



April 24, 2013

Hon. Deb Matthews
Minister of Health and Long Term Care
80 Grosvenor St
Hepburn Block, 10th Flr
Toronto , ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Matthews:

RE: EMS RESOLUTION

At the Annual General Meeting of the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association held in North Bay and attended by municipal politicians, senior management from District Social Services Administration Boards and Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and special guests from the Ontario government, a resolution regarding Emergency Medical Services was brought forward. The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION 2013 - 02: E.M.S.

Whereas Northern & Rural Ontario Emergency Medical Services (EMS)/Land Ambulance providers are vital in the provision of primary health care services in their regions, their communities and the Province of Ontario;

And Whereas non-emergent and non-urgent inter-facility transfers are a key component of primary health care services in the Province of Ontario;

And Whereas non-emergent and non-urgent inter-facility transfers are not completed by EMS services in high emergency call areas and use of ambulance for these calls is not supported by the Regulations;

And Whereas non-emergent and non-urgent inter-facility transfers continue to increase, primarily due to the "Centers of Excellence" model used by Health Care Facilities and location of definitive care in larger centers;

And Whereas these transfers severely impact the ability of the EMS providers to maintain Balanced Emergency Coverage (BEC) and mandated Response Time Standards;

And Whereas many communities only have one ambulance available and the next closest ambulance is hours away;

And Whereas EMS service providers are obligated under the Ambulance Act to provide pre-hospital emergency services;

And Whereas the efficient and effective transportation of all patients within Northern and Rural Ontario is vital to the quality of health care and safety of the residents of our communities;

And Whereas small northern hospitals have never been funded for non-emergent and non-urgent inter-facility transfers through their base budget or otherwise;

And Whereas the vast majority of non-emergent and non-urgent inter-facility transfers in Southern and Urban Ontario are provided by private sector medical transfer service companies currently not available or providing services in Northern and Rural Ontario;

And Whereas the vast majority of non-emergent and non-urgent inter-facility transfers in Southern and Urban Ontario are funded 100% by the Province of Ontario through existing hospital operating budgets;

And Whereas the Province of Ontario has created a significant EMS service and funding level inequity between large urban Southern and rural Northern Ontario and small, northern and rural communities and municipalities are funding the cost for non-emergent and non-urgent inter-facility transfers from their property tax bases;

Therefore be it RESOLVED that the Province of Ontario immediately correct this EMS funding and service level inequity between Northern and Rural Ontario and Southern and Urban Ontario by funding 100% of the cost of non-emergent and non-urgent inter-facility transfers provided by Emergency Medical Services (EMS)/Land Ambulance providers or by providing this service through private sector medical transfer service companies in Northern and Rural Ontario.

Deb Matthews
April, 2013 (continued)

Minister Matthews, we look forward to continued, meaningful dialogue with government officials and other stakeholders regarding the EMS funding and service level inequity between Northern and Rural Ontario and Southern and Urban Ontario.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Scripnick, Chair

**Cc: Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
David Fulford, Assistant Deputy Minister of Health and Long Term Care
Al Spacek, President, FONOM
Pat Vanini, Executive Director, AMO
Ron Nelson, President, NOMA
Kira Heineck, OMSSA
Malcolm Bates, Director of Emergency Services
Norm Gale, OAPC
NOSDA Member Chairs
Northern EMS Managers**