



October 24, 2016

Mr. Charles Cirtwill,  
President and CEO  
Northern Policy Institute  
P.O. Box 10117  
Thunder Bay, ON  
P7B 6T6

Dear Mr. Cirtwill:

**RE: Commentary No. 15 September 2016 Governance in Northern Ontario:  
Taking Ownership of the Future, by David MacKinnon for the Northern  
Policy Institute**

The members of the Northern Ontario Service Deliverer's Association read this report that outlines a case for regional and sub-regional consolidation in Northern Ontario with interest and yet with some dismay.

The report provides us with a broad and valuable range of information about examples in other jurisdictions including other provinces; however, while we agree with the need for separate economic and statistical data for Northern Ontario, the rest of this report misses key structures that have evolved over the past 20 plus years in Northern Ontario to address the one-tier/two tier issues concerning the delivery of health and social services across the broad geographic expanse of the North. Those existing structures in Northern Ontario include the following:

- The District Social Service Administration Boards and the District Service Boards who deliver a range of "municipal services" across each of the Districts (Social Housing, Children's Services, Ontario Works and in most cases ambulance services)
- The Local Health Integration Networks for Northwestern and Northeastern Ontario that administer funding, research and soon to manage the Community Care Access Centres across their respective areas.
- The Boards of Health who deliver public health to a broad range of municipalities and all points in between in large areas that cross District boundaries.

As you know, the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) is an incorporated body that brings together Service Managers in Northern Ontario who are responsible for the local planning, coordination and delivery of a range of community

health and social services including housing and homelessness prevention. These services represent a significant portion of the social and community service infrastructure in all Northern Ontario communities, and account for a large share of the property taxes that municipalities dedicate to these services.

The major omission of the existing structures and lack of an analysis of their role in delivering services undermines the otherwise valuable content of the paper.

We hope that in future, your group will engage our members on issues that have an impact on them and their publics. In fact, we would be more than pleased to act as formal reviewers in advance of any document being finalized. We have a broad range of knowledgeable individuals who can assist in ensuring that the contents of any documents are reflective of the reality of the North.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Iain Angus". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "I" and a long, sweeping underline.

Iain Angus, Chair  
NOSDA