



RESOLUTION 12-18

DATE: February 23, 2012

MOVED BY: André Byham

SECONDED BY: Sonja Flynn

WHEREAS non-urgent patient transportation for many rural Northern Ontario centres has become the exclusive responsibility of the local Emergency Medical Services providers; and

WHEREAS Emergency Medical Service providers are finding it harder to service the emergency medical needs of the citizens within their communities due to aging-in-place population and increased demands for service; and

WHEREAS Emergency Medical Services are providing non-urgent transportation which is a service not specifically within their legislated mandate; and

WHEREAS in many rural Northern Ontario communities there is only one ambulance available, if any, at any given time, and when that ambulance leaves its community to perform a non-urgent patient transfer, it is gone for hours at a time leaving the community with no direct coverage; and

WHEREAS the provision for non-urgent patient transportation by EMS providers is both inefficient and uneconomical. EMS cannot guarantee that they will arrive on time to pick up the patient for a scheduled appointment, nor can they guarantee that they can bring the patient or nurse escorts back to the home facility. In addition municipalities are paying highly trained well paid professionals to perform a service that does not require their level of skill; and

WHEREAS larger hospitals in many areas of the province are paying out of their more 'global' budgets for private Medical Transportation Services to supply this service, but smaller hospitals do not have this luxury.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NOSDA requests that the government of Ontario, and more specifically the Ministry of Health & Long Term Care, work with NOSDA to place a level of importance on this topic with the aim of providing a made in the North solution; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Health & Long Term Care, North East LHIN, AMO, NOMA, FONOM, AMEMSO and EMS providers.

Carried



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