

RESOLUTION 2013 - 03: ONTARIO WORKS

DATE: April, 2013

MOVED BY: Norm Laberge

SECONDED BY: George Jupp

WHEREAS the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario has submitted their final report "[Brighter Prospects: Transforming Social Assistance in Ontario](#)" to the premier on October 2012; and

WHEREAS the [Drummond Report](#) and the Commission's report both address the need to integrate Employment Programs; and

WHEREAS the Social Assistance Commission's recommendation number 20 states: "Recognizing the importance of integrating employment services with other human services, we recommend that municipalities and First Nations continue to be responsible for employment services for social assistance recipients"; and

WHEREAS the Social Assistance Commission's recommendation number 22 states: "We recommend that the Province expand the number of municipalities, where there is interest and capacity, designated as Employment Ontario deliverers"; and

WHEREAS the Social Assistance Commission's recommendation number 23 states: "We recommend that municipalities be full partners with the Province in managing and planning employment services in their communities"; and

WHEREAS the Drummond Report recommendation 8-5 states:

"The Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario should examine system design options that deliver a more efficient and higher-quality service to social assistance recipients. This examination should consider combining Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program, and having the combined program delivered at the local level. It should also address the further integration of employment services available through Employment Ontario"; and

WHEREAS it has been recognized the value of direct relationships with local economic development and business is fundamental in planning for good employment outcomes in a community and by virtue of the municipal linkages to these departments with CMSM/DSSAB's; 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;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA call on the Premier of Ontario to move forward with the integration of Employment Services and more specifically that the province engage CMSM/DSSAB's as full partners in managing and planning employment services in their communities; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Premier takes the first step along this integration path by immediately expanding the number of CMSM/DSSAB's in the North which are designated as Employment Ontario deliverers.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Premier directs the Minister of Training Colleges and Universities who is responsible for Employment Ontario to make DSSAB's/CMSM the Service System Managers for employment programs where the CMSM/DSSAB is interested which would mean Employment Ontario would only have one contract within each CMSM/DSSAB jurisdiction. This would allow CMSM/DSSAB to rationalize services and ensure that over time a streamlined and more holistic approach to employment services in a community were being funded.

NOSDA CHAIR

cc: Premier; Minister of Community and Social Services; ADM, Ministry of Community and Social Services; Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities; ADM, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities; Minister of Finance; AMO; OMSSA; FONOM; NOMA; NOSDA Member Chairs; Northern OW Managers