



**NORTHERN ONTARIO
SERVICE DELIVERERS ASSOCIATION**
c/o Henry Wall
211 Princess Street, Suite 1
Dryden ON P8N 3L5

June 19, 2017

Hon. Kathleen Wynne
PREMIER AND PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL
Government of Ontario
Rm 281, Legislative Bldg.
Queen's Park, Toronto ON
M7A1A1

Dear Premier:

RE: Non-Urgent Patient Transfers

At the June 9th Annual General Meeting of the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association, the topic of Non-Urgent Patient Transfers was again discussed, and the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has created a Regionalized Health Care System to maximize services to patients in a central location; and

WHEREAS the distance to referral hospitals and diagnostic imaging equipment can be several hours away making the use of Paramedic Services very uneconomical and inefficient for these Non-Urgent Patient Transfer purposes; and

WHEREAS Non-Urgent Patient Transfers for many rural Northern Ontario communities has become and continues to be the exclusive responsibility of the local Paramedic Services providers with demand reaching a critical level; and

WHEREAS Paramedic Services providers continue to struggle to meet the emergency medical needs of the citizens of their communities' due to aging-in-place populations and increased emergency demands for service; and

WHEREAS in many rural Northern Ontario communities there is only one ambulance available and when that ambulance leaves its community to perform a Non-Urgent Patient Transfer, it is often gone for hours at a time leaving the community with no direct emergency coverage; and

WHEREAS some of the larger Northern Hospitals may receive "performance" revenue from the province and use these 100% provincial funds to pay for private Medical Transportation Services to supply Non-Urgent Patient Transfers; and

WHEREAS smaller Northern rural and remote Hospitals do not receive “performance” revenue for activities like Emergency Department wait times; and

WHEREAS Northern Municipalities end up funding Non-Urgent Patient Transfers with 50% municipal tax dollars assuming they have not reached the Provincial 50/50 cap on Paramedic Services funding.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA requests that the government of Ontario, and more specifically the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care work with NOSDA to create a “Made in the North” solution that does not impact the municipal taxpayer; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA representatives meet with the MOHLTC and North East and North West Local Health Integration Networks to put in place a ‘Made in the North’ solution to the Non-Urgent Patient Transfers that does not impact the municipal taxpayer; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Health and Long Term Care, North East LHIN, North West LHIN, AMO, NOMA, FONOM, OAPC and Northern Ontario Paramedic Services providers.

Premier, it’s time to finally resolve this long-outstanding issue, particularly as it affects service delivery and indeed the health of Northerners. We look forward to hearing from, and working with your Government on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Iain Angus", is positioned above the printed name.

Iain Angus, Chair

cc. Hon. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Ron Farrell, Chair, NE LHIN
Gil Labine, Chair, NW LHIN
Lynn Dollin, President, AMO
Wendy Landry, President, NOMA
Alan Spacek, President, FONOM
Neal Roberts, President, OAPC