

**FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO  
MUNICIPALITIES**

**2014-2015 RESOLUTIONS**



**2014-2015 Resolutions  
55<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Greater Sudbury, Ontario**

This year, there are 12 policy resolutions for discussion and voting on at the Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.

Double Hatter	2015-01
Four-laning	2015-02
Power Dam Special Payment Program	2015-03
Crown Land	2015-04
Residency Positions	2015-05
Bill 52	2015-06
Protection of Northern Industries	2015-07
Ring of Fire	2015-08
Electricity Rates	2015-09
AMO Policing Modernization Report	2015-10
Town of Hearst Resolution No. 175-15	2015-11
NOSDA Resolutions #2015-2 - #2015-9	2015-12



**MOVED BY:** Morley Forster

**SECONDED BY:** Maurice Turgeon

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-01**

**“WHEREAS** the training and certification of professional firefighters is established and mandated by the Province of Ontario under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997; and

**WHEREAS** it is the responsibility of municipalities to establish fire departments to provide fire protection services to their residents; and

**WHEREAS** many municipalities depend on volunteer firefighters or a combination of full time and volunteer firefighters in order to provide fire protection; and

**WHEREAS** the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Constitution prohibits full time firefighters from volunteering as firefighters in another municipality, also known as double hatting; and

**WHEREAS** the right of individuals to use their free time in service of their community is a fundamental right in a free, open and democratic society; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Province of Ontario amend the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, with respect to salaried firefighters who also work as volunteer firefighters, such that if a person is denied membership in an association of firefighters, is expelled or disciplined by the association or engages in reasonable dissent within the association in connection with this kind of dual role, the association is not permitted to require the employer to refuse to employ the person as a salaried firefighter, terminate his or her employment as a salaried firefighter or refuse to assign the person to fire protection services; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Attorney General, the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

**CARRIED.**



**MOVED BY:** Lou Turco

**SECONDED BY:** Will Liebigt

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-02**

**“WHEREAS** the TransCanada highway is a vital transportation link that connects provinces, communities and provincial highways together; and

**WHEREAS** many portions of this highway are single lane with no paved shoulder; and

**WHEREAS** this has a significant impact on the safety of travelers and the ability to have a sufficient transportation system that encourages economic growth; and

**WHEREAS** the province has demonstrated a commitment to work towards expanding major highways to four lanes from border to border to border; and

**WHEREAS** we recognize that the federal government needs to be a partner to ensure that the TransCanada highway is four-lanes; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Province of Ontario develop a long-term strategy to four-lane across Northern Ontario; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transportation, the Federal Minister of Transport, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

**CARRIED.**



**MOVED BY:** Yvan Besner

**SECONDED BY:** Randi Condie

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-03**

**“WHEREAS** the Province announced in the 2014 Budget that there would be a phase down of \$4.4 million over four years to the Power Dam Special Payments Program; and

**WHEREAS** this program began in 2001 as a result of the Continued Protection for Property Taxpayers Act, when certain hydro-electric stations and poles and wires became exempted from municipal taxation: and

**WHEREAS** this Act removed the right and authority of affected municipalities across the Province to levy property tax notices; and

**WHEREAS** the province replaced the right to tax hydro-electric stations with a compensatory payment, known as the Power Dam Special Payments Program; and

**WHEREAS** the province agreed not to implement the phase down of the program and committed to including the return of taxation rights back to municipalities as an option; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Province of Ontario return taxation rights of hydro-electric stations to municipalities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Premier of the Province of Ontario, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Minister of Energy, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

**CARRIED.**



**MOVED BY:** Brian Bigger

**SECONDED BY:** Joanne Savage

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-04**

**“WHEREAS** Crown land, which is under the administration and control of the Province, represents approximately 85 percent of Ontario’s land mass; and

**WHEREAS** Crown lands in Ontario protect natural heritage, supply opportunities for renewable energy and resource based tourism and provide recreational uses for the public; and

**WHEREAS** the Province must maintain its obligations under policy and legislation which includes considerations of Aboriginal Treaty Rights, environmental concerns and future land uses; and

**WHEREAS** the utilization of these lands can contribute to the local economy in a number of ways such as agriculture expansion and the development of cottage lots; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) asks the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to work with northerners to ensure that the use of Crown lands is accessible and available for local economic development opportunities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

**CARRIED.**



**MOVED BY:** Brian Bigger

**SECONDED BY:** Glenda Massicotte

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-05**

**“WHEREAS** communities in Northern Ontario continue to face challenges when it comes to providing quality healthcare; and

**WHEREAS** Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) has contributed significantly to Northern Ontario’s efforts to address physician shortages; and

**WHEREAS** NOSM has developed a made in the North model of community-engaged medical education while addressing current and future healthcare needs for the North; and

**WHEREAS** the ratio of NOSM MD graduates to first year residency positions in the North is lower than the provincial average at 1:0.9 compared to 1:1.1; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care ensure that the number of MD graduates of NOSM equals the number of first year residency positions at minimum; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** a copy of this resolution be sent to the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM), the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

**CARRIED.**

**MOVED BY:** Roger Sigouin

**SECONDED BY:** Gilles Audet

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2015-06**

**“WHEREAS** the Provincial government introduced Bill 52, Protection of Public Participation Act, 2014, also known as anti-SLAPP legislation; and

**WHEREAS** FONOM supports the intent of the legislation, to protect discussions of public interest important to individuals or community based organizations; and

**WHEREAS** if the legislation moves forward as it is currently written, it will provide groups the ability to continue to target and threaten industries that our communities depend on; and

**WHEREAS** it is imperative that a balanced approach to the public’s interest be implemented to protect victims of unfair and untrue attacks that cause economic harm; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) recommends that the Province of Ontario implement the following amendments:

- *Legal action resulting from public participation would need to be reviewed by a judicial officer or other provincially appointed expert, prior to being filed to ensure that no one is forced to defend themselves against a baseless charge that amounts to a SLAPP suit in the first place;*
- *Target the bill specifically to apply to volunteers and small community organizations with annual budgets of less than \$100,000.*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, Attorney General, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Minister of Northern Development and Mines and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

**CARRIED.**





**MOVED BY:** Roger Sigouin

**SECONDED BY:** Michel Brière

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-07**

**“WHEREAS** resource industries that operate in Northern Ontario are major sources of economic sustainability and employment; and

**WHEREAS** these industries, including forestry and mining, are consistently under attack from environmental non-governmental organizations (eNGOs); and

**WHEREAS** eNGOs, such as Greenpeace, have been known to spread malicious falsehoods to damage the resource economy often while being funded by foreign sources; and

**WHEREAS** industries in Northern Ontario follow some of the most environmentally sustainable practices in the world; and

**WHEREAS** other provinces defend and protect industries that are vital economic components to their province; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Province of Ontario adopt a policy that stands behind resource industries and defends their operations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Attorney General, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

**CARRIED.**



**MOVED BY:** Brian Bigger

**SECONDED BY:** Brian Koski

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-08**

**“WHEREAS** the Ring of Fire demonstrates a significant opportunity for economic development that would benefit Northern Ontario and the province as a whole; and

**WHEREAS** uncertainty remains in regards to the current state of the Ring of Fire project; and

**WHEREAS** the Province of Ontario has committed \$1 billion towards the development of the Ring of Fire; and

**WHEREAS** a Ring of Fire Infrastructure Development Corporation was developed with limited input from Northerners; and

**WHEREAS** all parties, including First Nations, municipalities, and the private sector, must be involved throughout the process to ensure that the Ring of Fire is developed responsibly and productively; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Province of Ontario communicate clearly on the current activities that the government is undertaking to move the Ring of Fire forward and include Northerners throughout the process; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

**CARRIED.**



**MOVED BY:** Dan O'Mara

**SECONDED BY:** Leslie Fields

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-09**

**"WHEREAS** electricity rates in Ontario continue to increase significantly; and

**WHEREAS** the province has implemented positive programs such as the Northern Industrial Electricity Rate program to assist the Northern economy; and

**WHEREAS** further efforts are needed to ensure that Northern Ontarians will be able to afford their electricity bills; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Province of Ontario take immediate action to prevent any further increases to electricity rates; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Energy, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties."

**CARRIED.**



**MOVED BY:** Randy McLaren

**SECONDED BY:** Roger Sigouin

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-10**

**“WHEREAS** the rising costs of policing has become unsustainable in many communities across Northern Ontario; and

**WHEREAS** the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) established a Policing Modernization task force of mayors and police board representatives; and

**WHEREAS** the task force consulted with experts and reviewed the best academic research available when developing the report; and

**WHEREAS** recommendations were divided into four themes: partnership, productivity, performance, and personnel; and

**WHEREAS** there were three priority recommendations:

1. Make changes to the interest arbitration system,
2. Improve the quality of the existing governance and civilian oversight system,
3. Make legislative changes to permit the greater transfer of specific functions to civilians or other security providers where appropriate.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) supports the recommendations outlined in AMO’s Policing Modernization Report and requests that the Province make the appropriate implementations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

**CARRIED.**

**MOVED BY:** Roger Sigouin

**SECONDED BY:** Roland Larabie

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2015-11**

*Motion from the Floor – Town of Hearst Resolution No. 175-15*

**“WHEREAS** the forest products sector is the largest industrial sector in Hearst, and

**WHEREAS** Hearst’s forest products sector supports over 1,000 direct and indirect jobs, and

**WHEREAS** the forest products sector is Ontario’s second largest industrial sector that has been growing a stronger, greener Ontario for generations; and

**WHEREAS** Ontario’s renewable natural resource supports 200,000 direct and indirect jobs in over 260 communities; and

**WHEREAS** all forest product companies operating in Ontario are governed by a world-class forest management regime, the Crown Forest sustainability Act (CFSA) with its obligatory environmental standards and under this stringent regime, all forest products made in Ontario are sustainable; and

**WHEREAS** the objective of sustainable forest management is to maintain or to improve the long-term health of forest ecosystems, so that the generations of today and tomorrow can enjoy the environmental, economic and social benefits of such ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS** in Ontario less than 0.5% of the forest in the Boreal region is harvested annually and that, in a sustainable manner, and 44.2% of the forest in the Boreal is unavailable for harvest; and

**WHEREAS** organized activist campaigns targeted at forest products sourced from Canada’s Boreal forest are negatively impacting local economies and threatening the future livelihoods of hardworking Ontario citizens; and

**WHEREAS** the Town of Hearst supports Quebec’s Boreal Forest Alliance’s objective to inform Greenpeace and other like organizations of the negative effects of their actions and activist campaigns; and



**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Greenpeace and other like organizations be made aware and held accountable for the impacts of their campaigns that cost Ontario forest companies their customers, their reputations and their viability as well as the damaging consequences to forest company workers and their families; and

**BE IT FURHTER RESOLVED THAT** Greenpeace and other like organizations cease and desist all campaigns targeting consumers of renewable forest products sustainably harvested from Ontario's Boreal Forest region."

**CARRIED.**



**MOVED BY:** Morley Forster

**SECONDED BY:** Hector Lavigne

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-12**

**“WHEREAS** the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) requested that the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) support the resolutions passed at their Annual General Meeting on April 17, 2015 in Thunder Bay; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) supports resolutions #2015-2 through to and including #2015-9 from the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) Annual General Meeting; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** a copy of this resolution be sent to the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association, the Minister of Community and Social Services, and the Leaders of the Opposition Parties.”

**CARRIED.**