes concerning Child Care and the Ministry of Education with regards to four and five year olds and the education system. After an extensive question and answer period, Gary Scripnick thanked Mr. Greive and Ms. Vienneau for their informative presentation.

EMS and Land Ambulance in Northern Ontario: Emerging Issues—Dr. Anthony Campeau, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

The Emergency Health Services Branch recognizes that the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association is an important organization and appreciates being able to hear the collective voice and the members responsible for land ambulance services have important common interests with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, and in particular, the Emergency Health Services Branch.

Almost ten years have passed since municipalities assumed responsibility for the provision of land ambulance service. Those were ten years to be remembered as one of the most constructive periods in the history of land ambulance in Ontario.

Over these ten years, in a complex area like ambulance service, there have been numerous issues that needed to be resolved in order to improve the service.

By working together in partnership, these issues have been resolved. We now see more municipalities conducting their own investigations. Yet, when the need arises, there's no hesitation in asking the Ministry for help.

In Ontario, we have an ambulance fleet that is the most up to date in the world. Paramedics provide care that can be counted upon to be the best. Management skills ensure that the administration of the system functions in an exceptional manner.

There must be a continually evolving and innovating ambulance system. The Dedicated Nurses initiative has been implemented to significantly reduce in-hospital wait times and get those ambulances back on the road. With partnership and leadership we will be introducing a new Response Time measurement in 2010. Ambulance services are one of the most crucial components of our province's emergency health system. And they are intrinsic to the government's vision of integrated, accessible and quality health services for all Ontarians at every stage of life and as close to home as possible.

Dr. Campeau agreed to arrange a meeting with Senior Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care staff for NOSDA representatives to discuss and address these issues and concerns.

Building Better Networks—Sylvia Patterson, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AMO and the province commits the province to prior consultation with municipalities on: Proposed provincial changes to legislation, regulations that will have a significant financial impact on the current municipal/DSSAB budget year or planning cycle.

The MOU also commits the Province to negotiation of agreements with the federal government on matters that have a direct municipal impact (e.g. municipal infrastructure, immigration, labour market development, housing initiatives).

The MOU Process creates opportunities for information exchange between Ministers and a broadly representative group of municipal government leaders on local, provincial and national issues. The MOU process has also enhanced the government decision making process by expanding the issues considered by Ministries in assessing proposals. Finally, the MOU process allows the province, municipalities and DSSABs to engage in more detailed analysis of government decision-making that could have an impact on municipalities.

Among other things, what AMO has seen with the MOU process is stronger provincial-municipal relationships, a horizontal working relationship between orders of government and ministries on shared issues.

Partnerships are important in order to create a unified voice on issues of mutual concern, to create informed policy discussions and decisions and to provide better services and better outcomes for the people.

Some examples of this are the Canada Ontario Immigration Agreement, Housing matters, Federal Gas Tax and Provincial Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review.

Building Better Networks—Kira Heineck, Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA)

The purpose of building better networks is to build OMSSA members' capacity to plan, manage and deliver quality human services in their communities. The outcomes are: to increase public acceptance of the importance of human services to health communities; more progressive public social policy and program design; increased member capacity to plan, manage and deliver integrated human services; and higher calibre professionals delivering human services.

OMSSA's 2010 Strategic Priorities are: Advancing OMSSA towards a human services integration governance model; implementing OMSSA's new communication strategy; continue to build a capacity of members to develop and deliver high quality human services; supporting CMSMs and DSSABs; and deepening OMSSA's engagement with the Housing Sector and housing issues.

OMSSA works through advocacy, education and information sharing. Their current partnerships include the Association of Municipalities in Ontario, Social Housing Services Corporation, Urban Commissioners Group, Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association and the Ontario Association of Hostels.

Areas of mutual interest shared by OMSSA and NOSDA are: Cost of OW administration; outcomes of Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy; maintaining roll-out of financial reforms from PMFSDR; future of child care in our communities; and respect and support for DSSABs and CMSMs.

OMSSA wants a consistent communications with its partners, as well as more representation from DSSAB members. OMSSA also would like access to NOSDA expertise and experience, as well as opportunities for shared strategic planning and shared development of strategic goals.

Building Better Networks—Lindsey Reed, Social Housing Services Corporation (SHSC)

The Social Housing Services Corporation (SHSC) is responsible for many things. The first is their legislated responsibilities which include the Group Insurance program, the capital reserve investment program, natural gas bulk purchasing and research and best practices. The second is their agreements with the Province which are asset management and technical services. The SHSC's third responsibility is their subsidiaries created since 2002—SOHO Insurance, SHSC Financial and GLOBE (Green Light On A Better Environment)

The SHSC has helped to solve some of the main issues of the North: Accessibility/geography/isolation; succession planning and capacity; managing social housing assets; managing rising costs (ex. utilities)

Sector organizations collaborate by: working together; participating in each other's work; sharing vision on cross-over issues.

Some of the SHSCs programs in development include:

- Tenant TV
- E-Learning
- Customized training programs
- Travel dollars for Northern meetings
- Broadband support
- Partnership with Electrical Safety Authority
- Province-wide asset management planning and data collection system (Asset Planning)

According to the SHSC, in order to work toward common goals partners need to: create a dialogue on what's needed; identify areas to work together; develop and support the work of sector staff and advocates; provide tools and programs that help the northern housing sector.

NOSDA members can collaborate through continued discussion, by identifying points of action, working with SHSC staff and by seeking advice and support for the sector to help with visioning and identifying common goals.

The SHSC hopes to work together with NOSDA for three common goals—advocating together with higher levels of government, consistent messaging and providing support to one another.

Affordable Housing as Social Infrastructure—Keith Extance, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)

On June 9, 2009, the Ontario Government signed an Affordable Housing Agreement with the Federal Government. The combined Federal/Provincial investment is \$704 million to repair social housing units and make them more energy efficient under the Social Housing Renovation and Retrofit Program and \$540 million for the Affordable Housing Program Extension which includes funding to create new affordable rental housing for low-income seniors and persons with disabilities

Some highlights of the AHP Extension include:

Northern Service Managers received funding allocations under the Northern Component of the program:

Year 1 – a total of \$7.135 million allocated

Year 2 – a total of \$11.095 million allocated

Northern Service Managers were eligible to apply for funding under the New Rental Housing Component for construction-ready projects.

Average New Rental Component contribution increased to \$120,000/unit.

Average Northern Component contribution increased from \$25,000 per unit to a maximum of \$50,000.

Dedicated funding for rental units for seniors and persons with disabilities.

Off-reserve Aboriginal Housing Program—Funding is 100% capital and flowed from a \$300 million federally funded Off-Reserve Aboriginal Housing Trust of which Ontario received \$80.24 million

The Ontario Government is developing a new, long term affordable housing strategy to make it easier for Ontario families to find and maintain affordable housing. The final Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy is anticipated for release in 2010.

APPENDIX A: Resolutions

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APPROVAL OF 2009 MINUTES

MOVED BY: GARY SCRIPNICK

SECONDED BY: RAY CHENIER

That the NOSDA AGM 2009 Minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED

INCENTIVE FUNDING AND COST OF ADMINISTRATION FUNDING

MOVED BY: DOUG SOULIERE

SECONDED BY: RAY CHENIER

WHEREAS the Ministry of Community and Social Services has announced its decision to merge incentive funding into the regular base budget of Ontario Works cost of administration effective January 1, 2010 based on most recent caseload information; and

WHEREAS this constitutes another download of costs to the municipal sector in 2011 when DSSABs and CMSMs will be compelled to cost share 50:50 on what had been funded 100% provincially; and

WHEREAS moving from outcomes based funding to unit based funding for political expediency is a step backward from the direction recommended at the Service Delivery Accountability table during the Provincial Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review; and

WHEREAS the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) has consistently maintained that caseload based OW administration funding is inappropriate in Northern Ontario because:

- it fails to recognize the numerous and significant impact of large geographic jurisdictions on the cost of delivery
- it fails to provide incentives for diversion and prevention programs focused on keeping people off assistance or quickly returning them to the labour market
- it fails to recognize that the Ontario Works caseload in Northern Ontario has significant challenges related to poorer overall health, lower education levels, significant and disadvantaged off reserve native populations and
- it fails to account for local taxpayers' ability to fund;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA call on the Province of Ontario to reverse this decision; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario engage in a meaningful and respectful dialogue with the Northern deliverers and funders of Ontario Works concerning an Ontario Works cost of administration funding formula which meets the needs of Northern Ontario,

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Community and Social Services, FONOM, NOMA, AMO and OMSSA

CARRIED

POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY

MOVED BY: RAY CHENIER

SECONDED BY: LORRAINE AELICK

WHEREAS a nutritious diet is a basic requirement for health while poor nutrition leads to an increased risk for chronic and infectious diseases, pregnancy outcomes with greater risk for low birth weight, and has a negative impact on the growth and development of children; and

WHEREAS Boards of Health annually monitor food affordability in their jurisdictions in accordance with the Nutritious Food Basket Protocol, 2008, and the Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol, 2008, as outlined in the Ontario Public Health Standards; and

WHEREAS the 2009 Nutritious Food Basket Report demonstrates that local households on social assistance or earning minimum wage cannot afford a nutritious diet after paying for housing costs and other necessities; and

WHEREAS the 2008 Ontario Hunger Report revealed that food bank use increased across Northern Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Analysis of Ontario Sample in Cycle 2.2 of the Canadian Community Health Survey (2004) revealed that 9.7% of households in the Northern Ontario Health Region are food insecure and that those households most vulnerable to food insecurity are those on a low income, especially those relying on social assistance;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association call on the provincial government to renew their efforts to ensure that the Poverty Reduction Strategy for Ontario remains a high priority; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the provincial government review increases to social programs, such as an increase to Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs, by providing a monthly \$100 Healthy Food Supplement to all adults receiving social assistance; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT in addition to addressing Ontarians' ability to meet their basic food requirements, the provincial government is asked to establish a broad-based rent/housing allowance/assistance program for all low-income persons.

CARRIED

REGULATION 298/01 AND THE UTILITY FACTORS AND ODSP / OW RENTAL ASSISTANCE SCALE

MOVED BY: GARY SCRIPNICK

SECONDED BY: GILBERT PETERS

WHEREAS the costs to operate social housing for the DSSABs/ Municipal Service Managers continues to escalate; and

WHEREAS the costs for utilities is a major component of the rising operating costs; and

WHEREAS the Utility Factors and the Ontario Disability Support Program and Ontario Works rental scales outlined in Ontario Regulation 298/01 pertaining to the Social Housing Reform Act have not been updated since 2001;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NOSDA requests that the Minister for Municipal Affairs and Housing review and adjust the utility factors and rental scales outlined in Ontario Regulation 298/01, and appropriately raise them to offset the inflationary increases over the past nine years.

CARRIED

DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND DSSAB AND THE NORTHERN COMPONENT

MOVED BY: RICK ZANUSSI

SECONDED BY: TOM WELLS

WHEREAS the Affordable Housing Program 2009 Extension-Northern Component is designed to provide low and moderate income homeowners with an opportunity to repair their homes and bring them up to health and safety standards and

WHEREAS within this program, “Northern” has been defined as Ontario north of the French River, including Nipissing District, but excluding the District of Parry Sound and

WHEREAS the District of Parry Sound is the only District Social Services Administrative Board (DSSAB) that has been excluded from this program, even though the DSSABs are the designated Municipal Service Managers for municipalities in Northern Ontario.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA requests that the District of Parry Sound DSSAB be included in the Northern Component for the remaining years of the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Extension 2009.

CARRIED

CHILD CARE FUNDING

MOVED BY: LORAINÉ AELICK

SECONDED BY: TOM WELLS

WHEREAS there is a clean and recognized need for reliable long term funding for child care; and

WHEREAS the Province has committed to funding Early Learning and Child Care to replace the funding gap caused by the end of Federal funding; and

WHEREAS the current funding mechanism for child care services is a myriad of unnecessarily complex and inflexible rules; and

WHEREAS the Province's Pascal Report on Early Learning identifies Municipal authorities as best positioned to lead in the development of community Early Years Service Planning and emphasizes efficiencies and funding shifts to allow for improved programming within existing allocations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA requests a collaborative consultation and review with Ministry of Education to develop a funding formula that is sustainable and viable for licensed child care that:

- **Is consistent, stable, equitable and indexed multiyear based on the true local cost of a licensed child care centre,**
- **Reflects appropriate wage rates for Early Childhood Educators,**
- **Responds to the objectives within the Provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy, "Breaking the Cycle" by increasing access to quality child care and early learning services in our Northern Communities**

And;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA requests that Ministry of Education transfers the Ontario Early Years Centre funding envelopes to the CMSM/DSSAB Municipal Service Managers according to their respective geographic boundaries.

CARRIED

CHILD CARE PROGRAMMING

MOVED BY: ROGER SIGOUIN

SECONDED BY: LORRAINE AELICK

WHEREAS Northern Ontario Child Care Service Providers have been struggling with financial viability for many years, this being driven by the declining child populations, distances between population centres and the economic volatility of Northern communities; and

WHEREAS the provision of the before school and after school care would help to ensure the financial viability of the Child Care Service Providers in the North; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Education has unilaterally decided that before and after school care must be provided by employees of the Boards of Education, based on a minimum number of 11-13 children; and

WHEREAS this minimum number is driven by the need for cost recovery and not by the needs of the local community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ministry of Education rescind the decision and enter into a constructive dialogue with CMSMs and DSSABs concerning this important issue; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ministry of Education create a policy forum in which School Boards, CMSM/DSSABs and Child Care Service Providers can develop a before and after school program which meets the needs of Northern communities.

CARRIED

DSSAB REGULATIONS

MOVED BY: DOUG SOULIERE

SECONDED BY: DAVE EDGAR

WHEREAS the DSSAB regulations define the term of office for a chair in a manner that is unclear and subject to varied interpretation; and

WHEREAS the DSSAB Board is a corporation in their own right; and

WHEREAS the selection of chair of a DSSAB is a responsibility that duly rests with the authority of the voting membership of the DSSAB Board Members and the determination of the term of office of a chair should be subject to the authority;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSSAB regulations be amended to remove the limitation on length of term of a chair and that decisions on election of the chair remain within the authority of the voting membership of the DSSAB Board of Directors.

CARRIED

TERRITORIES WITHOUTH MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION ELECTIONS

MOVED BY: TOM WELLS

SECONDED BY: DAVE EDGAR

WHEREAS the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) has confirmed that the District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs) have the responsibility to manage the election of TWOMO members under guidelines established by that Ministry; and

WHEREAS an amount of \$20,000 has been provided by MCSS to cover the cost of running these elections, with some regional office flexibility; and

WHEREAS the cost of running the elections can be significantly over \$20,000 due to the large geographic jurisdictions; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ministry of Community and Social Services fully fund the cost of any TWOMO elections conducted within the guidelines established by that Ministry.

CARRIED

FIFTY PER CENT FUNDING FROM THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LONG-TERM CARE

MOVED BY: GILBERT PETERS

SECONDED BY: BILL BLOWER

Whereas the cost of providing land ambulance services is escalating at a significant rate across the Province far in excess of the approved costs the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (the Ministry) allows for 50% cost sharing; and

Whereas the local property taxpayer is forced to pay a disproportionate amount of such costs; and

Whereas the Ministry has failed to provide adequate funding for the continuous operations of land ambulance services since the transfer of services to Designated Delivery Agents (DDA's);

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That NOSDA petitions the Ministry to immediately proceed to fund 50% of land ambulance costs net of funding for First Nations and Territories Without Municipal Organization.

CARRIED

HARMONIZED PAYMENT FOR LAND AMBULANCE SERVICES IN TERRITORIES WITHOUT MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION (TWOMO'S)

MOVED BY: LORRAINE AELICK

SECONDED BY: GARY SCRIPNICK

Whereas the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) through the Ministry of Finance (MOF) has failed to provide funding for Territories without Municipal Organization (TWOMO) as required under Ontario Regulation 129/99 of the Ambulance Act by designating TWOMO funding as a 'grant' rather than an amount allocated as a local share, subject to adjustments as required; and

Whereas the MOHLTC and MOF continuously fail to provide adequate notice of the funding streams (TWOMO; First Nation and 50/50) allocated to Designated Delivery Agents (DDA's) annually, such notice coming very late in the fiscal period of the DDA's; and

Whereas a change made by the Ministries in one funding stream will affect the other funding streams but is not acknowledged or adjusted by the Ministries.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That NOSDA requests the funding formula for land ambulance services, with respect to the TWOMO share, be harmonized with those of the Ministries of Community and Social Services, Children and Youth Services and Municipal Affairs and Housing each of which considers TWOMO funding as a local share; and

Finally Be It Resolved That the Ministries commit to providing notice of the funding streams in the First Quarter of the DDA's fiscal period each year and that the flow of funding coincide with the fiscal year of the DDA's.

CARRIED

NON-EMERGENCY PATIENT TRANSFERS.

MOVED BY: GARY PARKES

SECONDED BY: DAVE EDGAR

Whereas the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) is very concerned about the escalating use of land ambulance vehicles and highly trained personnel for inter-facility transfers of non-emergency patients which is not a mandated service under the Ambulance Act; and

Whereas the use of land ambulance services by the medical community as a means to transfer non-emergency patients has created serious response time problems for DDA's in providing emergency service coverage; and

Whereas the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) has commissioned studies on this issue but has failed to put forward any solutions to this escalating problem.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the MOHLTC place a high priority on resolving the non-emergency patient transfer (transportation) issue as soon as possible by creating a Task Force consisting of Ministry staff and representatives of DDA's who are representative of NOSDA, AMO and other organizations directly involved in patient transfers to provide recommendations to the Minister in a timely manner.

CARRIED