



RESOLUTION 12-20

DATE: February 23, 2012

MOVED BY: André Byham

SECONDED BY: Denis Turcot

WHEREAS the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) updated its discussion paper "[A Voice for Rural and Northern Ontario](#)" to serve as a reference point for future provincial policy development and implementation. The paper reflects the interests of rural and northern municipal governments in an effort to call attention to their communities' needs and requirements so they can thrive and succeed; and

WHEREAS the discussion paper lays out key considerations for provincial elected officials and public servants when new or revised policy and programs that may affect rural and northern communities are in the conceptual or design phase; and

WHEREAS the [Northern and Rural Lens](#) was created in 2006 by the AMO Northern and Rural Working Group, after noting that many of the challenges facing rural and northern communities had one commonality: a lack of forethought about the consequences of applying a one-size-fits-all approach to a specific policy area. The Lens is meant to be employed by provincial ministries to assess the impacts of new policy initiatives or changes in existing programs before they are implemented. It is meant to function as a flexible tool that all ministries can use to ensure their policies are road-tested before implementing; and

WHEREAS The Lens was developed in 2006 to raise awareness of rural and northern issues across provincial government organizations, by asking ministries to assess the effect of new policies, programs and services on Ontarians living in rural and northern areas; and

WHEREAS today's economic and demographic climate, the need for comprehensive awareness of rural and northern issues across provincial government is even greater. Ontario needs rural and northern Ontario to remain a vibrant part of the Province and the country; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB wants to ensure that new provincial initiatives support the social and economic well-being of rural and northern communities and strengthen the capacity of communities to meet local challenges.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB requests that the Premier of Ontario to direct all Provincial Ministries to use the Northern and Rural Lens in order to assess the impacts of new policy initiatives or changes in existing programs before they are implemented; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forward to the Minister of Community & Social Services (MCSS), Minister of Children & Youth Services (MCYS), Minister of Education (MEDU), Minister of Health & Long Term Care (MOHLTC), Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing (MMAH), AMO, ROMA, NOMA, FONOM, OMSSA, NOSDA and member municipalities

Carried

Leslie Small

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