



2023 Annual General Meeting
Thunder Bay

Resolution # 2023-6

Subject: **Capital Funding**
Affordable Housing Crisis in the North

Date: June 22, 2023

Moved By: **Norman Mann** Seconded By: **Mark King**

WHEREAS Northern Ontario is in the middle of an Affordable Housing Crisis where there are 8,488 individuals/families on the Community Housing waiting list; and

WHEREAS the Federal budget contained little in terms of support for Affordable Housing specifically for Northern Ontario; and

WHEREAS there has been very little provided to Northern Ontario through the CMHC Co-Investment Fund or the Rapid Housing Initiative; and

WHEREAS the province has failed to recognize the District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSAB) as eligible applicants allowed to borrow from Infrastructure Ontario, thereby disadvantaging 144 Northern municipalities; and

WHEREAS employers who want to expand or develop or relocate their business to Northern Ontario cannot find employees because of the lack of affordable housing in the North.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA calls on the Premier to utilize a capital funding mechanism specific to Northern Ontario to support local Service Manager strategies to address the Affordable Housing crisis; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA calls on the Premier to make the required changes that would allow DSSAB's to have access to capital financing options through Infrastructure Ontario; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA advocate to the federal and provincial governments to ensure they are working together to support and fund the creation of new housing and the modernization of existing affordable housing in Northern Ontario.

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Michelle Boileau, NOSDA Chair



2023 Annual General Meeting
Thunder Bay

Resolution # 2023-7

Subject: **Population Health Outcomes**

Date: June 22, 2023

Moved By: **Jeff Laferriere**

Seconded By: **Cheryl Fort**

WHEREAS the Northern Ontario region has significant access issues characterized by lengthy waitlists for mental health and addictions services that preclude quality individual and population health outcomes; and

WHEREAS NOSDA members are left having to address impacts of the failing mental health and addiction sector without being given the capacity to address related issues facing their clients in Ontario Works, Community Housing and Paramedic Services; and

WHEREAS NOSDA members deliver services that are integral to the health service continuum and yet those services are limited in their efficacy due to the lack of integration with health service providers; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA members need to be considered full partners in the health service continuum at both the system and clinical levels to leverage available resources to generate positive population and individual health outcomes; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT in keeping with the provincial 'all of government' emphasis, the province must ensure stable funding is in place to resource the inclusion of the socio-economic determinants of health serviced by NOSDA members and should be included in the health service system.

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Michelle Boileau, NOSDA Chair



2023 Annual General Meeting
Thunder Bay

Resolution # 2023-8

Subject: **Homelessness Crisis in the North**

Date: June 22, 2023

Moved By: **Andrew Hallikas**

Seconded By: **Kasey Etreni**

WHEREAS the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) jointly commissioned a study by the Northern Policy Institute (NPI) on the Homelessness, Addiction and Mental Health Crisis in the North; and

WHEREAS the report calls for urgent action by the provincial and federal government to address the homelessness, addiction, and mental health crisis in Northern Ontario; and

WHEREAS according to the NPI report, the 2021 homeless enumeration data shows the Districts of Sault Ste. Marie, Kenora, Nipissing, Thunder Bay and Cochrane have proportionately larger homeless populations than the five largest cities in Ontario; and

WHEREAS according to the NPI report, the Districts of Thunder Bay and Cochrane have more than double the homelessness rates of Ottawa, Hamilton, and Waterloo; and

WHEREAS the homelessness shelter system must serve an area of 806,000 km² in Northern Ontario and but predominantly only available in larger Northern cities; and

WHEREAS the numbers in the NPI report are based on data from Point-in-Time counts and the actual numbers would be much higher; and

WHEREAS the current HPP funding is needed to address emergency shelter and prevention services for those who are already homeless or at risk of homelessness.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA calls on the Premier to provide additional funds for homelessness prevention programs that target 'up-stream' interventions developed specifically by the North for the North; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA calls on the Premier to work with the Federal government to make capital grants available to NOSDA members so the North can properly care for its residents whether they need a shelter or affordable housing options; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the province provide long-term funding for capital repairs on existing community housing units to maintain the current affordable housing stock in the North; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA calls on the Federal and Provincial governments to support the creation of culturally appropriate community housing facilities.

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Michelle Boileau, NOSDA Chair



2023 Annual General Meeting
Thunder Bay

Resolution # 2023-9

Subject: **Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC)
Notional Space Targets and Adequate Capital**

Date: June 22, 2023

Moved By: **Debbie Ewald**

Seconded By: **Jeff Laferriere**

WHEREAS Ontario's Action Plan for implementing the CWELCC system includes providing capital start-up grants to support the creation of new spaces in targeted regions, and for underserved communities; and

WHEREAS Eligible licensees are able to receive a grant for renovations covering up to \$90 per square foot of a new or expanded space with a cap up to \$350,000 for every 50 child care spaces created; and

WHEREAS Actual costs of renovating in the North are approximately \$200 - \$250 per square foot and the cost of new construction is approximately \$400 – 450 per square foot, with ongoing cost escalation; and

WHEREAS NOSDA members are concerned about their ability to create new spaces as many schools in the North are at capacity, and the provincial start-up grants do not provide major capital funding for the creation of community-based childcare centres; and

WHEREAS the Province's Access and Inclusion Framework requires service system managers to identify priority neighborhoods to support space expansion and access to licensed child care, including for low-income, vulnerable, diverse, Francophone, and Indigenous communities; and

WHEREAS the devastating effects of the residential school system continue to have an immense impact on Indigenous families, educators, leaders, and communities today; and

WHEREAS the final report from Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission includes calls-to-action for education including calling upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families, and to enable parental and community responsibility, control, and accountability.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA request the province to fund the North appropriately to meet the financial demands created by the expansion targets outlined in the CWELCC agreement; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA requests the Minister of Education to make adequate capital funding available for the creation of community childcare spaces where existing community schools are at capacity and/or where priority populations are best served by culturally appropriate community-based child care; and.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the funding be flexible to allow service system managers to determine the best use of their entire child care allocation in order to create new spaces and meet the child care needs in their respective communities.



Michelle Boileau, NOSDA Chair



2023 Annual General Meeting
Thunder Bay

Resolution # 2023-10

Subject: **Service System Planning / 2024 Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Funding Formula**

Date: June 22, 2023

Moved By: **Derek Mundle**

Seconded By: **Norman Mann**

WHEREAS the province has signed the CWELCC Agreement with the Federal government that will see childcare costs for children aged 0-6 reduced to an average of \$10 per day by 2026; and

WHEREAS the province is working toward the development of a sustainable CWELCC funding model that is responsive to child care cost structures to support and grow the current child care system; and

WHEREAS CMSMs and DSSABs manage children's services through a comprehensive service system planning process reflecting current child care legislation, directives and evolving needs of communities while promoting accountability, quality, and integrity throughout the system; and

WHEREAS the threshold for allowable administration funding that CMSMs and DSSABs can spend on child care has been reduced from 10% to 5%; and

WHEREAS the service system management administration grant in the proposed new funding formula is currently undefined in scope and allocation; and

WHEREAS a further reduction in administration funding will impact the ability of service system managers in the North to effectively fulfill their requirements to plan for and respond to the local priorities and needs of communities and;

WHEREAS administrative funding based on a percentage of the allocation leads to disproportionate allocation and service provision.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA requests the Ministry of Education to ensure adequate administrative resources to each NOSDA member that allows them to implement the CWELCC agreement and;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ministry lift the restrictions on the ECE wage cap and allow NOSDA members to use available funds to offer competitive wages; thereby opening childcare seats which are currently closed due to a lack of staffing as a result of low wages; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA requests the Ministry of Education to implement the changes recommended by the [NOSDA discussion paper](#) on the Child Care Funding Formula.

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Michelle Boileau, NOSDA Chair



2023 Annual General Meeting
Thunder Bay

Resolution # 2023-11

Subject: **Impacts of Social Assistance Reform in the North**

Date: June 22, 2023

Moved By: **Andrew Hallikas**

Seconded By: **Vern Gorham**

WHEREAS the province of Ontario has announced its vision for a renewed social assistance system that once realized, will provide for more effective people-centred services to improve client outcomes; and

WHEREAS NOSDA supports AMO's assertion that the changes must be implemented without an increase in municipal program delivery costs and that the changes do not alter the current provincial-municipal cost-sharing arrangements; and

WHEREAS the province has introduced Bill 276, the Supporting Recovery and Competitiveness Act, 2021 and the proposed changes therein do not deal with the burdensome and unnecessary rules within the Social Services Assistance System that require significant staff time to administer, nor do the proposed changes deal with the adequacy of allowances; and

WHEREAS Provincial–municipal collaboration has resulted in a social assistance framework based on helping people achieve stability in their lives. This means a system where caseworkers focus on the building blocks of greater independence and long-term employability, using their time with clients to understand people's needs; and

WHEREAS the co-design of the social assistance system with municipal partners seems to have stalled and the province appears to be developing its own system without any direct municipal input.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA members call on the province to get back to the table with municipalities to co-design the new vision for social assistance that works for all parts of Ontario including rural and Northern Ontario; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA calls on the Premier of Ontario to move forward with the vision for a renewed social assistance system and acknowledge that the vision cannot be accomplished unless the province eliminates and / or changes the rules within the system; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the adequacy of social assistance provided to the most vulnerable in our society needs to be adequate; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT new Program Delivery Funding needs to be allocated as municipal staff roles will change from financial monitoring of client allowances to providing stability supports to clients. The province needs to recognize the work involved and the supports needed for both clients and staff and;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT any reduction in funding as a result of Employment Services Transformation be based on the historical planning allocation that was eliminated in 2019.

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Michelle Boileau, NOSDA Chair



2023 Annual General Meeting
Thunder Bay

Resolution # 2023-12

Subject: **Partnership with Ontario Health**

Date: June 22, 2023

Moved By: **Barry Baltessen**

Seconded By: **Cheryl Fort**

WHEREAS the province of Ontario has announced its vision for a renewed social assistance system which will see municipal Service System Managers responsible for Life Stabilization; and

WHEREAS the Province, Municipalities and the community at large must all work together to create a system that will achieve the goals of life stabilization and better outcomes for those who need help; and

WHEREAS NOSDA members have been recognized as the Municipal Service System Managers for Human Services for all municipalities in Northern Ontario; and

WHEREAS NOSDA members are recognized as valued partners and key stakeholders by School Boards, Public Health Units, Hospitals, Non-Profit Housing Providers, Local Health Integration Networks, Community Agencies, and municipalities; and

WHEREAS access to financial assistance is not enough, it takes a lot of support in terms of mental health, addictions services, primary care, parenting, family supports, youth programs, affordable housing, and childcare, etc.; and

WHEREAS true Stability Support for many individuals in the North cannot be achieved until the province deals with the lack of adequate, affordable, and supportive housing in Northern Ontario; and

WHEREAS unaddressed poverty will continue to be the key limiting factor in health outcomes regardless of health service investments; and

WHEREAS Ontario Health North has developed a framework with NOSDA that articulates how the NOSDA and Ontario Health North East and North West will consult and collaborate to strengthen health services across Northern Ontario to the benefit of the residents of this region.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA calls on the Minister of Health to support Ontario Health North in implementing the framework that will create a true partnership with Municipal Service System Managers to ensure the success of the renewed vision for social assistance in Ontario; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA calls on the Premier to work with NOSDA to develop a stable funding model to build on opportunities to address the housing crisis for supportive and transitional housing for health, purpose-built housing for the justice system and housing for those that live with physical disabilities with Ontario Health at the table ensuring the appropriate health services are made available to support this purpose-built housing; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA calls on the Premier to designate one board seat on the Ontario Health Board to NOSDA to ensure that the interests of NOSDA members and Northern Ontario are represented and that the socio-economic determinants of health are included in system and clinical care service development models.



Michelle Boileau, NOSDA Chair



2023 Annual General Meeting
Thunder Bay

Resolution # 2023-13

Subject: **Employment Services Transformation**

Date: June 22, 2023

Moved By: **Kasey Etreni**

Seconded By: **Bruce Killah**

WHEREAS the province is transforming Ontario's employment services to make them more efficient, more streamlined, and outcomes focused; and

WHEREAS as part of Employment Services Transformation, a new service delivery model will integrate social assistance, employment services, as well as other government employment services, into Employment Ontario. This new system will be more responsive to the needs of job seekers, businesses, and local communities; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development is transforming the employment services system to reduce fragmentation and duplication between provincial employment systems to improve client service, increase accountability and achieve better outcomes for all job seekers and employers; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development has launched the competitive selection process for Service System Managers across the final Phase 3 catchment areas of Toronto, Northeastern Ontario, and Northwestern Ontario; and

WHEREAS it has also been acknowledged that other municipally delivered services including Housing Services and Children's Services are fundamental to assisting individuals along the continuum of employment; and

WHEREAS NOSDA members have been collaborating with Colleges in Northern Ontario to determine the best approach for an Employment Service System that truly meets the needs of job seekers and employers in the North; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development will negotiate employment performance zones with the successful Service System Managers as they set their performance targets; and

WHEREAS the determination of these employment performance zones will be critical to the success of Employment Transformation in Northern Ontario. We need to ensure that larger centres have the appropriate resources to support employees entering the labour market so new and existing employers can grow the economy in Northern Ontario; and

WHEREAS our rural and remote areas need to be protected to ensure they have the appropriate in-person resources that employees need as they enter or re-enter the labour market. Online services to rural and remote areas cannot be the only form of service provision they receive.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA call on the Premier of Ontario to move forward with the transformation of the employment services system and more specifically that the province engage CMSM/DSSABs as full partners in determining/finalizing the employment performance zones, in which the Service System Managers will be expected to achieve performance target while maintaining services and planning employment services in the North; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development needs to incentivize Service System Managers to expand their services to every corner of Northern Ontario.



Michelle Boileau, NOSDA Chair



2023 Annual General Meeting
Thunder Bay

Resolution # 2023-14

Subject: **Community Paramedicine Funding**

Date: June 22, 2023

Moved By: **Cheryl Fort**

Seconded By: **Vern Gorham**

WHEREAS the province provides funding for High Intensity Supports and Community Paramedicine through the Ministry of Health's Ontario Health Teams (formerly the LHINs) to select Paramedic Services; and

WHEREAS the province has recently provided funding through the Ministry of Long-term Care for Community Paramedicine to divert patients from Long-Term Care waitlists; and

WHEREAS Community Paramedicine programs contribute to community health and well-being by providing health care assessment and service in individual homes versus acute care centres; thereby reducing unnecessary hospital and primary care visits.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA calls on the Premier to make the current time limited three-year funding allocations for Community Paramedicine permanent and ongoing funding with appropriate economic increases that reflect geographic cost pressures; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA calls on the Minister of Health to amend the current certification requirements for Paramedics, so the Community Paramedicine Program does not impact the 911 emergency health services.

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Michelle Boileau, NOSDA Chair



2023 Annual General Meeting
Thunder Bay

Resolution # 2023-15

Subject: **Non-Urgent Patient Transfer**

Date: June 22, 2023

Moved By: **Derek Mundle**

Seconded By:

Norman Mann

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

WHEREAS non-urgent transfer patients generally do not require the use of an ambulance, however, in Northern Ontario ambulances are utilized extensively, as alternate, less costly and more efficient medical transport services have not been developed by Northern hospitals; and

WHEREAS in Southern Ontario, non-urgent patient transfers are provincially funded at 100%, through the use of medical transport services, at a much lower cost than utilizing Paramedic Services and eliminating the risk of delay in response to emergent calls; and

WHEREAS in Northern Ontario the cost of non-urgent transfers is not funded at 100% and municipalities are still required to contribute municipal funds to make the non-urgent system work properly and;

WHEREAS the province has recognized that using ambulances is inefficient and has started to fund some Non-Urgent Patient transfer systems across Northern Ontario for a three-year period that is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2024.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA calls on the province to make the non-urgent patient transfer funding in Northern Ontario permanent ongoing funding and;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA calls on the province to fund 100% of all non-urgent patient transfer services in Northern Ontario.

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Michelle Boileau, NOSDA Chair



2023 Annual General Meeting
Thunder Bay

Resolution # 2023-16

Subject: **Mental Health & Addiction Treatment Services**

Date: June 22, 2023

Moved By: **Cheryl Fort**

Seconded By: **Kasey Etreni**

WHEREAS Ontario is currently experiencing a mental health and addiction crisis; and

WHEREAS northern Ontario citizens and communities have been disproportionately impacted; and

WHEREAS addictions treatment for northern Ontario community members is not readily available nor accessible; and

WHEREAS people suffering from addiction need immediate access to withdrawal management and addiction treatment services; and

WHEREAS Ontario Health and NOSDA have the common goal to improve population health outcomes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NOSDA call upon Ontario to strengthen northern health care by increasing capacity through the creation of new addiction treatment services system and facilities that are easily accessible to people suffering from mental health and addiction issues; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the province engage NOSDA members in determining where services are delivered in the North.

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Michelle Boileau, NOSDA Chair